

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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May 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson April 29th, 2022

He has risen!! He has risen indeed!! Alleluia. Happy Easter everyone. What a joyous time to be able to worship our risen, victorious, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ. We are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, the new creation in Christ that we are because of God's love for us. Creation is a favorite topic for me. I am one of those people that believe the creation account in Genesis. These two themes of creation and resurrection are intimately related. The next several articles of the newsletters that we will be reading will focus on the aspects of God's creation in Genesis to the New Creation that we are in Christ.

God loves to create. His desire when He created the heavens and the earth in Genesis was so He could be with His people, and they could be with Him. When God created the heavens and the earth, we know that it was perfect. We know this because God said so. Yet, paradise was short lived. Adam and Eve were seduced by the devil in the form of a serpent and sin became a reality. As we all know sin entered the world, death entered the world and what was perfect and good was corrupted. In Genesis 3:14-21 we have the account of God's prophetic vision of the seed of the woman crushing the head of the serpent and the serpent striking at the heel of the seed of woman. This is the spiritual battle that culminated at the cross of Christ.

Just as the cross of Christ was so important and vital to our redemption, the cross also plays an important role in the creation of the new heavens and the new earth. Because Jesus had to die to pay for our sins, and yet rose again to show us that He has conquered death and given us new life. He is the firstborn of the dead. Scriptures tell us so in **Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

What this means for us is that because we have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection and united with Him, we are a new creation in Christ. God has said so and God does it because He likes to create. He creates because He loves us and delights to be with us. "Behold I make all things new" is a truth anticipated from the beginning. When Adam and Eve sinned, God gave glimpses of this promise as He meted out judgment on sin and promised the Messiah (**Genesis 3**). The prophet Isaiah declares that salvation is found in God alone and that He will certainly judge sin, and he prophesies of the new heaven and new earth: "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered" (**Isaiah 65:17**).

Because God likes to create and because the passion of Christ is directly connected to a new creation that is to come, a new heaven and a new earth. We can confidently say He is Risen!! He Has Risen Indeed!! We now look forward to that time when Christ will return and call us to be with Him. Amen

Remember, God really, really, really does love you!!!



Pastor Peterson

Military BibleSticks Challenge

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Members of our area LCMS churches together raised enough funds to supply **423** Military BibleSticks to servicemen and women. THAT'S AWESOME!

The bragging rights remain with St. Peter for another year. We raised enough funds for 152 BibleSticks. St. Bartholomew raised enough for 111; St. Martin, 64; Trinity, 60; St. Luke, 36.

Thank you for all of the gifts that you gave! It is truly amazing! Praise God!



"For the Son of Man came to find lost people and save them" Luke 19:10 (New Century Version)

Vacation Bible School 2022

ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

W3102 Killsnake Rd, Chilton, WI

Mon, July 11th – Wed, July 13th

11:00am – 2:00pm

Lunch will be provided

Pre-Registration is required. Children ages 4 through 5th grade are welcome to attend.

Rides to and from VBS can be arranged.

Registration forms are available in the narthex.

Registration deadline is June 27th

L U T H E R A N S **engage**

Teaching the Unchanging Truth to God's Children

At Lutheran schools in California and Wisconsin, students of different backgrounds and abilities are taught many important things, including about the love of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Story by Kevin Armbrust | Photography by Erik M. Lunsford | Spring 2022

Lutheran schools are as varied as the students they serve and as vital as the Word of God shared there every day. Throughout its history, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has treasured its schools. Instruction in the Word of God and about God's creation, preparing young people for their various vocations, and sharing the Good News with those who come from outside the church remain the heart and soul of Lutheran schools.

On the coast and in the heartland, Lutheran teachers love their students with the love of Jesus. First and foremost, that means communicating the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection to every child. But that love also includes teaching children to read, write and function in this world for the praise of God and the service of neighbor. In a world advocating worldviews foreign to God's eternal truth, Lutheran schools base their instruction on the Holy Scriptures.

In La Mesa, Calif.

"Our mission at Christ Lutheran Church and School is to develop dynamic disciples for life," said Xavria Schwarz, principal of Christ Lutheran School in La Mesa, Calif. "And our vision is to do that through very strategic discipleship in our classrooms, a rigorous academic program so that they are relevant in the world, and then thirdly, [by building] a strong sense of community where teachers really enjoy serving together and where kids and families are known."



Principal Xavria Schwarz visits with students during dismissal in September at Christ Lutheran School, La Mesa, Calif.

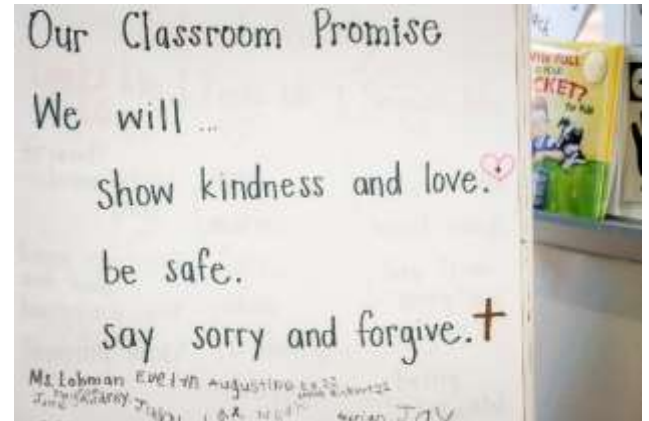
The school has been educating students in the Lutheran faith for 63 years in its current location. Fewer of its 212 students are Lutheran than in previous years, but the ministry of the school remains unchanged. “The school itself is really devoted to being very Lutheran, distinctly Lutheran,” said Schwarz. “That’s why we’re so devoted to having all called teachers.”

But Christ, La Mesa, is more than just a school. The congregation works closely with the school to provide the Gospel to school families and to ensure that the families who send their children for education are connected to the church. Both pastors work closely with the school, as do the directors of Christian education on staff.

Recently, the congregation moved one of its pastors’ offices to the school, so that the tie between the congregation and the school is even more evident. Schwarz describes her working relationship with the pastors and congregation as symbiotic and of one mind. The pastors and church staff work closely with the faculty and school staff to continue to proclaim Christ to the people of La Mesa.

Everyone at Christ, La Mesa, desires that the students and their families would know the love of Christ, and that no matter where they go afterward, their memories of the school would be a blessing. “When they think of Christ Lutheran School, they think, ‘That was a place I was beloved and cared for,’” said Schwarz. “And they associate that love with their Savior, whether they’re in a relationship with Him or not at that time, whether they’ve wandered or [are] walking

closely with Him, that school would always be a place that they fondly love and associate with their Savior.”



A classroom board in teacher Tessa Lohman’s class.

In Freistadt, Wis.

“Who are you?”

“I’m a child of God, loved and saved by Jesus!”

“What is your purpose?”

“To spread His Gospel with the world!”

“How will you do this?”

“By growing in His Word, serving in His world, joining in His mission — together.”



Students work together during class on Oct. 20, 2021, at Trinity Lutheran School in Freistadt, Wis.

This conversation is repeated hundreds of times at Trinity Lutheran School in Freistadt, Wis. Dr. Sam Seefeld, principal of Trinity, asks these questions of students at least once a week. And they all willingly respond, often shouting with enthusiasm when appropriate. These questions and responses are not just something to say. They

drive the mission and ministry of Trinity's faculty, staff and students.

Trinity, Freistadt, is set amid farmland and historic buildings that speak to the school's longevity. Many of the families of the congregation's founding members still attend the church. Trinity was started by immigrants from Pomerania, Germany, who fled religious persecution and settled in Freistadt to freely practice their faith. This group built the first Lutheran church in Wisconsin in 1840. Trinity, Freistadt, has been a member of the LCMS since 1848 — the year after the LCMS was founded.

Trinity's history and heritage continue to mark the church and school both physically and spiritually. As its website says, "More than 175 years later, Trinity continues to support families through Lutheran education, worship services, and ministry through our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory!"

One might expect that a school with deep German roots would be characterized by uniformity and staid programs. But Trinity Lutheran School may surprise those who enter.



The exterior of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Currently, the diverse student body at Trinity is 60% Caucasian and 40% minority. In 2012, Trinity saw an opportunity to serve the refugee Karenni population, who were immigrating from Myanmar and Thailand. Trinity was one of the leading groups that helped the Karenni in Milwaukee adjust to life in America. The pastors, staff and members of the congregation all worked to help them feel at home and, most importantly, to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Trinity

Lutheran School also welcomed the Karenni community. At first, the school had a grant to bus Karenni children from Milwaukee to Freistadt. When the grant ended, the congregation decided to continue to serve the Karenni families through both the congregation and the school.



Students head to the car line and buses after school.

Though the school suffered through some years of decreased numbers, Trinity's current enrollment of 270 reflects a 122% growth over the last three years. Currently, Trinity serves families from 32 zip codes across five counties. One decision that aided this diverse reach was participation in the Wisconsin school choice program, wherein families can choose to direct their education dollars to a private school.

The recent growth and diversity have not changed Trinity's mission. The school's values and goals begin with Christ and take seriously each sinner's identity in Him as a result of His death and resurrection. To this end, Trinity was the first Lutheran school in Wisconsin to adopt the national LCMS theological standards. Along with this important and explicit focus, Trinity seeks excellence in academics and development of the whole person.

