



Twinkle, Twinkle, Morning Star

When was the last time you made a ‘wish list’? If that occasion involved a Sears ‘Christmas Wishbook’ catalog on the living room floor, then it may be time to revisit the concept. Give your

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imagination a little room to roam and see where it takes you. If you received a postcard from heaven, it might very well read, “Wish you were here!”

When the ‘Make-A-Wish’ foundation is contacted, what do you imagine are the kinds of things that kids facing impossible health odds wish for ... and how come?

The theme music for the Walt Disney Corporation tells the tale. Sung by Jiminy Cricket in the movie, “Pinocchio,” the lyrics begin, “When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are.” Not quite a bulwark of theological substance,

the words and the tune nevertheless pluck

at heartstrings where needs are big, challenges are tall, and transformation for the better are longed for. Wishes. What are the wishes of your heart? What are your heart’s desires? Go ahead. Make a wish. Say a prayer.

Now, turn that around. Ask yourself, “What are the desires of God’s heart? What are God’s hopes and dreams ... for me, my loved ones, my church, my future?”

God’s wish-come-true for your salvation is the “morning star,” Jesus Christ. That wish came true by way of the death and resurrection of Jesus for you. The Holy Spirit has given you faith in Christ so that you can now live by that faith just as if you too have been raised from the dead. By God’s compassionate grace,

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FOC Emergency Contacts

During the transition phase, please call Kyle Amundson at (715) 531-8315 or Steve Vannatta at (651) 261-8054 if you have an emergency situation. Or call the church office at (715) 549-6140.

through faith, you are forgiven! But since you’re not in heaven yet, now what?

Take to heart what God says in Psalm 20 and take Him at His word. The God of the burning bush on Mt. Sinai knows your

Jesus ...
Our Morning Star!

needs and challenges; and, He has a plan. Help and support are en route from the Most High!

You can count on the LORD to come through for you in your time of need.

You are free to stand tall by bending down to help someone who has fallen and be like Christ to them. This is the Holy Spirit’s doing in and through you.

Hey! Is that you making dreams come true?!?

Pastor Charles Keogh

Call Committee Update

Since the last Calling Committee report, committee members individually studied approximately 200 pages of information on the candidates. With that completed, we have now turned to in-person meetings to prayerfully discuss the candidates.

The objective is to find the candidates that would fit best with the spiritual needs of Family of Christ. Once that step is completed, a candidate or candidates will be brought to the congregation. Through secret ballots, the congregation votes on the candidate to whom it wishes to extend a call.

One of the Bible passages that guides us is from Psalm 18: 28-30. ***“For it is You who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God – His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.”***

As previously related to the congregation, each member of the calling committee is humbled by the awesome responsibility placed upon them. The path that we are on is not only that of the calling committee but also each member of this Family of Christ. As in the past, we humbly ask that you keep us and our church in your daily prayers. We will update the congregation at a time appropriate with our search for our next pastor.

May the peace of the Lord be with us all!

In His Service,

Vic Weyland, Calling Committee Chair

Deb Zwiefelhofer, Randy Stoeckmann, John Jakubek, Liz Rome





Dear Baptized in Christ,

[Set Apart to Serve \(SAS\)](#) is The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s church work recruitment initiative. Since 2019, we have focused on the formation and recruitment of our youth, encouraging them to consider a full-time vocation in church work. Together with the whole Synod, we are working to raise up a new generation of church workers.

Did you ever consider serving in the church or at an LCMS school?

Are you thinking about a second career in full-time church work?

Many LCMS pastors, teachers, deaconesses and commissioned church workers held other successful careers before pursuing a second career in service to Christ’s church. You could do the same!

Have you been praying about a full-time vocation in the church? You can use your experience and skills from your current work as a second-career church worker.

Ready to learn more about opportunities to pursue a second career in full-time church work? Our seminaries and Concordia universities are happy to answer your questions. Visit lcms.org/sas for more information.

Our Lutheran schools, located all around the country, are seeking educators who are interested in a Lutheran school setting. If you are interested, speak with a local LCMS school administrator about open positions in your area.



Rev. Dr. James A. Baneck
Executive Director
LCMS Office of Pastoral Education

“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:38).

Elders' Corner

Administrative Assistant: As of mid-July, we had four candidates who indicated an interest and submitted resumes. Interviews should be complete by the end of July.

Office Coverage: In the absence of a part-time administrative coordinator for the church office, we have been able to cover the reduced office hours and tasks to continue pertinent activities and duties normally performed by this position. Thanks to those who have stepped forward to support the ministry fulfilled through this position.

