



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our victorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peter wrote, **“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you”** (1 Peter 5:7). As we write this, the flood waters are rising at the rivers that surround Humboldt. The flood waters are expected to crest in two days. Word has spread that one of the sub-stations that serves our section of town will be shut down meaning a loss of electricity for a number of days. While the community has come together, there is still a sense of anxiety in the air.

We sat with our granddaughters as word of the flood began to spread. You could hear the fear and concern in her voice when she asked if she was going to be carried down the river. We tried to assure her that was not going to happen. Anxiety can be defined as “a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome.” Anxiety can touch our lives when we face uncertain challenges.

One scene near the end of the movie and play “1776” had a moving moment. The South has just walked out of the Continental Congress, John Adams stands alone in the Congressional Hall pondering the future of the Declaration of Independence. He receives a dispatch from General Washington. Washington relates how his troops are under-fed, running low on ammunition, and has not received the promised assistance that had been promised. Then Washington writes these words, “Does anybody hear, does anybody care.” How often have we been tempted to say the same thing.

Life can be going along like a smooth flowing river. Then the smooth waters become a roaring stream carrying everything along in its wake. Financial problems arise, causing us to wonder how we will provide for our family. An accident takes place that leaves us devastated wondering how we will deal with the aftermath. We are confronted by some illness that leaves us weak and wondering about our future and our families future.

This is the same reaction of the disciples in the gospel reading on Sunday, June 23 in Mark 4:35-41. Jesus has told the disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee. While Jesus is asleep in the boat a vicious storm races down from the hills surrounding the sea. The winds whistle and the waves began to beat against the boat, and water begins to enter the boat. The disciples in fear wake Jesus and ask, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are perishing?” They had seen the miracles and heard the words that Jesus had proclaimed, and yet they were overcome by fear or anxiety and were really asking, “Jesus, don’t you care about us? Jesus would then “rebuke the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’

and the wind ceased and there was a great calm.” Jesus demonstrated His care and compassion for the disciples by commanding the storm to stop.

Jesus demonstrated that He cared and had compassion by healing the sick, returning sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and casting out demons. He would demonstrate his care and love for us by going to the cross paying the price for our sins, the times we have doubted his compassion. He bore all our fears, anxieties, and doubts as they were the reason He was nailed to the cross. He rose victorious over our enemies, sin, death and the power of the devil. He now comes to calm our doubts, our fears, and our anxieties. He creates faith in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit and empowers us to be brave again as he calms our fears and anxieties.

Peter reminds us that we can **“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”** Like a grandfather putting his arms around his granddaughter assuring her that all will be okay, you are not going to be washed down stream, your father, mother, and grandfather will not let that happen. Just remember we love you and will take care of you. So our heavenly Father comes to calm our fears. He puts His arms around us and says, “remember I love you, I am with you, you don’t have to be afraid”.

In Jesus name,

Pastor Raether

Pastor Raether

WHO GIVES THE MOST

I would like to pose three scenarios: The first one is this: In today’s offering, you place a check for \$50.00. Second: a 9th grader sitting close to you tosses in a dollar. Third: the person right in front of you puts in a check for \$300.00. The question is this: Who gave the most?

Now let us go back in time and observe a Pharisee who walks through the inner court of the temple and tosses into the temple treasury a bag of gold. Then shift your focus to a widow who slips in almost unnoticed and places two small copper coins into the same temple treasury. Who gave the most?

The answer is found in Jesus’ Words: *“I tell you the truth,’ He said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on”* (Luke 21:4).

You see, God does not measure our gifts by the size of the gifts, but according to the condition of our hearts. God knows when giving is given out of faith, love, and gratitude for His countless blessings that He gives to us. Not only does He know the priorities of our hearts, but He also knows the giving capabilities that we have. When we

give our offerings, He knows what we are keeping for ourselves, and He knows if we are giving sacrificially of what we have. Only as our relationship with Jesus grows will we be able to give greater proportions of what we receive.

Proportionate giving is fair to the rich and the poor. A person who earns \$10,000 and gives \$1,000 is giving the same proportion as a person who earns \$100,000 and gives \$10,000.

Going back to our original scenarios, wouldn't we agree that the person who gave \$300.00 gave the most? Certainly \$300 is greater than the dollar given by the 9th grader. However, from God's perspective, the 9th grader with the one dollar may have given a more meaningful gift than the person who gave \$300. If the dollar is given from a loving and grateful heart and if it represents a generous proportion of the youngster's income, the gift will please God. A gift of \$300 could sadden the Lord if it is given without faith and if it represents only a token amount of one's income. Jesus said, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked"* (Luke 12:48).

May God grant us the same faith as He did the widow so we, too, can give proportionately, generously, and perhaps even sacrificially.

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The Sunday Morning Bible Class meets at 10:30 a.m. We continue a study of the Gospel of Mark. The Study is titled "MARK the Serving Christ." The tentative schedule is as follows:

- July 7 Mark 8:1-9:13 – "The Christ Must Suffer"
- July 14 NO CLASS – Pastor Raether preaches at St. Paul & POP
- July 21 Mark 8:1-9:13 – Complete "The Christ Must Suffer"
- July 28 Mark 9:14-10:45 – "Discipleship - Servanthood"

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The Wednesday Morning Bible Class does not meet during the Summer. The class will resume on September 4th. We will examine the Max Lucado video series "Jesus." For thirty-three years, Jesus felt everything that we have ever felt: weakness, weariness, rejections. He got colds. His feelings got hurt. His feet grew tired. His head ached. He hit his thumb with a hammer. Here we meet a God Who knows your name. Sessions will include:

1. "God with Us"
2. "Friend of Sinners"
3. "Compassionate Physician"
4. "Great Teacher"
5. "Miracle Worker"
6. "Victorious Sacrifice"

JULY SERMONS

The sermon series for July and part of August will be "No Longer Strangers." The letter to the Ephesians teaches the church how to be a community worthy of the gospel. This series will begin on July 14th. Pastor Meyer will be at Cub Week, so the preaching schedule is changed during July.

- July 7 Pastor Meyer leads worship
- July 14 PR – Ephesians 1:3-14 – "The Family"
- July 21 PR – Ephesians 2:11-22 – "Aliens Brought Near" PR at St. Paul on Sat.
- July 28 PR – Ephesians 3:14-21 – "God's Powerful Love"
- Aug. 4 PR-@both Congregations – Ephesians 4:1-16 – "Bound together"
- Aug. 11 PR – Ephesians 4:25-4:2 – "Making Peace"
- Aug. 18 PM- Ephesians 5:15-20 – "Overflow"

LWML GUEST DAY

The LWML Guest Day will be held on Thursday August 4th. Pastor Raether, a volunteer with Make-A-Wish of Iowa, will tell the story of MAW. The story begins with a little boy's dream to be a police officer and has touched thousands of children over the years. We will also relate the experience that Morgan Marie has on her wish trip to Disney World. We will have more information next month.

Board of Education

June 5, 2024

Members: Jill Davis, Kari Johnson, Susan Macek, and Pastor Raether

Library: The new Library book is titled, "Climate Change for Kids---and Parents Too!" Written by Dr. Ken Ham and Jessica Deford. For ages 9 and up. Climate change is the result of the world adjusting to the global floods impact and the ice age it caused. You can learn more about the history of the world, and what God has promised in the future. An extra bonus -- it is printed in large print.

St. Paul: none

Confirmation report: Catechism will start after Labor Day in September. Will study the two year program on the Ten Commandments and the Creed.

Sunday School report: No summer Sunday School. We donated \$120 to our mission at Mission Central, Mapleton, Iowa.

Family Fellowship report: Will set up on Saturday June 8th at 11 am. Fellowship will include the menu and games. The theme is "Bloom Where You Are".

Wednesday and Sunday Bible Study: Three more weeks on Angels and Demons on Wednesdays. They will resume on September 4th. Next study is on "Jesus" by Max Lucado. Sunday study is in the Book of Mark.

Cradle Roll: None.

Old Business: We will meet in July to discuss canvassing the neighborhood for VBS. June 16th we will begin asking for volunteers. .

New Business: We wish to congratulate Rev Ed Durand and Rev Nicholas Thackery for their 15th anniversary in the ministry. We are so blessed to have these pastors in the Iowa District West. Next meeting is July 10th.

Sue Macek, Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

June 6, 2024

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on June 6 at 1 p.m. Eleven members attended the meeting. Sally Zuspenn gave prayer "Psalm 121". "Be Assured". Florence Sandgren gave mites devotion; "Prayer, Christian Walk, Mites Prayer". Sally Zuspenn called the June meeting to order. The minutes of May 2 were given out in the meeting, were read and approved.

Committee reports:

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

LWML District Convention June 13-15, Okoboji. Carol Locke made a motion to give (4) \$25 donations to convention missions. Jean Martinson seconded the motion. Motion by Connie Tyrrell to give Sue Macek \$50 for travel expense to the District Convention. Jean Martinson seconded the motion.

VBS. August 4,5,6. Time: 6-8PM.

September Fall Rally, Prince of Peace. Menu; coffee, muffins. Will need help for the event.

October 12 – Craft and Bake Sale. Time: 10-2 pm. Committee: Vicky Escobedo, Nancy Herzberg. Set up date: October 11 at 11 AM. Free will offering for luncheon. Will start advertising Craft and Bake Sale in August.

"Quilts of Valor". Quilt of Valor will given out to men of our church. Will be given out by July 4 after church service.

July Funeral Committee: Nancy Herzberg, Carol Locke

Shut-ins birthdays: None.

Birthdays: LaVonne Peters

July No Meeting.

August 1 Meeting: Noon Summer potluck picnic. Guest Day and speaker.

Sally Zuspenn closed meeting with Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer. All in favor to adjourn meeting at 1:50 p.m.

LaVonne Peters, Secretary.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

You are invited to Vacation Bible School on August 4-6th from 6:00-8:00 pm. During these three nights we will have a party to "Celebrate the Savior". We can celebrate because Jesus is our best friend. His love and forgiveness gives us great joy! Three year olds through those who finished fifth grade can register and join the exciting party at "Celebrate the Savior."

-Board of Education

ORGAN REPAIR UPDATE

David Wrote, "I will sing and make music to the Lord." Ps. 27:6. The temple symbolizes the presence of the Lord and was His stronghold. David recognized the Lord's presence and declared that we should make music to Him. As we gather for worship, we not only worship and sing praise to our God, we have the opportunity to hear the beautiful music that comes from our organ under the dedication of our organist, Steve Long. We praise and thank our God from both these precious gifts.

The Voters Assembly recognized the need to repair and upgrade our organ. The cost of the repair and upgrade came to about \$85,000. The foundation agreed to pay the cost of this repair and upgrade, with the congregation reimbursing the Foundation for that cost. The Foundation has been reimbursed with \$11,000.

We expect Levsen Organ Company, of Buffalo, Iowa, to complete work on the organ this Summer. The delay in scheduling the work was caused by a delay in receiving parts for the repair. While waiting, our organist, Steve Long, has been preparing for a recital once the organ has been repaired.

The cost of the repair and update of our pipe organ was about \$85,000. The Foundation has agreed to pay the cost of this repair with the congregation reimbursing it for this expense. We set an initial goal for the congregation of \$10,000. That goal we met by the end of April. We thank the Lord and you for this outpouring.

The congregation, as of June 23, has received \$13,642 (this includes the \$11,000 that has been reimbursed to the Foundation) from the special offerings for this project. We continue to receive gifts for the Organ Fund, with special offering envelopes available in the Narthex or entrance of the sanctuary. Gifts to the Organ Fund as memorials, which we have received a number of these gifts, anniversaries, birthdays and other special occasions. One congregation had a building fund and suggested that its members give a gift of one dollar for every year on a birthday or anniversary. We encourage and know that you will continue to support this project with your special gifts as you are able to. That you for your past and continued support of this project.

Membership Report for June 2024

GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized + 1
Quinnlyn Owens

LOSS

Confirmed - 1

Fred McPherson (May)
Deceased

Baptized -

Communicant = 163 - 1 = 162
Baptized (not confirmed) = 47 + 1 = 48
Total baptized souls = 210


BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dre'Shaun Brookshire -(7/9), Alexis Read -(7/9), Kaitlyn Andrews -(7/11), Noah Castor -(7/21), Pat Wrede -(7/24), William Degelau -(7/27), Mark Martinson -(7/27), Paul Castor -(7/30).

ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
6/2	43	
6/9	46	39
6/16	45	
6/23	46	
6/30	68	42

Financial Report June 2024

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$11,258.50, Missions Budget \$167.50, Loose Offerings \$641.00, Memorial Fund \$50.00, Miscellaneous \$1,095.80, Organ Fund \$3,185.00.

Total Offerings \$16,397.80

Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,002.40, Organist \$300.00, Pastoral Expenses \$797.97, Ministry Expenses \$538.28, Television Ministry \$38.26, Portals of Prayer \$205.82, Worship Supplies \$195.55, Office Supplies \$153.90, Computer/Internet \$388.85, Church Supplies \$115.56, Water \$108.99, Pest Control \$40.00, Gas & Electric \$654.00, Sanitation \$40.66, Property Repairs \$2,265.49, Miscellaneous \$371.00, W/H Tax \$176.46, Missions \$167.50, Charities \$187.00, Advertising \$240.00.

Total Expenses \$9,987.69
Net Income \$6,410.11

