

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

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April 2024

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

He has Risen!!! He has risen indeed! Alleluia. Happy Easter my dear brothers and sisters in Christ. As we enter this Easter Season and celebrate the victory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the cry of HE Has Risen, He Has Risen indeed rings throughout churches this time of year. Easter is a time of remembering our renewal for Christians, through our Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. **In 2 Corinthians 5:17**, Saint Paul writes: ¹⁷ **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.** The Old has passed away reminds me of what my raised garden bed looks like right now. The remains of the plants are just that, remains. These plants that provided me with vegetables were great while they lasted. Yet now they are dead. Soon, I will be tearing out the remains of these plants and will toss them away. I will be preparing my garden with new soil; fertilizer and the seeds of new plants will be sown, and I look forward to harvesting those veggies.

The earthly ministry of Jesus is a lot like working in a garden or preparing a field for planting. The Law is proclaimed, and the hard soil of our hearts are broken, our sins are revealed, and in confession and absolution the soil of our hearts, that were once hard, and barren are being revitalized and made ready to receive the seed of the Gospel where the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed. Jesus tells us in **John 12:24** **Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.** This verse from the Gospel of John, beautifully captures the whole reason for the Passion of Jesus. God wants to make us a new creation in Christ. Though His suffering, death, and resurrection Jesus gives us a new life. By his rest in the tomb, He is the seed that dies and rises again. In doing so we can say with certainty the words in **Isaiah 51:10-12**, the prophet understands what it means to have a new heart and be a new creation, and he cries out ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.** ¹¹ **Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.** ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

This is what Easter, and really all seasons of the church year, are about. We are reminded of what recreating and making our lives new by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Saint Paul captures the meaning of Easter and a regeneration and a new life in Romans 6:1-11 **6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free^[b] from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

God's Word is always about Easter, from the call to repentance, to God being with His people, to regeneration and a new creation. In the book of Titus, chapter 3, verses 4-8 the Word of God says: ⁴ **But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

The hope and promise of the resurrection of Jesus is why we can proclaim He Has Risen!!! He Has Risen Indeed!!! Alleluia!!! With confidence and assurance that we too have risen and are a new creation in

Christ. We are no longer dead plants waiting to be tossed into the eternal fire of judgment, but a new creation because of what God has done for us. Amen. HE HAS RISEN!!! HE HAS RISEN INDEED!!! ALLELUIA!!! Have a blessed Easter Season and remember God really, really, really does love you!!!



Pastor Mark Peterson



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Fellowship on April 14: Attendance at our Fellowship Sunday gatherings has been increasing as members are not only enjoying the snacks, but are also taking the opportunity to just sit and visit with each other. It's good to spend such time together and enjoy each other's company. Since the consensus is to continue our monthly get-togethers, we are inviting everyone to join in the provisions for our snacks. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to participate. If you have any other ideas, just let us know.

A **special guest** will be with us on April 14. It seems we have a new service available in our general area. This came to our attention from Kris and Brian from St. Luke. Kris' daughter Elizabeth is part of a mission in Valders to provide 'horse therapy' (probably not the official term) for folks in the area in need of such a service. At our fellowship hour, we will take about 15 minutes to hear about the services available. We think it will be quite interesting to learn about this new resource available in our area. Some of us might even be interested in participating with them.

Spring Rally: Our LWML SWD Zone 10 Spring Rally will be held in Brillion at St. Bartholomew on Tuesday evening, April 23. Registration will

be at 5:45 with a light supper to follow. Our program for the evening will be a Bible study by our Zone Counselor, Rev. Peterson. Those of you who have been attending any of Pastor's Bible studies know that they are well done and interesting. Our Gifts from the Heart for this event will be items for the Brillion Area Food Pantry. We hope many of you will attend.

An Invitation: The women at Rantoul are planning a women's potluck supper on May 10 at 6:00 in their school gymnasium. Their plan is for this to be a carefree, enjoyable evening out for women, and they have invited all of us to attend. We will get more details later.

Convention: We have yet to receive the slate of officers for our election at our LWML SWD convention in Sun Prairie in June. Among others, we will be electing a new president. We will also have the opportunity to vote on the mission grants for the next biennium. As our delegates, Nancy Propson and Pam Menge will have this privilege. Open registration for all women to attend is available. Plan to come and be part of this enjoyable, educational and enthusiasm-filled event!

Save the Dates:

April meeting: Our April meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, at 1:00. Come for Bible study and planning of events. Bring your Quarterly. Our subscription for our Quarterlies has been updated, and we have ordered a larger quantity to provide one for each woman of the congregation. Of course, we are always willing to share.

Fall Retreat: September 27-28 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fond du Lac. Save this weekend now.

Fall Rally: Our Zone Fall Rally will be on Saturday, October 5, at Trinity, Rantoul. Registration will be at 8:15 followed by a light breakfast or coffee hour. The mission speaker will be **Nicole Wittmann** who will tell us about her summer mission trip to Uganda. Be sure to save this date, too! More details will come later.

Mission Matters



JAARS: Jungle Aviation And Radio Service

Those of you who have been following the second, third and fourth generations of the Ed and Marcella Federwitz family are familiar with the term LBT (Lutheran Bible Translators). Their son Dale, along with his wife Alvina, spent his entire adult life devoted to translating the Bible into various languages which had no written word. This entailed first learning a given language, then developing a written translation, and finally using that translation language to provide the written Word of God to various tribes. Most of these groups of people were located in the Western parts of Africa.

As the children of Dale and Alvina became adults, most of them continued in the work of translation in one way or another. Their son Jonathan ultimately became a missionary pilot in Papua New Guinea (PNG). That brings us to JAARS (Jungle Aviation And Radio Service).

JAARS was founded in 1948 to provide aviation and technical service to SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) in remote and inaccessible areas. Subsequently, JAARS has grown to provide these services to many different religious organizations for the purpose of spreading the Word of God to all peoples. LBT is one of those organizations.

Jonathan and his wife have now relocated to North Carolina where he is an instructor for JAARS. His newsletters are available in the narthex for all of us to read, and these can also be followed online.

Now, to generation four! Jonathan's son Nathan has just completed his JAARS training as

a pilot qualified to fly in the jungles and mountainous terrain of Papua New Guinea. He and his wife, Sarah, along with their infant son Enoch, are currently visiting congregations to obtain the funding they need to return to PNG as missionaries. Sarah accepted a call to LBT as a commissioned and rostered deaconess of LCMS, and Nathan accepted a call to LBT with his Director of Church Ministries certification in addition to his pilot qualifications.

According to their website, JAARS is defined as a world-wide, non-profit, mission aviation and support organization with a primary focus on Bible Translation support operations located in Union County, North Carolina. They have a 500 acre campus, and their goal world-wide is to reduce barriers, ease burdens and deliver God's Word. They describe themselves as "a kind, caring, hardworking community passionate about helping to deliver God's Word". Much more information is available on their website: JAARS.org

LWML Spring Zone Rally
April 23rd
St. Bartholomew, Brillion



Gifts from the Heart for A Place of Refuge (APOR): As has been our tradition, from Easter until Mothers' Day, we will gather items for this ministry. This ministry is located in Milwaukee, and provides a live-in facility for pregnant women who are currently in unsafe environments. APOR not only provides safe housing, but also provides spiritual care and education.

Items needed for A Place of Refuge:

Moms & Babies Needs

Infant sleepers
Infant socks
Baby powder
Instant read thermometers
Infant board books
Infant wash cloths & bath towels
Infant headbands
Infant toys
Bibs

Refuge House Needs

Baby wipes
Nursing pads
Baby monitors
Diaper Genie refills
Burt's Bees Facial Wipes
Coloring books
Watercolor paints & brushes
Dawn dish detergent
Paper towels
Finish dishwashing pods
All Free & Clear laundry pods
Laundry stain remover
Ziplock bags
Aluminum Foil

** Gift cards for Walmart, Target,
grocery stores or gas cards

Women's Day
Zion, New Holstein
April 6th
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – April 2024

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “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).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship

Voters' Meeting April 28th
following the service.



Saving souls: Christ's work, not ours

by Matthew Harrison



(LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

The Synod does a lot of research to know what works. For instance, Concordia Publishing House just published a fantastic new book by the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, LCMS Youth Ministry director, and DCE Julianna Shults, Youth Ministry program manager. The book is *Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry*, and it's the culmination of

extensive research, surveys and interviews designed to find out what works in youth ministry and what has the highest likelihood of retaining youth in a faithful Lutheran congregation. Go to cph.org to buy your own copy! You'll be surprised at what we've found.

In other news, the Synod is embarking on a significant church-planting initiative. Here, as with Youth Ministry, we've spent years studying the data to know what practices (always under the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions) have yielded and continue to promise the best results in church planting. These are just two examples of the thoughtful, informed and long-term preparation behind the work your Synod is doing. There are many more I could offer from the LCMS Office of International Mission, Mission Advancement, Communications and the Office of Pastoral Education.

We want to be good stewards of the resources you've entrusted to us to do the work you've asked us to do. It's a matter of trying to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves," as Jesus says (Matt. 10:16). But for all our research, we must confess that nothing we do makes anyone a Christian. By God's grace, we might clear out the junk in front of the door, but the work of saving souls is Christ's.

