

FAMILY NEWS

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Academy | Davie, Florida

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THE PENTECOST SEASON



Now that we have passed through what is called The Festival Season of the Church Year (began with Advent, into Christmastide, then Epiphany, followed by Lent, finishes with Eastertide and the Day of Pentecost), we move into what is called Ordinary Time (sometimes also referred to as The Pentecost Season; on the Lutheran calendar, we tend to go with Sundays after Pentecost).

I'd like to focus on that word, "ordinary." We tend to use it in an almost derogatory way, implying that if something isn't "special" its value is diminished to "ordinary." Such is not the case here.

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. Thus, Ordinary Time is in fact the ordered life of the Church — the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

This turns "ordinary" into something quite special. We are not invited to journey through life with a hum-drum faith, but one that is vibrant, alive, and constantly seeking more of God.

The color used for paraments in this season are green — the color of growth. While we commonly find great joy in the celebrations of festivals, we may lose some of that joy when times of trouble, tension, or disappointment come. That joy is bolstered when we realize how close God is to us. That realization comes as we immerse ourselves in God Word, as we pray ardently, and as we seek His presence daily. This is what should be "ordinary" for us.

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Alas, for many of us this not the norm. We allow the busy-ness of life to short-change our time with the Lord. We fall into bad habits, allowing vast stretches of time between prayers. We find excuses for why we cannot seem to find the time or place to be quiet in God's presence.

There is another part of this sense of ordinary. We need to stay alert to see God present in our ordinary, daily activities. Could washing dishes, mowing the lawn, vacuuming the carpets, taking out the trash be seen as spiritual activities? Yes, if you allow the wetness of the dishwasher to remind you of your baptism; take in the fresh scent of newly-mown grass to provide a deep appreciation of God's creative power; think of the power of the vacuum cleaner as a token of the indwelling Spirit; and deep-six the rubbish as a token of forgiveness.

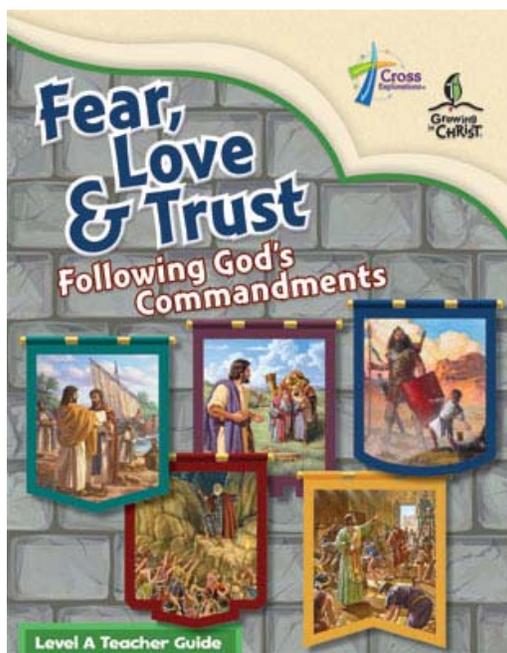
In every moment — not just in spectacular sunsets or mass-choir concerts — God is present, if we were just in the habit of paying attention to looking for the signs He is near us. What we would otherwise regard as ordinary would become filled with deeper meaning and blessing.

As we move through this Ordinary Time, this Season of Pentecost, take advantage of what God would provide for our spiritual benefit. Open your eyes and (to use a Biblical metaphor) open the eyes of your heart to what many have called "the sacrament of the present moment."

We could say that the Festival half of the Church Year reminds us of who God is and what He has done in Christ. This Ordinary Time reminds us of who we are, and how we can respond.

By: The Rev. Christian Just, who serves the congregations of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Northfield OH, and St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church, Streetsboro, OH.

HERE'S WHAT'S COOL IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!



Our new summer session will begin on Sunday, June 4th at 9:30 a.m. and will run each Sunday morning through August 27th.

- ◆ One year olds through First Grade will meet in Room #32
- ◆ Second Grade through Fifth Grade will meet in Room # 19

With a castle-themed environment, students will learn about God's rules for holy living and loving in the Ten Commandments as we explore thirteen Old and New Testament Bible stories.

Be sure to join us for games, crafts, and fun!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

June 12th – 16th

Age 3 – Grade 5

His kingdom endures forever! At *Mighty Fortress* the children will learn that God is their refuge and strength. Friends may fail them. They may not ace their next test or make the team, but God promises to be their rock and their salvation – their fortress and sure defense. So raise your banner! Hold it high. The battle is done. In Jesus, the victory is won!



Our VBS this year focuses on **1 Corinthians 15:57** “**Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**” We will confidently celebrate that Jesus is our champion, has won the victory over sin, death, and Satan; that He acts through His Word and keeps His promises. Because the victory is won, every day is a day to celebrate!

God’s victory is shown in the Bible accounts of the fall of Jericho, God’s rescue of King Hezekiah’s kingdom, King Josiah’s reading of God’s Word, the Savior King’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and Jesus’ victory through His death and resurrection.

Each day we will spend time at the **Mighty Fortress Opening**, hear the Bible story at the **Stronghold Storytelling Site**, and enjoy a delicious stop at **The Great Hall Snack Site**. Creativity will abound at the **Festival Craft Site**, our minds will be working at the **Victory Village Bible Challenge**, and we’ll run and play at the **Tournament Game Site**.



We can hardly wait for the fun to begin! Mark your calendar and be sure to invite your friends. The message of God’s victory for us through His Son, Jesus Christ, is too good to keep to ourselves!



Volunteers of all kinds are needed. Group leaders, decorators, snack helpers, craft assistance, and registration people are just a few of the areas. If you’d like to help and be in on the fun please contact Carol Jones at 954-432-4130 after 5:00 p.m. or call the office at Gloria Dei.

Vacation Bible School is an outreach mission to the children of our community and we will not be charging a fee. It takes approximately \$25.00 to cover the cost of each student registered for the week of VBS. Please help support this outreach with your donations or perhaps consider sponsoring a child or two. Just place your donation in an envelope marked VBS.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Your

American Heritage Girls Troop 1483

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

On May 13th, the moms enjoyed a wonderful Mother's Day Brunch prepared by the girls and the fathers. There was lovely, soft music as well as a couple of crafts. There was also a nice place to have pictures taken, as you can see in the photo below.



On May 18th, we held our Awards Ceremony in the Sanctuary, then followed it with a reception to celebrate the year. All 16 girls were present and numerous family members joined us. The girls earned a total of 71 badges, completed over 200 service hours, and one Tenderheart even earned her Level Award. (You can see her poster displayed on our bulletin board.) Four of our girls "crossed over" to the next level. What a terrific first year for Troop FL1483!!

Finally, at the end of the month, we participated in the Memorial Day Parade in Davie. While waiting for line-up, we were approached by girls from another AHG group, Troop FL-0001 from Pompano. We enjoyed visiting and decided to march together in the parade. Our AHG flag and banner led the way, followed by girls, leaders, and families. The parade was followed by a Memorial Day Service.



Our Planning Meeting will take place on June 8th. We will look at next year's calendar, budget, leadership opportunities, etc.

Please spread the word about your troop. If anyone is interested in more information, they can contact Jim or Debbie MacGregor at 785-207-3796 or send an email to ahg.fl1483@gmail.com or email Darla Schulte at darla_schulte@bellsouth.net.

SEMINARIAN SPOTLIGHT: THE BLANKEN FAMILY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It was truly a blessing to visit you all. We were looking forward to seeing you, and were excited that you would finally be meeting Evelyn face to face. For me personally, I looked forward to being with you all once again. The saying is true: 'There is no place like home'. Although Fort Wayne is a wonderful place to live and I love my church and seminary life, I still miss you very much and always look forward to seeing you again.

I'm grateful that Pastor Poulos allowed me to participate in the liturgy of the Divine Service, as well as allowing me to share my experiences and knowledge which I have gained from seminary this last year. Also, it was wonderful to be able to attend the Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on Saturday. I hope that I have been able to give you some insight as to what is being taught at Concordia Theological Seminary here in Fort Wayne that you might have confidence in your Synod.

Although you may take it for granted (and perhaps do not realize at all), you all are very warm and welcoming people. You have always been so supportive of me throughout my whole life and my family now as well. I thank God for this, and ask that you would continue to be supportive of your brothers and sisters in Christ who sit next to you in Church as well as those whom you have not met yet (but will walk through your doors).

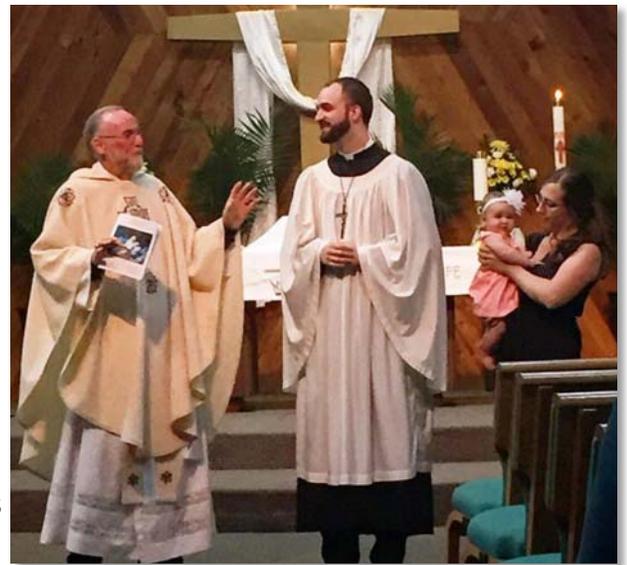
I love you all so very much, and give thanks to God for your love towards my family. Thank you all for everything that you do for us (whether it be financial support, emotional support, or otherwise). We are indebted to you.

As a last note, I wish to tell you to love your Pastor. God has given you a Pastor, who even though being a sinful man, loves you all with the love of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. He remains faithful to his calling and the oaths which he took upon entering office. Do not take this for granted, but rejoice in that God has loved you so much that he has given you this wonderful man as an undershepherd. Not all congregations can say the same. I am always thankful for his guidance, support, and love.

May God bless and keep you always in the one true faith,

Alex

alexander.blanken@ctsfw.edu



Please keep our seminarian families in your prayers:

Sam, Leah, Ben and Charlotte Sessa, 10970 Roxbury Plaza, Apt 322, Omaha, NE 68137
Devin, Melissa, Penny and Devin, Jr. Murphy 909 13th St. N, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Alex and Annie Blanken, 5609 Old Dover Blvd., Apt 6, Ft Wayne, IN 46835

SPAIN MISSION

LUTHERANS RETURN AFTER 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION HISTORY

With the 500th Anniversary of Luther's posting of the 95 Theses, the Lutheran Mission in Spain pursues a unique second chance to bring the truth, freedom and joy of the pure Gospel to Spain, five centuries after the first Lutheran Reformation in Spain was snuffed out by the Spanish Inquisition.



The writings of Luther and other reformers arrived quickly in Spain, and the Reformation teaching convinced many Spaniards. Significant support for Luther's teachings grew in several cities, including Valladolid and Seville, but in the 1540s and 50s the Spanish crown and the Inquisition crushed the reformation movement.



Dozens of confessors were burned at the stake in Spain, and many more were imprisoned or fled the kingdom. With varying degrees of severity, Roman Catholicism was maintained as the only approved faith in Spain until the 1980s, when the law against other confessions proselytizing was replaced with religious freedom.

The joint mission work started by the LCMS and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina in 2000 soon discovered that a strong but spiritually empty cultural Roman Catholicism and a rapidly secularizing society made for a very difficult mission field. Hard work and good Lutheran teaching by a series of three hard working Argentine pastors bore fruit in a church body of faithful and well catechized 70+ members.



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As we enter 2017, the missionaries are now two LCMS pastors, David Warner and Adam Lehman. They, along with one Spanish pastor, four other men seeking to serve in the pastoral office, and a core of dedicated lay leaders, are building on the foundation built since 2000. In 2016 worship frequency was increased by more than double.

The next milestone in our sights is to establish the first permanent church building of the Spanish Evangelical Lutheran Church, (IELE), in Seville, one of the cities where the original Spanish Lutheran Reformation began. A suitable space has been located and rented, and work is underway to prepare it for use, both for worship and as office and study space. Better worship facilities and more visibility are also being sought in Madrid and Cartagena, the other two cities where we have small congregations.



In the meantime, the missionaries continue to travel and use internet teleconferencing to serve and teach the members scattered across 17 cities in Spain. The mission also benefits tremendously from occasional ministry tours by U.S. based Spanish speaking pastors, who expand our

Word and Sacrament ministry and relieve pressure on our missionaries.

Cost Breakdown

Facility Rental \$1000 per month

Missionary Travel: \$1200 per month

Expansion of Word and Sacrament Ministry: \$36,000

Total: \$75,000

If you would like to support this project...

Credit Card Donations

Call toll free **888-930-4438** to make a donation with a credit card.

Be sure to mention that is is for account: **A10897-65031- Spain Mission**

Donations By Mail

Checks should be made out to Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or LCMS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Mission Advancement

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Please include **A10897-65031- Spain Mission** on your check.

Donations can also be sent to Mission Central if you prefer.

40718 HIGHWAY E16

MAPLETON, IA 51034-7105

Please include **A10897-65031- Spain Mission** on your check.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm-VPK Graduation	2	3 8am-Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9am LWML Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open
4 8am-Divine Service 9:30am-Sunday School 10:45am-Divine Service	5 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm-"A Longer Look at the Lessons" Bible Study	6	7 9:30am-Joyful Hearts—Women's Bible Study 10:30am-4pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Divine Service 8pm-Christianity 102	8	9	10 8am-Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open
11 Blood Drive 8am-Divine Service 9:30am-Sunday School 10:45am-Divine Service VBS 9am-Noon Mon-Fri This Week	12 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm-"A Longer Look at the Lessons" Bible Study	13 10:30am-Prayer Shawl	14 10:30am-4pm Thrift Shop Open	15	16 7pm-VBS Closing	17 8am-Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9am LWML Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open
18 8am-Divine Service 9:30am-Sunday School 10:45am-Divine Service	19 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm-School Board 7pm-"A Longer Look at the Lessons" Bible Study	20 6:30pm-Church Council	21 10:30am-4pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Divine Service 8pm-Christianity 102	22	23	24 8am-Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open
25 8am-Divine Service 9:30am-Sunday School 10:45am-Divine Service 12pm-Congregational Meeting	26 9:30am-1:30pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm-"A Longer Look at the Lessons" Bible Study	27	28 9:30am-Joyful Hearts—Women's Bible Study 10:30am-4pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Divine Service 8pm-Christianity 102	29	30	

BIRTHDAYS

June / July 2017

Amy Yost	6/1	Edwin Biedermann	6/22	Colleen Timmins	7/8
James LeGette	6/2	Quinn Stumpf	6/23	Alexa Schweiger	7/11
Bonnie McMichael	6/2	Carolyn Talpasz	6/23	Rosemarie Geister	7/12
Kristie Singley	6/3	Ruth Comottor	6/25	Sean Hoyt, II	7/13
Leslie Sponder	6/4	Bill Jones	6/25	Luanne Wallice	7/14
Kathleen Cabral	6/5	Debbie MacGregor	6/25	Sharon Vonada	7/16
Emta Helmke	6/7	Steven Wallice	6/25	JoAnn Schweiger	7/19
Fritz Schmidt	6/7	Alene Padgett	6/26	Lori Urtecho	7/19
Michael Schweiger	6/8	Roger Schlie	6/29	Sandra Saikley	7/20
Alex Blanken	6/8	Doris Gilchrist	6/29	*Jennifer Preus	7/22
Judy Cummings	6/11	Jill Viola	6/29	Marjorie Schieb	7/23
Abby MacGregor	6/11	Ryan Grillo	7/1	Pat Von Alven	7/24
Michelle Giansiracusa	6/14	*Søren Preus	7/1	Amanda Groome	7/25
Dennis Adams, Jr	6/15	Ainsworth Patterson	7/2	Brian Harris	7/26
Penny Murphy	6/15	Don Coxe	7/3	Debra Diehl	7/29
Zoe Brehm	6/18	Benjamin Singley, V	7/3	Kathleen Michel	7/29
Connie Guzzi	6/19	Bill Klockow	7/4		
Rachel Klockow	6/19	Robert Kohler	7/4		
Annie Blanken	6/19	*Christine Lehman	7/7	*Missionary Family	
Marian Fowler	6/20	Anne Pope	7/8		

ANNIVERSARIES

June / July 2017

Robert and Kimberly Diehl	6/5	Sam and Leah Sessa	7/3
Vincent and Doris Wilson	6/6	Ed and Cheryl Smith	7/4
Gary and Diana Paynter	6/6	Robert and Kathleen Cabral	7/10
Barry and Sharon Vonada	6/6	James and Alexandira Heller	7/11
Everett and Wendy Yost	6/14	Glen and Dionne Josephs	7/25
Alex and Ann Blanken	6/21	John and Sandra Saikley	7/31
Dennis and Janice Adams	6/25		
Oswaldo and Ligia Estrada	6/26	*Missionary Family	
John and Prop Heckman	6/30		



Pray For Us Calendar

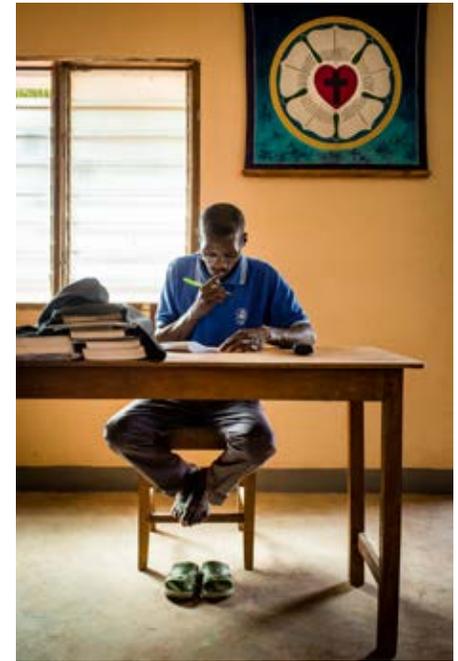
These prayer requests were submitted by coworkers in the Lord's mission.

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.

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION — JUNE 1-15 Theological education is one of the seven mission priorities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and it forms an integral part of LCMS mission work around the world. The Synod's theological education efforts take various forms in different contexts to effectively meet people's specific needs around the world.

Remember God's work through international theological education as you pray:

- 1.** for the Synod's Global Seminary Initiative (GSI), which helps fill the need for trained church leaders who are native to the regions and cultures in which they serve. Pray that God would guide this program to strengthen the formation of pastors and deaconesses around the world.
- 2.** for the safety and well-being of LCMS professors and pastors who travel overseas to teach seminars and intensive courses for our current and emerging church partners.
- 3.** for the international students who come to the Synod's seminaries to study, that God would grant them safe travels and comfort while away from family and friends.
- 4.** that Lutheran pastors all over the world would have access to the necessary books and resources to equip them for the proper teaching of Law and Gospel.
- 5.** with thanksgiving for the Synod's generous donors, who make it possible for the LCMS to support theological education in many different locations around the world.
- 6.** for the health and safety of LCMS missionaries who live and work in foreign lands to help strengthen the theological education taking place there. Give thanks to God that these faithful families have heeded His call to serve their brothers and sisters in Christ in this way.
- 7.** for the ministry carried out through the Westfield House of Theological Studies in Cambridge, England. This ministry trains church leaders for England and many other church bodies around the world.
- 8.** for the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo, which provides theological training for men from French-speaking countries in West Africa.
- 9.** for projects that translate Christian materials into the heart language of different people groups. Pray especially for the ongoing work of translating Luther's Works into Chinese that is taking place in Hong Kong.
- 10.** that God would bless the work of all those He calls into the ministry around the world.
- 11.** for the new deaconess formation program in the Dominican Republic. Please ask God to bless the work of the LCMS deaconesses serving as missionaries in Latin America who are overseeing this program.
- 12.** for opportunities for fellowship and continuing education for Lutheran church workers in Europe, who are spread out over a large geographic area.
- 13.** for the seminaries of LCMS partner churches around the world. Pray that they would faithfully educate future leaders for their churches.
- 14.** with thanksgiving for the Gospel multiplication that happens when pastors are equipped to teach their flocks and train new leaders for the church.
- 15.** that God would continue to grow His Church on earth. Pray that the Lord would continue to raise up church planters and mission developers according to His good and gracious will.



A student takes an exam during class at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Dapaong, Togo.

INVOLVEMENT IDEAS

- Read about how men trained at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Togo are impacting lives in rural areas of the country at engage.lcms.org/theological-education-in-togo-spring-2017.
- Learn more about the Synod's Global Seminary Initiative at lcms.org/makeagift/gsi.
- Meet the Synod's missionaries at lcms.org/missionaries. From this webpage, you can find information about how to pray for and support the Synod's missionaries, as well as learn about current opportunities to become one!

NEW MISSIONARIES — JUNE 16-30 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has been sending missionaries around the world since 1895, when the Synod's first missionary traveled to India. Today, the LCMS trains, sends and supports called and appointed career, long-term and short-term missionaries in various countries around the world where there are mission stations, partner churches, schools or mission relationships.

Remember God's work through the Synod's new missionaries as you pray:

16. for missionary families who are in the process of building their network of support. Although it is a necessary step toward their deployment to the field, this time can be stressful on families.

17. for missionary families who are in the process of learning a new language for their upcoming service. Pray that God would provide perseverance for this task and skilled teachers to guide and encourage them.

18. for new missionaries as they prepare to move to a new place of service. There are many things to take care of during this transition, including visas, vaccinations, earthly possessions, pets, and housing and schooling options in a new place.

19. for all missionaries who are settling into new surroundings. Pray that God would send new friends and understanding helpers during this time.

20. for Jesus' love to shine boldly through all LCMS missionaries and personnel as they meet new people and make new friends.

21. for missionaries who are struggling with visa issues that are preventing them from settling in their country of service. Please ask God to either smooth the way or open up new opportunities in another location, according to His will.

22. for the children of new missionaries, who will face culture shock and unknown challenges. Praise God for the special role that children play in building relationships with new people and for the simple way they witness to their friends and neighbors about Jesus Christ.

23. that God would raise up even more missionaries to serve Him through acts of witness and mercy around the world.

24. that God would sustain the health of new missionaries and their family members as they face stressful situations and new illnesses in new places.

25. for the Synod's national missionaries, many of whom are working in challenging inner-city settings. Ask the Lord to encourage and refresh them to do His work.

26. that these new missionaries would find fellowship and support among the other new missionaries and the regional teams they will be working with.

27. that God would grant peace and comfort to the loved ones who are saying "goodbye" to those who are being sent. Pray that God would relieve feelings of anxiety and sadness over separation from family and friends.

28. that the Church would embrace the Synod's missionaries. Pray that through LCMS members, God would provide what is needed at the right time.

29. for safe travels for those attending New Missionary Orientation, which starts July 3. Orientation provides intensive training in many different areas of the missionary experience.

30. that orientation would energize, encourage and equip these missionaries for their new roles on the mission field.



The Rev. Andrew Schlund (far left), LCMS missionary to Mexico, prays with his parishioners before a council meeting at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Mexico City.

MISSIONARY & PERSONNEL BIRTHDAYS

Download the prayer cards of missionaries and other personnel from lcms.org/prayercards.

- June 1** Tina Matro, Papua New Guinea
- June 2** Blake Warren, Dominican Republic
- June 5** Heather Ruesch, Puerto Rico
- June 7** Carl Hanson, Asia
- June 8** Chen-Hsi (Li) Hanson, Asia; Yang Wei (Coco) Lange, Asia
- June 12** Suzanne Kaster, Ghana
- June 15** Joe Asher, Eurasia; Levi Karth, Peru
- June 16** Micah Odemba, Kenya
- June 17** Gretchen Trinklein, South Korea
- June 18** Janet Froh, Kenya; Deborah Going, Japan
- June 19** Charles Ferry, Southeast Asia
- June 23** Craig Donofrio, Eurasia; Cheryl Naumann, Dominican Republic
- June 24** Amy James, South Asia; Andrew Schaff, Taiwan
- June 25** Susan Rohlfing, Czech Republic
- June 26** Christine Bickel, South Korea
- June 28** Bill Lohmeyer, Dominican Republic; Alexandria Rappe, Southeast Asia
- June 30** Eliza Askins, Asia

MILITARY CHAPLAINS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE:

Chaplain Carl Muehler, NAS, Jacksonville, Fla.; Chaplain Jeremy Davis, Fort Riley, Kan.; Chaplain Sean Ballard, Laughlin AFB, Texas; Chaplain Timothy Rosenthal, Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.; Chaplain Matthew Prince, Portsmouth, Va.; RADM James Doebler, LCMS Military to the Armed Forces Committee chairman.



WORD ON STEWARDSHIP

One of the best known and beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm. There we learn that the Lord is our shepherd. And since He is our shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

How do we do this? We do it when we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving the gifts that He won for us on the cross, a violation of the First and Third Commandments. We do it when we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we think we don't know what the future will bring, even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters. We do it when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves, we do this because we have a mind set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We do this because we have stopped hearing the call of our shepherd, which comes through His Word.

The Word of God is how our shepherd calls us to himself. Through that Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through that Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead you to your true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the good news: The Lord is your shepherd still, even, and especially, for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the shepherd that lays down his life for His sheep. The Lord is your shepherd. Let us live then as His sheep.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
<http://www.lcms.org/stewardship-ministry>

IT'S TIME FOR ELECTIONS!



The nominating committee, the church council, is looking for people interested in serving in one of the offices listed.

*The offices up for election are **Vice Presidents and Treasurer***

Nomination forms are located in the narthex.

This form must be turned in

no later than Sunday, June 11, 2017.

If you have any questions please contact the nominating committee.

The elections will be held at our regular Voters' Meeting on June 25, 2017

The Spending Plan for 2017-2018 will be presented as well as elections of officers. Plan now to attend!

“MOURNING WITH HOPE”

“If, because of Christ, death is such a blessed event, should Christians mourn?”

Dying people instruct their families: “Do not cry for me. Do not be sad.” The sentiment is understandable---the dying do not want to hurt their family or make them sad, and they want to give their family confidence that they will be in a better place. But death is sad. It hurts. The trouble with the injunction on crying is that it can make things worse. You feel sad because your friend died, and then you feel sad because you were told not to be.

Death is still our enemy. Even Jesus wept when He heard that His friend Lazarus was dead, and Jesus knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead. The shortest verse in the Bible tells us about Jesus’ tears over death: “Jesus wept” (John 11:35). So should we. We mourn death; we are sad when our loved ones die. There is no shame in our suffering.

But we must remember that death is still defeated. We are not given over to despair. We mourn with joy. We cry with laughter. Our tears are mixed with hope. In the shadow of the grave, we sing of life eternal. In the midst of death, we confess the resurrection. We mourn with hope.”

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. (I Thessalonians 4:13-14).”

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Yes, we Christians do mourn with hope and what a blessing that is!! It is one of the many, many gifts that our Triune God bestows upon us. . And this is a lesson that is shared in our GriefShare ministry. Our next cycle will commence on Saturday, August 26 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel when we have our Orientation/Registration session.

Publicity will be mailed to local funeral homes, churches, book stores, alumni, radio stations, etc. this month so that the word is out: Gloria Dei Lutheran will sponsor its 28th cycle of Griefshare. But we also need YOUR HELP.....Brochures are available in the Fellowship Hallway and also on the Information Desk in the Narthex.....if you know of someone who is walking the grief journey because of a death loss of a spouse, sibling, parent, child, friend, co worker, please take a brochure or a calling card that is also available. Pass on the information and tell them that they will find comfort and guidance within GriefShare. We will meet each Saturday through December 9 at which time we will have our Closing Remembrance. If they cannot make it each Saturday, each session is self-contained, meaning that a person can see the DVD at another cycle. Friendships within the group are made and the bereaved will find a “new normal” life.

Also, are you interested in becoming part of the GriefShare Facilitator Team or our Prayer Support Team. If so, please contact one of us.

Questions???? Contact Judy Herman, Millicent Patterson, Linda Malone, or Marian Fowler. Each one of us await your questions



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Registration is now open or the LWML GL-GA District Retreat!

Villas by the Sea in Jekyll Island, GA

September 29- October 1, 2017

Eden Keefe will be our Keynote Speaker

The theme is Psalm 95: 3-6 " For the LORD is a Great God."

Gifts from the Heart will be a fundraiser for
"Lutheran Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs"
Come meet Lizzy, the comfort dog!



If you would like more information please go to www.flgalwml.com
or pick up a copy of the summer Evangel on the purple table.

Come Renew, Restore, Refresh and Reflect!



Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. for Breakfast/Bible Study in the chapel. All women of Gloria Dei are invited to come and Fellowship, enjoy some great food and study God's word.

Keep collecting those mites! If you need a mite box please pick one up at the purple table!



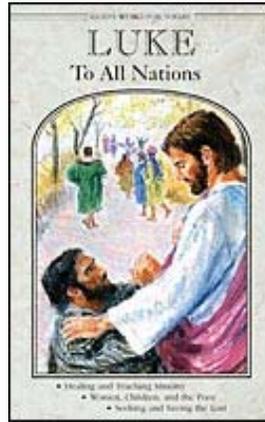
For more information on LWML please go to www.lwml.org or www.flgalwml.com

BIBLE STUDIES

Luke's carefully written Gospel, compiled from both oral and written accounts, points to God's gracious salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. The peace that Christ has brought to the world enables us to break out in a liturgy of praise. The salvation story did not end with Christ's ascension, however; Christ's Church is called to go to "all nations"-men, women, children, the poor, the sick, and the disenfranchised-proclaiming the victory found only in Jesus Christ. Luke speaks to us about

God's plan for bringing salvation to both Jew and Gentile; believers' unceasing joy upon hearing the Good News; the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life and in our own; the enduring value and importance of prayer.

All men welcome!



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
Every Saturday 8 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall,
Followed by Bible Study
In Room 32
Hot Breakfast \$4.00
For more info
contact Bruce Caruso
at 954-962-4186

Monday Night Bible Study meets each Monday in the chapel at 7 p.m.

They are studying "A Longer Look at the Lessons"

Delve deeper into each week's three Scripture readings with "A Longer Look at the Lessons." This Bible study is based on the lectionary in the Lutheran Service Book, and provides information about the readings and their contexts.

For more information please contact Elaine Carstens 954-587-8394

Joyful Hearts
Women's Bible Study
Meets on Wednesday
9:30 a.m.
in the chapel.

All women are welcome!



Please join the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

1st and 3rd Saturdays
at 9 a.m.—11 a.m.
for Breakfast/Bible study
We will meet in the chapel.
All women are invited!

PASTOR POULOS LEADS THE FOLLOWING BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. "Bible Foundations!"
Why we believe what we believe!

Wednesday Nights, 8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. "Christianity 102:"
The Lutheran Difference



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Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

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The owners of these businesses and professional services provide this monthly newsletter at no cost to Gloria Dei families.

Please contact them and make use of their services or products.

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