

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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April 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Greetings my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all aware of the situation in Ukraine. The horror, the suffering, death, and destruction brought by the Russians against Ukraine have caused all of us to have concerns about what the endgame will be. Will it be World War III? What will China do if the United States is distracted? And other questions that we may ponder in our minds. What will happen?

First off, we must remember that wars have been around since biblical times. War is a direct result of sin in the world. An interesting study indicated that the word occurs **225 times** in 220 verses in the KJV (war) occurs 136 times in 136 verses in the NIV (war) occurs 210 times in 205 verses in the ESV (war) occurs 228 times in 219 verses in the NASB. So, scripture speaks of wars. Jesus Himself talked about wars as well. One verse that sticks out in my mind is from Matthew, chapter 24:6-7 **6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.**

Secondly, the church will still remain and doing what she has been called to do. That is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and the eternal hope that we have in Him. We see this playing out in Ukraine as churches and pastors are under attack, yet their confidence is in the Lord and the services continue.

Third, can what be happening in the Ukraine happen here? That is a question that I get asked more often when I talk to people. They are rightly concerned about what is transpiring overseas. The answer to that question is YES it can happen here. It may not be with military equipment and military deployments in this country, but we must remember that warfare has many facets. So, the answer is YES. We must remember though that what is happening here and abroad in its basic, fundamental level is spiritual warfare. **Ephesians 6:12 says: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

Fourth, what can we do now where we are located in Wisconsin? The answer is very clear in scripture. We are engaged in spiritual warfare, so God gives us the weapons to fight this battle. Ephesians 6:10-19 tells us how God arms us in this battle. **The Armor of God¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.**

Five, we, as the church can and are called to fight this spiritual battle and as mentioned above, God gives us the tools of faith. To fight this battle, God also gives us a spirit of power and love. [continued on page 5]



Mission Matters

A Place of Refuge (APOR)

“A Place of Refuge is a Gospel focused service reaching out to women with the love of Christ with both words and actions.” It is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and a non-profit (501)(c)(3) organization.

APOR is a network of volunteers and staff who are committed to life and to caring for women facing crisis pregnancy in South Wisconsin. We have a house where moms may stay throughout their pregnancies and while preparing to transition to independent living arrangements.

Through Refuge House & Advocacy Program we:

- REACH women with needs during pregnancy. Telephone hotline volunteers identify the callers' needs and...
- RECEIVE them into God's care through His people. If needed, bring them into Refuge House where they may feel safe and loved. If they are already in a safe and independent environment, our volunteer Advocates then work one on one with mothers and...
- REFER them to community resources available for their physical and emotional care. Congregations throughout South Wisconsin...
- RESPOND by providing what is not available in the community by sharing God's love for us in His Son Jesus Christ. And every day we...
- REJOICE in the opportunity to share the gospel and share in the joy of a baby born.

APOR: An abortion alternative available to all.

Please keep these servants of the Lord in your prayers.

Items needed for A Place of Refuge...

Moms & Babies Needs

Infant sleepers
Infant socks
Baby powder
Instant read thermometers
Infant board books
Infant wash cloths & bath towels
Infant headbands
Infant toys
Bibs

Refuge House Needs

Baby wipes
Nursing pads
Walmart gift cards
Gas cards
Kids toothbrushes & toothpaste
Adult tooth brushes
Laundry stain remover
Dawn dish detergent
Paper towels
Finish dishwashing pods
All Free & Clear laundry pods
Ziplock bags
Foil

“Thank You” note from the Bread of Life Food Pantry

St. Peter's Lutheran church members,

Thank you for the 497 pounds of food and hygiene products you collected for the Salvation Army food pantry. All of the items are given to clients from Calumet County. Sorry, to say, the need is always there. But by working together, we can and do make a difference one family at a time.

Thank you again and God bless!



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Spring Rally: The Zone 10 LWML Spring Rally will be held on Tuesday evening, April 19. We will meet at Zion Lutheran in New Holstein. Registration will begin at 6:00 with a light supper to be served starting at 6:15. The meeting and Bible study will start at 7:00. The Bible study will be led by Zone Counselor Rev. Tom Fleischmann. District information will be shared and upcoming activities will be reviewed.

