

Good News of Peace

August 2014 A.D.

A *Caring Family* † *Reaching Out* † *Sharing Christ's Love* † *Teaching God's Word!*

From the Pastor's Desk

Back to School Night:
Tuesday, August 19, 6-8 p.m.
Congregational Planning Meeting:
Tuesday, August 26, 7 p.m.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'd like to use this space this month to call your attention to two events coming up during the second half of August. First, on Tuesday, August 19, we will host our second Back to School Night. This is an event that is designed to serve our community in Jesus' name and to support families in our community as they are getting ready for the beginning of a new school year.

This event will include two components: First, we will have various presenters from the congregation and community with stations set up throughout the Fellowship Hall, where they will either be providing materials and resources for parents and children, answering questions for parents, or providing hands-on activities for children. This component of the evening is a way for us to partner with knowledgeable people in the community in various fields. It is also a way for us to support families in the community by connecting them to resources of which they might not otherwise be aware.

The second component of the evening will involve providing a selection of school supplies, free of charge, to every family in attendance. We will be doing this largely on the basis of donations we receive from our members. The goal is not necessarily to provide every individual supply for every individual child but, at least in some way, to help ease the burden of buying the supplies needed for the beginning of the school year for as many families as possible. For some families in our community (including within our congregation), those kinds of expenses (especially for a family with multiple children) are a real hardship. For some, they may frankly be next to impossible.

Both components of the evening are also hopefully a non-threatening way to introduce people in the community to our congregation. They are an opportunity to let people know where we are and to let them know what we are about – that we care about the people in our community,

even if they aren't members, and we consider it a privilege to share the love of Christ with them by serving and supporting them. The ultimate message we hope to communicate (even in some small way) is that the grace of God in Jesus Christ is free to us, and it is also free to them.

There are several ways in which you can still be involved in this event: by making additional donations of school supplies or door prizes (see the list of what is still needed in the bulletin), by making monetary donations (either for additional supplies, door prizes, or refreshments), by volunteering your assistance during the event (see the sign-up sheet in the narthex), or simply by praying that God will bless the event and use it as an opportunity to reach others in the community with the message of His love.

I would also like to say a quick word about our next Congregational Planning Meeting, scheduled for the following Tuesday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. Last month I wrote about the June 17 planning meeting. Since that time, another planning meeting has taken place – on June 30. At that meeting we focused upon the first two of our four "target" areas of ministry – caring and reaching – and started to identify some of the specific steps necessary to improve our ministry in these areas.

For example, in the area of caring, one of the goals we identified was to increase the number of activities by which we help the members of our congregation by one each year and then to do the same with activities by which we help our community. Both will involve steps such as identifying what we are already doing in these areas, discussing ideas for what we might do in the future in these areas, and improving our publicity in the community.

In the area of reaching, one of the goals we identified was to increase our average weekly attendance by 10% and then to do the same with our weekly visitors. These goals will involve such steps as improving how we minister to our inactive members, improving how we communicate with our members, and again, improving our publicity in the community.

At the August 26 meeting, we will be focusing upon our two remaining "target" areas of ministry – sharing and teaching – and attempting to do more of the same. Even if you were not able to be in

attendance at either of the June (or previous) meetings, all Church Council members, elected officers, Board and Committee members, and interested members of the congregation are again invited to participate. Please plan to be a part of this important process, either in person or by keeping the process in your personal prayers.

As the summer is starting to wind down and the new school year approaching, a blessed August to each of you in Christ!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour can be heard locally on Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m. on 92.5 FM and at 11:00 a.m. on 1450 AM. You can also listen on-line or via podcast at www.lutheranhour.org. Now you can also download the new Lutheran Hour Mobile App to your mobile device. Instructions for doing so can be found at www.lhm.org/apps/.

August 2014 Schedule:

August 3

"Food for Hungry Souls"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

We're spiritually hungry and yet we often try to fill ourselves up with everything but God. Faith in Jesus is food for souls that hunger.
 (Matthew 14:13-21)

August 10

"Will You Believe?"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The Savior who walked on water still comes to us in our time of need.
 (Matthew 14:22-30)

August 17

"A Savior Who Goes Where No One Has Gone Before"
 Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus is the Savior who goes where no one else could go in order to rescue, heal, and save us.
 (Matthew 15:21-28)

August 24

"The Answer to Life"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Many regard Jesus as an urban legend, a cultural myth, or just another teacher. Jesus won't let you have this opinion of Him. (Matthew 16:13-20)

August 31

"God's Plan"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Life seldom goes as planned. However, by God's grace things can turn out better than we deserve. (Matthew 16:21-23)

Board of Stewardship

Here we are moving forward to the middle of August, and the Nautical Festival is over and done for another year. To me that means that fall is coming around the corner, and with it our vacations coming to an end or already finished for the summer. Where did the time go? We, in northern Michigan, get to enjoy four seasons throughout the year. What a blessing! I believe most of us love the summer the best with spring or fall next and winter following in last place (although some do enjoy winter the most). For me, I love the late summer and fall. As I begin to harvest the crops from the garden, I give thanks to God for the produce that He has blessed our family with again for another year. We give thanks to God for all that we have been blessed with for everything belongs to God, and we are the stewards of those blessings. Our time and talent are part of our blessings. As we reap the harvest of the garden seeds, let us give thanks for the seed (God's Word) God has planted in us. May we use our time and talent as God directs us to plant that seed (God's Word) to those around us. Through our words and actions God uses us so we may plant that seed and see the harvest. What a blessing to enjoy all the seasons here in northern Michigan. Thanks be to God!

Stewardship Corner

The parable of the unjust steward vexes us. Why would our Lord commend the unjust steward and the sons of this world as He does? It's because the sons of this world know how to treat something that they think is valuable. They love money and the earthly comforts that come with it. They jump to get the job with higher pay, better benefits, or greater prestige.

Yet all of this, as we know, will fade and wear out. And so, Jesus does not commend the sons of this world for what they love. He commends them for how zealously they love and the lengths they will go to attain it.

Mimic their zeal, but do not become a son of this world. Do not be drawn away by the love of money. The sons of this world are set for destruction, but at least they pursue it with vigor. They know what they want, and they go after it.

We, on the other hand, as Christians, desire the joy of eternal dwellings, but sometimes you would hardly know it. And so, we are accused of lacking zeal for the kingdom of God. For we have not pursued what we supposedly value with the same zeal that the sons of this world pursue what they value. We don't seek fellowship with the Father like the sons of this world seek the comfort that money provides. We don't put on purity with the enthusiasm that the sons of this world put on the latest fashions. We don't invest in the work of the Church, our very salvation, with the same zeal that the sons of this world invest in the markets.

Don't get sucked into pursuing the love of money and what it provides, but what money you do have, use for good works. Use money and possessions, but don't allow them to use and possess you. God in His grace and mercy gives you many things. You are stewards over what He gives into your hands. You control them. Don't let them control you. Use what you have been given to serve your neighbor, those who are part of your family, your community, and your church.

Get what you need to eat and drink, a home to shelter your family and clothes that you need. But don't squander. Don't waste your excess on things that don't serve you and your neighbor. Make friends with it instead. Give it to those in need. In so doing, you show mercy. And in showing mercy, you give a picture of God's mercy to you in Jesus Christ. You imitate the loving-kindness and mercy that God has given you to others. By faith, trusting in the promise that God will never leave you or forsake you and will provide everything that you need, you demonstrate what is of the highest value to you: the eternal dwellings of heaven. Thus, on the last day, Christ will receive you into them.

For Christ is the one son of light who is the most zealous, the most single-minded. He squanders the possessions of His Father with wanton abandon, not in wastefulness, but for your benefit. For these can't be wasted. They never run out. And so He lavishes the grace and mercy of God upon you without price, without charging you a cent, without keeping any books, without demanding any accounting of you. Christ takes all that belongs to the Father and gives it to you in abundance. And the treasures He gives never run out, never fade away, but are stored where moth and rust cannot destroy. They are eternal. They never end.

Rather than mimicking the zeal of the sons of this world, trust in Christ, and imitate His zeal and His works, for He gives out not only earthly treasures, but also heavenly ones.

Taken from www.lcms.org

August Birthdays

Mariah Ehrke	8/1
Pete Demos	8/3
Kayla Brown	8/6
Kristy Curtis	8/7
Eric Felax	8/8
Amy Henry	8/8
Mark Thompson	8/8
Cheryl Kowalewsky	8/11
Duane Dembny	8/13
Brady Myers	8/14
Ray Roeske, Jr.	8/15
Kelly Bullock	8/16
Denise Flewelling	8/17
Dustin Hein	8/20
Tucker McMasters	8/20
Bill Bruning	8/22
Sara Dimick	8/23
Sherry Enlow	8/24
Joe Gabara	8/24
Carrie Schleben	8/24
Hunter Bruning	8/25
Taylor Kowalewsky	8/26
Audrey Selke	8/27
Katie Fairbanks	8/29
Velma Rex	8/30
John Roby	8/30

August Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
Mike & Katie Fairbanks	8/1	26
Kurt & Leeny Ries	8/2	17
Ed & Sherry Enlow	8/3	40
Tom & Kathy Hogrefe	8/4	52
Larry & Polly Haselhuhn	8/9	45
Duane & Connie Dembny	8/10	48
Chad & Lisa Coolman	8/14	10
Pastor & Julie Riddle	8/14	20
Elwood & Linda Knopf	8/17	51
Cody & Jessie Wenzel	8/18	2
Jeff & Sarah Kamyszek	8/24	18
Frankie & Amanda Jumper	8/25	7
Ed & Kathy Lijewski	8/27	37
Jerry & Kim Yarch	8/29	22

If you notice your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary sections, please let the church office know so we can update our records... and celebrate these milestones with you!!