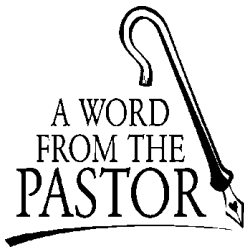


St. Mark & St. Luke

Newsletter

THE MESSENGER



Dear Friends in Christ,



An article by Concordia Seminary St. Louis President, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer begins by saying this:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a shortage of pastors. For some years now, the Council of Presidents has not been able to fill calls for new pastors from the seminaries because there have not been enough graduates from Master of Divinity programs to meet the needs. The consequences of this shortage are serious to the life of the Synod in many ways, especially because the shortage of pastors jeopardizes faithful pastoral care to people and thereby diminishes vitality and growth in congregations without a pastor. At the outset it must be said that this is more than an LCMS challenge. Of seminaries accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), 55 percent report low MDiv enrollments. The reasons for the decline are complex and known. How we turn this around and seize opportunities for growth is less appreciated. Unless we see this contextually, we may indeed increase enrollments but only temporarily. Without a larger contextual vision, our memberships could continue to decline, resulting in diminished LCMS ministry presence in communities of twenty-first-century America. I suggest we recast how we think about the seminaries' enrollment problem.

Dr. Meyer goes on to make this observation and proclamation:

It is one-dimensional to say we need more students. To express that need in fuller contour, I suggest we understand our challenge to be recruiting the next generation of pastors who will lead congregations in the dramatically different twenty-first century. The differences between the American culture in which my home congregation formed me and the coming environment for congregations are amazing. One cultural change among many: Today "most American adults agree that it is a good idea to live with one's significant other before getting married and most adults either currently or have previously lived with their boyfriend/girlfriend." Another change: "There is growing acceptance of porn, particularly among young Americans."^[1] As overwhelming is technological change. Ray Kurzweil of Google says, "The twenty-first century will be equivalent to 20,000 years of progress at today's rate of progress."^[2] Thomas Friedman describes the impact all this change is having on us. "The rate of technological change is now accelerating so fast that it has risen above the average rate at which most people can absorb all these changes. Many of us cannot keep pace anymore. 'And that is causing us cultural angst.' (Erik Teller)."^[3] Congregational angst too. We have lost our privileged place in society. The biblical illiteracy prevalent in American society shows itself in our church members. The "nones" are increasing. Regular worship attendance is now assumed to be once every few months, not every Sunday. You can add to that list, reasons

why the future looks so daunting, but consider this. Many of this year's graduates from Concordia Seminary were eleven-years-old when 9-11 happened. The losses in church life that my generation grieves are not known to tomorrow's future pastors. Our seminarians are Christ-centered, Bible-based, and want to serve and grow the congregations they will be privileged to serve. When a donor asked me, "What's the Seminary doing about millennials?" I first did not know what to say, but I recovered and said, "Our students are millennials. They'll figure out how to minister to their peers." I believe that is true. Our role, yours and mine, is to mentor them in the unchanging truths of God's word so that they will take those truths into the changing world of their coming ministries. The Lord of the church is raising up the next generations of pastors to lead in the challenging times ahead. Please help us recruit the winsome personalities, the keen intellects, and the lovers of Jesus and the Bible for the future.

The article went on to the challenges and hopes that the LCMS has in recruiting pastors for the future.

Teacher recruitment is another challenge.

In the May newsletter of the North Wisconsin District President Duwayne Lueck said this.

This year there were 160 congregations wanting a graduate from the seminary but there were only 100 men available. Next year there may only be around 80 men available. There were over 350 requests for Lutheran school teachers from our LCMS colleges with only 118 teacher graduates. This leaves 230 vacant teaching positions at schools who now need to look elsewhere.

As a congregation we will continue to do our best to encourage our youth to consider church work careers. St. Marks has produced several pastors. Most recently was Rev. Zach Voss who was just ordained in June. Others include Rev. Walt Steinbach Jr., Rev. Dr. James Dretke and Rev. Dr. James Brauer.

St. Marks has also inspired several individuals to go through the Lutheran Teacher's Program. Such individuals include Katie (Kempf) Mortenson, Carolyn (Hornberg) Windmier and Karen (Nemmetz) Fischer. Mrs. Fischer wrote a beautiful letter telling about influence St. Mark had on her decision to pursue a career as a Lutheran School Teacher.

How I hope and pray that St. Marks will continue to encourage the young men and women to consider church work careers. I will do my part by talking about it in Catechism class and scheduling a yearly visit to Concordia University Wisconsin for those who are interested in learning more about such careers. At the same time I hope and pray that parents and grandparents, family members and friends will do what they can to encourage our youth to consider being church workers as well.

*In Christ,
Pastor Smiles*



Rev. Zachary Voss
Ordained June 18, 2017

WORSHIP

The month of July is usually a quiet time on the church calendar. While many are tempted to limit their formal / public worship time during the summer months to experiences in nature, it is still important to gather around the Word and the Sacrament in a formal worship setting. Being in nature might be refreshing and help us recognize that there is a God and enjoying family and friends around the campfire might keep us connected with the special people God has put in our lives, but none of that replaces coming to God's house to hear his Word and strengthen our faith.

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 8)

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| June 28 | 7:30 pm Order of Service- - Outdoor- Divine Service Setting 3 (Printed Out) Holy Communion is offered Elder Ryan Poppy Ushers M/M Todd Olsen | Elder Assistant Dan Riske |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| July 2 | 10:15 am Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 3 (Pg 184) Holy Communion is offered at the Altar Level Elder Arnold Heideman Ushers M/M Rod Beyer Acolyte Mikayla Much | Elder Assistant Ken Jorgenson Greeters Audrey Partika / Charlotte Thomack |
|--------|--|--|

The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 9)

| | | |
|--------|--|---------------------------------------|
| July 5 | 10:15 am Order of Service- Outdoor- Creative Worship (Printed Out) Elder Merlin Becker Ushers M/M Doug Draeger | Elder Assistant Shannon Hansen |
|--------|--|---------------------------------------|

Reach out

| | |
|--------|--|
| July 7 | A bi- monthly Communion Service for those who have difficulty coming to the front of church for the Lord's Supper or wish to avoid large crowds, but want to attend worship. |
|--------|--|

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| July 9 | 10:15 am Order of Service- Creative Worship (Printed Out) Elder Steve Handrich Ushers Ben & Sam Olsen Acolyte Neveah Brown | Elder Assistant Don Hanson Greeters Mary Bauer/Kathy Duniho |
|--------|--|--|

The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 10)

| | | |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| July 12 | 7:30 pm Order of Service- — Outdoor- Divine Service Setting 3 (Printed Out) Holy Communion is offered Elder Mel Hansen Ushers M/M Arden Lightfuss | Elder Assistant Jeremy Olsen |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| July 16 | 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 3 (Pg 184) Holy Communion is offered at the floor level Elder Wayne Wendt Ushers M/M Larry Detert Acolyte Ethan Krueger | Elder Assistant Keith Timm Greeters Brittany & Marissa Detert |
|---------|--|--|

The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 11)

July 19 7:30 pm Order of Service- – Outdoor- Prayer and Preaching (printed out)
Elder Ryan Poppy Elder Assistant Paul Timm
Ushers Reese & Cade Poppy

Reach out

July 20 A bi- monthly Communion Service for those who have difficulty coming to the front of church for the Lord's Supper or wish to avoid large crowds, but want to attend worship. Guest Pastor Rev. John Schmidt

July 23 10:15 am Order of Service- Prayer and Preaching (p 260)
Elder Arnold Heideman Elder Assistant Dan Hedtke
Ushers M/M Lowell Detert Greeters Sharon Riske/Shelly Luedke
Acolyte Alexis Hedtke

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 12)

July 26 7:30 pm Order of Service- – Outdoor w/ Guitar- Word and Sacrament (printed out)
Holy Communion is offered
Elder Merlin Becker Elder Assistant Dan Riske
Ushers Sharon Olsen/Sheri Krueger

July 30 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 3 (pg 184)
Holy Communion is offered at the altar level
Elder Steve Handrich Elder Assistant Ken Jorgenson
Ushers M/M Ken Bernard Greeters M/M Eric Pynenberg
Acolyte Brent Pynenberg

The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 13)

Aug 2 7:30 pm Order of Service- – Outdoor w/ Guitar- Come To His Table (printed out)
Holy Communion is offered
Elder Mel Hansen Elder Assistant Shannon Hansen
Ushers M/M Dave Niven

Aug 6 10:15 am Order of Service- Divine Service Setting 4 (Pg 203)
Holy Communion is offered at the altar level
Elder Wayne Wendt Elder Assistant Don Hanson
Ushers Brad & Casey Johnson Greeters Erica & Katlyn Laredo
Acolyte Samantha Laredo

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, ask someone to take your place. PLEASE call the office (920)596-3241 to let the Church Secretary know when you exchanged with someone else.

