

St. Peter's Epistle



February / March 2017

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
145 S. 6th Street, Waterford, WI 53185

Upcoming Events

Friday Fish Fry
February 10th, 6:00 p.m.



ASH WEDNESDAY
LENT BEGINS
March 1st

Worship each Wednesday
during the six weeks of Lent
at 7:00pm.

Lenten suppers each Wednesday
at 5:30pm.



Friday Fish Fry
March 10th, 6:00 p.m.

Be sure to visit us on the web at
www.stpeterswaterford.com

CHURCH

Telephone: 262-534-3639

Fax: 262-534-2571

F. A. Bischoff, Pastor

pastor@stpeterswaterford.com

Joshua P.H. Conradt, Pastor

pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com

Joan Somers, Secretary

joan@stpeterswaterford.com

PRESCHOOL

Telephone: 262-534-6066

Fax: 262-534-2571

From the Desk of Pastor Bischoff

I recall the first funeral I attended, at least the first I can remember. It was my grandfather's funeral, my mother's father. It was 1962 and I was seven years old. The visitation was at a funeral home in Marathon City, in north-central Wisconsin.

I can't remember much about the details — the funeral home or its furnishings. But I remember thinking that my uncles, aunts, and cousins would be there, so I assumed it would be fun. Living in Milwaukee as I did, it wasn't often I saw most of them who lived "up north." When mom and dad and I made the trip each summer for the annual reunion, a trip which to me seemed like a drive of at least a million miles, we always had a good time. So I assumed this family gathering wouldn't be any different.

I was mistaken. Like I said, I don't remember much of what happened at grandpa's funeral, but I remember the feeling. No one was laughing. Some were crying. My cousins were standing close to their parents, staring at the floor, silent for the most part.

I don't think I understood it then, but I do now. I understand why the mood and the very air itself was so heavy and solemn. It was death. Death was in that room. Thoughts of death. Grief over death. Loss caused by death. Powerful, final, merciless death.

When Jesus approached the tomb of His friend Lazarus Scripture says, "He was deeply moved in His spirit and greatly troubled" (Matt. 11:33). The actual Greek for these words says it in an even more powerful way. Jesus' body literally shook and trembled.

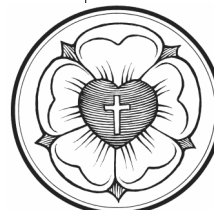
That's how Jesus reacted to the death of one man. That's how Jesus reacted to death — all death. He understands the power of death and the devastation of death. That's why He took hold of death and placed it on His shoulders and endured death Himself, a most horrific death. Why? So that we can see through death, beyond death, to the forgiveness that His death brings us and to the resurrection and eternal life that His resurrection brings us.

I suspect that the air in funeral homes will always be heavy and the laughter will always be absent and the children will always cling tightly to their parents. But for believers in Jesus that heaviness will always be lightened by the knowledge that Jesus has defeated death and His victory is ours.

Please join us for our Lenten worship and our Sunday worship. Watch as Jesus confronts death for us, overcomes death for us, and shares with us His resurrection victory.

Pastor Bischoff

*"But with a man who belongs
to an everlasting kingdom all
is well and it is fitting that he
should dance through life
forevermore."
Martin Luther (1544)*



From Pastor Conradt's Desk

Small Catechism: *Beichte* (Confession)

I look to further inform you on something that is no longer well known in many American Lutheran Churches: Private Confession and Absolution.

If you were here on the Third Sunday in Advent you heard a fraction of what I'm going to be saying in this article. But, bad weather kept many from being here and a refresher is always good.

When the majority of us think about Luther's Small Catechism and what is in it, we generally remember the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Altar. But, largely we forget that there are six chief parts of the Catechism; and the fifth is Confession.

Briefly covered are the forms that we well know: confessing daily to God, when you wrong your neighbor confessing that to him, and the general confession at the beginning of the Divine Service.

What you may not realize is that the Divine Service didn't always have that Confession and Absolution attached. That general confession came from a falling away of a practice that is just as Lutheran as the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Altar.

Private Confession and Absolution, often referred to as Holy Absolution, was an important part of the Lutheran Church for a long time. Too often when we think of Private Confession we think of the Roman Catholic practice where you are to list out all the sins that you commit and then make penance for your sins (say 10 "Hail Mary's"). The idea is that you do something to earn your forgiveness.

As we blended with our Protestant surroundings in the States we lost parts of our Lutheran identity because our Protestant brothers and sisters viewed us as being "too Roman Catholic".

