

Zion Lutheran Monthly

May 2024

Pastor's Corner

The Peace of God

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice . . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:4-7

What does it mean to have "peace"? Maybe we have peace when our bodies are healthy. That makes sense. When we are healthy, our bodies feel peaceful. Maybe we feel like we have peace when everything is going well at work, or even when we have work. Being out of work, or not having steady work, is stressful. Life definitely feels peaceful when work is going well. But a lot of times in life, we would probably not describe our life as being "peaceful."

In the passage above Paul said, "Rejoice in the Lord always . . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." When Paul wrote this, I don't think we would say Paul's life was exactly "peaceful." When Paul wrote this, he was sitting in a prison in Rome. On top of this, Paul's health was not great, but that was alright. Paul's health did not bring him peace, Christ did. Paul's work was not always going well. Paul was constantly dealing with false teachers who threatened to take grace out of the church, but that was alright. Paul's work did not necessarily bring him peace, Christ did.

This is why Paul was so bold as to say, "Rejoice always." It didn't matter in what circumstance Paul found himself. Whether well fed, hungry or poor, Paul still had peace, because his peace was one that did not come from this world, his peace came from Christ. The peace Paul had was not dependent upon his good health or poor health, his peace came from Christ. The peace Paul had was not dependent upon his work going well or poorly, his peace came from Christ.



As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we can understand the peace Paul is talking about. As Christians, our peace almost has nothing to do with what is ongoing on in the world around us. Our peace is a lasting, eternal peace because the Son of God offered a perfect sacrifice for us on Good Friday, died for us, and rose from the dead for us three days later. Because of what Christ has done, He has mended our broken relationship with God the Father. And now, we have peace with God given to us by Jesus. This is why, like Paul, we may rejoice always. Our peace does not depend upon what is going on in this world or even in our own lives. Our peace is in Christ, and nothing has the power to take that peace away from you.

-- Pastor Grimenstein

President's Perspective

We really are Special -- Chosen -- Blessed -- Called!!!

Sunday, May 19th is Pentecost. This special day marks the time when God sent the Holy Spirit to mankind. When you look into a mirror, you're looking at the temple in which the Holy Spirit is working and comforting you. The machinations of the secular world shouldn't plant fear in your heart. We have only to fear God, and like the Psalmist says in chapter 34, "I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Again in chapter 34 we read, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them." So, as we watch the secular world devolve into chaos and strife, remain committed to your faith in God our Savior. "Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!"

Being baptized with the Spirit makes us special. It isn't an accident you were baptized in the Triune God. It's a blessing and God chose you to receive this blessing. Christ called us to go into the world and teach the Gospel, baptize people into the church and like Christian Soldiers, to go "marching as to war" (as the song goes), to fight the good fight against the foe. Those are our marching orders so-to-speak. We can't be insular and timid as a church body.

The blessing of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit can be seen in Romans, Chapter 8. Please read that chapter to re-familiarize yourselves with life lived in the Spirit. Verse 9 reads, "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the spirit of God dwells in you." Living a life that is spiritual, rather than worldly, is something that God wants us to do individually and together as the body of Christ-- the church. In verse 28 we read, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." That's us. He chose us to work for Him in the world to spread the Gospel and baptize people and save souls. Go, teach, baptize. Spread the Gospel.



Hopefully, as our church here at Zion proceeds through history, we will fulfill the work expected of us toward the Great Commission. We'll proceed fearlessly and with purpose, proclaiming boldly that He is risen and lay the cross in front of the doubters and skeptics -- we preach Christ crucified. Pray for the Christians on earth and our LCMS, District and Zion. Amen.

-- Paul Klemash



Voters approved the Call Committee's recommendation to call Joanna Lee for the role of Deaconess at Zion. Joanna graduates from Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, IN) in August. Lord willing, she will arrive at Zion sometime in August or September! Pastor and the elders have already begun assisting the Lee family with the beginning stages of the relocation process. Please include them in your prayers -- that the Lord would bless Joanna, her husband Richard and their children during this transition, and use them mightily in the work of His Kingdom at Zion!

Thank you to those who attended our **Voters' Meeting on** Sunday, April 28th to support the important work of **Church Council and** the Deaconess Call Committee! Sixty-one members, 27 percent of Zion's confirmed membership, were in attendance to participate in the historic process of calling a Deaconess for our congregation.







July 22nd - 26th 9-11:30 am

REGISTRATION & VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP IS NOW OPEN!

Click here to register your child.

There's also a form to learn more about getting involved!



News from the Preschool

"The clouds went boom; the lightening went zap; and the waves went swish!" These were the words I heard a 4-year-old preschooler telling his grandma in the school lobby as he was showing her the felt board Pastor uses during chapel time. Of course, he was describing when Jesus walked on water and calmed the sea when his disciples were afraid.

"Jesus came alive on Easter, and that's really why we celebrate Easter" said Christian, a student in our PreK class. Dax added: "Jesus died, but don't worry, he's alive again". As they were leaving Kids Praise, these two students could not wait to "tell me something". We may think we have to simplify stories in the Bible for children because they really don't understand anyway ... this could not be further from the truth. I watch and listen to our students every day as they re-tell lessons both Pastor and I have taught. Sometimes facts are out of order, or they add their own "creative" ideas, but they are indeed sharing the gospel in their own way.

What an amazing concept to think that these preschoolers can "outreach" to their friends and family...but they can, and with so much love and enthusiasm. We should all take notice and never be afraid to act like children and share the word of God.

Here's a quick look at some of the activities and events we've had over the last few months.









Photos

(Top Left) Ice Cream Social ... more sprinkles please! (Top Right) All decorated for the Ice Cream Social. (Bottom Left) Dads in circle time with their children during Dads, Dudes and Donuts. (Bottom Right) Easter celebration.

With Gratitude

Thank you for all the support you've given me to attend Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and I am truly grateful.

One of the highlights of my studies has been the class "Creeds and Confessions." In this course, I've gained a deeper understanding of the theology behind our Lutheran Confessions and how they inform the ministry.

Beyond the classroom, I've been actively involved in various handson experiences. I've had the privilege of serving at a church in North St. Louis, where I've had the opportunity to connect with many wonderful individuals who are walking together in faith.



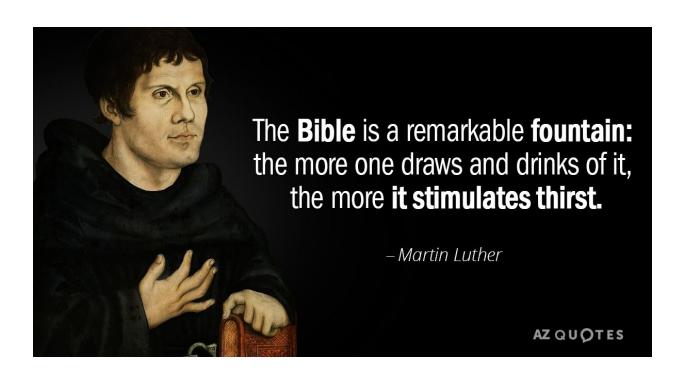
Charles Wallace with his fiancée, Katrina, on Easter Sunday.

Additionally, I've been involved with a youth group in the city that serves African immigrants. Some of these children are hearing the Gospel for the first time, and being able to share with them the great news of our risen Jesus is a great joy.

On June 21st, in the chapel at Concordia University Ann Arbor, I will marry my wonderful fiancée, Katrina. Currently, she serves as the Director of Worship Arts at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis. I am so excited for the plans God has in store for us!

Again, your support is a blessing. Always feel free to reach out! I would love to hear from all of you.

-- Charles Wallace





More Josephs, Please

By: The Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer, professor and chairman of the Exegetical Department at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind

I'd be happy with another Samson to rout the Philistines, another David to slay Goliath. I can think of more than a few places where I'd like Joshua to march around seven times. But what we really need is more Josephs.

Our own hymnal calls him Joseph the Guardian. But, really, he was more than that. He was to Jesus a true father, to Mary a true husband. Depictions of Joseph as an old man do him a disservice. The Bible teaches us that Jesus had brothers, including James, Jude, and Simon. Sisters too. To all these, and Jesus as well, Joseph was provider, protector, and model. He loved Mary as his wife. And Jesus was known as the carpenter's son, even as another identity would later be revealed in the Jordan River.

The world, of course, hates Joseph, because the world hates the One Joseph provided for. If the world loved Joseph, the world would love natural marriage and the family. If the world loved Joseph, it would do everything it could to make sure that every child had mom and a dad. If the world loved Joseph, it would do everything it could, like Joseph did, to preserve the lives of our littlest children. Yes, Jesus was the only begotten Son of God from all eternity. But then He became one of us, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of Mary, and was given an earthly father, and then a family of brothers and sisters.

