

Good News of Peace

June 2016 A.D.

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Experiencing the Joy of Generosity

Sunday, May 22, was the second of our special three-part Spring and Summer emphasis entitled "Experiencing the Joy of Generosity." Our April theme was "The Joy of Receiving God's Blessings." Our May theme was "The Joy of Managing God's Blessings." As God's stewards, we are called to manage faithfully the time, talent, and monetary resources which He has graciously entrusted to us. By faith, we understand that **all** that we are and have are *gifts* by God's grace in Jesus Christ, our Savior. In order to properly express our gratitude, we strive to manage our blessings in ways that give our Lord praise and honor.

Whether or not you were in attendance on May 22, please make a point of reading the tri-fold brochure placed in your mailbox. Please also take advantage of the weekly devotional provided on the table in the narthex. This month's devotional, which contains five brief daily devotions focusing on the theme of "**The Joy of Managing God's Blessings**," will remain available throughout the month of June.

May God help each of us to better understand the importance of following His plan for managing our blessings!

We will be wrapping up this special three-part emphasis at the end of June by considering the joy of sharing God's blessings.

As we transition from May into June and from the conclusion of the school year into the summer months, please also keep the following upcoming dates in mind:

Graduation Sunday will be **Sunday, June 5**. We would like to acknowledge all our high school and college graduates during the service and invite them to process together at the beginning of the service and sit together as a group. The names of all participants should be submitted to the church office by Wednesday, June 1, please.

Also on **Sunday, June 5**, even though our full Christian Education Hour is taking a break until Rally Day in September, we will begin a Summer Bible Study, which will meet periodically throughout the summer as our Sunday morning schedule permits and will be led by John Gledhill. We will be using a study entitled "*Death ... Then What?*", which will address four challenging topics: Facing the Great Unknown, Which Way Are You Heading?, Will We Ever Meet Again?, and Our Eternal Future. Please plan to attend.

Sunday, June 12 will be Concordia Sunday at Peace. Rev. John Bush, Senior Director of Donor Relations for Concordia

University Ann Arbor, will be with us to share the Word of God and to share some information about what is happening at Concordia. A lot of exciting changes have taken place on the Concordia campus over the last several years! We will also collect a Door Offering that morning in support of Concordia's mission and ministry. Please plan to be in attendance.

Also on **Sunday, June 12**, our youth who will be attending this summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans will host our Coffee and Fellowship Hour.

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, **June 21-22**, Peace will host a Youth Mental Health First Aid training workshop on behalf of Partners in Prevention. Members are invited to attend, though registration will be required and space will be limited. An Adult Mental Health First Aid training workshop will take place on June 28-29 at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

On **Sunday, June 26**, we will hold our May Voters Meeting, postponed from Sunday, May 22.

The 66th National Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held **July 9-14** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under the theme "Upon This Rock: Repent, Confess, Rejoice." Please keep our Synod, our Synodical leaders, the Convention, and all Convention attendees in your personal prayers in the coming weeks. You may keep up with the Convention beforehand, during, and afterwards by visiting www.lcms.org and by following the LCMS via various social media outlets.

The LCMS Youth Gathering, which ten of our high school youth and three parent chaperones will be attending along with a group from St. John's, will take place **July 16-20** in New Orleans, Louisiana. Held every three years, the Youth Gathering provides youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people, to be affirmed in their lives as God's people, to nurture their relationship with others in the Church, to celebrate their salvation in Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament, and to recognize that youth ministry happens in a variety of settings in their congregation, community, and world. Please keep our youth and adult attendees in your prayers! A reminder that a number of opportunities to help our youth raise the necessary funds to attend the Gathering remain available on the "Money Tree" in the narthex.

On Friday and Saturday, **July 22-23**, we will hold our long-overdue make-up photography sessions for our pictorial directory, which we began last summer but were unable to finish due to extenuating circumstances. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks as they are finalized. Please see Brenda Karsten or Linda Scranton with questions

or if you would like to make sure that a time slot is reserved for you.

Dates and details for this year's **Vacation Bible School** will also be announced shortly once they are finalized.

As our summer calendars begin to fill up, the Lord's richest blessings to each of you in Christ!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

BOARD OF ELDERS

It's looking more and more that summer is upon us with the warmer weather and the flowers showing us their blooms, the white and pick blossoms on the fruit trees, and the forest covering itself with leaves. Everything is coming to life and showing us their beauty. Our vegetable gardens are being planted and growing to help us nourish our bodies to stay healthy and grow. How about our spiritual growth? Are we keeping it fed? Do we get up too late or get too busy to pray and read the Bible? Sometimes we are like sheep who have gone astray—doing our own thing, having fun with our friends, and not having enough time to get the things done that we want to—and then we forget about praying and reading the Bible. We have the Good Shepherd to guide us with the Holy Spirit leading us back into His Word.

In your garden plant some "lettuce/let us" pray, and read God's Word to grow close to Him. Maybe plant a little "turnip/turn up" at church and hear God's Word. Pray, praise and give thanks to our Good Shepherd who keeps us from going astray or comes and finds us when we do.

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/.

May 1

"So, Ask Already!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
God loves you. He wants to hear from you. Ask Him anything and everything. Go ahead, ask!
(John 16:22-33)

May 8

"Jesus Prayed for You"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Prayer begins in the heart of Jesus Christ who intercedes for you, offering prayers on your behalf to God the Father.
(John 17:20-26)

May 15

"Jesus Gives Us the Help We Need"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Jesus doesn't want you to be in the dark about how much He loves you.
(John 14:23-31)

May 22

"Here's a New, Lasting Identity"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
The Bread of Life, Living Water, Good Shepherd: Jesus' statements leave no doubt as to who He is, for you.
(John 8:48-58)

May 29

"Identity Theft"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
Nobody likes to have their identity stolen, and that includes the Lord who said, "You shall have no other gods before Me."
(Galatians 1:5-8)

Stewardship Corner

Do we Christians really have to tithe? Are we really under a compulsion to give? Aren't we free? Don't we have a freedom from the law that was purchased for us by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection?

The problem is that our sinful flesh uses our freedom for selfishness. Christ did not die and rise so that we could give less and do less good work in the world. He died and rose to free us from the compulsion of the Law, to free us from a burden we could not bear.

We are missing the point completely if we use the freedom from the Law that Christ won by His passion, crucifixion, and resurrection to give less, or to do less of any good work. Christ set us free to live in His image of faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. We are free from the Law's condemnation so that we can walk in the good works the Lord has prepared for us.

Our freedom is not given to indulge our sinful and selfish flesh. Our freedom was purchased and won by Christ so that we could serve our neighbors — our family, our society, our church.

As a result, much of your freedom is not a freedom from, but a freedom *to* and *for*. You are not free *from* serving your neighbor. You are free *for* service toward your neighbor—willingly and without compulsion. You are not free *from* giving to your church; you are freed *to* give to your local congregation in joy, willingly, and without compulsion.

The reason you are free to serve, the reason you are free to give, is because of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sin He won for you on the cross, which He delivers to you in the Gospel and the sacraments. That is our motivation. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). And since God loves us in this way, by giving us His only-begotten Son so that we do not perish, we also love one another in this way, by giving what we have so that our neighbor does not perish.

If the God who has provided the sacrifice for your eternal salvation, the God who delivers that salvation to you in Holy Baptism, the God who continues to forgive you and show you His faithfulness, if that same God is the One who also promises to give you daily bread and take care of your earthly life, you can trust in Him, even in giving. After all, Jesus Christ is proof that God loves you and will take care of you.

Taken from www.lcms.org