

# THE VIEW

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Hendersonville, NC 28792

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## What makes a church—the CHURCH?

### Augsburg Confession V

Church shopping is a regular occurrence in our current era. In some ways, this is necessary since people are more mobile than generations past. It is not unusual for individuals and families to pick up stakes and travel across the country for new opportunities or a change of scenery. In such circumstances, it is absolutely necessary to assess the local churches in the area and select one that is faithful, or you could do as the founding members of Mt. Pisgah did by planting a church when there was not one nearby that sufficiently met their spiritual and theological needs. But how are we to know what is a faithful and true Church, and what is not?

*(It should be noted that this is not the same as when a disagreement within the congregation threatens schism or when an individual disagrees with a Scriptural doctrine of the Church. In these things, unity with God's Word and to the Body of Christ must take precedence over personal feelings. Repentance and forgiveness must be upheld. Walking away should not be an option unless the congregation has rejected God's clear Word and refuses to take correction. Christ's Church and our brothers and sisters are worth fighting for. It is also beneficial for everyone to have the attitude they may be the one in the wrong, and therefore, everyone should look to Scripture to guide us.)*

In the midst of all the differing opinions of the Reformation, the Lutherans sought to be faithful to Christ and His Church. Knowing that they, themselves, were fallible; the Lutheran reformers looked to external signs of the Church, rather than an internal guidance. Article V of the Augsburg Confession, which bears the subtitle: Of the Ministry, states:

“That we may obtain this faith [one that is justified and righteous before God (Article IV)], the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where

and when it pleases God, in them that hear the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. They [Lutherans] condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that the Holy Ghost comes to men without the external Word, through their own preparations and works."

A faithful Church, therefore, can only be found where God's Word, His Law and Gospel, is rightly preached and the Sacraments [Baptism and the Lord's Supper] are administered according to Christ's institution of them. This is where things might get a little tricky when finding a Church. A congregation may outwardly look solid in how they conduct the Sacraments, but if they are preaching something contrary to Scripture by adding to it or omitting from it, this also calls into question the doctrine behind their Sacramental practices. The reverse is the same. If they add to or omit from or flat out reject the simple and unadulterated institution of the Sacraments, then there cannot be a high regard for the Scriptures, regardless of outward appearance or claims made.

When blessed with choosing between two faithful churches and comparing apples to apples, and then it is perfectly reasonable to let things like the oratory skills of the preacher or whether the liturgy is spoken or chanted or which one has the best parking or children's programs be a deciding factor in where to attend. But if the preaching, teaching, and administration of sacred things is questionable, then it doesn't matter what bells and whistles a church offers. What good is captivating preaching or stellar resources if they teach falsely or offer empty promises?

The reformers also rightly recognized that we are easily swayed and influenced by emotionalism and social trends. Our internal feelings lead us into all manner of things that we later regret. Moreover, our feelings change regularly. Therefore, the Lutherans looked to that which is unchanging: the Word of the Lord endures forever. God is immutable (unchanging). This is why they added the comment concerning the Anabaptist to the fifth article. The Anabaptist relied on emotional passions and feeling as a means to judge their justification before God. They looked to an internal feeling of the Holy Spirit within them and saw Scripture as secondary, or even useless, when compared to their feelings. This created a danger on both ends of the spectrum. Either they were overly secure and unrepentant in their sin because of their self-righteousness, or they were always in a state of doubt about their salvation and sought to justify themselves by their works.

So then, how do we know if a congregation is rightly handling God's Word and Sacraments? We test them by Scripture, which means that we, ourselves, must be regularly reading and hearing the Bible's Law and Gospel that we may recognize what is true and what is a deviation. The most obvious signal is if the proclamation and doctrine of a church is Christocentric. Are they preaching Christ? This is not in terms of a general knowledge of his existence, but a specific focus on Jesus' death and resurrection for our redemption. "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).

In this proclamation of Christ and him crucified, we also see both Law and Gospel applied. It was our sins that required the death of our Savior to fulfill the Law, and it is his gracious love that caused him to willingly take our place on the cross to achieve salvation for us. Therefore, a faithful church will teach the whole counsel of God, both Law and Gospel. It will not reduce God's Word to only the happiness of the Gospel by ignoring or rejecting the Law that we may rightly lament our sins and receive the joy of

the our being set free in Christ in its fullness. A faithful church will also not unduly burden the hearts of the people with an unachievable legalism under the law, but comfort the penitent with the peace that passes understanding through the Gospel.

The same standard is set for distinguishing churches that rightly handle the Sacraments, versus those who replace the teaching of Scripture with man's wisdom and innovations. As much as we may want to apply our comprehension to explain the workings of the miraculous, such as those who go beyond what Scripture says by teaching notions like transubstantiation, a faithful congregation will simply trust the truth of God's promises, even if they cannot comprehend it, and let the mysterious things of God be received by faith. In like manner, a faithful church will receive the workings of God as being just that: a mysterious working of God. It is not a mere symbol, nor something to make us only think about Jesus, the Word of God is active, living, and true. The promises of God in the Sacraments of forgiveness, life, and salvation are truly there under the elements. A faithful church will receive them according to that promise, and any church that denies the promise is rejecting the very things that Christ has given to us to deliver his grace and unite us with him and each other as the Body of Christ.

The objective truth of God's Word and Sacraments, by which God delivers His promised grace to us is a beacon that gathers the faithful and an anchor that holds us steadfast when trials arise. This was especially true for the founders of our Synod, who crossed an ocean in order to freely practice biblical Christianity when governmental forces threatened to make them abandon the faith and replace it with an unscriptural one. The promise of religious freedom to keep a true church that gathers around Word and Sacrament led them to migrate to North America. It also held them together when the sinful actions of leader made them question whether or not they belonged to the legitimate true church at all.

Accusations of corruption from the first and only Bishop those who would later become the Missouri Synod were found to warrant his immediate removal from office and sparked great debate on whether or not their following of his leadership meant that they were a cult rather than a church. Doctrinally, he had been sound; in his personal life, he was tainted. Meetings were held to determine if the Lutherans should disband and return to Saxony. Aside from the now removed Bishop and the pastors who had served under him, there was no established Lutheran church on the edge of the American frontier, and these faithful Lutherans would rather return to an oppressed church in Europe than no church at all.

In the debate, Rev. C.F.W. Walther turned to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and restored order. If the true Church is gathered around the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word and the right administration of the Sacraments, then the Church continued to be present among these Lutheran immigrants even though their leader was found to be crooked. Wherever the marks of the Church (Word and Sacraments) are present, in that place exists the invisible Church, whose hearts are known to God, and His People are found. Later, Walther would write in his book on Church and Ministry (*Kirche und Amt*): "Thesis V: Though the true church in the proper sense of the term is essentially [according to its true nature] invisible, its existence can nevertheless be definitely recognized, namely, by the marks of the pure preaching of God's Word and the administration of the sacraments according to Christ's institution." It is the presence of God's means of grace that make a church what it is, and not anything we contribute.

The Marks of the Church are what makes a church, the CHURCH. This is what the Church has clung to as they endured persecution, war, famine, pestilence, schism, and all manner of false doctrines that attempted to deceive, and Word and Sacrament is what we must hold on to until Christ returns. These are the very means by which we receive all that Jesus has accomplished for us as we are brought to faith through the Word and are given the benefits of that faith in Baptism and have it renewed in the Supper. Your congregation may not have valet parking or be gilded in the world's riches, it may struggle from time to time, but the humblest church that is faithful in Word and Sacrament is richer than any megachurch that bends even a little toward the way of the world, and the everyday Joe, who trusts in the Word and Wisdom of God, is a better theologian than the one who adds or omits even a single dot or title from it.

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## Message From the President

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

We are now in the church season of Trinity, that time of the church year when we don't have any major festivals to celebrate. But that doesn't mean we should sit back and relax. We continue to be in the Word and Sacraments, attend Sunday services and Bible study. We also have time, since we are not planning for special events, to enjoy fellowship with our church family. We look forward to seeing you regularly.

At our June 12 church council meeting we:

- Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Approved the **minutes of the congregational meeting**.
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Learned that the **remodeling in the preschool** approved at the congregational meeting will begin after construction permits have been completed and then approved by Henderson County.
- Heard that there will be a **BBQ fundraiser for missions** on July 21. Cost will be \$20 for a meal that serves four.
- Will explore having an entry in the **Apple Festival parade** on Labor Day.
- Learned that **Vacation Bible School** will be held July 10–14, starting at 2:30, with the theme “Tree of Life.” Volunteers would be welcome.
- Heard that the **gas meter** has been repaired and painted by Dominion Energy at no cost to the church.

If you ever have questions about anything we covered at the council meeting or any suggestions, please contact me (828-693-5692 or [bgv@ioa.com](mailto:bgv@ioa.com)). Our next meeting will be Monday, July 17, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

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## **A prayer for Independence Day**

Eternal Father, Ruler of all nations, on this day when my country celebrates its birth, I thank You for all spiritual and temporal blessings enjoyed in our land. In Your mercy, You have sustained this nation in times of trouble and preserved its liberties. Teach me anew to treasure especially that dearly won freedom of conscience and worship that is the cornerstone of this country's principles. Let me not misuse this liberty nor forget that true freedom is freedom to serve. Give me willingness to share in the process of democratic rule, to respect my country's laws, and to work for the preservation of its institutions. Forgive our past sins committed as a nation in the name of misguided patriotism, self-interest, or political expediency. Confound all those who, for the sake of partisanship or other motives, would sacrifice the greater welfare. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Strengthen all those who strive to do Your will. Increase loyalty to You and to our beloved country. Protect me and my fellow citizens from all subversive or terrorist acts. Above all, dear God, speed the course of Your Gospel among us, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, hearts are turned to that freedom from sin and death that You alone graciously give through Jesus Christ. Amen. -- Lutheran Book of Prayer. Copyright 2005. Concordia Publishing House. [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)

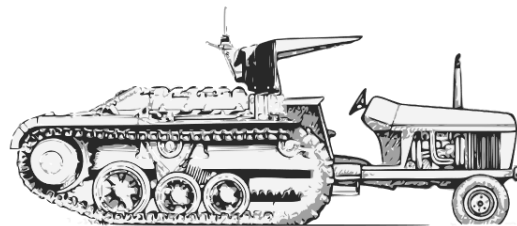
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## **LWML Rummage Sale Success**

A big THANK YOU! to all who helped make the LWML Rummage Sale a success! Whether you donated items, helped set up, worked on Saturday during the sale, bought items or helped with clean up, we just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your support! The sale would not have been such a success without the help of so many people. Also, a thank you to Pastor for his great cooking skills on the grill! The sale brought in \$2,335.00 which will be used for local and national mission work for the needs of our neighbors both near and far.

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## **Outreach & Community Concerns**



The mission of the month for July is the Veterans Healing Farm. According to their website their mission is as follows:

The mission of the Healing Farm is to enhance the mental and emotional well-being of our nation's veterans and their families. We accomplish this through the creation of a safe, peaceful environment that fosters healing and camaraderie. Farm programming focuses on mental health and includes agritherapy (organic farming, beekeeping,

medicinal herbs) as well as a variety of other therapies/therapeutic activities, workshops, and live events. Our vision is to end veteran suicide through compassion, forgiveness, empathy, love, and kindness.

The Healing Farm is committed to not only helping veterans in Henderson County, but also their family members and caregivers. Your donations will be used to keep the vegetables growing and help fund their programs for veteran education and community building. The farm is located at 38 Yale Road in Hendersonville.