How much more are the children of our age in need? What is the leading indicator of just about everything bad? The lack of a father, that is to say a Joseph, in the home. Will the neighborhood be safe? Get more Josephs. Will an infant be safe? Not with a live-in boyfriend, whose presence makes a home very dangerous indeed. The kid deserves a Joseph. Someone who doesn't see the child as an obstacle to the woman he sleeps with. Would Christians like their children to grow up and stay in church? Well, for that, there's a Joseph. A guardian against the thugs? Joseph. Someone who may even whisk a family away from tyranny, knowing that the family takes precedence over the state? Joseph. So sure, I'll take a Gideon, a Samson, or a David. Throw in a Solomon, a Joshua, and a Moses. Better yet, give me millions of Josephs.

In the mystery of the Incarnation, even God's Son needed a Joseph.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) is a religious liberty organization in Washington D.C. that serves as a voice for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partners in the public square. The LCRL provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage, and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions with lawmakers, media, and the public to uphold the rights and responsibilities of Christians in society. It also connects and equips missional leaders across the country through its Champions for Liberty Network.







It's been a cold Spring, but warmer weather is here! During May, Sunday school classes will be continuing with Enduring Faith Unit 8:

Date	Lesson	Description
5/5/2024	9	A Trusting Widow Jesus Teaches about Offerings
5/12/2024	10	Forever Food - The Lord's Supper
5/19/2024	11	Betrayed and Arrested Jesus in Gethsemane
5/26/2024	12	Standing Trial Jesus on Trial/Peter Denies Jesus



Important Dates:

June 9th -- SS End-of-Year Party ... please arrive at 9:15!!! We'll have a final lesson then start our party festivities.

June 16th through August -- Summer Sunday School at 9:15. Summer session is geared toward students in PreK through 3rd grades. Kids in 4th through 6th grade are welcome to help in the classroom or attend the Adult/Teen Bible Study in the fellowship hall.

Adult Bible/Teen Bible Study ... Adults and youth are invited to the Fellowship Hall as we begin the book of Joshua. The class is geared for all levels of Biblical experience ... beginners are welcome! Enjoy bagels, donuts and coffee, together with wonderful fellowship. Sunday School and Adult/Teen Bible Study are from 9:15-10:15 am.



"...man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV



Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel motivated voices For Life!

Change vs Unchanging

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).



by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life

Change, change. Nobody likes change, least of all Lutherans! But, of course change is inevitable. From the moment you began, you changed very quickly. By the time you were attached to your mother's uterus—a week after fertilization—you were a growing cluster of 100 cells.

After you are born, adults will comment on how big you are getting as you learn to walk and talk, and soon you're off to school. You're changing and growing into your own person, and suddenly—or so it seems to adults—you're graduating from high school. The next phase is job training or college and then a job. You get married, raise a family, and, all too soon, you are the one who needs care from your offspring. Change is inevitable.



For a long time abortion was illegal, but change came with *Roe v. Wade*, and it was not a good change. At first, not many people protested this change, and even some religious leaders and church bodies agreed that it was a good decision. However, some church bodies, like Roman Catholics and some Lutherans became more vocal For Life. Leaders like Lutherans For Life's own Dr. Jean Garton, Nellie Gray (founder of the March for Life—there were 20,000 at the first March in 1974), and Dr. Bernard Nathanson (former abortionist who produced *The Silent Scream* in 1984) began to educate people on preborn life.

Of course, things changed with the Dobbs decision, which moved the abortion issue back to the states. We know that our work is not done. We still have to support our pregnancy help centers and work with the politicians in our state to uphold life-affirming laws. But the whole abortion issue has changed with the mobile abortion units that travel along state lines, major companies paying for abortions and travel expenses for employees, and, worst of all, chemical abortion pills that can be ordered online without a doctor involved at all.

As the For Life movement grew up, other life issues have been added: living with disabilities, adoption and foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, and more. Life is being assailed from so many directions. This can be frustrating, anger-inducing, and depressing. We want to uphold the blessings of Life, but what can we really do to change things

Life with all its changes is a good and perfect gift from the Father, and nothing can change that. We know that there will always be changes in laws and politics, and we can only change that as best as we can. We take comfort that the Father does not change like shifting shadows. In today's world, changes are swift and inevitable, but our faith and trust in our unchanging God are the comforts that sustain us!

Welcome to our Newest Members

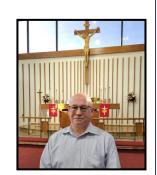
On Sunday, March 24th at the 8 am service, Allan Stewart and Rick Valentino became members of our church family. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet them yet, be sure to welcome them to our fellowship!



Allan Stewart was baptized and confirmed at Zion as a child. Later he married his sweetheart, Susan, here. After Susan's passing several months ago, Allan wanted to return to the church that had meant so much to him in his youth. He lives in McDonald, and two of his three sons also live in the Pittsburgh area. Allan worked for many years as an industrial mechanic. He enjoyed motorcycle riding as a

hobby, having ridden across country on several occasions.

Rick Valentino is the son of Betty, and the late Ron, Valentino. He was baptized and confirmed at Zion as a child. Rick is retired from the printing and newspaper industry. His hobbies include dirt track auto racing, fishing, and riding bikes on the Panhandle, Montour and GAP trails.



Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The May collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is <u>Sunday</u>, <u>May 12th</u>. The "items of the month" are CONDIMENTS. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack. You are welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein at 412-221-1584 for more information).







Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 18, 2024 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saxony Farm Lake

Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg



No entry fee

Open to all kids 14 and under

Free refreshments

Bait provided by Concordia

Prizes all day

Participants must have an adult chaperone

Bring your own Fishing pole and lawn chair







Call Concordia Public Relations for more information at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268. Register by scanning the QR code or by

visiting the Events section of the Concordia website:

www.concordialm.org/events/concordia-fishing-derlys-2024/





Women's Summer Book Club

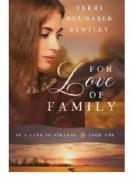
For Love of Family

by Terri Bentley

(Terri is the guest speaker at our fall LWML Conference at Camp Pioneer in September - see below)

Tuesday June 28th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

@ the home of Cheryl Debowski



The Saints of Whistle Grove

by Katie Schuermann

(Katie wrote the Anthems of Zion series we read during our first summer book club meetings)

Tuesday, July 30th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

@ the home of Tracey Johnson



Bring your thoughts and a snack to share!!



LET'S GET TOGETHER - SAVE THE DATE

BASTERN DISTRICT LWML RETREAT 2024

September 20-22, 2024

PIONEER ON THE LAKE, ANGOLA, NY

NIAGARA LWML HOST ZONE
Theme "Abound in Hope" Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit.



LWML Eastern District 40th Biennial Convention Doubletree by Hilton, Cranberry, PA June 14-16, 2024

Keynote Speakers include President John Pingel, CPH author Heidi Goehmann, and many more!

Registration forms available in the sanctuary.

Eastern District Convention Divine Service Friday, June 14th

ALL members of Zion are invited to attend.



Saturday, May 18th is Armed Forces Day



Resources and Services

- Ecclesiastical endorsement, annual training and career management for chaplains
- Operation Barnabas
- "Ministry-by-Mail"
- Armed Forces Sunday resources
- Quarterly Armed Forces newsletter So Help Me God

How to Get Involved

- Watch videos at video.lcms.org/ archives/category/armed-forcesministry
- Download resources at lcms.org/ armedforces/resources
- Give a gift lcms.org/givenow/maf





"Put on the whole armor of God."

- EPH. 6:10-18 ESV -

Serving Those Who Serve

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) is authorized as the mission arm of the Synod to support and serve all military chaplains — active and reserve — their families and the veteran population. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains; sponsors annual training for all chaplains; and maintains close, pastoral relationships with chaplains after endorsement, offering counsel, training and advice throughout their entire careers.

CRAIG MUEHLER CAPT, CHC, USN (RET.), director LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces 888-THE LCMS • lcmschaps@lcms.org lcms.org/armedforces • lcms.org/operationbarnabas

n bunkers and fighter jets, on battleships and bases, in field hospitals and training camps, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces stand at the ready in service to our country.

With them are the 160 active and Reserve LCMS Armed Forces Chaplains stationed around the world. These pastors proclaim the Word of life, in environments often shrouded in death. Their flocks frequently come and go, providing scant opportunity for long-term ministry. Their work takes place in some of the most difficult situations any pastor could ever face, where lives can be unraveled in an instant.

Upholding these faithful servants is the Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF), the LCMS effort to care for and support military chaplains and, through them, our LCMS members and their families in uniform.

