

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Walking Together: Starting with Forgiveness

At Jehovah Lutheran, we have embarked upon a path of outreach, which we call *Walking Together*. In the first year of our outreach roadmap, we are enhancing our educational endeavors and orienting them towards teaching about our Christian faith and life together. This goes beyond simply revamping our Sunday school program and other Sunday morning offerings. It is a concerted effort to form disciples of Christ for life. Everything we undertake at Jehovah Lutheran will be motivated by this purpose: that we are formed together as lifelong followers of Jesus. In my upcoming articles in *Faith Bites* and *Jottings*, I will explore some of the aspects of disciple formation and the particular things that mold us in our lifelong relationship with our Lord. Some of these things will include meditation on Scripture, catechesis, prayer, the examples given us by fellow Christians, common service of our neighbors, and the trials we experience in life.

One thing that plays a vital role in our formation as lifelong disciples is worship. In the season of Advent—which will begin on the last Sunday in November—we will begin using the most recent hymnal of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This hymnal is called the *Lutheran Service Book*. As we prepare to open this new resource, the board of Lay Ministry and I believe that it is fitting that we should spend time looking together at each aspect of the Divine Service, where it comes from, and how it forms our faith as followers of Christ. This week, we begin by looking at Confession and Absolution. Forgiveness is an important foundational stone for any relationship, and it is absolutely vital to our relationship with Jesus Christ as His disciples.

You may notice that I usually refer to our worship on Sunday morning as “Divine Service.” That is because this puts the emphasis in the service on what God is doing for us. In the Divine Service, God, Himself, shows up for us and gives us His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. This truth is one we often take for granted, but it is nothing short of life-changing. The almighty God of the universe, who has become human in Jesus Christ, shows up for us. He comes to meet with us, to give us His Word, to forgive our sins, to strengthen us with His body and blood, and to empower us to reach out to others with His saving love



Continued . . .



But when we first come into this God's presence, we are keenly aware that on our own, we are unworthy to do so. We are sinners, and as such, we are not worthy of God's presence. We know that we have regarded other things in our lives far greater than we have regarded Him. We know that we have not loved others as He has loved us. We have not obeyed His commandments, and we have failed to proclaim His Good News to all creation. Yet, God welcomes us into His presence anyway. He welcomes us as His children, and He forgives all our sins, those to which we publicly admit and those that only He knows about.

We come into our Lord's presence at each Divine Service with Confession. We come saying, "We know we're not worthy to be here. We have sinned against You and against our fellow humans, but we ask You to forgive us, because You have promised to do so."

And God does forgive us. He forgives us right then and there of all our sins. It's not as if we lost our salvation during the week and are getting it back on Sunday, but we get discouraged and we need His healing forgiveness. We need the amazing, forgiving Word of God that does what it says. When God speaks His forgiveness to you through me, as your called and ordained pastor, something happens! When in Jesus' name, I absolve you, forgiveness happens! The word "Absolution" means forgiveness, and when you receive Absolution, you really get forgiven.

One of you dear parishioners once told me, "Pastor, I come alive inside when you say those words, 'I forgive you all your sins.'" This is true. Forgiveness awakens our faith and brings us into God's presence with a heart that has been made pure and a conscience that has been made clean by His Word. This is the vital beginning to the Divine Service.

At the same time, however, Confession and Absolution are not **just** for the public Divine Service. They are also for private consultation. Sometimes as we go through our Christian life, we feel burdened by a sin we have committed. We feel guilty because of this sin that just won't leave us alone. Sometimes, it's not necessarily a sin we commit against another person. Sometimes it is just that we are discouraged and down. Sometimes it is just losing the joy that our salvation brings, and we need to hear God's life-giving and hope-building Word of the Good News in Christ.

When those times come, private Confession and Absolution can be a great and welcomed gift. As Lutherans, we do not practice penance (doing something to show we are really sorry or to make up for our sins), but we do practice private Confession and Absolution. It's something we do, and it is something that I am called to do for you. Many of you know that joy of receiving God's Word of Absolution personally. Others may be wondering, is this for me? Brothers and sisters, it is **for you**.

As we begin *Walking Together* down the path of outreach and revitalization in our congregation, we begin with forgiveness. We begin with God's forgiveness for us, and then we are moved to forgive one another. On Wednesdays from 2-3pm, beginning this week, I will begin a scheduled time for private Confession and Absolution at church. I will be either in Drews Chapel or the sanctuary, depending on other room usage. There is no need to sign up, just come if you feel moved. If the door is closed, please knock to see if someone else is with me at the time.

Continued . . .



Setting a time and a place for Confession and Absolution does not mean that other times and places are off limits, it is simply meant to encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, if you feel so moved. Please remember, anything you tell me in Confession will always be kept in complete confidence. I am unable to repeat what you tell me there, unless you say otherwise. The main focus, however, isn't on the sin of the sinner; it's on the forgiveness of the Savior. As we walk together as Christ's disciples for life, we set out on our path forgiven.

"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 NRSV)

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

Private Confession and Absolution
2-3pm Wednesdays
in Drews Memorial Chapel.

(In the event the chapel is occupied for other purposes, please proceed to the sanctuary.)



WALKING TOGETHER: OUR ROADMAP AT JEHOVAH LUTHERAN

Join us as we walk the path of our three-year outreach roadmap at Jehovah! The first year, we are focusing on getting in contact with all of our members, revitalizing our education programming, and discovering how God encounters us in the Divine Service of worship.

For more information about Walking Together, please contact Pastor Miller or a member of the board of Lay Ministry!

YOU ARE INVITED!

Please join us after worship each Sunday for Living by Faith, a time of learning for all ages! We meet over coffee in the lounge at 11am. Currently, we are exploring the Ten Commandments and their place in our Christian life.

To prepare for this week's discussion, please read pages 18 - 24 in the Large Catechism.



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JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE



9:30 AM Divine Service

Sundays in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend and join us
for a year of connecting and Walking Together

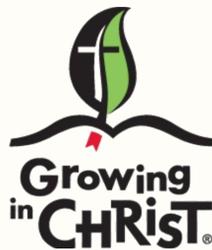
Living by Faith

11:00AM on Sundays.

Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge.

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



Growing in Faith

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the Divine Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.



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PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Amos 5:6-7

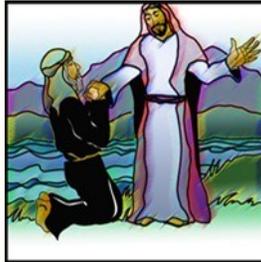
Amos warns prosperous Israel regarding their corruption and oppression.
"Seek me and live" means both to seek the Lord and to seek to do good.

Hebrews 4:12-16

The word of God is living and active, laying us bare before God to whom we must give account.
But Jesus is our high priest through whom we approach the throne of grace to receive mercy.

Mark 10:17-31

The rich man's question about eternal life leads Jesus to warn about wealth as obstacle to discipleship.
To follow Jesus is costly but it brings the rewards of rich fellowship with God both now and in eternity



In compliance with the recommendations of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health, face masks must be worn inside the facilities of Jehovah Lutheran Church anytime you are with another person who is not in your immediate household. This includes worship services, all board meetings, Bible studies, working, and volunteering. A facemask must completely cover the mouth and nose. If you do not have a facemask, we are happy to give you one.

Please help us continue to keep our facilities open, our worship services in-person,
and our neighbors safe.



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IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Donna Ostenson Kiefert
Bernice Demulling
Rita Galston
Paul Finegan
George Mendoza
Sandy Quenzer
Tom Kelly
Tim Robinson
Kristine Robinson (sister-in-law of Tim Robinson)
Patrick Carey
Wesley Pagel
Shirley Starner and her son-in-law Greg Beaudoin
Jim Kinsel
Lynne Baerthel and her family
Marge Maule
Jeannie Edwards (cousin of Pastor Miller)
Joyce and Susan Boettcher (stepmother and cousin of Elizabeth Wegner)
George Hild, Sr. (father of George Hild)
Jenna Schmidt (daughter of Perry Schmidt)
Sue Schutte (mother of Principal Jay Schutte from King of Kings Lutheran, on hospice)
Carolyn Hayes
Frank Loffler (friend of Gary Reed)
Ramone and his family



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

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19 (including Bruce Carlstrom (friend of Tim Robinson) and for wise use of the vaccines.

Safety and good health for all students, teachers and staff at schools, including those from this congregation.

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 the people of Afghanistan and for innocent lives caught in the midst of the tumultuous events taking place there.

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.

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

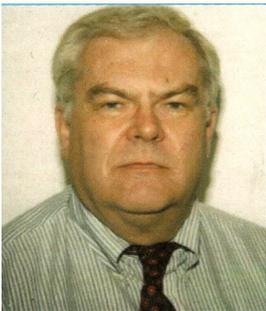
For the Mekane Yesus congregation as they call a new pastor.

Special Weekly Prayers:

As we pray for each member and family in our congregation by name, this week we pray for Daniel and Kristen Miller.

*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.

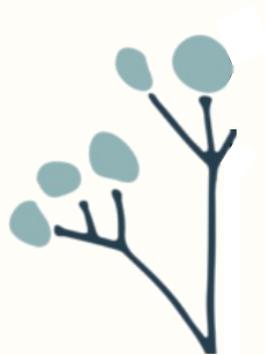
*Pray
without
ceasing*



Remembering Paul Eberhart

Jehovah member Paul Eberhart died peacefully on September 24, in full faith and surrounded by family and friends. He was 87 years old. A service was held at Jehovah on Saturday, October 2 and committal was at Roselawn Cemetery. We give thanks and remember Paul.

Now may the
Lord of *peace* Himself
give you peace
at all times
in every way.
The Lord be with
all of you.



2 Thessalonians 3:16



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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

HOLY BAPTISM — OCTOBER 1-15

Water and Word wash us into Christ's death and resurrection. "Baptism ... now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21). We daily remember our Baptism through repentance and forgiveness in the cross of Christ. Through our Baptism, we are brought into the Church, the Body of Christ. As we pray, we rejoice in God's gift of Baptism and continue to rejoice in the gifts of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit and eternal life granted to us in Word and Sacrament.

Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:

- 1.** Thank God for His gifts of Word and Sacrament, that through these means God freely gives His grace to sinners by faith.
- 2.** Thank God for the gift of Baptism, that His Word works through the water to join us to Christ's death and resurrection.
- 3.** Thank God for the gift of Baptism, that His Word combines with the water to deliver forgiveness and eternal life.
- 4.** Rejoice that the Holy Spirit gives faith and sustains us in the faith.
- 5.** Thank God for the gift of Baptism for adults, that those who are instructed in the faith and who were not baptized as children may receive the gift of forgiveness and life in the waters of Baptism.
- 6.** For parents, that they might faithfully raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them His Word and bringing them to the Sacrament.
- 7.** For sponsors, that they might faithfully work with parents to teach the faith to the baptized.
- 8.** For all the baptized, that in daily repentance all might cling to God's promises of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ.
- 9.** For all the baptized, that they might daily cling to their Baptism and hope in Christ alone.
- 10.** For all the baptized, that the Spirit would keep the Church strong in persecution.
- 11.** For all the baptized, that they witness to all about the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- 12.** For all who are not baptized, that the Spirit would draw them to Christ in faith.
- 13.** Thank God for the Baptism of Jesus, that He took on our sins to suffer in our stead.

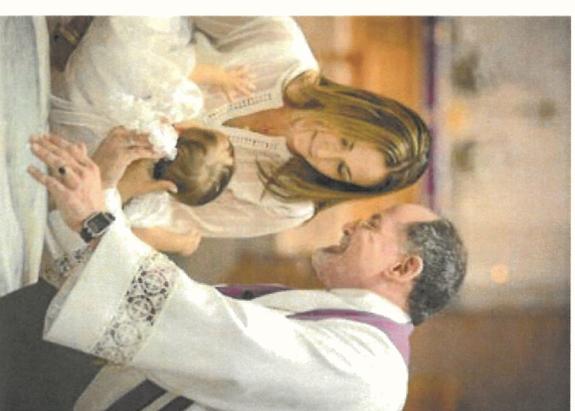


PHOTO: LCAHS COMMUNICATIONS/FRANK M. LINNSTRAND

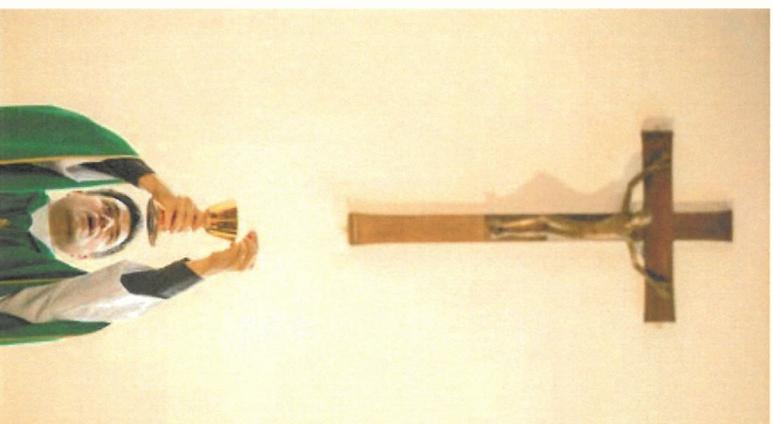
OCTOBER *Pray For Us Calendar*

THE LORD'S SUPPER — OCTOBER 16-31

Bread and wine, body and blood feed us with the food that endures to eternal life. Christ gives His body and blood to His body the Church. Those who have faith in the words, “given and shed for you” receive what those words promise, the forgiveness of sins.

Remember God's gift of the Sacrament of the Altar as you pray:

- 16.** Thank God for the Sacrament of the Altar, that it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine.
- 17.** Rejoice that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given.
- 18.** That God would grant us faith in His Word, that we worthily receive the Sacrament and live in repentance.
- 19.** Thank God for daily bread, even the bread of life that we receive in the Sacrament.
- 20.** for preparation before receiving the Sacrament, that all might receive it trusting in the Words of Christ.
- 21.** Thank God for the Church and the Office of the Holy Ministry.
- 22.** for the unity of the Church, that schisms might cease, and all might be united in the true faith.
- 23.** that we, who are many, may see ourselves as the one Body of Christ.
- 24.** for the Church, that she remains faithful to the truth of God's Word.
- 25.** for the LCMS, that we might believe, teach and confess all things according to God's will.
- 26.** with thanksgiving that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments.
- 27.** for those who do not belong to the Church, that God would call all to faith.
- 28.** for the sustenance of the Sacrament of the Altar, that God would grant faith unto eternal life.



- 29.** that after receiving Communion, all would amend their sinful lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 30.** that God would keep all Christians from being led



- 31.** for the endurance of faith until Christ returns.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.





Join us for Bible Study at 1:00pm
the first Thursday of each month
Open to all women
Our curriculum comes from the Fall 2021 Quarterly

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Pastor Miller.



JEHOVAH'S WEEKLY FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL-IN CHAT



Join us on Fridays at 11:10am.

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.

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



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SORT THROUGH DONATED ITEMS

Jehovah congregation members and friends have been donating clothing and household items to be given away for free during the National Night Out (NNO) event held annually in early August. These items have been collecting in the Crib Room inside the Nursery since Fall 2019 and through 2020 and 2021 when we did not host an NNO due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We plan to go through all of those bags and boxes to sort and organize the donated clothing and items to identify what is there, to see if there may be some items that could be used by those in need right now, as well as to be ready for NNO and other giveaway events in the coming year.

We plan to move all of the items out of the Crib Room to a larger room on the lower level of the church so we have enough space to sort and categorize and so we aren't pressed to get it all done and cleaned up in one day. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please contact Marge Avoles at margeavoles@comcast.net or at 651-398-8204. Once we have a list of volunteers we will offer some different days and times for people to meet at the church to work.

Members and friends should feel free to continue to donate items and put them in the Crib Room.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 23
2pm - 4pm



Join the fun on Saturday, October 23 for Trunk or Treat
Decorate your vehicle's trunk
and fill it with new packages of individually wrapped candies and/or small toys.
We'll also give away a beverage and literature about Jehovah and Growing in Faith.
Wear a costume if you wish. No devils, please.

Volunteers are needed. Please talk to Pastor Miller if you'd like to help.

See you there!



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School Supply Kit for Children of Refugees

- 3 Folders with Pockets
- 3 Wide Ruled Notebooks
- #2 Pencils
- 1 Eraser
- 1 Scissors
- 1 Glue Stick
- 1 Pencil/Crayon Sharpener (We always needs lots of these!)
- 1 Box of Crayons
- 1 Pencil Bag
- 1 Backpack (Place all supplies inside)



You can purchase backpacks in bulk at Backpacks USA for only \$3.00 each <https://www.backpacksusa.com/collections/wholesale-2-5-bulk-backpacks/products/copy-of-17-kids-wholesale-backpacks-7-assorted-colors-wholesale-case-of-24-bookbags>

If you are moved to make a monetary gift, please donate to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services by clicking on the “donate now” button here:

https://www.lirs.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwhaaKBhBcEiwA8acsHFJ-WRYwGPSMT-hcD4-wLalO26CGI-uGfbNuGfVA2BBOfgKmiz3G5BoC-ecQAvD_BwE

In the same way, let your
light shine
before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

FREEDOM STORE REQUEST

Damascus Way is opening a new house in Shakopee for 45 returning Christians. They will need the following items. Can you help? Contact Jim Seeman with any questions at seemann@csp.edu Many thanks!

Toaster
Plates, Bowls, Cups
Kitchen Utensils

Pots and Pans
Kitchen Towels
Wash Rags

Shower Curtains
Bath Towels
Face Cloths



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Concordia
UNIVERSITY-SAINT PAUL

VERN GUNDERMANN REFORMATION HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

Luther, the 1522 September Testament, and Its Impact on the English Bible

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 6-8:30 PM
BUETOW MUSIC AUDITORIUM



Dr. Jeffrey Kloha

Chief Curatorial Officer
of the Museum of the Bible

6-6:45pm | Dessert Reception & Viewing of Luther Artifacts from the Museum of the Bible

7-8:30pm | Bestseller: *Luther, the 1522 September Testament, and Its Impact on the English Bible*

Martin Luther's 1522 New Testament had far greater influence than its small format and size imply. It was part of a much larger movement of making the Bible accessible to everyone and its influence is realized even today. Come early to view artifacts of an autograph Luther letter from 1518 and a 1524 Luther New Testament.

Luther Up Close: Bibles of the Reformation

Monday, October 11 | 12:50-1:40pm | Library, Main Floor

Presenter: Dr. Jeff Kloha,
Chief Curatorial Officer for the Museum of the Bible



See Luther artifacts from the Museum of the Bible | Refreshments served



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