In fact, more often than not, the Lord does His work of converting sinners quite in spite of us. I recently heard LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel preach about how the times he spends, hour upon hour, with a person or family who needs Christ often seem to result in nothing, while a moment with a passing acquaintance or a chance incident happens to bring a person to church.

Who of us could have imagined an LCMS church plant in Rome? Your LCMS missionary in Rome, the Rev. Tyler McMiller, reports that people are hungry for the comforting, pure Gospel preserved in the Lutheran Confessions. Read about how a handful of young men stumbled across the LCMS via the internet, one thing led to another, and now we have a confessional Lutheran church plant just a couple of miles from the seat of Roman Catholicism. Even in Rome, when people find out

what they can expect to receive from our Lutheran pulpits and Lutheran altars, they seek us out.

It is like how Luther describes why we should go to confession: “If this were explained in detail and if the need that ought to move and lead us to make confession were pointed out, then one would need little urging or coercion. For everyone’s conscience would so drive and disturb him that he would be glad to do what a poor miserable beggar does when he hears that a rich gift of money or clothing is being handed out at a certain place. So as not to miss it, he would run there as fast as he can and would need no bailiff to beat and drive him on. For those who really desire to be true Christians, to be rid of their sins, and to have a cheerful conscience already possess the true hunger and thirst. They reach for the bread, just as Psalm 42:1 says of a hunted deer burning in the heat with thirst, ‘As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.’ In other words, as a deer with anxious and trembling eagerness strains toward a fresh, flowing stream, so I yearn anxiously and tremblingly for God’s Word, Absolution, the Sacrament, and so forth” (*Brief Exhortation to Confession*, 23, 32–33).

No amount of research or planning can save anyone. God will save all of His elect. This is the wonderful comfort of the Doctrine of Election. If a year from now we discovered that all our supposed best practices, based on the best research and statistics, were completely wrong, it would not change the number of God’s elect by a single one. All His elect will be saved. We simply cannot mess up His good and perfect work.

“We know that out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, we have been elected in Christ to eternal life. No one can pluck us out of His hand [John 10:29]. He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and sealed it in the holy Sacraments. We can call these to mind in our most severe temptations and take comfort in them, and with them we can quench the fiery darts of the devil [Ephesians 6:16]” (FC Ep XI, 13).

God’s elect will be saved, to be sure, but God wills to save His people through His blessed Word spoken through poor miserable sinners like us, and

it is our deepest privilege to participate in His mysterious work of electing — of saving — sinners. People all over the world are seeking out The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for our clear confession of the Word of God. They want what we have. They long for the blessed Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins, without any work or merit on our part. There are more requests from sister church bodies and emerging church bodies all over the world than we can manage. We have requests for over 200 more missionaries worldwide. There is a worldwide hunger for the clarity of the Gospel. The harvest is ripe, indeed!

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
(president@lcms.org) is president of *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

Print Feature



Quiet Despair and Its Remedies

by Adam Koontz

A sadness pervades the Christian church in our country. A sense of loss, vague and enormous and brooding, permeates our church life. Off in the distance, we seem to hear what sounds like the trumpet of retreat. While some of us run pell-mell in terror, others fall back by careful steps. All sense that the church’s high-water mark was somewhere in the past, and the future we face is dark and unsure.

We do not express our sadness openly because it seems cowardly to speak of gnawing worries about fewer pews filled on Sundays, fewer men willing to be pastors or fewer schools to teach the faith to the rising generation, fewer in number as those children themselves may be. What fills our

speech when we do speak of closing churches or closing schools or whatever else the future may bring is that “quiet desperation” Henry David Thoreau, in his book *Walden*, thought was characteristic of the “mass of men.” What Thoreau imagined as a common human malady in every time is indeed common to our circuit meetings and church council sessions. Will we be able to get a pastor when our current pastor retires? Who knows? Will we be able to keep the school open in five years? No one can say. Will our church be around when my grandchildren are ready to be on the church council? It is anybody’s guess.

What we fear to say aloud or do not know, Jesus says boldly and truly knows. Our Lord does not leave us in quiet despair about Himself or His Bride, the church. The disciples who feared everything were the disciples Jesus visited with His peace on Easter evening (John 20:19–23). If you find despair to be a familiar companion or know someone in despair — whether it is your pastor or your friend or your teacher or your father — consider these things:

1) Christ is the Head of the church.

We cannot live our lives by our own sense of how things may go. Christ is alive. He had many apparently mighty foes, and He triumphed over them all, crushing death and Satan under His feet. At the head of every single Christian congregation is a living, triumphant Victor and King. To His voice we listen, and to Him we answer. His will is not that anyone in the United States of America should perish, but that all should repent and believe the Gospel of His death and resurrection for every sinner. If someone else had risen from the dead, if our doubts and fears had risen from the dead, then perhaps we should listen to them. But only He is the conqueror, so only His Word and His will have the say in our lives and in our churches.

2) The Head is our hope.

The more we focus on our uncertainties and fears, the more power they have over us. After Jesus’ resurrection, the disciples were still so afraid of the Jewish authorities, who had conspired with

Pilate in Jesus’ death, that when they gathered, they locked the doors. Their locked doors expressed their closed-off sense of the church — worthwhile enough to gather the already-convinced, fearful enough to make any newcomers impossible. Since our hope for the future is laid entirely on the triune God, we need not succumb to fear. Christ’s peace is our present possession because the Lamb’s blood cleanses us from all our sins. We do not wish that things would be otherwise than they are. We know that God’s Son is working all things together for our good. The future is an unfolding of Christ’s plan and ends with His triumphant return, to which we look forward with love and hope.

3) Our Head has a bright future.

Despair is only possible between Good Friday’s darkness and Easter’s brilliant light. You can hear a familiar quiet despair in the reproaches the Emmaus disciples offer to the unknown Jesus who walks beside them: “But we had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:21). You can almost see the shrug of resignation in their shoulders and the sigh of despair on their lips. Remember that even the women’s Easter morning report of Jesus’ resurrection was not believed at that time (Luke 24:22–24; Mark 16:14) — too incredible, too wild, too hopeful, a piece of wishful thinking. Our quiet despair is always our forgetfulness of His resurrection and our refusal to see how it changes everything. Since death is behind Him, the whole future is open to Him. And His future is bright.

4) His bright future is ours too.

If Christ had not risen, then the disciples as a group at that time and your congregation as a group of Jesus’ disciples today would have no purpose. We could go the way of all purely human organizations: After their purpose has passed, they go the way of all flesh (Job 34:15). That would make sense if Christ were dead. Then we could throw up our hands in resignation and accept death ourselves. Since He is risen, we have not been joined to a body of death, destined to perish, bound to fade away. We were baptized into a death like His that we should all share in a resurrection like His. Christ’s church moves

always from life to life, alive in Him now and headed for life everlasting.

5) Despair is not your master. Christ is your Lord.

Forget what lies behind, the steps your family or your congregation could have taken but did not. Put aside the bitterness of the past and the regrets that you did not see earlier or grasp sooner what would make for the Gospel's growth in your home or in your town. Christ is not only Lord of the past, reigning over black-and-white photographs of large confirmation classes or happy baptismal parties in churches now closed. Christ is also Lord today and now and always.

Think of who in your area needs the hope He brings today. Ponder what would deepen your church's knowledge of His peace right now. Act on what is always true: He is alive, and heaven is open to all believers in His promise. Our despair is rooted in our forgetfulness of His victorious life; our joy and hope are rooted in our remembrance of this conquering hero. After every enemy sought to destroy Him, He stepped forth from the grave, wounded on our behalf, crowned with life and victory. In Him, we more than conquer.



This article originally appeared in the March 2024 issue of The Lutheran Witness.



April

- 4 Kaitlyn Sowinski
- 7 Pam Menge
- 8 MaryKay Hein
- 15 Melissa DuPrey
- 27 Carol Krepline
- 28 Brooke Voigt
Sawyer Schwalenberg
- 30 Dan Boesch



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- April 11th Dennis & Joanne Hernke
- April 25th Brian & Laurie Mathes
- April 26th Steve & Laurie Ecker
- April 28th Steve & Kathy Hemauer

Our Response to His Love

	3-10	3-6	3-3	2-28	2-25	2-21	2-18	2-14	2-11
General Fund	\$1756	\$35	\$2585	\$65	\$1573	\$45	\$2055	\$70	\$1680
Missions			\$55						
Recycling									\$92
Memorial – Eva Kamps							\$40		
Totals	\$1756		\$2640	\$65	\$1573	\$45	\$2095	\$70	\$1772

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri Koffarnus Bonnie Ott Bonnie Teinert	1	2	3	4	5	6 Women's Day @ Zion, New Holstein 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
←----- Pastors Away -----						
7 Second Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	8	9 1:00p WIM Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	10 <i>Confirmation classes resume</i>	11	12 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	13
14 Third Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) Fellowship 9:30 Sunday School	15 Tax Day	16 7:00p Bible Study	17	18	19 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	22 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> Earth Day	23 LWML-SWD Zone 10 Spring Rally @ St. Bartholomew Brillion	24	25	26 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School Voters Meeting	29	30 7:00p Bible Study				

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion