

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit down to write this, the beginning of August is less than one week away. How is that possible? The month of July has seen, among other activities, our Vacation Bible School, the LCMS Convention in Milwaukee, and the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, all come and go just as quickly. The school year ended barely six weeks ago, and yet before long it will be time to turn our attention once again to a new school year. The Nautical Festival is nearly upon us, as well. And when I dropped Isaac off at the high school last evening for his final City Band rehearsal of the summer, I noticed that the football team was already doing a little practicing. It's too soon for that, I couldn't help but think.

Summer is slipping away, it seems, as it inevitably does each year. I pray that you have been able to find some ways to enjoy it to this point. And before it slips away entirely, I pray that you are able to find some ways to enjoy what is left of it.

I would like to use this space this month to touch on several things. First, I would like once again to give thanks and praise to God, from whom all blessings flow. As I first announced on Sunday, July 17, we have successfully paid off our mortgage for our church building with the Church Extension Fund, thereby exceeding our goal of being able to do so by November 1 of this year! In celebration of this blessing, the congregation stood and sang the Common Doxology following the service that morning:

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

I would also like to say **thank you** to all our members and friends for your faith-filled and generous giving, particularly since last December, when we launched our "Keep Our Ministry Growing" Campaign! The Planning Team will be working on planning a special "mortgage-burning" ceremony in the near future and will announce the date when it has been established. As we move into the fall, the Planning Team will also be busy identifying our next congregational priorities and will be working hard to keep the congregation fully informed in the coming weeks and months. As the Apostle Paul reminds

us in 1 Corinthians 3:7 (also our campaign theme verse), **only God gives the growth!**

On July 22-23, our make-up photography sessions for our **pictorial directory**, which we began last summer but were unable to finish due to extenuating circumstances, were finally held. While we still wound up missing a number of members for various reasons, the make-up photos will enable us to have a greater percentage of our congregation represented in the directory, including a handful of new members who would not have been able to be included a year ago. Our initial goal had been to offer these sessions last fall in order to avoid summer vacations, etc., but in the end that wasn't possible. Thanks to all our members for your understanding and patience with this process. And thanks especially to Brenda Karsten and Linda Scranton for their continued assistance. We will be working on wrapping up the process as quickly as possible in the coming weeks. If you were not able to be photographed either last year or this year and are interested in submitting a photo to be included, please see Brenda or Linda, or contact the church office.

Finally, before we know it, another **Back to School Night** will be upon us. This event has proven to be a successful outreach each of the past three years, and it has grown each year. It is also a wonderful opportunity to partner together with community leaders and organizations, and it is a great example of striving to serve the people of our community in Jesus' name without expecting anything in return. As this year's event is approaching in the coming weeks, please consider this question: **what can we learn as a congregation from this event about additional ways in which we might serve our community in Jesus' name throughout the year?**

Members of the congregation, it is not too soon to start collecting school supplies as they become available. Your generosity has helped this event to be more successful each year so far! A list of some of the supplies we collected last year is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

As we look forward to the final weeks of summer, continued blessings to each of you in Christ, our Savior!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

Back to School Night Supplies Needed:

Pencils	Pens
Erasers	Pencil boxes or pouches
Colored pencils	Crayons
Markers	Highlighters
Erasers	Glue – sticks or bottles
Rulers	Scissors
Folders	Spiral notebooks
Hand sanitizer	Kleenex
Backpacks	

BOARD OF ELDERS

Where does time go? Here it is August already, and the summer is very close to the end for another year here in northeast Michigan. We did have some hot, humid days this summer to enjoy or to deal with as the sun (along with the humidity) was shining down upon us. For some it was a great summer, and for others it was not that enjoyable. Hope that you enjoyed your summer days and the sunshine that God has given you. God has also given us His SON SHINE to shine on us, not just during the summer, but every day of our lives. The SON SHINES on us in the time we worship, in the time we spend in Bible Study, in the time we spend in prayer, and in the time we spend in devotions. May the SON SHINE on you every day of your life so that you may serve the Lord with your time, talent, and treasure in your family, in our church, and in our community. Where does the time go? May we use our time wisely serving the Lord.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...for the Nautical Festival and our Peace Lutheran Church Food Booth, where we serve BBQ Pork Sandwiches, brats, and homemade french fries. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Can you spare a couple hours on Friday or Saturday at the food booth or the church? It is a good time of fellowship and serving. Sign-up sheets are still available in the narthex.

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 7

"The Word in a World of Words"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
It's "Archives August" and Pastor Gregory Seltz revisits a classic sermon by Dr. Oswald Hoffmann.
(2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

August 14

"In Spite of Everything"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
"Archives August" continues, as Pastor Gregory Seltz preaches another classic sermon by Dr. Oswald Hoffmann.
(Romans 8:28)

August 21

"Hope Not in Politicians"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
"Archives August" concludes with a classic yet timely message originally presented by Dr. Oswald Hoffmann.
(Isaiah 31:1-3)

August 28

"Boasting - Ridiculous or Real"
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
Modern man boasts, "God is dead," but what have we gained from such thinking?
(Galatians 6:14)

Stewardship Corner

"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the Church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the Creator and the Giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything—life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance—be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For we who believe in Christ, it means forgiveness, life, and salvation in the face of sin, death, and the power of the devil. Here in the church we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and we exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

Taken from www.lcms.org