

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

Office: (920) 853-3217

November 2021

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Theme: Giving Thanks!!!

Thanksgiving is approaching and soon we will be gathered with family and friends to celebrate and to give thanks for what we have received. Thanksgiving though is much more than eating turkey, getting together with friends and family, and even watching football. In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 10 we have the story of the rich young man who asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. He told Jesus that he had kept all the commandments and was basically a good person. This young man had a lot to be thankful for. He was rich, he thought he was a good person and he thought that he had kept the commandments. If he was transported to modern times, his thanksgiving feast would be very opulent and lavish to say the least. People would respect him in the community, people would want to be in his presence. Sound good. This could be a person that we could admire.

In spite of all that this young man had; he actually was very poor from a spiritual nature. He, at the time of his meeting with Jesus, was not saved. The young man did not feel the need to have a savior. His wealth, his good works were not enough to save him, in fact they were not consequential to him being saved. Instead, the wealth, status and perceived goodness were not even part of the equation so to speak. The wealth, the power, and the prestige that this young man had were a reason to be thankful to God for blessing him, but these tangible items were not idols. The first commandment says that we should have no other god before God. So, when the young man indicated that he had kept all the commandments, he was wrong.

In our time we have a lot to be thankful for. We live in a country that has produced great wealth for our citizens, and wonderful opportunities to make advances in our lives. We can worship freely for the most part, government edicts notwithstanding. We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we?! Yet, all of our wealth, power and prestige cannot save us. Only Jesus can and does. 1 Timothy 6:10 gives us insight into idols and what the love of money can do to us that would hinder our relationship with God. "A root for all kinds of evils is the love of money..." the Greek word for the love of money is philargyria. In this verse we see that the love of money is a root for all kinds of evils (sins). Idolatry can give us a false sense of what it means to be thankful. Only God's plan of salvation through Christ is certain.

So, this Thanksgiving, and in all times, let us in faith praise God for what He has given us. The sure and certain fact that we are saved by Christ. Amen and a Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!!



Pastor Peterson



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Winter Getaway: It's Time to Start Thinking About It

Each Winter the Young Women of LWML host a retreat for the women of SWD. It's a great time of fellowship, Bible study, making craft items for mission recipients and relaxation. This year the retreat will be held on February 4-5, 2022, and will be at the Clarion Hotel in Wisconsin Dells. The theme is Joy in Christ's Mission based on Philippians 4:4, Rejoice in the Lord Always; Again I say Rejoice.

Mission speakers will be from the SWD Deaf Ministry and from the SWD LWML Heart to Heart Sisters. Breakout sessions are planned for making greeting cards, sleeping mats and MOST (Mission Opportunity Short Term) bracelets. We will learn more about each of these recipients as we work together with our sisters from SWD.

Registration for the retreat is due in January, but applications for registration scholarships are due Dec. 1. Let's make this year the time to start a new tradition with your friends or family and get together for a mid-winter break. More information is on the LWML-SWD website, and it will also be appearing on the bulletin board soon.

Christmas events:

Plans for our annual bake sale and Christmas brunch/dinner are underway. The dates are December 11 and 12, so now is the time to mark your calendars. We will be looking for crafts as well as items for the bake sale. If you would like to help with planning or just get more information, please contact Bonnie Teinert. We will also have more information in the bulletins in the near future.

Gifts from the Heart

We are currently accepting items for homeless or needy veterans from our area. Our goal is to

deliver our gifts to the local Veterans Service Officer by Veterans Day, November 11. These men and women are in need of personal care items such as deodorant, shaving supplies, shampoo, winter wear such as sweatshirts or sweatpants (larger sizes), socks or household items like sheets (twin size), blankets, or towels and wash cloths. See a more complete list on the bulletin board. It is an act of love for these men and women who served our country and are now having difficulty surviving back in mainstream society. Serving this population of dedicated men and women is one way we serve Jesus. It has been most gratifying to deliver these items in past years and hear the thanks from those who serve our veterans.



