



## LWML News

### **To the Ends of the Earth—Paul**

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus spoke to his disciples, his words both a command and a prophecy: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1: 8 NIV) The first part of this prophecy was fulfilled within ten days on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak boldly, in different languages. Peter’s sermon on this day led to the conversion of many and the church grew from about 120 people to over 3000 believers. Now the persecution of the early church began, and the apostles scattered from Jerusalem throughout Judea and Samaria, preaching the good news. Paul joined in trying to destroy the church, imprisoning believers, both men and women, and inadvertently helping to fulfill the second part of the prophecy.

On the road to Damascus, Jesus called Paul to be his apostle to the Gentiles. Believing and baptized, Paul began to teach to the Jews in their synagogues that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. In Jerusalem, Barnabas spoke up for Paul, convincing those Christians who remembered how Paul had persecuted them, that Paul was truly a believer.

Barnabas and Paul traveled to Jerusalem, bringing a gift from the church in Antioch for famine relief. When they left Jerusalem, they returned to Antioch, where the Holy Spirit led the church leaders to set aside Paul and Barnabas for mission work, the first missionary journey. After two years, traveling to Cyprus and Asia Minor, they returned to Antioch. On his second missionary journey, Paul was accompanied by Silas, and they traveled to Greece and Macedonia. The third journey covered much of the same territory, revisiting the churches that had been planted. Paul returned to Jerusalem, where he was arrested and tried. Invoking his Roman citizenship, Paul was referred to Rome for trial and disposition.

Paul, with the help of companions like Barnabas, Silas, John Mark, Luke, and Timothy, brought the good news of the gospel throughout the Roman world.

Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, workers and rulers, men and women, poor and wealthy, young and old, heard and responded to the message. Paul and his companions witnessed “to the ends of the earth,” the third part of the prophecy. Relying on God’s strength and care, Paul “Boldly and without hindrance. . . preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 28:31 NIV)

## Meetings

We will wear masks and practice social distancing for all our meetings, but we will begin meeting together again this fall.

- General meeting—Friendship Night: We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, in the Fellowship Hall
- Topic Leaders will meet at church at 12:00 noon, Tuesday September 15. The topic is “Held by HIS Word in Uncertain Times’, pages 20-21, Summer 2020 Quarterly.
- Altar Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 22.
- Mary-Martha Circle will meet Tuesday, September 22.
- Youth & Cradle Roll Circle will meet Wednesday, September 23, at 1:00 p.m.

## Mites

Our featured mission grant is \$30,000 to create a collection of Digital Media for Lutherans for Life (LFL) to equip Lutherans to be Gospel motivated voices for life. Digital avenues like the internet, smartphones, and social media offer an open mission field to connect to people, particularly the younger generation, before they face life issues such as abortion, embryo experimentation, and physician assisted suicide. These are not personal or political choices, but matters of the heart, that our Savior is calling us to speak about to people. Employing social media such as YouTube, Facebook, iTunes, and Instagram and, speaking the truth in love, we can use these tools to proclaim how God’s power and presence make human lives worthy, especially for the least and weakest among us.

LWML offers all women of the congregation an opportunity for Bible study, service and fellowship.

