

# ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

Office: (920) 853-3217

September 2024

## From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope that your summer was a wonderful time with your family, vacations, and other activities that you all engaged in. I hope that you created many new and wonderful memories to share in the future. But now that summer is coming to an end, we turn our thoughts to school, and the upcoming fall and winter seasons. Summer, for me was good yet my garden did not produce like last year so that was disappointing. I also got some much-needed work done and I am preparing confirmation curriculum, bible studies for the fall, and other pastoral and personal goals that I want to achieve.

Yet throughout the hectic days of summer, God's Word never changes, neither does His call to come into His House, and worship. Worship has changed so much over the years. When I was a kid, going to church was paramount to my family. Wednesdays were considered "church night" and school activities were curtailed so kids could go to confirmation. Things began to change though as "church night" was pushed to the side in favor of sports and other activities. Sundays also changed as families engaged in activities that put the idea of going to church down on the ladder of priorities.


Then when Covid hit the idea of going to church, while important, people began to fear getting together. Interestingly enough you could still go gambling, and participate in other activities, but going to church was considered "illegal". Shocked to say that going to church was considered "illegal" but that was the way things were. We, being productive people, began to post our worship services online and people could attend church at home. Also, communion packets were handed out which contained grape juice and a wafer. While these ideas were a bandage, the larger issue is why should we come to church at all, when we believe that we can worship online.

In a way we began to shut ourselves off from worshipping with each other. It became more convenient to just worship at home. The question we should all ask ourselves is this: Does God want us to shut ourselves off from going to His House, and worshipping together? The Greek New Testament has a word that describes coming to worship that word is *Koinonia*, pronounced koi-no-KNEE-ah—accent on the third syllable, is a Greek word that appears in its different forms about 20 times in the New Testament. Usually, it is translated as "fellowship." Acts 2:42, the first place the word occurs in the Bible, says of the early Christians: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship [*koinonia*], in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

But *koinonia* is translated in other ways as well. Because it comes from a root word that means "partner" or "companion," it has in it the idea of "sharing"—sharing possessions, sharing experiences, sharing life, sharing oneself with another. When we come to God's House for worship, we are sharing with each other what God has given to us, His gifts. God does not want us to be alone, and when we worship with each other it is a wonderful experience because we are sharing what God has done for us, lifting each other up in prayers and coming together around God's Holy Supper to be strengthened in our faith.

Since Summer is over with, I want to challenge you to come to church, worship with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, become involved in what the church has to offer you, and better yet, what you can offer to God to help the church. Most importantly, though invite those family, friends, and people you know to church if they do not have a church home. I look forward to seeing you all this fall and into the next year. God Bless and remember that God really, really, really, does love you.

In His Grip



Pastor Mark Peterson



## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

### Gifts from the Heart:

**Back to School:** Thanks to everyone for your most generous donations for the students at Hilbert Public Schools. You've willingly shared with them thus assuring that 'even the least among us' will be able to have the supplies they need to participate in classroom activities. Thanks also to Missy Duprey for delivering these items once again. We appreciate how much everyone participates in all of our mission projects.

**Free at Last:** In mid-September until about mid-October, we will once again gather items for the Free at Last ministry in Milwaukee. This ministry, located at Mission of Christ Lutheran Church, is designed to assist those folks who are being discharged from the Milwaukee Correctional Institute, and provides counseling, Bible studies, access to resources, food pantry items and a clothing closet. Many of the former inmates have no family or other resources to help them adjust to life outside of prison. Our mission has been to donate to their clothing supplies so that they have appropriate items to seek out employment as well as to have warm clothing to navigate the Milwaukee streets during our Wisconsin winters.

Please check your wardrobes to see if you have winter clothing in good repair that you can no longer use. Also, if you are able to purchase any items for us to share, there is always a need for socks, gloves, hats and underwear. In the past, we haven't taken any winter boots, but this would probably also be very helpful. Most of the participants are men, but there is the occasional need for warm items for women as well. Last year, we also had one nice big warm quilt that we took, and they were thrilled to receive it! Because Mission of Christ is located in a rather poor section of Milwaukee, they also frequently share items with needy neighborhood

folks. Delivering these items is incredibly rewarding as the workers and clients are so grateful!

**Fellowship Sunday:** For our September fellowship time, we will be saying **Thank You** and **Congratulations** to **Pastor Krueger** for the many months he has spent with us over the last few years. This will be in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. Even if you don't usually stay for fellowship, please come this time to congratulate and say thank you to Pastor Krueger.

**Fall Retreat:** Just a reminder about the LWML Fall Retreat in Fond du Lac on September 27/28. Registration of \$70 is due on September 13 and we still have room available for anyone who would like to stay overnight. We will be at the Radisson Hotel. See the bulletin board.

**Also a reminder:** Save the date of Saturday, October 5, for a presentation by Nicole Wittman about her mission trip this summer. This will be a morning event at Rantoul and will include a mini-breakfast.

