



Zion Lutheran Monthly

May 2023

Pastor's Corner

A Call to Serve

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

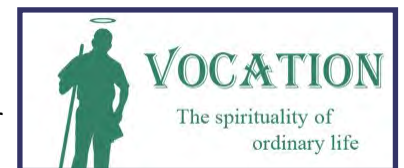
Philippians 1:12-13

The Apostle Paul mentioned above of his "imprisonment" for Christ. This is not to be taken metaphorically. Paul was in jail. He did nothing wrong of course, except speak the gospel. About 25% of Paul's active ministry to the Gentiles was spent in jail. That is hard to believe. We should also remember though, this is exactly where God wanted Paul to be. God wanted Paul in prison. This was Paul's "vocation" for those 4-6 years. Paul's calling, believe it or not, was to be in prison.

The word "vocation" is a fascinating one we don't consider enough in the church. The word "vocation" literally means "calling." For us Christians, our vocation means where God has called us to be. They do not have to be fascinating vocations from a worldly perspective. What makes them fascinating is that God has called us into them. Take the Apostle Paul as an example. The great and mighty "Apostle to the Gentiles," the man who performed numerous outstanding miracles, who met with the resurrected Christ on numerous occasions, Paul's calling for those years of his ministry was to be in prison. Paul's vocation, his calling from God, was to be in jail for many years.

Our vocations from God may not always be easy for us. For example, a woman who is a stay-at-home mother, who is going on 4 hours of sleep, doesn't receive a medal for her work. No matter how many diapers she changes or spit up she cleans, there are no worldly trumpets for her. But still, this is where God has called her. This is her divine vocation at this point in her life. And when we can look at our lives from God's perspective, suddenly things like diapers, and spit up, take on a divine dimension and the words of Christ ring true, "*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me*" (Matthew 25:40).

Each and every one of you have a vocation, a calling, from God. Not sure what that is? Just look at your lives. You may be called to work a 9-5 job. That is your vocation. You may be called right now by God to spend your final years sitting in a wheelchair. That is still your vocation from God. So, what is our reaction to our callings from God? We could sit around and bemoan our vocation. The Apostle Paul could have. He could have whined that he was in prison, grumbled that he wasn't being allowed to do something more "glamorous" in worldly eyes, but he didn't. He accepted his vocation. From that calling to be in prison, Paul was able to witness to those around him of the mercy of Christ. You also can be like Paul. You can accept your various vocations as callings from God, and you can serve God faithfully, giving witness to those around you of the mercy of Christ.



-- Pastor Grimenstein

Chairman's Report

Celebrating May

Let's enjoy the month of May at Zion for a lot of reasons! Your Preschool ministry finishes up the school year this month and starts summer camps. It's been a really wonderful year at the Preschool and I'm sure with the way Tracy's staff and Pastor's chapel sessions have been going, your church touched the hearts of all those little ones and planted some important seeds of faith. May will bring Mother's Day into focus, and Memorial Day at the end of the month is a reminder that we worship our Lord God Almighty in a place He has protected over the years through the sacrifice of many to keep this bastion of Christianity as vibrant as possible.



Pentecost is Sunday, May 28th; a very important time to realize that we're here to carry out a command to spread the Gospel and baptize in the name of the Triune God. That's our job, really. To bring people into fellowship. The Holy Spirit is here for a reason. The Spirit dwells in each of us and we need to be confident of that fact and resolve to spread the Good News so that others might enjoy the friendship and saving grace of Christ.



Hopefully everyone received a postcard to save the date for the 125th celebration in September! Susie has been working on the pictorial directory and I hope everyone is participating in that project. The summer will most probably be busy with trustee projects. There are a lot of things to do around your church. Please think about volunteering to help out or serve a term on a board or committee. We'll be looking for some help when the nominating process begins later in the summer. It's your church so take a bit of an ownership role and think about giving some "time and talent" to help spread the workload around.

Finally, keep the Christians on earth, our LCMS and our missions, our District, Circuit and of course Zion, in your prayers! Remember our church family members who are on the prayer list. Enjoy being a Christian!

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Ps 68:19)

-- Paul Klemash

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



¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡Ha resucitado de verdad! ¡Aleluya!
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Easter greetings from Montevideo, at Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, where we celebrated along with Christians around the world, Jesus' victory over sin and death. Death no longer has its sting because Christ's tomb was empty that Sunday morning, and so will ours be on the Last Day!

These photos are of some of the diaconal intensive courses taught last year in Guatemala, Panama, and Mexico through the diaconal formation program of Concordia the Reformer Seminary. The program has now expanded from including 5 countries to 9, with 83 brand new students across the region. Nine of these students are here in Uruguay, whom we're privileged to teach and mentor.





SS NEWS

During May, Sunday School classes will be going through Enduring Faith Unit 6 Lessons 3-6: Lesson 3, "A Whirlwind Ascent - Elijah Is Taken to Heaven"; Lesson 4, "Healing Waters - Naaman and Elisha"; Lesson 5, "Unwilling Prophet - Jonah"; Lesson 6, "Promising Prophet - God Calls Isaiah"

Important Sunday School Dates

- * **Sunday, June 11** -- Year-end Sunday School party. Lots of fun, so make sure the children are able to attend.
- * **Sundays from June 18 through September 3** -- Summer Sunday School. We will be reading stories from "New Testament Storybook for Kids".
- * **Sunday, September 17** -- Join us as we kick-off another great year of Sunday school. This date is one week later than in past years due to the Zion 125th Anniversary weekend on September 9-10th.

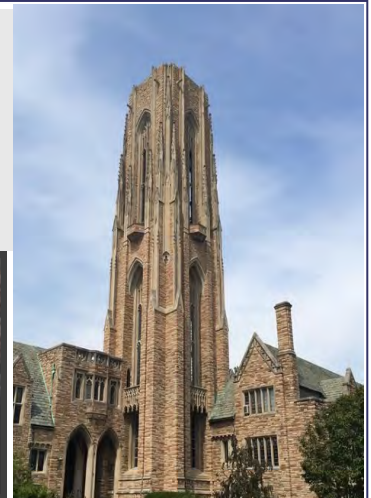
VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Zion Vacation Bible School
July 24th-28th
9 am - Noon



Kids ages 4 years through 4th grade are cordially invited to join us for VBS! (children must turn 4 prior to 9/1/23 and have had a year of preschool).

**Go to www.zlcb.org/vbs to register
and learn more ... don't delay!**



You Can Help Further Our Seminary's Vital Mission

Give STL Day is Wednesday, May 10th!

This special day of giving is one of three of the Seminary's annual giving days. Give STL Day is an online giving event organized by the St. Louis Community Foundation for the benefit of nonprofits headquartered in the metropolitan area.

With your support, seminary graduates go out from here to the four corners of the world to shine the light of the Gospel. To help meet the needs of students, the Seminary's goal this year is \$25,000. We thank you in advance for your partnership in this special campaign and for making the Seminary's mission possible!

Early giving for Give STL Day is now open! Thanks to a matching gift from a generous benefactor, gifts will be doubled dollar for dollar up to the first \$10,000 raised. Your gift will go twice as far in support of the Seminary's mission to prepare our church's future ministry leaders. Thank you! Give at <https://www.givestlday.org/ConcordiaSem>

Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The May collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, May 14th. 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 (contact Barb Oechslein to learn more).





by Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
May 1, 2023

Christ's Resurrection is Yours



Not long before being elected to the presidency of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, I was involved in a rather significant car crash. A colleague was driving, and cars in two oncoming lanes stopped to allow us to cross in front of them into the drive of our LCMS International Center. As my friend crossed the two lanes, we were hit hard on the front right passenger side by an oncoming vehicle. The airbags deployed. Our vehicle spun 180 degrees and a third vehicle was hit. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured.

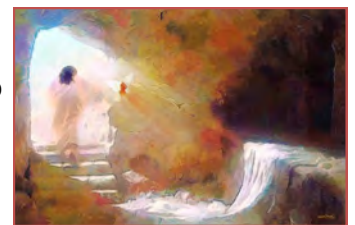
After recovering our senses, the three drivers and I — the lone passenger — got out of the cars and waited patiently for the police to arrive. I was within earshot as the oncoming driver gave his version of the events to the police officer. “I was just driving normally in the far lane and this car (ours) drove right in front of me.” Then there was silence. He fumbled. “I can’t lie. I hit a pregnant woman and a priest.” I had my collar on, and thanks to his confession I found out that the third driver was expecting.

His initial report was not entirely truthful. The two oncoming lanes had come to a stop. The two front cars allowed some separation, then waved us through. Just as that happened, he had driven his Cadillac onto the shoulder and was barreling toward an exit to the right several hundred yards ahead. He was driving illegally on the shoulder when he hit us.

Wow, I thought, he’s not having a good day. The law struck him hard. He tried to lie, but couldn’t pull it off. He admitted his guilt. As he stood alone in shame, I walked up to him and put my hand on his shoulder. “Friend,” I said, “I’ve had days like this too. We all screw up. I certainly do. This is what Jesus is for. You’re forgiven.”

Neither altruism nor high-minded ideals motivated me to forgive him. More than anything, I saw myself in that guy. As I looked at him — glad no one was injured — it struck me as a comic sight. “I can’t lie. I just hit a pregnant woman and a priest.” I still laugh about it! I’ve done stuff like he did. I’ve taken chances driving while in a hurry. I’ve lied or been tempted to lie. I immediately thought I could have been him a hundred times over. In fact, I have been. Lord, grant me repentance, faith in Jesus, and friends and loved ones to tell me what I need to hear, when I need to hear it.

I thought about this incident after reading through the Gospel accounts of Holy Week. I’ve often noted that we read the Gospels best by seeing ourselves in each and every character. I’m the believer Mary or Martha, disappointed with Jesus: “If you’d been here, my brother would not have died.” I’m the simultaneously courageous and pusillanimous apostle Peter. I’m the establishment leader who’s irked when my power is threatened or disrespected. I’m blind Bartimaeus crying out, “Have mercy on me!” I’m the apostles in Gethsemane, too tired to pray. I’m the apostle who can’t understand Jesus’ words about the necessity of dying. I’m Judas, lover of money, betrayer of Jesus. I’m Herod who wants a miracle. I’m Pilate who wants to save his own interests more than doing what’s right. I’m the thief ridiculing Jesus on the cross. I’m the thief, ashamed of my sin, looking to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:42). I’m the apostles scattered and afraid. I’m the women expecting to find a dead Jesus in a tomb. I am the sinner for whom Christ lived and died and rose again. I am the one whose sin is a curse, one borne by Jesus. I am “the righteous” one of God, because Christ was put to death for my transgressions and raised for my justification (Rom. 4:25). As Luther loved to preach, it is as though I were born of the virgin Mary! As though I were sinless! As though I had fulfilled all law. Christ did it for all, and thus, worm that I am, Christ’s resurrection is mine. *Therefore, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20).



In repentance and faith, this is true — perhaps most true for all of us — precisely on the worst of days.

Shout Out to Students



Highlighting the academic awards, scholarships, and extra-curricular achievements of Zion's students in Kindergarten through College.

Pippa Carter, a 5th grade student at Washington Elementary in Mt. Lebanon, earned her Bronze Star, together with her Girl Scout Troop 71006. This is the highest award for Junior Scouts in grades 4-5. The Bronze Award recognizes Girl Scouts who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects that address important community needs. Pippa's Troop helped educate and remind students, parents, and the community about the school's Go-Zone rules and procedures.



Washington Elementary is located adjacent to Mt. Lebanon's Uptown Business District which can result in additional safety concerns and increased traffic. The girls created informative fliers that were handed out to students, developed a series of videos on the Go-Zone location and procedures, created an updated map for use with incoming families, and designed friendly fliers to help remind residents who park illegally in the Go-Zone during school hours. Congrats Pippa!



Altar Guild Members Needed

Can you join us? Our altar guild prepares the elements of the Lord's Supper prior to each Worship service in the sacristy (behind our altar), and takes care of communion linens and vessels. This is wonderful way to demonstrate love and respect for the Sacrament while serving the members of Zion. Guild members serve on a monthly basis in teams of 3 or 4 members, and the schedule is very flexible! A training session will be scheduled soon. An eblast was sent the last week of March with details and a link to sign up online. For more information contact Tevia at grmnstns@live.com or Susie in the church office at secretary@zlcb.org.





**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 1st, 2nd, 3rd 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 1st – must have a postmark of May 1st or later.
Registration deadline is August 25th (postmarked by August 25th).

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 10th 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.

Join Us @ Youth Group!

Teens ages 7th-12th grade are welcome
the 3rd Sunday evening of each month

Zion's Youth Group was "relaunched" at a pizza/planning meeting in April. For their first time back together our youth enjoyed lots of food, fun and fellowship around God's word! Youth also spent a few minutes completing a survey in which they shared their thoughts on future activities, service projects, and devotional topics. Adult leaders want to ensure that future activities and projects are engaging and youth-centric!



Meetings will take place the 3rd Sunday of each month from 6-8 pm. Mark your calendars for our May meeting on 5/21 which will include bowling and a devotional time. Stay tuned for more details! We hope you can join us.

Please take a moment to complete our [YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION FORM](#) and bring it with you to the meeting.



KFUO Radio -- a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations -- shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on [KFUO.org](http://kfuo.org) via [worship services](#), [Bible and theology studies](#), [practical talk programs](#), and [sacred music](#).

You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: [@KFUOradio](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



Anniversary Anecdotes

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

Jean Ma



My husband, Max, and I moved to Bridgeville in 2015. Back then we went to a Chinese Church in Oakland, but before long we found that the commute between Bridgeville and Pittsburgh twice a week was too much for us. Then Zion came into our view as we started to look for a local church in Bridgeville. The service was Christ-centered, the Bible study group was vibrant, and Pastor Duncan and Alissa, his wife, were very welcoming. Looking back, it was almost natural for us to stay at Zion.

Now we have been members of Zion for seven years. We were married at Zion on August 6, 2016. We made friends here, our kids -- Esther and Arielle -- go to Sunday school/preschool here, and we experience Jesus' love here. We do not have any biological family in western Pennsylvania, but we surely have family in Christ at Zion. The singing voices during service, the warm greeting faces before every Bible study on Sundays, the thought-provoking discussions from Bible study all remind us of God's love within each member of Zion. When the elder members passed away, we felt like our own family member passed away. In tears we thank God for granting us the feeling of family in the remote land from home.

So Zion, thank you. May you continue to provide a shelter of home for those seeking Jesus, for those lost lambs, and for all the smiling faces here at Zion, until the day Jesus comes.



IT'S BACK!!



Women's Summer Book Club

3rd Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30 p.m.
(June 20, July 18, August 15)

All meetings take place at the parsonage.

Light refreshments will be served.

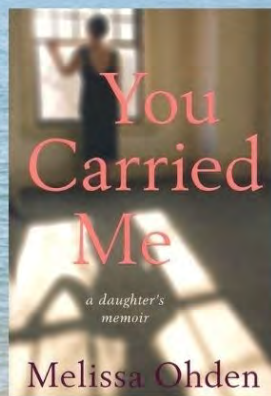
Watch your emails for more information.

JUNE



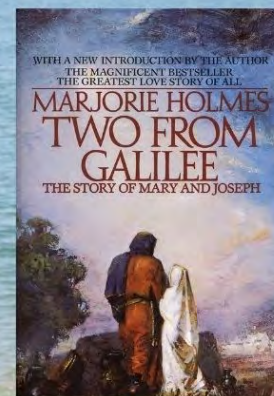
[Last Summer at Eden](#)
Christina Hergenrader

JULY



[You Carried Me](#)
Melissa Ohden

AUGUST



[Two From Galilee](#)
Marjorie Holmes

All books are available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT TEVIA GRIMENSTEIN grmnstns@live.com



Ministry to the Armed Forces

Armed Forces Day
Saturday, May 21st



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-forces-ministry
- 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



Standing Ready with the Gospel

by Pamela J. Nielsen

In 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.

Get Involved!

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





What About...

Telling the Good News about Jesus

What is our great privilege as Christians?

Through faith, we become disciples of Jesus Christ and, as such, it is our privilege to tell the good news about Jesus. We share with others the message of the salvation that is ours. And who are the people with whom we are to share the faith? Well, they are certainly our family members: husbands, wives, children, grandchildren, parents and so forth. But it does not stop there. That is only the beginning. It reaches out from there to our friends, to our fellow congregation members, to the people with whom we work, to our neighbors, and to the strangers we meet in our daily lives. Yes, this means actually talking to others about Jesus Christ and His great salvation.

Our privilege as Christians is to identify and recognize opportunities to tell others the good news about Jesus. And then, having recognized and identified those opportunities, ours is the privilege and responsibility of actually doing it—telling the good news about Jesus.

Where does telling the good news begin?

It begins with our personal thankfulness for the salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ. Each of us daily sins much and because of that, if left to ourselves, we deserve nothing but God's wrath and eternal damnation. And so does everyone in the world who has not come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

But thanks be to God, something miraculous happened in your life! So great is the Father's love for all humanity, that He sent His precious Son into this world, to obey God perfectly, and to suffer and die for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Because of Jesus Christ, each and every one of your sins has been washed away. You are cleansed, pardoned and given the peace that passes all human understanding.

Of all the blessings that God will ever give you in your life, without a doubt the greatest one of all is the forgiveness that is yours in Jesus Christ, and with that forgiveness, the promise that when you die you will spend all eternity with the Lord in heaven.

What do we do with the good news of Jesus?

God has not given us this great salvation merely for us to content ourselves with it, and to stick it away and treasure it privately. He has given us this great salvation

and then called each one of us to a life of being His witnesses. He gave us this great salvation to rejoice in, to live in and to share—yes, to share with others! He wants us to bring many others into His church, where they too will receive the blessings of God's Word and Sacraments, where they too will be made part of God's people—one of His own dear children. And what is more, God has promised that as we do, He will bless. For this fact too, we have every reason to thank and to praise the Lord.

The first president of our church, Dr. C.F.W. Walther made this extremely important point:

"Another major duty of a Synod that wants to be and remain an Evangelical Lutheran Synod is that it not seek its own glory, but only the glory of God, being intent not so much on its own growth, but rather on the growth of Christ's kingdom and the salvation of souls. You see, dear brethren, we are assembled here not for our own sake. We are in the faith, and by this faith we hope to be saved! But there are still many millions who have no faith! This is why we are here—so that we might bring salvation to as many people as we possibly can, so that the sad situation in Christendom and the corruption of the poor, blind heathen might be remedied. Only for this reason does our gracious God allow Christians to live on earth, that they might bring others to the saving faith. Otherwise God would immediately take a Christian to heaven as soon as he is converted."

Isn't evangelism just the pastor's job?

Evangelism is one of the pastor's important duties, but evangelism is not only the pastor's responsibility. Every Christian, through Baptism, is given the privilege of declaring the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Whenever we speak the Gospel, it is an actual communication of the forgiveness of sins. Telling the good news about Jesus to another person is not merely a casual conversation, nor is it merely expressing pious wishes. When we share with others the good news of Jesus, we are actually conveying to them the forgiveness of sins, for that is what the Gospel is all about. When the Gospel is



What About...

Telling the Good News about Jesus *Cont'd*

presented, God the Holy Spirit is present to work faith in the hearts of those who hear it.

Pastors and laypeople work together in the great task of making disciples of all nations, as together they tell the good news of Jesus. Together they work to make their congregations places where visitors feel welcome and places that have as a priority reaching out boldly with the Gospel. Hand in hand, pastors and congregations tell the good news about Jesus!

What is the starting place for telling the good news?

It begins with our love for others. Love always takes an interest in the good of our neighbor, our friend, our family member, without trying to figure out what we will receive in return. God's love is poured out into our hearts and overflows into the lives of others. God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbors, our friends, and our family members certainly do. Once we recognize how great is our own personal salvation and the enormous love of the Father's heart in saving us, we recognize that this love can remove barriers that stand in the way of our outreach to others. Barriers include apathy on our part and antagonism on the part of those with whom we speak. When we tell the good news of Jesus, following up that witness with love and kindness, there is something here that makes people pause and consider just what it is that makes Christians unique. It can lead people to ask, "What do you have? I need it."

How do we respond to our neighbor's question? We answer by telling the good news about Jesus. We explain that because of sin we are separated from God, but God loves us so much that He sent a Savior into this world to bring us back to Himself. The Bible says, "Always be ready to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have, but be gentle and respectful" (1 Peter 3:15). Telling the saving Gospel is the greatest service any Christian can perform for a neighbor, or family member, or even the most casual stranger.

Isn't it rude for me to impose my beliefs on another?

Telling the good news about Jesus is certainly not rude, though the way we go about it might be. That we must avoid. The best way to tell the good news about Jesus is to do so gently and kindly. Telling the good news about Jesus is not "imposing our beliefs on another person." We need to shake ourselves free from the myth of our day that all beliefs are equally true, and one is no

better than the other. We do respect the beliefs of others, but we can't give them "equal time" when it comes to the question of where that person is going to spend all eternity.

Telling the good news of Jesus is more than merely "sharing my opinions." It is actually giving another person the Word of Life—the powerful, faith-creating Word of God by which God brings that person into His kingdom. So, telling the good news of Jesus is not rude, it is the most wonderful gift you could give to another human being.

What can be done to prepare ourselves to tell others about Jesus?

To witness about Jesus we need to be in the Word and Sacraments often. In so doing, we are kept by the Lord in constant contact with the power and strength for witnessing, our Lord Jesus Himself. Receiving forgiveness and peace, we then are able to share it with others.

Turning to the Lord in prayer is the next thing we do when we wish to tell the good news about Jesus. Just imagine how much better we will be able to recognize opportunities to tell the good news about Jesus when we ask our heavenly Father to show them to us and then pray for the courage to speak. When we ask for open doors to tell the good news, we will be amazed to notice how doors are open and just waiting for us to walk through, telling the good news about Jesus!

-Dr. A. L. Barry
Past President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



May Service Participants

	Elders	Acolytes	Time
May 7	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt Roger Diederich & Bill Bishop	Emily Trentini Daniel Grimenstein	8:00 10:30
May 14	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt Roger Diederich & Bill Bishop	Claire Schrag Jeremy Dyczewski	8:00 10:30
May 21	Mike Kroeger & Bob Schmidt Jim Neill & Bill Bishop	Claire Schrag TBD	8:00 10:30
May 28	Mike Wallace & Mike Kroeger Bob Schmidt & Bill Bishop	Emily Trentini Callista Chilcott	8:00 10:30



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



MAY

Birthdays

1st – Madison Killinger

8th -- Christian Bonacci

9th -- John Migyanko

9th – Rita Sheldon

12th – Ross Chilcott

12th – Eileen Davis

17th – Tim 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

I TRUST in you
I say, LORD,
You ARE my GOD
My TIMES are in
Your HANDS
Psalms 31: 14,15



MAY

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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith	2 	3 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Pastor away</div>	5	6 9:00 am Men's Choir
7 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 10:00 - Noon Directory photo sessions	8 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	9 7:00 pm Board of Ed Mtg. <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Pastor away at Conference</div>	10	11 12:30 pm VBS Leaders Mtg. 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	12	13 10:00 am CLM Spring Fling Luncheon, Butler
14 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	15 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	16	17 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	18	19	20 9:00 am Men's Choir
21 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group Bowling/ Mtg.	22 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	23	24 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	25	26 	27
28 Pentecost 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Confirmand Public Exam & Reception 10:30 am Worship & Confirmation	29 	30	31 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	