



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

July/August 2023

## Pastor's Corner

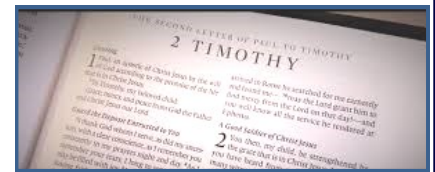
### The Bible: The Best A.I. Ever!

*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. - 2 Tim. 2:1-2*

Have you heard about “artificial Intelligence” in the news lately (often referred to as A.I.)? There has been a great deal of discussion about the positive things A.I. could do (in medicine, literature, graphics, etc). There are others who have voiced major concerns A.I. could be abused in devastating ways (in warfare, creation & dissemination of falsehoods, creating of graphics so real they could “fake” what a person says). As with everything sinful man creates, A.I. could be used in positive ways. But as with everything sinful man creates, you can also be sure A.I. will be abused.

Perhaps the greatest concern with A.I. is that it might corrupt our interactions with one another and could even corrupt what we think, how we act, and what we believe. I’m not worried though. I truly am not. I am worried for the unbelieving world around us. I have no doubt A.I. will help the world spiral further into self-possessed ways as it always has. However, I am not necessarily worried about the church. I say that because thanks to God and all Christ does for us every day, we are already being steered in what we do, in how we act, and in what we believe. God is the one who already steers us every day by the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures.

In fact, I think we could view God as truly the GREATEST “A.I.” ever. What is so wonderful is that God’s Word doesn’t lie to us, His Word tells us the truth. God’s Word doesn’t corrupt us, His Word refreshes us in such wonderful ways. God’s Word doesn’t seek to destroy us, but by believing in God, He blesses us with the gift of everlasting life (John 5:24).



Believe me, I’m not naïve regarding the challenges A.I. may bring to our lives. As Christians though, we already have the greatest guide we will ever need who molds our lives every day, our Lord Jesus Christ.



The only challenge A.I. may bring to Christians is that we in the church could cease being guided by the Scriptures. This has always been a danger to the church on earth and it always will be. For us Christians, we need to ensure we are always being guided by God’s Word and God’s Word alone. And this means everybody in the church should be guided by God’s Word; our church leadership, our pastors, our elders, our Sunday school teachers, our parents, our youth, and our children.

God is always speaking to you. He never leaves you alone, and He never will. May all of us allow the Holy Spirit to shape our minds and hearts. May God’s Word mold us more and more every day into the image of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Chairman's Report

## Growing Season at Zion

Thank you to all who attended the June 25<sup>th</sup> Budget Voters' Meeting. Voters approved the operating budget this Fiscal Year -- *July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024* -- which means your church will be managing a budget of nearly one million dollars. I hope you are all looking forward to coming to the Quarterly Regular Voters' Meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>, after the second service to enjoy a light luncheon and hear the reports from the Pastor, Council Officers, Boards and Committees that serve you and the ministries at your church.

This Body of Christ has found favor with the Lord for 125 years and I hope you all are planning on celebrating our anniversary in September. Please be alert for the various communications with regard to our 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Don't let it pass you by. Enjoy being a chosen Christian and celebrate the gift of this parish that God has given you. The vision of the originators of this church lives on in YOU and hopefully many others to follow.



There will be some large projects happening at Zion in the coming weeks before September. We're undergoing a large landscaping renovation to make the property more manageable and attractive. The narthex carpeting will be replaced with tile. Additional windows in the sanctuary will be replaced with more energy efficient double pane products. Some security issues will be addressed; hopefully before the school year begins. The old kitchen doors will be replaced. Your trustees have been quite busy these last few years.

Consider helping out on a board or committee! The nominating committee and process will begin in August/Sept and new positions will be filled at the October Voters' Meeting. We'll announce the opportunities/positions that will need to be filled. For an overview of what any particular position entails, take a look at the Constitution which is available on our website, or talk to me about serving.

Hopefully, during the next 6 to 9 months we will enact an Endowment at Zion to provide for a more perpetual form of financial growth and monetary support. We're very blessed right now and we need to think ahead and structure our financial position smartly. Attend the Voters' Meetings to stay informed on the progress of these types of matters and to participate in your church's business plan. Be a cheerful giver and support your church.

Over the last 30+ years, Zion has accomplished a lot and endured a lot; both good and sometimes not so good. But, we've persevered and by the Grace of Almighty God we've

grown to where and what we are today. It might be a good time to consider the future vision for Zion and take the pulse of the membership in some respects with regard to a future "vision" for our ministries. We are possibly at an "inflection point" of sorts and over the coming months it might be an idea to take stock of ourselves and discuss the ministries and our potential to grow our church in a manner that is responsible and also advantageous to the fulfillment of the Great Commission and our stated purpose in Article II of our Constitution, "To equip, send and support the members of the congregation to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ." So, stay tuned to participate in any efforts to survey or procure your opinions on matters pertaining to growth at Zion.

Christianity started with some apostles and less than one hundred followers who went out to speak the truth to a world that was hostile, yet in places hungry enough for the Holy Spirit to seed in the hearts and minds of some people. We're part of an ongoing process of continuing that work started so long ago. It requires more of us than merely attending church services; though surely that is a requirement of our dedication to our Lord. Five and a half years ago I asked you -- whether you were a "member" or "just belonged" to your church? A member (like your hand and feet are members of your body) actively participates and is engaged in the organization; while something or someone who merely belongs to it, is more like your shoes or your coat -- it merely belongs to you and really isn't an integral part of your being.

Opportunity is a fleeting thing. We're only here for a blink of an eye when you look at the time that has passed since the crucifixion. What should we -- you -- do to make our church a bastion of Christian love and refuge from an ever-increasing world of turmoil and confusion? Together we can do wonders.

We cannot look at our called work to spread the Gospel as some minor, or insurmountable, task! Remember the closing words of Paul in the book of Acts as he declares, (after admonishing the Jews for their "dull hearts")

*"Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."*

Evangelism calls; let's all pitch in and make our church a beacon of hope to the ears that will hear. Let's grow the Kingdom at Zion! No dull hearts here!!!

-- Paul Klemash

Go  
THEREFORE AND MAKE  
DISCIPLES OF ALL  
nations...  
MATTHEW 28:19, NRSV



**Mission Moment:**  
**Promoting Zion's Internal, local, and international missionary efforts**  
**Pastor Philip & Deaconess Rachel Joseph**

**Sharing the Good News**  
**in Uruguay, Guatemala and Mexico**



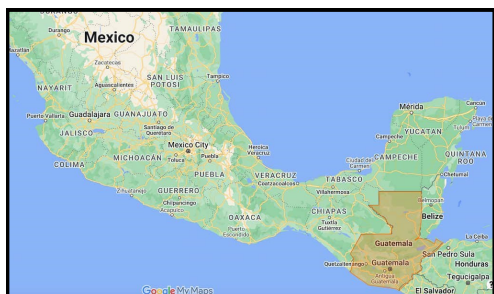
Pastor Phil is conducting the service of the Word at the home of members in Costa de Oro, Uruguay. Recently he began a new Bible study via Zoom, pictured here, since the participants are spread out from one another. According to Pastor Phil, "It was simply wonderful to gather together as the body of Christ via Zoom and dig into His Word, sometimes looking between Spanish, Greek, and English. We marveled at the amazing depth and profundity in Mark's comparatively brief Gospel narrative. Always a joy to teach and

learn!" Thank the Lord for these opportunities for Pastor Phil to preach, teach, and provide pastoral care for these brothers and sisters in Christ. Please pray that the Lord would bless the study of His Word.

Please keep Rachel in prayer over the coming weeks, as she travels in Guatemala and Mexico to support the deaconess program by teaching intensives in those countries. Please pray also for these students and sister church bodies, that all present may benefit from this full but wonderful time of learning more deeply about God's Word and applying it through the diaconal vocation and in the life of the church.

**Did you Know?**

LCMS deaconesses are women who are professional church-workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. "Deaconess," from the Greek word diakonos, means "servant."



***By being a member of an LCMS congregation, YOU have missionaries serving all over the world!***

The word "synod" means "walking together", and we walk together in many ways. Our unity of doctrine and enthusiasm for mission work at home and abroad are two of the ways we live this.

Prayerfully consider becoming a Mission Sender by making a financial gift or pledge to sustain our work. Any gift you make will 100% directly support our family. You may partner with us financially at the page found [here](#), or you may also send a check made out to "LCMS" with "Joseph Mission Support" in the memo line to The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63111-6861.

## Important Sunday School Dates

- \* **Now through Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>** -- Summer Sunday School is meeting in Room 205 in the school wing! It's a combined class, ages 3-12, that runs through Sept. 3. We are using readings and activities from "Pray, Praise and Give Thanks: Jesus Teaches Us to Pray" published by CPH. The class will be geared mainly toward the Pre-K to K and Grades 1-3 age groups, but we would love to have the older children participate as helpers. We encourage the 4-6 graders to attend the Pastor's Bible class if that is more to their liking.
- \* **Sept 17<sup>th</sup>** -- Rally Day! This special day kicks-off our 2023-24 Sunday school year. It will be held a week later than usual this year due to the 125th Anniversary celebration on Sept. 9-10<sup>th</sup>.



---

## VBS is July 24-28, from 9 am to Noon

Our theme is "God's Living Water" from CPH

80 Kids are registered, and we need a few more  
volunteers to ensure the success of our program!

If you are able to give of your time to this wonderful ministry for children, please contact Karen at [kkress5@gmail.com](mailto:kkress5@gmail.com) or Megan at [proverbs31meg@yahoo.com](mailto:proverbs31meg@yahoo.com), OR simply follow this link to sign up on SignUpGenius: [VBS Volunteers](#)



# Summer Reading Club for Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Program runs Now through August 11<sup>th</sup>



On June 11th, SS Directors Jon & Connie Canale announced the "CPH Reads" Summer Reading program and encouraged all Zion kids Pre-K through 8th grade to participate. Readers who

complete the program by August 11th will receive a \$20 Sarris gift certificate (one per family) and be entered in a drawing to receive an annual Family Membership to the Pittsburgh Zoo!

Recently it was brought to our attention that CPH has changed the program guidelines this year ... when you log into the CPH Reads account (Beanstack) they are counting points by recording MINUTES READ, rather than NUMBER OF BOOKS READ. We have decided to run our Zion program the same as we did last year: kids will receive 50 points for any non-CPH book read; 100 points for a CPH book. Once you reach 1000 points, you can receive a prize! Use the back of the CPH

Reads card (displayed on the red cart) to tally your books read ... turn this card in, along with a list of the book titles read, by August 11 to be entered to receive the prizes mentioned above. Questions??? Reach out to Jon or Connie Canale at [jscanale@jscmail.net](mailto:jscanale@jscmail.net) or 586-604-7247.

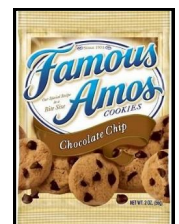


Jump start your CPH Reads challenge by choosing books from the red book cart in the SS lobby!

---

## Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The July collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. The "item of the month" for July is COOKIES.



The August collection for the Food Bank is Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The "item for the month" is CRACKERS.



Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack. Thank you for supporting this vital community service!





## Anniversary Anecdotes

*Each month during our 125th anniversary year we'll share perspectives from our members on Zion's past, present and future*

### Millie Thielet



Born in 1924, Millie's parents were Italian immigrants who raised ten children. Millie married Ray Thielet and they had two children, Don and Marianne.

Millie first came to Zion as a young adult through the encouragement of her sister and brother-in-law, Jennie and Russell Myers. She was confirmed in 1958 by Zion pastor Herman Dietrich

Jr. at the congregation's former location on Prestley Road in the heart of Bridgeville.

Over the years Millie served on Zion's Altar Guild and had fun in the church bowling league that was once a popular fellowship activity for some in the congregation. "I've enjoyed helping to make Zion's famous schnitzels and volunteering for fundraising events, as well as going to group outings such as baseball games and the Radio City Rockettes show in downtown Pittsburgh."



Millie and Marianne heading to church in 1961.



Marianne and Brent's wedding day June 23, 1989.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Marianne Thielet Miller has been a lifelong Zion member. She was married at the church in 1989 to Brent Miller. Marianne has served on the Altar Guild and been a member of the bowling league. She also runs a greeting card ministry on behalf of Zion, through which she sends notes of comfort and encouragement to members facing hardships. Brent spends hours each week managing Zion's website, and has also supported the livestreaming of worship services and served as an usher.

"We refer to the congregation as our church family," the three agreed. "Like everyone else in the congregation, we've gone through our tough times, and we've always found support, caring and encouragement from the compassionate members of Zion," they admitted. "We've been very blessed having these people and our wonderful Pastor at Zion in our lives, and in our hearts. We genuinely love them."



May 21, 1972 ... a beautiful day for confirmation at Zion's new church building on Washington Pike. Pictured are Pastor Herman Dietrich, Marianne and Millie.



This summer our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), will again gather in convention to discuss and perform the work of the church. The Convention will take place July 29th - August 3rd in Milwaukee. Delegates will elect officers, debate and vote on resolutions, gather for worship, study God’s Word and more. Susie Bishop will attend the Convention as one of the voting delegates for the Eastern District.

The theme chosen for the convention is “We Preach Christ Crucified,” from 1 Corinthians 1. This central message will inform delegates as they discuss vital matters related to the Concordia University System, church fellowship, providing pastors for LCMS congregations and other matters necessary to the operation of the church.

The June/July issue of *The Lutheran Witness* is a preview of what’s coming up in convention. It includes biographical summaries, personal statements and Q&As with the five presidential nominees. It also introduces the convention essayists and provides a short summary of their presentations. In the “Overture Overview,” readers will find a quick outline of the major matters that delegates will face on the convention floor.



Most important, though, readers will be reminded – as they always are in the pages of *LW* – of Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world. As the Rev. Roy Askins, *LW* managing editor, writes in his column, “For Christ has not built His church on the shifting sands of popular opinion or worldly wisdom, but upon the preaching of Christ crucified – a message of folly to many, but of salvation to us who are called.”

To subscribe, visit [cph.org/witness](http://cph.org/witness). Learn more about the issue and other topics online at [witness.lcms.org](http://witness.lcms.org).





## In Memoriam

It has pleased the Lord to call unto Himself on June 9th our Sister in Christ Gladys Cimarolli. Gladys was a life-long member of Zion. May the Lord comfort her daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Bill Paviol, and the rest of their family with the assurance of eternal life in Him.

Pioneer on the Lake -- the new name for Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY -- is in the midst of its summer camping season. They have launched a "Raise the Roof" Campaign to tackle much-needed roof renovations. Support from friends in area LCMS congregations is needed to make this campaign a success!

*Are you able to share some of your financial blessings so that Pioneer can continue to be a blessing to families and groups in our area???* Learn how you can help at [pioneeronthelake.com/donation](http://pioneeronthelake.com/donation)



## Join Us @ Youth Group



Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

# Welcome!

## New Members

Throughout the spring Zion has been blessed to receive several new members into our church family. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet them yet, be sure to welcome them to our fellowship!



**Jason Trentini** became a Zion member on Sunday April 2nd. He and his wife Pam, a life-long member of Zion, were married at Zion in 2008. He has been attending services with her since then and serves as an Usher. Jason and Pam have two children, Emily and Sam and they live in Cecil.

**Welcome Jason!**

**Nyomin Buhler** became part of the Zion church family on Sunday, April 16th, having transferred from All Saints Lutheran Church. Nyomin is a music teacher in Pittsburgh Public school district and has joined Zion's choir and special music ensembles.

**Welcome Nyomin!**



**Bryan & Karen Kress**, together with their boys **Michael, Drew and Thomas**, joined our church family on Sunday, April 16th. The family transferred membership from First Trinity Lutheran in Oakland in order to worship closer to their home in Mt. Lebanon. Karen is a teacher and serves as Zion's Co-Director for VBS; Bryan works in the financial sector.

**Welcome Kress family!**



**Ryan and Emily Cicioni** became Zion members on Sunday, April 16th. Having grown up in Philadelphia (Ryan) and Wisconsin (Emily), the couple were married in Pittsburgh in August of 2022 and have bought their first home in Pleasant Hills. Ryan works for Bettis Laboratory, Emily is a nurse.

**Welcome Cicioni Family!**



**Maryann McClure** joined our church family on Sunday, April 16th. As a young girl Maryann attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Glen Hazel in the City of Pittsburgh ... that church is now Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel, an LCMS church planted by Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries and First Trinity Lutheran! Maryann lives in Scott Township and enjoys bowling.



**Welcome Maryann!**



**Mike & Cheryl Debowski** became part of our Zion family on Sunday, June 4th. The Debowskis live in Peters Township and are now retired, having previously worked at Bettis Laboratory (Mike) and as a preschool teacher (Cheryl). Prior to joining Zion, they were members of Our Redeemer Lutheran in McMurray. They enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren, two of whom attended Zion's preschool.

**Welcome Debowski family!**



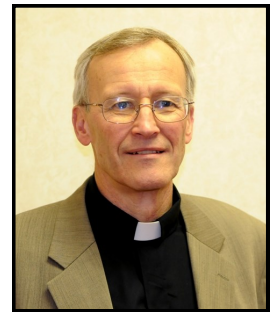
## Specialized Spiritual Care Brings Christ's Message to All

By Erik M. Lunsford [erik.lunsford@lcms.org](mailto:erik.lunsford@lcms.org)

Excerpted from Reporter -- Official Newspaper of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

"We know we can count on You each and every day," prayed the Rev. Roger Nuerge, pastor at Concordia of Cranberry, a care community in Mars, Pa., as he visited with 105-year-old Paul Coleman on June 1. Concordia of Cranberry is part of Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM), and LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO) based in Cabot, Pa., about an hour northeast of Pittsburgh.

"We're going to count on You tomorrow too," continued Nuerge. "You promise never to leave us or forsake us. You promise that there is forgiveness in Your shed blood for all of us, and You promise a life that's everlasting through the power of the resurrection of You Son, Jesus. So hear our prayer for Paul today and every day as we commend him -- body, soul and spirit -- into your hands."



Rev. Roger Nuerge

Nuerge is part of a team of pastors and deaconesses at CLM that provide daily chaplaincy care to the residents through visitation, Bible study and worship. With 28 member congregations, CLM is one of the largest nonprofit senior care providers in the country, serving around 50,000 people per year, and part of the larger church that cares for God's people across the Synod as an extension of its workers and congregations.

Nuerge's work often includes caring for those who may not have people in their lives to check on them or who have been overlooked or seemingly forgotten. On this day, he reminded Coleman, a beloved child of God, that he is not forgotten by Christ.

"What does spiritual care look like? It just means [showing] interest in people and who they are -- just the way they are ... as helpless as they are ... as sinful as they are. They're still important to God, and they are important to us too. That's what spiritual care looks like."

Read more about Concordia Lutheran Ministries, chaplaincy care in the congregation, and LCMS Specialized Spiritual Care Ministry in the Fall 2023 edition of *Lutherans Engage the World* magazine.



### **Mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries**

**To serve our aging community with a continuum of high quality caregiving options, provided in a Christian environment, and to serve those with limited funds to the best of our ability.**

Pastor Grimenstein is the guest preacher at Concordia's Annual Summer Fest! Make plans to join the fun and fellowship at this event in nearby Cabot.

# 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Festival

Sunday, July 30, 2023

12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Lund Backyard, 134 Marwood Road

Kid's Fishing Derby & Activities

Pittsburgh Doo Wop Big Band, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Haven I Open House, 1-3 p.m.

Car Cruise (weather permitting), 12:30-3 p.m.

Worship Service at 4 p.m. featuring  
Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein, Member,  
Concordia Lutheran Ministries Parent Board of Directors;  
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville, PA

Summer Picnic-themed menu





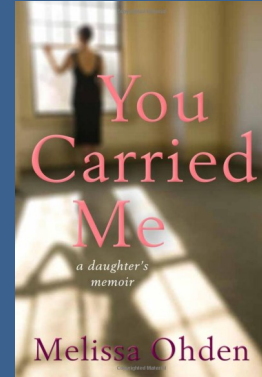
# Upcoming Events

## July Women's Summer Book Club

Tues, July 18th 6:30 pm at the Parsonage

Light Refreshments will be served

Watch your emails for a sign up!



*You Carried Me*  
By Melissa Ohden

Please check Amazon for Kindle editions.  
Contact Tevia Grimenstein for paperback copies.

[GRMNSTNS@LIVE.COM](mailto:GRMNSTNS@LIVE.COM) OR 412-510-4865

## Save the Dates

Friday - Sunday, September 22-24, 2023

LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat

Camp Pioneer on the Lake

Registration is now open!

Saturday, October 14, 2023

LWML Pittsburgh Zone Fall Rally

Zion Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville



**LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat  
September 22-24, 2023  
Pioneer on the Lake, Angola NY**



The ladies of the Philadelphia Zone are hosting the 2023 Fall Retreat under the theme "Encourage One Another" based on Hebrews 10:25 *'not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.'* (Hebrews 10:25 ESV)

We are excited to be returning to Pioneer On The Lake this fall for our LWML Retreat. It will be great to see the sunsets on Lake Erie, walk the trails, breathe in the fresh fall air, and worship in the outdoor chapel. As you probably know, Pioneer is under new management and here comes change.

**WHAT IS NEW:**

**New name: - Pioneer on the Lake**      **Full-time only registrations (NO PART-TIME)**  
**One price for all accommodations** no surcharge for refurbished cabins  
 Need to bring towels and linens (pillows and blankets provided)      No Zipline

**What has NOT changed**

Awesome Speaker      Interest Session Variety      Cooks parade      Quiet place to unplug  
 Sunday worship in the outdoor chapel (weather permitting)      Fantastic fellowship      Opportunity to learn and grow

As registration is different this year with only full-time and one price for all accommodations a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice method is being used to accommodate all registrants' housing preferences. Detail instructions are on the registration form. Also note that Pioneer on the Lake charges a surcharge (\$40) for single occupancy. Minimum occupancy requirements are noted on the registration form. Cabin configurations are included in this LINK issue.

**Registrations accepted starting May 1<sup>st</sup> – must have a postmark of May 1<sup>st</sup> or later.**  
**Registration deadline is August 25<sup>th</sup> (postmarked by August 25<sup>th</sup>).**

**RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS**



**SPEAKER:**

We are pleased to have an opportunity to meet our newly elected Eastern District President **The Reverend John L. Pingel**. He will speak three times throughout the weekend and has agreed to have a meet and greet as one of our interest sessions. President Pingel previously served as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in South Buffalo and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. A native of Long Island, New York, he attended Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y., and then Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri (Master of Divinity, 1983). He then attended Geneva College in Pennsylvania, obtaining his Masters in Professional Psychology/Counseling degree in 1996. While serving as pastor he also served part time as a mobile therapist.

**President Pingel** is married to Diane (Giddens) for 31 years. Diane, whose father was a police officer, grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. She was baptized into the faith by her pastor, Dr. Arnold Kromphardt. John and Diane were married by Rev. Dr. David Belasic. Their marriage was blessed with two sons: Bryan, who is an engineer for Chrysler, currently living in Ann Arbor, MI; and Timothy, who works for a firm in Depew, NY. To learn more about Pastor Pingel and his interests come to the retreat at Pioneer on the Lake, Angola, NY, September 22-24, 2023.

**THE INGATHERING** is monetary donations for furnishings at Pioneer on The Lake.

**INTEREST SESSIONS** - can attend more than one

**ED President Rev. John Pingel** – meet and greet      **Servant Event at Pioneer** – still finalizing activity  
**Grants Tune up** – review of mission grant proposals before October 15, 2023 deadline  
**Tai Chi on the beach** – tentative – see want ad in the LINK      **Free Time**—Naps, walk the trails



**LWML Totes** – how many do you have in your collection? The tote bags may be from national or district conventions, special trainings like Assembly of Leaders, or LWML district retreats or Zone events. Plan to bring a tote with you to retreat this fall. The host committee will be providing totes for first timers and others who do not have an LWML tote.

**SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT**



Ladies First Quartet is a female acapella singing quartet. They sing 4-part harmony in the barbershop style and do a wide range of songs from classic love songs from the 1940s to jazzy, contemporary upbeat songs. They are members of the Buffalo Gateway Chorus which is currently ranked 10<sup>th</sup> world-wide of over 550 choruses within Sweet Adeline's International. Their quartet competes annually on a regional basis and has been singing all over Western New York for 10 years.

You know two of their members from LWML – Sharon Wolff from Batavia, NY sings bass and Bonnie Sugrue from Williamsville, NY sings lead. Their tenor is Kim Hooker from Akron, NY and Bonnie King from Warsaw, NY sings baritone.

[Download Fall Retreat Registration Form](#)



What About...

## Holy Baptism

Suppose for a moment that there was a doctor who had such incredible talent that he could prevent people from dying, and bring those who had died back to life, never to die again. Just imagine how people would do whatever they could to be treated by this doctor! Now consider that in Holy Baptism, God actually does give us the gift of eternal life!

**What is Baptism?** *Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.<sup>1</sup>*



What's so special about a handful of simple water? Nothing, until God connects His Word to it! In Baptism, that is exactly what God is doing. He combines His life-creating and life-giving Word with the waters of Holy

Baptism, and thereby we are born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).

**What is that Word of God?** *Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt.28:19).*

Our Lord commands Baptism. It is not optional, nor is it simply a nice "extra." God's Word takes on many forms, according to His good and gracious will. The Word is preached, taught, and proclaimed. It is read, studied and meditated on. And it is that Word of God, His promise, that makes Baptism what it is. God Himself is present as His name is joined to the water, with all His power and all His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Christ consecrates the water of Baptism with His Word, so as we in Baptism stand with Christ in the water, the Father calls us His beloved children, the Holy Spirit is given to us, and heaven is opened to us. Those who receive Baptism after they have been brought to faith by the preaching or teaching of the Word also receive all the blessings God has attached to Baptism.

**What benefits does Baptism give?** *It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).*

In and through Baptism, God cleanses us from all our sins, snatches us from the power of Satan, and gives us everlasting life. It is all God's doing. It is His promise. In Baptism, our Triune God imparts to each of us personally the gifts the Lord Jesus Christ won for the world through His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. See Gal.3:27; Col.1:13-14; 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5-7 and 1 Cor.6:11.

**How can water do such great things?** *Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying" (Titus 3:5-8).*

Of course, simple water can't do such great things, but the water of Baptism is not simple water! Baptism is one very special way God delivers to us the blessings Christ won for us. Baptism is not something we do, but something God does. Therefore, it is far more than a symbol. It is a sacred act in which God Himself is at work





What About...

Cont'd

## Holy Baptism

forgiving sins, giving new life in Christ and bestowing on us the Holy Spirit with all of His gifts. Baptism gives us the faith through which we receive these gifts. God the Holy Spirit works faith in the promises attached to Baptism.

**What does such baptizing with water indicate?** *It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.*

**Where is this written?** *St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Rom.6:4).*

In Baptism we are buried with Christ, and in Baptism we are raised with Christ. His death and resurrection are made our own, and because of that fact, through our entire life, we are able to say, "I am baptized!" Having been buried with Christ into His death we do not have to be afraid of the tomb in which we will rest one day. Christ has already been there. In Holy Baptism we have passed through His grave into His resurrection.

**What does Baptism have to do with our daily life?** Everything! Our entire life is a life lived trusting in the promises of God, given to us in and through Holy Baptism. We are constantly returning to Baptism. In moments of temptation and suffering in our lives, when all seems to be crashing down on us, and in particular in those moments when our sin and the guilt of those sins haunt us, we are able, as Luther says, to "Pull out our Baptism and wave it under the devil's nose and say, 'I am baptized ... I have God's bath. It is Christ's own blood.' It is a bath blessed and mixed with the blood of Christ."<sup>2</sup> We can't return to the cross of Christ, nor should we attempt to imagine ourselves back there. No, we turn instead to the "here and now" reality of God's work in our lives.

We return to our Baptism. For it was there and then that God buried us with Christ and raised us with Him .

### **Why are infants and young children baptized?**

They are baptized for the same reason adults are baptized — because of the command and promise of God. What is promised in Baptism is given to all who receive it; therefore, infants and young children also have the promise of God. They, too, are made children of God. Jesus specifically invites little children to come to Him (Luke 18:15–17). But most important, as sinners, infants need what Baptism gives.



By His word, God created all that is seen and unseen. By His word, our Lord Christ called a dead man from the tomb (John 11:43–44). The unborn child, John the Baptist, leaped in his mother's womb when he heard the word of God (Luke 1:41–44). Why is there any doubt that in and through the Word and the promise of Baptism, God works a similar gift of faith in the infant? If we misunderstand Baptism to be our work, then we will always cast doubt on it. When we recognize that it is not our work, but God's gracious promise and work, we realize that infants are to be baptized and receive the treasures offered in and through Baptism. Sadly, there are individuals and church bodies that deny Baptism to young children and infants. They do not believe that these little ones need what Holy Baptism gives. They do not believe what the Bible teaches so clearly, namely, that God saves us through Baptism. As a result of these false teachings, they deny both to themselves and to others the power, blessing and comfort of Holy Baptism. That is tragic, for it is a most serious offense against God to deny what He plainly declares in His Word: "The promise is for you and your children" (Acts 2:39) and "Baptism now saves you" (1 Peter 3:21).

**Dr. A. L. Barry**  
**Past President**

**The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod**

1. The words in italics are from Luther's *Small Catechism*.

2. WA 47:651,10-19,32-36.

# July/August Service Participants

	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
July	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Megan & Ava Pasquini, Wayne & Barb Oechslein	John & Kari Gresh, Dwight & Andy Weldon
August	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Bill, Ken & Will Schrag, Jason Trentini	John, Kate, Johnny & Luke Lemonovich

	Elders	Acolytes	Time
July 2	Bob S. & Mike K. Jim N. & Roger D.	TBD	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
July 9	Bob S. & Mike K. Jim N. & Roger D.	Emily Trentini TBD	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
July 16	Bob S. & Mike K. Jim N. & Bill B.	TBD Callista Chilcott	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
July 23	Bob S. & Mike K. Jim N. & Bill B.	TBD Callista Chilcott	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
July 30	Bob S. & Mike K. Jim N. & Bill B.	Lindsey Liberatore Daniel Grimenstein	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
August 6	Sam G. & Mike W. Bill B. & Roger D.	Claire Schrag Callista Chilcott	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
August 13	Sam G. & Mike W. Bill B. & Roger D.	Emily Trentini TBD	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
August 20	Sam G. & Mike W. Bill B. & Roger D.	Lindsey Liberatore Callista Chilcott	8:00 AM 10:30 AM
August 27	Sam G. & Mike W. Bill B. & Roger D.	Claire Schrag Daniel Grimenstein	8:00 AM 10:30 AM