Thank You

Have You Moved?

If you or someone you know has moved or will be moving, and the address or telephone number has changed, **PLEASE** inform the church office. The newsletter is not forwarded when we have a wrong address. It is returned to us and we have to pay extra postage.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

FINANCES God Bless all who are able to give! We made a deposit of \$5,259.00 on June 26th; \$4,373 was to current expenses. We are carrying over a respectable balance into July.

Checkbook Balance (as of 6/28/17): \$10,588.47

Monies to Designate (memorials/fundraisers): \$1,214.00

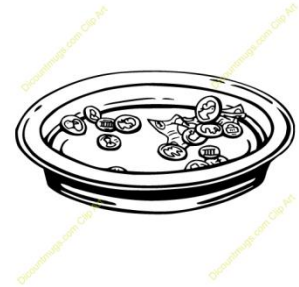
Upcoming Expenses/Payroll & Benefits: \$6,541.46

Missions Collected: \$949.53

Project Fund Collected: \$410.00

Ending balance: \$1,473.48

Stewardship News As always, we appreciate that so many of our members give what they can and some go over and above. As Christians we are not required to give a certain amount, but we are commanded to give freely. Right now we are keeping up with our expenses. However, summer is here and July can be tough. Consider sending in your offering envelope if you're not going to be able to worship much due to vacation or other summer activities.



Pancake Supper Profits A portion of the profits from this year's Pancake Supper was used to purchase a set of stoles that was given to Zachary Voss at the Service of Farewell and God's Speed here at St. Mark. They were given in honor of his ordination and installation as the pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Homestead, Iowa and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wellman, Iowa.



GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Youth and Family Ministries

NYG NEWS... The theme for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering has been announced: **Real. Present. God.** The theme takes its roots in Psalm 46. Here is an explanation about the theme and logo.



GATHERING LOGO

The 2019 Gathering logo is the creation of James Saleska, graphic designer out of Frankenmuth, MI.

“The 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering identity mark is a design treatment of the theme, ‘Real. Present. God.’ The stenciled treatment reflects the ideas of strength and fortitude to remind us that ‘God is our refuge and strength’ (Psalm 46:1),” says Saleska. “The bright color palette reinforces the youthful nature of the event and mimics a heat map where the hottest part is centered around the “o” in God reinforcing the Gathering’s Christ-centered focus.”

Real. Present. God.

Earlier this year on January 15-17, a group of Gathering planners joined by students from Concordia University St. Paul (CSP) met to begin the thematic planning process. They discussed youth and young adult research and trends, reflected on Scripture and prayerfully considered the message of the event.

“Late in the day, there was a point when everyone else stepped back from all the ideas posted on the wall and our group of [CSP] students gathered by them, looking them over and chatting about what resonated and what didn’t,” said Shelly Schwalm, DCE, CSP campus ministry assistant. “Some of the richest insights came from listening in to that conversation.”

“It was a reminder of the importance of encouraging our young people to contribute and giving them a chance to speak while we step back and really hear them,” adds Schwalm. “They have much to contribute and teach us about reaching their generation and those following. It’s my prayer that this theme translates the Gospel to speak to youth of our time and culture, especially in the challenges they’re facing today. God’s promises for us are for yesterday, today, and forever.”

God’s blessings as you begin to prepare for Minneapolis in 2019!

MT OLYMPUS. The trip to Wisconsin Dells each year is to reward the kids who raise money for the NYG through the Pizza, Pastry, coffee, cookie dough and etc. sale each spring and fall. If there are youth (6th to 12th) who didn’t sell Pizza, they just need to pay the \$14 for the tickets. Also there should be room for families with younger children to attend as well and for anyone else for that matter. This year our trip has been moved to **Tuesday, August 1st.** We need at least 20 people to get the bus and a couple of adult chaperones. Please sign up as soon as possible.

IOLA OLD CAR SHOW WORKERS. Chicken Dinner Servers should have received their packet by mail. If not received yours, contact the church office.

THRESHEREE WEEKEND: This is one of our biggest fundraising events and might be even bigger on this anniversary year. Signup sheets are in the back of church. More information will come out on the facebook group pages. (The parade through Symco has been eliminated . . . Friday July 28 will be the only work day)

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES: We are ready to present the proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws that include changing the Church Council to the Mission and Ministry Team (MMT) and reducing the number of people who will be elected to serve on the MMT. We will vote on this matter at the July 10 Voters' Assembly.

VOTERS' MEETING July 10th will mark the quarterly voter's meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VBS 2017 is a victory celebration! In *Mighty Fortress* VBS, your children learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts about God, our Mighty Fortress, and the victory Jesus has won for us.



Registration is open for ages pre-school to 5th grade who will attend VBS from August 7th to 11th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn in Jesus, the victory is won! Can't wait to see you there! To register, register online at stmarksymco.org, give the form in the bulletin to an usher, call the church office at 920-596-3241, or e-mail stmarksymco@yahoo.com.

Register now for *Mighty Fortress* Vacation Bible School! Fill out the registration form in this newsletter and put it in the box in the Narthex. For information, call 920-596-3241, email stmarksymco@yahoo.com or go online at stmarksymco.org.

CONFIRMATION CAMP. Confirmation Camp will be Aug 13 – 15. Permission Slip, Medical Release Form and Packing Sheets will be sent out in mid July.



LETTERS TO THE CONGREGATION

May 22, 2017

Greetings in the Name of Our Heavenly Father!

It is with much thankfulness that I write this letter and congratulate your congregation on the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Through faithful preaching and teaching of the Law and Gospel, you have reached people with the love of Jesus, not only in your area, but also around the world through missions and missionaries. You have been blessed with faithful pastors, teachers, and members that share in that privilege of working for our Lord.

It was with that faithful teaching in Sunday School at St. Mark, where I first attended at three years old. There I again heard about the love of Jesus. I then came home and declared to my mother that I wanted to be a teacher just like that and share Jesus with other children. With my parents' support, many prayers, and also through the faithful teaching in confirmation from Pastor Paul Mueller, that the idea became my calling. I studied and graduated from Concordia University-River Forest (Chicago) and began my ministry of teaching young people the love of Jesus. I continued through the grace of God, to teach at many different Lutheran schools in Michigan and Illinois. After 26 years of Lutheran Education, it is with a full heart that I end my teaching ministry here at Rockford Lutheran Academy. I end as I began, in God's grace and love.

I encourage you therefore to continue in your ministry as you "Go and make disciples." Stand firm in your faith as we all labor faithfully in the mission and the calling God has given to each one of us. May the Father of all grace help us do that.

Again, celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation and also the blessings that God has showered on your congregation. To Him be praise and thanks forever, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the joy of His service,
Karen Fischer
Grateful daughter of Burnell and Ruth Nemmetz

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you very much for the Farewell and Godspeed Service over Memorial weekend. I have been richly blessed to have been taught the Faith at St. Mark and I take that with me now as I begin ministering to St. John and Good Shepherd in Iowa. Thank you so very much for the set of reversible stoles! What a spectacular gift to begin my ministry with. Thank you so much for all the support you have given during my years of study!

Thank you to the Ladies group for your gift also! We appreciate it very much!

God's richest blessings to you!

Rev. Zachary Voss

DISTRICT & SYNOD NEWS



A Church Growth Event Tried Everything? Still Struggling?

Discover a VALUABLE untapped resource for Church Growth ready to help every congregation grow AND help struggling congregations not only survive but thrive! Join Zion Lutheran Church, Zachow (Rural Bonduel) & Family Crossfires Ministries on Wednesday, July 19th 2017 from 7-9pm at N4437 County Road F, Bonduel, WI 54107. A free will offering will be taken. Registration is required for

Resources and Refreshments. For questions or to register by e-mail: info@familycrossfires.org.

Seltz Accepts Call to LCRL

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, has accepted a call from the board of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington, D.C. to serve as the LCRL's executive director. Seltz is slated to leave his role as Speaker later this summer, though he is committed to fulfilling all duties of the Speaker in the transition months to come.

"It's been a blessing to have Pastor Seltz serve in the long line of gifted speakers who have shared the Gospel with millions over the airwaves since The Lutheran Hour's first broadcast in 1930," says LHM President & CEO Kurt Buchholz. "Pastor Seltz and I are confident that God has a plan for this important ministry that is a critical part of LHM's focus on media outreach. We ask for continued prayers for Pastor Seltz and his family as he transitions into this new role with the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty."



"It has been the greatest honor of my life to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Walter A. Maier, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Dr. Dale Meyer, Dr. Ken Klaus, and all the other great speakers on The Lutheran Hour over the past 87 years," says Seltz. "What a privilege to serve the wonderful people of the Lutheran Laymen's League and the churches of the LCMS in carrying out ministry alongside the tremendous and dedicated LHM staff. Together, we have advanced the cause of the Gospel and reached so many people each week on the radio."

"I do believe, though, there exists a great challenge before Christ's church in the current milieu of the American culture. My new position will seek to ensure, maintain, and defend religious liberty protections for our churches, schools, universities, and fellow believers so that the Gospel may indeed have free course in our culture, calling all people to faith in Christ. I believe my work with the National Religious Broadcasters, my previous work with Concordia, Irvine, and my many years in urban ministry have indeed prepared me to engage such things by God's grace and power."

Based in Washington, D.C., the goal of the LCRL is to monitor and protect First Amendment rights in the public square from a uniquely Lutheran perspective.

Since becoming Speaker in 2011, Seltz developed a bold vision for expanding the reach of The Lutheran Hour program through live broadcasts and other twenty-first century media while being in high demand for speaking engagements about evangelism, entrepreneurial leadership development, and team ministry within the city. His well-rounded ministry experience previously included training students at Concordia University in Irvine, California, to launch ministries in a variety of cultural settings; serving as executive director of an urban, not-for-profit evangelism ministry in Manhattan, New York; founding the first new Lutheran mission start in New York City in more than 40 years (Church For All Nations, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod); and planting a mission church in Dallas.

The Lutheran Hour currently reaches more than 1 million people a week. It airs on more than 1,700 radio stations across North America and is also available online, through a mobile app, and on the American Forces Network.

S'more about Camp Luther...

Faith, Family, Friendship



CAMP LUTHER GIFT CERTIFICATES!! Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your children or grandchildren? Consider a Camp Luther gift certificate. These certificates can be purchased for any amount and may be used for Camp Luther programs and at our canteen. Call Camp Luther at 877-264-CAMP and talk to MaryAnn to order yours today.

GIVE TO CAMP LUTHER - You play a vital role in the ministry of Camp Luther through your contributions. Your gifts make it possible for Camp Luther to enhance and expand programming, maintain care for wonderful facilities and property and reach out in love to those who couldn't afford to attend camp on their own. Thank you for your generous support of this important ministry that touches and transforms thousands of lives each year with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Visit www.campluther.com/donate today.

LABOR DAY RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER

September 1-4, 2017

Relax and let Camp Luther plan your next holiday weekend. Enjoy a flexible and relaxing schedule with your family and other families. Activities include pontoon rides, kayaking, trail biking, swimming, volleyball, disc golf, Bible study, campfire devotions and much more. Start a new family tradition this year! Register at www.campluther.com.

FALL OUTDOOR EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT CAMP LUTHER

September 20-22, 2017

Use the outdoors as your classroom! Sign your group up now to be a part of Outdoor Education at Camp Luther for the 2017-2018 school year. Our staff will work closely with you to adapt our outdoor education program to your group's unique needs. Once your group is at camp, our highly trained staff will lead most of the sessions and activities, allowing you to engage with your students and focus on community building within your classroom. Check out Fall Outdoor Education under the "Retreats" tab at www.campluther.com.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 22-24th

This weekend is all about relaxing and refueling with God's Word. Leave the pressures of work, home, and life behind and join others for a refreshing and renewing weekend. The schedule is designed to draw you closer to God and to each other through a variety of individual, large group and small group activities. Activities include Bible Study, Devotions, crafts, "Ladies night out," walk/bike/canoe in the beautiful fall weather. Deb Burma will be our devotion leader for the weekend. Register at www.campluther.com.

Vacation Bible School

Location: St Mark's Lutheran Church-Symco

VBS runs from: August 7th - August 11th

Each day's fun begins at: 6:30 PM

The VBS day ends at: 8:00 PM

**For more information,
call: 920-596-3241**



*Student First Name: _____

*Student Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Age: _____

Gender: Male Female

Grade just finished: _____

T-Shirt Size (youth): _____

Home Church (if applicable): _____

Allergies: _____

Medical Issues or Special Needs: _____

Place my child in the same group as (child's name): _____

*Parent Name (first and last): _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____

*State: _____

*Zip: _____

*Email: _____

*Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Other Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact (first and last name): _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Alternate Pickup (first and last name): _____

Alternate Pickup Phone: _____

General Information: _____

Form Continues on next page.

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Permission to Attend: I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church, and that all registration information will be removed from the hosting site by December 31 of this year.

Parent Signature

Date

