

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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June 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson May 27th, 2022

The Power of Prayer

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I have been asked a lot of questions about the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and the latest shooting in Texas. Comments have been made about why does God allow this to happen. Another comment is that prayers are not needed because we need to ban guns. Also, other comments about how scary the world is today. These are all valid questions, and I could get into a deep theological discourse on these questions and many more that are out there. It is the issue of prayer that I wish to address in this article.

The most clear answer to why evil happens is that we live in a fallen and sinful world and bad things happen because there is evil in the world. Evil has and will continue to be with us until the Lord Jesus comes back. So, the questions we need to ask ourselves is what is the role of the church when these horrible events happen? And also, what is the role of us, as Christians when we engage the world. To understand our role as the church, and as Christians, we must first recognize the evil and the hate in the world. To do so we must turn to the most important resource that we can which is God's Word. In John 16:33, John 14:27, and John 15:18 we have the words of Jesus describing what is taking place in His time and in ours, Jesus says: **"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."** **John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid. John 15:18 If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first.**

Jesus understands that we live in danger as Christians because the world hates us because it hated Him first. So, what are we to do in the face of evil? Because that is the basic question that we must address. There are many answers that we could discuss, but one answer that we can do in the face of evil is pray. As the church, and as individual Christians we are to be in prayer for all those who have suffered the loss of children, family, and friends in the recent mass shootings, and for the world as a whole. Prayer, in spite of what some spew out of their mouths, does work. To the non-Christian, when Christian's pray, it may seem to them meaningless and just words. They fail to understand the intimate connection that prayer is a way in which we talk to God. They fail to realize that faith is so important to the Christian and our walk with the Lord. Jesus Himself understood the value of prayer and was in constant prayer with God the Father. Jesus was always praying for God's will to be done, for us to be protected and the church to be sanctified. We should pray that God would use whatever circumstances that arise for His glory and not for ours.

Jesus Himself tells us to pray when He instructs the disciples and us in teaching us the Lord's Prayer. In **Matthew 6:9-13** and **Luke 11:1-4**, Jesus teaches us the meanings of the Lord's Prayer and how to pray to our heavenly Father. Prayer for the Christian is part of our DNA so to speak. Prayer comes to the Christian as naturally as breathing does for us all. We need to pray that God would empower the church to reach out and embrace all people with the saving grace of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 6:6 Jesus tells us: **"But when you pray, go into your room, and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."**

My dear Christian brothers and sisters in Christ. Evil presents itself in so many ways, whether it be a mass shooting, wars, individual trials and tribulations and many other facets that evil

shows. Upon further reflection on the events of the last few weeks and even over the years involving mass shootings, it is important to all of us as Christians to keep praying all the time for the families of the victims in these and all cases. We can have and should have numerous programs to help people who are suffering from any form of mental illness, harden public areas against mass shooters and other programs. In the end though the root cause of all these ills and so much more is sin. A program while helpful can and never should be the end all. These programs should never replace the power of prayer. It is only through prayer and a knowledge that we are all created in the image of God according to the Christian faith, that these horrific events can be stopped as much as possible.

So, in these times of goodness, trials, and tribulations we need to always be in prayer to our great and mighty God. Saint Paul writes in **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** ¹⁶ **Rejoice always,** ¹⁷ **pray continually,** ¹⁸ **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** Hear the words from the writer of the book of Hebrews, chapter 13:20 **Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen....**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June

- 11th Dean & Jan Bergelin
- 16th Charles & Jerilyn Fochs
- 20th Dennis & Melissa DuPrey
- 23rd Jerry & Nancy Propson
David & Lori Schwalenberg

Vacation Bible School 2022



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

June

- 4 Sandra Mirsberger
- 6 Laurie Ecker
- 9 Alec Schwalenberg
- 11 Nelson Teinert, Sr.
- 12 Delaina Mueller
Louis Hernke
- 14 Barb Konen
- 15 David Behnke
- 16 DeAnn Eldred
Madalyn Duprey
- 17 Dolores Bornemann
Marjy Jentsch
- 19 Paul Schwalenberg
- 24 Dave Franz
- 25 Bonnie Ott
- 28 Jan Bergelin





LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

The June meeting of WIM will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at 1:00. Our main item of business will be reviewing the proposed Mission Grants for the 2022-2024 biennium and giving direction to our delegates to the LWML SWD Convention being held on June 18. All women are encouraged to be a part of this process. Proposed grants are available for review on the LWML-SWD.org website. We will also be giving input on the votes for officer candidates.

Our delegates to convention are Carol Krepline and Nancy Propson. We ask for your prayers as we vote for our new grants and officers as well as for any other decisions that need to be made. Let them know if you have any input on these decisions. Additional information is also available in our current LWML-SWD newsletter. The newsletter, Mission Lamp, can be found on the home page of the district: lwml-swd.org Click on the yellow button on the upper left corner.

The other special item of business will be determining how we will be assisting the Joint Parish Committee in celebrating Pastor Peterson's 20th Anniversary of his ordination. This is planned for July 24. Rumor has it there may be a 'pastor dunk tank' involved at St. Luke on July 23 and a brunch at St. Peter on July 24.

The Gifts from the Heart donated for A Place of Refuge have been delivered. Thanks to each of you who participated in these gifts allowing us to bring them several bags of items they need. Because the location of Refuge House is safeguarded from extra traffic, all items are received at their resale store, Blessed Again. Therefore, we were unable to visit with any of the women being served at Refuge House or to see the newly renovated facilities. Renovations

were accomplished with many donations, including an LWML grant from fiscal year 2020-2022.

All grants from the current biennium have been paid in full! What a blessing our mites have been to so many. Thanks to all who add their mites to the mite box in the narthex or at meetings.

Mission Matters

Mission Partners of LCMS SWD:

Our SWD of the LCMS has a large number of mission partners working within the district on our behalf. These partners are Bethany Church, Milwaukee; Calvary Chapel, Madison; Cross congregation in Westport (a partner plant of Bethlehem, Sun Prairie); Dominican Republic ministry in Santiago (our SWD international partner); Elm Grove Chinese congregation; Emmanuel Deaf in West Allis; Faith Campus Ministry in LaCrosse; Free at Last in Milwaukee; Hmong Hope, Milwaukee; Mission of Christ in Milwaukee; Our Savior Deaf in Madison; SOS Center in Milwaukee; St. Martini in Milwaukee; Holy Ghost Urban Ministry in Milwaukee; House of Correction in Franklin; Sion International in Milwaukee; Luther Memorial International Outreach and Student Center in Shorewood; Milwaukee; St. Peter – Immanuel in Milwaukee; Trinity Campus Ministry in Milwaukee and Trinity Campus Ministry in West Allis.

Each of these ministries is explained on our district website under the Mission and Mercy heading. Prayer cards are available for each of them. You will recognize some of them as our Gifts from the Heart offering recipients over the years. These ministries not only benefit from our gifts, but especially ask for our prayers as they reach out to serve our Lord in these specialized areas. They will have exhibits and displays at the district convention to distribute more information.

LCMS-SWD Office of Mission & Mercy:
<https://swd.lcms.org/mission/index.html>

'What if?' Disaster responders learn lifesaving strategies

By Cheryl Magness

On April 7 and 8, approximately 30 disaster response leaders from around the Synod gathered at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis to study, discuss and learn “How to Stay Alive in a Crisis.” The conference featured presentations by Ronald J. Bibey, CRNA, and Dr. Matt O’Neill, DPT.

Greeting the participants on the first day of the conference, the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS Disaster Response, asked, “What do you do if a catastrophic medical event happens to you or a team member while you are on a disaster site and there is no emergency responder immediately available?” Johnson added that the conditions often associated with disaster situations can make it difficult for responders to reach someone in need in a timely manner.

“Thankfully,” he said, “in 15 years of sending Lutheran Early Response Teams [LERT], we haven’t had a catastrophic incident. But that doesn’t mean it couldn’t happen. This conference is aimed at helping leaders become better prepared so that they can return to their teams and districts and help their volunteers do the same.”



Marty Johnson, a chainsaw trainer with Lutheran Church Charities, practices tourniquet use with other participants during an emergency response training class. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

Making the circle grow

As Johnson began the presentation, he used the illustration of a pyramid with the elements, from bottom to top, of Mindset, Tactics, Skill and Gear. The proper mindset, he said, is the foundation to an effective emergency response, with everything else building on it.

Bibey then went through the “5 Bs of emergency intervention”: Bad Guy, Bleeding, Breathing, Brain and Body. The “5 Bs,” he said, outline the five essential elements of any response to a medical emergency:

- **Bad Guy** — Take stock of the scene and remove (or get away from) any dangerous element that might still be a threat, such as an unstable structure, a harmful item (live wire, noxious gas), or a literal “bad guy” (someone seeking to cause harm);
- **Bleeding** — Look for and stop bleeding, from most severe to least severe;
- **Breathing** — Make sure the victim can breathe and, if not, take steps to provide an airway;
- **Brain** — Maintain breathing and circulation and keep victim calm, warm and awake; and
- **Body** — Provide a head-to-toe exam, looking for additional injuries and preparing the victim for transport.

Bibey emphasized that while these strategies were designed with disaster volunteers in mind (“What do you do if someone gets injured by a chainsaw or run over by a Bobcat?”), they are also useful in daily life. “You never know when someone is going to need help due to an accident or other kind of life-threatening emergency,” he said.

On the second day of training, participants took part in a “capstone” project in which they divided into teams to respond to three disaster scenarios set up by the presenters. The teams were told to take emergency gear such as bandages and tourniquets with them to each emergency “site” because none would be provided. The scenarios included an accidental

laceration from a chainsaw and a fall from the roof of a building resulting in an impalement with a piece of timber.

Bibey described the LCMS group as “one of the best ... we have had the honor to instruct. Each of them brought a particular strength to the class. ... All were eager to learn new skills and performed well above our expectations during the capstone.

“These team members will make a huge difference in the treatment of injuries sustained by fellow volunteers while being deployed in disaster areas. We look forward to our next training seminar for the LCMS Disaster Response team.”

Toward the end of the training, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison stopped by to greet the participants. “Thank you so much for what you’re doing,” he said. He gave a brief history of LCMS Disaster Response, noting that the Synod’s strength is tapping into and increasing local response. “We take a congregational approach in partnership with many other organizations. All of you are making the circle grow and making a huge difference in the lives of countless people. We are honored to have you here.”

Before departing for home, participants discussed ideas for bringing emergency preparedness training to their own districts and offered comments on the training, including:

- “I was pleasantly surprised by this conference. It was not just another roundtable.”
- “I’ve long had the concern ‘what if?’ This training nailed that.”
- “The trainers were excellent and their presentations clear.”
- “This event changed my entire mindset on how to approach these situations.”
- “These are perishable skills. Training events like these are essential for practicing and reviewing.”

David Ricks, president of Lutheran Disaster Care, a Texas-based LCMS Recognized Service Organization, described the instruction he received as “invaluable.”

“First aid is an important part of disaster response,” Ricks said. “We pray that an accident does not occur, but we deal with some potentially dangerous equipment. There also may be volunteers [from other organizations] who may not practice the same level of safety. If a disaster happens, knowledge [such as that shared in the training] can mitigate the degree of injury or even save a life.”

Ricks added that another benefit of the training was connecting with other disaster response leaders “to share knowledge and experience and brainstorm common problems.” He also appreciated the opportunity “to have input on what LCMS Disaster Response is doing.”

All participants in the training who demonstrated mastery of the content received certification in the American College of Surgeons’ “Stop the Bleed” program. Yet this training was only the beginning. The next step, said Ross, “is for each of the key disaster response leaders to go back to their districts and coordinate advanced first aid training events so that their LERT members will have the basic preparation needed to respond to a medical emergency that might happen to them, a stranger, a family member or a LERT member.”

Find out more about LCMS Disaster Response:
<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response>

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

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot

receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

Letter From the Editor

Our Ascended Christ

By Roy S. Askins

When I served as a missionary, I traveled frequently and often missed my children's birthdays. When I did, I brought home a gift for them from my travels. This left my children in a dilemma: They wanted me home for their birthdays, but they also appreciated the unique gifts.

My eldest daughter preferred the gifts. It only took a dress from India for me to find myself in the unique position of being encouraged by her to travel over her birthday. She had decided she benefited more from my absence than my physical presence.

The disciples faced a different dilemma. Jesus said to them, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). The disciples became sorrowful over Jesus' impending departure, and yet, His departure was necessary. The gift of the Holy Spirit, which the disciples did not yet fully understand, would not be given so long as Jesus remained with them.

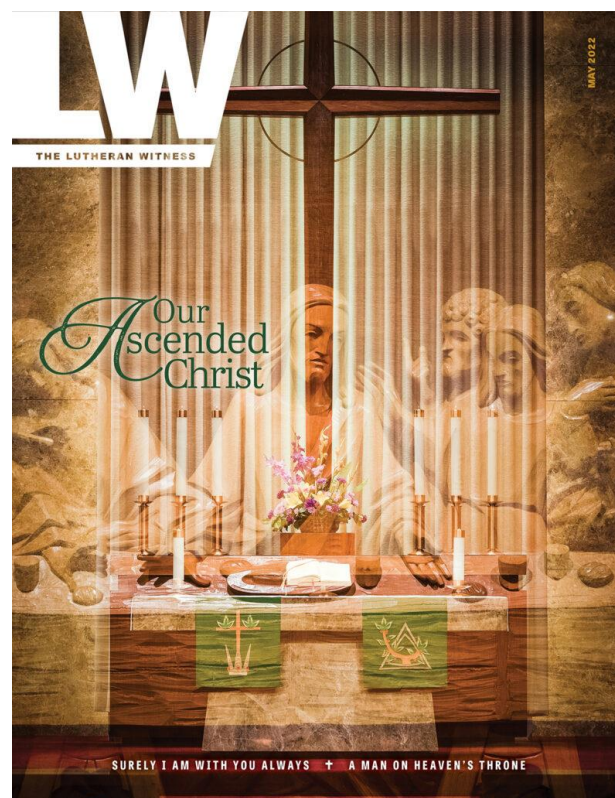
There are many differences between your father traveling for work and Jesus' ascension. One of the major differences is that Jesus' ascension does not mark His absence. He promised the disciples in Matthew 28:20, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." His ascension (Luke 24:50–53 and Acts 1:6–11) does not mark His absence, therefore, but His presence among the disciples and the church in a different way. He would now be present with them through the Means of Grace, that is, the Word and Sacraments.

Christ's ascension marks the transition from His earthly presence to His session at the right hand of God. "Session" refers to Jesus' sitting at the

right hand of the throne of God. Your child might wait for his session in the principal's office, or you might have attended a session at a conference during which you sat and listened to someone speak. In a much greater way, our Lord Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the throne of God, and from this position of power directs all things for the good of His Bride, the church.

The church fittingly celebrates this event with all joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who retains our flesh and blood, sits at the right hand of the throne of God and directs all things for our good. Therefore, not only will you find instruction in this issue on the ascension and what it means for you as Christians, but also how to recover and celebrate this great feast in your own congregation. As many people have often missed this great feast, we also included a sermon so that you might find comfort in Christ's session at the right hand of God.

Together with you in Christ,
Roy S. Askins
Managing Editor, *The Lutheran Witness*



Our Response to His Love

	5-8-22	5-1-22	4-24-22	4-17-22
General Fund	\$2096	\$2175	\$1639	\$4799
Missions		\$25		
Love Offering - Refrigerator			\$1000	
VBS			\$5	
Totals	\$2096	\$2200	\$2644	\$4799

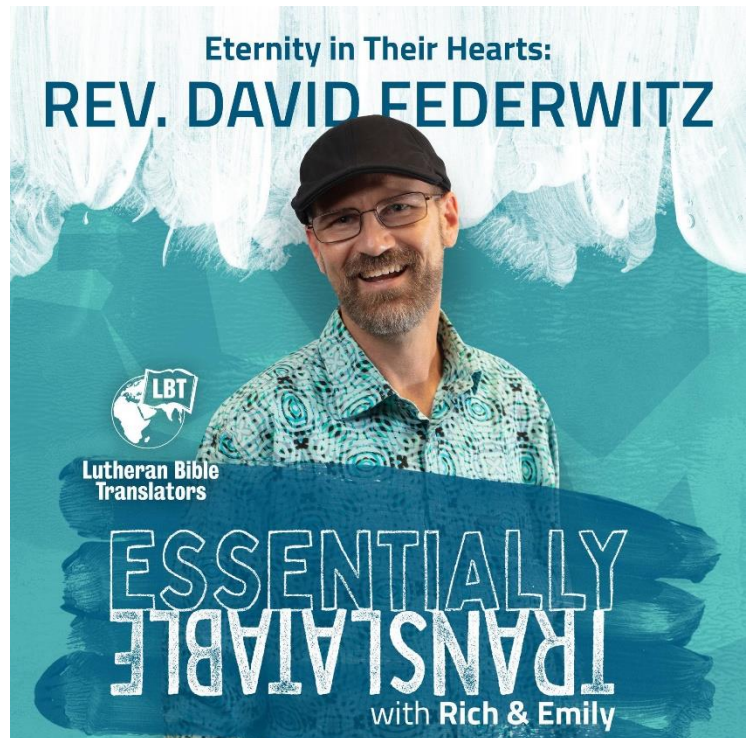
BibleSticks – \$1725

Essentially Translatable Podcast – Episode 56: Eternity in Their Hearts



"But when God's Word is translated into another language, it enhances the whole Christian Church's understanding of God's love in a whole different way – in a whole different meaning."

Be inspired as you listen to Rev. David Federwitz, Regional Director for West Africa. His energy and passion for God's mission are contagious.



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Also available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google, Google Play Music, Audible and iHeartRadio.



**PUT GOD'S WORD
IN THEIR HANDS**
go.LBT.org

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Dan & Cindy Koffarnus			1	2	3 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	4
5 The Day of Pentecost <i>Red</i> 8:30 Divine Service	6	7 7:00p Bible Study	8	9	10 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	11
12 The Holy Trinity <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC)	13	14 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study	15	16 6:30p Council Meeting 7:00p Elders' Meeting	17 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	18 LWML-SWD Convention @ St. Paul, Grafton
LCMS-SWD Convention @ CUW, Mequon						
		Flag Day				
19 2nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
----- Pastor Away – Iowa ----->						
Father's Day	Newsletter articles due	Summer Begins				
26 3rd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC)	27	28	29	30		
<----- Pastor Away – Iowa -----						

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion