

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP QUARTERLY REVIEW

A message from Pastor...

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything - everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds - the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills - is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone - and the work of the Holy Spirit - that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are - in both body and soul - are gifts from God in heaven. We respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to.

Helping people live life with Jesus everyday,
Rev. Dr. Brent L Parrish



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please find enclosed your third quarter giving statement. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Gayelee LaGrange at (952) 447-4837 or contact the church office at (952) 492-6010. Thank you for your continued generous giving.

The Endowment Fund annual distribution amount for 2022 is \$11,781.40. The recommended payout will be: \$4,500 for children attending Lutheran Schools, \$3,000 for Mission Distribution and \$4,281.40 towards Facility Improvements. This will be voted on at the October 27th Congregational Meeting.

A message from the Finance Ministry Team...

We would like to thank everyone for your continued generous giving during the third quarter of 2022.

Deposits of \$101,657.96 were made during this quarter.

Expenses of \$75,757.53 were paid during this quarter.

We were blessed to have the ability to apply an additional \$11,000 to our church mortgage during this quarter leaving a balance of \$57,660.12. Please look for the financial detail reports provided during the October 27th Congregational Meeting. God is good!

The LCMS Foundation - Endowment Fund



**Gift Plans for
Members**



**Gift Planning for
Ministries**



**Investment
Services for
Ministries**

The **LCMS Foundation** was created in 1958 by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to provide Christian estate planning services to LCMS members, and to help ministries invest or endow the gifts members leave them in their wills or estate plans.

More specifically, the Foundation has two purposes. First, they provide planned giving services to LCMS members, helping them make sure their God-given assets – things like retirement accounts, their home or land – will leave a positive, lasting impact upon the people they love but also the congregation or ministries they care about most.

Second, they provide investment services to LCMS ministries, helping them be good stewards and grow the gifts their members and supporters have so generously provided. Essentially, we pool together the assets of hundreds of ministries to gain access to the type of highly-attentive investment services usually reserved for large corporations.



To contact the LCMS Foundation: 800-325-7912 or info@LFND.org

Check out their website for more information. www.lcmsfoundation.org



*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with
many advisors they succeed.*

Proverbs 15:22