



Zion Lutheran Monthly

June 2023

Pastor's Corner

Use it Well!

On Pentecost Sunday we not only celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit, but also the confirmation of four young adult members. During the confirmation public examination, we sang several hymns which related to a portion of our Small Catechism. When it came to the section on "Baptism," we sang a portion of a hymn with two of the stanzas below (*please note the sectioned I underlined*):



⁵ O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.

⁶ So use it well! You are made new –
In Christ a new creation . . .

*"All Christians who
Have Been Baptized"*
#596 st. 5 & 6,
Lutheran Service Book

When it comes to baptism, we usually think of it as something we do to infants and then . . . that's it! What struck me about the above hymn is that it says, in regard to baptism, we are to "use it well." We may wonder, "how on earth do I 'use' baptism? In fact, how do I use it 'well'? What does this mean?" That's a good question. When it comes to the actual rite of baptism, there is a point it starts and ends. But the benefits of baptism are ongoing. In fact, I prefer to say we Christians have a baptismal life in Christ, and that baptismal life continues to happen every single day.

The above hymn encourages us to "use it [baptism] well." We may ask, "How do I use [my baptismal life] well?" How about this: When I sin, I can remember Christ poured His sacrificial blood over me in the waters of baptism; I am forgiven. How do I use it well? When I am tempted, I remember Christ made me a new creation in baptism, I am literally a new person and am no longer forced to follow my sin ever again. How do I use it well? When there are struggles and fights with others, I know I can forgive them just like Christ forgave me. How do I use it well? Maybe the greatest way is when death occurs, I can remember Christ has made me His own. I have been united with Him through baptism into death (Romans 6). And if my baptism has united me with His death, then it will certainly also unite me with His resurrection! (Romans 6)

Baptism is never done and over with. We truly have a baptismal life, so use it well every, single day!

-- Pastor Grimenstein

Chairman's Report

What's Ahead for June ...

Please save the date for the annual budget meeting on June 25th which will be held between the Sunday services. The only agenda item at this special meeting will be to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-24 financial budget. It's a chance to participate in the financial vision for the overall ministries at Zion. Hope to see you there!

During June, (and possibly July), the trustees will be managing several projects, including some extensive landscaping, tiling the narthex area, possibly replacing more windows in the sanctuary and replacing the kitchen doors -- among other things. So, please excuse any inconveniences due to those projects if, and when, they happen.

Let's not forget that Father's Day is June 18th! I hope all the dads out there have a nice day! Make it a great day.

Now that Memorial Day is past and seasonal summer has begun, I hope everyone has a really nice summer. Please enjoy the world around you that our almighty and merciful Father has provided us. Recognize that He knows our needs and is keeping watch over his creation. Our little parish here at Zion has been blessed for 125 years and we'll be celebrating that anniversary this September. Join in the celebration and as we count down to the weekend of September 9th let your voices be heard in church often and passionately. Watch for news and information throughout the summer from the church office regarding the 125th Celebration.



As always, pray for the Christians on earth, our LCMS and missions, our District, Circuit churches and of course, Zion -- especially those of us on the prayer list. Enjoy being a Christian and love the Lord. As Psalm 116:1-2 reads: ***"I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice, and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live."*** Amen.

-- Paul Klemash

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



Severe Drought in Uruguay

Will you Join the Jasephs in Prayer?

We are all privileged to be sons and daughters of the most high King, made new through the life-giving flood of Holy Baptism. Because of this gift, we have the opportunity to bring all of our needs, fears, hopes, and anxieties before the Creator of the universe, our heavenly Father through faith, in the blessed act of prayer.

Uruguay, and many other countries in South America, are experiencing the longest and most significant drought in the last 100 years. Uruguay has many natural resources, including large freshwater aquifers, but this current drought has stretched for three years, cost millions of dollars in losses and insurance, and is currently projected to affect the country until September. The Uruguayan government is working on short-term and long-term solutions, including an emergency dam project, but has been unprepared for this extreme and very unexpected situation. Many people are drinking bottled water and water use has been discouraged as we have been advised that the municipal area of Montevideo, the capital city where we live, has only 18 days of potable water reserves left at the current consumption rates.



This is a very surprising reality in Uruguay, a country with a very stable electrical grid and some of the only drinkable tap water in South America. It is increasing the cost of life in an already expensive country, and tensions grow more palpable. Would you please consider taking these petitions to the Lord in prayer in your personal devotions and lives? We greatly appreciate your partnership and interest in the Lord's work in Uruguay, and prayer is an incredibly important and effective way of doing this.

Dear heavenly Father,

You do all things well, and You make all things new, especially by the coming and work of Your blessed Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we, Your servants of the household of faith, may give a clear witness of the Gospel of Christ in season and out of season, in times of hardship and plenty. Please restore to South America, and especially to the country of Uruguay, fruitful and healthy climates, and the rains so badly needed to sustain Your creation. Please give wisdom to those in authority to make wise and effective decisions, and hope and comfort to those living in uncertainty and fear during this unexpected and difficult time. We ask too, that, as the rains return to these lands, the fruitful watering of Your Holy Spirit through the clear proclamation of Your Word may return to these lands and that many may come to the life-giving waters of baptism out of the desert of doubt and disbelief. We ask all of this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Another heart-felt THANK YOU ...

... to all Sunday School teachers and substitutes! We appreciate all of your hard work throughout the Sunday School year and hope to have all you back in the fall! If anyone else feels moved by the Holy Spirit to teach a class - 3 weeks on, 6 weeks off - please contact us, Jon and Connie Canale, at jscanale@jscmail.net or text/call (586) 604-7247.

Important Sunday School Dates

- * **June 4th** -- Final lesson of the "regular" Sunday School year "Enduring Exile -- Israel Goes into Exile".
- * **June 11th** -- End of the year party! We'll enjoy treats, a short story, craft, and a game.
- * **June 18th to Sept. 3rd** -- Sunday School "Summer Session"! Our Summer Session -- for kids aged 3-12 -- uses readings and activities from "New Testament Story book for Kids" to keep them engaged in God's Word and fellowship. This combined class will be geared mainly toward the Pre-K through 3rd Gr. age group ... older students in 4th-6th grades are encouraged to help in the Summer Session class or attend Pastor's Bible class!
- * **Sept 17th** -- 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. 9-10th.



Summer Reading Club for Pre-K through 8th Graders

Program runs Now through August 11th



CPH Reads is a summer reading program offered by Concordia Publishing House, our Lutheran publisher. Zion is again participating as a



way to keep our kids reading -- and growing in faith -- over the summer. We have a variety of books for kids to borrow, including 118 Arch Books from CPH, covering both the Old and New Testament, plus engaging biographies and mini-novels for older kids. ***Look for the red book cart in the SS lobby and start reading today!*** CPH is entering readers who reach 1000 points for books read from May 31 -- Aug. 11 into a prize giveaway. Zion SS will be awarding awesome prizes as well on Rally Day in September!

It's easy to start!

- * Parents register their kids on the cph.org/reads web site.
- * Parents/kids log the books read online with CPH, plus there are cards to take home to log reading progress -- see the table in the back of the sanctuary for book logging cards and information sheets.
- * Any book will count 50 points, but faith-focused CPH books earn 100 points!

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 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 or Megan at proverbs31meg@yahoo.com, OR simply follow this link to sign up on SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084DA5A629A0FD0-vacation>.

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT PINGEL

PRESIDENT OF THE LCMS EASTERN DISTRICT



Last summer, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito expressed concern that, as a culture, we are losing sight of God. His remarks were prompted by his witnessing a young boy express to his mother that he had no idea who Jesus Christ was. Writes Alito: “That memory has stuck in my mind as a harbinger of what may lie ahead. And the problem that looms is not just indifference to religion—it’s not just ignorance about religion—there’s also a growing hostility to religion.”

In response to Alito’s remarks, Paul Thornton published an op-ed in the Los Angeles Times. In it, Thornton expressed his opinion that a secular culture in America would be far superior to one influenced by Christianity. He claimed that “parents not having answers supplied by their faith traditions to complicated questions such as ‘Who is that man on the cross?’ or ‘What happens when we die?’ might actually be liberating and beneficial to our society.” He then went on to argue, based on what I consider faulty reasoning, that “being a less Christian nation would pave the way to being a more moral one.” He also interpreted the decision of the Supreme Court on Roe vs. Wade an infringement on “the right to be free of religion.”

I could spend the rest of my article arguing against Thornton’s position. The blessings we have enjoyed as Americans these two hundred plus years have their origins in Biblical



principles upheld by people of faith. Christians living out their faith have influenced our culture for the good, serving as “good leaven” and “salt and light” in our land. General George Washington in his writings saw religion and morality as intertwined.

However, the real point I would like to make is this: the editorial in the L.A. Times which we may find so shocking elicited very little response from the millions of people reading it. Even twenty years ago that editorial would have been met with general outrage; in 2022 it was met with little push back. One can only conclude that the majority of readers found themselves pretty much in agreement with Thornton. Christianity is perceived by a whole lot of people not as a blessing, but instead as a threat, something we’d be better off without. Christianity is not only NOT a force for good; it is, in and of itself, intrinsically evil.

Calling good evil, and evil good, is nothing new. In Luke, chapter 11, the religious leaders accused Jesus of doing his works “by Beelzebub, the prince of demons.” Calling good evil, and evil good, more than that, attempting to convince others of this, while at the same time claiming moral superiority, sounds eerily familiar in these “grey and latter days.” (LSB 834, “O God O Lord of Heaven and Earth,” stanza 4).

The fact that many of our members would find these remarks in the L.A. Times shocking shows that in some ways we live in a “bubble”, leading sheltered lives in our churches. Not realizing how much the culture around us has shifted can place us at a disadvantage as we attempt to engage and influence others, and do evangelism.

I remember the late Professor Louis Brighton of our St. Louis Seminary, in his course on Luke’s gospel, stating that a major theme in Luke’s gospel is “Jesus, God’s strong man, sent



into the world to bind up Satan.” We need to keep in mind, as the Easter Season draws to a close and we celebrate the Ascension, that Christ came into the world to defeat sin, death, and the devil for us. As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, we need to remember that he leaves us with, in the words of Luther, “weapons of his Spirit.” (LW 297)

St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”



Paul concludes his list of Christian weaponry by admonishing Christians take up “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Let us interpret these words as a call to be in the Word, and to foster increased bible study in our parishes. **May the leaders of our parishes, and an ever increasing number of our families, be found in Bible study, that we may be equipped for life and service in these “grey and latter days” in which we find ourselves.**

-- Rev. John Pingel, President, Eastern District of the LCMS

Kudos to our Confirmands!



Michael Dyczewski, Jeremy Dyczewski, Daniel Grimenstein, Lindsey Liberatore

After two years of studying the tenets of the Christian faith contained in Luther's Small Catechism, four of Zion's young people were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th. Congratulations to our confirmands! Please welcome them as adult members of our congregation!



Join Us @ Youth Group

Movie Night & Ice Cream Sundaes -- Monday 6/19 at 6:30

This month we'll meet on a Monday (since the 3rd Sunday of the month is Father's Day). Join us for an entertaining and inspirational Christian film, plus a Sundae bar to top it off!



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



Lutherans
For Life

Lutherans for Life witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. It serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities. It educates and encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources and newsletters, Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula, video, and through the website www.lutheransforlife.org

Where Two or Three Are Gathered!

by Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt. 18:20).

These words of comfort pertain to every church on earth that follows Jesus. But, for now, let's focus on all the Lutheran churches in the US. It is our goal at Lutherans For Life to develop a life-affirming ministry in EVERY Lutheran congregation for the purpose of equipping their members to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. This is all done in support of, and in concert with, pastors who partner with these servants to honor the sanctity of all human life. With life issues a daily topic in the media, we need to ask, “What does this mean?” LFL is not here to change laws; we are here to help change hearts by sharing what God's love for life means as explained in Scripture.

So, how can this seemingly impossible goal be met? With the Lord's help, it only takes one, or two, or three to get things going, and maybe one of those is you! Let's focus on three ways you can serve: · [Life Advocates](#) · [Life Teams](#) · [Life Chapters](#)

First, it really does only take one. Recently we developed the new role of [Life Advocate](#) . This is someone with a servant's heart willing to use the tools LFL provides to share the For Life message with their congregation in bulletins, newsletters, and social media. A Life Advocate is also there to assist the pastor in researching life issues. Together they can plan things like a special For Life Bible study and much more.

Once there are two or three or more willing servants in a congregation interested in developing a life ministry in their church, LFL will help you build a [Life Team](#). Just as the Life Advocate keeps life-affirming information flowing, so does the Life Team. The big difference is that the Life Team plans events and other activities that help equip the church by actively involving the congregation. LFL has a complete training program for LT Leaders and LT Members, so they are equipped to plan and tackle sometimes difficult topics in a loving, God-pleasing manner. A Life Team can become a vital part of a church's ministry by sharing the scriptural view of life so people will not choose death as a solution to life's problems.

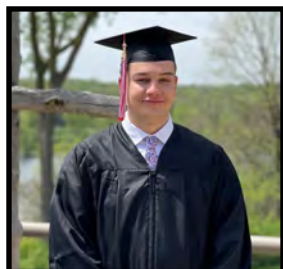
Finally, let's talk about a [Life Chapter](#). Life Chapters are groups of dedicated, God-loving people with a heart for life issues. They work to develop an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization with a constitution, bylaws, and officers. They often work outside an individual church because they serve several congregations in their area on a broader scale. They have a pastoral advisor to keep them spiritually focused, and are financially independent. A Life Chapter implements projects that serve an entire community of churches and by their very nature take on larger life-affirming projects such as manning a fair booth or organizing a community-wide event with a focus on specific life issues – from fertilization to forever.

The bottom line: Whether you are one or two or three or more, if your motivation is to serve our Lord Jesus and celebrate and preserve life according to God's plan, there is a place for you in our LFL ministry! Won't you please consider at least one of these options? For more information, please contact me (vflo@lutheransforlife.org) or one of our volunteer relations team: Rev. Jeff Duncan at jduncan@lutheransforlife.org or Dr. Barbara Geistfeld at geistfeld@lutheransforlife.org.

Shout Out to Students

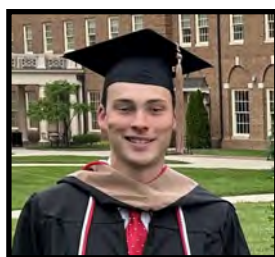
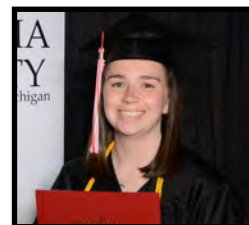


Highlighting the academic awards, scholarships, and extra-curricular achievements of Zion's students in Kindergarten through College.



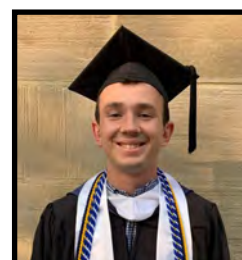
Charles Wallace graduated from Concordia University Ann Arbor on May 14 with a degree in Applied Theology and a minor in Theological Languages. He had the honor of being the student speaker for his graduating class. While at CUAA, Charles was president of Cards4Life (the campus pro-life club), and was a four-year student worker for the Sports Department. He interned at two churches through the pre-seminary STEPS program, and was an active member of the church work club. Charles will be heading to Concordia Seminary St. Louis in August to continue his training to become a Pastor.

Leah Quinlan graduated summa cum laude in May from Concordia University Ann Arbor. Leah received a B.S. degree in secondary education English with a history minor and Lutheran Teaching Diploma. Leah will teach literature in grades 6-8 at Central Lutheran School in New Haven, IN, this coming fall.



Augie Bishop graduated magna cum laude from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio on May 13th with a B.S. in Accounting and a Masters Degree in Accountancy. At Miami, Augie was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and played intramural hockey. He plans to take the CPA exam over the summer and will start his career with PwC in September at the Pittsburgh office.

Matt Liberatore graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh on April 30th with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Music. Matt also received the Phillips medal, which is awarded to the senior chemistry major with the most outstanding record. Matt was a member of the University of Pittsburgh marching band, as well as their symphonic band all four years. He will pursue a PhD in Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.





Sarah Grimenstein graduates June 8th from South Fayette High School. While at SFHS, Sarah was a co-host of the local podcast “Teens Tap In” and both a club and high school swimmer. She was a 2023 WPIAL qualifier and placed 11th at WPIAL’s in her 200 Individual Medley. In the fall, Sarah will attend Clarion University where she will swim and major in Exercise Science. She hopes to be a physical therapist.



Ava Pasquini graduates June 8th with highest honors from Upper St. Clair High School. During her high school years Ava was a member of National Honor Society and was on the cheerleading team. In addition, she participated in competitive cheerleading for 11 years and volunteered with a special needs cheer team. She will attend Texas Christian University in the fall to pursue a degree in nursing.



Bridgeville Area Food Bank



The June collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, June 11th. The “items of the month” are PAPER PRODUCTS. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.

DID YOU KNOW ... thanks to the generosity of the local community, in May the Food Bank served 127 local families in need?





Upcoming Events

June Women's Summer Book Club

Tuesday, June 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

Zion Parsonage

Light refreshments will be served.

Watch your emails for a sign up!



Last Summer at Eden
Christina Hergerader

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

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 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.

[Download Fall Retreat Registration Form](#)



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.

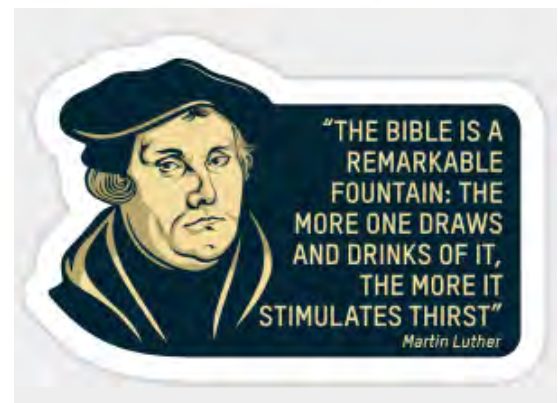
What can be done to prepare ourselves to tell others about Jesus?

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



June Service Participants

	Elders	Acolytes	Time
June 4	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Jim Neill	Emily Trentini Elder	8:00 10:30
June 11	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Jim Neill	Claire Schrag Callista Chilcott	8:00 10:30
June 18	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Bill Bishop	Claire Schrag Elder	8:00 10:30
June 25	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Bill Bishop	Elder Callista Chilcott	8:00 10:30



	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
June	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Ron Meier, Noah Wallace, Gene Koop, Brian Pasquini	Dan & Tracey Harris, Sam & Jack Bishop
July	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Ava & Megan Pasquini, Wayne & Barb Oechslein	John & Kari Gresh, Dwight & Andy Weldon



2nd – Elsie Dalla Piazza

2nd – Carrie Lemonovich

5th -- Katie Hajduk

6th – Jim Oelschlager

7th – Josh Gielarowski

8th – Janet Oelschlager

9th -- Kensington Killinger

11th – Rachel Grimenstein

12th – Harry Davis

12th – Mason Glasser

15th – Janet Zreliak

18th – Jean Ma

18th – Ben Meyer

18th – Lucas Meyer

19th – Mary Lou Rilee

24th – Claire Lemonovich

24th – Elizabeth Lemonovich

24th – John Lemonovich

24th – Kate Lemonovich

25th – Sarah Ali

25th – Megan Richards

26th – Nadene Hartman

28th – Kim Erbrecht

28th – Faith Wallace

29th – Gladys Cimarolli



6th – Jim & Rose Oelschlager

11th – Rich & Ruth Trudel

19th – Ken & Carol Wuerthele

21st – Pastor & Tevia Grimenstein

23rd – Bill & Nancy Koester

23rd – Brent & Marianne Miller

25th – Mike & Linda Kroeger

29th -- Ted & Marian Siek



June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg.	2	3
4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 11:45-1:00 Directory photo sessions	5 6:30 pm Music Ministry end-of-season party (picnic pavilion) 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.	6	7 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	8 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	9	10 
11 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship FOOD BANK COLLECTION	12 12:30 pm VBS team meeting	13	14 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	15	16	17
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	19 6:30 -- Youth Group Movie & Ice Cream Sundae Night	20 6:30 -- Women's Summer Book Club at parsonage	21 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	22	23	24
25 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Special Voters' Mtg for Budget 10:30 am Worship	26	27	28 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	29		
				Pastor on vacation June 29 th - July 8 th		