

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Believe it or not, it is September. Or it will be by the time many of you are reading this. That means summer vacations and travels have wrapped up – or are wrapping up over this Labor Day weekend, maybe. Most summer activities have concluded by now. We never really did get a long stretch of summer heat this year, did we? And the new school year is just a few days away.

With the beginning of the new school year comes the beginning of a new Sunday School year, as well. Rally Day is set for Sunday, September 7. That also means, in addition to Sunday School classes (our first Sunday School staff meeting is scheduled for tonight, as I write this), that it is time to start thinking about Bible classes and Bible study opportunities resuming, as well.

Summer is a time when routine, in many cases, seems to go by the wayside. Even though our summer schedules tend to fill up, too, it is refreshing to be able to have a more relaxed schedule overall. After a busy spring, it is kind of nice to be able to look at the calendar for the summer months and not see quite as many activities scheduled. That's what summer is for. But we know, as enjoyable as the summer months are and as quickly as the weeks of summer seem to fly by, summer can't last indefinitely. Sooner or later, we have to get back to work.

Fall, as the new school year is getting underway, is a good time to start thinking about either beginning or resuming healthy habits. One such healthy habit is the study of God's Word. When it comes right down to it, a congregation's entire life and ministry revolves around worship and Bible study together. Those are a congregation's "non-negotiable" activities. If we don't have those firmly in place, why are we here? Those activities are what equip us, to use our mission statement, for caring, reaching and sharing.

During the summer months, our regular Bible studies take a break. And maybe we have even given ourselves permission to be a little bit more lax in our worship attendance, with family reunions and fishing trips and summer travels. But the arrival of fall means that it is time to be a

little bit more intentional about our worship and Bible study habits once again.

I would like to be able to tell you that, once the school year gets underway, Bible study opportunities abound. Truthfully, that isn't the case. Our Bible study opportunities here at Peace are frankly somewhat limited right now. Our Sunday morning Bible classes – for both youth and adults – will resume in September. So will our Wednesday morning class (led by Ruth Rothe, her health permitting). Beginning on Wednesday evening, September 10, members are also invited to attend Pastor Ferguson's annual Fall Bible Class, which this year will be held at St. John's. However, those opportunities are not, of course, going to fit the schedules, the needs and the interests of every member of the congregation.

I will repeat, though, what I said above: a congregation's life and ministry revolves around worship and Bible study. Every member of the congregation is encouraged to seek out some kind of regular Bible study in addition to Sunday church attendance. If that Bible study is on Sunday morning, or Wednesday morning, or Wednesday evening (or all three), or with a small group of fellow Lutherans who have been getting together for years (as is the case with some of our ladies), great! If not, I want to challenge you during this coming year to find a place to plug yourself in to a Bible study of some kind.

Maybe that Bible study doesn't exist yet, however. Here is where I need your help. If we don't currently have a Bible study that meets your needs, I need you to tell me the when and the where and the what. How might we schedule one that does meet your schedule, your needs, your interests?

Would you be interested in a men's Bible study? Or a Bible study for working moms? (There are many good women's Bible study resources available.) Or a topical study that meets once a month? Or a small group study that meets somewhere other than the church? Or a Bible study which you help organize and lead? Tell me what would make it possible and desirable for you to attend a regular Bible study, and we will do our best to make it happen.

As you will see in the coming months, this is also one of the objectives that is going to emerge from our congregational planning process: increasing the number and variety

of Bible study opportunities available and increasing the number of members who are actively involved in Bible study. Towards those ends, you will find a survey attached to this newsletter. You are invited to complete it and return it to the church in the coming weeks. Your feedback will help to determine what our 2014-2015 Bible study program (and beyond) looks like.

St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3 just why Bible study is so vital: *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but God who gives the growth.*

God is the One who gives the growth. How does that happen? Through His Word, and only through His Word.

As we continue to read, hear and study His Word together, may God bless us, guide us, and grant us growth both individually and as a congregation!

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](http://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/](http://www.lhm.org/apps/).

## September 2014 Schedule:

**September 7**  
 "Teeny, Tiny Crosses"  
 Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:  
 Rev. Ken Klaus  
 Jesus bore the weight of the cross and all of our sin. How big is the cross God calls you to carry?  
 (Matthew 16:24-26)

## September 14

"That's Just Who God Is"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The journeys of St. Paul teach us how God's message of grace has been translated so that all might believe. (Footsteps of St. Paul, part 1) (Acts 2:1-39)

## September 21

"Rome: The Gospel Comes to Law and Order People"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God used the Roman legal system to bring the Apostle Paul and the Gospel message to Rome. (Footsteps of St. Paul, part 2) (Acts 28:11-16, 28-31)

## September 28

"Athens: The Gospel Comes to the Center of Learning"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus is Wisdom personified. He redeems us from sin and the world's futility. (Footsteps of St. Paul, part 3) (Acts 17)

## Board of Trustees

Housekeeper position available at Peace. If interested, please contact Jan Dullack, Cinda Grulke, Jerry Wenzel, or any trustee for a job description. Deadline is September 21.

Just a friendly reminder... if you hold a meeting or an event at the church, please make sure to clean up after yourselves and make sure the lights are off and doors are locked as you leave. Thanks!

## Stewardship Corner

The Gospels are filled with irony. Death itself is defeated by the death of Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God the Father, is given to Pilate in exchange for Barabbas, which means "son of the father." But one particularly puzzling bit of irony is that Judas was given charge of the moneybag.

In response to Mary Magdalene's lavish gift, when she poured out almost a year's wages to anoint Jesus' feet, Judas replied, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor" (John 12:5)? And then John tells us, "He said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it" (John 12:6).

So, why is Judas put in charge of the money? Jesus could have put any of his disciples in charge of it. He could have put Nathaniel in charge, of whom Jesus said, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit" (John 1:47), or John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:20), or Levi, the tax collector, who was financially savvy (Luke 5:27). But he didn't. He chose Judas, whom He called "a devil" (John 6:70). Why?

Jesus put His money where his mouth was. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-20). Our Lord put not His trust in earthly treasures, but in the word and will of His Father. The Lord will provide.

In Judas, we see the heart and gut-wrenching end of one who treasured the wrong thing. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34). "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). It's an alarming example, a visceral image, of what loving money and hating God can look like.

But no one, save Jesus, was the wiser. During Jesus' three-year ministry, Judas looked, talked, and acted like the other eleven. He seemed to be about the right things. But "love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs" (1 Timothy 6:10). And this craving led Judas to sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, which the chief priests used to buy his own grave—an ironic transaction indeed.

All of this is to say that money is a good thing but it is not God. Use it for the purpose which God gives it. Spend it on providing for your family. Spend it on support of your community. Give it to support and provide for the work of God among you in church, the ministry of Word and Sacrament, through which you receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. Invest in all these things. Put your treasure where God calls you to put it, and your heart will follow. Your hearts will be set on things above, for these things—family, society, and church—are of God. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all this will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

So, do not be anxious, but trust in the mercies of God. All you need will be given by your Father in heaven. "For it is

your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). The Father can easily out-give what any thief can steal. And the beauty is: He not only can, but does. There is nothing ironic about that.

Taken from [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison wants to hear from the Synod's youth, and Twitter is a good place to start. On **Wednesday, September 3**, from 7 to 8 p.m. CST, Harrison will host a tweet chat for college-age youth. While the chat is part of "Free to Be Faithful" — the Synod's educational and awareness campaign regarding the issues of marriage, life and religious liberty — all topics are open for discussion. "Our young people aren't just the future of our church. They're the Church already, right now. So I'm eager to hear what interests them, take their questions and encourage them in being thinking, speaking Lutherans in a world that needs the Gospel that they hold so dear," Harrison said. Twitter users are encouraged to sign into their accounts and tweet their questions using #LCMSPresident. Those interested also may follow the discussion and participate by visiting [twubs.com/LCMSPresident](http://twubs.com/LCMSPresident). Individuals who do not have Twitter accounts may send their questions by Sept. 1 to the LCMS Church Information Center at [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org), with the subject line "President's tweet chat." A follow-up article after the Twitter conversation is planned for Reporter Online and the conversation will be posted on [LCMS.org](http://LCMS.org).

## September Birthdays

Brooklynn Finch	9/2
Ella Papineau	9/5
Mercedes Russ	9/14
Hannah Schaudt	9/22
Alexis Olden	9/27

## September Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
Mark & Cheryl Kowalewsky	9/3	26
Daryl & Lisa Rhode	9/15	24
Jack & Ruth Myers	9/18	49
Ralph & Cheryl Kortman	9/21	46
Ralph & Natalie Zempel	9/21	29
Larry & Dianne Darga	9/24	48
Randy & Ann Reisener	9/24	37
David & Marsha Grulke	9/25	43
Jeff & Kathy Karsten	9/25	32
Art & Jenny Longoria	9/25	15
Larry & Susan Altman	9/29	30

*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!!*