

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

### Loving Our Neighbor and Moving Forward Together

#### Gathered to be Sent: Devoting Ourselves

Sometimes in the Church, we might think of outreach and care for our current members as somehow at odds. When we hear about the earliest Church in the book of Acts, though, we find that this is not the case at all. Care for our present members goes hand-in-hand with and feeds outreach.

In the first chapter of the book of Acts, Jesus sent His disciples into the world to bear witness to His Good News to all. In Acts 2—which we just heard this past Sunday—the disciples received the Holy Spirit and begin preaching the Good News to Jews from around the Mediterranean world, who were gathered together to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. In this chapter, we heard how the once-timid disciples were emboldened with the Holy Spirit to proclaim forgiveness through Jesus' death and resurrection. We also heard how this led to the baptism of about 3,000 new believers that Sunday.

Then, at the very end of this chapter, we hear a little about the life of the earliest Church made up of these new believers.

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42 (ESV)*

The believers in the first Church were gathered together by the Holy Spirit and devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer. They shared everything in common. They preached the Word, and the Word added daily to their numbers those being saved through that preaching.

*continued . . .*

*I can do all things through Christ  
who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13



We at Jehovah Lutheran are now entering the post-Pentecost season in the Church Year, a time rightfully called “the Time of the Church.” As we move into this time, I encourage us all to meditate on these verses from Acts 2. To this end, I will be focusing in *Faith Bites*, *Jottings*, and Adult Bible Class on what it means to be gathered by the Holy Spirit and devoted to the Apostles’ teaching, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer as we also reach out with the Gospel and watch the Word of the Lord grow.

Outreach and care belong together, and they feed each other.

As we care for one another and devote ourselves as did the earliest Church in acts, we prepare ourselves for outreach. As we reach out and the Word of the Lord grows, new people come into our midst who join in, devoting themselves and preparing for further outreach. The Word of the Lord grows, and we devote ourselves.

Your Pastor,  
Joshua Miller

**JEHOVAH'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 31  
IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.**

**OFFICE HOURS WITH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Tuesday 8:30AM-1:30PM**

**Wednesday 8:30AM-1:30PM**

**Thursday 8:30AM-1:30PM**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

**(CALL OR EMAIL AHEAD, PASTOR MAY BE VISITING)**

**Monday 1:00-5:00PM**

**Tuesday (day off)**

**Wednesday 1:00-5:00PM**

**Thursday 1:00-5:00PM**

**Friday (office closed, pastor visiting,  
call to meet with pastor)**

**Pastor's Cell: 612-600-3514**



## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Donna Ostenson Kiefert  
Bernice Demulling  
Rita Galston  
Paul Finegan  
George Mendoza  
Sandy Quenzer  
Tom Kelly  
Tim Robinson  
Patrick Carey  
Wesley Pagel  
Shirley Starner, and her son-in-law Greg Beaudoin  
Jim Kinsel  
Lynne Baerthel and her family  
John "Jack" Hedenstrom (brother of Sue and brother-in-law of Al Puder)  
Linda Wood  
Jeannie Edwards (cousin of Pastor Miller)  
Susan Boettcher  
Ken Frigstad  
George Hild, Sr. (father of George Hild)  
Ramone and his family



*Let my prayer  
rise before you as incense.  
Psalm 141:2a*

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19 and for speedy and equitable distributions of the vaccines.

For President Biden and Vice President Harris as they serve our nation.

For Governor Walz and all in leadership in our state. For our communities once again wrestling with so many troubles.

For our Synodical President Matthew Harrison and our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us.

For our congregation, its pastor, and its lay leaders as we consider how to share Christ's Good News in this time and place.

*Pray  
without  
ceasing*

continued...



**Jehovah Lutheran Church** 1566 Thomas Avenue Saint Paul MN 55104-1823 651-644-1421  
A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

## Special Weekly Prayers:

As we pray for each member and family in our congregation by name, this week we pray for the Friedmann and Frigstad families.

As we pray for each congregation on our Circuit and their pastors by name, this week we pray for Bethlehem Lutheran, East St. Paul and Pastor Doug Wanderer.

\*Note, we are currently praying for two members or families from Jehovah Lutheran each week. The order for these prayers is alphabetical. In addition to our public prayers, our pastor and board of Lay Ministry are praying individually for these members and families each week.

Special prayer requests are encouraged any time and may be given to pastor via phone or email.

*Be joyful always; pray continually;  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah is shown God's glory, assured that his sin is atoned for and so he is readied to respond to God's "Whom shall I send?" with "Here am I. Send me."

Romans 8:12-17

The Spirit who raised Jesus gives us life in him so that we are adopted as children of the heavenly Father and heirs with Christ, destined to share in his glory.

John 3:1-17

God sent his son into the world that by his being lifted up on the cross we might be born of water and the Spirit and have eternal life.



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**JOIN US AS JESUS PREPARES US FOR HIS MISSION OF GROWING THE CHURCH!**



**Divine Service – 9:30AM each Sunday**

Live service in the sanctuary

Pre-recorded service also continues online  
for those unable to attend in person

Let the  
*Word of Christ*  
dwell in you richly  
Colossians 3:16

**The Word of the Lord Grew:**  
Outreach in the Earliest Church  
Jehovah Lutheran Church  
Adult Bible Class



**11:00AM this Sunday, May 30.**  
**Join us in person in the lounge.**

Contact Pastor Miller with questions  
at 612-600-3514 or [pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com).



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## JEHOVAH LIBRARY UPDATE



### Attention: Book Lovers! Would you like to help update our library?

You may not know that Jehovah Lutheran Church is home to a small library on the ground level. Besides a small number of theological reference books, there are a number of devotional booklets, biographies, including a few books written by current and former pastors, and members, including our own Pastor Joshua Miller. You will also find Bible Story books for children and families as well as story books for children and youth.

Unfortunately, care of the books has languished during the last year's pandemic and subsequent restrictions. Several donations have been made and need to be processed for circulation. With the lifting of several pandemic restrictions, it seems a good time to update the library.

If this interests you, call Trish in the church office or Lydia Volz. Library experience is helpful but is not necessary.

Initial goals: Feasibility of Church Library  
Circulation guidelines  
Inventory of present holdings

## DONATIONS FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT JEHOVAH



As we watch COVID-19 restrictions being lifted a little at a time as appropriate and safe for all, Jehovah's Pastor and leaders believe that along with others across the Nation, we will host a National Night Out (NNO) event in the church parking lot this year, even if it is somewhat different from what has been done in the past. NNO currently is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, August 3, 2021**. One element of Jehovah's annual celebration that we hope to keep is the giveaway of clothing, jewelry, toys and household items – no appliances, please. We will plan to do this outdoors following all COVID-19 protocols in place in August. Please continue to bring your donations for the giveaway to church and we will place them in the Crib Room inside the Nursery along with the items donated in 2020 that we were not able to giveaway in 2020 due to the pandemic. If you wish to drop items off during the week, please contact Bill, Jehovah's Facilities Manager, at 612-990-7598 to arrange a time between 9:00am and Noon. so that he can let you into the building and help to get items to the Crib Room. If you wish to donate on Sunday morning between 9:00am and 11:00am, please contact Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204.



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## JEHOVAH'S WEEKLY FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL-IN CHAT

Join us at **11:10am each Friday**. All you need is your phone.  
Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number.  
When prompted enter the JELC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We will have a short devotion, a topic for discussion, and prayer.

**Join us on Fridays at 11:10am.**



*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,  
as indeed you are doing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*



## DONATION CHALLENGE FOR SCOUT FENCE PROJECT

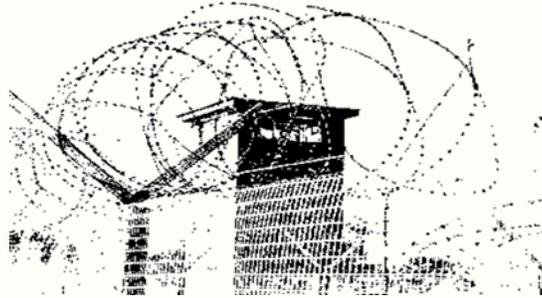
An anonymous donor came forth and would like to challenge Jehovah members to a match donation to Logan Jarvi's Eagle Scout Fence project to be completed this summer. This donor has donated \$500 and would like to challenge Jehovah members and friends to match this donation. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1850. Please contact Sandy Kolar if you are willing to donate and match the donors funds. Contact Sandy via email: [sandy@thekolars.com](mailto:sandy@thekolars.com) or cell 651-336-7993.



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The Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
and the Concordia University Department of Criminal Justice and Crossing HOME  
are pleased to offer:

## An Introduction to Correctional Ministry



This course is free. No prerequisites are involved.  
Lay people, pastors, and priests of all denominations are welcome.  
(Course credit is also possible, but for a fee.)

Jim Seemann, Ph.D., course instructor, has met with thousands of incarcerated people since he began working as a volunteer classroom teacher inside the Missouri corrections system some forty years ago. He became involved in Stillwater Prison when he moved to Minnesota in 2002.

This course will provide a brief history of corrections, an overview of the phenomenon known as mass incarceration, and a series of effective approaches, both clinical and Christian, which has been proven not only to help reduce recidivism, but also to help with those who are in need of transformation and change.

“Desistance is the goal of correctional ministry,” Dr. Seemann suggests. “People do not commit crimes for logical reasons. Most suffer from trauma, depression, and dissociative disorders. Volunteers need not be psychologists, but they can, and should, address these underlying emotions with understanding and compassion. Correctional ministry becomes highly effective when used with a certain strategy which incorporates transformational psychology with the life changing words of the Gospel, when those in prison discover a new life based on the freedom which comes from faith in Christ.” A diverse group of preachers, missionaries, and former prisoners will serve as guest speakers on a number of additional topics which are sure to challenge and to provide fresh perspectives to this age-old problem.

The course text will be supplied for free. Online learning may also available.

Classes will meet for eight Tuesday nights from 7-9 PM Luther Hall 109 Concordia Campus June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, August 3, August 10. Interested? R.S.V.P. [seemann@csp.edu](mailto:seemann@csp.edu)



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