The MAF exists to recruit, prepare, endorse and support LCMS chaplains in their service to God and country.

Authorized by the Synod and registered with the Department of Defense, Chaplain Craig Muehler is the endorsing agent for LCMS military chaplains. There is a "lifelong marriage" between his office and the LCMS chaplains that includes ongoing contact and an annual visit with each chaplain. Through these visits and regular reports by phone and email, MAF helps the chaplains to stay connected with their church.

Each year, MAF gathers the chaplains at one of two training seminars, providing a rich opportunity for Lutheran worship, fellowship and study with LCMS seminary professors. Training and conversation is focused on the unique challenges of military chaplaincy.

Operation Barnabas

Operation Barnabas, an extension of MAF, provides a network of care through trained congregations that want to reach out to members of the military, their families and the veterans in their congregations and communities.

Operation Barnabas has worked with dozens of congregations, but we realize hundreds more congregations also are caring for military families. We ask you to contact us, so we can recognize your work and encourage you as you serve military families.

America's sons and daughters are in harm's way in faraway lands, and our chaplains go with them. Their families wait in our communities, where the people of God support and care for them in our life together.





- Pray for our troops
- Order MAF bulletin inserts
- Join our Operation Barnabas network





May Service Participants

	Elders	Acolytes	Time
May 5	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt	Madison Killinger	8:00
	Jim Neill & Tom Erbrecht	Elder	10:30
May 12	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt	Claire Schrag	8:00
	Jim Neill & Tom Erbrecht	Callista Chilcott	10:30
May 19	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt	Elder	8:00
	Jim Neill & Tom Erbrecht	Daniel Grimenstein	10:30
May 26	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt	Pippa Carter	8:00
	Jim Neill & Tom Erbrecht	Callista Chilcott	10:30



	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
May	Carrie Lemonovich, Carolyn Wible, Deb LaJeunesse	Larry & Janet Zreliak, Tim Sheldon, Joshua Grimenstein	Mike & Aaron Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse, Max Gresh
June	Marian Oelschlager	Mike Debowski, Noah Wallace, Gene Koop, Brian Pasquini	Dan & Tracey Harris, Jack & Sam Bishop

Birthdays

1st – Madison Killinger

8th -- Christian Bonacci

9th -- John Migyanko

9th – Rita Sheldon

12th - Ross Chilcott

12th — Eileen Davis

17th — Tim E. Fitzgerald

17th — Kari Gresh

21st — Stephanie Eckels

22nd – Dan Harris

24th – Aaron Kozak

24th – Ken Wuerthele

26th – Mary Hutula

30th – Christa Blayney

30th - Bill Schrag



Anniversaries

1st -- Dallas and Christa Blayney

15th — Shane and Sandra Bryant

28th — Michael and Deborah Sterba

30th — Brad and Jessica Boyle

30th — Larry and Janet Zreliak

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	6:30 pm Events Committee Mtg.		
	27					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00 am Worship	6:00 pm Confirm.	6:15 pm Grace Bells 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir		7:00 pm Council Meeting		
9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS	6:30 pm Faith Bells		Weeting			
10:30 am Worship	7:00 pm Confirm.			Ascension Day		
12:00 pm Zion Women's Ministry Rally	7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.				astor out of office	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 am Worship	6:30 pm Faith Bells	6:15 pm Grace Bells	9:30 am PreS End of Yr	9:30 am PreS End of Yr Program in		8:00 am CLM Fishing Derby
9:15 am Adult/	Delis		Program in	Sanctuary		Triorining Borby
Teen Bible Study & SS		7:00 pm Confirm.	Sanctuary	12:45 pm PreS		
10:30 am Worship		7:15 pm Choir	2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	End of Yr Program in Sanctuary		
5/9 through 5/13			,	Sanctuary		
19 PENTECOST	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:00 am Worship	6:00 pm Confirm.	6:15 pm Grace				
9:15 am Confirmand	6:30 pm Faith Bells	Bells 7:15 pm Choir				
Public Exam & Reception	7:00 pm Confirm.	7.13 pm enon				
10:30 am Worship & Confirmation	7:00 pm Board of Ed. Meeting		Pastor out of off	ice	400	0324
26	27	28	29	30		-
			2:00 pm Worship		900 9	65
8:00 am Worship			& Bible Study			
9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS					336	
10:30 am Worship						
	MEMORIAL DAY					
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