Mission Matters

Spirit Warrior

Ministering to Returning Soldiers and Veterans: Healing the Invisible Wounds of War Through Horses



Equine Therapists and their handlers. From left to right, Emma, Judy Cross Strehlke, Program Manager, Coal, Fancy and Sue Osgood

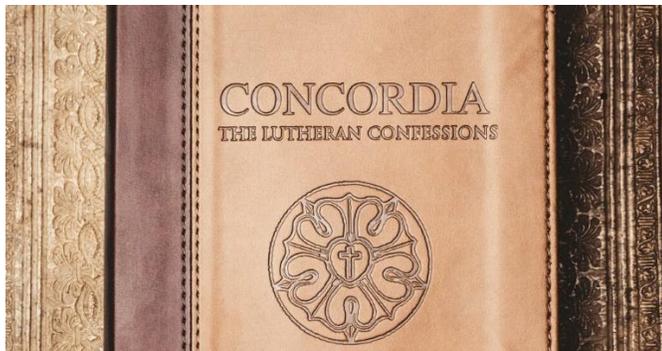
Maine is among the list of "least churching" states in the nation. It has only three LCMS congregations in the entire state and only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry.

Many veteran/service members want to connect with God. Theological discussions – as well as hearing of the love of Christ – take place while caring for the horses. "Equine Experiential

Learning” is now a recognized therapy for those suffering from mental health issues. Spirit Warrior is a program that addresses the need to provide pastoral/diaconal care using horses with those who have endured the hardships of war and have returned.

We offer thanks to God for this mission program and ask that it be a means of providing for the spiritual and emotional healing of the military men and women in the Bangor, Maine, area. We ask for prayers that they will receive expert therapeutic care and hear the Word of God. Let us commend all who participate in the Spirit Warrior program into the care of Jesus.

Spirit Warrior happens to be a mite grant recipient in the current LWML biennium. Donations to the mite box help in funding this program.



An Eternal Confession

by Matthew C. Harrison

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The orthodox Lutheran church of all times and places confesses the verbally inspired and inerrant Scriptures to be the very Word of God and “the only source and norm” for all teaching and preaching. Every one of our 6,000 LCMS congregations, every pastor, teacher, DCE, deaconess and church worker, every LCMS entity (whether the Concordia Plans, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, Lutheran Federal Credit Union), every preschool, grade school, high school, and every university is pledged to this truth. Those who believe in Jesus recognize His words and voice in Holy Scripture. “My sheep hear my voice” (John 10:27). “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). This is

asserted in every ordination, installation and consecration service. Every LCMS teacher and institution makes this pledge. Faith in Christ’s vicarious (for us) life, death and resurrection is not compatible with a smorgasbord approach to Christianity. Our culture has gone mad. There are well-meaning but misled individuals also among us who would like to put a veil over what Jesus says about marriage (Matt. 19 — one man, one woman) or quietly snip the “unwoke” bits — like Romans 1 — out of the Bible. “Too much doctrine,” they say.

But we are also pledged — every one of us — to the 1580 *Book of Concord*. This issue of *The Lutheran Witness* is all about our public confession. Other great churches are focused on their form of governance (Rome, Anglicanism), the authority of their liturgy (Eastern Orthodoxy), or the Bible over against the ecumenical creeds (Baptists). We Lutherans recognize the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. To be a Lutheran is to confess that the catechism rightly interprets the Bible. And our *Book of Concord* further elaborates the faith of Luther’s catechism (Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, Absolution, Lord’s Supper) in the face of wrong interpretations of the Bible.

Thus, we confess the *Book of Concord* to be “a true exposition of the Word of God.” One may believe that the catechism gets wrong what the Bible teaches, but he will have to do that outside of the Lutheran church, particularly if that person is a called pastor or servant of the church. This is solemn, serious business. It may be rarely acknowledged and is often violated, but in our confirmation vows, we promise to uphold the faith of the Bible and Small Catechism and suffer all, even death, rather than depart from it. Pastors do the same in ordination and installation vows. “I make these Confessions my own *because* they are in accord with the Word of God” (*LSB Agenda*, p. 166; emphasis added).