"We teach Jesus. We are unashamedly Christian. ... We talk about how the saving grace with the Gospel is a message that will never change," said Seefeld. "Even as many of the school districts in our area and really around the country continue to kind of ebb and flow with the tide of the changing social landscape, we will not change and our message doesn't change, because it's rooted in Scripture."

In Hales Corner, Wis.

“Centered in Christ,” the mission of Journeys Lutheran School in Hales Corner, Wis., is to “[prepare] students with unique learning challenges to maximize their God-given spiritual, academic, physical, emotional and social potential.”



Journeys Lutheran School in Hales Corners, Wis.

Journeys Lutheran School began in 1958 by a group of concerned parents who desired a better education and alternative for their children with unique learning challenges. The school was first located within Milwaukee Lutheran High School and therefore had limited space and resources. God provided a school building that could accommodate more students when Hales Corners Lutheran School moved into a new building, thus leaving their old building vacant.

Now located in Hales Corners, Wis., Journeys serves over 80 students who range in age from 8 to 21. Journeys fills a unique need in the Lutheran school system as the only school whose student body is comprised solely by those who have special needs. Unlike many schools that focus on a student’s special needs, Journeys provides both excellent academic teaching and nurture through the Word of God and prayer.

“Everything with Jesus in the middle,” said Kathy Siegel, who works as a music therapist at the school. “Everything with prayer.”

Journeys provides specific and necessary settings for children and young adults with different needs. Teachers are trained and experienced in helping students as they encounter difficulties in learning both academically and socially.

Sometimes this means providing a room where a student can go to work out anger or frustration.

“They don’t come here because it’s a Lutheran school. They come here because of the needs of their children,” said Michael Oldenburg, executive director of Journeys. “But we are sharing the love of Jesus with them every day.”

Journeys cares for the whole person and encourages each student to see their potential and to know that they are loved by God through His Son, Jesus Christ. During their time at Journeys, they hear the Gospel and learn God’s Word in the classroom and in chapel services. The faculty and staff pray for their students and work to equip them for life through academic training and life skills.

It’s not always easy. Yet through it all, the faculty and staff consider their role essential. Oldenburg said that the best thing about working at Journeys is “sharing the love of Jesus. It’s who we are and who we should be and who the world needs us to be.”

The Spring 2022 issue of *Lutherans Engage* magazine is available in the narthex

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

Letter From the President

Only Jesus

by *Matthew C. Harrison*

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Celebrating 175 years is important. But it’s a rather brief period compared to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. It’s less significant still compared to the 2,000-year history of the Lord’s Church, and it pales in comparison to the 4,000 years since the call of Abraham and the promise of the Savior given by the Lord to him.

In the past decade of serving the congregations of the Synod, I’ve learned that I am not that

significant, either, especially in the history of the Synod. Nevertheless, God works what He wills despite our insignificance. If a new Lutheran church body began today with 12 congregations, it would be the butt of unending jokes, as was the Missouri Synod in 1847. If it were to claim that its constitution was the restoration of the authority of the inerrant Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions and authentic New Testament Christianity, it would be ignored, laughed at and scorned. If it claimed the Bible and Luther's catechism are absolutely true and that there is no other God than the Holy Trinity and no salvation outside of faith in Christ and His blessed cross and resurrection, its founders would be accosted as kooks by contemporaries.

How insignificant were 14 congregations and a handful of pastors 175 years ago? They knew they were numerically insignificant. They knew they were the object of ridicule in a world awash in agnosticism, especially in the church. They lamented the state of their mother churches back in Europe where the Gospel had largely been supplanted by mere morality. Even pastors no longer believed the Word of God.

Like ours, their world was in chaos. Revolutions shook all of Europe in 1848. Atheism was rife among German immigrants to America. A cholera epidemic raged in the U.S. in 1849 and killed thousands. The liberal Germans in St. Louis attacked the Saxons from the moment they stepped off the boat. The LCMS was poor, small, weak, and they knew it. And because they were far flung from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Buffalo and St. Louis, they were lonely. But they were certain of one thing: Luther's Reformation had rediscovered and re-asserted the truth of the free forgiveness of sins in the blessed Gospel of Christ, delivered by the Word and distributed in Baptism and Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament. They came from various backgrounds. Some had been theological liberals (Wilhelm Sihler), many had been pietists (overemphasizing religious feelings as the ground of faith and certainty over the objective teachings of the Bible and catechism). Personal crises had driven a number of them to believe the Bible, read the Lutheran Confessions and confess the old

teachings of the Lutheran Church as the teachings of Scripture.

Through Dr. C.F.W. Walther's "The Lutheran" newspaper (Der Lutheraner), they discovered each other. They corresponded. They hatched a plan for a Lutheran Synod (synod means "together on the same road" in Greek), crafted a constitution (which still survives, mostly word for word in the present LCMS constitution), and officially brought the church body into existence in Chicago on April 26, 1847. The Missouri Saxons brought their log cabin seminary, after Wilhelm Loehe gave the Synod a seminary in Fort Wayne. They embarked on a mission to share the Gospel far and wide, and were keenly aware of their divine mandate to "seek and save the lost." They educated pastors and sent them to shepherd the thousands upon thousands of German-speaking immigrants spreading across the wide reaches of America. They planted churches for Germans who had left their homeland for economic promise and had come from weak churches in the old country. In New York and Boston, they met the immigrants as they came off the boats and sent them to German communities served by pastors across the fruited plain. Walther and others spoke English, but they concentrated on German-speaking communities because of the enormous opportunity and volume of work. Eventually, they were only too happy to help found an "English Synod," which became the "English District" of the LCMS (1911).

Just like 175 years ago, war has returned to Europe. We've suffered a global pandemic. The church is in grave decline in the West. Just google "Decline of the Church in the West" for the shocking statistics, particularly in the U.S. The "woke" culture ubiquitous on university campuses all around the world has created a culture of sexual ambiguity. In some ways, the LCMS is doing slightly better than many churches, but we, too, are heavily affected. Easy fixes are mythical. Our children are bombarded from the earliest age with the lies of a morally adrift culture. For 60 years, the sexual revolution has taught that sex is subjective, a personal choice, and one may be one's own creator. Our governments support "sex change" operations even for minors. The abortion of a child as an

inconvenient byproduct at odds with one's own self-determination is one of the greatest indicators of the denial of our Creator and His will for His creatures, created male and female. (Read Carl Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*.) Apocalyptic times indeed. Come, Lord Jesus!

What's the answer? What's our task? What's our message? Only Jesus. "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Today, we are just under 6,000 congregations. Is our constitution antiquated? Not unless the Word of God is antiquated. "The word of the Lord remains forever" (1 Peter 1:25). Today, we have 5,700 active pastors sharing Christ, day in and day out. Today, we have the largest Protestant parochial school system in the U.S. We have thousands of teachers sharing the message with "the least." "Your Creator is the Triune God." "He has made you. You are His." "Only Jesus is your Savior." And "He has redeemed you as His very own creature." We equip our people with Jesus; fortify our mothers and fathers; strengthen homes to love, teach and prepare children for life in this world with its challenges and blessings; shore up our men to be men in God and our women to be holy women of Christ.

Today, we face the hatred and ridicule of the world, a world in chaos. Our fathers and mothers in the faith faced the same. Today, we face the same threat of loneliness and isolation they did. Whether the loneliest pastor and tiniest congregation in the farthest reaches of the earth or the president of the Synod, we are terribly insignificant. Imagine those 14 lonely, insignificant congregations in 1847. What a difference it made for them to be joined in faith and love in the Lutheran confession.

Today, we face very similar challenges. The decline of Christianity in the West presents us with the greatest challenge in the modern history of the church. With Jesus, and only Jesus, we shall go forth nevertheless: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I

have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19–20). "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful" (Heb. 10:23).

Who we are — a 175-year-old church body — is important, but it pales in comparison to the history of the church. But what we do — preaching and pointing to Jesus for 175 years — is quite significant indeed. It has eternal consequences. If 175 years is an accomplishment, it's Christ's accomplishment. Come what may, the next 175 years are in the hands of Jesus, only Jesus, and so are we.

—Pastor Harrison

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

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life — everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both — tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what

is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

(Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

May 6th Jason & Danielle Roehrig
May 13th Terry & Beverly Hackbarth
May 19th Ron & Bonnie Ott



May

2 Katy Ecker
3 LouAnn Seidl
5 Donna Marose
Nicole Price
7 Pat Schaffer
11 Stephanie Halbach
Kaitlynn Roehrig
16 Crysta Ladwig
19 Delores Schwalenberg
Nick Hernke
20 Karen Gerhartz
22 Kathy Hemauer
23 Cory Roehrig
24 Aaron Schwalenberg
29 Ken Plate
30 Andrew Nieman
31 Blake Peters

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Third Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LCMS-SWD Pastors' Conference @ Stevens Point </div>	3 7:00p Bible Study	4	5	6 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	7
8 Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) Mother's Day	9	10 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	11 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	12	13 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	14
15 Fifth Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	16	17 7:00p Bible Study	18 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	19	20 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	21 Armed Forces Day
22 Sixth Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School Confirmation Sunday	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 7:00p Bible Study	25	26 Ascension <i>White</i>	27 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	28
29 Seventh Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service	30 Memorial Day	31 7:00p Bible Study			Altar Guild: Dean & Jan Bergelin	

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion