

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

Office: (920) 853-3217

September 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

August 19th, 2022

Greetings fellow redeemed. The article of this newsletter is about worship, what worship is and what it means for us as God's Children. We will be covering, over the next few articles what it means to worship, and why we, in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship the way that we do. Also, I hope and pray that these articles will not only be of benefit to you, but to others who are not familiar with our Divine Service.

To begin, I want to share with you what I experienced as a hospice chaplain, and a pastor in the LCMS in regard to worship. I have, and maybe you have too, heard that our Divine Service is too confusing, too Catholic, or too structured. People also have commented that our Divine Service is not spirit led and should be more contemporary to appeal to those who are seekers (those who are looking for a church that will meet their needs). It is painful, I must say, to hear these criticisms because it is based on ignorance, false conceptions, and to be blunt, not entertaining enough.

So why do we worship the way that we do, and why do we call our worship services a Divine Service. The answer begins with what we do at the beginning of our service. It is called The Invocation. "We begin in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit...Amen". The purpose of the Invocation is two-fold, first off, The Invocation is a reminder of what God does for us as we remember our baptismal grace as children of God. Secondly, it is a call from God to come to His House and worship Him so He can bestow on us His "Means of Grace". Means of Grace is where God delivers the forgiveness of sin through confession and absolution, hearing the Word, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, where a person is received into God's Family, is forgiven of their sins, and united with Jesus in His suffering, death, and resurrection (See Romans 6:1-6). In the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus comes to us, and we receive the true body and the true blood, in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Worship is our response in faith from God calling us into His House. God calls and we respond in faith, to put it simply.

To better understand the meaning of worship, let us look to the Old Testament way of worshipping. God spoke to Moses and Israel through the tabernacle at that time. This was a gathering of people to come together to hear God's Word and to be in the presence of the Lord. God offered them the forgiveness of sins through the various sacrifices that were made. It is important to note that all these sacrifices in the Old Testament for the forgiveness of sins pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, for our own forgiveness of sins. God initiated and the people responded. That is a fundamental aspect of worship in the Old Testament and for us as well.

In the church year we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost, it is at that time the church came into being as the disciples proclaimed who God is and the ministry of Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins. In the New Testament era and at the time of the early church, the people of God gathered together to be comforted with the forgiveness of sins and to receive the Sacraments, hear His word and to be served by God. That is the whole point of our Divine Service, God calls us to serve us, not us to serve Him. Jesus Himself says in **Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."** In the Gospel of Matthew, we have the words of Jesus Himself again where He states:" **Matthew 20:28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

So, Christ has established His church to serve us, to give us comfort. Luther towards the end of his life wrote about what and where to find the church. He came up with 7 signs to indicate where a church is present. These signs are:

1. **The Word** – The Church is marked by a love and engagement of God’s Word in all of its forms – read, discussed, studied, preached, and meditated upon.
2. **Baptized People** – The Church isn’t a building, it’s not a pastor, it’s a group of Baptized people whom God by His Holy Spirit has called and gathered in a particular place.
3. **The Lord’s Supper** – The Church is a living, breathing thing, and as such, it needs nourishment. The nourishment of the Church is found in the bread/Body and wine/Blood of Holy Communion.
4. **The Forgiveness of Sins** – This is the mission of the Church. It is what Jesus tells His disciples He is sending them to do, forgive the sins of people, both assuring them of God’s forgiveness, and when wrong is done to us, assuring them that we will forgive them personally.
5. **Pastors** – The Church isn’t a pastor, but God calls pastors from within the church because God recognizes that leadership is important.
6. **Public Worship and Prayer** – The Church is marked by its gathering to pray and praise. If you had a church that never met to do this stuff, it wouldn’t be much of a church.
7. **The Possession of the Holy Cross/Suffering** – The Church is Christ’s Body on earth. Christ’s Body has nail holes in it. The Church is called to bear the Cross, to suffer in this world. The word “passion” means to suffer for. We as the Church are to suffer for the world because that is what Christ does – and we together are communally Christ.

I look forward to sharing and learning with you what a wonderful place the church is. Next newsletter will focus on the liturgical aspect of the church and why we do what we do.

In His Grip And Loving It.



Pastor Peterson



September

- 3 Nick Koffarnus
- 4 Willy Krepline
- 7 Sarah Nau
- 8 Tamra Koehler
Tina Sowinski
Lisa Schaefer
- 11 Kyle Hackbarth
- 13 Harold Paulson
Brandon Price
- 15 Don Price
- 18 Garrett Lau
Austin Schwalenberg
- 20 Grace Roehrig
- 23 Dan Schroeder
Kevin Riemer
Rowen Goerl
- 26 Dennis Hernke
- 29 Caroline Behnke
Dennis Hein
- 30 Christine Lintner



September

- 5th Tim & DeAnn Eldred
- 16th Dave & Linda Franz
Paul & Kelly Schwalenberg
- 19th Chris & Caroline Hilton
- 22nd Jerid & Taylor Weyenberg
- 25th Willy & Joyce Krepline
- 30th Doug & Cheri Koffarnus
Justin & Christine Lintner



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

New Season

In September we will resume our monthly Bible study meetings. At this time, we also make plans for various events during the church year. These events include activities at our church such as brunches or coffee hours as well as our plans for Gifts from the Heart such as our gatherings for area veterans, the Free at Last ministry, or our local food pantry. Join us with your ideas as we make plans for 2023. Our meeting is scheduled for September 13th at 1:00.

LWML SWD Fall Retreat

Empowered by God's Grace! This is the theme of the retreat being held in Fond du Lac on September 23-24. We have room for one more in our reserved hotel room, and late registrants are welcome. Join us to study under the theme "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me," Philippians 4:13. In addition to Bible study and our keynote speaker, we will also learn from the mission exhibits, supply items for the Fond du Lac area food pantry, hear from area grant recipients and participate in various craft items for mission programs. See the LWML-SWD website for additional details about retreat events. If you wish to be the fourth person in our room for Friday night, talk to Judy.

Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day is a great day to celebrate! Having a grandparent is indeed a blessing, but being a grandparent is even more wonderful. This year we have decided to have a little coffee, juice and maybe a cookie or two to celebrate. We will do this right after the worship service on 9/12. If you have grandparents and want to share a cookie in their honor, or if you ARE a grandparent and would like to be celebrated, come and join us for a few minutes.

If you no longer have grandparents and don't have grandchildren, come and celebrate the rest of us. Here's to grandparents!!

Back to School Supplies

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Back to School supplies as Gifts from the Heart. Each year, these supplies are available to youngsters in the Hilbert School District who don't have access to the amount or types of items that they need for the year. We are so pleased that other groups in the community are also participating in this gathering. Our children are blessed by the efforts of everyone involved.

MISSION MATTERS



The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is a dedicated group of supporters and volunteers who are active in ministry domestically and around the world. These are people of all ages and walks of life. The ministry of the organization is currently expressed through a wide range of Christ-centered outreach efforts under the name of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). Originally called the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) upon its formation in 1917, the organization was renamed the International Lutheran Laymen's League in 1972 to reflect its growing impact globally. Today, the Int'l LLL's business and financial affairs are overseen by a Board of Directors consisting of a chair, vice chair and 12 directors.

LHM is most widely known for its radio programming, international ministries and television programming. Many of us have listened to The Lutheran Hour or Woman to Woman. We've also watched This Is the Life, On Main Street, documentaries such as Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt or the many wonderful holiday specials.

During all the years of the League's history, tens of thousands of people have provided prayers, volunteer work and financial support which, under the blessings of God, have accomplished great things for the Kingdom. League membership now numbers just under 100,000 individuals and also includes hundreds of local congregational groups including both men and women.

Today, through ministry programs such as **The Lutheran Hour, International Ministries, Men's NetWork, LHM Learn,** and others, Lutheran Hour Ministries is calling our communities, our country and our world back to God. Lutheran Hour Ministries is ready to meet the challenges of a post-Christian culture by bringing a message of rescue, restoration and renewal in Jesus Christ to millions of people who desperately need to hear it.

Lutheran Hour Ministries looks forward to a bright future as remarkable media breakthroughs open new doors to sharing the Gospel with more people around the world who long for answers, love, and meaning in their lives. LHM will be ready to respond in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.*



From the Summer 2022 edition of *Federwitz Update* by Alvina Federwitz

Living Water

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of Luther's translation of Scripture into German, LBT has put the Bible to music. Hearing God's Word set to music touches the depth of my soul. You can listen to it at <https://lbt.org/LIVINGWATER/>

LIVING WATER

EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD THROUGH MUSIC

Feel the drama and emotion of the Scripture proclaimed in every verse.

ENGAGING WITH GOD'S WORD SHOULD NEVER BE A BURDEN.

Life on the go creates barriers to the deeper relationship you desire to have with God, leaving you weighed down and depleted.

When you have time to focus on God's Word, you want the experience to be meaningful and engaging.

The Living Water Project brings together world-class artists with one aim: produce an immersive and accessible experience of Scripture through music that refreshes you and uplifts your spirit.





Kid Graduates High School; Spiritual/Existential Crisis Ensues

By Rebekah Curtis

The bad news

Teenagers today deal with problems the oldsters never had to think about. There are three major game changers: social media, COVID-19 and their lousy interactions with each other. But a prophet of our own time once said, “*Knowing is half the battle.*” So, let’s take a look.

The internet is a temptation the ancients didn’t have. They never had the comfort of pretending to be absorbed in serious phone business to avoid social interaction. Neither did the opinion of faceless and unknown thousands drive them to despair. They never considered false pretend interactions more valuable than face-to-face conversations.

COVID, too, is new. Although this year’s freshmen enter college under loosened restrictions, they are also childhood survivors of the COVID experience. They have lived through long months of mandated masking, screen-staring and isolation. They come from households whose views may vary widely regarding the masking, vaccine and other COVID protocols.

The pandemic drove many to the internet, to screens and thus to lousy social interactions. We all needed something, and the internet was allowed and available for most. Instagram was better than nothing. Gaming became socializing. Stopgaps became solutions. We doubled down on social media as our access to human contact.

The good news

Colleges need students to have good experiences. A good real-life experience is *always better* than a good internet experience. Universities know this and work to provide this, or at least recruit on the promise of a positive experience.

Parents, grandparents and other interested parties want more for their college student than merely a good time. Here’s how you can help: Talk to your high school grad about social media and social interaction. Help her think about and make a plan to regulate screen use. Talk him toward the idea that time online is not as good as time spent sweating and laughing with other live humans — who are idiots, jerks, crazy, mostly wrong and the best people you’ll ever know.

Additionally, as youth grow up, they should prioritize the mastery of subjects and skills over the mastery of devices and screens. This will usually correspond with grades and evaluations that are considered “good.” Mention this, if needed, at some point.

An action item

The trials and temptations that confront our youth look different, due to technology and format, than they did in the past, but they have not changed fundamentally. The wisdom and perspective of age is as valuable as ever. The Ten Commandments still guide the Christian life.

When old people hear about “a chaste and decent life,” they can feel particularly ill equipped to help. Anyone who didn’t grow up with internet porn may think they are limited in their ability to understand and equip the young people they love to deal with this temptation. Someone raised in the house of God is oriented to recognize every ancient sin in any new packaging. They understand it because the Law has been taught to them *and* written on their hearts. Explicit clarity on pornography is surely needed, but we should more importantly teach young Christians the truth of the Word of God.

The Spirit draws each catechized believer to church to avail himself of the Means of Grace. A Christian, however young, naturally prays that God would not let her heart incline to any evil thing, nor yet be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

Trust in the Holy Spirit's regenerating work does not permit lazy abandonment of the believer's participation in sanctification, or the willful ignorance of sin's strength. The temptations young people face [are frighteningly real](#). They should be recognized as such. They are *temptations*, not morally benign weaknesses, accidents of personality or problems of history. There is a reason that "trials and temptations" get clumped together by poets. Every trial is an opportunity for temptation. And leaving home is a trial. It's scary to attempt and scary to watch.

What else can we do but pray? It is the first and last resort. **Prayer is** — for the Christian parent, grandparent and godparent; for the Christian sibling and the Christian friend; for the Christian — **an action item**. Give your time to this task. Pray for the young person you love who is entering adult life. Pray that the Lord would bear him up. Pray that the Holy Spirit would breathe energy and power into her pious resolutions. Pray that all would be well with this son of the church, this daughter of Christ.

Post Script: A stranger once advised me to "put feet under my prayers." If you want to help a young person who will soon be leaving home, the best practical step you can take is to ensure that he or she has zero impediments [to attending the Divine Service](#) every Sunday. Have a transportation plan and connect with members of a faithful congregation before you leave your hatchling at the new dorm or apartment. The Christian people who habitually attend that Divine Service will want to love the person you love. There are a lot of people putting feet of sympathy, hospitality and help under the prayers we all offer each Lord's Day. [How beautiful](#).

Other Post Script: Isn't the real problem with kids leaving home that they come back woke? Maybe, but wokeness isn't new. It is a virulent strain of classic anti-Christianity boosted by a

friendly philosophical milieu, social environment and technology. Dutiful parents, pastors and congregations are responding with catechesis and exhortation that directly address woke temptations. This is one of the necessary steps toward helping young Christians remain healthy. Another step grows out of recognizing that the main driver of wokeness for most young people is not half-criinge professors and campus lectures they won't attend. It is social media influencers and super nice co-workers and friends wearing rainbow gear. In both cases, choices regarding one's neighborhood are crucial. Some schools and employers are composed of more morally hostile neighbors than others. Malevolent neighbors online are easy to avoid if one has the stamina to mute or block them, to say nothing of staying away from unsanitary subdivisions of social media or putting down one's phone more often.

LWML Sunday 2022



For Us
and With Us

Romans 8:31-39

"For Us and With Us," is the theme for LWML Sunday 2022 and is based on Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul tells us that each of us has faced challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength (Romans 8:31-39). But, in Christ, who is for us and with us, we are already more than conquerors through Him who loved us. This celebratory LWML Sunday will encourage all hearers of the victory which is already ours through Baptism, so we might live each day confidently trusting in Christ.

What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into the God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship

Our Response to His Love

8-07-22

7-31-22

7-24-22

7-17-22

Offerings

\$1869

\$1067

\$670

\$2222

Attendance

30

49

56

56

**St. Peter Lutheran Church Quarterly Voter's Meeting
July 31, 2022**

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

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Peterson.

Secretary Report – stand approved as distributed.

Correspondence – Resignation letter from Ken Plate was read. Motion was made to accept Walley Jentsch as Chairman and Tom Piepenburg as Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report –

- Shut ins are being visited monthly.
- Ellie Mueller was confirmed
- Funeral/Interment was held for Francis Raddatz
- Confirmation classes to begin September 7th. No one from St. Peter expected this year.
- Bible Studies will begin September 13th.
- Had a very successful and well attended VBS.

Treasurer's Report –

- Staying within budget
- Received a large amount of money from Francis Raddatz's life insurance. Need to discuss use of money with his children.
- Investment options were looked into. Will be monitoring interest rates and options.
- Report will be filed for audit.

Board of Elders –

- Release granted to Amanda Bunnell and her children: Adam and Matthew.
- Organ parts are in. Need to schedule repair work.

Trustees Report –

- Replacement curtains are in process.
- Getting quotes for new sign at the cemetery.

Joint Committee –

- Meeting coming up August 24th.
- Looking for disability policy for pastor.

Old Business –

- Three members are needed to review our constitution. At a recent meeting Dan Koffarnus, Ken Plate and Caroline Behnke volunteered.

New Business – none

Next meeting will be October 23rd.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Cheryl Koffarnus, Acting Secretary

September 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|-----------|
| Altar Guild: Dan & Cindy Koffarnus | | | | 1 | 2 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i> | 3 |
| 4 13th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service | 5 Labor Day | 6 | 7 <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i> | 8 | 9 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i> | 10 |
| 11 14th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) Coffee Grandparents Day | 12 | 13 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study | 14 <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i> | 15 6:30p Elders Meeting 7:00p Council Meeting | 16 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i> | 17 |
| 18 15th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School | 19 Newsletter Articles Due | 20 | 21 <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i> | 22 | 23 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">LWML Fall Retreat</div> | 24 |
| 25 16th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School | 26 | 27 | 28 <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i> | 29 | 30 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i> | |

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion