

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

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August 2021

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Grace, mercy, and God's peace to each and every one of you from our risen, victorious, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear fellow redeemed; I cannot believe how much time has flown by since I arrived in May. Since we are now approaching August and September is just right around the corner, the time is to have a discussion of confirmation classes. In September, we will be starting confirmation classes for Saint Luke and Saint Peter. Look for details on times, core curriculum and a possible confirmation retreat with some other LCMS churches in the area in the next few weeks.

Confirmation is a wonderful tool that the Lord has given to His church to teach and educate the youth in our churches. In this time of multiple beliefs in a new age religion, other religions, false Christianity, and a culture that is becoming more and more secular, it is vital that we teach our kids the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. If we do not teach our children about their Christian faith, the world will teach them about a different belief system that rejects the Christian faith as taught in God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions.

Confirmation classes taught by pastors and those individuals who desire to teach God's Word are vital to the spiritual foundation of your children. Yet, what is more vital is what is taught in the homes. Parents, you are role models for your kids. They will learn from you. Their belief system is fundamentally formed by what goes on in your homes. I would encourage you to read your bible with your children daily, show a prayer life by praying with your spouse and with your kids. Teach them the Small Catechism. In doing so you will lay a foundation that will be secure and a foundation that is built on God's Word alone.

God's Word is implicit and very clear about educating children and even adults.

-Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.

-Deuteronomy 6:5-9 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words that I give you today. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you're at home or away when you lie down or get up. Write them down, and tie them around your wrist, and wear them as headbands as a reminder. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

-Matthew 19:13-15 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

-1 Timothy 4:10-11 This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. Teach these things and insist that everyone learn them.

- Deuteronomy 11:19 Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

- Psalm 78:2-4 for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past— stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.

Jesus Himself, tells us how important education is. In **Matthew 28:20: “20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

So, with confirmation approaching, I implore to teach your kids about God at home, live a life of example for your kids. Also, please help us out. The church can do a lot and should do a lot, but the foundation begins at home. I will be getting more information for you as far as times, a core curriculum, and a possible confirmation retreat in the coming weeks.

In His Grip

Pastor Peterson



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August

- 4th Nelson Jr. & Jessica Teinert
- 8th Ron & Dolores Bornemann
- 9th Ron Jr. & Lori Ott
- 11th Kyle & Amanda Hackbarth
- 21st Tom & Betty Ruppenthal
- 26th Gary & Sandra Mirsberger
- 30th Chad & Amber Roehrig



August

- 3 Alyssa Ecker
- 4 George Krepline
- 5 Arianna Nunes
- 8 Rhylee Koehler
Abel Weyenberg
- 23 Susan Hostettler
- 27 Emily Sowinski
- 28 Caroline Hilton
- 29 Bonnie Teinert
- 31 Joyce Krepline
John Lau



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

August Meeting:

Due to vacations, we have decided to cancel our August 10th meeting. We hope you can join us for Bible study in September and the following months. Our September meeting will be on Tuesday, the 14, at 1:00.

Back to School Gifts from the Heart:

This is just another reminder that during the month of August we will continue to collect school items for our Hilbert children. Thanks so much for whatever items you can contribute.

Other Gifts from the Heart:

Stamps: Our outlet for stamps has come and gone over the years. We are now coordinating our stamps with the North Wisconsin District as they have an active outlet at the present time. Just a reminder, the stamp collectors do not want flag stamps or Christmas stamps, and they need AT LEAST a ¼ inch border around the edge of the stamp to be able to sell them. Do not try to remove stamps. Once again, thanks to everyone who continues to save their stamps. The funds received from the stamps go toward the mission goal of LWML.

Plastic mats: North Wisconsin also has an active group that is still making plastic mats. Their biggest problem is keeping up with the plastic! All of the plastic that we had cut and tied is being transferred to the group from NWD! Therefore, we will stop collecting plastic bags for now, and once again, thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this project.

Greeting Cards: One of the SWD WIM groups is still processing greeting cards, although their outlet is Orphan Grain Train. Now we can continue to receive unused greeting cards which

we will pass along to these women. We get together with them at least twice a year.

We encourage you to put 1:00 of the second Tuesday each month on your calendar as WIM. We start with our interactive Bible study and then review any projects or activities that are coming up in the church. Come and learn and then let your voice be heard.



Mission Matters

International Friendship Center

Most colleges and/or universities have a campus chapel or at least a campus chaplain. One of the things congregations are asked to do at the beginning of each school year is to send the names of university students to the appropriate school chaplain.

The LCMS has a very active program at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. This chapel has been active for many years, and has a vibrant ministry to the students in Madison. Known as Calvary Lutheran Church, International Friendship Center, many students have come to know Christ.

Developing relationships with international students at UW – Madison opens many doors. By God's Word and Spirit, many international students come to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. They then return to their homelands and, Lord willing, take the knowledge of the Gospel with them.

We pray that God would make us open to the many mission doors available to us. Especially do we thank God for the many international students that come to us from around the world to study. We pray that God would use the International Friendship Center to boldly proclaim His name and thus bring many international students to faith in Christ Jesus.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – August 2021**

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow’s mite (Luke 21:1–4). It’s a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them” (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. “For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on” (Luke 21:4).

“She ... put in all she had to live on.” She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don’t trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

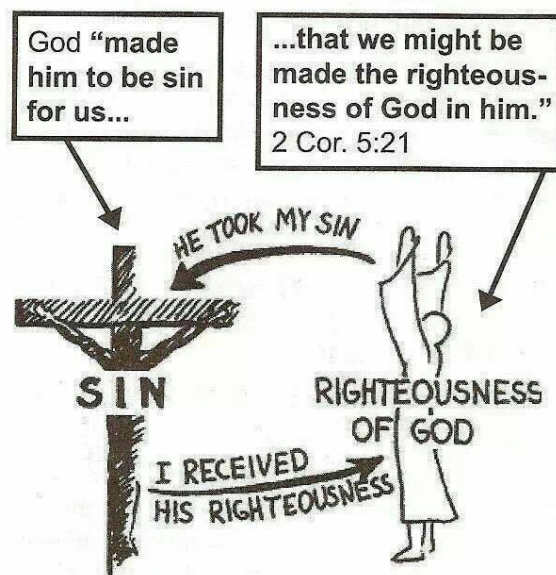
So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God’s giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, “Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart” (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God’s gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.



Lutheran Early Response Team unveils new website

by Cheryl Magness



More than 200 Lutheran volunteers prepare to assist with tornado cleanup on April 11, 2015, in Rochelle, Ill. Lutheran Early Response Team, or LERT, has established a new website to assist with managing the response to disasters. (LCMS/AI Dowbnia)

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) is a network of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) volunteers who are organized at the district level and trained to deploy rapidly in the event of a disaster, offering material and spiritual support to those who have been affected.

Now, in addition to flood buckets, chainsaws and words of Gospel comfort, LERT has another resource in its “toolkit”: a new website at *lcms-lert.org* that will better facilitate the work of LCMS Disaster Response at both the local and national level.

According to the Rev. Robert Wurst, volunteer manager for LERT, the website “will help us see what LERT training and deployments are taking place across the Synod. Additionally, our LERT volunteers — and anyone else who is interested — can see what training and deployment opportunities are available and make plans to jump in and help as they are able. The software lets us communicate detailed needs and will help our LERT volunteers be well-prepared when they respond to a disaster.”

In addition to information about training and deployment opportunities, the website includes

links to disaster response resources and the LERT blog.

Work on the website began in November 2020 with the contracting of a host, followed by several months of testing. The site went live with the LCMS Florida-Georgia District in February 2021, and as of May, all 35 LCMS districts are active. The software has been shared, at no cost, with all of the Synod’s disaster response entities, including Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs). “We want it to be easy for all to use,” Wurst said.

“We are working with our DDRCs [District Disaster Response Coordinators] to get them trained and comfortable using the software,” Wurst continued. “It’s a new tool for everyone. The DDRCs often have multiple duties [beyond their disaster-related ones], and we’re hoping that this will make their disaster response duties easier to coordinate and track.”

Wurst noted that it can be difficult to get the word out about disasters. “In the past, notices were often spread by word of mouth. We didn’t have a central place where our DDRCs could communicate with their volunteers and with other DDRCs and RSOs across the Synod.

“The new software will allow us to readily connect with all our DDRCs, trainers and volunteers. It will also allow the DDRCs to schedule deployment responses from single-day to multi-week events and to create shifts for volunteers to sign up for many different support tasks, such as chainsaw work, food preparation, mucking out and more. We haven’t had such capability or flexibility in the past.”

Wurst stressed that anyone who has served as a LERT volunteer in the past, as well as anyone who would like to begin serving, should sign up on the new platform. “We want all our LERT volunteers to log in to the system and update their information so that they are able to receive information about LERT events from their DDRC,” he explained.

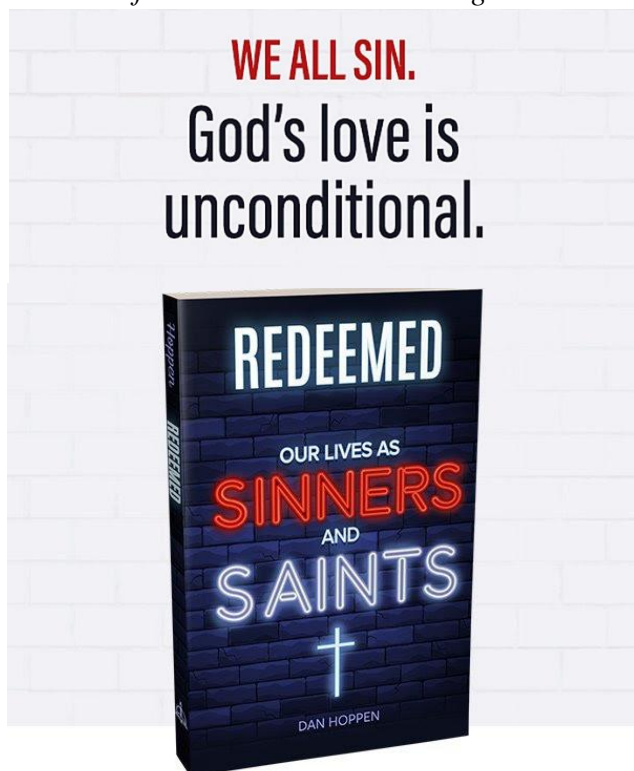
This year’s storm season has so far been relatively quiet, but that can change at any time. As part of its ongoing training and preparation, LCMS Disaster Response is providing a weekly open Zoom hour for DDRCs and LERT trainers to ask questions about the new software and other disaster response topics.

“We are striving to have good communication with our brothers and sisters and are trying to give them tools and guidelines so that our work together goes smoothly, with increased capacity for service to our churches and their communities,” Wurst said. “We continually emphasize that our LERT volunteers can serve their neighbor during both ordinary — and extraordinary —times.”

Visit the new LERT website at lcms-lerc.org.

Learn more about LCMS Disaster Response at lcms.org/disaster.

New from Concordia Publishing House



No matter what sins you’ve committed or how many times you’ve messed up, Christ has redeemed you through His sacrifice. Explore examples of biblical figures that messed up and how God loved them, and loves you, through it all.

[Download a free sample](#)

Three-year Bible Reading Guide Updated

by Cheryl Magness

In 2017, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) joined with the Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC) and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) to compile a three-year plan of daily Bible readings and a yearlong series of weekly readings on Martin Luther’s approach to the Scriptures. First released in 2018, *Reading the Word of God: A Daily Reading Guide for Three Years* has now been updated for 2021.

Representatives of the LCMS, LCC and NALC have met approximately twice a year over the past 10 years to discuss areas of shared concern. The Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, director of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), wrote in the introduction to the 2018 reading guide that it was developed as a response to a “declining familiarity with the Bible” in the membership of all three church bodies, with the goal of encouraging “a daily practice of reading and meditating on the Bible, God’s Word.”

Each day’s reading in the three-year guide includes Old and New Testament selections as well as a psalm or part of a psalm. The reader who follows the guide will read through the entire Old Testament once and the New Testament twice over the three-year period, with the Book of Psalms being read in full twice each year. Certain church festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost have readings appointed for the specific occasion. The weekly Luther readings come from Luther on the Scriptures by Johann Michael Reu (1869–1943), a German-born American Lutheran pastor, theologian and educator.

The reading guide and schedules are available for free download at lcms.org/bible-reading-schedule-2021-to-2023.

Our Response to His Love

	7-11-21	7-04-21	6-27-21	6-20-21	6-13-21
General Fund	\$2787	\$1280	\$2962	\$1140	\$2240
Missions		\$50	\$5		
Totals	\$2787	\$1330	\$2967	\$1140	\$2240