Confirmation: The Pastor and the Board are developing plans for this coming Fall's confirmation students. There are seven students expected in grades 6 through 8.

Primary participants will be the students/parents and Pastor with some input from the Elders. *Attention Parents:* Start date to be determined, but plan for September. These plans are contingent upon a timely arrival of a resident Pastor.

Safety: Map and contact information have been posted throughout the building for emergency shelter-in-place, evacuation options and emergency contact info. Thank you, Board of Trustees, for your assistance.

Community Resources: A list of community resources, pamphlets and business cards of many of these local resources have been posted on the Community Bulletin board. Members should make themselves aware of what is available should they encounter a visitor that may have a need for such life supporting resources.

FOC PCs: PCs are expected to be updated in July (or August) to one Microsoft account and one security software. There may be some downtime, but all functions should remain the same when complete.

Fellowship (after Worship): SignupGenius has been used to coordinate members for this service opportunity. About equal numbers continue to use the bulletin board sign-up sheet. We have open dates remaining through August. (second and third Sundays in August.) You may sign-up on the bulletin board across from the restrooms or copy and paste this link in your browser to sign-up: rb.gy/7dh3g

Hymnals: The Board is looking at placing an ad for additional hymnals to match the ones we already have. (Lutheran Service Book-ESV, Pew edition) We experienced a shortage of hymnals this year in our Family Easter service. Other services that could experience shortages include weddings or funerals. There may be a congregation with hymnals that are available or no longer in use. We can place the ad in both the Reporter and The Lutheran Witness for free. FOC will pay the shipping.

Trustees

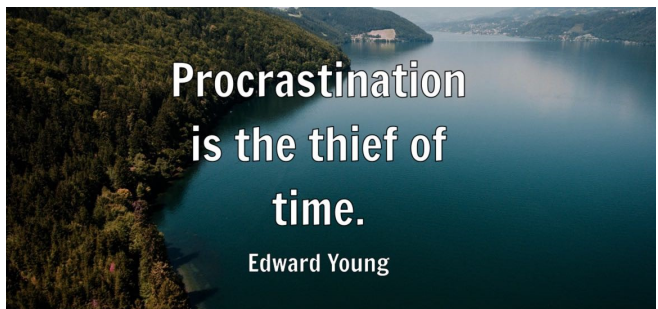
Board of Trustees, July Report for August Newsletter

Lee Zwiefelhofer

- Martindale Pinnacle Construction (MPC) completed final billing for the hail damage project and the additional work we added in with the rain gutters. Our mortgage company, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, cleaned out the escrow account that held the remaining insurance money to pay off MPC. FOC completed final payment for the extra work they performed on July 24. The total FOC out-of-pocket costs for the hail damage, rain gutters and completion of the water damage repairs by Mike Rivard and Lee Zwiefelhofer was approximately \$2,000. Total project cost was \$173,523.35.
- Lee Zwiefelhofer completed caulking all of the exterior church windows.
- American Pest Solutions treated outside of the church for seasonal pests on July 3.
- We installed a shutoff valve on the plastic underground line that feeds the water feature and a faucet farther away. Water was leaking in an area by the water spigot for the butterfly garden area and it got kind of soggy.
- We received and installed a New Gateway for our temperature and water sensors provided by our insurance company.
- We used Menard's 11% rebates from the material we bought to fix the water damage on the sanctuary walls to purchase a toolbox for FOC's mechanical room, plus janitor supplies and coffee for the kitchen.
- Jan Gavin trimmed trees around the property to allow the mowers to cut under the trees more easily without injuring themselves.

What does the Bible say about Procrastination?

There are many examples in Scripture of people avoiding their responsibilities and therefore suffering the consequences. The Word of God encourages us to labor honestly and diligently for the benefit of ourselves and others. May this Bible verse about procrastination inspire you to action!



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

What Does the Bible Tell Us About Salvation?

We have started an eight-part series that is built around key questions that every believer should be able to answer. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 3:15b to, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” This series is not meant to be confrontational, but will explain and hopefully encourage you to contemplate the true meaning of the Gospel for yourself. I pray it will create a fuller appreciation for the great love of God’s grace and mercy through His plan of salvation for believers. It is what gives believers such confidence, great joy and peace in knowing their final destiny.

Last month you saw that the Bible tell us, mankind hopes to get to heaven by being a ‘good’ person but that all (of us) have sinned and fall short of God’s glory. (*emphasis added*) You may have asked why is this relevant if it is a ‘free’ gift from God?

Well, let’s look a bit deeper at this word called ‘sin.’ How does the Bible define sin? There are many examples of sin we find in the Bible. These are things God



views as doing wrong, breaking His commands or laws or acting against His will for our life. There are two verses specifically that convinced me that I am sinful (or failed to meet God’s standard) and could do nothing personally to save myself. The Bible tells us in James 4:17 RSV, “**Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.**” Have you ever known the right thing to do, and for whatever reason, you chose not to do it? Did you feel some level of guilt or felt you should have done something to help someone afterwards? Me too!

Or perhaps consider this verse from James 2:9, “... **if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law.**” (In today’s terms, I use the word prejudice in place of favoritism.) If you fail just one of these examples, you are guilty of failing all the requirements to be sin-free that we see in the Bible.

I have heard it said another way by a well known Biblical apologist, Ravi Zacharias, “We sin if we do not fulfill our God-given purpose in life.

Ouch!

So, what is the standard by which we must live?

(See Salvation provided elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Lutheran Women in Mission Update

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**... for Contributing to the
FOC Quarterly MITE Offerings**



A total of **\$137.82** was collected during our second quarter MITE Offerings to support the funding for 13 MN South District 2022-24 mission grants totaling **\$270,000** and the new 2023-25 National LWML goal, by the grace of God, of **\$2,350,000** to fund 31 additional mission grants. You may pick-up a small MITE Box for your coins and/or cash located on the display cabinet in the Narthex area to be returned to the large MITE Box by our next quarterly deadline of **October 1**.

... for Donating School Supplies to The Sharing Tree

Thanks to the MANY generous donations from our VBS participants and church members, we delivered \$35 in cash and several needed items for The Sharing Tree. Items included 13 backpacks, 5 calculators, 15 3-ring binders, 25 notebooks, 38 folders, 13 pkgs of filler paper, 19 pkgs of markers (8-20 count), 9 pkgs pencils (10-96 count), 13 glue bottles, 16 rolls of tape, 9 pairs of scissors, 4 pkgs of erasers, 2 pencil sharpeners, and 1 pkg Post-its and a compass. Your support has truly made a difference to students in the Hudson and Somerset communities receiving the school supplies they need!

... for Volunteering or Participating in the National Night Out

Much appreciation to those who participated during this first-time outreach event held on August 1st at the St. Croix Meadows Mobile Home Park in Houlton! The opportunity to meet and greet, as well as help serve, our community neighbors and introduce our Family of Christ was truly a blessing. Special thanks to the many contributors who helped make the evening a success!

Women's Nite Out & Fellowship

Wednesday, August 23, 3:45pm

ALL women are invited to join us for an early 3:45pm dinner at **Mallards Restaurant** in New Richmond on Wednesday, August 23 followed by fellowship and a concert at the band shell of the New Richmond Heritage Center for the Hillside Music Series – weather permitting. Entertainment for the 6:30-8pm show will be **"The Elvis Show"** presented by Joe Sir & the Rockabilly Rebels Band. Remember to bring a chair or blanket. If you are unable to attend both events, plan to join us for either just dinner or the concert. You may meet us directly there OR a carpool will leave church at 3:15pm.

Reservations are needed, so please RSVP Joyce Banttari at 651-434-3261 or email sccswi25@gmail.com **NO LATER THAN Sunday, August 20**.

By Joyce Banttari

Our Family of Christ Mission Statement

We are Christ's family, joined to him and to one another.
(*Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:27; John 15:5-8*)

In following the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ and sharing his love with others (*Matthew 28:18-20*):

We are committed to ...

- learning, living and teaching the Word.
- seeking the need for God in each other.
- celebrating His presence in our lives.
- reaching out to touch the lives of others with God's love.

2023 Council Members

Kyle Amundson, Karen Heinecke, Annie McConaughey, Becky Volovsek,
Lee Zwiefelhofer, Judy Patraw, Steve Vannatta

Worship Services

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

Sunday ~ 9:30 am - Worship with Communion
on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month
10:45am ~ Fellowship

Salvation: What is the standard the Bible sets for us to be guiltless of sins or wrongdoing in God's sight? The Bible tells us we must "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (See Matthew 5:48) I don't know about you, but I failed that standard a long time ago! So, how is eternal life free, if I must be perfect? I've already failed!

Continue reading this series.

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

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