



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

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

The challenges of life are many. We face them in the life of our family with concerns for our children and grandchildren, doubts about our future and retirement, health concerns, our mortality, relationships that at times become strained. There are times when the concerns for our well-being can consume us.

The Lord gives us many object lessons in the world around us. During the winter, a snow storm leaves the landscape glistening white and He reminds us though your sins are as scarlet they shall be white as snow (Is. 1:18). The same holds true during the summer. How many times have we been driving in the country and stopped and gazed at the heavens, with its beauty and majesty, and been reminded of God's power and how He is still concerned about us as individuals, specks of dust in His creation.

How many times have we heard the forecast for storms in the afternoon? The day begins bright and sunny, but muggy and uncomfortable. You know the weather predictions, but you look outside and begin to doubt the accuracy. By 3:00 p.m., the afternoon has changed dramatically. The air is so humid it feels as if it has closed in on you. The sky has turned ugly. Huge dark clouds begin to roll in, and soon the sun has disappeared. It is almost as dark as night, but it is late afternoon. Suddenly the clouds burst and huge drops of rain begin to fall. Bolts of lightning flash through the heavens and creation seems to vibrate with each crash of thunder. The rain is so heavy, it forms little rivers down the road and little ponds begin to form.

Little by little, the rain begins to let up, the clouds light and the sun comes out, its rays glistening in the light rain that continues to fall. You look to the east, and witness the beginning of a rainbow. As you watch it, the colors become brighter and brighter. Its beauty takes your breath away. Then a second rainbow appears over the first, gradually darkening in the color like the first. You look at God's gift in the rainbow and feel a sense of wellbeing.

The rainbow is a reminder of God's promise and His grace. After the flood, that destroyed the world, began to recede, and Noah stepped off the ark; he offered a sacrifice and praise to the Lord. A rainbow appeared in the heavens, and the Lord promised never to destroy mankind through a flood. He said, "Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." So, God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth." The appearance of a rainbow can remind us of God's promises of forgiveness, life, and all the blessings that our gracious God wants to bestow on us. His promises remain true, even in the midst of the storms of life.

A rainbow can remind us of God's grace. The many brilliant colors and shades of hue remind us of the grace that He gives us in life and the assurance of His presence and love. His grace is not deserved but granted

to us in Christ Jesus because of his love for us and all mankind. The Lord promised St. Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." We also have the promises and assurance "that nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord."

While our gracious God speaks to us through His Word we are blessed with many wonderful reminders of His love, grace and promises through nature around us. Those reminders can sustain and uplift us as we face the challenges of life with faith, courage and confidence.

As we take vacations and spend time with family and friends during this summer season, may we look to the heavens and see the wonder of God's creation and be reminded of his grace and promises.

May you have a blessed summer and a time for renewal, a time to be refreshed and strengthened. Remember to take time for worship in God's house and a study of His Word wherever you God.

In Christ,

*Pastor Raether*

Pastor Raether

### Becoming Rich

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Christians understand that riches do not consist of money. In fact, riches have nothing to do with money. We can have very little money and be very rich or be very wealthy and be impoverished. True riches have to do with a right relationship with Jesus Who brings us happiness, satisfaction, joy, love, and peace. Material possessions do not constitute real riches.

Material things are transitory. "When your eyes light on it, [wealth] is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:5). What we possess materially is subject to loss in a variety of ways. Our wealth can be lost in the stock market or through rust, obsolescence, and thievery. No matter how much money we may have, we have no way of guaranteeing that it can be kept safe and secure. Money can be lost, stolen, or its purchasing power lost through inflation. Investments can decline in value and businesses can fail. Our property can be burned or robbed. All material things can be gone quickly. Even if our material things stay with us, we will eventually leave them, because, at the end, we can take nothing with us.

Material goods and earthly treasures are deceitful and uncertain. In Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Sower, He said, "As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22). In the Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy, he wrote, "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty,



nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, Who richly provides us with everything to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17).

