

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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February 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Greetings and Happy New Year. I hope that your Christmas and New Year's was a time to create memories, enjoy time with family and friends. Now that we are in the year of our Lord 2022, I want to share a few thoughts with you about looking back and looking forward.

When we look back at 2021, we were still in the grip of Covid and all the trials and tribulations that occur. Even though Covid is still with us, we have been blessed to have vaccines, treatments and more awareness of this disease that has afflicted us for far too long. It is not only Covid that we remember, but we remember the losses of loved ones, and the changes that have occurred for the better and for the worse. **Romans, chapter 8, verse 28 says: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."** As we look forward to the year 2022 there will be many challenges both good and bad that we will face individually, as a family, and as a church. We do not know what awaits. That can seem like a rather bleak and depressing assessment, and nervous anticipation.

Yet we have the hope in Christ. Since we are in the season of Epiphany (which is when God revealed Christ to the world), we can rejoice that God has revealed His one and only Son, Jesus Christ as our Savior. No matter what happens, either good or bad, Christ is with us in all things. From our worship services in the Divine Service, to the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion and God's never ending and never changing Word we are comforted and assured of our salvation. No matter what we face God has our back.

While we can look back and at times, we need to so we can learn from what we did or did not do, we should not dwell on the past year or years and let 2021 dominate our lives, instead we look forward to the New Year and what our journey will be. The following scripture verses are helpful in looking forward to what awaits us in the New Year:

-Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

-Matthew 6:25-28 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns—and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow: They do not labor or spin.

May God richly bless you this New Year. **Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.** And remember that God really, really, does love you. Amen

In His Grip



Pastor Peterson



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

New Bylaws: We have been asked to submit our bylaws to the LWML SWD Bylaws committee for review. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a copy in any of our current or past records.

Therefore, we are in the process of drafting a new document. The initial draft has been completed, and we will be reviewing these at our February and March meetings in order to submit and subsequently approve them. If you would like to have input into this process, or have ideas that we could use, please attend these meetings and share your thoughts. Our February meeting will be on February 8 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Remember; every woman in the congregation is a member of WIM. Come and let your voice be heard.

Gifts From the Heart: Our current mission project is to gather items to share for the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Chilton. We have until Super Bowl Sunday to bring our gifts. Any non-perishable food items are welcome. Let's show our love and fill those shelves!

Winter Getaway: Even though the deadline for registration has passed, there is always the opportunity to be a walk-in attendee. Our theme will be "Joy in Christ's Mission", and there will be several opportunities to celebrate this joy. The keynote event will be Faith in Film featuring the movie Coco presented by Rev. Keffie Dean II. Other speakers will be Rev. Ryan and Emily McDermott speaking about Deaf Ministry, especially in Wisconsin, and Heart to Heart Sister Joanna Ellis. The McDermotts lead deaf worship in Madison and Joanna will be sharing information about the Heart to Heart Sisters event to be held in Milwaukee in March. Mission activities will include card making, mat making, visual faith ministry and making MOST bracelets. If you would like to attend the Getaway in Wisconsin Dells on Feb. 4-5, see Judy for more information. We will leave early afternoon on the 4th and be home between 6-7 on the 5th.



Mission Matters

"Thank You" from Mission of Christ

Thursday, January 20, 2022

"Share with God's people who are in need."

Romans 12:13

Praise God! We were very thankful to receive your donation of clothing for our Community Food Pantry. We are truly blessed to be on the path of servanthood together. We really appreciated your donation of sacrifice. As well as the families we are helping here at Mission of Christ, we help families from all walks of life.

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."

Philippians 2:13

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude. Also keep us in your prayers as we strive to spread the Gospel to the people who come through our doors. As we plant the seed with them. We pray it will grow in them. Again accept our thanks!!!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Dennis Harmon

Pastor Dennis Harmon
Mission of Christ Lutheran Church
912 W. Center Street
Milwaukee, WI 53206

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 14th

Ken & Sue Plate



Military BibleSticks

Lenten Mission Project

Just \$25 provides God's Word on a Military BibleStick to 1 family. Together we can get God's Word to our servicemen and women!

March 2 - April 17, we will be receiving funds to purchase Military BibleSticks for our troops at home and abroad. \$25 sponsors one service member and his/her family.



The challenge is on again: The challenge between St. Bartholomew, Brillion and St. Peter, Hilbert has been extended to include St. Luke, St. Martin, and Trinity. Which church can raise the most funds? The winner gets bragging rights! Can St. Peter repeat and retain the bragging rights for another year?

Your gift of \$5, \$25, \$100, or more can be put in an envelope marked "BibleStick" and placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the church office. Please make checks payable to the church.

The challenge is on! Share the Good News of salvation with our troops!



The Joy of Subordination in Christ

By David Petersen

God is a God of order, not of chaos. He has placed all of us into families, societies and churches. These are the three orders, sometimes called estates, that define our relationships and duties or vocations to one another.

Each of the orders has offices that require subordination. Everyone, believer or unbeliever, must subordinate himself within these orders. The unbeliever submits out of necessity, to avoid punishment or gain reward. It is entirely different for Christians. We subordinate ourselves to authority in imitation of Christ and in confidence of His goodness. We do this in humility, for the good of the community, knowing that God has placed us together for each other. The new man in us is not interested in power or prestige. Rather, he recognizes that we are not autonomous individuals but are all part of a body.

All but the youngest of children find themselves in positions of authority and subordination simultaneously. In the family, wives owe their husbands respect and the husbands owe their wives their very lives ([Eph. 5:22-33](#)). Children owe their parents reverence and obedience, while parents owe their children bodily well-being and instruction ([Eph. 6:1-4](#)). Employees owe their employers reverence, obedience and faithfulness. Employers owe their employees respect and fairness. Citizens owe their rulers taxes and customs as the law demands ([Matt. 22:21](#); [Rom. 13:5-7](#)). They also owe respect and honor, while rulers owe their citizens justice and protection. All Christians owe their pastors listening, honor and wages. The pastors owe the church tireless service, faithful teaching and prayers provided without charge (see the [Table of Duties](#)).

Subordination and the burden of authority

Above all, of course, Christians owe Christ full obedience: fear, love and trust ([Mark 12:28-34](#)). Scripture pointedly describes Christians in terms of subordination. We are the children of God, the Bride of Christ and the servants of Christ. But it goes both ways. We are subordinate, but He bears the burden of authority. That authority is itself duty. All that husbands owe their wives, parents owe their children and rulers owe their citizens is given to us by Christ. He bestows on us His salvation, instruction and love, as He obeys His Father.

Of course, fallen humans can abuse one another. We are not Christ and do not fulfill our duties without any failures or selfishness, but the point here is that hierarchy, in and of itself, isn't evil, nor is it cold or incapable of affection. God is a God of hierarchy and

has created the world for order. A parent-child relationship is hierarchical and authoritarian. The child has little to no self-direction, few choices and almost no control of his day. He is subordinate to his mother. He owes her honor and obedience. Yet we expect that it is a completely loving relationship even among fallen human beings. We also recognize that the mother bears the greater part of the burden even if she enjoys more autonomy than the child. In a similar way, being equal isn't automatically good. Equality can also be oppressive when "equal" peers see one another as a threat to promotion or competition breeds hatred.

In the redemption of Christ, Christians recognize that being subordinate is a natural and good thing. Subordination means living not for ourselves but for others. It is a cross in the duties that are placed upon us and where we fail to live up to it, we sin. Therefore, subordination can accuse us.

At the same time, a mother's duty to clean up after a child can be performed in kindness, gladly. Sometimes our subordinates are easy to love. Even when our duties are a burden, they are blessings to our subordinates, and we rejoice to be involved and honored by God in these ways. The world can think only of its own pride, personal advantages and power. It does not think in terms of service and authority. But we are redeemed for something more.

For the good of the subordinate

Furthermore, the world places an inordinate value in authority, whereas in God's eyes, the subordinate person is more valuable than the one in authority. Here is what I mean: God established these orders for the benefit of the subordinate, not of the authority. The one in authority is the servant. Christ did not come to be served, but to serve (Matt. 20:28). He is not like the kings of this world. The apostles are clearly and in every way subordinate to Jesus, but Jesus washes their feet and serves them (John 13:1-20). Children are subordinate to their mothers, but their mothers clean the house and make dinner for them.

A classic cartoon demonstrates how fallen, selfish reason thinks. The cartoon shows aliens from outer space observing human beings walking their dogs and picking up their feces. The aliens assume that

dogs are the dominant species and the humans are their slaves. The joke is that humans are acting in a way that is inferior to dogs and is unreasonable. But that is only true if you think in terms of power and cannot imagine why anyone would pick up someone else's feces unless he was in bondage.

In fact, mothers and fathers and even older siblings clean up children's feces all the time. They do it not in bondage, but in willful, voluntary, loving service to the child. There is no thought of superiority or power. The child is subordinate, but he is not oppressed or inferior. He is subordinate in order to receive from his mother the gifts of her office. The mother serves the child over whom she exercises authority for his benefit not for hers. Her authority and service are not a means of manipulation or control but are acts of love. These acts in no way debase her or undermine her authority. The child submits to and obeys her in part because of these acts of service that she provides in humility and love for his sake. The child doesn't exist for the mother, but rather the mother exists for the child.

Subordination in marriage

Husbands and wives are similar to mothers and children in that there is a hierarchy, but the offices are distinct. Wives are not called upon to obey their husbands in the same way that children are to obey their mothers.

A wife's subordination to her husband's authority will result in obedience, but, again, subordination does not imply inferiority or subservience. Wives are not inferior or subservient to their husbands. It is possible to be subordinate and also equal. Wives are equal to their husbands as helpmeets, and husbands are incomplete without them. It is not only possible but necessary for godly subordinates to lead and aid those in authority over them with support that includes rebukes and guidance.

In the end, the Christian wife bends her own will to her husband's not as an act of obedience but of reverence. She bends her will to her husband out of reverence for God who made him her head. She voluntarily submits because God has established this order, not just for her benefit but also for the benefit of her children and the world.

Husbands don't rule over their wives as tyrants. But as Christ rules His church as a suffering servant, so husbands lead their wives by self-sacrifice and example, teaching, guiding and listening. While the wife's will might have to bend to her husbands, his body and pleasure are bent to hers. Her needs come first. He doesn't ask her to make sacrifices for him, though she might, but rather is to be in a constant state of sacrifice for her.

More than a burden

Christian subordination and service, of course, are not possible without the forgiveness of sins. Loving one another, forsaking all others, is an ongoing act of forgiveness that is founded in being forgiven by Christ. Husbands and wives do this, often without much reflection or effort, because they are forgiven in Christ. Mothers care for children out of obvious need because they see Christ in their children. While marriage can be hard because of our sins, it isn't always hard. It is not pure burden and cross. Sometimes our wives and husbands, our children, our pastors, and our brothers and sisters in Christ are easy to love and to forgive. There can and should be great joy in children and marriage because they are gifts from God. Motherhood is more than changing diapers. It is also snuggles and laughter. Holy Marriage is more than duty and subordination. It is also companionship and joy. Christianity is more than the Ten Commandments. It is also eternal and abundant life. All of it comes in the order God has established for our benefit and joy.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – February 2022**

God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the

Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God's Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what

good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Bible Study at Terra Verde

Friday at 10:00 a.m. weekly Bible Study will meet in Chilton at Terra Verde Coffeehouse.

Please come join us for a time of fellowship as we study the Book of Hebrews and drink some coffee. Bible study will also continue to meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter.



Happy Birthday

February

- 2 Kyle Koehler
- 3 Miles Hernke
- 5 Mark Hillegas
- 6 Laurie Mathes
- 9 Kari Filteau
- 10 Amber Roehrig
- 13 Jason Roehrig
Natalie Sowinski
- 16 Nancy Propson
- 18 David Schwalenberg
- 19 Judd Roehrig
- 22 Dan Diener
Joshua Ladwig
- 23 Benjamin Behnke
- 24 Tom Ruppenthal
- 25 Tyler Eldred
- 27 Dennis Roehrig



**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2022**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Wally Jentsch.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Peterson gave the opening prayer.

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

Correspondence: none

Pastor's Report:

- Shut-in members are being visited.
- The Tuesday evening Bible Class studying the Book of Hebrews is going well. (Come and join us!)
- There have been no baptisms or deaths during this quarter.
- Our 2-point parish needs to send a delegate with Pastor Peterson to the upcoming SWD Convention in Milwaukee this June. See Pastor or an Elder if you would like to be a delegate or alternate delegate.
- After consideration, Pastor and the Elders decided that communicants will come to the communion rail to take communion.
- Pastor mentioned St. Peter will once again be in a friendly competition with St. Bartholomew, Brillion to collect monies for Military BibleSticks for service men and their families. (Other congregations invited to join this competition include: Trinity, Rantoul; St. Luke, Chilton; St. Martin, Chilton)

Treasurer's Report:

- Dan Koffarnus gave the treasurers report for Doug.
- We have a new church property insurance policy through Hometown Insurance. This policy is with Grinnell Insurance and saved St. Peter \$1900 a year. We need to decide whether to insure at actual value or replacement value cost. This matter was discussed and tabled until our next voters meeting.
- The Council advised Doug to check with Thrivent for investments on two CD's matured at LCEF.

Board of Elders Report:

- Organ repairs will be completed by the end of February.
- Service times have been set for Lent and Easter:
 - March 2 – Ash Wednesday Service 10:30 a.m. (7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke)
 - March 8, 16, 23, 30, and April 6 – Midweek Lenten Services 10:30 a.m. (7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke)
 - April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service 1:00 p.m.
 - April 15 – Good Friday Service 1:00 p.m.
 - April 17 – Easter Sunday (8:30 a.m. @ St. Peter, 10:30 a.m. @ St. Luke)

Board of Trustees Report:

- Smoke alarm checks need to be twice a year and emergency lighting needs to be connected to a power source.
- The trustees are looking for someone to trim and cut the cemetery lawn.

Joint Parish Committee: The committee will revisit service times for the summer months in the April meeting (April 20, 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke).

Old Business: none

New Business: The next voters meeting will be held April 24th after the church service.

Adjournment: MMSC to adjourn.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Peterson led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Caroline Behnke, Secretary

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri K., Bonnie O., Bonnie T.		1 7:00p Bible Study	2 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	3	4	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LWML-SWD Winter Getaway @ Wisconsin Dells </div>
6 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	7	8 1:00p WIM Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	9 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	10	11	12
13 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	14 Valentine's Day	15 7:00p Bible Study	16 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	17	18	19 WIM Project Work Day
20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	21 President's Day	22 7:00p Bible Study	23 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	24	25	26
27 The Transfiguration of Our Lord <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	28	29 7:00p Bible Study	30 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	31		

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion