From Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

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

Spring is upon us and we are surrounded by signs renewed life in nature. The trees are budding and soon leaves will appear. Flowers are appearing and soon will add beauty to the landscape. Farmers are preparing the land to receive the seeds that will come alive, grow, mature and yield a bountiful harvest. These all speak of new life and regeneration.

Once there was a brier growing in a ditch and there came along a gardener with his spade. As he dug around it and lifted it up the brier said to itself, "What is he doing? Doesn't he know I am a worthless brier?" But the gardener took it into his garden and planted it amid his flowers, while the brier said, "What a mistake he has made planting me among these beautiful roses." Then the gardener came once more and made a slit in the brier with his sharp knife. He grafted it with a rose and when summer came lovely roses were blooming on that old brier. Then the gardener said, "Your beauty is not due to what came out but to what I put in."

We remember the new life that is ours in Christ Jesus and all that He has done for us. St. Paul wrote," We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Rom. 6:4 NIV). Paul reminds us that we that through faith we become new creations. The Holy Spirit working through the Word and Sacraments creates new life in us, a new life that rests the life and work of Jesus. In our baptism, the old nature was drowned, put behind us and we were raised to new life. The new life, by the power of the Holy spirit, enables us live according to Gods' will. The new life is reflected in the attitudes found in our hearts, the words we speak and the actions we take.

Through faith we have been grafted to our Lord and Savior and given new life. Jesus said, ""I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing." – John 15:5. Being grafted to our Lord, we draw our strength from and are nourished by Him through His Word. The power and beauty of our faith, by the work of the Holy Spirit, is reflect in our lives and we demonstrate to power and love of God in our lives.

May our gracious Lord bless and keep you and your family in His care as you go forward in the new life that is yours and make every day a great day to God's glory.

In Christ,

Pastor Raether

Pastor Raether

Defining Christian Stewardship

Brief descriptions or definitions of Christian stewardship are easy to find. There are so many books or resources on the topic of stewardship that they could fill several bookshelves. Each book or resource offers its own special definition. In addition, Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Catholics and so forth offer their unique definition of Christian stewardship. The LCMS states the following: "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's Purposes."

Books and resources on stewardship are helpful, but Christian stewardship is founded upon the Word of God. The Apostle Paul's letter to Titus, chapter two, verses 11-14, gives a wonderful summary of the foundation for Chrisitan stewardship.

> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

In this text, God's grace revealed through Jesus Christ empowers us to reject ungodliness and live self-controlled and upright lives. God's grace makes our stewardship possible. Grace not only opens our hearts to receive the gift of faith leading to salvation. That same grace enables us to use our time, talents, and resources for God's purposes. Grace turns our minds and hearts to Jesus, and we can live the lives that He wants us to live. Rather than live lives driven by worldly passions, He enables us to live transformed lives that are "self-controlled, upright, and godly." In verse 14 of the passage above, Paul tells us that, since Christ has redeemed us from sin and its power, we are to have a zeal or passion to do good works. We are saved by grace through faith for good works.

From Paul's letter to Titus, we understand that Christian stewardship begins with the grace of God. Everything we are and do is the result of God's grace in Christ. Our stewardship impacts our relationship with God, with our neighbors, and with all of creation. May God help us use the resources that He has entrusted to us in such way that others come to know and trust in the Lord. God's blessings on your stewardship journey!

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

CONCLSION OF SERVICE AS VACANCY PASTOR

Pastor Raether sent the following letter to Rev. Paul Egger, President of the Iowa District West, LC-MS concerning the closing of his ministry as Vacancy Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge:

April 9. 2026

The Rev. Paul Egger, President
Iowa West District – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
409 Kenyon Road, Ste. B
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Dear President Egger:

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

First, I would like to thank you for leading the worship at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on May 24 of this year. I will be attending a special service for my nephew and god son in Kansas City that week. He is a marine, who is assuming a new position in Kansas City, returning to the states after a tour of duty in Okinawa.

The reason for this letter is to inform you that my service as vacancy pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge will be concluded on July 15, 2026, with my final Sunday being July 12, 2026. This will be my final retirement, which will please some people.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Lord of the Church as vacancy pastor for the saints at Prince of Peace. They have been very faithful in service to their Lord. They faithfully attended worship and used their gifts and talents to God's glory through service to Prince of Peace. Looking back, I ask to be forgiven for failing to more effectively carrying out the ministry at Prince of Peace. There potential is great and the facilities are wonderful. It is important that the Lord of the Church will provide faithful leadership for the saints at Prince of Peace.

Thank you for your faithful service to the Lord of the Church and our district. May he continue to bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Jerry K. Raether

CC: Rev. Joseph Pearson, Circuit Visitor, Fort Dodge Circuit, IWD, LC-MS

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (10:00 am)

"The Parables of Jesus"

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study has concluded its study on the Parables of Jesus. We began a study on book of Ruth on April 22. This study will be completed during May. A schedule of the topic will be included in the Sunday Bulletin. There will be six or seven sessions for this study.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Sunday Worship Schedule has not been completed as this newsletter is put out. The following information is the initial schedule as we have it:

May 3	The Fifth Sunday of Easter – John 14:1-14 – "Words for Troubled Hearts"
May 10	The Sixth Sunday of Easter – "Mother's Day" Holy Communion Celebrated.
May 17	The Sunday After the Ascension
May 24*	The Day of Pentecost – President Paul Egger, President of the Iowa District of LC-MS will lead our worship. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
May 31	Holy Trinity Sunday

*Pastor Raether will be attending a special ceremony for his nephew in Kansas City on May 21st . His nephew is member of the United States Marines and is returning from a tour of duty in Okinawa

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

April 9, 2026

The Lutheran women's Fellowship met on April 9, 2026. Eight members in attendance. Sally opened the meeting with a devotion on Beatitudes. She also gave a short devotion on "What happens in heaven when we pray?" Sally shared a brochure on our April mission Orphan Grain Train.

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

Susan shared information from Good Shepherd Church on their new mission titled "Swaddling Clothes". They want to share their vision with our congregation. Old Portals of Prayer devotions can be sent to the District Convention. Vicky collected some ingathering items for the Convention. We received a thank you card from Linda Gord in memory of her mother Madelyn Abrams.

Sally continued with a responsive reading titled "Commit to the Lord". There are no hostesses for June so we voted to have ice cream and cookies that day. Sally and Sue will organize this.

A motion was made by Vicky and seconded by Julie to buy material for the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards. Motion approved.

A birthday card was sent to Sharon McPherson for her birthday on April 11th. The District President will be preaching at our church on May 24th (Pentecost).

April Funeral Committee: Connie Tyrrell and Jean Martinson
April Hostesses: Vicky Escobedo and LaVonne Peters

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and common Table prayer. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Sue Macek
Acting Secretary

Board of Education

April 1, 2026

Members: Jill Davis, Sue Macek, and Pastor Raether

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm. Pastor began with prayer. March minutes were approved as written.

Library: Our new book is titled, "Nothing Is Impossible with God", written by Shannon Bream. Shannon brings to light biblical heroes and their journeys through trials. This is a book of encouragement on how the Lord blesses each one of us and shows us nothing is impossible with God.

St. Paul: Parent teachers conference K-8th grade is April 1 and 2nd, Easter break is April 4 - 6th, classes resume on April 7th. On April 8th K-8th grade awards and April 30th is Spring music.

Catechism and Sunday School report: Bible stories for April include: Jesus Rises, The Emmaus Road, Jesus Ascends, and Pentecost. We are finished learning the books of the Bible. Will start on the Ten Commandments in April.

Family Fellowship report: Date set for Sunday June 7th. The theme is America's 250th anniversary. Menu was planned.. More details in May.

Wednesday Bible Study: The next book of the Bible to study is the Book of Ruth starting in May.

Cradle Roll: None

Old Business: A reminder that coffee and donuts will be served after the Easter Church Service by the Lutheran Women's Fellowship. We will not conduct VBS this summer.

New business: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is May 6th at 5:15 pm.

Sue Macek
Chairman

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Received in 2024	$28,453.15
Received in 2025	$ 6,505.00
2026 YTD Received	$ 830.00
Reimbursed to Foundation	$31,000.00
Organ Fund	$ 4,768.15

ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Worship	Communion
4/5	54	35
4/12	38	36
4/19	34	
4/26	39	36

Joan Gilleland -(5/4), Jordan Castor -(5/9), Dezirae Terrell -(5/14), Kari Johnson -(5/18), Grace Martinson -(5/23), Brian Carlson -(5/24), Quinnlynn Owens -(5/24), Lucas Durand -(5/26), Madelyn Davis -(5/27), Starla Hoover -(5/28), Tabatha Ball -(5/30), and Robert Ford -(5/30).

Simon & Mallory Lindner	5/2	17th
Pat & Rhonda Waddell	5/3	40th
Ron & Mary Brown	5/16	45th

Membership Report for April 2026

GAIN

Confirmed **Baptized +**

LOSS

Confirmed **Baptized -**

Communicant =154
Baptized (not confirmed) =48
Total baptized souls =202

Financial Report April 2026

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current $5,597.50, Missions Budget $116.50, Loose Offerings $971.01, Maundy Thursday Offering $148.00, Good Friday Offering $128.00, Easter Offering $482.00, Special Offering $152.00, Miscellaneous $57.64, Organ Fund $220.00.

Total Offerings $7,872.65

Expenses

Pastor $2,000.00, Payroll $1,196.84, Organist $365.86, Pastoral Expenses $608.28, Ministry Expense $351.22, Office Supplies $179.85, Computer/Internet $190.72, Water $116.36, Pest Control $42.00, Gas & Electric $764.00, Snow Removal $325.00, Sanitation $42.80, Property Repairs $123.35, Organ Maintenance/Repair $ 600.00, Miscellaneous $14.98, W/H Tax $198.29, Missions $116.50, Charities $152.00, Advertising $300.00.

Total Expenses $ 7,688.05
Net Income $ 184.60

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth,

so the Lord GOD will cause Righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11