



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Gathered to be Sent: “All Things in Common”

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 all who believed were together and had all things in common... And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-44, 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 “all things in common.” Luke’s observation that the earliest Christians were together and had all things in common has often been taken to mean that they no longer had any private property but shared all they owned in a communal way. Certainly, these first believers did share their possessions with the needy, as Luke says in the very next verse. But worldly goods were not the only or most important thing that the first believers shared in common.

Another way of looking at this is that the first believers shared the same outlook, looked at things the same way, or were of the same mind. A little later, Luke puts it this way: “Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul.” Being of one heart and soul goes much deeper than just sharing clothing, food, and other goods. It means that the first Christians were one in faith and practice. They believed the same Good News of Jesus Christ, and they shared the same worship and life of faith together.

The same is true of us as believers today. At Jehovah Lutheran Church, we share the same faith in the same Christ. We have been baptized into the name of the same Triune God. We are fed by the same Lord at His table. We all share in the same call to share Christ’s Gospel with the world around us. We are of the same heart and soul. But our unity of heart goes beyond the walls of our building and the bounds of our parish.

The Latin word for this phenomenon of having one heart is “*concordia*.” If this word sounds familiar to you, it should. In our denomination, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), we call just about everything Concordia: colleges, seminaries, a publishing house, even our health insurance! We do this because as a synod (Greek for people who walk together), we are of one heart and mind, because we share a belief in the same truth of God revealed in Christ.

The introduction to our confessions of faith—which are collected in the *Book of Concord*—explains this well.

Continued . . .



“Concordia comes from two Latin words meaning ‘with’ and ‘heart.’ It describes a commitment to the truth so strong and so deep, it is as if those who share it have a single heartbeat.”

Our heart beats together. In the LCMS, though we are many congregations, we share the same faith in the same Gospel, and we endeavor to share the same practices of worship and life together. Each congregation in the LCMS is independent and self-governed, but we share in the same mission of sharing the mercy of God in Christ with all. Each of our congregations has its own history, traditions, and stories, but we share in the same confession of the Gospel of a God who became human for us, fulfilled the Law for us, suffered and died for us, rose again for us, and who comes to us fully and completely in His Word and Sacraments.

This is all Good News for us, because it means we do not walk alone through this present evil age. We walk together, with one heart, because we share one faith together. We have one heartbeat, because we have one faith in the same Lord and a shared understanding of what it means to be saved and redeemed by Him.

May He who poured out His heart for us ever draw us together in true *concordia*.

In Christ,
Your Pastor, Joshua Miller

¹ Luke 4:32 (ESV)

² “With Intrepid Hearts, We Believe, Teach, and Confess,” in *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord*, ed. Paul T. McCain (St. Louis: CPH, 2006), xiii.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

2 Kings 4:42-44

There is a famine in the land and a man brings 20 loaves of barley and some grain to Elisha. The servant of Elisha is doubting but Elisha, trusting in the Lord, gives it to one hundred people. They ate and had some left.

Ephesians 3:14-21

God is the source of life for his whole family in heaven and on earth.
Christ dwells in our hearts by faith
so that we may grasp how "wide and long and high and deep is his love that fills us"

John 6:1-21

Jesus feeds five thousand people with five barley loaves. Then the disciples cross the sea in a boat and they are terrified when they see Jesus walking on the water. Jesus says, "Don't be afraid," gets into the boat, and immediately the boat reaches the shore.



Divine Service – 9:30AM each Sunday
In Person service in the sanctuary

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.



Sunday School meets in the nursery after the Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.



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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
Marlys Wolf (recovering from eye surgery)
John Watson (recovering from surgery for blood clots)
John "Jack" Hedenstrom (brother of Sue and brother-in-law of Al Puder)
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)
Nicole Pierce (friend of the Millers from Emmaus Lutheran)
Ramone and his family

Linda Wood (thanksgiving for full remission of cancer)

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

For strength to speak out for and protect the lives of the unborn our God has created and compassionate care of all that He has made.

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, our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us, and our Circuit Visitor, Steven Bielenberg.

For our congregation, its Pastor, and its lay leaders as we move forward together in outreach.

For the Mekane Yesus congregation as they call a new pastor.

continued . . .



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



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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 Johnson family and Jim and JaNell Kinsel.

*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

JEHOVAH'S OFFICE EMAIL HAS CHANGED

Please use our new email address: office@jehovahlutheran.org

Thank you!

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



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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



5:00 to 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Jehovah Lutheran Church Parking Lot

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

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.

Peace I leave with you,



my peace I give to you.

John 14:27



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