

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

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October 2022

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

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

Last month I wrote about worship and declining church attendance. I wrote how people like to have their feelings and emotions take precedent over sound church doctrine and teaching. The emphasis on emotions and how we feel are very powerful. Yet, as I previously stated they should never take the place of what God's Word says. In the matter of worship, we in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod have a rich and robust way of worshipping God. God calls us to worship, and we respond.

In our divine service, as laid out in our hymnals, we begin with an opening hymn. Hymns in our Lutheran Service Book, The Lutheran Hymnal, The Hymnal Supplement and Lutheran Worship have so much to offer in theological teachings. All of our hymns share with us what God is doing for us, and teaching us who God the Father is, God the Son is, and God the Holy Spirit is. In our confirmation classes for this year the students are learning hymns and will be memorizing them. In our classes we talk about the hymns, what they mean and relate them to what God teaches in the bible, what Luther teaches us in the Small and Large Catechisms. I get asked "But Pastor, what is the purpose of learning these hymns?" I respond with what these hymns teach us about our faith, and I also use examples from my visits with shut-ins and hospice patients as examples of the value of memorizing hymns.

The examples of patients with dementia related illnesses is a very good illustration of what I am talking about. In my time as a hospice chaplain, I would deal with patients that have Alzheimer's, Lewy Body Dementia, and other dementia related diseases. As we all know dementia effects the brain, specifically short-term memory loss. Eventually it envelopes the total brain and leads to death. Yet, in my hospice visits and in continuing education classes that I was required to take, music had a tremendous and positive impact on patients and my own patients. I can remember visiting one individual who was suffering from Alzheimer's who was not really aware of what was going on around him. He could somewhat remember family members, and events, but for the most part he was lost in that dreaded fog. Yet, he could recite the Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and basic bible verses. He also loved music and the traditional hymns. So, in my visits I would encourage him to say the creed, to say the Lord's Prayer and I would play the traditional hymns of the church. He was able to sing them, and he was able to remember what God has done for him. That example is why it is so important to memorize hymns, the creeds, and the Lord's Prayer, and to use the liturgy in our services.

Our liturgy is a beautiful gift that God has given to us because it focuses on the Triune God. When we come to God's House at His invitation on Sundays and other days of the week, we are entering a holy place. Please note that while some of these liturgical devices vary from service to service, they are very similar and show the power of God.

Opening Hymn.

Note: The hymns are considered "propers," that is, they change each Sunday to fit with the readings, the season of the Church year, and the themes of the service.

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Note: In the invocation we call on the Triune God. How can we dare to do this? Because this is the name in which we were baptized! Since His name is here, He Himself is here, too. This reality shapes the entire

service. Everything that takes place happens with Him present and by His authority. All the congregation responds with “Amen,” which means “so be it!” See Mathew 28:19 and 18:20.

The Confessions of Sins

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with sincere hearts to confess our sins to God, our Father, and to plead in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for His forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and You forgave the guilt of my sin. All-Powerful God, merciful Father, I, a poor, pitiful sinner, confess to You all my sins and unrighteousness. By them I have continually offended You and fairly deserved Your punishment, both now and eternally. But from my heart I am sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You, in Your limitless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Note: When we confess our sins, we agree with what God says about us in His Word: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). In the presence of the Lord, our sins are obvious, and He wants to remove them from us. See Psalms 124:8 and 32:5.

The Holy Absolution

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Note: Jesus Himself is here and speaking through the pastor’s mouth. Here we are brought back to our baptism. Our sinful nature, having been crucified again with Christ, is clothed in His righteousness. We are declared innocent! See John 20:19–23.

The Introit

Note: The introit is another “proper,” which comes from the psalms or occasionally from another Scripture passage or liturgical text. With the introit, we respond to the absolution by entering (*introit means “entrance”*) the altar of God. Having been cleansed and declared holy, we are welcome in His presence. See Psalms 95:2 and 100:2.

The next edition we will continue to cover the various parts of our Divine Service. I hope that this article is helpful to you and that our worship time together is blessed and comforting. We can and should always be thankful that God has given us the means and the gifts to worship Him in all things. It is also important, very important that you should attend church whenever you can. We, at St. Peter and St. Luke, are broken people, people that are hurting, sinners who need to hear the good news about what God has done for us in Christ. This and to have fellowship with each other is a great reason to come to church. Amen.

In His Grip

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Mark Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pastor Mark Peterson



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

A New Season:

A new season of Bible study, planning and Gifts from the Heart has started. When we meet and plan, we join with our LCMS sisters from all over the South Wisconsin District as well as around the United States. We read our Quarterlies, use the Bible studies, gather and submit our mites, plan our Gifts from the Heart, and discover ways we can join others to worship Jesus and serve His people. When you put your donation in your mite box or the larger mite box in the Narthex or read the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, you are joining like-minded women across the district and country supporting the mission of telling others about Jesus Christ.

Gifts from the Heart:

As you may have noticed, we have started our next gathering of Gifts from the Heart. Our current focus is on warm clothing for the Free at Last ministry in Milwaukee. In past years we have held this ingathering in December, but we noticed that by time we were able to deliver our items and have them distributed we had already experienced a lot of cold weather. Mission of Christ church coordinates the co-op and holds a distribution day in the third week of the month. This year we decided to get our warm clothing to them early so that it could be ready for their November and December co-op days. In addition to any winter clothing you can no longer use, they especially appreciate new winter socks. Many of the folks using the co-op have been in prison and do not have a supply of clothing items to wear. Our gifts, and the gifts of many others, help them stay warm while looking for housing and jobs and being able to start their own winter wardrobe. Please see the bulletin board for additional ideas.

Quarterlies:

One of the ways our WIM spend our offerings is to purchase the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly for each woman of the congregation, or at least for each household with a woman. We hope that you find this information interesting and encouraging as you read about the grants being supported by our national mite offerings. There are also Bible studies (which we use at our meetings) and special interest stories featuring many of our LCMS ladies. We hope that you enjoy reading the Quarterly, as we enjoy providing it for you.

Fall Retreat:

When you receive this newsletter the retreat will be over! Ask Carol Krepline, Nancy Propson or Judy Paulson about the speakers, activities and exhibits. We will be taking along OTC items for the co-op at the Fort Wayne Seminary and our Gifts from the Heart will go to the Fond du Lac area food pantry.

MISSION MATTERS



This month we ask you to keep the people of Puerto Rico in your prayers. One of the missionaries we have befriended is Ashley Lehr from Appleton who is stationed in Puerto Rico. You may remember that she spoke to us and members from surrounding churches on her last trip home. Her message to us right after the hurricane was that they are ok and are able to provide assistance to the congregation and community because they have solar power. Ashley has a Face Book page, and more details of their current situation are available. You may also follow Ashley on a regular basis and learn about the ways they interact with the people in their community with the Good News of Jesus. Perhaps we will be able to have her give us an update the next time she comes home.

Relief efforts begin after Hurricane Fiona

By Sarah Reinsel



The area around Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church) in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, reflects damage from Hurricane Fiona. (LCMS/Ruth Maita)

Hurricane Fiona — now a Category 4 storm — made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sunday, Sept. 18, devastating the island with flooding, landslides and widespread power outages.

In preparation for the hurricane, “we called our church members and visitors to gather for our Sunday service on Saturday morning,” said Ruth Maita, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) missionary to the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. Maita, who serves in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, said, “We were strengthened by God’s Word and Holy Supper.”

Early reports from LAC missionaries Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf in Ponce, Puerto Rico, confirm the impact of this storm on communities struggling to recover from previous storms.

“Our mercy centers, which are perfectly located in both Mayagüez and Ponce, were able to respond immediately because we equipped them for the long term,” said the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of

LCMS Disaster Response. “And we were able to do that thanks to the generosity of the people of the LCMS.”

These mercy, or “CARD” centers (Casa de Amparo y Respuesta a Desastre, or House of Refuge and Disaster Response), were founded by LCMS Disaster Response in 2017 after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico.

“The two centers are doing exactly what we envisioned — being that first line of response ... until additional assessment can be made,” said Christian Boehlke, interim executive director of the LCMS Office of International Mission. “The LCMS is providing immediate disaster care and spiritual care to the people of Puerto Rico.”

“We are serving people in the communities as an extension of Christ’s mercy,” said the Rev. Ted Krey, LAC regional director. Krey noted that the mercy centers in Ponce and Mayagüez are “up and running” with solar power and back-up generators. Missionaries and local pastors are distributing hot meals and offering a place to rest while waiting for power to be restored on the island.

Christel Neuendorf said that shortly after the storm, the mission team and members of Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) Lutheran Church, Ponce, gathered at the mercy center in Ponce for lunch, cleanup and even an impromptu birthday party for a friend of the church.

“It’s the small things for us as a mission team, like with opening the CARD house in Ponce and reaching out to our community — that’s what we are as the church. We’re not first responders, we’re not firemen, we’re not medical personnel, but we are the church, and this is what the church does,” Neuendorf said.

Maita also reported that cleanup and repairs are underway at the Mayagüez mercy center. The center plans to deliver hot meals to hard-hit neighborhoods soon.

“Our church members and visitors are all well. They did not suffer any damages to their homes, but

the toil of living without water and electricity is draining,” said Maita.

Still recovering from Hurricane Maria, the island of Puerto Rico faces more challenges than ever in the wake of Hurricane Fiona. Johnson listed many problems resulting from these hurricanes, including extensive property damage, unsafe living conditions, lack of medical resources and overall poverty.

“Many organizations focus on helping in the days after a disaster. LCMS Disaster Response will be focused on helping the hurting over the coming months, as disaster victims slowly rebuild their lives,” said Johnson.

“The people of Puerto Rico need our prayers and support,” said the Rev. Kevin D. Robson, LCMS chief mission officer. “We continue to pray for all those who have been affected by recent natural disasters, that God would provide for them and that they would be drawn to our only hope in Christ.”

Contribute to the ongoing, Christ-centered mercy and outreach work in Puerto Rico and other parts of Latin America.

To discuss other support options, please contact LCMS Mission Advancement (mission.advancement@lcms.org or 888-930-4438) or visit lcms.org/givenow.

Sarah Reinsel (sarah.reinsel@lcms.org) is a staff writer and editor for LCMS Communications.



LWML Celebration Sunday – October 9, 2022

Lutheran Women in Mission praise the Lord for opportunities to share His message and love with people from all walks of life throughout our community and the world. The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) invites you to join us in celebrating the joy of serving the Lord with gladness in this congregation. Together, we will offer our praise using the theme, “For Us and With Us,” based on Romans 8:31-39,

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Each of us has faced challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength, 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 Word — Christ’s victory — already ours through baptism. We can confidently live each day, trusting in Christ.

We invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of the LWML by asking an LWML member or going to the LWML website, www.lwm.org. Thank you for supporting the LWML through your mite offerings and prayers.

L U T H E R A N S engage

Loving and Serving Local Families

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream, Ill., serves families in the community through its monthly Breakfast with Baby event.

Photography and story by Erik M. Lunsford

Before the dew had evaporated on a Saturday morning in May, mothers and their young children were already arriving at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream, Ill., outside of Chicago.

Families gathered for the monthly Breakfast with Baby event, an outreach ministry that the church started in October 2019. Despite the pandemic, over 70 families continue to attend.



Families arrive at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream, Ill., for the Breakfast with Baby event in May. A family tries on free clothing.

“We want the whole community to know that Christ has invited them into our home and His home. They are a part of our family and we’re here to take care of them as best we can and not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in physical needs,” said the Rev. Tom Sanders, vacancy pastor at Our Savior.

Inside the church’s gymnasium, tables and racks displayed available children’s clothing, while an area of strollers and toys under a large cross

attracted children to one end of the room. Guests waited at the door to register near a sign that read: “God loves you! And so do we!”

Lauren Thomas, a wheelchair-bound mother of two with one more on the way, let daughter Viola ride on her lap with a bag of clothing while son Gideon walked behind, carrying another bag of items. Thomas, who has visited several times, said she’s thankful for the help from the church.

“Breakfast with Baby is a service we’re providing for people who are in need,” said Dawn Janke, one of the coordinators of the event. “We don’t question what that need is. We just know that if they’re coming, they are in need of something.”

Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS Life Ministry, was visiting Our Savior that day to learn more about the ministry. She quickly donned an apron and helped at the clothing racks, where she struck up a conversation with a mother who said she was warned that her unborn son would face extreme health and physical challenges, including the possibility of missing limbs. But the mother chose life over abortion, and as the son overcomes developmental delays, she said his life brings her great joy.

Our Savior was recently awarded a grant by LCMS Life Ministry through the Synod’s 1 John 3 Initiative Million Dollar Life Match, which is providing \$1 million in matching grants to LCMS congregations involved in pro-life efforts.

“It was a blessing to join in the efforts alongside congregation members and community volunteers,” said Manor. “We provided much-needed infant clothing, food, diapers and equipment. Most importantly, we prayed and shared the love of Christ with the families who came to Breakfast with Baby. ... I hope that other LCMS congregations consider opening their church buildings to hold Breakfast with Baby events to serve their neighbors and share with them the mercy that God has poured out on us through the death and resurrection of His Son.”

Near the exit, volunteers handed out bagged meals and fulfilled requests for diapers. Here, guests also could leave a prayer request in a box, which was filled by the end of the event.

Ginny Milas, a volunteer at the event and an ardent pro-life supporter, said the outreach is “fulfilling what our whole ministry is about: to help and support women to save the unborn.”

1 John 3 Initiative Million Dollar Life Match

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Carol Stream, Ill., was one of 37 LCMS congregations to receive a grant to help provide beginning-of-life care to the community through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s 1 John 3 Initiative Million Dollar Life Match. The program offers a total of \$1 million in matching grants, which will be awarded during three phases. Applications for the third phase will be accepted Nov. 1, 2022, through Jan. 22, 2023, and all LCMS congregations are encouraged to apply. [Learn more about the program and the application process.](#)

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

“We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn’t it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we’re uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven’t gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don’t like being in someone’s debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we’re not just anyone’s beggars. We’re God’s beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here’s the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn’t because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ’s death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn’t because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn’t pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ’s sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God’s grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October

- 1st Jonathon & Crysta Ladwig
- 10th Wes & Amanda Pompa
- 17th Dennis & Grace Roehrig
- 18th Richard & Jennifer Vander Sande
- 22nd Benjamin & Jody Behnke
- 25th David & Debbie Brantmeier
- 26th Harold & Judy Paulson
Dan & Linda Schroeder
- 30th Dan & Connie Diener
- 31st Dan & Cindy Koffarnus



October

- 6 Brynn DuPrey
- 8 Terry Hackbarth
Dennis DuPrey
- 10 Adam Hernke
Corey Manders
- 11 George Schroeder
- 12 Christine Hillegas
Oliver Ott
- 13 Silas Ott
- 14 Eva Kamps
Minda Hernke
Brecken Roehrig
- 18 Brad Diener
Nelson Teinert, Jr.
- 20 Emily Gustafson
- 21 Joshua Schaffer
- 24 David Zuelke
- 25 Jeff Voigt
Dan Koffarnus
- 27 Cheri Koffarnus
- 29 Joshua Hein
Justin Hein
- 30 Connie Tennessen
Jerilyn Fochs
- 31 Debbie Brantmeier

Our Response to His Love

	9-11-22	9-04-22	8-28-22	8-21-22	8-14-22
General Fund	\$1774	\$2095	\$1141	\$2730	\$2053
Missions		\$65		\$15	
Totals	\$1774	\$2160	\$1141	\$2745	\$2053

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri Koffarnus Bonnie Ott Bonnie Teinert						1
2 17th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service	3	4 7:00p Bible Study	5 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	6	7 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	8
9 LWML Sunday <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	10 Columbus Day	11 1:00p WIM Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	12 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	13	14 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	15
16 19th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	17 <div>LCMS-SWD Fall Pastors' Conference @ Middleton, WI</div>	18	19 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	20	21 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	22
23 20th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Voters Meeting Sunday School	24	25	26 4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke	27	28 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	29
30 21st Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	31 Reformation Day	7:00p Bible Study				

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion