



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our victorious and risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A seminarian student heard one of his professors say, "I am not going to take a vacation this summer, the devil never does." The student searched scripture and found that in His three-year ministry, Jesus went off and rested at least ten times. This was in addition to nightly rest and Sabbath rest. The question was asked, "Who's example do you follow, the devil's or Christ's."

Our gracious God created everything in six days. The Bible reminds us that on the seventh day He rested. He set the example for us to rest physically, but also to be spiritually refreshed during a time of remembering Him, worshipping Him, and growing in our faith.

Jesus had sent the twelve out on their own, and when they returned to Jesus to report their activities, Mark records the following: "And he said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no time themselves." (Mark 6:31-32). Jesus set the example for His disciples and us of taking time off to rest, relax, become refreshed, and for time with His heavenly Father.

Summer is fast approaching. There are many activities during the month of May that take time, preparation and can drain us of vitality. They include graduations from high school and college, and confirmations. The past seven months may have been long filled with different challenges, and there is a need for a respite from all the activities. Summer is a time for families to go on vacations, go to the lake, camp out, and be away from the normal activities of our every day routine. This becomes important not only for our physical and spiritual wellbeing, but it is important for our family as well. We can discover those things that are truly important – faith and family.

May our gracious God bless you and yours with a restful summer through time spent with family and friends, and away from the normal routine and stress of the year. May you find time to be refreshed for the journey that remains before you.

In Christ,

Pastor Raether

*Pastor Raether*

Guided by the Tithe

God has demonstrated His love for us by creating and redeeming us. A meaningful way we express our gratitude to God is through our faithful giving. By God's grace, we can make giving important, and, when we do, we give Him the glory and honor that He deserves. Faith enables us to give freely and generously. Our giving can have no greater foundation than the Gospel of forgiveness and God's promises.

In His Word, God gives us giving principles. We are called to give cheerfully, regularly, sacrificially, and proportionately of our first fruits. Even with all these giving principles, one question that all of us have likely asked is, "How much should I give?" In the Old Testament, God answered that question. God's people were commanded to tithe, which meant they were to give one-tenth of their crops, livestock, and gold and silver. The tithe does not answer the question, "Why give?" However, it does help to answer the question, "How much should I give?"

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper..." According to the income that we receive, we are to give proportionately. The tithe acts as a Biblical guide to calculate the dollar amount to give. Because Abraham, Jacob, and Moses tithed even before the law was given, could the tithe be a benchmark for us to consider as well?

In the New Testament, Jesus affirms the tithe when He told the Pharisees to continue tithing, but not to neglect "the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23). It is interesting that, other than the tithe, the only giving referenced in the New Testament exceeded the tithe. Jesus asked His disciples to follow Him and leave everything they owned behind. He directed the Rich Young Ruler to give all His money away. Jesus commended the widow when she gave her last two mites. When He changed Zacchaeus' heart, Zacchaeus gave half of his wealth to the poor. Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8 NIV), and, in Acts 20:35, He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

When we examine what we give, remember that God wants our hearts more than our gifts. May God grant us hearts of faith that give freely and generously.

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The Sunday Morning Bible Class meets at 10:30 a.m. We have begun a study of the Gospel of Mark. The Study is titled "MARK the Serving Christ." The tentative schedule is as follows:

- May 5 No class Pastor Raether leads worship at Prince of Peace and St. Paul
- May 12 "Jesus Begins His Ministry" Chapter 1
- May 19 "Jesus Receives Acclaim and Opposition" Chapters 2-3
- May 26 "Jesus Receives Acclaim and Opposition" Lesson concluded

Wednesday Morning Bible Class  
"Angels and Demons"

We were going to conclude the Wednesday Morning Bible Class session with the conclusion of Max Lucado's "Anxious for Nothing", but it was suggested we complete the study titled "Angels and Demons." We had completed the first lesson of this study. We will review that lesson and complete the final nine lessons? (We may complete more than one lesson each week). Begins May 8, 2024 (The class will meet in an upstairs classroom on the 8th, due to Lifeline Screenings being in the Fellowship Hall that day). Lessons will include the following topics:

- The Ministry of the Angels
- The Angel of the Lord
- The Fall of the Evil Angels
- A look at the Occult
- Witchcraft and Other forms of Spiritism
- Demon Possession
- Satanism
- Jesus' Victory Over the Devil

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

The month of May includes several special days. May 12 is Mother's Day with a special service being planned. May 19th, the church observes the Day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Pastor Meyer is scheduled to preach on this Sunday). We will observe Memorial Day on May 26th, as we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation; and we also remember loved ones who have completed their journey of faith and now rest in their real home.

Board of Education

April 3, 2024

**Members:** Sue Macek, Pastor Raether

**Library:** The Library's new book is written by Christopher S. Esget and is titled "(Dis)Ordered—Lies About Human Nature and the Truth That Sets Us Free." The author explains what the Bible says about mankind's purpose. He investigates what God's Word says about sex and the danger of following our passions, and warnings against the lies of this world. Very good reading.

**St. Paul:** Return from Spring break on 4/3, Saints' fund raiser is on 4/5, and K-8th grade Spring program on 4/25.

**Confirmation report:** Resumed on April 3rd at 5:15 pm. They will finish on April 10th.

**Sunday School report:** Lessons for April include God Calls Isaiah, Israel Goes into Exile, King Hezekiah, and King Josiah. LaVonne gave the children an Easter surprise on Ester Sunday. We thank Pastor Raether for the delicious donuts and juice on Easter Sunday.

**Family Fellowship report:** Our next meeting date is set for Sunday, June 9th. Discussed some ideas for the theme and menu, but will continue discussion next meeting.

**Wednesday and Sunday Bible Study:** Wednesday study resumes on April 3rd with the study on "Anxious About Nothing" and Sunday study will finish "Miracles of Lent" with the next study on the Book of Mark.

**Cradle Roll:** None.

**Old Business:** Need to set the date for VBS in August. Will need 19 volunteers. The title is "Celebrate the Savior, Jesus Gives Us Joy."

**New Business:** None.

Next meeting is May 1st.

Sue Macek, Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

April 4, 2024

The Lutheran Women Fellowship met on April 4, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Nine members attended the meeting. Sally Zuspenn called the April meeting to order. Florence Sandgren gave the mite devotion "The Lord's Prayer", "Mites Prayer", and disciple "Bartholomew". Sally Zuspenn gave devotion "Precious Mites". The minutes of March 7 were given out in the meeting, were read and approved.

**Committee reports:**

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

**Old Business:**

**Lenten After Service Coffee:** Sally Zuspenn thanked all members that serve coffee and treats after Lenten services.

**Thank You** from Micky Abrams for gift remembering birthday. Also, thank you received from Lutheran Family Services.

**New Business:**

**April Shut-ins Birthdays:** None.

**April Birthdays:** no birthdays.

**May Funeral Committee:** Connie Tyrrell, Jean Martinson.

**Memorial:** Memorial given to LWML in honor of Geri Balke.

**LWML Spring Rally April 20 at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Fort Dodge.** Time: 9:00 A.M. Registration: \$5.00. Ingathering "Hospice Kits" for national convention. Women's Fellowship offering of \$25.00. Will be voting on to have one Rally each year instead of four.

**LWML District Convention, June 13-15.** Mystery box from each circle will be auctioned off.

**May 2 – Hostess:** Vicky Escabedo, LaVonne Peters.

Sally Zuspenn closed meeting with Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

LaVonne Peters, Secretary.

## ORGAN FUND UPDATE

The psalmist wrote, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." We can come before our Lord with thanksgiving and praise (telling other of the wonderful deeds of our Lord.). When we look at your outpouring of support of the Organ Fund we can thank our gracious God and you.

The cost of the repair and update of our pipe organ was about \$85,000. The Foundation has agreed to pay the cost of this repair with the congregation reimbursing it for this expense. We set an initial goal for the congregation of \$10,000. That goal we met by the end of April. We thank the Lord and you for this outpouring.

We will continue to receive gifts for this special project through the coming months. We will set up a barometer that will indicate the offering the have been received. We will also have available special envelopes to be used for this project. We encourage you, as you are able, to continue to support this ongoing project. You may make special offerings for birthdays, anniversaries or other significant events in your life.

The Organ Fund Barometer and special offerings will be set up in the entrance or narthex. Again thank you for your support and generosity.



## MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Joan Gilleland -(5/4), Jordan Castor -(5/9), Dezirae Terrell -(5/14), Kari Johnson -(5/18), Terri VanNostrand -(5/20), Grace Martinson -(5/23), Brian Carlson -(5/24), Lucas Durand -(5/26), Madelyn Davis -(5/27), Steve Baedke -(5/28), Geraldine Balke -(5/28), Starla Hoover -(5/28), Faye Hansen -(5/29), Tabatha Ball -(5/30), and Robert Ford -(5/30).

Simon & Mallory Lindner	5/2	15th
Pat & Rhonda Waddell	5/3	38th
Ron & Mary Brown	5/16	43rd

## ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
4/7	43	
4/14	51	42
4/21	46	
4/28	47	42

## Membership Report for April 2024

### GAIN

**Confirmed + 2**

Jim & Anna Owens  
Transfer from Good Shepherd

**Baptized +**

### LOSS

**Confirmed -**

**Baptized -**

**Communicant = 164**  
**Baptized (not confirmed) = 47**  
**Total baptized souls = 211**

## Financial Report April 2024

### Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$9,430.60, Missions Budget \$165.00, Loose Offerings \$28.59, Easter \$5.00, Special Offering \$124.00, Miscellaneous \$52.00, Organ Fund \$3,634.40.

**Total Offerings \$13,439.59**

### Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,127.72, Organist \$240.00, Pastoral Expenses \$513.89, Ministry Expenses \$13.98, Television Ministry \$51.01, Office Supplies \$70.62, Computer/Internet \$388.85, Water \$111.11, Pest Control \$40.00, Gas & Electric \$654.00, Sanitation \$34.11, Miscellaneous \$269.64, W/H Tax \$184.97, Missions \$165.00, Charities \$124.00, Advertising \$300.00.

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,288.90</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$7,150.69</b>