

# THE JOTTINGS

The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church

1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • [www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org)

*A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus*



July 2023

## Jehovah Lutheran Church

Traditional liturgy and  
hymns of the faith  
Gospel-centered preaching  
Weekly celebration of  
Holy Communion



### SUNDAYS

Worship 9:30am

Growing in Faith  
Sunday School  
Following Divine Service

Living in Faith  
Bible Study 11:00am

Join us for worship  
Stay Connected  
and Informed  
on our Church Website:  
[www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org)



One Lord, one faith, one baptism  
*Ephesians 4:5*

## Walking Together as Disciples for Life:

### Disciples – Baptizing and Baptized

*16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:16-20 (ESV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We continue looking at the job description that Jesus has given to us as His disciples. Jesus has told us as His disciples that our calling is to participate in making more disciples, and He tells us how to do this:

- Baptizing
- Teaching
- Holding fast to what He has commended to us

This month, we meditate on the first of these three aspects of discipleship: baptizing.

As disciples of Jesus, we make more disciples by baptizing new Christians, but we ourselves are also defined as disciples by our own baptism. As disciples we are baptizing and baptized.

As disciples of Jesus we baptize. We baptize children and adults. Jesus has commanded us to baptize all nations. This includes adults who come to faith later in life, infants born into Christian families, and the children of families who come into the Christian faith from the outside. This has been the faithful practice of Christians from the very earliest days of the church in the New Testament. Baptism is the means through which disciples of Jesus are made and come into His body, the Christian Church. We are called to baptize.

This, of course, means that we have to introduce some people to Jesus through sharing the Gospel with them before they are baptized. For this to happen, we need a context and a relationship with unbaptized people. This is the deep motivation for all of our outreach work in the Christian Church.

Right now, we are beginning to work together with other congregations on our St. Paul Circuit of LCMS congregations and with our Minnesota-South District in a new outreach venture called the St. Paul Outreach Center (SPOC). This cooperative center has three developing avenues of outreach:

- 1) English Conversation Classes
- 2) After-school Programs and Fitness
- 3) Family Resource Center

All three of these have the same goal: the cultivation of wholistic relationships where we serve the needs of our neighbors and, at the same time, foster relationships where we can share the Gospel and—when and where the Holy Spirit wills—bring those who do not yet know Jesus into a relationship with Him through Holy Baptism.

Baptism: that is the means of making disciples and the goal of outreach. If you want to know more about any of these three avenues of outreach and how you can help, please contact me or the Outreach Coordinator of the SPOC: Dr. David Mennicke. We are excited to see how the Spirit works through these outreach efforts to bring people to Jesus Christ.

But baptism is not just for new disciples. Baptism is also for continuing disciples. That means baptism is for you and for me as we live out our Christian lives every day. In fact, baptism remains the means of discipleship through our entire lives.

In his book, *Luther's Small Catechism: A Manual for Discipleship*, John Pless says it like this:

**"Baptism is not a ceremony that we now see only in the rearview mirror. It is not just, 'I was baptized, but I am baptized.' Baptism is present tense."**

We live in and live out our baptism every single day of our Christian lives, because being a disciple means being baptized. Being a disciple means "I am baptized." The ongoing part of discipleship, growing in the Christian faith, means living in who we are in baptism and living it out through serving others and sharing Christ with them.

*continued...*

St. Paul explains what this means in Romans 6, when he says:

**“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”**

Being the disciples of Jesus means living in our baptism each day by dying to sin and living out our baptism each day by rising again through Christ to live for Him. This newness of life that comes to us through baptism is the life of following Jesus: following Him through death into resurrection. And it will continue every day of our life, until we come to the end of our life and these words of Paul in Romans 6 are said over us as the pall is placed over our bodies and we follow our Lord Jesus into the fullness of eternal life.

In the meantime, we continue to live out our baptismal identity as Jesus’ disciples. I invite you to live deeply into this identity. Join us together in reaching out to our neighbors. Join us in Living by Faith (Sundays at 11:00am), Rooted in Faith (Wednesdays at 6:30pm), and men’s Bible study or ladies’ Bible study. Join us in the Divine Service (Sundays at 9:30am). Join us in supporting God’s work among us with your time, talents, and treasures. Join us in walking together as baptizing and baptized disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Walking together with you,  
Pastor Joshua Miller

## ST. PAUL OUTREACH CENTER TO LAUNCH THIS FALL

On May 23, an initial coordination meeting took place at the LCMS Minnesota South District Office in Burnville with these people: Pastor Vue Lee (MNS District/formerly at King of Kings), Pastor Joshua Miller (Jehovah), Pastor Francis Stephanos (Mekane Yesus – Emeritus Pastor), Dr. David Mennicke (SPOC outreach coordinator), and Nader Alaraj (POBLO Missionary). The group began laying out plans for a "St. Paul Outreach Center" (SPOC) that will launch after-school programs for new immigrants in the fall. Possible topics for the classes (intended for children and for elders) include IT/computer education, Basketball/Phy Ed., Math, English, Music, Amharic, biology/chemistry, cultural training/orientation, and Bible Study. Mekane Yesus is planning pilot offerings this summer, along with an August 12 open house highlighting the fall offerings. Our goal is to coordinate these with POBLO's small group offerings. The sharing of the Gospel of Christ will be key to these programs.

We ask all members of JELC to pray for this ministry as it is being planned this summer. JELC members also will have volunteer opportunities to support the Outreach Center in the fall. Please watch for more information later in the summer.

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<sup>1</sup>When baptizing the first converts to Christianity on Pentecost Sunday, St. Peter unambiguously proclaims: “The promise is for you and your children” (Acts 2:39 ESV). Later Peter also baptized Cornelius and his entire family, which would have included children and even servants (Acts 10). For an excellent study of infant baptism in the New Testament and the Early Church see Joachim Jeremias, *Infant Baptism in the First Four Centuries*, Trans. David Cairns (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2004).

<sup>2</sup> John T. Pless, *Luther’s Small Catechism: A Manual for Discipleship* (St. Louis: CPH, 2019), 112.

<sup>3</sup> Romans 6:3-4 (ESV).



**“We preach Christ crucified” (1 COR. 1:23).**

We chose this simple statement as the theme for our upcoming LCMS convention in Milwaukee. As I have prepared for the convention, these words have resonated in my mind. These words describe our church. We, the LCMS, preach Christ crucified along with the apostles and the whole Christian church throughout the world.

Not only do we enjoy fellowship with every Christian of every time and place, but we also seek to reach all people with the Gospel, for not all have heard. One thing that diminishes our ability to share the Good News with all people is language. Since the tower of Babel in Genesis 11, people have spoken different languages. Yet as we learned in Acts 2, the message of the Gospel unites people into the one Body of Christ.

Therefore, we have designated our 2023–2026 LCMS National Offering, “We Preach Christ Crucified for All People,” for the translation of solid biblical Lutheran resources into languages that lack such materials. Whatever you generously contribute to this offering will enable this vital work. We thank God for all those who have labored to translate the Scriptures. You will help provide instructional and doctrinal resources LCMS congregations can use to reach and instruct non-English speakers in His Word.

Our 2019 convention theme verses included Paul’s words, “Pray without ceasing” (1 THESS. 5:17). I have made it my habit to pray before I start my day, praying for individuals, members of my congregation, international church leaders, people I have met and, of course, the Synod at large. Many times, the Psalms of David provide the words for my prayers.

I invite you to take this insert home to assist you in your personal or family prayers. Pray for those who translate Lutheran resources, that their labor would produce faithful and beneficial materials for those who use them. Pray for those who receive their work. Pray for our international church partners. Pray for all those who do not know Jesus. Join me in daily prayers, for our Lord has graciously invited us to bring before Him all our concerns, all through Jesus Christ crucified and risen. We preach Christ crucified — for all people.

*Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison*

*President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

## Prayers

### Pray for Christian translators

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Through the diversity of all tongues, You have gathered the nations in the unity of the faith. Enlighten those who translate. Give wisdom and grace to their words, and be pleased always to work through Your Holy Word to convict of sin, convince us of Christ’s righteousness and, by faith, love and hope, beat down Satan under our feet; for You reign with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### Pray for the LCMS and our partner churches

Gracious Father, You do not leave us as orphans. You have drawn not only our congregation to Yourself by the cross of Christ, but You have united us with many fellow saints in the confession of Your truth. Be gracious to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and preserve the Gospel among us. Bless us here, that we may bear much fruit, and that our fruit may abide. In the same way, do not let us neglect our brotherhood around the world, who confess the same name of Christ. Let us gain courage from them, seeing how they also are standing firm in the faith, how they also resist the devil and how they also experience the same kinds of suffering. In many peoples, tribes and languages, glorify Your name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

### Divine Service

**9:30am 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](mailto: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.

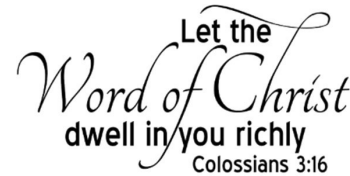
## *Men's Bible Study*

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings  
at 10:30am in the lounge.

Bring your own Bible and coffee mug, if you like,  
or use the ones provided.

No RSVP necessary

Contact Pastor Miller with any questions.



## Jehovah Lutheran Church Women

Join us for coffee, conversation, prayer,  
and Bible Study  
on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00pm.

**We will not meet in July.**

Open to everyone.

Our curriculum comes from  
the Lutheran Women's Quarterly  
If you have questions or would like  
more information, contact Pastor Miller.

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

**July 2**

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Jeremiah warns the people to beware of prophets who prophesy only peace.

**Romans 6:23, 7:1-13**

Our standing before God is not up to the Law.  
It is up to Christ alone.  
Christ's death for us was once and for all.

**Matthew 10:34-42**

Jesus sends his disciples out on God's mission, warns them of persecution and promises reward.



**July 9**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

Rejoice! There comes a messianic king who will proclaim peace to the nations and free God's people to become "prisoners of hope".

**Romans 7:14-25a**

As a slave to sin I do not do what I want but what I hate. Thanks be to God for delivering me from this body of death through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Matthew 11:25-30**

Jesus' disciples must take on the "yoke" of being a life-long learner of Jesus as teacher and as revealer of God the Father.

**July 16**

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

God's word to the exiles of Israel will accomplish his purpose just as rain from heaven makes earth produce.

**Romans 8:12-17**

God has adopted us as his children and we wait in patient hope for our inheritance of sharing Christ's glory.

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

Both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word. Jesus uses a parable to explain why the "good news" produces different results in those who hear.



**July 23**

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

The Lord alone is king and redeemer. He rules the cosmos and directs history for the redemption of his people.

**Romans 8:18-27**

God has adopted us as his children and we wait in patient hope for our inheritance of sharing Christ's glory in a renewed creation.

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42**

The parable of the weeds shows the kingdom to be a mixed body and calls for patience and leaving judgment to God.

**July 30**

**Deuteronomy 7:6-9**

The people of Israel are chosen by the Lord, not because they are better or more wonderful or more numerous than other nations, but because the Lord loves them.

**Romans 8:28-39**

The Spirit helps us so that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 13:44-52**

The kingdom is like a treasure that poses the chance of a lifetime.



## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The theme for centennial events is "100 Years of Grace: Walking Together at Jehovah Lutheran."

There will be 5 separate Sunday services for each 20 year period, spread throughout the upcoming months. The first celebration Sunday will be Reformation Sunday, October 29. Focus will be on God's grace in the 1920s-30s.

**THE NEW FREEDOM STORE**  
FREEDOM IN CHRIST

*Continue to remember those in prison  
as if you were together  
with them in prison,  
and those who are mistreated  
as if you yourselves were suffering.*

Hebrews 13:3



## NO THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY IN JULY

LWML's First Thursday Bible Study is taking a summer break during the month of July.  
We will meet again on August 3rd.

## LWML MISSION STATEMENT

As Lutheran Women in Mission,  
we joyfully proclaim Christ,  
support missions, and equip women  
to honor God by serving others.

*Serve the Lord with gladness!*  
(Psalm 100:2)

## CORE VALUES:

Christian Women | In God's Word |  
Mission Focused  
Sisters in Christ | Servant Leaders



*Serve the Lord with gladness!*  
Come before his presence with singing.  
Psalm 100:2

**JOIN US  
FOR OUR TALKATIVE THURSDAY  
CALL - IN CHAT**



We chat at **11:10am each Thursday**. 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 can visit about how our days are going, silver linings, concerns, etc. We also will have a short devotion and prayer.

**Join us on Thursdays at 11:10am**

**Please Note:  
There will be no  
Talkative Thursday Chat  
on July 6th or July 13th.**

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



**MAIN STREET LIVING  
SUNDAYS 9:00–10:00am  
WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2**

Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, channel 29/9-2, viewer area. The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. Program information for July is not available at this time. To watch, go to [mainstreetliving.com](http://mainstreetliving.com) and select the “Twin Cities” tab.

*thank  
you*

Many thanks to Janet Fishback and all who helped make the Senior Lunch so nice. The food was awesome and the tables were so pretty!

*Some Grateful Seniors!*





# ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## July 2023



### August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*I have said these things to you  
so that my joy may be in you,  
and that your joy  
may be complete.*



John 15:11

1

2 9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	3	4 Office closed 	5 NO Men's Bible Study NO Rooted in Faith	6 NO LWML Bible Study NO Talkative Thursday Chat	7 Pickup Soccer Game 5:00pm Hamline Park	8
9 9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	10	11	12 NO Men's Bible Study NO Rooted in Faith	13 NO Talkative Thursday Chat	14 Pickup Soccer Game 5:00pm Hamline Park	15
16 9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	17 ARB Meeting 6:30pm	18 Council Meeting 6:00pm	19 Prayer Group 10:00am Men's Bible Study 10:30am Rooted in Faith 6:30pm	20 Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am	21 Pickup Soccer Game 5:00pm Hamline Park	22
23/30 9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	24/31	25 Jottings Articles due	26 Prayer Group 10:00am Men's Bible Study 10:30am Rooted in Faith 6:30pm	27 NO Talkative Thursday Chat	28 Pickup Soccer Game 5:00pm Hamline Park	29



## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

**TUESDAY - THURSDAY**

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

**FRIDAY**

**8:30AM -12:30PM**

**PASTOR'S CELL: 612-600-3514**

**Email submissions for  
THE JOTTINGS BY JULY 25TH  
to [office@jehovahlutheran.org](mailto:office@jehovahlutheran.org)**

### **Contact us!**

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*Jehovah Lutheran Church Is a congregation of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*