So, if we want to be rich, it cannot be on the basis of material things. Things of this world are much too precarious a foundation on which to build a life. With God's help, we can turn away from material things and turn toward Christ. Jesus urges us to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:20-21). As God's people, our riches come from storing up riches in heaven.

Loving God with all of our heart, soul, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves builds up treasures in heaven. As the Holy Spirit leads us to loosen our grip on things of this world, we can learn to be content with what we have rather than always wanting more worldly things.

Through faith, we are rich. As Christians, we receive the riches of eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

The following comes from "BETTER HEALTH" published by Concordia Plans

Regular church attendance is good for our physical health and our mental health. In a review of 69 studies, regularly attending church is linked to a lower incidence of death from cardiovascular disease.

Similarly, a Norwegian study published in the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine found that the more times a person spends at church, the lower his or her blood pressure. (The Norwegian study strengthened an American study that had already made that conclusion).

Furthermore, Psychology Today reports that regular church attendance also boosts mental health by providing feelings of hope and belonging, as well as increasing self-esteem and sense of self-worth. That makes sense because alas Christians, we know we are loved: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

SOURCE: Consumer Reports on Health

### 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:

June 2	Mark 4-5 – "The Secrets of the Kingdom"
June 9	Complete Mark 4-5 "Secrets of the Kingdom"
	Mark 6-7 – "A Prophet is often Without Honor"
June 16	Complete mark 6-7 – "A Prophet Without Honor"

June 23  
June 30

Mark 8:1-9:13 – "The Christ Must Suffer"  
Mark 8:1-9:13 Complete "The Christ Must Suffer"

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS "Angels and Demons"

We will review that lesson and complete the final nine lessons? (We may complete more than one lesson each week) Tentative Schedule is as follows:

June 5	"Witchcraft and Other Forms of Spiritism"
June 12	"Demon Possession" & Satanism"
June 19	"Jesus' Victory Over the Devil"

### Board of Education

May 1, 2024

**Members:** Jill Davis, Sue Macek

**Library:** A new book in our library is titled, "Martin Luther on Mental Health", written by Stephen M. Saunders, PhD from Concordia Publishing House. This book assures us that God knows our suffering and is with us to comfort us. Living with mental illness is not a sign of a weak faith. This book can help in reaching out to those battling mental challenges.

**St. Paul:** Preschool last days of school are 5/16 and 17th, all school picnic is 5/20, Kindergarten closing program is 5/22, 8th grade graduation is 5/23, and last day of school is 5/24.

**Confirmation report:** The sixth grade class ended in April. Will resume in the Fall.

**Sunday School report:** May is our last month of Sunday School classes. Will resume in the Fall. Our mission money goes to Mission Central, Mapleton, IA.

**Family Fellowship report:** Will meet on Sunday, June 9th after church. The theme is "Bloom Where You Are". Menu includes scrambled eggs, link sausages, fresh fruit, muffins, juice, coffee, and water.

**Wednesday and Sunday Bible Study:** Wednesday study is "Anxious About Nothing" and Sunday study is on the Book of Mark.

**Cradle Roll:** None.

**Old Business:** The date for VBS will be August 4, 5, and 6th. Will need 19 volunteers. The title is "Celebrate the Savior, Jesus Gives Us Joy".

**New Business:** We decided to have a Board meeting on July 10th to discuss more with VBS.

Next meeting is June 5th.

Sue Macek, Chairman

## Lutheran Women's Fellowship

May 2, 2024

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on May 2 at 1 p.m. Twelve members attended the meeting. Pastor Raether had Bible study "The Ascension". Sally Zuspann called May meeting to order. The minutes of April 4 were given out in the meeting, were read and approved.

### Committee reports:

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

### Old Business:

**LWML Spring Rally:** Was voted on to have once a year Rally starting next year. The Fall Rally will be at Prince of Peace Lutheran. Forty hospice kits were made for shipment.

### New Business:

**June Funeral Committee:** Sue Macek, Sally Zuspann.

**Shut-ins birthdays:** None.

**Birthdays:** Faye Hansen

**Greeting Cards:** Suggestion was made to have greeting card display in Fireside room for easier viewing of greeting cards available.

**Traverse Rods and Drape Cleaning:** Suggestion was made that rods needed to be replaced and drapes cleaned. Mentioned that it was a long time since the drapes had been cleaned. Will look into the cost to have this done.

**LWML District Convention June 13-15:** Quilts will be donated from our Lutheran Women's Fellowship.

**Mite Devotion:** Florence Sandgren gave mites devotion, "Our Father In Heaven".

**June 6 – Hostess:** Florence Sandgren

Sally Zuspann closed with Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer.

Meeting adjourn meeting at 2:20 p.m.

LaVonne Peters, Secretary.



Join us in the fun at Family Fellowship on June 9th after church. The theme is "Bloom Where You Are". A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the church office. Reserve that date!

-Board of Education

## Membership Report for May 2024

GAIN

**Confirmed +**

**Baptized +**

LOSS

**Confirmed - 1**

Pam Peters

-deceased

**Baptized -**

**Communicant = 164-1=163**

**Baptized (not confirmed) = 47**

**Total baptized souls = 210**

## Financial Report May 2024

### Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$9,971.60, Missions Budget \$137.00, Loose Offerings \$562.00, Ascension \$44.00, Special Offering \$143.00, Miscellaneous \$325.00, Organ Fund \$1,784.40.

**Total Offerings \$12,967.00**

### Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,065.06, Organist \$240.00, Pastoral Expenses \$413.39, Ministry Expenses \$321.28, Television Ministry \$51.01, Office Supplies \$340.09, Computer/Internet \$388.85, Water \$108.99, Pest Control \$40.00, Gas & Electric \$654.00, Sanitation \$40.66, Property Repairs \$33.71, Organ Maintenance/Repair \$11,000, Miscellaneous \$325.00, W/H Tax \$186.84, Missions \$137.00, Charities \$143.00, Advertising \$240.00.

**Total Expenses \$17,728.88**

**Net Income -\$ 4,761.88**



## ORGAN FUND UPDATE

We praise God and thank the congregation for its financial outpouring of support for the Organ Fund. The total cost of the upgrade for the organ is \$83,000. The Foundation has agreed to cover the costs initially, with the congregation contributing as much as possible in the form of reimbursement to the Foundation. The total contributions for the Organ Fund reached over \$12,000 at the end of May. The congregation has reimbursed the Foundation for the first \$11,000. The initial installment was \$18,000 to sign the agreement.

The organ company performing the upgrades, has indicated that we are on the list and are currently awaiting parts. They still hope to have the upgrades completed by the end of summer.

While we have reached the first goal of \$10,000, we hope to reimburse the Foundation with a significant amount of the overall cost. We thank those who have continued to contribute and encourage others to do so over the coming months. Offering envelopes will continue to be available on a table in the Narthex (look for the Organ Fund flyer/display).



## JUNE

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jamie Harmon -(6/3), Julie Hughes -(6/7), Mallory Lindner -(6/9), Jeremy Trost -(6/9), Emmylou Lawrence -(6/10), Acelynn Martinson -(6/17), Karen Lange -(6/20), Theodore Truscheff -(6/20), Lavonne Peters -(6/22), Jeanette Utley -(6/24), Henrick Peterson -(6/25), and Timothy Kudron -(6/29).

Bruce & Sue Heistand	6/7	56th
Patrick & Tammy Ferry	6/14	44th
Larry & Julie Hughes	6/14	49th
Monty & Lori Read	6/16	34th
Jordan & Leslie Castor	6/28	27h

## ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
5/5	38	
5/12	42	37
5/19	52	
5/26	35	35

