

Prince of Peace Tidings

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Issue 7

Dependence on Christ as Your Foundation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

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| 1 Before You, Lord, we bow,
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring
In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise
To You, our King! | 2 The nation You have blest
May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
Protected by Your care.
For this bright day,
For this fair land—
Gifts of Your hand—
Our thanks we pay. | 3 May ev'ry mountain height,
Each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word's pure
light,
And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
Be tuned to praise
And join to raise
A grateful song. |
| 4 Earth, hear your Maker's voice;
Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice,
And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride,
Your sin deplore,
And bow before
The Crucified. | 5 And when in pow'r He comes,
Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,
With joy to sing
To heav'n's high King
Salvation's song! | |

Francis Scott Key is likely most famous for being the man who penned “The Star-Spangled Banner.” He was an eyewitness of the Battle of Baltimore as “the rocket’s red glare, the bomb bursting in air, [which] Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.” This poem would become the National Anthem.

Key is a famous American figure, but did you know that he considered becoming an Anglican priest? Before he would become a prominent attorney, he seriously considered entering the Episcopal priesthood. Now, what made him famous in our textbooks was that he was a lawyer. He appeared numerous times before the U.S. Supreme Court, but his most famous case is what brought him to Baltimore. President James Madison gave him permission to intercede in a prisoner exchange. Key succeeded, but with one provision: he couldn’t leave Baltimore Harbor until after the attack on Baltimore.

As an attorney, he is most famous for what he penned as he witnessed the attack on Baltimore. We sing only the first stanza of his most famous poem. But if we continue reading his poem, we see his overt Christian faith. Even as a lawyer, Key was grounded in his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Key could never be a partial Christian. His Christian faith was never separated from his career in law. His foundation was always in Christ. Throughout his life, Key was an influential and effective lay supporter of the Episcopal Church, where he took active roles in Christ Church and St. John’s Church in Georgetown, and Trinity Church in Washington, D.C. He also served as a lay rector, which is similar to a lay deacon in the Lutheran Church.

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Today, western culture encourages each sector of life declaring its independence from the control and presence of religion. For Key, he understood that his Christian faith served as the foundation for everything. His faith led him to a potentially dangerous mission to the British fleet near Baltimore. His faith led him to write many Christian poems. One of his poems that become a hymn is “Before You, Lord, We Bow.” This poem was a hymn of thanksgiving to God, which was published on Independence Day in 1832.

Like Francis Scott Key, may we always depend on Christ and keep Him as our foundation! I pray that you have a blessed July!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Adelsen

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 1 Corinthians

In many ways, the Church of Corinth is much like the Western Christian Church today. Corinth was a major Greek seaport complete with traffic, travelers, sailors, and merchants. Corinth was cosmopolitan, pagan, idolatrous and immoral. At its height, Corinth was the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire. Among its inhabitants were Roman colonists, ex-slaves, former soldiers, admirers of Greek wisdom and culture, and a scattering of Jews. It was a very prosperous and wealthy city, but it was also a very irreligious city.

Naturally, when the Christian faith collided with the paganism in Corinth, the young congregation founded by St. Paul, was plagued with many problems and questions. These problems included congregational factions, lawsuits, promiscuity, marriage and divorce, desertion, the place of women in the church, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the resurrection of the body. The Church in Corinth turned to St. Paul for guidance and counsel.

The Church in Corinth was not a perfect congregation, but through the Holy Spirit, St. Paul told this imperfect congregation about God’s grace. The experiences of the Church in Corinth are increasingly those of present-day Christians, not only in traditional heathen countries, but also in so-called Christian lands slipping deeper into pagan ways. The impact of the fallen world’s morality on the Church is all so evident today, with political factions growing, marriages failing, sexual morality sinking, and church disorders increasing. Today’s Christian faces many of the moral dilemmas reflected in this epistle.

At the same time, 1 Corinthians is a letter of hope for our times. In trying to hold the Corinthians to the Word of God, St. Paul found it necessary to state both their human faults and their proper goals. In the epistle, St. Paul shows them the way of error and the way of truth. This epistle is practical as it presents everyday problems confronting Christians in the world as the Holy Spirit supplies the answers to our daily problems.



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Men's Bible Study

What does it mean to be a man? Masculinity is attacked by the fallen world as “toxic.” Masculinity is giving of yourself for the good of those around you in your care.

Being masculine is counter-cultural today.

The fallen world says many things about masculinity, but what God speaks in the Bible of manhood is far different. God gave men responsibilities that are distinct from those He gave to women. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, gives men the perfect example of a man, since He is the perfect man. His example sets the paradigm for perfect masculinity.



Starting this Fall, all men of Prince of Peace are invited to Men's Bible Study. We will begin with a study on True Masculinity. The date and time of the study is still to be determined. If you are interested, contact Pastor Adelsen (email: pastor@wspop.org).

The Collection: Christ's Mercy in Action

There's a theme in the Book of Acts that rarely gets the attention it deserves. In Acts, Luke provides the basic events of the blessed apostles and the church, from Christ's ascension to Paul's imprisonment in Rome (A.D. 33–61). St. Paul was brought into the apostolic mission because of this theme (Acts 11:27–30), and later encouraged all his church plants to participate in this task. He spent his entire third missionary journey concerned with this issue (A.D. 54–58), writing and speaking to his mission churches about it, defining it theologically, encouraging churches to get it done, arranging delegates for it and risking his life for it. He gave his life for this mission. What am I talking about? St. Paul's great collection for the poor suffering saints in the mother church in Jerusalem.

The words Paul uses to define the collection of money give us clear indication of how significant this matter was for him. In 2 Corinthians 8–9, the apostle calls the collection a “grace,” a “koinonia” (or participation/fellowship, a word he also uses for the Lord's Supper! See 1 Cor. 10:15–22), a “diakonia” (service/ministry), a “blessing,” a “good work,” a “eucharistia” or “thanksgiving,” a “liturgy” (public service), a “harvest of righteousness,” and more. These are the most powerful words St. Paul uses in his letters. And he uses them all to describe the local congregations gathering funds to assist suffering Christians.

From the beginning, the church cared for the needs of its people. In this they followed Jesus' own example. He cared for “body and soul” (Luther). When we think of the money sack that the



By The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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apostles of Jesus carried, we immediately think of Judas and his theft. The great Lutheran theologian Johann Gerhard, however, noted that the money bag demonstrated the charitable work Jesus and the apostles carried on for the needy, and so Gerhard argued that pastors should also be concerned for the physical well-being of their Christians. In Acts 2:42 we see the earliest apostolic church concerned with the basics, which indeed ought to concern us today.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship [the collection of money and goods for the needy among them], to the breaking of bread [the Lord’s Supper] and the prayers [worship]” (Acts 2:42). They shared everything. They voluntarily sold property to provide alms for the needy among them. When there was a crisis caused by some ethnic tension, the apostles with the congregation established an order of seven deacons to see that all the widows had enough to eat.

“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ... And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem. (Acts 6:3–4, 7)

Along the way, Luke tells us that Barnabas (Acts 4:36–37), Cornelius (Acts 10:1–2) and other men of God were particularly generous in giving to the needy. St. Stephen was martyred in A.D. 36, and St. Paul was converted not long after. He’d been persecuting Christians. Barnabas brought this fearsome man and vouched for him before the apostles (Acts 9:27–28). There were waves of persecution and famine in Jerusalem as the Gospel spread. Persecution only caused the church to grow, and soon in Antioch non-Jews were believing in Jesus.

What to do with them? Barnabas was sent down to investigate. He summoned Paul, and they taught these new converts for “a whole year” (Acts 11:26). Barnabas likely brought Paul in because he knew Judaism and had a record of zealousness for the law. I suspect, knowing how wonderful folks populate the church, that some Gentile convert, aware of the famine which hit Jerusalem, put a bug in Barnabas’ and Paul’s ears that it would be the Christian thing to do to help the mother church. This was a crucial move, as the question of circumcision and following the Mosaic law as new Christians would burn intensely for several years until settled by the Apostolic Council in A.D. 49 (Acts 15). Remember, Paul stood his ground even against Peter on this, and the apostles agreed with Paul. After extending to him the “right hand of fellowship,” “they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing we were eager to do,” said Paul (Gal. 2:9, 10). What an impression the gifts of love of these Gentile converts must have made on the Jerusalem church. Humanly speaking, without them, one wonders if the mother church would have ever been able to get past the issue of requiring non-Jews to take up Jewish laws and customs to become Christians.

The famine raged in Jerusalem throughout the 40s and then subsided. Paul and Barnabas quickly moved on. The church in Antioch sent them on the first missionary journey A.D. 47–48 (Acts 13–14). After this they went up to Jerusalem and the circumcision question was solved with the

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apostles (Acts 15). Paul took off for his second missionary journey (A.D. 49–54). There is not a whisper of the needy Jerusalem church after 49 until the third missionary journey (A.D. 54–58). The conditions in Palestine must have considerably deteriorated again. We know there was a rise of “zealotism” A.D. 55–59, which meant persecution. There was constant political unrest over Roman rule and the establishment that cooperated with Rome. The zealots attacked anyone who cooperated, and attacked intensely any hellenizing influences. The zealots infiltrated the church and pushed against Gentile mission and Paul especially. The zealots were dangerous, and Rome later destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 because of them. The saints in the mother church were suffering again. Now the “great collection” became Paul’s obsession. Knowledge of the Gospel of free forgiveness by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus produced love for others — Jesus’ love for others.

St. Paul’s most notable churches and compatriots were deeply involved in the collection. Timothy carried 1 Corinthians from Paul in Macedonia to Corinth. He received specific directions for the collection from Paul (1 Cor. 16:10). In fact, he worked with Paul extensively on all matters of the collection while a missionary in Corinth, Macedonia and Ephesus. Titus was involved from day one (2 Cor. 8:6, 16–19), and as a Gentile would have been particularly zealous for the effort. It’s clear that local churches were planning to send their delegates with the money for proper oversight (2 Cor. 8:19–24). That’s who the list of men mentioned in Acts 20:4 were.

In 2 Corinthians 8–9, Paul provided specific directions. He urged the Corinthians to be generous (2 Cor. 8:7). He used Christ’s Gospel as a motivator. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich. ... [The gift] is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have” (2 Cor. 8:9, 12). Paul cajoles the Corinthians to be ready. He urges them to set aside a little every Sunday. He brags about the poor “hicks from the sticks” in Macedonia who have given much to motivate the more cosmopolitan Corinthians to give more generously (2 Cor. 9:1–5). And Paul also writes all the great stewardship passages regarding the collection of mercy money for the suffering saints in Jerusalem.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. (2 Cor. 9:6–8, 10–11)

In God’s economy giving to the needy does not cause one to become poor. Quite the opposite. God pours on the blessings all the more.

Like Jesus, Paul was ready to lay down his life for the mission. “I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13). And so it

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happened. After he delivered the collection to the church in Jerusalem, Paul was falsely accused and imprisoned for breaking Jewish law. While in prison in Caesarea, he shared the Gospel with King Agrippa and the Roman governors who held him (Festus and Felix). As a Roman citizen, Paul appealed to Caesar as was his right. The harrowing journey is recorded by Luke with delightful detail.

Luke ends Acts with Paul under house arrest in Rome: “He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance” (Acts 28:30–31). There’s actually a church built above the very house where Paul lived. The best traditions indicate that Paul was soon beheaded by Nero in A.D. 63 at a military barracks just outside the wall, at the end of the Appian Way.

Next to the proclamation of Christ’s Gospel of free forgiveness, dearest to Paul’s heart was the mission of mercy. We do well to imitate him on both counts as individuals and as congregations and the broader church.



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The Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).



So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5-6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1-3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28-29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

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Obituary: Rev. Dr. John C. Wille, President of the LCMS South Wisconsin District

The Rev. Dr. John Charles Wille, former president of the LCMS South Wisconsin District (SWD), died on June 10 in Milwaukee. He was 71. Wille was born in Watertown, Wis., on Nov. 10, 1952, to Julius and Joan (Wuestenberg) Wille. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis., in 1975, and a Master of Divinity from Wisconsin Lutheran College, Mequon, Wis., in 1979. He colloquized into the LCMS in 1984. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), Mequon, Wis., in 2009.

In 2006, Wille was elected president of the SWD. He was re-elected five more times, most recently in 2022. He continued to serve as district president until early June, when SWD First Vice-President Rev. Eric Skovgaard announced Wille was entering hospice care.

In addition to serving as district president, Wille served on the LCMS Council of Presidents; the Boards of Regents for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor; and many other district and Synod boards and committees. Prior to his election as district president, Wille was the founding pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Tomah, Wis., serving from 1991 to 2006. He also served churches in Illinois and Ohio and supported mission work in the Dominican Republic.

Wille enjoyed being in nature, where he made cherished memories with family and shared canoeing trips in Minnesota's Boundary Waters with close friends. He is survived by his wife, Lynette; daughters Jessica (Chris) Parker, Sarah (Sal) Mancuso and Laura (Andrew) Council; grandchildren Claire, Will, Evan, Gabe, Stella, Leo and Cree; sisters Judy (Bruce) Lunderborg and Jean Henderson; and many nieces and nephews.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of the LCMS, recently reflected on Wille's life and service.

"John was a unique individual, even a character among COP [Council of Presidents] characters. He cared most deeply about the Gospel of free forgiveness in the blood of Christ. It was his life's mission that the Gospel be widely shared and preached with crystal clarity in the church. He never tired in sharing his expertise in ecclesiastical matters with his brother pastors and district presidents. We are honored to have worked beside him. Christ is risen! Alleluia."



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The Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, chairman of the COP, said, “John Wille was a wise and respected member of the Council of Presidents. His guidance was regularly sought by new presidents in working through difficult matters. He was a faithful warrior whose presence and leadership will be missed.”

Shortly after the announcement of Wille’s death, many others in the church also shared remembrances of him on social media. The Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn, assistant professor and director of vicarage and internships at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, wrote, “Many knew and thought of John as a gruff, tough, ‘rock-ribbed’ conservative who was about whatever the battle of the day was. And to be fair, he was that. ... But he was a pastor. He had incredible compassion for the pastors of his district and would defend them to the end. He defended me when few did, and for that, I am thankful.”

The Rev. Gregory Hovland, pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Portage, Wis., wrote that Wille “was known for his faithfulness to the Lutheran Confessions and the pursuit of order within our church. Most importantly, he was known by his Savior, Jesus Christ. I will miss our conversations. He was a great friend, pastor and district president.”

A funeral is set for June 18 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Christ Triumphant at CUW, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr., Mequon, Wis. A private graveside service will follow at the Lutheran Cemetery in Watertown, Wis. Memorials may be made to the SWD’s Student Aid Fund to support those studying for the pastoral ministry. Visit swd.lcms.org/memorial or mail to the SWD at 8100 W. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

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Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—JUNE 2024



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Life Newsbytes

2/3 of Adults Who Read the Bible Regularly Oppose Abortion – By slicing and dicing various demographics, Pew Research does some fascinating work ... “Views about abortion among adults who read Scripture at least once a week by parental status” is one of those findings that would conform to your common sense. By “parental status,” Pew means those adults who have kids under 18 versus those adults who don’t have children (“non-parents”). The question they asked is the “% of adults who read Scripture once a week who say abortion should be” For those with minor children: 66% say abortion should be “illegal in all/most cases,” and 30% say abortion should be “legal in all/most cases.” For those without children: 62% say abortion should be “illegal in all/most cases,” and 33% say abortion should be “legal in all/most cases.” What to think? For starters, the bar is not set terribly high to qualify: You read Scripture “at least once a week.” It would have been interesting to see how different the results would have been if they made the amount of Scripture read at twice a week or four times a week or even every day. That having been said, it’s very encouraging that 2/3 of adults with children and 62% of adults without children who read Scripture at least once a week would make abortion illegal in all or most cases. (Source: Dave Andrusko, *LifeNews.com*, 5/20/24)

Speaking up For Life

“The God who created us and redeemed us and lives in us has put His seal of ownership on us! He has chosen us and appointed us for a purpose—to live as Jesus’ disciples by bearing fruit for His kingdom. By God’s grace, and with His help, may we bear good fruit and make God-pleasing choices that glorify God who chose to create us and save us!” *Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada*

“Have confidence in God. Jesus Christ died for you, and Jesus Christ lives for you ... By faith in Christ, enjoy real life without that constant covetousness which makes life a living hell for so many people. By faith in Christ, know once and for all what this means: A man’s real life in no way depends upon the number of his possessions. A man’s life does not consist of the

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abundance of the things he possesses." *Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"*

"We need campfires and cookouts and picnic lunches filled with laughter. Yet, as members of the household of God, we also need conversation and consolation and prayer. We need to gather, in person, at the Communion rail. Surrounded by our eternal family, we need to hear God's promises and rejoice in His forgiveness." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes

Made For Life

by Pastor Michael Salemink

It seems rather important to distinguish between living and not. It also seems quite instinctive and simple. Kindergartners can typically tell the difference. But we age, and confusion sets in: Medical experts disagree about whether an embryo or an incapacitated hospital patient qualifies as alive, at least alive yet or alive anymore. Biological science has long since settled on consensus criteria. When an entity undergoes respiration, metabolizes energy from nutrients, grows and reproduces, and adapts to the environment, we categorize this as life. (The embryos and patients obviously constitute living human beings.) Christian truth and faith understand it even better.

"In him [the Word made flesh] was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life'" (John 14:6).

"Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

"Your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

This definition sets humankind apart. This dimension distinguishes Adam's and Eve's race even from animals and plants. It categorizes us instead in connection to God. Life's worth consists not in bodily attributes or abilities alone but in gracious relationship with Christ Jesus. The species He creates with His breath, redeems by His incarnation, and calls into His family shares His life with a nature and to a degree that the other creatures do not.

Life—real life and full life—has as its purpose more than merely thinking and feeling or choosing and doing. It means receiving from the Almighty Maker, rejoicing in the Heavenly Father, and reigning with the Lord and Savior.

You and I are made for life, abundant and everlasting. And this Gospel is made for all our neighbors, every genetic member of humanity.

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Life Newsbytes

Newly released data from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control shows abortions occurring in South Carolina declined by about 80 percent once the protective Fetal Heartbeat Act became legally effective. “These are our little neighbors who have heartbeats—the most basic manifestation of human life ... The 80% reduction of abortions in South Carolina is a stark reminder that public policy saves lives ... May this be a reminder that lifesaving legislation requires policymakers’ commitment to the lives of the unborn. May it remind us again that elections have consequences especially for life,” said South Carolina Citizens for Life President Lisa Van Riper. During the first eight months of 2023 when abortion giant Planned Parenthood was fighting the law, DHEC statistics show an average of 954 abortions occurred every month in the three state-regulated abortion facilities, including Planned Parenthood centers in Columbia and Charleston and a privately owned abortion business in Greenville. Once the State Supreme Court upheld the Heartbeat law, allowing it to take effect on August 23, 2023, the number of abortions dropped to about 186 per month, DHEC data shows. (*LifeNews.com*, 6/14/24 | lifenews.com/2024/06/14/south-carolina-abortion-drop-80-as-heartbeat-law-saves-thousands-of-babies)

Speaking up For Life

“Announcing a pregnancy, feeling a fetus kick, cradling a newborn, attending a Baptism, what happens and what we experience defy description. Grieving and believing over a terminal diagnosis, listening to an aged neighbor’s wisdom and reminiscences, holding a loved one’s hand at a hospital bedside, singing hymns and reciting Scriptures as a relative enters eternity, the encounter exceeds even the beauty and power of words.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life*

“Waiting is difficult; in Christ, we have the now and not yet. But as we learn and relearn to wait on Him, we find joy in His good work and patient craftsmanship in our lives. Though under construction, God works through us to bless the world. May you find great joy in fruit-bearing as you faithfully wait on HIM.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life*

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“The Church is under an incredible assault, but perhaps never has the opportunity been greater. The question is whether we wish to take it, whether we want to be salt, or whether we’ll just mark time, leaving nothing but ruins for those who follow in our footsteps.” *Rev. Peter Scaer, Concordia Theological Seminary*

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A Lament for the Church

by Deaconess Janet Nicol

Fellow Christian Lutherans, consider the importance of lament in our lives. The fact that we, as Christians, are called to be faithful to Christ and His Word means that we call out to Him in **every** situation, including deep despair and anger. This is living under the first and second commandments and part of our prayer life as we pray the first petition of the Lord’s Prayer, “Hallowed be Thy name.”

Now let us look at a psalm which is a lament for the Church. Psalm 10 (which also can be placed under the second commandment and the first petition of the Lord’s Prayer) laments over the enemies of the Church. Who are those enemies? Make no mistake: They are the devil and all those who follow his ways. Now open up your Bibles, everyone, and look at Psalm 10.

Verse one starts out with a question that we often ask: Why does it seem that God is far off, hiding in times of trouble? This is an oft-asked question. It is seen many times in Scripture. This is comforting because it tells us that it is okay to question, to express disappointment or frustration. The truth is that He isn’t far off; perhaps He is hiding, but as we have discussed before, God has His ways and reasons for doing things that we cannot always understand. We are, after all, creatures, not the Creator. Again, I reiterate that it is desirable to the Lord that we ask, even if we don’t get an answer.

The following ten verses speak of the wicked and their boasting, arrogant, greedy, and oppressive ways toward the poor, the innocent, and the helpless. The wicked say in their heart, “There is no God,” or “God has forgotten, He doesn’t see me.” This is the self-justification mode kicking in. “Since God doesn’t exist, or even if He did,” we say, “He’s not looking at anything I do. I can do whatever I please in order to gain for myself.” Not only the devil plays a part in this, but even our own Old Adams sink to low levels. Look at verse two where the psalmist says, “**Let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**” This is a prayer in which we ask God to fulfill His promise to make sure the unjust get their due rewards.

Verse twelve picks up again the prayer that God will see to it. “**Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.**” It continues with the comfort that the Lord will hear, will act, and will give strength to the poor and afflicted Church. He will not let His Church die. We are His bride, and He is the perfect Husband.

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Take heart and have hope, God's people! Even though it appears as though we have been abandoned, that our existence here seems innocuous, not making a difference to our communities, we are not those things. God is not done with us yet. He only asks that we remain faithful because He is ALWAYS faithful. So, pray the lament of Psalm 10 and rejoice!



Coming this fall:

2024 LFL Regional Conferences

September 14, 2024 • Bristol, Connecticut (Hartford area)

October 12, 2024 • Shawnee, Kansas (Kansas City area)

November 9, 2024 • Winter Garden, Florida (Orlando area)

lutheransforlife.org/conferences

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Prince of Peace Tidings

CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

July, 2024

I cannot believe how time rushes by, July is upon us. The hot summer is here! I expect many of us will be vacationing or traveling this summer. Let's not take a vacation from the worship of our Lord and Savior every Sunday morning. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has churches wherever you might travel. Visit our sister congregations for worship when you are away from Prince of Peace!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the recent congregation voter meeting. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Church attendance statistics (average 40-50 attendees per week);
- Challenges of the church financial condition;
- Required Trustee review/approval of capital asset donation to the church;
- Withdrawal of active participation from 7 Bridges Lutheran Academy project;
- Continued search for candidates to serve in an Elder position;
- Vacation Bible School updates;
- Evangelism plans;
- Trustee updates including the planned intersection lighting project and recognition of the new patio area project which was led by Randy Otto.

Plan to join us at the next congregation voter meeting on December 15, 2024 for budget approvals and other impending church matters.

I remind you that Church attendance remains a challenge here at prince of Peace and is typically reduced during the summer months. Remember to worship regularly through the summer. God does not abandon us in the summer. Likewise, we must not abandon worship! Please continue to do as you are inspired and keep the needs of our congregation in your prayers.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN AND ASCENDED. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

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Prince of Peace Tidings

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT

Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program -

The Evangelism Committee will again be assisting the West Salem School with the **Feed Our Children Summer Lunch** program. This is a project that is requested by the West Salem School District, coordinated by Our Saviors Lutheran Church and supported by the other churches in West Salem. Prince of Peace has committed to making sack lunches on July 16th and 18th. If you are interested in assisting or would like more information, please talk with Sharie Brunk.

LWML News:

On July 6 at 11 a.m. we will be meeting at the Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe for lunch. The shrine is located off of Hwy. 14 at 5250 Justin Road, La Crosse. If you would like to join us, please contact Debbie Dunnun or Sharie Brunk. We can arrange transportation and would love to have you join us.

At our meeting we will be discussing ways to host fundraising to help the church maintain its financial obligations.

Mark your calendars for October 5 at 9:30 a.m. We will be hosting our zone Prayer Meeting. The annual Prayer Meeting theme this year is Grace, Mercy, Peace and will be led by Pastor Adelsen and Pastor Erdman from Necedah.

The prayer meeting will be taking a closer look at grace, mercy and peace and there will be prayers led by the pastors and some hymns.

The entire congregation is invited to join us.

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 6.

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Prince of Peace Tidings



Our July birthdays

Brooklynn Scholze	July 1
Lyle Anderson	July 4
Lily Soto	July 6
Mike Dosland	July 10
Gracie Cone	July 12
Joshua Seefeldt	July 14
Luke Grube	July 15
Brett Hinds	July 17
Sophia Grube	July 18
Chris Leis	July 20
Anna Flack	July 21
Kim Steenberg	July 21
John Hammes	July 26
Katharine Horstman	July 27
Brian Horstmann	July 30
Gracelynn Fredrick-Schaub	July 31
Erin Lueth	July 31
Kendall Mauss	July 31

Anniversaries this month:

Paul & Dana Hoffmann	July 17
Jeffrey & Renee Schweinfus	July 22
Karl & Carrie Horstman	July 25
Daniel & Sarah Kolander	July 31

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Prince of Peace Tidings

July Schedules

Ushers

July 7-Dan & Kari Moen

July 14-Willie & Leatta Danielson

July 21-Russ & Sharie Brunk

July 28-Mike & Carolyn Dosland

Greeters

July 7-POP Family

July 14-POP Family

July 21-POP Family

July 28-POP Family

Money counters

July 7-Schmidt & Hinds

July 14-Leis & Dunnum

July 21-Alsobrooks & Childs

July 28-Peters & Hinds

Song Leaders

July 7-Holly Ford

July 14-Brooklyn Scholze

July 21-Sarah Kolander

July 28-Holly Ford

Altar Guild

DeAnne Otto

Melissa Adelsen

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July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	Fourth of July 4	5 Pastor's day off	6 LWML Lunch at Guadalupe Shrine: 11:00
7 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Elders: 11:30	8 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	9	10 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	11	12 Pastor's day off	13 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
14 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Church Council: 11:30	15 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	16 Make lunches for Feed the Children	17 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	18 Make lunches for Feed the Children	19 Pastor's day off	20 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
21 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	22 No Divine Service tonight	23	24 No Bible study this week	25	26 Pastor's day off	27 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
28 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	29 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	30	31 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.			

EVENTS

All Women are invited!

Our LWML group is having lunch at the Guadalupe Shrine July 6 at 11. All women are invited to attend! Talk to Sharie or Debbie for details.

Feed the Children

We're making lunches at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in West Salem July 16 and 18. Talk to Sharie for more details. We need volunteers.

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