Our confession of the Gospel of Christ and all its articles of faith is done in view of eternity. “Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,” says Jesus (Matt. 10:32).

Luther knew well that rascals would come after he died and lie about what he really taught, especially about the Lord’s Supper. Before he died, he penned

his *Confession concerning Christ's Supper*. And then he added,

Hence if any one shall say after my death, "If Luther were living now, he would teach and hold this or that article differently, for he did not consider it sufficiently," etc., let me say once and for all that by the grace of God I have most diligently traced all these articles through the Scriptures, have examined them again and again in the light thereof, and have wanted to defend all of them as certainly as I have now defended the sacrament of the altar. I am not drunk or irresponsible. I know what I am saying, and I will realize what this will mean for me before the Last Judgment at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let no one make this out to be a joke or idle talk; I am in dead earnest, since by the grace of God I have learned to know a great deal about Satan. If he can twist and pervert the Word of God and the Scriptures, what will he not be able to do with my or someone else's words? (LW 37:360–61)

Right now, we Lutherans stand before Christ clothed in His sacred righteousness. Yes, there are Christians wherever the true Jesus is believed and confessed, thank God. But we confess the true faith in the true God in all its Gospel-filled truth and purity. And so we confess along with the authors of our *Book of Concord*:

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." (Rom. 10:9–11)

With the authors of our *Book of Concord* and faithful teachers in the generations since, we confess the truth of Christ and His Word before an unbelieving world. With this confession, on the Last Day we will stand before Christ without fear.

In the sight of God and of all Christendom (the entire Church of Christ), we want to testify to those now living and those who will come after us. This declaration presented here about all the controverted articles mentioned and explained above — and no other — is our faith, doctrine, and confession. By God's grace, with intrepid hearts, we are willing to appear before the judgment seat of Christ with this Confession and give an account of it

[1 Peter 4:5]. We will not speak or write anything contrary to this Confession, either publicly or privately. By the strength of God's grace we intend to abide by it. Therefore, after mature deliberation, we have, in the fear of God and by calling on His name, attached our signatures with our own hands. (FC SD Conclusion 40)

—Pastor Harrison



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – November 2021

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to

have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord’s work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that’s how. We shouldn’t fool ourselves into thinking that we’ve outgiven God’s goodness or that we’ve given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord’s work in the Church when he wrote: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It’s Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that’s the point.

In Mark’s account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples’ seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn’t say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn’t stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn’t need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they

wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don’t give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



#GivingTuesday is coming!
Support the Sem Nov. 30

Help prepare pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to bring the Gospel to the world!

The goal for this year is to raise \$70,000. Thanks to generous donors, gifts will be matched dollar for dollar up to the first \$35,000 raised!

Since its founding in 1839, Concordia Seminary has provided more than 13,000 workers to the church. Our students become pastors who preach and lead in your congregations, and deaconesses who care for and serve your congregation and your community in times of need. They become scholars and leaders for the church throughout the world! Thank you for being a part of this incredible mission!

Gifts received on Giving Tuesday will be used where needed most in the Seminary’s ongoing mission of preparing future pastors and deaconesses in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Please help support our future servants of the Word today!

Questions? Please contact Seminary Advancement at 800-822-5287 or advancement@csl.edu.

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Plate.

Opening Prayer: Pastor gave the opening prayer.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the last voters meeting were approved as distributed.

Correspondence: none

Treasurer's Report:

- Doug presented the St. Peter Church budget for 2022. **MMSC to accept the church budget for 2022.**
- The financial report was given and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report:

- Shut-in members are being visited. (Let Pastor know of any other members in need of a shut-in visit.)
- The Bible Class on the Book of Revelation is well attended (always room for more) and going well.
- Confirmation Classes are being held.
- Pastor Peterson commented that he found the Pastors' Conference very beneficial.

Board of Elders Report:

- Dan Bergelin gave us the special services coming up in November and December:
 - Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Eve (joint service) 7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke
 - Nov. 25 – No Thanksgiving Day Service
 - Dec. 1, 8, 15 – Advent Midweek Services (Wednesdays)
10:30 a.m. – St. Peter
7:00 p.m. – St. Luke (meal before service)
 - Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
5:00 p.m. – St. Peter
7:00 p.m. – St. Luke
 - Dec. 25 – Christmas Day (joint service) 9:00 a.m. @ St. Peter
 - Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve Service (w/HC) 6:00 p.m. @ St. Peter
- Reception of new members: Dean & Maria Schroeder and Layne & Emily Gustafson. Welcome! Praise the Lord!
- Pastor Darrel Bergelin will be preaching December 25th, 26th, 31st, and January 2nd while Pastor Peterson is away.

Board of Trustees Report:

- Dan Koffarnus explained work on the organ repair will be done in the upcoming months of January and February 2022.
- Spectrum will come in and upgrade the internet speed to our system at no charge.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: **MMSC to accept the ballot for the 2022 Officers of the St. Peter Congregation as presented.** Congratulations (and thank you) to all the members. Chairman Ken Plate, Vice Chairman Walter Jentsch, Secretary Caroline Behnke, Treasurer Doug Koffarnus; Board of Elders: Dean Bergelin, Dan Bergelin, Dan Koffarnus, Dale Mueller; Board of Trustees: Dave Franz, Kurt Kamps, Dave Schwalenberg, Dan Schroeder; Finance Committee: Financial Secretary Diane Roehrig, Dan Diener, Lori Schwalenberg

Audit Committee: no report
 Finance Committee: no report
 Joint Parish Committee: The Disability Insurance for Pastor Peterson is still under review.

Old Business: Kurt Kamps has found an insurance group (Grinnell Mutual) to provide insurance coverage for our church property.

New Business: The next voters meeting will be held January 23rd after the church service.

Adjournment: MMSC to adjourn.

Closing Prayer: To close, Chairman Ken Plate led us in saying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Caroline Behnke, Secretary

Our Response to His Love

	10-10-21	10-03-21	9-26-21	9-19-21	9-12-21
General Fund	\$1830	\$2240	\$2070	\$1320	\$1490
Missions					\$20
Organ Repair					\$500
Aluminum Cans			\$230.40		
Totals	\$1830	\$2240	\$2300.40	\$1320	\$2010

Upcoming Special Services

Thanksgiving Eve

November 24th 7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. @ St. Peter

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke

December 1, 8, 15

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November

- 22nd Scott & Jenny Peters
- 23rd George & Carol Krepline
- 29th Kyle & Tamara Koehler

November

- 1 James Behnke
- 4 Bev Boesch
Lori Schwalenberg
- 5 Pat Schaefer
- 7 Kelly Schwalenberg
- 8 Joanne Hernke
- 15 Judy Paulson
- 19 Richard Kamps
Nicholas Krepline
Halley Lau
- 21 Jennifer Vander Sande
- 29 Kelley Mueller
Jamie Hackbarth
- 30 Jim Kamps



November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Greeters: 7th Bev Boesch 14th Dan & Cindy Koffarnus 21st Caroline Behnke 28th Bonnie Teinert	1 All Saints Day	2 7:00p Revelation Bible Study	3 4:00 Confirmation Class @ St Luke	4	5	6 Set Clocks Back
7 24th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School Daylight Saving Time Ends	8	9 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Revelation Bible Study	10 4:00 Confirmation Class @ St Luke	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14 25th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	15	16 7:00p Revelation Bible Study	17 4:00 Confirmation Class @ St Luke	18	19	20
21 Last Sunday of the Church Year <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	22 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	23 7:00p Revelation Bible Study	24 4:00 Confirmation Class @ St Luke 7:00p Service @ St Luke	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 First Sunday in Advent <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC)	29	30 7:00p Revelation Bible Study		Altar Guild: Donna Marose DeAnn Eldred		

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion