

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Gathered to be Sent: Fellowship

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
Acts 2:42, 47b (ESV)

As we continue to study the gathering and outreach of the first Church in the book of Acts, this week we look at “fellowship.” I don’t know about you, but when I hear the word “fellowship” in the context of church, my mind usually goes to food, in particular, to pot lucks. I think of crockpots, little sausages, green bean casserole, and Jell-O.

But as nice as it is to imagine that the earliest Christians just hung around eating together all day, that isn’t really what Luke is talking about when he says that they devoted themselves to fellowship. The Greek word translated as “fellowship” is “koinonia,” and it means “communion” or “deep unity of purpose and belief.” The apostles and the earliest believers in Christ were united in purpose and in what they believed.

Such unity was not humanly manufactured. It wasn’t as if the first Christians liked each other so much that they never had any disagreements, always got along, and always thought the same way. On the contrary, not long after this, a dispute arose in the earliest Church about which widows were receiving more attention than others.

The unity of the first Church was not a human work; it was the work of God the Holy Spirit who came upon the Church at Pentecost and remained with the Church and continued to guide and empower it. This unity was one that was created by the Spirit and that flowed from the common “teaching of the apostles.” As we covered last week, that teaching was the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the Good News that Jesus died and rose again for sinners, and that eternal life and forgiveness are given through the preaching of Jesus’ name. The unity of purpose and doctrine of the earliest Church was a unity that God gave in the Gospel.

Continued . . .

There is one body and one Spirit -
just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.

Ephesians 4:4



We have that same unity in the Church today. At Jehovah Lutheran Church, the basis of our fellowship, our koinonia, is the Spirit's work through the Good News of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. What brings us together is the common hearing of and faith in Jesus' death and resurrection for us, the common baptism into the Triune God that we share, and the common confession of belief in Jesus' presence in the bread and wine of His supper.

The fellowship we share extends beyond our own doors. We are also in fellowship (unity or purpose and belief) with our fellow LCMS congregations on our Circuit here in St. Paul, in our District of Minnesota-South, our entire Synod, and with our partner churches around the world. Our fellowship is not something that we have manufactured. It is a unity that comes through our common confession of faith in the Gospel. It is a unity that is a shared belief in the Triune God who has revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ, who comes to us through His gifts of Word and Sacraments, and who is received by faith alone, which the Spirit works in our hearts.

As we look to our future at Jehovah and think about how we can work together in this time and place for the Kingdom of God, we do so united. We are united in fellowship. We are united in purpose and in faith. As we reach out and the Word of the Lord grows, we do so through this unity that comes from our common faith in the Gospel.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

¹ Raymond E. Brown, S.S. *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Anchor, Doubleday, 1997), 287.
² Acts 6:1-6.

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



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

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)
Scott McMurray
Jenna Schmidt (daughter of Perry Schmidt)
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 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 move forward together in outreach.

*Pray
without
ceasing*

continued...



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Special Weekly Prayers:

As we pray for each member and family in our congregation by name, this week we pray for the Eva Jane Hamann and the Harris family.

*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

Job 38:1-11

After Job and his companions have argued about the cause of Job's great suffering,
God finally speaks.

He begins with a grand vision of creation and invites Job to marvel.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardship in their missionary work.
Still, they continue to urge the Corinthians to accept God's grace "as we work together with him."

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus rebukes the wind and quiets the storm, revealing his power over the raging sea
which symbolizes the powers of chaos and evil that struggle against God.



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The Word of the Lord Grew:
Outreach in the Earliest Church

Jehovah Lutheran Church
Adult Bible Class



11:00AM on Sundays.

Join us in person in the lounge.

Contact Pastor Miller with questions
at 612-600-3514 or pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.



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*



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



AN UPDATE FROM REZEK HOUSE



Things at Rezek are going well. The new youth are settling in and starting new routines, while the older youth are making plans for what comes next. Three youth are graduating out of the program this month! They go off into the world with the tools and resources they have gathered in their time at Rezek, so much of it made possible by your support. This month's wish list includes:

Hand soap	Deodorant
Dish soap	Lip balm
Laundry soap	Hair care for textured hair
Sanitizing wipes	African-American skin care products
Bleach	Bathroom cleaner
Floor cleaner	

Smaller sizes are the most useful.

*thank
you*

WE'RE ALMOST TO THE FINISH LINE!

Funding is progressing commendably toward the \$1,850 necessary for materials for the Eagle Scout project to replace the deteriorating fence along Jehovah's parking lot. Members donated \$395 for the project from April 12, when the congregation first learned about it, through May 9. Three days later, Sandy Kolar announced that an anonymous donor challenged the congregation with a \$500 matching grant toward the fence replacement. Since then and through to Sunday, June 16, members more than met the challenge by donating \$575 toward the project. The total collected to date including the \$500 grant is \$1,470! We are within \$380 dollars of raising the full amount to have a new fence built later this summer or early fall.



Donation checks should be made out to Jehovah Lutheran Church with a note on the memo line referencing the Eagle Scout Fence Project. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kolar by email at sandy@thekolars.com or by calling 651-336-7993.



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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



5:00 to 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 Jehovah Lutheran Church Parking Lot

The Administration Resources Board (ARB) is looking for volunteers to help with Jehovah's annual National Night Out (NNO) outreach event that will be held from 5pm to 7pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, on the church property. Here are your opportunities to help Jehovah reach out and serve our community:

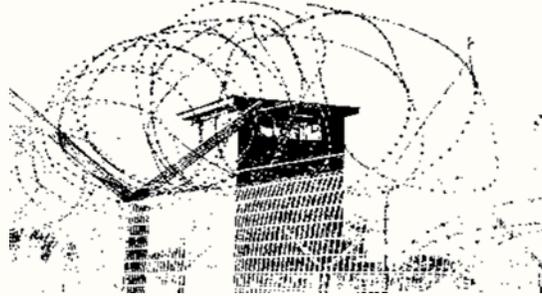
- Help set up for the event in the church parking lot;
- Help by donating gently used clothing for all ages, small household items, linens, etc.
- Help sort and set out the clothing and small household items that have been donated for the giveaway;
- Help by donating purchased and packaged food items to be given away as prizes during the raffles throughout the event;
- Help for the loyal Kolar, Wynn and Fishback families and others who take on the food service;
- Help as popcorn makers;
- Help planning a few things for kids to enjoy;
- Help staffing food service, raffle, giveaway and kids area during the event;
- Help with take down and clean up after the event ends at 7:00pm.
- Spirit Freed is planning to provide music during the event. We could accommodate another group as we have done in the past. Contact us if you know of a group that might be interested in playing that evening.

To volunteer or if you have a new idea to add to the fun, please contact Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204 or at margeavoles@comcast.net, or talk with any of the other ARB members: Katy Fishback, Mark Kolar, Karl Miesen, Bruce Wegner, and Dan Wynn.



The Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
and the Concordia University Department of Criminal Justice
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



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