# JULY

## Birthdays

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 London Killinger     | 20 Paul Hayes         |
| 2 Shelley Killinger    | 21 Evelyn Gielarowski |
| 3 Karen Bauer          | 22 Roger Diederich    |
| 6 Mike Debowski        | 28 Payten Ciccone     |
| 8 Roxanne Burgh        | 29 Arielle Ma         |
| 8 Richard Trudel       |                       |
| 9 Florence Boehme      |                       |
| 11 Clara Hayes         |                       |
| 14 Dominic Dibert      |                       |
| 15 Brad Boyle          |                       |
| 15 Bob Liberatore      |                       |
| 16 John T. Gielarowski |                       |
| 18 Emily Trentini      |                       |
| 19 Anna Grimenstein    |                       |
| 19 Robyn Reihner       |                       |

*Take my life and let it be,  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in endless praise.  
LSB #783*



# JULY

## Anniversaries

- 7 Harry & Eileen Davis
- 17 John & Katie Gielarowski
- 24 Ben & Megan Meyer
- 26 Paul & Nancy Klemash



# AUGUST

## Birthdays

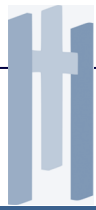
- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Anna Gresh       | 22 Dallas Blayney      |
| 8 Paul Klemash     | 22 Pippa Carter        |
| 9 Pam Trentini     | 23 Tevia Grimenstein   |
| 10 Sean Carthy     | 25 Megan Meyer         |
| 10 Matt Liberatore | 25 Gretchen Schinkel   |
| 12 Lexie Dyczewski | 31 Mitchell Fitzgerald |
| 12 Jenn Fitzgerald |                        |
| 13 Sam Trentini    |                        |
| 14 Paula Jones     |                        |
| 14 Bill Koester    |                        |
| 15 Jason Trentini  |                        |
| 19 Jack Bishop     |                        |
| 20 Lynn Carthy     |                        |





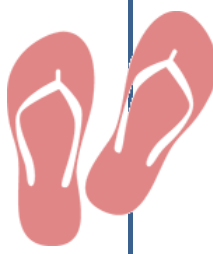
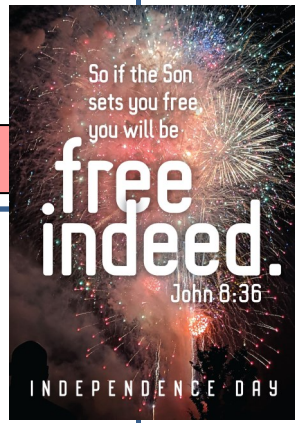

# AUGUST

## Anniversaries

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 John & Tracey Coyle       | 24 John & Kari Gresh   |
| 6 Max & Jean Ma             | 29 David & Mary Hutula |
| 11 Ken & Bethany Schrag     | 30 Bob & Diana Schmidt |
| 18 Jack & Nadene Hartman    | 31 Bill & Susie Bishop |
| 22 Ronald & Betty Valentino |                        |





# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	3  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Church Office Closed July 3rd -- July 5th</div>	4 	5	6	7 4:00 pm -- Quinlan/Carey Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner	8 2:00 pm -- Quinlan/Carey Wedding
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Pastor on vacation June 29<sup>th</sup> -- July 8<sup>th</sup></div>						
9 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship <b>FOOD BANK</b>	10	11	12 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study  7:00 pm Elders' Mtg	13 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	14 	15
16 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am VBS Mtg. 6:30 pm Youth Group	17	18 6:30 pm Women's Book Club at the parsonage	19 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	20	21 	22
23 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	27 6:30 pm Events Committee Mtg	28	29 
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Monday -- Friday 9 am - Noon</div>						
30 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship Voters' Mtg. after late service (lunch served)	31 					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">LCMS National Convention -- Milwaukee 7/29-8/3 Susie out of office as delegate</div>						



# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	3 7:00 pm Elders' Meeting	4	5
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;">           LCMS National Convention -- Milwaukee 7/29-8/3    Susie out of office as delegate         </div>					
6 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	7	8 7:00 pm Board of Ed Mtg	9 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	10 7:00 pm Council Meeting	11	12
13 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship FOOD BANK	14	15	16 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	17	18	19
20 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	21	22	23 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	24	25	26
27 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	28	29	30 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	31	 <p>THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS ARE FAITHFUL and JUST. PSALM 111:7</p>	