**Our next meeting:** We will meet on September 10 at 1:00. Please bring your Quarterly and your Bible. Fall Quarterlies have arrived and will be in your mailboxes.

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## MISSION MATTERS

### What's happening in the SWD of the LCMS

Do you ever wonder what's happening in the SWD of our church? We sometimes hear about things going on in our circuit, but beyond that can be a mystery.

On the LCMS SWD website, there is a section called Mission and Mercy. Every month, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, our Mission Executive, writes a newsletter updating us on the events happening in our district as it relates to missions. If you haven't been seeking out this information or attending events where our district missions are talked about, you may be surprised at how many mission things are happening right here in our district! Please check it

out: We have new church starts, campus ministries, urban ministries, Hispanic ministry, Lutheran Counseling and Family Ministries, and a host of other things that we hear about more often such as the SOS Center and A Place of Refuge.

Take a look at this website. You may be surprised, and if you're not surprised, you will surely be impressed.



## LWML Sunday 2024

Come, join us on LWML Sunday on October 13<sup>th</sup> and celebrate all that God has done through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The power of God is evident in the dimes, quarters, and dollars you put in your Mite Box, and we celebrate this every LWML Sunday. Thank you!

The Lutheran Women in Mission Statement reads: "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others." The Holy Spirit has been doing this for over 80 years through the LWML!

Watch for more information about Lutheran Women in Mission, and become involved in reaching others with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

READY TO  
*serve*

••••• LUKE 1:38 •••••



## THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

### Christians Are To Be Taught

By Kate Deddens



Lutheran education is the beneficiary of an immensely rich heritage. Martin Luther pioneered a vision of learning rooted in the liberal arts combined with catechesis in the faith.[1] Through his endeavors, the reformers revolutionized learning in 16th century Germany and influenced education on a global scale for centuries.

#### The great heritage of Lutheran education

Luther passionately [advocated for](#) and fostered the growth of faith-filled, well-educated and vocationally-minded Lutherans who expressed love of God as they worshipped together in thriving communities, bringing blessings to society through love of neighbor. During the Reformation, vast numbers of students began attending schools — something that had traditionally been reserved solely for elites. Further, with Luther's urging, primary schooling was created, and at his instigation girls were given the opportunity to become educated in ways that had previously been inaccessible to them.[2]

Educational reforms such as these had massive reverberations across time as well as geographic distance. In the United States in particular, from the earliest years of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod the educational vision of the reformers has been embodied. Almost all early LCMS congregations founded schools for their children, many simply small one-room schoolhouses which bore fruit much greater than their size would have suggested.

Thanks to the work of Lutherans who embraced that endeavor, today we have cause for celebration: These dedicated efforts led to what is now the second-largest Christian parochial school system in the United States. This is indeed great cause to give thanks to God.

### **The decline of contemporary schools**

Today, contemporary education across all spectrums, from elementary schools through collegiate institutions, is undergoing upheaval in our swiftly changing world. It is sobering to recognize that we face challenges strikingly similar to that which Luther himself encountered. He wrote that, in his day, education was deteriorating to the extent that schools were “left to go to wrack and ruin.”

Although Luther wrote those words in 1524, [they hit uncomfortably close to home](#). The effects of [educational policies during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) have been a contributing factor to [educational decay](#) (although a [downward trajectory was noticeable even prior](#) to the pandemic). Compounding that, we face debilitating [teacher shortages](#) and societal stressors such as a “[demographic cliff](#)” combined with a [weakening trust in the value of contemporary educational institutions and modes of instruction](#). These factors are negatively affecting all levels of education from kindergarten through the university.

Lutheran education has felt the burden of these challenges, eroding the results of Martin Luther’s zeal and the laudable labors of those who followed in his footsteps. As a result, we have witnessed Lutheran schools and universities [straining beneath intense societal pressures, hundreds closing their doors](#). Unfortunately, the effect has been fewer Lutheran students in a smaller number of Lutheran schools and fewer Lutheran church workers and teachers equipped to serve in our communities.

### **Facing the challenges, and changing the world, like Luther**

Yet we should — and must! — take heart, just as Luther himself did 500 years ago. His wisdom consistently speaks powerfully into the Lutheran educational landscape. We can remember and be edified by the kind of learning community which

Luther and his associates crafted, by which they revolutionized education in their own time. In doing so, we will fortify our inheritance, energizing Lutheran education and invigorating The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a whole, as well as positively affecting our society at large.

This inheritance combines the [liberal arts with Lutheran catechesis](#), melding together Christian faith with the life of the mind such that doctrine and academics seamlessly integrate to strengthen Lutherans simultaneously in their belief and in their vocations. As Gene Veith has written, “the liberal arts can equip a child for effective service in the world; catechesis can equip a child for everlasting life.”<sup>[3]</sup>

There are manifold ways in which the Lutheran faith enlivens education. A uniquely Lutheran vision stands out starkly amid the modern pedagogical theories prevalent today (most of which ground education merely in utilitarian functions and worldly goals). Among others, these distinctives include the doctrines of the Two Kingdoms and of vocation and the right understanding of the use of reason in academics beneath the governance of faith.

These doctrinal hallmarks existed harmoniously with Luther’s transformation of education in his own era. He encouraged leaders of his time to nurture [well-rounded education](#), embracing a liberal arts curriculum, in contrast to an over-emphasis on specialized studies. Over the course of recent years, within the broad scope of Lutheran learning communities, it has been uplifting to see how Lutheran universities, schools, [microschools](#), hybrid schools, homeschools, and co-ops have been seeking to follow the example of their forefathers — heeding the wisdom of Luther’s voice as they actively embrace the heritage of our Lutheran education.

As Lutherans, it is our legacy and our privilege to carry such education forward into the 21st century with dedication, enthusiasm and hope. We can take encouragement from our forebears, who ardently believed in Luther’s exhortation that [Christians are to be taught](#), and with prayerful hearts continue to nurture the blessings of Lutheran education and the Lutheran church for many generations to come.

[1] Steven A Hein, et al., *A Handbook for Classical Lutheran Education* (Fort Wayne: CCLE Press, 2013), p. 115.

[2] Thomas Korcok, *Lutheran Education: From Wittenberg to the Future* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing, 2011 ), pp. 63-64.

[3] Thomas Korcok, *Lutheran Education: From Wittenberg to the Future* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing, 2011), p. xii.



Letter From the Editor

## A Teaching Community

By Roy S. Askins

Two sentences stand at the heart of a Lutheran understanding of mission work: “[The] Lutheran church can do only Lutheran mission, and Lutheran mission can be done only by a Lutheran church.” The second is this: “Lutheran mission must lead to [a] Lutheran church.”<sup>1</sup> It’s possible to make similar statements about Lutheran education.

Lutheran education can only be done by Lutherans. A Lutheran education does not have at its heart primarily education in secular matters, but the deep

and abiding inculcation of the faith. The beating heart of teaching our children to read is our desire that they would pick up God’s Word and read it. We teach our children the beauty of creation from the sciences so they might give glory to God for all His gifts. The Lutheran church cultivates vocational ability that our children might fulfill the vocations into which God will place them, their duties as fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, singles, grandparents, church workers, church members and so on.

This truth naturally leads into the second: Lutheran education leads to the Lutheran church. A Lutheran school deeply rooted in its Lutheran identity will shepherd its students into the Divine Service, toward the gifts of Baptism, God’s Word and the Lord’s Supper. Lutheran education leads to Lutheran faith, to Lutheran confession, to deeper and deeper Lutheran identity.

Throughout this issue of *The Lutheran Witness*, you’re going to read about how Lutheran identity forms and directs Lutheran education in the LCMS. Robert Paul and Heather Smith provide an excellent introduction and overview of the history of LCMS education. Samuel Eatherton diagnoses the problem of bifurcating *mission-minded* education from *Lutheran-identity-focused* education. (Spoiler: They belong together.) Lutheran schools face a number of challenges these days; Sarah Reinsel dives deeply into interviews with LCMS education executives, teachers, administrators and others to learn about these challenges and how the Lutheran church can face them. Finally, Michael Schuermann explains how parents can help guide their children as they head off to college, “where the devil prowls.”

In parting, let me also offer this encouragement: Lutheran schools desperately need Lutheran teachers and administrators. The road to this vocation begins early. The LCMS has put significant resources behind helping you learn how to encourage a young person in your life to consider church work vocations. Visit the *Set Apart to Serve* webpage ([lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](http://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve)) to find these resources.

Always learning,  
Roy S. Askins  
Executive Editor, *The Lutheran Witness*

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

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who

entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolute, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

– LCMS Stewardship  
Ministry:

[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



- 1 Cherlyn Schmitting  
Faith Schmitting
- 3 Nick Koffarnus
- 4 Willy Krepline
- 7 Sarah Nau
- 8 Tamra Koehler  
Tina Sowinski  
Lisa Schaefer
- 13 Harold Paulson
- 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  
Dave & Debbie Kalies  
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

Tina Karls has been researching details for a dual parish trip to Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky. Pastor has asked her to give a presentation sometime in the next few weeks. The trip would be planned to take place around late April to early May 2025.



*Our Response to His Love*

	8-18-24	8-11-24	8-4-24	7-28-24	7-21-24	7-14-24
General Fund	\$1501	\$1143	\$3465	\$4137	\$1765	\$1475
Aluminum Cans				\$84		
Totals	\$1501	\$1143	\$3465	\$4221	\$1765	\$1475

# September 2024

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

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion