

# ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

Office: (920) 853-3217

September 2023

## From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Grace, mercy, and God's peace to you from our risen, victorious, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. One of the websites that I often visit for sermon ideas, theological discussions, and theological education is 1517.org. I recently read this article and wanted to share it with you because it is very relevant for pastors and for the people that we are called to serve. The following is an article by Pastor Donavon Riley, courtesy of 1517.org. I would encourage you to follow this website for continuing education and a deeper understanding of our Christian faith.

### **More Than Conquerors: Pastoral Care in Physical & Spiritual Temptations**

It is of the utmost importance that pastors teach their congregation that through faith in Jesus Christ, they are fortified against the machinations of the adversary. As we go about serving others in the vocations God has laid upon us, the battle lines between the physical and the spiritual converge. In our vocations, temptations unfold as fierce engagements and physical and spiritual ambushes, relentlessly threatening our souls and bodies. Into this battle space, God sends a pastor, as a warrior-shepherd, to stand as a beacon of hope amidst the temptations that attack us, wielding the gospel of Jesus Christ and wearing the armor of faith.

Just as the Israelites faced the seductive glimmer of the golden calf, our modern lives are strewn with gilded idols, tempting us with the kinds of immediate gratification we crave.

Physical desires, appearing like a mirage in the desert, can lure us in and ensnare our spirit, dragging us away from the grace of God. These vices, as helpful and useful as they may appear to us in the moment, are nothing less than weapons employed by sin, death, and the devil to entrap our souls. It is this spiritual war that pastors are conscripted by God to enter into. They are sent to sound the alarm, to alert their congregations about the assaults that are ongoing, and to train up their flocks to wield the sword of the Spirit – the Word of God – and to don the armor of righteousness. This is the primary calling of all pastors because, as God's Word and experience teach us, physical temptations can erode the spirit's foundation, yet through the gospel's redemptive power, God works through his preachers to mend those broken fortifications, transforming them into bastions of faith.

But it's not only the spirit that's under siege. Just as Job faced an onslaught of afflictions upon his body, we are called to endure the consequences of spiritual temptation wreaking havoc on our flesh. Therefore, when a pastor cares for his flock, he must take seriously the connection between the soul's trials and the body's tribulations, ministering to both with the healing balm of Christ's death for sin and his resurrection for their justification.

For example, the apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians, urging them to wear the full armor of God, cautioning them about the schemes of the devil, which afflict both body and spirit. This counsel is as relevant today as it was then. It is of the utmost importance that pastors teach their congregation that through faith in Jesus Christ, they are fortified against the machinations of the adversary. Just as David slew Goliath, the gospel of Jesus Christ is the stone that fells the giants of temptation, both physical and spiritual.

A pastor is thus sent by God to be a warrior-shepherd who guides his flock through these battles, reminding them also of Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with

the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Through the Word, the sacraments, and pastoral fellowship, a pastor isn't only a shepherd to his flock; he is a captain leading his troops into spiritual warfare. He proclaims the gospel, wielding it as a sword that cleaves through the ranks of temptation and sin. He administers the sacraments as shields that deflect the flaming arrows of sin. And, as Christ washed the feet of his disciples, pastors provide the pastoral care and godly encouragement that bind the wounds of those who stumble.

In our daily lives, as we go about serving others in the vocations God has laid upon us, the physical and spiritual assaults of sin, death, and the devil are ceaseless. But God sends us pastors to stand as spiritual warriors and shepherds, as standard-bearers for Christ's defense and protection of us amidst these attacks. Guided by the Word, armed with faith, and fortified with Christian fellowship, God's preachers minister to their congregations through the dual challenges of physical and spiritual temptation. In this way, just as Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land, a pastor, strengthened by God's Spirit, guides his flock toward the promised salvation of the resurrection to eternal life, proclaiming to them that, in Christ, the war is over.

In Christ, through faith, we have already overcome the assaults of sin, death, and the devil. In Jesus' death and resurrection, sin, death, and hell are defeated. So now, in Christ, as the apostle writes, "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

*Donavon Riley*

*Donavon Riley is a Lutheran pastor, conference speaker, author, and contributing writer for 1517. He is also a co-host of Banned Books and Warrior Priest podcasts. He is the author of the book, "Crucifying Religion" and "The Withertongue Emails." He is also a contributing author to "The Sinner/Saint Devotional: 60 Days in the Psalms" and "Theology of the Cross".*

*Courtesy of 1517.org.*

In His Grip



Pastor Peterson



- 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
- 27 Charlie Weyenberg
- 29 Caroline Behnke  
Dennis Hein
- 30 Christine Lintner

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 5<sup>th</sup> Tim & DeAnn Eldred
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dave & Linda Franz  
Paul & Kelly Schwalenberg
- 19<sup>th</sup> Chris & Caroline Hilton
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jerid & Taylor Weyenberg
- 24<sup>th</sup> Kurt & Jennifer (Urban) Kamps
- 25<sup>th</sup> Willy & Joyce Krepline
- 30<sup>th</sup> Doug & Cheri Koffarnus  
Justin & Christine Lintner



## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

### **Bible study and meeting:**

Women in Mission will be meeting on Tuesday, September 12, at 1:00. All women of the congregation are members of LWML and are invited to join us for Bible study and event planning.

### **Thanks for Back-to-School items:**

It was certainly a pleasure to see our ingathering bin in the narthex full to overflowing with items for the children in our school district. We're blessed to be able to provide for those youngsters who are not able to obtain the many items they need to participate fully in their classroom activities. We are also thankful to the DuPrey family for their continued service of delivering our items to the school office. All supplies are placed in a central location where teachers can then obtain the specific items needed by children in each classroom.

### **Next opportunity for Gifts from the Heart:**

In September we will start gathering supplies for the Free at Last ministry in Milwaukee. This is a program designed to be a follow-up for those former inmates discharged from the Milwaukee House of Corrections. Services available are a food pantry, a clothing distribution center, Bible studies, classes on reintegrating into society, locating housing, assistance with community resources, and the opportunity to have fellowship and support from the Free at Last staff and other former inmates.

It has been our custom to gather warm clothing items for winter to be available for those in need. Many of the participants in this ministry have no family to rely on for help as they seek to navigate the city in our northern winters. In years past, we have gathered these items in December to deliver after Christmas.

We have since realized that we've been experiencing some very cold weather prior to our deliveries, and we have now decided to gather these items in the Fall to deliver before Christmas. Items needed are warm clothing of any size with a special emphasis on gloves and socks. Most of the recipients are men, but women's apparel can also be used by the needy members of the neighborhood. Watch the bulletin board for detailed information.

### **Fall Retreat:**

We now have seven members who plan to attend our Fall Retreat. Our theme will be "Comforted to Comfort Others." We are looking forward to this time of study and fellowship.

### **Zone Rally:**

In October we will be hosting the LWML SWD Zone 10 Rally. Our speakers will be Missionary Ashley Lehr and one of the Comfort Dogs sponsored by LCMS. Watch for more information. Ladies from all nine churches in our Zone, from the Brillion/Hilbert area to Plymouth, are urged to attend and share this time with each other.

---

## MISSION MATTERS

## Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is a Christian volunteer network that ships food, clothing, medical and other needed supplies to 71 countries including the United States. It encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources to needy people both near and far. Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

The following is a message from the Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President of OGT:

“In late 1991 the Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, former Associate Speaker of The Lutheran Hour radio broadcast, and his family were sent to Riga, Latvia, to start broadcasting The Lutheran Hour in former communist countries in Eastern Europe. Early the next year, my wife and I had the opportunity to participate in Lutheran Hour Ministries’ volunteer program in Riga.

While there in Riga the idea of how to provide spiritual help and humanitarian aid to hungry souls and bodies resulted in the formation of the Orphan Grain Train. Since then, with God’s blessing and a generous outpouring of time, talent and contributions, Orphan Grain Train has become a hands-on mission project – a national network with regional divisions across the country organized to get necessary help to the endless requests for food, clothing, medical supplies, and Christian-centered literature to Riga, Latvia, and other areas where calamities occur.

More than 3,728 semi-trailer truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies, and religious materials have been sent to 69 (now 71) countries and several disaster areas in the U.S. since 1992. All of this is done by volunteers and individual contributors – people who are thankful for their blessings and want to provide a blessing to someone they will probably never see this side of heaven.

Volunteers sort and pack the donated items in our warehouses across the US. Contributors donate money to ship the precious cargoes of hope where most needed. (Eleven dollars sponsors the shipment of one box of aid!) Volunteers at the other end of the journey place these gifts of love into the hands of needy people.

We believe that through Christ there is great hope embodied in the efforts of Orphan Grain Train. Read what is going on! Pray for it! Join us!”

A number of years ago, Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhart Lake had a small garage in their parking lot and a small group of dedicated volunteers who gathered items for OGT. They contributed to this mission for many years until their volunteers were no longer able to provide this service. At the present time, the closest ingathering site is located in Waupun. The Wisconsin headquarters is now in Westfield WI. The national headquarters is in Norfolk Nebraska.

In June of this year, OGT sent cleaning supplies, diapers, paper products and laundry detergent to Mississippi after homes and businesses were destroyed by tornadoes. On August 22, the first air cargo shipment of requested food, water, wheelchairs and other items were sent to Maui. Responding to disaster areas is an ongoing mission of OGT.

In 2015, several members of our district visited the OGT headquarters in Norfolk and participated in packing high energy rice meals for shipment overseas. In 2025, before, during or after the LWML convention in Omaha, opportunities will be available for people to again tour the OGT headquarters and participate in preparation of items for shipment to needy areas. This benevolent organization always welcomes groups of volunteers or monetary donations. Ninety eight.two percent of all donations go to mission projects with only 1.8% used for administration. OGT also received a \$100,000 grant from the 2023 LWML convention delegates to use to expand their work area to increase the amount of sorting/preparations allowed and to increase the safety of the workers. They will then be able to double the amount of mercy meals they make to 10,000,000 annually! Praise the Lord! Our prayers are requested for the successful completion of this expansion and for the work done there.

# LWML Sunday 2023



Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up,  
O ancient doors, that the King of glory may  
come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD,  
strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in  
battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift  
them up, O ancient doors, that the King of  
glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!  
(Psalm 24:7–10)



## Lutherans in Maui assist with fire response

*By Cheryl Magness*



A street in Lāhainā on the island of Maui, Hawaii, reflects damage on Aug. 15 from the Maui wildfire. (U.S. Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Foster)

On Aug. 8, a wildfire near the village of Lāhainā on the island of Maui, Hawaii, rapidly spread out of control, part of a larger series of wildfires plaguing the island. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but like other recent fires on the island, it was fed by extremely dry conditions and high winds. A week later, the lives lost number more than a hundred, with hundreds more still unaccounted for.

On Aug. 15, the Rev. Michael Lange, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) California-Nevada-Hawaii (CNH) District, sent an email update to the CNH District with the question: “What message do we bring to those so much in need of care and love?”

Lange answered that they need to hear that they have a God “who is Emmanuel (God with us)! He is with you and for you! We are the body of Christ, walking, loving, living, and sharing with those in need.”



Lange reported that Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Kahului, Maui, was not directly impacted by the fire (one or two families from the school were minimally affected), but that Emmanuel members are serving “as God’s hands and feet to the people of Maui. They are Christ’s ambassadors and bear the presence of the Savior. Pray for their strength and care as they walk beside many in great need.”

The congregation of Emmanuel is currently in a pastoral vacancy, but Lange said pastoral presence, care and leadership are being planned for and provided onsite. Emmanuel members are responding to the disaster by helping provide for the immediate needs of those affected and by assisting those who are providing housing for the displaced. In the near future, CNH First Vice-President Rev. Mitch Gowen, who lives on the island of Oahu, will visit Maui to meet with those leading the response and to lead worship at Emmanuel. At this writing, the Rev. Chris Singer, the Rev. Rodney Hall and the Rev. Dr. Mark Hannemann are serving as organizational specialists and spiritual and counseling care providers for Emmanuel members, school families and the community.

In addition, Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training will be conducted on both Maui and Oahu in the next two weeks. The Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care Disaster Response, reported that three boxes of LERT volunteer materials have already arrived at Emmanuel for the training sessions. In addition, \$5,000 worth of \$100 Visa gift cards, along with a box of devotional materials, have been shipped to Emmanuel for distribution. The devotional materials include 50 copies of the Concordia Publishing House children’s book *I Will Not Be Afraid*.

In addition, the CNH District has applied for a grant from LCMS Disaster Response to fund additional counselors and spiritual care providers in addition to those mentioned above.

Johnson said, “LCMS Disaster Response is committed to helping not only with the immediate needs of those affected by this fire but also with the long-term needs of the community as the island

rebuilds from this historic disaster.” Lange added that Emmanuel’s presence for over 50 years on the island will serve the congregation well in responding to those in need. School families at Emmanuel have many relationships with those who were personally impacted.

Lange concluded his Aug. 15 email to the CNH District by asking for prayers for “those so horribly affected, those mourning, and strength for caregivers”; by inviting texts, cards and emails to let those in Maui “know you are remembering them and praying for them”; and by encouraging gifts “to support relief work and recovery.”

Mark Hofman, executive director of LCMS Mission Advancement, said, “The generosity of God’s people over the past two years has empowered — and continues to empower — the LCMS to respond appropriately and effectively in these situations. The gifts of God’s people are an outward expression of the faith they place in Jesus Christ and of their desire to share the Gospel with those who are experiencing trauma, loss and tremendous anxiety.”

---

Anyone wishing to bolster the disaster-response capacity of the LCMS may send a gift to:

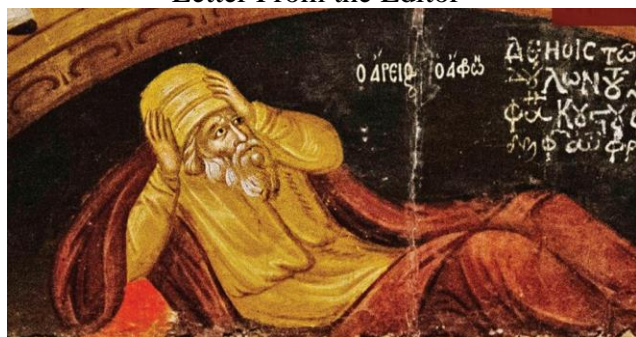
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

Please make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. To restrict the use of your gift, write “Wildfire Relief” or “Disaster Response” on the memo line.

To give electronically, visit [lcms.org/givenow/wildfires](https://lcms.org/givenow/wildfires) or [lcms.org/givenow/disaster](https://lcms.org/givenow/disaster), or send the keyword LCMSWILDFIRES or LCMSDISASTERS to 41-444 on your text-enabled device.

To give by phone, or for more information, call 888-930-4438.

To directly strengthen the near-term localized disaster-response capacity of the CNH District, visit [cnh-lcms.org](https://cnh-lcms.org).



## Heresies: Ancient and Modern

By Roy S. Askins

When you think of a heretic, what image comes to mind? I typically imagine Arius, largely because I enjoy the apocryphal tale of St. Nicholas slapping him for his heresy on the floor of the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325. It seems that theology was, at one point, a contact sport.

But heresy does not always relate to ancient theologians or to finished and sealed debates about theology. Rather, “heretical” might also describe the way many Christians today understand their beliefs.

Let me explain.

The root word for “heretic” is a Greek word meaning “to choose for oneself.” We do not use this sense of the word anymore; typically, we call someone a heretic when he deviates from orthodox Christian teaching. The original etymology, however, tells us much about how early Christians viewed incorrect teaching.

False teaching was a “choosing for oneself.” Heretics chose for themselves. Do you see where this is going? As Lutheran sociologist Peter Berger pointed out, we live in a culture where religion is seen primarily as a matter of choice — specifically, our choice. We pick our “faith tradition”; even within that faith tradition, we pick churches that match our preferences, with services that appeal to our personal sensibilities.

I am not saying that every Christian in America is a heretic. I am, however, questioning our understanding of religion as something we choose for ourselves. The heretics of old were heretics because they chose something for themselves, apart

from the orthodox teaching handed down by the church. They chose their own way.

In this month’s issue, we are taking up some of the most significant heresies, past and present. Most of them are still around in some form today. Some are more prevalent than others. Gnosticism has found a home in our modern world in a way that perhaps Arianism has not. On the other hand, the prosperity gospel was not really an issue in the Early Church; they faced persecution and death too often to believe that Christianity promised an easy and financially lucrative life.

In the end, whether the influence of a particular heresy is waxing or waning, to believe in it is to choose to believe something other than what God has revealed in Scripture. This issue of *The Lutheran Witness* does not address all heresies. If you find it helpful (or not), let us know. We can return to the topic if needed. We are more than eager to help you learn how to avoid falling into the trap of picking your own way and making your own choice rather than receiving that which Christ has given.

Boldly Lutheran,

Roy S. Askins

Managing Editor, *The Lutheran Witness*



## Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don’t have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God’s work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## *Our Response to His Love*

	8-13-23	8-6-23	7-30-23	7-23-23	7-16-23
General Fund	\$1745	\$1906	\$1108	\$1237	\$3154
Missions		\$10			\$20
Aluminum Cans	\$75				
Totals	\$1820	\$1916	\$1108	\$1237	\$3174



# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Dan & Cindy Koffarnus					<b>1</b>  <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Green</i>  8:30 Divine Service	<b>4</b>   <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Green</i>  8:30 Divine Service (NC) Fellowship  <b>Grandparents' Day</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study  7:00p Bible Study	<b>13</b>  <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Green</i>  8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	<b>18</b>  Newsletter articles due	<b>19</b>  7:00p Bible Study	<b>20</b>  <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	<b>21</b>  6:00p Elders Meeting 6:30p Council Meeting	<b>22</b>  <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	<b>23</b>  <b>Fall Begins</b>
<b>24 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Green</i>  8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  7:00p Bible Study	<b>27</b>  <i>4:00p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>  <div>LWML Fall Retreat @ Wis. Dells</div>	<b>30</b>

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion