

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Gathered to be Sent: The Apostles' Teaching

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 "the apostles' teaching." When we hear that the first Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, we probably wonder what that teaching was. Was it a particular way of life? Was it a new way of looking at the Old Testament?

What was the apostles' teaching? The answer to this question lies before and after these verses in Acts. In Acts 2:14-40, Luke records Peter's sermon in Jerusalem at the Feast of Pentecost. Before those who had gathered to celebrate this feast of Judaism, Peter proclaimed Jesus Christ as put to death by sinners, according to the definite plan of God the Father, and raised to life again, for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:22-24, 31-33). After this sermon moved the hearts of those present to repentance, Peter urged them to be baptized in the name of Jesus in order to receive the forgiveness of sins accomplished by Jesus (Acts 2:37-40).

As the story of the earliest Church continues to unfold in the book of Acts, we hear this same message again and again. In Acts 3, we hear Peter proclaiming the same message in the Portico of Solomon, outside the Jerusalem Temple, after the healing of a paralyzed man. In the next chapter, we hear how Peter and John proclaimed this message again before the ruling council of the Sanhedrin, who weeks before had tried Jesus and handed Him over to Pilate to be crucified. Peter and John were forbidden by the council to continue to preach this message, but they did not obey this prohibition. Peter, John, and the other disciples continued to proclaim the teaching that Jesus was crucified by sinners according to God's plan, that Jesus was raised from the dead, and the forgiveness for sins comes to sinners through His death and resurrection. The apostles were then all arrested and forbidden to preach this message, but they continued to preach it anyway (Acts 5).

Later on, Stephen would proclaim this same message and would be stoned to death for it (Acts 7). Philip would proclaim this message in Samaria (Acts 8). Peter would preach this message to the Roman officer Cornelius and his family, who would become the first Gentile Christians (Acts 10), and Paul would bring this message throughout the Mediterranean world (Acts 13-28). Through this outreach of the earliest Church, the apostles' teaching, which started in Jerusalem would begin to make its way to the ends of the earth.

Continued . . .



That same message that was the apostles' teaching is the same Gospel that we confess today: Jesus Christ died and rose for your sins and for mine. Much has changed in our world since the first century, but this truth of the Good News has not. The teaching of the apostles is the same message that we proclaim in outreach today.

As the first believers in Christ devoted themselves to this teaching, we too devote ourselves to it. We proclaim the saving truth of God in the death and resurrection of Christ in Divine Service and in our lives of witness. We dedicate Bible class to studying this teaching. We pass this teaching on through our Sunday school, confirmation, and first communion classes. We live our lives dedicated to mercy and serving others as a reflection of this teaching. We cling to this teaching as we face adversity, sickness, suffering, and doubt.

The teaching of the apostles are the very words of eternal life. They bring us Jesus crucified and risen for the forgiveness of our sins and for the life of the world. We are devoted to the apostles' teaching, because it is nothing less than Jesus Christ Himself among us.

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

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)
Scott McMurray
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...



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 Graf family and Nancy Hackett.

*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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Ezekiel uses the allegory of a cedar growing great from a small beginning to show that the Lord God will raise up fallen Judah through a messianic king who will reign over all creation

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

We are now "at home in the body," but we live by faith and not by sight.
We live in Christ; we are a new creation;
and we no longer live for ourselves but for him.

Mark 4:26-34

The kingdom of God grows with a mysterious creative power like a seed and it will come to full fruit in the harvest of the end time.



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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.



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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*



During the pandemic we have all missed singing the hymns of our Christian faith. At this time, as children cannot yet be vaccinated against COVID-19, we are not singing together as a congregation in the sanctuary. As we await vaccination of the youngest brothers and sisters among us, we're going to do something a little creative

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 16, from 7:00-8:00pm in our church parking lot** for a Tailgate Hymn-Sing!

Elizabeth Wegner will lead us in singing from the *Lutheran Hymnal*. Requests will be taken from the *Lutheran Hymnal*, so bring your non-alcoholic beverage, your camp chair, and your singing voice. Hymnals will be provided and water will be available.



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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 any amount to help match the donor's funds. Contact Sandy via email: sandy@thekolars.com or at 651-336-7993.

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.

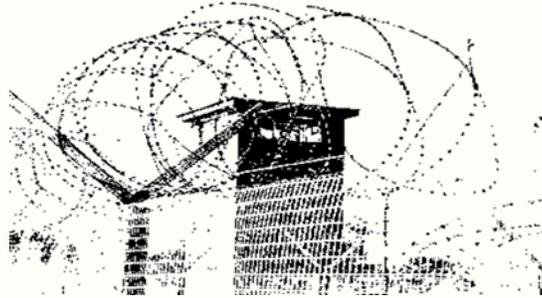
To volunteer or if you have a new idea to add to the fun, please contact Marge Avoles at 651-398-8204 or at margeavoles@comcast.net, or talk with any of the other ARB members: Katy Fishback, Mark Kolar, Karl Miesen, Bruce Wegner, and Dan Wynn.



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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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