



September, 2023

From the Pastor



Grace Mercy and Peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the 68th Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. These Conventions happen every three years and are the vehicle for making decisions, addressing controversies and electing leaders in our church.

I have copied the logo and theme of the Convention above. The theme “We preach Christ Crucified” could be heard and seen throughout the convention. Many of the resolutions that were brought to the floor focused on strengthening our Gospel message and encouraging the church to focus on the joy of being a Lutheran Christian, where the cross of Christ for the forgiveness of sins is emphasized and taught.

The Convention was not all just business. There was worship every morning and evening, starting out with a celebration of the Divine Service on Saturday night. It gave me goose bumps to hear a couple thousand people singing our hymns with gusto, especially since half of them were Pastors. We had different Pastors throughout the Convention talk about the six chief parts of the catechism. We had a young man named Flame, who is a Rap musician from inner city St. Louis, speak to the convention. He has recently earned a Masters’ degree in Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The joy he exudes when he talks about Baptism and the Lutheran understanding of salvation by grace alone was infectious.

There was also time for fellowship. I was able to reconnect to many of my classmates from college and seminary, including Rev. Dr. Mark Rabe, whom we supported for many years when he was a missionary in Ethiopia.

One of the greatest highlights for me was when the Evangelical Lutheran church of South Sudan/Sudan was welcomed into full altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS. There were other churches; The Lutheran churches of Finland, Uganda, Ukraine and Ceylon(Sri Lanka), but given the fact that I am going to South Sudan to teach at their seminary it was a

blessing to hear about their church and to talk with their Bishop. I was amazed to discover that the Lutheran Church of South Sudan has 150,000 members. I am humbled to be a part of training men to be pastors in this country.

Probably the most disheartening part of the convention was when we voted to break fellowship with the Lutheran church of Japan. Having spent 6 years in Japan, Gwyn and I have a real love and respect for the Japanese people. It saddens me that they do not have a faithful church to witness to a culture that needs to hear the grace of God. Please join me in praying for them.

Much of the business was electing leaders for our Synod, and its various boards, as well as leaders for our universities. This was more important than it first sounds. One of our universities, Concordia Texas has been moving away from their Lutheran identity for years. It finally came to a head this year when they changed their by-laws to reject the LCMS involvement in decision making. A resolution to bring the issue to mediation was passed, which is the first step to correcting this error and terminating certain people who led the move away from the LCMS. After that there were several resolutions to ensure that this does not happen again, by strengthening the relationship between the universities and the LCMS doctrine and practice.

Several other resolutions focused on issues of the day, such as in person worship, racism, abortion and the use of fetal tissue in vaccinations, the sanctity of marriage, the affirmation that God made us male and female and others. These resolutions made it clear that our Church is dedicated to the teachings of Scripture as God has given them to us and we will not compromise our beliefs even in the face of persecution.

Finally there were several resolutions that focused on Doctrine and practice. One resolution encouraged all churches and pastors to practice closed communion as that has always been the doctrine of our church and the Biblical teaching. Another resolution encouraged churches and pastors to strive for even greater unity in doctrine and practice, it encourages open dialog and study of scripture to seek to correct those churches and pastors who have been willing to compromise on certain issues for the sake of expediency or ease.

We are not a perfect church, but we are striving to live up to the God given responsibility to preach Christ Crucified and to hold fast to the Biblical doctrines we have always taught. I was highly encouraged by the Convention. It renewed my faith in the future perseverance of our

Church as a Confessional Church that holds fast to the Scriptures as the inerrant Word of God and faithful to the Book of Concord because it is faithful to the scriptures. Peace be with you. Amen.

Pastor Poock

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2023

Present: President Glen Collier, Financial Secretary John Niemi, Treasurer Barbara Wikel, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, Elder Mert Janovec, Trustee Dave Benson, and Pastor Poock.
Guests: Elder Jack Conte and member Greg Wissner.
VP vacant. Absent, Outreach Caleb Poock.

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was present.

Pastor opened the meeting by reading a Devotional based on 1 Corinthians dealing with idolatry. We must emphasize that there is nothing more important to believers than the Grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor offered prayers for those members of the congregation who are in pain, healing or are in hospice care.

The minutes of July 11, 2023 were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary: A sample report, *Retention and Destruction Policy*, was distributed for consideration. Financial report was distributed. Barb is going to begin working on this task in Shepherds Staff.

Treasurer: Financial reports distributed.

Pastor: Attended the Synodical convention. No change in his schedule for the next few months, except the Revelation Bible Study will not resume until he returns from South Sudan. There are several prospective members wanting to attend the adult confirmation classes which will be scheduled after his return from South Sudan also. New members will be accepted on Sunday, August 27th, and the Youth Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 10th.

President: No report.

Commutations/Outreach: Absent, No report.



CONTINUED

Elders: One of the elders is moving and will need to be replaced. Training for GriefShare 4.0 will begin on August 22. Volunteers for Facilitators for this program are still needed. Will train you on your duties and responsibilities.

Mert said there was discussion in the Elder meeting about getting prepared to petition the Synod for a Vicar that Pastor could train. Elders will set up a committee to prepare the application.

LWML: The ladies are meeting during the summer with a "Ladies Luncheon Out" the second Thursday of the month. The first regular meeting will be Sept. 14 with a Prayer Service and lunch. All ladies are invited.

Trustee Report: The work on the roof is completed. All A/C units are working well.

New Business

Corpus: Jack Conte presented a drawing of the proposed designs for adding a Corpus to the existing cross above the Altar. He will continue working with the craftsman, and was reminded that this will be added to the agenda for the annual membership meeting in December.

Old Business

Donations approved at the May meeting: Pastor has been unable to set a date for Pastor Kruger, from the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, to speak at Faith.

Still awaiting to learn the final cost of the "**Climber**", **Recreational Item** for RCMA. Pastor offered prayer and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean E Roehrs

Jean E Roehrs, Recording Secretary



GriefShare is grateful that we were able to bless a sister church who is just beginning their GriefShare program with the remaining materials we had for the older GriefShare program that we had been using for the past three years.

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...

Pastor's Sunday Bible Classes



meet in the Great Hall at 9:15 am. each Sunday. We are continuing with in-depth discussions of the weekly Bible readings and Pastor welcomes questions.

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut, and join in the discussions.

The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

Wednesday Bible Studies continue to be led by Ken Spirduso on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm on the book of Galatians.

Sunday School continues at 9:15 am in the Sunday School Classroom under the leadership of Lillian Boettcher.

Youth Confirmation will be on Sunday, September 10th. We welcome our Youth as newly confirmed members. The 10:30 Divine Service will be followed by a light luncheon of pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches in recognition of the new confirmed members. Please sign up if you plan on attending so we have a count of how many to prepare for.

Lifelight Bible Study is held the third Friday of every month at 7 pm. in Sun City Center

HAPPENINGS AT FAITH



WOMEN OF FAITH

Women off Faith expect to be back in the building making lap robes September 13 and 27 from 9-11:30 a.m. and welcome anyone who can help us with sewing, cutting, or ting quilts. A knitting and crocheting group meets with us to produce prayer shawls at the same time and contributes to our fellowship. We still

cannot receive donations at this time as it turned out that the new storage cabinets hold less supplies than before. We are grateful for the extended access in the new location and especially grateful for Nancy Kendall's energetic help in making the move.

Marjorie Weiss 941 757-7307

Janice Cascio 941 713-9492 (Knitting)





Our Food Barrel, in the Narthex, is for your generous gifts of non-perishables and paper products for those less fortunate. Please consider bringing at least one item each week to help give nourishment and bring a smile to someone in need.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On August 27th Faith welcomed ---- New Members. Please say hello and introduce yourself to:

Larry & Carol Eichert,
 Andy & Lacy and children,
 Isaac, Emily, Oliver, Evelyn and Teddy Lundgren.
 Larry & Robin Parkin,
 Jim & Barbara Pechtel,
 Deanna Roberts



Prayer Ministry

Prayer requests are emailed to Prayer Partners as they are received. If you would like to join in this ministry, please email jroehrs27@gmail.com and your name will be added to the mailings. Many recipients have told us how comforting it is to know that others are praying for them.



NEED A FRIEND? BE A FRIEND!

I was in prison and you came to me (Matt. 25:36b). And when did we see you sick or in prison (Matt. 25: 39) Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me (Matt. 25:40

Have the events of the past few months made you feel like you are in a prison? Have you felt lonely, just wanting to hear a friendly voice and know someone cares? If you would like to receive a friendly phone call a few times a week, just to say "hi" "I care about you". "How are you doing?" then give your name and phone number to Jean at 941-567-8681 and you will be teamed up with a new friend so you can bring a little love and sunshine into someone's day. Call Jean at the number above. You are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Fall is Here!

GRIEFSHARE 4.0 Program

This 13-week program features Biblical, Christ-centered teaching which focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. This DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts, and real-life stories of people; followed by a small group discussion about what was just viewed.

Past participants have related how helpful the information in the DVD's, and follow-up discussions, were to them.

Many grieving people find that while they are beginning the task of healing, friends or family have already returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to suppress their grief. Instead, they need to allow themselves to learn to deal with their grief by attending this God-oriented program.

Please do not allow fear of what others may think, keep you from what could help you.

CONFIDENTIALITY is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may or may not be recent. You will find comfort, encouragement and help in grieving the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or a friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief, and that you do not need to live in bondage to these uncertain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your 'new' normal in life, and renewing your hope for the future.

If you want to take part in this GriefShare 4.0 program, please call the Church Office at 941-776-1395 to let one of the secretaries know of your interest. A Facilitator will call you back to answer any questions, and confirm your attendance.

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, POSTERS & EMAILS

THIS GRIEFSHARE 4.0 GROUP WILL BEGIN MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023



FAITH WOMEN IN MISSION

The **LWML** fall season will begin Sept. 11, with a Prayer Service beginning at 10 a.m. followed by a n Italian luncheon. All ladies of Faith are invited to join in some Christian Fellowship and learn more about our **LWML** program. Be sure to sign up on the **LWML** table if you can join us. The activity booklet for the year will be available with dates for most activities planned which include packing seeds for Hope Seeds, packing Project Heart hygiene kits; packing Christmas shut-in bags along with a cookie exchange, and a Love Offering for Project Heart.

LWML continues to collect school supplies for Redlands Christian Migrant students through the end of September. Please leave school supplies on the **LWML (purple)** table in the Narthex.

October is just around the corner and the 12th is our next regular meeting day. All Faith members and friends will be invited to join **LWML** to pack seeds for Hope Seeds.



We will be packing Hygiene Kits for Manatee Homeless in November. Most needed at this time for the hygiene kits are wash cloths and hand towels. Please place your donations in the bin to the left of the **LWML** table in the Narthex.

We truly appreciate and need all your donations, but we have an over abundance of soaps at this time.

The LWML FL-GA District Retreat for 2023 will be held September 22nd through September 24th in St. Augustine, Florida. Gifts from the Heart recipient is The St. Gerard Campus, a faith based, pro-life, non-for-profit located in St. Augustine. This mission is to support pregnant mothers in need who have been shunned by family and are seeking support. The facility has an accredited Christian High School, a licensed maternity home, onsite daycare facility, adoption assistance and a pregnancy resource center for mothers from 12 to 20.

See below for much needed donations. Cash & check donations will be accepted. Make checks payable to LWML FL-GA District and note on the memo line "Gifts from the Heart".

Send to: Bunnie Koelsch, 560 Orange Grove Ave. W. Melbourne, Florida 32904 or give to **Marilyn Howard** and she will take them to the retreat.

Donations needed: Diapers (currently size Newborn, 4, 5, and 6), Baby wipes, Baby formula, Burp cloths, Diaper cream, Pacifier, Soft swaddling blankets, toiletry item, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, travel size shampoo, facial wash cloths and combs.

Remember to leave your mite boxes on the **LWML table or put your coins in the big MITE box. They are taken to a bank for counting and a check is sent to the FL-GA District to support mission grants.**

This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Wednesdays, 5pm

September 6 Alice Bowen
 September 13 Susan Barber
 September 20 Monica Carezza
 September 27 Eloise Schwarz

Sundays, 8:00 am /Sunday 10:30 am

September 3 Gwyn Pooch / Chris Stisser
 September 10 Martha Riedl / Janie Zanella
 September 17 Meta Green / Nancy Niemi
 September 24 Janie Zanella / Debbie Haney

Elders

Wednesdays, 5 pm

September 6 Mike Freeman
 September 13 Tony Bower
 September 20 Tony Bowen
 September 27 Tony Bowen

Assistant

Curt McCarty
 David Barber
 Joe Rawlinson
 Jeff Sattanno

Sundays, 8:00 am

September 3 Tom Weiss
 September 10 Dennis Steinke
 September 17 Tom Weiss
 September 24 Dennis Steinke

Sundays, 10:30 am

Jeff Conte
 Tom Barlow
 Chuck Moore
 Jack Conte

Assistant

Caleb Pooch
 Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pooch
 Alex Boettcher

Offering Counters

September 3 John Niemi, Carol Schreiber
 September 10 John Niemi, Judy Sattanno, Stu Lindberg
 September 17 Marilyn Howard, Bonnie Wright, Marti Katterhenry
 September 25 Larry Colton, Jean Roehrs



September Birthdays

- 1 Reatha Snyder
- 2 Shawn McAnally, Paul Nordbrock
- 3 Carol Wissner, Janice Cascio
- 5 Curt McCarty
- 7 Daniel Pope Sr.
- 8 Ann Colton
- 9 Karen Pollari
- 11 AJ Barto, David Barber
- 13 Sandra Bessy, Judy Faries, Tom Barlow
- 16 Lisa Ladwig
- 17 Austin Chandler
- 19 Amy Laser
- 22 Meghan Hughes, Larry Wikel, Ed Theres
- 24 Kate Pooch
- 25 Sharon Fredrick
- 27 Dick Russ, Michelle Fluegge
- 28 Larry Eichent
- 29 Heather Teitelbaum

Special Birthday Blessings to
 Daniel Pope, Sr (97 yrs.)
 as he celebrates a
 milestone birthday

September Anniversaries

- 9 Gary & Nancy Bonadurer (56 years)
- 18 Janie & Louis Zanella (14 years)
- 19 David & Margi Krewin (31 years)
- 25 Uwe & Kristine Porth (40 yrs.)

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



A time of fellowship and coffee bites will continue following the 10:30 am Divine Service as we have some wonderful volunteers willing to bring in 3 dozen cookies or 2 dozen pastries. Two volunteers are called each week by Monica for their help in providing sweet treats (coffee bites). Monica and Margaret handle set-up and clean-up.

Our Fifth **Sunday Italian Lunch** on July 30th was a wonderful time of fellowship and good food. Thanks to all our volunteers who contributed pasta entrees, salads, bread and desserts.

A huge thank you also to Dana Ellerbrock, Greg Wissner, Marti Katterhenry, Carol Wissner, Annette Schander Rick Burgbacker and Dick Werner who generously helped with clean up.

Sincere thanks to the 70 plus attendees, hope you all enjoyed your meal and time of fellowship.



New Members Are Joining

Sunday September 10th, we are hoping for a big turn out to congratulate our first young group of confirmands who have studied with Pastor for the past year to become familiar with the Catechism and understanding what the Lutheran Faith is all about.

Following the Divine Service, fellowship is providing along with volunteers a light luncheon to welcome these young people into the congregation. A sign up sheet has been provided in the Narthex. If you are willing to help with providing a salad or baked beans, to go along with pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, please indicate that when you sign up. Fellowship will order a cake for dessert.

We will need a few volunteers to help clean up. If you can, please just walk to the kitchen after most people have finished their meal.