

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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July 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

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

"People Need The Lord" is a popular song in contemporary Christian music. I am not a big fan of contemporary Christian music for many theological reasons. Yet, once in a while there are some good songs out there that hit home. This song captures the Christian experience in so many ways. Ways such as people being broken, having broken dreams, and just a feeling of hopelessness that happens in our Christian walk. Jesus has never promised that being a follower of Him would be easy. **John 16:33, we have the words of Jesus Himself, He 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."** Jesus again says in **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.** And in **John 15:18 If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first.**

All of us at different times in our lives have felt broken, weary, and worn down. Most of the time these things happen because of the choices that we make that are influenced by our sinful natures. Bad things also happen because we live in a sinful, fallen world. People do need the Lord, no doubt about it. So, where can we find the Lord? Well, there are several ways in which the Lord is present. One is our daily devotions, and time that we spend in prayer with God. Prayer is so important because that prayer time is private, and we are with our heavenly Father. Another way where the Lord is found is in church, yes in worship. Sadly, today worship numbers and church attendance are down, way down. Arthur Zuckerman writes in CompareCamp.com about church attendance and the decline that the world is experiencing. I will not use all the statistics as it will make this newsletter article long and arduous. But there are a few statistics that stood out to me.

US Church Attendance Statistics

The US religious landscape continues to change at an accelerated pace. On the one hand, the number of devout Christians who belong to the older generations continues to decline. On the other hand, younger Americans tend to prioritize things other than religion. Thus, this trend is expected to persist further.

Demographics Church Attendance Statistics

While Millennials may not be the next "Greatest Generation" they will certainly become one of the largest in history. Experts expect Millennials to surpass Baby Boomers by 2019 with 74 million—and swell to 81 million by 2036. However, declining church membership among Millennials is a huge problem for the church community.

- 80% of the time, women decide whether a family attends church or not
- 27% of Christian women generally determine whether to unplug from their church
- 59% of Millennials who were born with a religious affiliation tend to unplug from their church
- 40% of Christian elders see church attendance as important
- Two of 10 Millennials consider church attendance as important

- 35% of Millennials think that the church does more harm than good
- Women are considered to be more religious than men
- Most Gen Z Americans tend to skip attending church activities regularly. 45% of them say they rarely or never attend church
- Only 24% of White American Gen Z attend church services on a weekly basis
- Since 1991, church attendance among Baby Boomers has declined to 38%
- The number of Baby Boomers without any church affiliation has increased by 41%
- 24% of affiliated churchgoers cite transportation difficulties, health problems, and work conflicts as the most common reasons for not attending church 24%.

These are sobering statistics to say the least. There are many causes for the decline in church attendance. So, what are we the church to do? First off is we pray that the Lord would increase the desire to attend church regularly, and not just when times are bad. Secondly, the church should not change her doctrines and theological positions to suit the changes in our culture. The church needs to stand for something, or she will fall for every whim that comes down the road. Thirdly, the most important means of reaching people who need the Lord, is the congregational laity itself. We love to talk about your favorite sports teams, our children, and grandchildren. We love to talk about ourselves as well. When something wonderful happens to our family, you can find out through various social media outlets such as Facebook.

We should want and desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and His atoning sacrifice with family, friends, co-workers, and all that we come in contact with. There are a lot of people who are looking for answers to the broken aspects of their lives, and we have that answer, whom is Jesus Christ. Reaching those who are broken, who are facing serious challenges in life, and those who are enjoying the good times is so important. So, this coming year, I would encourage each and every one of you to share your faith, to invite people who do not have a church home to our church. Too those who are not attending regularly, reach out to them. Not all will be receptive, but that is not a reason to try. Remember, people need the Lord Jesus Christ, it is our calling, no matter what our station in life to share the Gospel of Jesus with a world that is hurting, people who have and are suffering from broken dreams. I will write more about these trends and about what the church can do.

In His Grip



Pastor Peterson

Potluck at St. Peter

July 24th

Following 8:30 a.m. Divine Service

<i>Our Response to His Love</i>							
	6-19-22	6-12-22	6-5-22	5-29-22	5-22-22	5-15-22	
General Fund	\$745	\$2175	\$2305	\$968	\$1971	\$798	
Missions	\$10						
Aluminum Cans						\$413.60	
Totals	\$755	\$2175	\$2305	\$968	\$1971	\$1211.60	



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

LWML – SWD Convention

“I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being.” Ephesians 3:16-17a NIV

This was the theme verse for the 39th biennial convention of the LWML SWD. The theme was “Strengthened through His Spirit”.

Carolyn Blum, LWML SWD Past President summed up the convention as follows:

“What a privilege to attend the LWML South Wisconsin District convention this past weekend (June 17/18). I was inspired and encouraged and had lots of FUN! Our new mission goal is \$205,000 for the next two years for district and national grants. Praise God and fill those mite boxes! We heard from LWML SWD President Cinda Poppe and LWML President Debbie Larson, collected pantry items for two service organizations, learned more about the upcoming national LWML convention to be held in Milwaukee in 2023 (and modeled the cool blue convention polo shirts); we also celebrated our ‘80s’ (to observe the 80th anniversary of the founding of LWML in 1942), and installed new officers.”

The convention was wonderful! There were 338 excited LWMLers in attendance. We donated 623 pantry items to The Haven of Manitowoc County and 1128 items to Safe Harbor of Sheboygan. It was wonderful to see their vehicles loaded to the ceilings with item donated by our ladies! President Wille of LCMS SWD greeted us and told us about a \$25,000 challenge grant to raise funds for new church plants in SWD! This is definitely exciting news. Check with your delegates, Carol Krepline and Nancy Propson, for more details.

Summer Schedule: WIM will not meet in July or August. We will be having our annual Back to School ingathering during August, so watch the bulletin and the bulletin board for details.

Mission Matters

This month we will tell you which grant applications were selected at the LWML SWD convention to be funded with mites during the next two years. Grants are listed in the order they will be funded.

1. Orphan Grain Train – Wisconsin Branch: \$15,000
2. In School Counseling for Mental Health of Students: \$10,000
3. SWD Church Worker Student Grant: \$30,000
 - a. \$15,000 to be paid for school year 22-23
 - b. \$15,000 to be paid for school year 23-24
4. Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Food and Clothing Co-op: \$10,000
5. Outreach to Female Inmates: \$15,000
6. A Place of Refuge Ministries, house remodel: \$25,000
7. Camp LuWiSoMo Camper Scholarships: \$20,000
8. Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Ministry Outreach: \$14,000
9. St. Martini Lutheran School, Milwaukee, Playground Oasis: \$15,000
10. Care for Clergy Wives, Doxology: \$8,000
11. SOS Center – Designed for Success: \$20,000 – partial funding
12. Hispanic Outreach in Sheboygan County Communication and Ministry Partnership: \$11,000
13. Scholarships for New Students at the Four Schools of the Lutheran High School Association, Milwaukee: \$20,000
14. Feeding Haitian Children Spiritually and Physically: \$15,000 (partial funding?)

Of the \$205,000 goal approved for grant funding, 25% goes to LWML, and 75% (\$157,000) funds the LWML SWD grants. This biennium, we are also blessed to add \$25,000

that was returned from an unused grant in the previous biennium. What wonderful things our mites can provide! Grants are funded as the mites arrive. It's always exciting to watch the Mission Lamp to see when the next grant applicants will receive their request. Please watch the LWML SWD website to assure the accuracy of this list.



Letter From the President



Jesus! (A Sermon on Luke 2:21)

by Matthew C. Harrison

Here's a marvelous excerpt from a sermon by Friedrich Wyneken, second president of the Synod. It's extremely appropriate in these uncertain times of war and turmoil, and also wonderfully illustrates the theme for the LCMS' 175th Anniversary: "Only Jesus."

"And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" (Luke 2:21).

My beloved, we stand once again at the threshold of a new year. It is natural for us to wonder: "What will it bring?" But no man can answer the question. Only God knows the answer. ...

"So we are in the dark about all this" you say, "in darkness and uncertainty, and that bothers me!" Behold, there your God has painted over the entrance and door a beautiful painting with a name over it. Take note of it and ask God that He bring to you that dear picture and place that name into your heart. The painting is the circumcision of Christ. The name is the sweet, precious name *Jesus*. ...

Here, with His first drops of blood, this little child is guarantor against the Law that judges and condemns, and [He is] the righteousness of God. For the one who has faith in this little child and has held to the name of Jesus can head into the new year with joy and confidence. He is called "Jesus" because He shall save His people from their sins. For this little child, after He completed His work of redemption, sat down at the right hand of almighty God. Through His crucified hands He governs the entire world. His hand sends you everything that will come upon you this year, and His name is the guarantee that out of this hand must flow pure blessings to you.

It is true, He has not promised that no want, plague, or trouble shall befall you this year. To the contrary, He has said to you beforehand: "Unless a man take up his cross daily and follow Me, he cannot be My disciple" [Luke 9:23, *Luther Bibel*]. Thus, as at Baptism, He has allowed you to be marked by a cross. This is [the case] so that at all times, you think about this cross and about the fact that you belong to the cruciform kingdom of the Crucified One. As His disciples, we must pass through many troubles to enter the kingdom of heaven. As certain as you are a Christian, so certain will you experience cross and need. Indeed, dear friends, seeing the accumulating sin of this nation and the mounting apostasy from the Gospel and the horrid rage against it, we can make a calculation on two matters: The judgment of God will finally and all the more harshly come to bear upon this land, proportionate to God's blessings upon her and to the duration of His patience; finally, open persecution against the Gospel and those who confess it will break out in the land that hitherto has been its sanctuary.

But "nevertheless," it says for us Christians, "nevertheless Israel has God for its consolation."

That gives us assurance for the present, [and] promises protection by the Gospel. The circumcision of Christ teaches us who have a Savior that every cause of fear and angst and concern is removed. For the Law with its curses and judgments has been removed. Thus, in the misfortune that may affect us, we no longer see any punishment or anger of God, but rather the disciplining hand of a loving Father. ...

It is true—you very well may remain poor or become poor in earthly possessions, but you have what He says: “I will not leave you nor forsake you” [Hebrews 13:5] ... It would be an amazing thing if the One who sent us His own Son as a gift would not give us bread, food, and clothing for this body and life.

It is possible that you will face difficult sufferings and trials. Bread is often prepared with tears! But Jesus is with you! “He is faithful. He does not allow temptation beyond what you can bear, and orders things so that the trials come to an end, so that you can bear up under it” [1 Corinthians 10:13, *Luther Bibel*]. “Can a mother forget her infant child? And though she should forget, *I will never forget you*. Behold, I have written you in the palms of My hands,” [Isaiah 49:15–16, *Luther Bibel*]...

It is possible that God will sift His Church by persecution. But: “Do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do,” Christ says to us in Luke 12:4. “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not” [Matthew 10:29–31]. Are you anxious because you fear that you won’t be steadfast? All the martyrs experienced this very angst. But God wonderfully, beyond expectation and understanding, strengthened and preserved them so they faced death with joy.

In short, come what may, JESUS! Jesus.



Every One His Witness expands online access

by Cheryl Magness



(Getty Images)

Every One His Witness® (*EIHW*), the Synod’s resource for equipping Lutherans to share the Gospel with the people they encounter in their everyday lives, is now available to everyone interested in strengthening their witness of Jesus Christ. Access to the resources on the website was previously limited to people who had completed the core module workshop. Now all of the modules, including the newest module (witnessing to people influenced by critical theory), are available at no cost to anyone who requests an receives an access code.

EIHW was launched in 2017 as a joint project of the LCMS and Concordia Publishing House (CPH). The basic workshop, also known as the core module, introduced the LASSIE approach to witnessing, which is the foundation of the *EIHW* program. (LASSIE stands for Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage.) In the years since the program’s launch, a series of context modules, each one addressing a specific witnessing situation, have also been released.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry, said the change was made to make the *EIHW* resources more widely available. “We know that people have a variety of possible contexts in which they may

have the opportunity to share the Gospel. We hope that by opening up the *EIHW* website and making all the context modules more accessible, we will enable people across the Synod to fully use this resource in the way that best fits their situations.”

Wood added that people who have not completed the core module are still encouraged to do so. “The core module lays an excellent foundation that can be applied to any witnessing situation,” he said. The core module is available as a workshop kit from CPH and in a self-study version on the *EIHW* website.

EIHW is now available at no cost to anyone who is interested. To get a free access code to the video modules, please email support@everyonehiswitness.org.

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

New Testament Standard Giving

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is

within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



July

- 3 Beverly Hackbarth
- 7 Tom Piepenburg
Steve Hemauer
- 10 Preston Schwalenberg
- 12 Clara Lintner
- 14 Ruth Broehm
- 15 Taylor Weyenberg
- 19 Diane Schroeder
Karen Price
- 23 Dravyn Voigt
- 24 Ron Bornemann
- 27 Gloria Krueger
- 30 Emily Hein



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July

- 2nd Nelson & Bonnie Teinert
- 7th Neil & Tina Sowinski
- 9th Dennis & MaryKay Hein
- 17th Wally & Marjy Jentsch
- 27th Dale & Kelley Mueller
- 28th Ed & Debbie Manders

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Donna Marose DeAnn Eldred					1 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	2
3 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	9
10 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC)	11	12	13	14	15 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	16
17 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service	18	19	20	21	22 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	23 9:00 Potluck Meal Set-up St. Luke Campfire Service
24 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) Voters Meeting/Potluck	25 Newsletter articles due	26	27	28	29 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	30
31 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service						

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion