

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I just finished praying with Jonah, our youngest. Doing so is a part of our nightly routine, before he turns out his bedside light. Julie and I continue with him the pattern we began years ago with Isaac and then Emmalyn. She prays the traditional bedtime prayer with him: "Now I lay me down to sleep ..." When she is finished, or some nights first, I pray Luther's Evening Prayer with him: "I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day ..."

Isaac and Emmalyn are old enough now that, for better or worse, we have gotten out of that habit with them. For one thing, more and more it seems, we're already dozing off in the living room by the time they get around to heading to bed. In each case, however, my fervent hope is that, after many years of praying that prayer with all three of them, and by God's grace, those words, along with that habit, are ingrained in them and will remain so throughout their lives.

Before we prayed tonight, Jonah asked me when Confirmation begins. "This Sunday," I told him. In that moment the realization struck me, as it has a number of times in recent weeks, that our third and youngest child is beginning Confirmation this year. How did that happen? Not too many years ago, I was discovering for the first time how strange it was to have one of my own children in Confirmation class with me. Four years of having Isaac and Emmalyn as students later, plus an additional year or two in there somewhere, I am about to experience that for the third and final time. I'm not sure, I guess, where those years have gone.

Earlier tonight, Isaac, our oldest, brought home the proofs of his Senior Pictures. This weekend, he will play with the Marching Band during the home football game for the final time. Weren't we at the football stadium for his first Marching Band performance just the other day? Julie and I know well that we are in for a year full of such experiences – a year full of lasts (here in Rogers City, at least) with our firstborn. At the same time, of course, it will be a year full of looking ahead. During the next several weeks, for example, we will also be squeezing in two college visits – one in Ann Arbor and one in St. Paul, Minnesota. And before we

know it, we'll be down to two children at home. Don't remind Julie, please; she doesn't really like to talk about that.

Earlier this week Isaac wrote, in an assignment for an English class, while thinking ahead himself to next year, that he's finding he isn't quite ready to leave Rogers City just yet. I was thankful to read that sentiment on his part. When a pastor picks up his family and moves them from a familiar community to another, unfamiliar community ten hours away, there are times he wonders if that was the right decision. For Isaac, at least, Rogers City has proven to be just the right place to spend his Junior High and High School years.

After reading his English assignment, it dawned on me that, even though we moved to Rogers City when he was 12, in the years to come a significant number of his childhood memories will be from here. (Even more so, of course, for the other two.) Once he heads off to college, he will more than likely never return to live here full-time. Nonetheless, Rogers City will always be an important part of his life.

There are all sorts of things I have come to like, even love, about Rogers City in our five-plus years here. The fact remains, however, that I would never have located Rogers City on a map and chosen to move here. The entire state of Michigan was never on our personal radar, in fact. If we were ever to leave Illinois, where I have spent roughly four-fifths of my life, we liked the idea of living in places like Wisconsin, where we went to college. Or Minnesota, where Julie has extended family. Or somewhere in between Illinois and Texas, or Illinois and Colorado, where we have immediate family. Or maybe even in California, where I served my vicarage now more than 20 years ago.

Never once, I don't believe, did Michigan ever cross our minds. Certainly not far northern Michigan. Yet here we are. And when we weren't looking, in the midst of Confirmation classes and band performances (we now have a third drummer in our house, as well) and all sorts of other activities over the last several years, Rogers City has become our home. As I reflect on our many blessings, as well as on the many changes our family has experienced during our time in this community thus far, I am thankful for that. The Lord knew what He was doing all along, I guess. I suppose I could do a better job of trusting Him from one day to the next. He always

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seems to have things, both small and large, covered. Praise be to Him for that!

I pray that you might be similarly mindful of your many blessings from God and, more to the point, of the often-surprising ways in which He brings them about. *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:8-9)

His continued and abundant blessings to each of you in Christ, our Savior!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

## Family Life Intern

As noted in the News & Notes in recent weeks, the Church Council has recently been exploring the possibility of bringing another Family Life Intern here to Peace either from January-June 2018 or (more likely) June-December 2018. Many of you will recall that Abi Schmit served in that capacity from December 2012 through May 2013 and then served us in a part-time capacity from June 2013 through June 2014.

At the September Voters Meeting I raised the following questions: How many of our members have children and grandchildren, wherever they may live, not active in a local LCMS church (or a Christian church of any kind)? (I happen to know that many of our members do, and this is a disturbing trend throughout the younger generations in every community.) And how many of us would want to know that the local LCMS church in those communities was doing everything they could to make it a priority to reach and minister to our children and grandchildren? (I hope that the answer to this second question would be “All of us!”)

Those questions, in part, provide the rationale for considering bringing another Family Life Intern to Peace. This possibility has been discussed off and on since Abi and her husband left Rogers City in 2014. For us to bring a full-time Family Life Minister exclusively to Peace would more than likely be cost-prohibitive for our congregation at this time. As a result, to this point the discussion has mostly revolved around the possibility of bringing a full-time Family Life Minister to Rogers City to serve all the LCMS congregations in the

Rogers City community. However, we are not far enough along in that discussion for that to be a realistic possibility just yet. Bringing another intern to Peace would provide a compromise that would enable us to expand our ministry in the present while continuing to explore future possibilities for partnering with other area congregations.

Why would an intern be beneficial for our congregation? Having such a dedicated person on staff would enable us to begin to expand our ministry to families, marriages, parents, children and youth. It is challenging to make all those areas the priorities they deserve to be with only a pastor on staff. A Family Life Intern, who would come to us from the well-respected Family Life Program at Concordia University Ann Arbor, would bring us youth, energy, and enthusiasm, and would also provide us with someone who has been specifically and Synodically trained for Family Life Ministry in a congregational setting.

We have already been assured by the Family Life Department staff at Concordia that Peace is considered a desirable setting for an internship. The next step in the process is to apply for an intern, which can't be done until we are willing to make the financial commitment. The congregation will be asked to consider including the necessary expenses in our 2018 budget, which will be presented at the December Voters Meeting.

In addition to a small salary for the intern, we would need to provide some kind of housing this time around. If you have or are aware of living space that might be either loaned or rented out for this purpose, please see Pastor.

## Board of Elders

*“Hark the voice of Jesus crying, Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away? Loud and long the Master calleth: Rich reward He offers thee. Who will answer gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me.”* LSB Hymn 826, vs. 1

October is here and the end of 2017 is close at hand, and we are asking if you would be willing to serve as a board or committee member, Sunday School teacher/helper, usher, etc. Need some motivation? Read the next three verses of the hymn, and then pray and ask God if He is calling you. If you need to, read the verses over a few times.

October is also Pastor Appreciation month, and we give God thanks for sending us Pastor Riddle to be our Shepherd as he teaches and guides us in God's Word. We also give thanks to Julie, Isaac, Emmalyn and Jonah for being a blessing to us.

Pray, praise and give thanks to God every day for all our blessings. Stay in His Word every day so we may grow in our faith and be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in Christ and to all that God sends our way.

## 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/).

### October 1

"Power to Overcome Worry and Anxiety"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Thanksgiving and anxiety are two opposing forces. Have you ever thanked God for your problems, pains, and suffering? (Philippians 4:4-13)

### October 8

"No Selfies Needed"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

God isn't afraid of messy people. He loves the broken, embraces the outcast, and seeks the lost. (Philippians 4:4-14)

### October 15

"Luther the Man: Called by God to Boast in Him"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Although Martin Luther is widely regarded as one of the most influential people of the last 500 years, he knew he was no big deal, compared to Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

### October 22

"The Enduring Reformation Moment and Message of Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

The Reformation was quite a moment for Martin Luther, but also for people who suddenly heard of a merciful God Who really cared for them. (2 Corinthians 4:13-18)

### October 29

"A Reformation Invitation - the Just Live by Faith"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

500 years ago, Martin Luther rediscovered a truth that turned the world upside down: the just shall live by faith. Can this message transform you today? (Romans 1:16-17)

## Stewardship Corner

We are nearing the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, All Saints' Eve, 1517, when Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their

family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows" (Galatians 6:6-7).

"The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages'" (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

When Paul says "all good things," this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. . . . The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: "God is not mocked." . . . All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: "Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages"; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13-14): "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel." It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages . . . it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office. (LW 27:125-126). In other words, pastors are not to suffer from low wages just because they are servants of Christ and the Word. They are to share in the livelihoods of all to whom they preach the gospel and instruct in the faith, so that the Word can be proclaimed and the faith carried from one generation to the next.

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

# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Mark & Missie Karsten, Steve & Sue Kandal <u>Baptisms:</u> Joyce Zempel, Laurie Catalano, John Roby <u>Birthdays:</u> Nancy Mosher, Bob Heller, Brendan Hart	<b>2</b> <u>Birthdays:</u> Lilah Elowski, Jessie LaLonde	<b>3</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Marie Roluffs <u>Birthdays:</u> Harold Koviak, Erin Fairbanks	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Dennis Schwiesow <u>Birthdays:</u> Carol Filipiak	<b>6</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Nonnie Bannasch	<b>7</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Kay Don & Audrey Selke <u>Birthdays:</u> Jessica Bannasch
<b>8</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Tyler & Rachel Thompson <u>Baptisms:</u> Chad Coolman, Chris Flewelling	<b>9</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Gayle & Kathy Zimmerman <u>Baptisms:</u> Natalie Zempel	<b>10</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Brady Myers, Mary Primak <u>Birthdays:</u> Cole Kamyszek, Lily Lewandowski	<b>11</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Larry & Cinda Grulke <u>Baptisms:</u> Sue Kandal	<b>12</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Matt Russ, Jr.	<b>13</b> <u>Birthdays:</u> Jeff Karsten, Tamara Rex	<b>14</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> David & Donna Kaski <u>Baptisms:</u> Bob Heller, Ella Papineau <u>Birthdays:</u> Jessie Wirgau
<b>15</b> <u>Birthdays:</u> Madison Bingle	<b>16</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Jesse & Jenny Fenstermaker <u>Baptisms:</u> Eric Felax	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Bette Brege, Hunter Bruning <u>Birthdays:</u> Liam Grulke, Mary Fairbanks	<b>19</b> <u>Birthdays:</u> Merlin Schaedig, Carolynne Schaedig	<b>20</b> <u>Birthdays:</u> Alyssa Jo Hein, Jessie Muller, LaDonna Nichol	<b>21</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Nick & Carol Filipiak
<b>22</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Jackson Bruning <u>Birthdays:</u> Caleb Karsten	<b>23</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Carol Filipiak, Jon Plath <u>Birthdays:</u> Jeff Kamyszek	<b>24</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Kristy Curtis <u>Birthdays:</u> Dave Schaedig, Randy Reisener, Steve Grulke	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <u>Birthdays:</u> Ralph Zempel	<b>27</b> <u>Anniversaries:</u> Tom & Kay Bruning <u>Baptisms:</u> Lilah Elowski, Jessie LaLonde <u>Birthdays:</u> John Hudock	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Tamara Rex <u>Birthdays:</u> Nikkie LaLonde, Mason Suszek	<b>30</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Lily Lewandowski <u>Birthdays:</u> Mitch Felax	<b>31</b> <u>Baptisms:</u> Kelly Bruning <u>Birthdays:</u> Sarah Kamyszek				