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## **Carolinas Dist. LWML Retreat Aug. 20-22, 2023**

The Metrolina and Southern Zones invite you to the Carolinas District LWML Retreat August 20<sup>th</sup>—22<sup>nd</sup> at Camp Linn Haven. Pastor Christopher Stout from Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Center Grove Lutheran and Abundant Life Lutheran Churches in North Carolina, will be our dean for the weekend. Our theme for the weekend will be:

### **Happiness - What does our Lord's Word have to say about happiness?**

How can we as Christians speak to others about the difference between shallow happiness and deep happiness? Are we even all that good at knowing what makes us happy? Our Lord cares greatly for us and desires for us to live a life of contentment and joy and confidence in Him, no matter what we are experiencing. By rejoicing in God's commands and promises, our Lord will bring us closer to Him during this retreat. In Him we have joy that no one and nothing can take away from us. And that is a reason to be happy.

This year there will be an opportunity to just spend one day at the Retreat; if that works better for you, let Kathy Kirchoefer know. More information and registration forms are on the Ladies Guild bulletin board. Registration is due by August 4.

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## **Prayer List**

### **Long Term Illness**

Cynthia M. (Lundquist)  
Michael Terzian (Keeney)  
Brian Keeney  
Joyce (Kruse)  
Stacy Olson (Ryel)

Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)  
Gretchen Sweetser  
(Mincer)  
Mary Coffman (Coffman)

Mike & Suzie Characky  
(Steen)  
Annette & Jim Bodden  
(Heaphy)  
Judy Fuchs

### **Surgeries and Illness**

Steve & Kay Leyer  
Kurt Dellutri  
Pastor Daniel Conrad  
Michele Escude`

Dietrich Fabricius  
Jackie Fry  
Madeline Biddle  
Tricia Heiple

Patty Metcalf (Luecke)  
Jan Tharp  
Wally Rose Mincer  
Joe Gabriel (Amato)

Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)  
Joanne Blanchard (Clancy)  
David Hawthorne

Vicki Fisher  
Mary Hill  
Louise Bauer

Betty Ude

### **Personal and Family Concerns**

Roger & Kay Lund  
(Heaphy)  
John Renick  
Karen Ude  
Nancy Stang  
Joann Kapugi

Kaufman Family  
Debbie Leger  
Sandi Rivers (Ryel)  
Wayne & Karen Mathis  
(Steen)

Teresa Fisher & children  
Colby & Audrey  
(Kaufman)

### **Homebound**

Louise Bauer  
Warna Berryman  
Albert & Marianne Bugner  
Kathleen Fox

Judy Fuchs  
Joann Kapugi  
Suzie Karnatz  
Dianne Luecke

Jan Nelson  
Sue Smith  
Nancy Stang  
Betty Ude

### **Compassion and Sympathy**

#### **Ministry Concerns**

Our Preschool staff, children & families  
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti  
Pastor Dale Kaster (Missionary, Czech Republic)  
Pastor Daniel Jastram (Missionary, Japan)  
Pastor Daniel Conrad (Missionary, Mexico)  
Jacob and Marie Sipes (Seminararian)  
Scott and Veronica Missling (Seminararian)  
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminararian)

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### **Birthday Blessings**

07/01 Debby Zagone  
07/03 Warna Berryman  
07/05 Richard Doster  
07/06 Albert Bugner  
07/08 Roberta Perkins

07/10 Judy Morin  
07/11 Samantha Genaw  
07/15 Gracie Maloney  
07/17 Robin Brier  
07/19 Nathan Emerson  
07/20 Tom Berryman

07/25 Alan Luecke  
07/26 Peyton Lumley  
07/27 Rebecca Martin  
07/28 Douglas Fry  
07/31 Samson Middleton



## Baptismal Blessings

Anya White 7/4

Vivian Armstrong 7/5

Betty Ude 7/5

Logan Clancy 7/12

Vicki Fisher 7/14

Bill Paris 7/14

Louise Bauer 7/19

Dan Kirchoefer 7/25

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### When was your baptism?

Update the church records as these serve as historical records for family members in the future.

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## Haiti News

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church started helping the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Laotchikit in 2012. From that time when we sent a few hundred dollars to help support Christian education, the ministry has grown better than we asked or ever imagined. To God be ALL the glory! For these accomplishments are not from our own feeble efforts but from the power of the Holy Spirit.

Over the last ten years the Lutheran Church of Laotchikit has become a mission hub in the Central Plateau of Haiti, creating many small preaching stations. The preaching stations become Lutheran schools which may only be a chalk board under a shade tree for a few children but parents hear about the school and more children come to learn. Every day the children receive a hot lunch through Trinity Hope in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee and the children hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Children take this Good News home to their parents and the parents come to the preaching station

when services are held. It is miraculous to see the power of the Holy Spirit at work.



Students at the Lutheran School in Savann Haliene prepare for a Haitian Flag Day ceremony. This school needs funding in 2023-2024.



School building at Savann Haliene – after this school year – they do not have funding.



There are many preaching station-Lutheran Schools where the teachers receive no pay. Each one of these schools need outside help from someone in the US because Haitians are too poor to pay someone to teach their children.

Currently at the Lutheran School in Laotchikit there are nine classrooms with a medical clinic, sewing school, Lutheran seminary, farming projects, and children's orphanage. Over the years, a school was built on the church grounds for ages preschool through sixth grade and was expanded to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students walk to Hinche to attend grades 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. We are hopefully another grade will be added to the Lutheran school in Laotchikit next year. There are over 120 middle and high school students who need scholarships to attend school each year. The cost of a scholarship is \$120 per student per year for tuition, books and uniforms.



On Saturday's adults attend Lutheran Seminary in Laotchikit. Classes are held with professors in Haiti, Canada and the United States via the internet.

Around 2017 Eternal Shepherd Lutheran (LCMS) in Seneca, South Carolina started supporting schools in Pas Bon Bon and Rocky Road Lutheran Church (a remote village on top of a mountain). We praise God for sending Eternal Shepherd to help in this ministry and pray God will send more mission partners to help in supporting Christian education through the Haitian Lutheran schools.

There is a Lutheran Seminary in Laotchikit where teachers and lay ministers meet every

Saturday to take classes for theological degrees such as Directors of Christian Education, Pastors, and



Deaconesses. This is a three-year program and the first class will graduate in December of 2024.

Because of corruption in all levels of Haitian culture, we are very strict with how wire transfers occur. Every dollar given to Mt. Pisgah for a project in Haiti is sent dollar for dollar for that specific project. Every wire transfer occurs with specific instructions for how the money is to be used in specific

ministries. In return, we receive objective evidence that the money was spent for the intended purpose for which it was sent. We receive payroll reports, photographs, videos, report cards, and

letters from students. All this evidence gives us great confidence in our mission partners in Haiti.

If there is any interest in supporting one of the many mission projects in the Central Plateau, we would welcome your prayers and your help. If there are any questions, please let me know because we are delighted to talk for hours about this important work for God's Kingdom.

To God be the glory, who blesses better than we ask or imagine, forever and ever!

Your Sister in Christ –

Wendy Houston White



A farmer plowing with a team of oxen. He is able to plant his field with help from a farming grant from Mt. Pisgah.



Pre-school students at school in Non Fombrun. This school has no sponsor or funding.

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**Haiti Fundraiser**  
**JULY 21 3-6 pm**  
**PICK UP AND GO** **CASH ONLY**

MENU (serves 4)  
smoked pulled pork  
cole slaw  
chips  
SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

**SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS + SUPPORT HAITI SCHOOLS**

classroom



meal prayer



sponsored smiles



We will be taking pre-orders. Anyone who would like to pre-order can see Sylvia Gonzalez or Donna Watkins.

## CAMP LINN HAVEN BRIDGE DEDICATION

There's only one way in and out of Camp Linn Haven – you have to cross the bridge. In my years at Linn Haven, I have seen the wooden bridge replaced once, and that replacement required numerous repairs over the years. When heavy rains flooded the campgrounds, the bridge would be impassable. So a new bridge was a dream for many years.

And after years of planning and fundraising and prayer, Camp Linn Haven's new bridge became a reality! The bridge dedication was held Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 PM, with a reception afterwards. The weather was perfect for an outdoor dedication, and the event was well attended.



The event included guests and speakers from LCEF, Arete Engineers, and Buckeye Bridge LLC, as well as district pastors and members of the CLH Board of Directors. For Buckeye Bridge LLC, it was the first time the company had been invited to the dedication of one of its completed projects. With respect to LCEF, the camp's bridge is the first bridge to be funded by LCEF. With regards to the outstanding loan, Mountainside Lutheran Church has agreed to be

responsible for the loan secured for the remaining funds needed to complete the bridge construction.

Camp Linn Haven is a special and vital ministry that has been blessed by God through the years, and now He has blessed camp with a new bridge. Thanks be to God! And my thanks to Mt. Pisgah for supporting this effort!

Linda Licht

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## Vacation Bible School



July 10-14, 2023  
At 2:30 PM  
(ages 4 & up)





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## Isolation Communication

A great idea for a neighbor who is older and lives alone. Give them 3 color pieces of paper for their window. **Green is for I'm OK, yellow for need help** with an errand, and **red for emergency**. Call it "Isolation Communication" 😊 Let's all look out for each other.

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## Thank You Section

Much thanks to our Mt. Pisgah family for singing in the late service "Happy Birthday" to our son, Dan, who celebrated his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday this past Sunday (June 25<sup>th</sup>). He was watching the service online, and was thrilled to hear you all sing to him.

Thank you for being such a blessing to our family and for making Dan's day even better!

--The Kirchoefer Family

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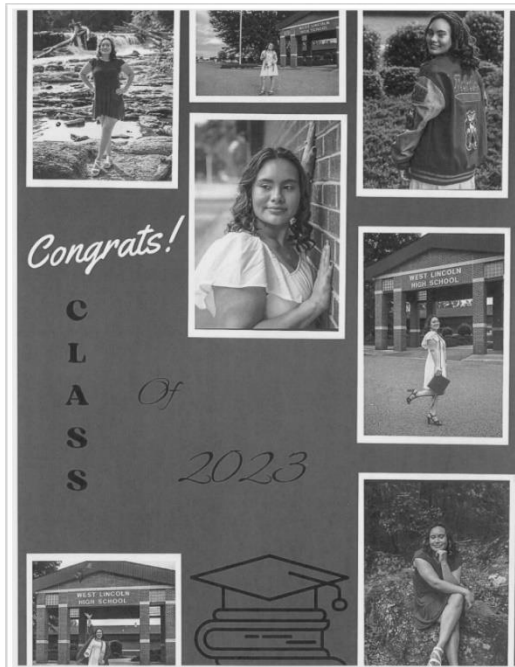
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord's work here is a blessing to do. To think that He uses sinners like all of us overwhelms us with His grace! And by your prayers and your gifts, you are part of that. We thank you so much for both of them. May our Lord bless and keep you as you carry out your Christian vocation where you are.

We commend you to Christ, our Lord,

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and gifts. Thank you for celebrating my graduation with me. I am looking forward to continuing my college academics.

Staff of Mt. Pisgah Preschool,

Thank you so much for the love and care you give each child. The graduation was perfect for this age. Noah has loved his school and teachers. He has made great friends. Most importantly he has learned more about Jesus. Thank you for showing him God's love and His Son. Shug Daily (Mimi)

Thankyou for the lovely shawls the residents loved them. Thanks again for Caring and giving from your hearts.

Wendy Robinson  
Activities Director  
Orchard Valley

Dear, Mount Pisgah luthern church  
Thank you for the opportunity  
to go to camp Lion haven  
again. We appreciate it ~~because~~  
we got to do a tiddle jumping  
contest, go in the river and to even  
more. My favorite is the walk we  
went on to red eyes grove.  
We saw deer tracks and we ever  
saw "trotis" houses. One that we saw  
was a "manssion". We also saw "fair houses"  
well a "magical" tree stump. I'm also glad  
that we got a giant cabin! The boys shared  
one room, 2 of the girls shared a room  
the whites had one room and I got my own  
room. Our cabin was heated and was huge! We had  
a basement and it was massive! On the last night  
we stayed we cleaned ~~the~~ whole basement!  
throught out all of the nights we had a  
uno game one night and we told scary  
stories like the one about silas scratcher.  
Silas scratcher was one of my favorites.  
My other favorite was Big Toe. As told  
by Zoey. Tyler was not good, his were  
just terrible. ~~One of the other interesting stories~~  
~~that I saw~~ in the afternoon on one day  
arm cops and robbers. Also we had sardines.  
were amazing! My favorite dinners  
That was basically the whole trip.

The end.

P.S. Thank you!

Sincerely  
Arianna

## NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES OR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Information for accessing church service or evening Bible Study

Online: Video will be found on the home page at <http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com>

The service bulletin will also be available on the homepage.

Phone: Service will begin at 10:45 am, dial in direct with no access code to (508) 924-5662 or call toll-free (844) 802-6666 and enter access code 889956

YouTube: Recording link will be published on the home page once it is available.

A DVD is available outside church door in the red box on the wall.

### **For complete information on church events, please visit the website:**

<https://mtpisgahlutheran.360unite.com>

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## **Alaska**

I arrived safely in Alaska on Friday night and the rest of Team came in on Saturday. We have done some team building and planning, Yesterday, we moved from the church in Anchorage to the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak where we worshiped. Then we did some sightseeing with hiking to a waterfall and an abandoned gold mine. Moose, eagles, and bears abound.

On Monday, we helped clean out offices and other rooms at a local large food pantry ministry. That place also has a garden that required the building of a new garden box, and much weeding.

In the afternoon, we went to a Lutheran Church that has a drive-thru food distribution program. Over 230 cars came through as we worked in light on and off rain the handing out vegetables, fruit, baked goods, and some dairy products. This is one of five locations where people can come and get food that is from the local food bank. This happens every week of the year no matter what the weather. Today we are going to help at the Community Pregnancy Center.

Today we return to the Community Pregnancy Center. On Wednesday we helped sort through the donated baby care items (strollers, bathtubs, play stations, clothes, diapers, etc.). One of the guys and I trimmed bushes and 2 foot high grass/weeds. We will deep clean the inside rooms today and finish the yard work.

An event of recognition and celebration for the many different immigrants who have settled in the Anchorage area over the last year. There were hundreds of people from Ukraine, Africa, and the Mideast. All of these places have experienced wars causing people to become refugees. Some of them were recognized for their successful new businesses or for the way in which they have successfully become woven into the Anchorage community. Then there was international food followed by musical performances from people from those different countries.

In all of these places we have been able to pray with many people.

We have had some free time to view the many wonders of God's creating hand. The snow speckled mountains, rivers, animals, sunsets, clouds, and even mosquitoes remind us of His wisdom and grace.

Thank you once again for your prayers!

Bill Paris

Psalm 105:1

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### **Have you noticed the table in the Narthex?**

There are books on the table in the Narthex. One is a funeral guide that explains the procedures of a funeral. Inside of that booklet is a planning guide for members to give family or loved ones and a copy to be returned to the church office for members official record within the church.

The other booklet changes periodically with information about subjects within the church.

Please feel free to take both. Should you need more copies of the funeral guide leave a message with the church office. One can be placed in your mailbox for you to pick up at any time.

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### **NEW DONATION STATION**

Mt. Pisgah has added a Donation Station to the Narthex. Three collection bins are located to the right as you enter the church. For many years, we have been continuously collecting food items for Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM). Instead of having the receptacle down a side hallway, we now have the drop-off location in the Narthex and added two other reception bins to it.

One of additional bins will receive gently used clothing items for IAM. Instead of making a special trip, you can bring items with you to church, and we will deliver it for you.

The third receptacle is for donating used sneakers. Instead of sending your old tennis shoes to a landfill, the GotSneakers? Organization provides a fundraiser that partners with non-profits to either reuse sneakers in second-hand markets or to ecologically recycle those that cannot be used again.

The organization will donate funds back to our Youth accounts for the shoes (Sneakers Only) that we contribute. If you have food, clothing, or sneakers that you do not need and others may benefit from, please check out our Donation Station in the Narthex.

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**Thank you Homero and Sylvia Gonzalez for the deep tile cleaning to both ladie's and men's bathroom.**