During Symposia at the Seminary in January one of the presentations talked about the state of American Lutheranism at the time that our Missouri Synod ancestors arrived. The East Coast Lutheran theologians had gone so far from the Lutheran Confessions that when they

made the trip out West and stumbled across our groups they were amazed that we believed in the real presence (Jesus is physically present in the Lord's Supper), baptismal regeneration (baptism drowns our sins and makes alive), and even practiced Private Confession and Absolution.

Our Lutheran Confessions claim Holy Absolution as a Sacrament. And the Lutheran Fathers were clear on keeping the practice. "Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in the churches" (AC XI). And again, "Confession in the churches is not abolished among us. The body of the Lord is not usually given to those who have not been examined and absolved." (AC XXIV 1). And, "We also keep Confession, especially because of the Absolution. Absolution is God's Word which, by divine authority, the Power of the Keys pronounces upon individuals. Therefore, it would be wicked to remove private Absolution from the Church." (ApXII 2-4).

The rite is important. It is not torturous; rather it is a gift. Making confession and hearing the pastor give you individually a pronouncement of God's forgiveness is a great comfort. You have a God that died for you to take away your sins and guilt. Let the knowledge of that sink in. You carry around guilt that is no longer yours to carry.

And your pastors have sworn never to divulge what is told to us. Your past sins are not ours to share. So I encourage you to ask questions about it. Look in your Catechisms where you'll see that Luther even provides a form for Private Confession. Call, set up times to come in and talk. We're here for you.

In Christ,

Pastor Conradt

Pastor Conradt



OFFICIAL ACTS

INFANT BAPTISM

Ivan Howard Baumeister, son of
Brian & Brooke Baumeister

11-10-2016 12-18-2016

Aubrey Jo Porter, daughter of
Joseph & Lauren Porter

11-10-2016 01-08-2017



Lilian Grace Dolezal, daughter of
Matthew & Katie Dolezal

01-03-1917 01-15-2017

ADULT BAPTISM

Aubrey McGaughy

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Profession of Faith:

Jessica Rudstrom

Ryan & Cheryl Gilgenbach (Jacob)

By Confirmation:

Michael Dodulik

Aubrey McGaughy

MEMBERS LEAVING

By Transfer:

Deborah Baumgart

DEATH

Darlene Blawat - Storm

06-26-1934 1-13-2017 1-20-2017



PLEASE CALL

If you should find yourself hospitalized or confined to your home for health reasons, please notify the church office.

The pastors can only minister to your needs if they are aware of your situation. They are eager and willing to make regular visits with you, but they can do so only if you let us know.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The students were given a presentation on the mission work that Mr. and Mrs. Zirbel did IN Guatemala last year. They learned what a missionary was and how they as Christians can do mission work here at home.

During the month of February, the Sunday School students will be having their annual Penny War. Monies collected from this event goes to our District's Pastoral Relief Fund, which raises money to aid men (like our own Pastor Conratt) that have substantial financial debt after attending the seminary. Please help you children save their pennies. This is a fantastic and fun way for our kids to get involved in church. The winning class gets cookies and ice cream.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

March 12, 2016



LENTEN MEALS



The Board of Parish Fellowship is now planning for our Lenten Meals held before each Lenten worship service. Volunteer groups, boards, committees, families, or individuals are encouraged to call the church office to select their date. (262-534-3639)

The following dates are available:

February 24th

March 2nd

March 9th



SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Looking for Christian Fellowship? Come and join our Senior Group. We meet every second and fourth Monday at 11:00 am starting with Bible Study. Bring your bag lunch as delicious desserts and coffee are provided. Our main activity now is cards, but other activities are also planned. So remember – all 55+ are welcome. Hope we will have some new members try us. We really enjoy fellowship.

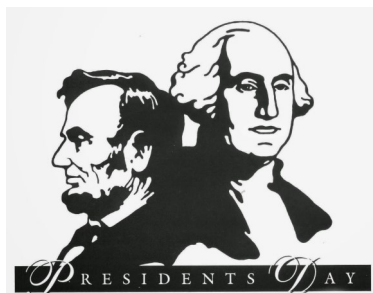


HANDICAPPED PARKING

On the East side of our building there are several parking spaces marked for handicapped parking only. We remind you that by state law, these spaces can be used only by individuals displaying a handicapped motorist sign in their car window or having the prefix "dis" on their license plate. Please respect the rights of our disabled members and guests!

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♥ Valentine's Day Bake Sale - February 12
- † Lenten Dinner sponsorship for March 8
Sliced Beef, sloppy joes, salads, chips & dip, and desserts are on the menu.
- ♦ Easter Pick 'N Save gift cards (2 or 3)
- ♦ Possible sponsoring of a Blood Drive.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

To the following couples who are celebrating February Wedding Anniversaries.

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Ralph & Nancy Schwanke | 2/07 |
| Greg & Monica Glisch | 2/10 |
| Donald & Millie Luhmann | 2/11 |
| Warren & Sandra Majchrzak | 2/15 |
| Robert & Sheri Glisch | 2/28 |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

To the following couples who are celebrating March Wedding Anniversaries.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Steve & Lila Solar | 3/03 |
| Frank & Dorothy Meyer | 3/06 |
| Matthew & Cynthia Kaul | 3/12 |
| Terry & Jean Melvin | 3/17 |
| John & Beata Luznicky | 3/19 |
| Christopher & Amy West | 3/20 |
| Kevin & Patricia King | 3/20 |
| Clifford & Darlene Jacobson | 3/21 |
| Michael & Kory Chart | 3/21 |
| Robert & Cheryl Christensen | 3/26 |
| Jeff & Denise Schmittinger | 3/28 |
| Seth & Heather Hutchinson | 3/30 |

Ladies Aid &
LWML Celebrating 75 Years
1942 - 2017

Lutheran Women's Quarterly for Winter has arrived. This issue, "Pastors' Wives: Our Lives," features Bible Studies, devotions, and articles written by gifted women of God who know full well the joys and challenges of being a pastor's wife, daughter, or mother.

"A Glimpse into the Parsonage: A mother's & Daughter's memories."

"Seven Secrets Your Pastor's Wife Wishes You Knew"

"The Journey Continues"

"My Future Wore a Collar"

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Your invited to celebrate LWML's 75th Anniversary!

June 22-25, 2017 -- Albuquerque, New Mexico

"Jesus Christ Above All"

Speakers (Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Ida Mall - past LWML president, Deaconess, Betty Knapp, Jan Struck as Katie Luther, Song Leader Wendysue Fluegge) plus special events and tours.

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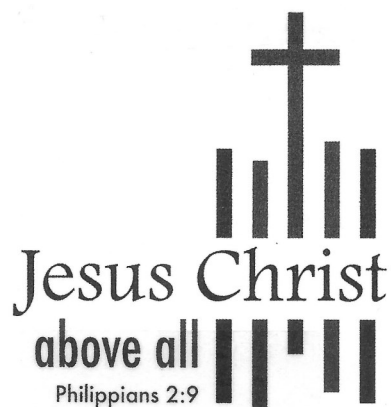
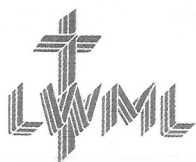
Ladies Aid/LWML - our next meeting is February 2 at 1 p.m. We will be reading to the pre-school children and do a craft. Everyone is invited.

March 2, 2017 meeting will be a Bible Study by Pastor Bischoff

March 14, 2017 is a Prayer Service at Holy Cross in Racine at 1 p.m.

April 29, 2017 if our Spring Rally at Prince of Peace in Racine

Mission endeavor sponsored by Our Savior - talk about mission work in Guatemala.





Solus Christus

A Higher Things. Youth Retreat

MARTIN LUTHER NAILED IT! When it comes to salvation there's only one Savior in town! He's Jesus! Not you! Or anybody else! Yes, that's right, JESUS ONLY! Solus Christus is the Lutheran Reformation's way of putting it! When Jesus alone does the salvation verbs, the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are certain and sure. Let's clinch it this way: Heaven depends on Good Friday Jesus alone taking all your sin (indeed "becoming sin" 2 Corinthians 6:21) because when push comes to shove, either that sin will be on you or on Jesus. Thanks be to God that Jesus alone answered for all your sin and all its damnation. Because of Jesus alone you are reconciled to God. That's the kind of Solus Christus you can live and die with. That's the kind of Solus Christus that the Reformation was all about! Join us in Sheboygan at Trinity Lutheran Church for our Tenth Annual Higher Things Retreat!

Pastor Brent Kuhlman is the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Murdock, Nebraska. Pastor Kuhlman and his wife, Robin, have three children, Allison, Jake, and Carlie.

When: February 18-19, 2017
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church - Sheboygan, WI
Cost: \$60
RSVP: via online registration at
www.higherthings.org/retreats/registrations

Rev. John Berg
berg@trinitysheboygan.org
(920) 468-8246

or email Patrick Sturdivant
Higher Things Retreat Coordinator
retreats@higherthings.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members are celebrating February Birthdays.

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Dean Buse | 2/01 |
| Maycee Schneiker | 2/02 |
| John Hunholz | 2/02 |
| James Derksen | 2/02 |
| Taylor Himebauch | 2/03 |
| Ashley Rutz | 2/03 |
| Hailey Schwartz | 2/04 |
| Chesney Bankenbush | 2/06 |
| Jamie Multhauf | 2/07 |
| Jenna Keeling | 2/08 |
| Robert Somers, Jr. | 2/09 |
| Corbyn Mullikin | 2/09 |
| Pamela Fesko | 2/09 |
| Ramona Holden | 2/10 |
| Nicholas Szeklinski | 2/10 |
| Allie Fischer | 2/13 |
| Anthony Kominiak | 2/13 |
| Hunter Schneiker | 2/13 |
| Cody Baumgart | 2/14 |
| Paul Collins | 2/14 |
| Wendell Zirbel | 2/14 |
| Kyler Lapotko | 2/14 |
| Melissa Holden | 2/15 |
| Kathy Anderson | 2/15 |
| Thatcher Smith | 2/17 |
| Charlene Eisenhut | 2/17 |
| Corra Kramer | 2/17 |
| Hella Goering | 2/18 |
| John Luznicky, Jr. | 2/18 |
| Kevin Jacobson | 2/18 |
| Dwight Jutrzonka | 2/18 |
| Eden Conradt | 2/18 |
| Weston Baumeister | 2/19 |
| Michael Chart | 2/20 |
| Reese Crawley | 2/20 |
| Cameron Casas | 2/21 |
| Justyce Lapotko | 2/21 |
| Cora Ciszewski | 2/22 |
| Alyssa Kaul | 2/22 |
| Joseph Schauer | 2/22 |
| Clinton Chalmers | 2/23 |
| Dorothy Strasser | 2/23 |
| Hannah Artery | 2/23 |
| Janice Kafer | 2/23 |
| Alice Sánchez | 2/23 |
| Mariah White | 2/24 |
| Zackary Tymus | 2/24 |
| Kevin King | 2/24 |
| Larry Henning | 2/24 |

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Jason Dable | 2/24 |
| Janet Christiansen | 2/25 |
| Austin Kaul | 2/25 |
| Joshua Conradt | 2/26 |
| AJ Hayden | 2/27 |
| Randi Burdette | 2/27 |
| Kira Thuecks | 2/27 |
| Ella Breien | 2/27 |
| Karen Lauf | 2/27 |
| Faith Alloy | 2/28 |
| Anna Rogahn | 2/29 |

PRAYER SERVICE

Cross and Crown Mission Society of Holy Cross (3350 Lathrop Avenue) would like to invite you to the 2017 LWML Prayer Service entitled "LWML Celebrating 75 Years of Commending Christ from One Generation to Another" on Tuesday, March 14 at 1 p.m. in their sanctuary. The service will be led by our Zone Counselor, Rev. Joshua Conradt from St. Peter's. There will be time afterward for fellowship and refreshments. We hope you will be able to attend this worship service and renew friendships afterwards.



Thanks to the Rummage Sale committee for donating proceeds from the 2016 event (\$2,445) to the Board of Trustees.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members are celebrating March Birthdays.

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Daniel Kramer | 3/01 | Aaron Scott | 3/16 |
| Mia Crawley | 3/01 | Frank Meyer | 3/16 |
| Owen Kin | 3/01 | Samuel Fay | 3/16 |
| Desiree Buchholtz | 3/02 | Joshua Fay | 3/16 |
| Lauren Acker | 3/02 | Patrick Becker | 3/17 |
| Jodel Jacobs | 3/03 | Tyler Christensen | 3/17 |
| Steven Jung | 3/06 | William Lindbloom | 3/17 |
| Jayne Badtke | 3/06 | Brittany Smith | 3/17 |
| Glen Kimball | 3/07 | Elizabeth Pauff | 3/17 |
| Warren Majchrzak | 3/07 | Glenn Collins | 3/18 |
| Kyle Pattengale | 3/07 | MaryAnn Pirk | 3/18 |
| Dennis Schultz | 3/07 | Charles Brintnall | 3/19 |
| Brinley Hunt | 3/07 | Judith Buse | 3/21 |
| Cody Juergens | 3/08 | Carrie Buchholtz | 3/22 |
| Raymond Morby | 3/08 | Norman Tuscany | 3/22 |
| Gilbert Amborn, Jr. | 3/10 | Crystal Cowan | 3/22 |
| Karen Luick | 3/10 | Nathan Johnson | 3/22 |
| Ariana Nickel | 3/10 | Christine Repischak | 3/22 |
| Jennifer Rolfson | 3/11 | Jason Charland | 3/24 |
| Scott Ten Cate | 3/11 | Carol Smith | 3/24 |
| Mikayla Acker | 3/11 | Bertha Neumueller | 3/25 |
| Christopher Rogahn | 3/12 | Lawrence Strueder | 3/25 |
| Denise Schmittinger | 3/12 | Jeff Checker | 3/25 |
| Samantha Repischak | 3/12 | Kristine Jacobson | 3/26 |
| Henry Breien | 3/13 | Jack Alloy | 3/26 |
| Gemma Scott | 3/13 | Ronald Hunt | 3/28 |
| Marian Becker | 3/14 | Taylor Badzinski | 3/28 |
| Leslie Storm | 3/14 | Stephanie Conradt | 3/28 |
| Jeff Schmittinger | 3/14 | Rhonda Hegemanm | 3/28 |
| Lila Solar | 3/14 | Robert Hassey | 3/29 |
| Rebecca Jung | 3/14 | Tammy Peterson | 3/29 |
| Randy Burns | 3/14 | Kathryn Zastrow | 3/30 |
| Jacob King | 3/14 | Harry Knoblauch | 3/30 |
| Natalie Schwartz | 3/15 | Brandon Eisenhut | 3/30 |



April 1 – Heart to Heart Sisters Event



Praise the Lord, all People! Saturday, April 1, 2017

Come and fellowship with LWML Sisters of all different ethnic backgrounds.

Trinity Lutheran Freistadt School
10729 W Freistadt Road
Mequon, WI 53097
(Enter from Granville Rd.)

Doors open at 9 a.m. Program starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

For more information, call Mai Thao, 414-531-3661 or mnthao1@gmail.com.

RSVP by March 26. Call Jan at 414-828-5887 or gjadendorf@aol.com.

Ingathering: We are collecting school supplies fro the Karenni families, 4K-12.

Don't forget your filled mite box!

LYF NEWS



Mark your Calendars!!

February 17-19: The Higher Thing Retreat (Trinity, Sheboygan). Please sign up on the sheet near the church office. See info in this newsletter

March 5: Bible study of The Sacrament of Holy Baptism at St. John, Racine 4-6 pm.

March 19: Open Gym here at St. Peters, 4-7 pm.



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to request a prayer on Sunday morning for birthdays, anniversaries, etc., please call the church office. We would be happy to share with you those special days in prayer.

Dartball Update

For the second year in a row, St. Peter's Dartball Team took first place in the Fox River Valley League with a record of 22 wins and 11 losses. The team came up a little short in the Fox River Valley Tournament which was won by a Honey Creek team.

The players on our team were Captain Ron Baumgart, Don Beguhl, Russ Beguhl, Richard Gay, Tim Gay, Dennis Hauke, Terry Jacobs, Frank Meyers, Bob McGill, Ralph Stewart, Shelby Jacobs, and Cody Baumgart.

Tim Gay led the team with an average of .377, while Dick Gay led the team with 19 runs batted in.

Many thanks are extended to those who organized the tournament and provided the food. As always, we are looking for new players in September.

EASTER BREAKFAST



We need someone or some group to head up the Easter Breakfast. If you are the "egg-ceptional" person or team for the job, "spring" over to the church office and "hop" into the lead role.

Help Needed!

FUTURE NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| APRIL/MAY | MARCH 27 |
| JUNE/JULY | MAY 22 |
| AUGUST/SEPTEMBER | JULY 24 |
| OCTOBER/NOVEMBER | SEPTEMBER 25 |
| DECEMBER/JANUARY | NOVEMBER 27 |



SAVE THE DATE!!

2017 FALL FAIR TURKEY DINNER

OCTOBER 21, 2017



MOVING?

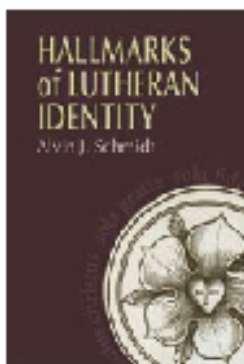
If you are moving, please notify the church office of your change of address and new phone number.

+ + +

LANDSCAPING NEWS

Please forward memorials and donations to the Landscape Committee through Kathe Oelkers.

Coming Soon to a Library Near You.....

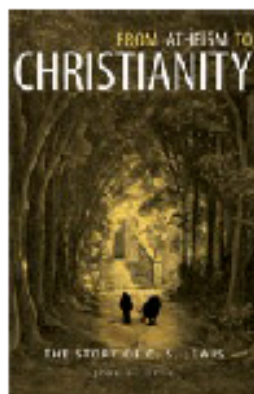


Since the time Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Lutheran theology has survived centuries of political, religious, and societal pressures that challenged its foundational teachings.

But the question remains: Do Lutherans today understand their theological heritage well enough to maintain and defend their unique beliefs when outside pressures dismiss them as irrelevant to modern-day Christianity?

Hallmarks of Lutheran Identity, by Alvin J. Schmidt, sets forth more than twenty important practices, doctrines, and beliefs that distinguish Lutheranism from all other denominations.

Engaging and insightful for both layperson and pastor, *Hallmarks of Lutheran Identity* will deepen your understanding of Lutheran theology and its rich historical traditions so you can confidently answer the question, "What do Lutherans believe?"



This is the story of how one of the world's most famous atheists became one of its most famous Christians.

From Atheism to Christianity: The Story of C. S. Lewis, by Joel Heck, is the spiritual homecoming story of Clive Staples Lewis, a careful and thoughtful scholar who spent fifteen years journeying the long road from atheism to theism and, eventually, to Christianity.

"We read to know we are not alone."
—C.S. Lewis



Your IDEAS are needed!

Please share your requests...books, DVDs, CDs? What would YOU like to see added to our library?

E-mail your suggestions to:

steph53120@gmail.com
or leave me a note in the inbox on top of the file cabinet in the library.



LIBRARY WEBSITE:

stpeterschurchlibrary.weebly.com



Please join our [St. Peter's Lutheran Church Library Group on Facebook](#).

Contact Stephanie Smith with any library-related questions, comments or suggestions.



A Call to Prayer

Marriage. Life. Religious liberty. They are all deemed “controversial” in the public square, buzz words for “Don’t talk about this at the neighborhood party” or, “Stick to discussing the weather and sports...just to be safe.” And yet each topic matters. Fundamentally, they matter because people matter. And people matter to us as Lutherans because they matter to Jesus.

We teach about these issues, we communicate and catechize about them, and we work to establish offices because we desire to bear witness to Christ, even in the public square, even in a culture where people don’t want to hear about Him.

Remaining faithful

This month, as our nation prepares to swear in a new president, we ask you to join with your fellow LCMS Lutherans in prayer—for our churches, for our members, for our country, for her elected leaders. That, of course, is your joy and challenge in this intensely politically charged atmosphere: to remain faithful, to stay the course, to pray!

Our Lord hasn’t left you alone to be a voice for His gift of marriage or to speak for the value of the lives He creates. He remains with you. He is not absent. He is still at the helm, the head of the body, still leading, still guiding.

As you pray, know that as Christians we are together bearing witness to Christ in and by all that we do, speaking truth in the public square, at our own kitchen tables and over our backyard fences, remaining firm in the faith. And we trust that God—in His perfect time and way—will work all things for His good!

Holy Father, as Your People, we turn to You, our only refuge in every need. You see how confused and concerned our nation is. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy!

Show us the path forward that we, our elected leaders and those who have authority over us may be faithful in the vocations you have given us to do. Cause us to be uncompromising witnesses to Your will and Your ways, both in our homes and in the public square.

Help us to proclaim in Christ the gift of forgiveness for every sin we have committed, every time we have not spoken the truth in love, every instance where we have remained silent. Give us a voice to speak for the unborn, the joy to lift up the gift of marriage, and the willingness to speak on behalf of people of faith who are, even now, persecuted for their faith in You.

We have no right to ask this, save through the merits and meditation of Him whose blood atones for the sin of the whole world, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

How can I get involved?

Watch for insight from President Harrison. A special mailing from President Harrison will be headed your way soon, and you won’t want to miss it.

Keep on top of the issues. Email freetobefaitful@lcms.org to get the latest on the Synod’s Free to Be Faithful work as well as the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.

Pray! Print out a copy of the above prayer as a reminder to pray for the president, elected leaders and the nation.

Learn more. Visit lcms.org/lrl to learn about the Synod’s work to establish an office in Washington, D.C.

An Alliterative Trinity

We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.



Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church.

We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave

us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

RECIPE CORNER

RUSTIC APPLE PIE

1 refrigerator pie pastry (for 9 inch pie)
3 cups thinly sliced peeled Granny Smith apples (about 3 large)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
½ cup sugar
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon flour
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of freshly ground nutmeg or 1/8 teaspoon commercially ground nutmeg
1 beaten egg
1 tablespoon water
Powdered sugar
Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream for garnish

Allow pastry to warm at room temperature according to package directions. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Meanwhile, toss apples with lemon juice. In mixing bowl, combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add apples and toss well to coat.

Place crust in baking sheet lined with parchment paper and sprinkled lightly with a little flour. Roll pastry to 13 inch circle. Pile apples in center of circle, leaving a 2-inch border. Fold border up over apples, forming an edge. Combine egg and water; brush over top and sides of crust.

Bake in preheated oven 35 to 40 minutes or until crust is golden and apples are tender. Slip tart on parchment paper onto wire rack to cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve with whipped cream or ice cream. Makes 6 servings.

FACES OF THE REFORMATION

JOHANNES GUTENBERG

Born: 1395? | Mainz, Germany

Died: 1468 | Mainz, Germany



LutheranReformation.org

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Gutenberg's invention helped spread the ideas of the Reformation to the masses

COULD JOHANNES GUTENBERG HAVE KNOWN WHEN HE FIRST CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF MOVEABLE TYPE that it would contribute to the spread of the Reformation and the Renaissance and lead to the education of all levels of society? One might question his presence in the "Faces of the Reformation" series. But considering that his presses printed not only Luther's 95 Theses but also the papal indulgences that sparked Luther's polemic pen, it seems fitting that he should be included.

Gutenberg was born about 1395 as the son of a metalsmith, and he became acquainted with the printing business at a very young age. His invention of the moveable type press made the mass production of books a reality that would change the world. By 1450, his new invention was operating. As with most new ideas of this scale, the road was not smooth. In 1546, Johann Fust, Gutenberg's financial backer, won a lawsuit against him regarding repayment of the funds. Gutenberg's employee and son-in-law, Peter Schöffer, testified against him. Before this lawsuit was finalized, Gutenberg had printed a Latin Bible that contained 42 lines of Scripture per page. This "42-line Bible" is known as the Gutenberg Bible. The press for the Bible, Gutenberg's masterpiece, along with a second book containing only Psalms, was lost to Fust in the court case. The Psalter was published after the court case with no mention of Gutenberg; only Fust's and Schöffer's names appear as the printers.

Gutenberg never really bounced back financially from losing his press to Fust. He set up another printing press and continued to print, but because he did not put his name in the books and papers he produced, it is not known how much was produced as he competed with his old press shop. In 1465, an honorific title was bestowed on Gutenberg in recognition for his invention. This was accompanied by a salary that supported him until his death three years later.

Gutenberg is often thought of as a contemporary of Luther, but in fact he died 15 years before Luther was born. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he declares that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (EPH. 2:10). The stage was set for the coming battle between Luther and his followers and the pope and his supporters.

The Reformation has often been called the war of pamphlets. Pamphlets, the quickest and most economical form of printing with moveable type, had been around for decades before Luther started to employ them, but the volume of pamphlets increased as much as one-thousandfold in the first few years after Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door. Printing shops sprang up all over Germany, and many came to Wittenberg like moths to a flame. Even the artist Lucas Cranach partnered in a printing business there.

Gutenberg's invention made books more obtainable for the first time in history. The book that helped codify the German language and that was used as a tool in teaching reading was Luther's German Bible. For the first time, Germans could read the Scriptures in their own language at a cost that was within reach for the common man.

Surely Gutenberg would have been amazed at the world-altering events that resulted from the works planned in advance for him to do.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
ConcordiaHistoricalInstitute.org



Pray For Us Calendar

These prayer requests were submitted by coworkers in the Lord's mission.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — FEBRUARY 1-28 "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God," Jesus says in Luke 18:16. God wants all His children to have faith in Him, yet sin and brokenness permeate the lives of His people. Children are orphaned, and families are ripped apart. Over the years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has reached out to care for God's precious children through the mercy ministries of congregations, missionaries and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs).

Remember God's work to support children and families as you pray:

1. for all Christians, that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the homeless and oppressed.
2. for all children, that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and guided in Your truth from an early age.
3. for Christian families, that they would open up their homes and lives so that all children might live in safe dwellings and loving homes.
4. for adoption and foster-care agency workers, that they would make good and right decisions concerning what is best for all involved — enabling them to find proper families and resources to meet the needs of the children they serve.
5. for orphanages around the world, that they might receive proper funding, food, resources and godly caregivers so that they can provide the best care possible to the children entrusted to them.



The Rev. Gary Schwuchke baptizes Londynn Levin as her mother holds her at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Fla.



Children sing during Bible study at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya's Project 24 boys' boarding-school facility in Kisumu, Kenya.

INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- The LCMS offers many free resources on topics like domestic violence, child abuse and ministry to those with disabilities. Visit lcms.org/social-issues to learn more.
- Visit lcms.org/rsos to learn about the Synod's Recognized Service Organizations and find ones working near you.
- Want to learn how to be more welcoming of people of all abilities? Find straightforward and inexpensive ideas for your next church event at blogs.lcms.org/2016/the-church-is-for-everyone.

7. for all orphans, that they might find Christian families who will nurture them with the love and knowledge of Christ.
8. for all foster children, that they might find peace amongst the chaos as they wait for a proper family to be established.
9. for all people who suffer from domestic violence, that the Lord would deliver them from danger and comfort them with His peace and forgiveness.
10. for all caregivers, that they might raise children in the way they should go so that they would use their time and talents to glorify God and to serve their neighbor throughout their lives.
11. for all children who receive new families, that they would learn to love and respect their new family just as that family loves and provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual, educational and spiritual needs.



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THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN ASIA — MARCH 1-15 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has been working in Asia since sending its first missionary to India in 1895. Today, the Asia region is home to both well-established Lutheran churches and fledgling Lutheran groups — all of which are hungry for solid, distinctively Lutheran instruction. At their request, the LCMS continues to assist them in various ways with theological education.

Remember God's work through theological education in Asia as you pray:

1. for Christ's work throughout the world, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to all people and the forgiveness of sins be delivered through the Means of Grace.
2. for LCMS partner churches throughout Asia, that God would guard them from the assaults of Satan that would lead them into despair or grievous sin and uphold them by His Word and gifts.
3. for the LCMS and her work throughout the world, that Jesus Christ would shine the light of His Gospel through the work of her missionaries, both foreign and domestic, and preserve her from false teachings and despair.
4. for Concordia Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, that it would be a place where pastors are trained to proclaim the Gospel to a world in need of forgiveness.
5. for Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, Papua New Guinea, that God would strengthen and preserve the seminary to prepare the pastors of the Gutnius Lutheran Church to convict people with God's law and then heal them with the word of Absolution.
6. for Japan Lutheran Seminary in Tokyo, Japan, that our Lord, Jesus Christ, would make the seminary a place where the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity.
7. for Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India, that the Lord would preserve the seminary from all evil and lead it to become a bastion of the Gospel against the attacks of the wicked foe.
8. for Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Birip, Papua New Guinea, that the Lord would use the instructors to shine His Word upon the path of students preparing to serve His Church.
9. for students and professors of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines, that they might serve the Lutheran Church in the Philippines faithfully.
10. for the Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, LCMS theological education facilitator for Asia and instructor at Japan Lutheran Seminary, that the Lord would use him to encourage and build up seminaries throughout the Asia region.

11. for the Rev. Dr. Stephen Oliver, LCMS theological educator at China Lutheran Seminary, Taiwan, that he would continue to point his students to Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world.
12. for the Rev. Dr. Michael Paul, LCMS theological educator at China Lutheran Seminary and church planter, that the Lord would bless his labors as he assists in planting a new church in Taiwan.
13. for the Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann, LCMS theological educator to South Asia, that the Lord would grant him courage to teach the students of the Lanka Lutheran Church and the India Evangelical Lutheran Church.
14. for the Rev. Dr. Hans Trinkl, LCMS theological educator in Seoul, South Korea, that, as he learns the language and culture of the country, the Lord would equip him to faithfully teach and preach the Word of God.
15. for Luther Seminary in Seoul, South Korea, that the Lord would preserve those who teach and those who learn to hold fast to His Word in all circumstances.



Vicar A. Francis Silva studies under the Rev. Roger James, LCMS missionary and South Asia area director, during a class at Lanka Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka.

INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- Want to know more about the location of the Synod's missionaries and partner churches? Visit lcms.org/asia to download a free map of the Synod's work in the world.
- Learn more about the history of the Synod's work in Japan at lcms.org/japan.
- Did you know there are Lutherans in Bangladesh? Read about two grants the LCMS recently gave to assist these believers at blogs.lcms.org/2016/lcms-provides-life-giving-water-bangladesh.