April meeting at St. Peter: Our April WIM meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Once again, all women of the congregation are encouraged to attend for Bible study, planning and fellowship. Remember to bring your current issue of the Quarterly.

Project days: Many thanks to all the people who have been coming to help with our church cleaning projects and other various activities. As the old saying goes, many hands make short work. We appreciated the help of the many hands.

Gifts From the Heart: Once again we are gathering items for Refuge House in Milwaukee. Refuge House is the residence for the program called A Place of Refuge (APOR). See the Mission Matters column for more information about APOR and the Gifts from the Heart for details about the ingathering. We will gather items during April and until Mother's Day.

LWML Zone Rally

April 19th
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Zion New Holstein

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – April 2022

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God's promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there's a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn't obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn't keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His

service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



There's No 'You' in 'I'

By Rosie Adle

To promote healthy communication in times of confrontation and conflict, experts in the field encourage the use of “I” statements. This must be spelled out for us (that’s “I” with an “I”) because we humans are not very good at it without coaching and correction. “I” statements don’t come loaded with critical snaps. They set the tone for reasonable, calm interactions without accusing the other party.

In our Christian lives of faith, we learn from a young age that humble confession is simple and direct. It goes, “I, a poor miserable sinner . . .” Simple, perhaps, but not easy. Maybe we get there verbally, but mentally and emotionally we’ve often spent some time in Blameville first, stewing about whatever “you” did wrong.

Old as Time

The problem is as old as time (or thereabouts). The first people to float the accusatory tone in times of trouble were none other than the first people.

After the fall into sin, God pursued His crouched creatures and coaxed them out of their hiding place with a series of clarifying questions. He knew every answer, of course, but He wanted to hear from them what went down and give them an opportunity to confess.

Adam was questioned first since he was the responsible party. Adam’s crack at an “I” statement eventually tumbled out, but not without some front-loaded excuse making and blame casting.

God to the man: “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” (Gen. 3:11).

Adam: “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate” (Gen. 3:12).

Notice that Adam doesn’t go directly to blaming Eve. First, he blames *God*, which is gutsy. Then he does go ahead and blame Eve, too. And finally, kind of tacked on as an afterthought, we hear the brief confession, which was all that was needed in the first place: “I ate.” Ahem.

Next, God questioned Eve.

God to the woman: “What is this that you have done?” (Gen. 3:13)

Eve: “The serpent deceived me, and I ate” (Gen. 3:13).

To her credit, Eve does not sass God à la “the serpent whom *you* made,” but she doesn’t lead with an “I” statement either. Though she doesn’t blame God in the same way that Adam did, she fails to go directly to the succinct, two-word confession, “I ate,” which would have sufficed and been more honorable without the finger point.

Blaming God

The dodgy move is an old one and a present-day one. It still troubles the communications and conflict resolution experts who know there’s a better way. Even those of us who have been duly informed and equipped — even those of us who are Christians — lose our cool and our poise. We reach for the same pointy pointer, hardened heart and accusing attitude that our first mother and father cultivated in the garden.

While our Lord invites us to cast our burdens upon Him (Psalm 55:22), it is very hard for us to do so without also casting a bit of blame while we're at it.

The terrified disciples in a storm-tossed boat took their care to Christ by way of an accusing (and, truly, thoughtless) question: "Do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38). When Martha of the famous Mary/Martha duo grumped about her unhelpful sister, she implicated Jesus in remarkably similar terms, "do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" (Luke 10:40).

God Cares

The answer, of course, is yes. Yes, He cares — deeply, even. Peter tells us that we can cast all our anxieties on Him *because* He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). If God did not care for us, there could be no good news at all.

Yet there is. The Good News for all of us, from the ones sitting behind the bushes in paradise lost, to the soggy boat crew, to the sour sibling, is that the Lord does not cut us off for failing to deliver the precision of a perfectly primed "I" statement. Even when confrontations, conflicts and confessions majorly miss the mark, He doesn't abandon us to the deadly fruits of a doomed tree or the plight of a thrashed boat or the bitter pile of household chores that makes us resent the perceived slackers among us.

Ultimately, God took the blame that His first people threw at Him, and though it was not rightly His, He bore it. He took it all the way to the death on the cross. That is how far He takes the blame that He does not deserve. He invites us to continue casting our cares upon Him, trusting that He is strong enough to hold all our sorrows in His hands, merciful and gracious enough to forgive our sins, and patient enough to set us again and again on the path that leads to life everlasting.

Photo: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford



[continued from page 1...] **2 Timothy, chapter 1, verses 7-9** ⁷"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began..."

So, let us take heart and continue with the Lord's work that He calls us to and as we see these events take place, we are not to be fearful, instead as Jesus tells us in **Luke 21:28** "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Amen.



Lutherans around the world unite to support refugees

By Kevin Armbrust



Volunteers from the Confessional Lutheran Church in Romania bought and delivered supplies for refugees using funds from the LCMS. (Sorin-Horia Trifa)

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Office of International Mission (OIM) recently met with leaders and representatives of Lutheran church bodies throughout Eastern Europe to learn more about and further support the aid given to refugees from the war in Ukraine.

“We have the command of our Lord to love our neighbor, and especially of the household of faith,” said the Rev. James A. Krikava, associate executive director of the OIM, Eurasia and Asia Operations. “We do have members of the household of faith coming to us. We want to help them, even though the household is a bit messy at this point.”

Tomas Gulan, a religion teacher at a Lutheran high school in Slovakia, reported that the school has received 350 refugees. For the time being, the school has shifted its focus from teaching to providing social ministry to help as many people as possible, including receiving some Ukrainian students into the school. The students are from families who have fled Ukraine and need not only instruction but a place to live.

Refugees from Ukraine continue to escape to any place that will accept them. Many countries have allowed refugees to enter and travel freely when trains and planes are available. Lutherans in these countries are lending aid where and when possible, including in their own homes.

“Please express our thanks to the congregations [of the LCMS] who have provided for those in need. It is very important,” said the Rev. Mindaugas Sabutis, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania. “We open our doors to sinners. ... We are seeking to share the Gospel with them and to pray. These people are in a very post-traumatic situation. They came to us with nothing. We try to be sure that we will provide help ... to carry this cross with these people for a long time.”

The Rev. Sorin-Horia Trifa, a Romanian Lutheran pastor supported by the LCMS, noted in a recent email that the church in Ukraine is facing a dire and worsening situation.

“The Ukrainian Lutherans in Odesa (part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, an emerging partner of the LCMS) with whom we are in daily contact have told us that they no longer have the resources to survive in Ukraine,” said Trifa. They urgently need food and medicine, some of which is extremely important, such as insulin. ...

“Faced with such a situation, the Confessional Lutheran Church in Romania mobilized. We bought

[and delivered] food and medicine using financial resources provided by the LCMS. ... Most likely, in the near future, we will have to repeat this operation because Odesa is no longer supplied with the resources necessary for daily life, especially vital medicines.”

Though most of the people of the LCMS may not physically travel to Eastern Europe to improve the chaotic situation there, their prayers and support for the Synod’s partners and friends in Europe continue to witness to the love and mercy of Christ.

“Our fervent prayers and continued desire to support our dear brothers and sisters in crisis have never been stronger,” said the Rev. Kevin D. Robson, LCMS chief mission officer. “We want to help care for peoples’ needs and especially to join them to God’s precious Word and Sacraments.”



To support the people of Ukraine, please pray for them.

If you desire to contribute to their needs, there are several ways to donate:

- Text LCMSUKRAINE to 41-444.
- Give online <https://www.lcms.org/ukraine>
- Call the LCMS at 888-930-4438.
- Call Mission Central (Mapleton, Iowa) at 712-882-1029.
- By mail, make your check out to “The LCMS,” and write “Ukraine Relief” in the memo line. Mail to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

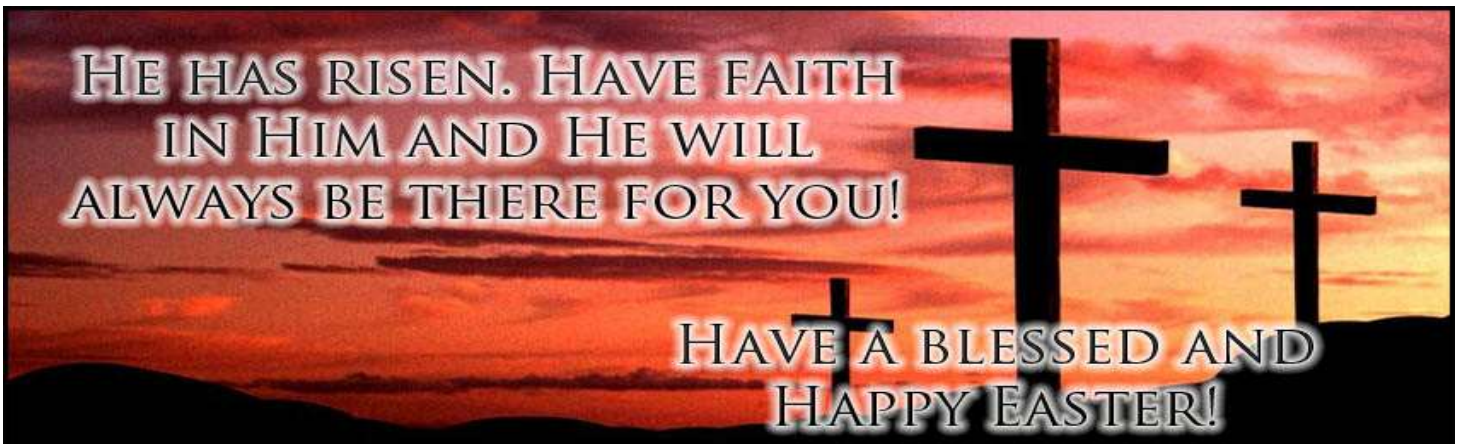
- April 11th Dennis & Joanne Hernke
- April 20th Tom & Berd Piepenburg
- April 25th Brian & Laurie Mathes
- April 26th Steve & Laurie Ecker
- April 28th Steve & Kathy Hemauer



April

- 1 Katlin Krepline
- 4 Kaitlyn Sowinski
- 8 MaryKay Hein
- 13 Matthew Bunnell
- 15 Melissa DuPrey
- 25 Nicole Meyers
Joesph Fletcher
- 27 Carol Krepline
- 28 Brooke Voigt
- 30 Dan Boesch

Voters' Meeting April 24th
following the service.



Our Response to His Love

	3-6-22	3-2-22	2-27-22	2-20-22	2-13-22	2-6-22
General Fund	\$3030	\$168	\$2331	\$688	\$842	\$2195
Missions			\$25			
BibleSticks	\$600					
Totals	\$3630	\$168	\$2356	\$688	\$842	\$2195

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri Koffarnus, Bonnie Ott, Bonnie Teinert					1 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	2
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	4	5 7:00p Bible Study	6 10:30 Lenten Service <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i> <i>7:00p Lenten Service @ St. Luke</i>	7	8 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	9
10 Palm Sunday <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	11	12 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	13	14 Holy Thursday <i>Purple</i> 1:00 Divine Service <i>7:00p Service @ St. Luke</i>	15 Good Friday <i>Bare</i> 1:00 Tenebrae Service <i>7:00p Service @ St. Luke</i>	16 9:00 Decorate Church for Easter
17 Easter Sunday <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service	18 Newsletter articles due	19 6p-8:30p LWML Spring Zone Rally @ Zion, New Holstein	20 <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i> 7:00p Joint Parish Mtg @ St. Luke	21	22 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	23
24 Second Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School Voters Meeting	25	26 7:00p Bible Study	27 <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	28	29 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	30

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion