

THE JOTTINGS

The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church

1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • www.jehovahlutheran.org

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



August 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



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

Walking Together as Disciples for Life:

The Congregation: Baptized Sinners

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 continue to meditate on baptism, specifically on how as a congregation we are made up of people who have been baptized. As we look at last month, baptism has ongoing effects in the Christian life. As Luther explains in his *Small Catechism*, we die daily to sin and live to God. This is true for each one of us personally in our walk with the Lord, and it is true about all of us collectively as we walk together. We as Christ's Church are daily being put to death and daily raised to live a new life. We are, because we are still sinners, with thoughts, words, and deeds against God and one another.

So we should not be surprised when, in the Church, we observe and experience sinful and hurtful words and acts from our brothers and sisters who are baptized, redeemed sinners. For each one of us are sinners, even though we have been saved by God's grace in Jesus. And as sinners, we are going to sin. As sinners, our brothers and sisters in Christ are going to sin against us, even in our life together in the Church.

All of us have experienced this, and yet, too often we are surprised by this. Often, we object—sometimes loudly and publicly—that this should not happen “in the Church.” Perhaps our surprise flows from an idealized picture of what we think Church life should look like. Dietrich Bonhoeffer criticizes Christians having a concept of an idealized, perfect congregation, which does not exist in this life. Holding onto such a view even when it is contradicted, says Bonhoeffer, can be disastrous for one's faith and can shatter one's relationships with others.

An idealized view of what we think a congregation should look like—particularly when it is one where we do not expect our brothers and sisters ever to sin—is not realistic. As such, an idealized view of a congregation can absorb our thoughts to such an extent that we miss God's gracious gift of Christian community right in front of us in the gathering of our brothers and sisters. When we find fault, criticize, and highlight the sins of others in our midst, we demonstrate a lack of gratitude to our Lord for those He has put in our lives to walk together with us on the way to our eternal home.

And when we point out the faults of others, we also risk serious hypocrisy. For as the old saying goes, when we point our finger at another person, we have three fingers pointing back at ourselves. As St. John reminds us in his first letter, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Rather than point out and complain about the sins of our brothers and sisters, we should recognize that we are all in the same boat. We are all sinners. This is why we come to Church in the first place! The Church is not museum full of holy people who have no sins. The Church is a hospital full of us sinners who are infected with sin and unable to cure ourselves.

We all stand before God's Law accused as sinners by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We all undergo the Law's work of putting our sins to death, so that we can be raised to life again and again by the Good News that Jesus has taken away our sins and given us His own righteousness.

continued...

We all stand equal: equally unable to save ourselves from our sinful condition and equally forgiven for the sake of Jesus Christ. As God's baptized children, we are invited to see one another in that regard, to see each other as people for whom Jesus died and who have been washed clean in Holy Baptism. We are invited to repent of our sins daily, to have our sins put to death daily—even the sin of judging our brothers and sisters. We are invited to start over again daily, forgiven of our sins and forgiving the sins of others, because the blood of Jesus covers us all.

Walking together with you,
Pastor Joshua Miller

¹Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, trans. Daniel W. Bloesch and James H. Burtress (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996), 36-37.

²Ibid, 37.

³ 1 John 1:8 (ESV).



AUGUST 27 VOTERS' MEETING AND POTLUCK

The next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 27, with a potluck dinner to follow.

Members, please bring a dish to share.

A–J: salad or side dish, K–Q: main dish; and R–Z: dessert. Beverages will be provided.

ST. PAUL OUTREACH CENTER

The Jehovah-based St. Paul Outreach Center is unfolding! This ministry to new immigrants to the U.S. is a partnership of JELC, Mekane Yesus, our circuit LCMS Churches, and POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach), with financial support from the LCMS Minnesota South District.

The ministry will have three "prongs": small group fellowship/English conversation family pairings, after school programs for children and youth, and health resources from New Life Family Services.

We have successfully launched pilot offerings in two of these areas. In coordination with POBLO, Marc and Suzanne Hequet have shared their time and friendship with a new Afghani family this spring and summer. Starting in June, our Mekane Yesus sister church has piloted a soccer camp for youth each Friday afternoon for neighborhood children. We hope to build on these offerings in the coming months.

Two large events are planned for this fall to further develop this ministry. In partnership with Concordia University St. Paul's campus ministry, we will host an International potluck for new students and circuit church members on Friday, September 8 at 6:30 pm. Also in partnership with CSP, we will host a coat drive give-away on Saturday, October 14.

Please look for more details to come soon for how to participate in this exciting new ministry. We will for sure be seeking volunteers for the English conversation/fellowship pairings, the September 8 potluck, and the October 14 coat drive. David Mennicke, Outreach Center Coordinator, is happy to answer questions and help you become involved (dmennicke@csp.edu or 651-636-3271).

Outreach Opportunities!

As the forgiven and forgiving baptized children of God, we have the opportunity to join with brothers and sisters engaging in outreach together. The St. Paul Outreach Center (SPOC) is a cooperative outreach mission of the St. Paul Circuit of LCMS congregations. This August the SPOC has some great opportunities for reaching out in our community. Join with other brothers and sisters in Christ in getting to know and serving our neighbors, so that we can share with them the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pick-Up Soccer: Friday evenings from 5-6pm, neighborhood and church youth gather together to play soccer at Hamline Park. We could use help providing water and cool treats to those coming to play.

National Night Out: Tuesday, August 1, meet neighbors and fellowship with free snacks.

For more information: Talk with Pastor or with Dr. David Mennicke.

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news.*

Isaiah 52:7a



National Night Out



Tuesday, August 1, 2023

5:30pm - 7:00pm

FREE FOOD!

HOT DOGS

ICE CREAM SUNDAES



LEMONADE

WATER

MUSIC! FOOD! FUN! FRIENDS!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

INFORMATION

**FREE EVENT
FOR
ALL AGES!**





“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.



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.

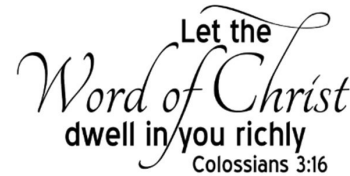
Men's Bible Study

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

August 3 at 1:00pm.

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

August 6

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great banquet and promises an everlasting covenant that will include all nations.

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 14:13-21

The feeding of the five thousand anticipates the bread of the Eucharist, which in turn anticipates the messianic banquet in the kingdom.



August 13

Job 38:4-18

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.

Romans 10:5-17

In Christ, God has put aside the old way of uprightness. The new way is a life of believing and confessing the risen Lord founded on the preaching of the good news.

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus' walking on the water shows him coming to his disciples when they are in trouble and sustaining them in their time of fear and doubt.

August 20

Isaiah 61:7-11

The prophet announces glad tidings to oppressed Israel in words later used by Jesus to announce his ministry to all peoples, fulfilling God's ancient promises.

Galatians 4:4-7

God sent his son to redeem us from slavery to the law and to bestow sonship through the Spirit who empowers us to cry out, "Abba, Father".

Luke 1:46-55

By the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth knows that the babe, John, leaps in her womb upon recognizing his Lord, Jesus, in the womb of Mary. Mary's song then rejoices in God's fulfilment of promise.



August 27

Isaiah 51:1-6

"Listen to me . . . " The Lord will make good on his promise to Abraham and Sarah. His salvation will come soon and will never end.

Romans 11:33-12:8

God has shown his mercy to all. Therefore (v.12) those in Christ are to offer themselves in an unselfish use of spiritual gifts for upbuilding the body of Christ.

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ leads Jesus to commission him (later all the disciples, 18:18) to proclaim the forgiveness of sins.



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 Celebration Sundays are as follows:

Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023. Focus will be on God's grace in the 1920s-30s.

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024. Focus will be on the 1940s-50s.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024. Focus will be on the 1960s-70s.

Rally Sunday, September 8, 2024. Focus will be on the 1980s-90s.

Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024. Focus will be on the 2000s-20s.

JEHOVAH CELEBRATES MUSIC SUNDAY AUGUST 20



JELC is continuing its summer tradition of a "Music Sunday" on August 20 at the 9:30 am service. We will observe the Feast of St. Mary (transferred from August 15) with hymns and choral/instrumental music celebrating Christ's Incarnation of the Virgin Mary. The Mennicke and Wegner families, with additional singers and instrumentalists, will lead the way for what will be a lovely service. Invite your friends to celebrate the day!



REGARDING THE LWML SYMBOL

The LWML symbol was created to represent the members of both the LWML and the church.

The heart represents the love and giving nature of the members in response to the heart of God that is behind all that we are and do.

... for God so loved the world ... (John 3:16)

The drop symbolizes the blood of Christ...

...shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

(See Hebrews 9:22)

Therefore, we lift high the cross of Christ, guiding our thanks and praise and service.

Serve the Lord with gladness. (Psalm 100:2a)

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, welcomed over 3,500 people to their 40th biennial convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023, under the theme "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations." The convention theme was based on Psalm 33:12–13.

The Lutheran Women in Mission voting body adopted a \$2,350,000 mission goal for the 2023–2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 31 mission grants, as women and men respond in prayer and mite offerings during the next two years. Watch for more about these grants in the months to come.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, August 3

1:00pm

The study will be from page 17 of the new Summer 2023 Quarterly.

All are welcome!

THE NEW FREEDOM STORE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

**“Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him.”**

Psalm 41:1

A special shout-out once again to the good people of Gloria Dei Lutheran in Minneapolis. Members Wenda and Larry organized a drive and collected 69 pairs of jeans along with a number of belts. Another member, Mary, donated 160 rain ponchos and 43 blankets. This congregation may be small in numbers, but they have consistently donated sandwiches, Welcome Kits, and Move-In Kits. It is good to give if just only once, but it is better to keep the needy in mind, just as our Savior does. One thing for sure: when it comes to helping the least, lost, last,



and lonely, the good people at Gloria Dei have never taken their eyes off the ball.

*Volunteers at
FreedomWorks
receiving blue jeans.*

Those beautiful blue jeans were given to the 139 residents at FreedomWorks. These are men and women recently released from prison who have heard

the call and are beginning a new life. They have begun a very special journey. They also are consistent. They run a food bank for others in need. And why not? They know it is better to give than to receive.

The New Freedom Store gives to other organizations too: the homeless, immigrants and refugees, children with special needs. We appreciate quilts, blankets, Move-In Kits, School Kits, Welcome Kits, and Target cards in smaller amounts. Feel free to contact me.

Jim Seemann, Ph.D.
seemann@csp.edu

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 August 3rd.**



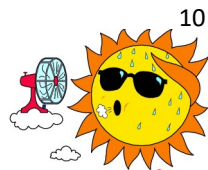
**MAIN STREET LIVING
SUNDAYS 9:00–10:00am
WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2**

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 August is not available at this time. To watch, go to mainstreetliving.com and select the “Twin Cities” tab.



ACTIVITY CALENDAR

August 2023



<div>September 2023</div> <table><tr><th>Sunday</th><th>Monday</th><th>Tuesday</th><th>Wednesday</th><th>Thursday</th><th>Friday</th><th>Saturday</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></table>							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	<div>1</div> <div></div> <div>National Night Out</div> <div>5:30pm - 7:00pm</div>	<div>2</div> <div>NO Men's Bible Study</div> <div>NO Rooted in Faith</div>	<div>3</div> <div></div> <div>LWML Bible Study</div> <div>1:00pm</div> <div>Open to all</div> <div>NO Talkative Thursday Chat</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>
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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 AUGUST 25TH
to office@jehovahlutheran.org**

Contact us!

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*Jehovah Lutheran Church Is a congregation of
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