



**Town &  
Country**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**MAY 2023**  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Divine Service in the sanctuary at 9:30 AM. Services are live streamed every Sunday morning.

Email [matt@tclutheranchurch.org](mailto:matt@tclutheranchurch.org) to be added to our weekly email list.

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY AND JUNE...

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM – LWML Meeting

Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM – Friendship Unlimited Dinner & Devotion (*more info inside*)

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM – Ladies Luncheon in the Friendship Center (*more info inside*)

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – “Living a Chocolate Life” @ Peace Lutheran Church  
(*More information to register inside*)

---

### BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Mornings after church – led by Pastor Mankin

B.U.G.s Bible Study – Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Joy in the Morning – Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – Friendship Center  
*Come hang out and study Lutheranism 101*

Men’s Bible Study – Thursdays, 7:00 AM – at Flap Jacks Diner (2721 El Camino Ave.)  
*All men are welcome to join. Please contact Flint Pendergraft: 916-952-6146*

Ladies’ Bible Study – Thursdays, 9:30 AM – Friendship Center (*No class on April 6<sup>th</sup>*)

4049 Marconi Ave. Sacramento, CA 95821 | [TCLutheranChurch.org](http://TCLutheranChurch.org)

Phone: (916) 481-2542 | Fax: (916) 514-5057 | Email: [tclc@tclutheranchurch.org](mailto:tclc@tclutheranchurch.org)

**L**isten

**A**sk questions

**S**eek a Connection

**S**hare

**I**nvoke

**E**ncourage

LASSIE is the suggested method for reaching friends, relatives and acquaintances with the gospel of Christ. Most people come to Christ through the influence of FRIENDS who have issued an invitation. Would you like to be a conduit for God to share the good news to your friends?

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has released a tool for Evangelism called “Everyone His Witness”. **Starting in May on Sundays after church, Pastor Mankin will be leading us through this series.**

Think about what would happen if your friend or family member would share your faith and hope for eternal life.

*“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons.” ~ Luke 15*

# EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™



Learn how to naturally and genuinely share the Gospel with your friends and neighbors who have not heard the Good News. After this program, you will be more effective witnesses of Jesus in your everyday life!

# **FRIENDSHIP UNLIMITED**

**Friday, May 19 @ 6:00 PM**

at

**The Old Spaghetti Factory (1625 Watt Avenue, Sacramento)**



**Bible study afterwards at Arlys Anderson's  
(4234 Pasadena Ave, Sacramento)**

**Please RSVP with John Parrish 916-482-4221  
by Sunday, May 14.**

*The entire menu may be available, depending on our group size. 25 folks or less and the whole menu is available. If we get 30 or more then it will be limited to 3 choices like last time. 18% gratuity added for everyone. One check per table, but the bill can be divided at each table to put so much on each credit card or by cash.*

-----

## **ONLINE GIVING**

**Download the Vanco Mobile App today to contribute Town and Country Lutheran Church and the many missions at work here:**

***Apple Store:***

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/vanco-mobile-faith-engagement/id1504961674>

***Google Play Store:***

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vancopayments.vancomobile&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vancopayments.vancomobile&hl=en_US&gl=US)





# From the New



## Promises, Promises

Webster's Dictionary defines the word "promise" as a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified. The Bible records a multitude of promises in both Old and New Testaments.

Here are some of the many passages filled with promises:

***Psalm 50:15***

***Psalm 55:17***

***Psalm 91:15***

***Isaiah 30:19***

***Isaiah 58:9***

***Matthew 7:7-8***

***Mark 11:24***

***John 16:23-24***

If you have taken time to look up these few of the many promises of Jesus, you must have been struck by the verbs:

*"I will hear"*

*"I will rescue you"*

*"I will deliver you"*

*"I will protect you"*

*"I will answer"*

*"I will listen"*

*"Here I am!"*

These are God's promises to each of us.  
May these promises bring comfort, joy, and peace.  
Thank God for them!

# WOMEN OF TOWN AND COUNTRY LUTHERAN CHURCH

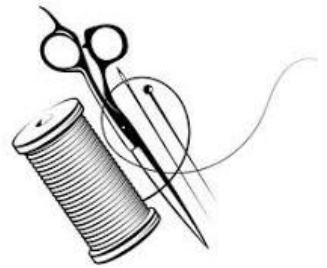
*You are cordially invited to attend a luncheon  
to celebrate who we are in Christ.*

**Sunday: June 4<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 A.M.**  
***In the Friendship Center***



*FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,  
CONNECT AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER*

**Speaker: Jan Froh, a deaconess speaking on her  
work with women at the seminary in Kenya, giving  
them sewing skills and a machine to teach other  
women about Jesus through sewing.**



*Hosted by:*  
**WOMEN IN MINISTRY (LWML)**

**RSVP: Ann Kretzmann - [annkretz73@gmail.com](mailto:annkretz73@gmail.com) or (916)241-5442**

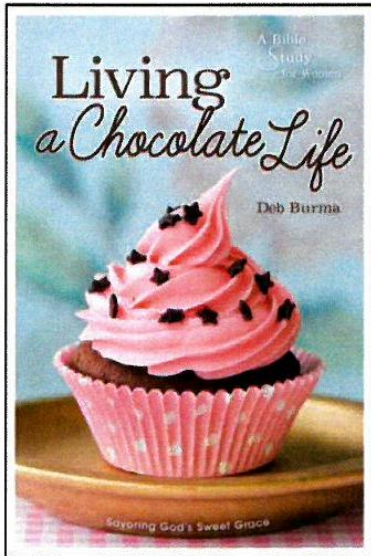
***There will also be sign-ups at the Connecting Points Station in the Narthex.***

**COME CELEBRATE WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST**



## REGISTRATION FORM

# Living *a Chocolate Life*



*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth. Psalm 119:103*

**PLACE:** Peace Lutheran Church  
924 San Juan Rd.  
Sacramento

**DATE:** Saturday, June 24, 2023  
9-4pm

**COST:** \$15 (Includes meals and material)

Return the completed bottom and check by June 7 to:

*Dianne Flynn*  
505 Ashwill Ct.  
Rio Linda, CA 95673  
(916) 335-4330

.....  
**Living a Chocolate Life Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_



## An article from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund magazine “Interestime”:

“Being a pastor was never something I would have considered on my own. I was likely my own largest impediment as I did not believe that I was ‘good enough’ to be a pastor. We all know our own deficiencies and shortcomings, and it is easy to think that God cannot use us for big things. It was so helpful for me to hear, along the way from people I loved, that God was using me and would continue to do so.” —Jesse Brubaker

Like Seminarian Jesse Brubaker, a second-year student at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW), most church workers don’t just happen upon their vocations. They are set apart and encouraged by those around them, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) members and church workers. Everyone has a part to play.

### A 60% decrease in 5 years

“The Lord commands every generation to ‘pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’ (Matthew 9:38),” said Rev. Dr. James Baneck, LCMS executive director of Pastoral Education. “His desire is that all be saved and have eternal life through His death and resurrection. The church is always in need of workers in the harvest to serve existing congregations and ministries to start new churches and to send national and international missionaries into the world.”

According to Baneck, enrollment in church worker programs at Concordia universities and seminaries has decreased by about 60% in the last five years. “This has once again gotten our attention to heed the Lord’s command to send out laborers into His harvest,” Baneck said.

In fact, a study by the LCMS discovered that enrollment for the Master of Divinity

programs at the seminaries is down 55%; Lutheran school teacher enrollment is down 61%; deaconess enrollment is down 43%; and director of Christian education enrollment is down 56%.

With nearly half of LCMS pastors LCMS pastors 55 years old or older and nearing retirement age, there’s a need to identify the next generation of church workers.

### The LCMS response

To engage the conversation and focus on the action of “identifying, catechizing, encouraging, and supporting young boys and girls for church worker vocations,” (2019 LCMS Convention Resolution 6-01) the LCMS has developed a comprehensive, multi-year church worker recruitment initiative called Set Apart to Serve (SAS). The literature explains “since church work is rooted in baptism and a lifetime of hearing the Word, SAS encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and faithful involvement with their congregation.”

In other words, it’s a recognition that God will provide and form pastors and other church workers through His Church, and He will use His people to accomplish this great task. But what does it often look like when God works in this way?

### Simple comments open doors

“For me, the suggestions came from my Lutheran grade-school teachers,” said Andrew Asp, fourth-year seminarian at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (CSL).

“I can remember them suggesting it as early as third or fourth grade. They would make comments on a somewhat regular basis, pointing out character traits which they said would ‘make me a good pastor someday.’ Actually, a lot of times, they would suggest it after I was being reprimanded. I typically only got in trouble for being noisy, with my loud voice!”

Those simple comments from Asp’s teachers began to take root. What happened next is only something that God could orchestrate.

“When I was in high school ... I really began to understand the beauty of the Gospel, and the magnitude of Christ’s love and grace, in a way that allowed me to understand the importance of pastoral ministry,” Asp said.

“This is when I began looking at seminary more seriously. So, to receive encouragement from my pastor and teachers was incredibly important to make me feel as though pursuing such a career wasn’t crazy. It’s very possible, that without that encouragement, I would have simply written the idea off as foolish.” ▶