

August 2021 Newsletter

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Our Mission...

...is to equip and encourage followers of Christ to share the love of Jesus with people in our community and in the world so that all may have eternal life.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

August Memory Verse

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Church Staff:

Peter Kufahl, Pastor
715-479-6226 (Church Office)
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Marlene Rieck, Director of Music & Children's Ministry
715-479-7466 (Office)
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Jean Walker, Office Administrator
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

Tim Kadlec, Congregational President
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

Upcoming Events:

**Welcome Andrew, our new DCE Intern
Saturday, July 31st and Sunday, August 1st**

**Celebrating Seniors
Sunday, August 22, 2021 @ 9:00 am Worship
Reception to follow**



From the Pastor's Desk

Newsletter August 2021

For the most part, when we hear the words work or job, we have a bit of a heavy sigh attached to them. That sigh may be either kept internal in order that no one else may see how we really feel, or we may openly verbalize how we really feel about the chores that are before us. But are there any jobs that do not bring that soul-crushing sigh to your day... those chores that you actually find yourself enjoy doing? A proverb-like statement declares that if you find something you enjoy doing, you will never work a day in your life.

Sadly, not everyone can make a living out of watching sports or movies, let alone be a professional athlete or Hollywood star. Most folks have to roll up their sleeves, buck-up, take a deep breath, and get to work doing the jobs that need to get done. As a result we look forward to the day when we can go on vacation, retire, or pay somebody else to do the job for us. And as Christians, the thought of an eternity in heaven without having to do any actual "work" is a great bonus (next to being with and seeing Jesus and no sin, death, or the power of the devil, of course).

But what if there is work that needs to be done in heaven? Are the angels going to be the hired work force? What would it be like if our condemned enemies would be the ones doing all the nasty jobs for us? Is our eternity only going to be standing around the Lord's throne and singing about how great He is?

Scripture does not go into great detail as to what each day will look like for us in the new heaven and earth. But what we do know is that sin and its effects will be no more (Rev 21:4, 27). And although we are told that those who die in the Lord will rest from their labors (Rev. 14:13), that passage is used prior to the resurrection of the dead when Jesus returns. Is it possible that we will have to actually (gasp!) work in heaven?

There are passages that would suggest that you will not spend eternity sitting on a cloud and playing a harp. In the closing chapter of Isaiah 65 we hear of the Lord's plan for His new heaven and earth, where there will be the building of homes and planting of vineyards where the labors of God's redeemed will not be in vain (21-23). Prior to the fall, we learned that Adam and Eve were to tend to the garden and the animals in Paradise (Genesis 1:28-30). It was only after the fall that their work would be difficult and painful (Genesis 3:17-19).

Yet through Jesus' death and resurrection we know that sin and death is conquered. Jesus has opened to all who cling to Him, the doors to Paradise once again, where the devil, his temptations, death, and sin can NOT exist. When Christ returns to bring us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning (LSB 395 v.6), our sinful desires and wants will be burned away (1 Corinthians 3:12-15), and we will be changed to be like Christ (1 Cor. 15:51-57). I do not think that change will come with superpowers to snap our fingers and make a room clean itself like a Disney cartoon, but it will change our attitude towards whatever job or work God has in store for us.

We have a God who changes our attitudes about the tasks that are set before us... and it is not reserved for when we get to heaven. That change can take place with each day! The hymn "With the Lord Begin Your Task" (LSB 869) reminds us of the blessings of our labors and why we do them. They are not for self-serving purposes in order that we can have nice things for ourselves and our family, but the task is for the good of our neighbor. We are called to use the gifts and the talents God gives us, in order that we can provide a blessing and a benefit to the people in our community and world. When God opens our hearts and eyes to see this, a change takes place. That which is tedious, labor intensive, boring, and even dangerous can be a joy-filled experience, when God shows us the benefits our labors provide for others.

So when those tasks and jobs come your way, maybe giving thanks to God for the opportunity is a good place to start. Who knows what work He may be doing through you!

Elders Meeting – June 9, 2021

Agenda:

1. Opening devotion
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes
3. Worship service discussion:
 - a. Offering plates
 - b. Rail communion
 - c. Common cup
4. DCE Intern housing update
5. Delinquent member discussion
 - a. Letter
 - b. Follow-up plan of action
6. General discussion items (as needed)
7. Closing

Notes:

- Pastor opened with a devotion from Corinthians.
- Prior months meeting minutes approved. Motion by Pat, second by Jim.
- Sunday worship service was discussed as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. In-service offerings will continue to be collected via the collection box in the narthex. Rail communion will return at the end of June with individual cup only. Reintroduction of the common cup will be discussed in the fall.
- DCE intern Andrew will be commissioned at Our Savior on Sunday, August 1. Housing for Andrew continues to be explored with no firm decision yet.
- Delinquent members have been contacted via letter from Pastor. Elders will directly reach out to each by the end of June. Further discussion on this matter at the July elders meeting.
- Pastor conducted several shut-in visits over the past month.
- Circuit news: Vacancies at Rock of Ages (Minocqua) and Peace (Arbor Vitae) have been filled. Installation services scheduled for July 11 and July 18 respectively. Pastor will attend both installations.
- Pastor spoke with the camp counselors at Camp Luther regarding Missouri Synod doctrinal practices.
- Motion to adjourn and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Elders Meeting – July 14, 2021

Agenda:

1. Opening devotion
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes
3. DCE Intern housing finalization
4. Communion logistics – distribution and use of the middle rail discussion
5. Delinquents progress
6. Narthex memorial wall; elders final position of support or non-support
7. Office hours
8. General discussion items (as needed)
9. Closing

Notes:

- Pastor opened with a study on Luther's Table of Duties.
- Prior months meeting minutes approved. Gary motioned; Jacob seconded.
- DCE housing secured at Judy Jousma's home. Andrew will rent out the upper level of the house. Utilities included at a good monthly rate. Cleaning crew needed for the weekend of July 30/31. Commissioning service for Andrew will occur on Sunday, August 1, with reception tentatively scheduled by the evangelism committee for August 8.
- Communion discussion. Single table versus split table was talked about. Also, Pastor distributes host and common cup, Elder would have individual cup. Going to single table, effective July 31/August 1 weekend. Moving to 2 vs 3 ushers per communion service. Approx. 7 congregants per side for a full table of 14.
- Delinquents discussed. Several letters were returned as non-deliverable. Elders are making calls one on one to determine status of each member.
- Office hours for the secretary was discussed. Effective immediately, Jean will be in the office 8:30A - 2:30P, Monday – Thursday.
- Narthex memorial wall was discussed. Elder's do not believe this to be an endeavor they can support.
- Pastor and family on vacation August 9 – 13.
- Motion to adjourn made and accepted. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

God Calls Us to be His Workers

In spite of our foolish and sinful ways, God calls us to be His workers. Scripture tells us that Jesus did not pick people from society's elite when He chose His workers. Jesus' disciples were peasants, fishermen, and even a tax collector. Paul wrote, "*Brothers, think of what you when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . .*" (1 Corinthians 1:26-28). The majority of God's work was done and continues to be done by the lowly and oppressed people.

Certainly, God can use celebrities and very successful people in His work. However, we need to remember that, even though we may not have accomplished anything of worldly significance, broken any records, or won any awards, God can use and transform us into effective workers in His kingdom. "*I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13). Society gives many accolades to those who succeed, but there is no greater honor or privilege than to be chosen as God's vehicle to spread the Gospel. As John states in his Gospel, it is Jesus Who does the choosing. "*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit*" (John 15:16).

So why does God elevate the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: "*so that no one may boast before Him.*" It is only by God's grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God's work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, "*Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong*" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

Martha Society News

MARTHA SOCIETY

AUGUST 2021

Our next meeting is on August 11 at 12 noon. The board meeting is at 10:30 followed by a light luncheon served at 11:30 and the general membership meeting follows. We had 25 women attend our July meeting which is wonderful. We had 3 new members that joined in June so we're always looking for new women to join Martha. We do many exciting events and raise money to support the missions we have.

Our hostesses for the August meeting are Lynn Parker, Terry Cherney, Dawn Lauber and Kristy Palmer. We'll continue the bible study of women in the Bible by talking about Ruth.

We have dates for our fundraisers in Fall. First off is the Salad Luncheon/Card Party which will be held on September 15. Donna Liedtke and Lois Parnitzke are co-chairpersons. Look for the posters and tickets. Remember everyone is invited to attend. You can play cards, dominoes, or other games or just visit. We look forward to seeing you there.

The next big event will be our LWML Rally to be held on October 14. This has been postponed twice due to COVID so we're looking forward to a great turnout. Remember men as women are invited to attend. Donna Liedtke will be our guest speaker.

We are going to have a Harvest Dinner on November 7. The last one was a sellout so we're hoping the same for this one. We are still planning on a Christmas Party in December and the annual cookie walk on December 19. We are very excited about being able to host these events once more.

We have 3 young people who will be receiving a \$200 grant from our Martha Society. We are inviting them to our August meeting for lunch and to receive their check. These are wonderful young Christians who have done much volunteer work. Pray for them to continue working for the Lord in whatever they do. God Bless them.

Yours respectfully,

Teri Kressin

President

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays

1	Jayne Halsey Lauren Ritzer Trevor Koritz	17	Grace Goetter Sue Kurth
3	Chuck Atwater Debbie Lorenz	18	Cindy Watts
4	Candice Behnke	19	Dawn Lauber Sharon Bauer
5	Charles Sheffler Mandy Rottier	20	Dennis Kolowith Kristie Ross
6	Melissa Crum	21	Alvin Barden Bradley Scafaro Greg Highstrom
7	Alayna Kufahl	23	Stephan Favorite
8	Alexis Husing Brenda Husing Janette Marien Tina Smith Toni Van Doren	24	Amanda Mattke Matt Wilson Wesley Pearce
10	Mary Steckling	27	Peggy Hansen
11	Devin Sauvola	28	Bill Trosien Rick Behnke
13	Bob Blaul Donald Secord Grant Meyer Timothy Forss	29	Jessica Karll Lois Derrick Shari Mohrman
14	Robert Smith	31	Adalynn Kufahl
16	Ina Lee Jost		

August Anniversaries

1	Terrance & Joanne Luebke	15	Michael & Marlene Rieck
3	Tim & Lauren Cross		Woody & Ann Eno
4	Rob & Lynn Moyer Stephan & Marge Favorite	17	Richard & Denise Voss
5	Gary & Shele Fawcett	20	Alan & Jill Geoffroy
6	David & Tina Warfel	21	Brian & Shawn Uttech John & Sandra Apfel Mark & Liz Rehorst
8	Herb & Jay Numrich	24	Rick & Ann Mai
11	Ron & Barb Patterson Tom & Donna Timm	29	Wayne & Marilyn Campbell
		30	Patrick & Janice Grosse

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Sunday Worship	2 6pm HCPA Meeting	3 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters	4 9am Aging with Grace	5 9:30am Quilters	6 Office Closed	7 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Saturday Evening
8 9am Sunday Worship/Communion	9	10 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters	11 9am Aging with Grace 10:30am Martha Board 11:30am Martha Meeting 6:30pm Elders Meeting	12 9:30am Quilters	13 Office Closed	14 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Saturday Evening/Communion
15 9am Sunday Worship	16	17 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters	18 9am Aging with Grace	19 9:30am Quilters	20 Office Closed	21 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Saturday Evening
22 9am Sunday Worship/Communion 10am Celebrating Seniors	23 9am Newsletter Articles Due	24 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters	25 9am Aging with Grace	26 9:30am Quilters	27 Office Closed	28 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Saturday Evening/Communion
29 9am Sunday Worship/Communion	30	31 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters	1 9am Aging with Grace	2 9:30am Quilters	3 Office Closed	4 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Saturday Evening/Communion

<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
July 31 7:00 PM Communion	Dick Cherney	Jim Harper Debbie Holewinski		Debbie Holewinski	Vicki Holewinski
August 1 9:00 AM	Keith Kentala	Pat Grosse Paul Kurth	Dawn Shantz	Jan Toivonen	Camera:
August 7 7:00 PM	Jim Bonson	Dave Parker Lynn Parker		Bonnie Jozwowski	Camera:
August 8 9:00 AM Communion	Tim Kadlec	Pat Grosse Jan Grosse		Rick Behrens	
August 14 7:00 PM Communion	Pat Crum	Marv Jarvis Bob Meiz	Lynn Parker	Pat Crum	
August 15 9:00 AM	Ron Hagen	Andy Ellenberger Gerald Yetter	Dawn Shantz	Marianne Braun	Camera:
August 21 7:00 PM	Art Granat	Jim Bonson	Kris Secord	Mary Malinsky	Lynn Parker
August 22 9:00 AM Communion	Pat Grosse	Grant Meyer Jerry Gifford	Dawn Shantz	Sue Kurth	Sharon Gifford
IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE WHEN SCHEDULED, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT!!!					

August 28	7:00 PM	Jim Bonson	Mary Jarvis Jim Harper	Kris Secord	Pat Crum	Lynn Parker
<i>Communion</i>						
August 29	9:00 AM	Keith Kentala	Rick Behrens Karen Behrens	Joan Holdmann	Cindy Gauger	
<i>Communion</i>						Camera: