

JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN

1 THESS 5:16-18

REJOICE / PRAY / GIVE THANKS

The Watchman



July
2019

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



This month, there are two major events happening in the larger LCMS community. The first is July 11-15, the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN; the second, July 20-25, is the LCMS National Convention in Tampa, FL. Both of these are important moments in the life of the broader LCMS, outside of our own community or district, though to some people they may often seem far away and relatively unimportant.

Many of you, or your children or grandchildren, have attended a youth gathering in the past, so you may be more familiar with what goes on there. One of the great benefits of these large gatherings is that youth get a glimpse of the larger church. It's easy for us all to focus just on our local congregation and to forget that we're part of something much bigger. Our church body has over 6,000 congregations and nearly 2 million baptized members, and when tens of thousands of them are together in one place it can certainly make an impression. Seeing an entire stadium full of those who share our faith and our worship is a powerful reminder of our unity in the Gospel, and the special gift

that the Lutheran tradition has in its proclamation of grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone.

The national conventions are probably not as much fun as the youth gatherings, but they're just as important for working together as a church body. These national conventions happen every three years, and that is where a variety of matters are addressed. At the end of June, as a part of this convention cycle, the election for national Synodical President was held and Matthew Harrison was re-elected; he has been Synod President since 2010. At the convention itself, the issues range from the structure and organization of the Synod, to interactions with other Christians and other church bodies, to our responses to various social and cultural problems, to the work of LCMS schools and universities, and much more. The national convention is essentially the LCMS's Congress, where representatives from across the nation meet to discuss and vote on resolutions that guide the whole organization.

The LCMS is just one small corner of the entire Christian Church on earth, but it's the one to which our congregation

belongs. Even in the New Testament, we see how each city or region would have its own local church organization, but were still tied together by the common bond of faith with the Christians in every other place; just as Paul writes in Ephesians 4, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." We remember we are united with the rest of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the LCMS, as well as part of the Body of Christ with all believers everywhere. And so, I encourage you this month to remember and pray for all those traveling and attending and serving in these events, that all that they experience and do and say would be pleasing to God and beneficial for the Church, reflecting this fundamental unity of faith.



June Anniversary & Birthdays

Lionel & Ruby Dale, Julia, Gloria
& T.J. Schmelter, Kyndel Torries,
Aletha Schollian, Tanya Hamilton,
Rita & Jerold Shepherd

(Happy 50th anniversary to Rita &
Jerold)



Elders & Lay Readers

- 7 Jody Heusman & Dave Hamilton (Crystal R.)
- 14 T.J. Schmelter & Louis Bontly (John K.)
- 21 Bobby Trehern & Shawn Robbins (Kevin R.)
- 28 Dave Hamilton & Jody Heusman (Eve W.)



- 3 Eddie & Angie Howard
- 7 Milton & Margaret Southern
- 16 Mark & Debbie Schulte



- 4 Betty Andrews
- 8 Eddie Howard
- 8 Melonee Crews
- 11 Polly Ross
- 17 Anna Claire Howard
- 17 Katlyn Pardue
- 21 Wanda Crowell
- 23 Rocky Southern
- 24 Marlene Bontly
- 31 David Hamilton Jr.
- 31 Tyti Kooienga



Bible Treasure Hunt: Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

Genesis 22:6 Abraham carried the fire and what else?

Mary Martha News

Mary Martha is on a break for the summer and will meet again on August 5 at 5:30.

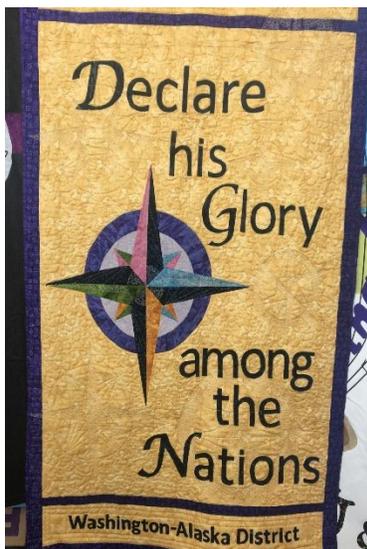
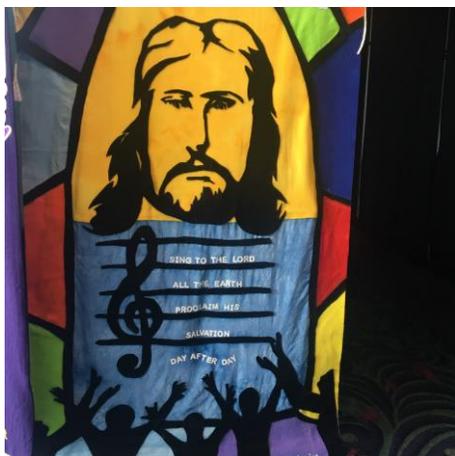
Rita Shepherd and Cathy Groff were able to attend the 38th Bienial Convention of the LWML in Mobile, AL, June 20-23, 2019. The opening worship service was inspiring and as Lutherans living in the deep south, lifting their voices in praise and communing with 3,000 fellow Lutherans a blessing.



They heard mission stories, visited informative Committee Booths in Jubilee Junction, and were impressed by the number of organizations that are seving the Lord in so many ways and places. Gifts from the Heart amassed. It was amazing to witness the fruits fo our mites collections. There were many opportunities to serve at the convention: about 150 Braille books were made, a goal of 180 quilts was surpassed by 300 being received, a Mission Walk and Tee Up for Mites Charity Golf Scramble were held. Bible Studies began the day and a prayer chapel was open during the convention.

Christian fellowship was enjoyed by all and they look forward to attending the next convention in Lexington, Kentucky in 2021. They were grateful to Thrivent for helping our society purchased 96 backpacks, rulers, notebooks and 5 pack pencils for the school supply kits.

While at the convention Rita and Cathy were able to sign up to be Peddle Pushers for the Lutheran Hour Ministries float for the New Years day Rose Bowl parade.



July Scripture Readings

July 7 (Prop. 9)	Is. 66:10–14	Psalm 66:1–7	Gal. 6:1–10, 14–18	Luke 10:1–20
July 14 (Prop. 10)	Lev. (18:1–5) 19:9–18	Psalm 41	Col. 1:1–14	Luke 10:25–37
July 21 (Prop. 11)	Gen. 18:1–10a (10b–14)	Psalm 27:(1–6) 7–14	Col. 1:21–29	Luke 10:38–42
July 28 (Prop. 12)	Gen. 18: (17–19) 20–33	Psalm 138	Col. 2:6–15 (16–19)	Luke 11:1–13

Voters’ Assembly: June 9, 2019

President Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order and Pastor Waffel opened with prayer. Thirty-one (31) members were in attendance.

The reading of the minutes from the previous Voter’s Meeting were waived.

Pastor’s Report: See report attached. Pastor publishes a monthly update in the Newsletter. Lent and Easter services were well attended as was the Lutheran Night at the Shuckers with Christ Lutheran having the largest number in attendance. Pastor thanked the congregation for their gift to him in celebration of his Master of Sacred Theology degree. Pastor and Shawn Robbins will cast our votes for Senate President. Please let either of them know if you have a preference or any questions.

President’s Report: Shawn Robbins presented a final draft of the Congregational Statement and Policy on Issues of Gender and Sexuality. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded and the membership accepted the Statement as the official statement of Christ Lutheran Church.

Vice-President’s Report: No report.

Elders’ Report: Pastor reported for Louis Bontly that the Elders are coordinating an Estate Planning function for interested members of the congregation. Possible dates are July 9th or 11th but details will follow.

Trustees’ Report: Shawn Robbins for Jerold Shepherd reported that Trustees are looking into the possibility of ‘small arms training for members of the congregation or friends who might be interested in obtaining an enhanced carry permit. A show of hands was taken for interest among the members present.

Financial Secretary’s Report: Carl Erichsen reported as follows:

Year-to-date (06/02/2019)	\$ 51,112.25
General Fund	\$ 50,303.75
Building Fund	\$ 410.00
Memorials:	\$ 385.00
Disaster Relief Fund:	\$ 86.50



Treasurer’s Report: No report; however, the annual audit has been completed with no discrepancies or irregularities noted.

Evangelism: Michael Southern noted that the Facebook page continues to reach additional people and currently has 177 ‘followers’. He and Pastor are working together and have posted sermons to U-Tube, as well as a couple of ‘pod-casts’. “What Exactly is a Lutheran’ is a concept being developed and will include a link so that interested persons could directly e-mail Pastor with specific questions.

Mary Martha: No report

Youth: Dave Griffin is trying to coordinate the annual canoe trip and the Wolf River is a possible new destination.



Education: Donna Krebs reported that VBS is scheduled for July 23, 24 & 25, 2019. Members and encouraged to attend and invite friends. We hope to develop a larger children’s class.

Social Ministry: Melonee Crews reported that Social Ministry continues to reach out to members with cards and home visits.

Stewardship: Jay Torries encouraged everyone to continue to give of their time, talent and tithes.

Old Business: none other than that covered above.

New Business: New auction items are ready for inspection in Memorial Hall sponsored by the Church Counsel. Proceeds will go directly into the General Fund.

With nothing further to come before the Congregation, the meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully,

Donna M. Krebs for Susan Linn



Minutes 6/17/2019

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order and Pastor Waffel opened with prayer. The reading of the May minutes was waived.

Pastor’s Report: See attached report

President’s Report: The audit is complete and the Audit Report will be scanned and added to the minutes.

Vice President’s Report: Kevin Rademacher: Sign up for flowers and ushers and greeters. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call Janet in the office. We will continue with the new practice of having one greeter and one usher for Sunday service. Kevin is also working on the Security and Safety Plan.

Elders Report: Louis Bontly-The Elders are continuing their study on Elders and Pastors. The Steak Dinner will be rescheduled to September. July 9 will be a presentation on Elder Care and Estate Planning.

Trustees: Jerold: The new toddler playground equipment is being assembled. The wooden playground equipment is ready to be stained and sealed. Mary Martha has funded the playground refurbishing project.

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen:

Contributions for May: \$8040

June so far: \$6828

YTD: \$55010,25



Treasurer: Lin Jacobson: Checking account balance: \$4452.97 and bills are current.

Evangelism: Mike Southern is planning a Friends and Family event Sunday, October 1st.

Mary Martha: Mary Martha Society is on summer break until the August meeting.

Education: Cathy Groff: Adult Bible study continues; Cathy teaches Sunday school for children present. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 23-25.

Social Ministry: The Social Ministry Team sent June birthday cards to retirees, and visited some of the homebound members

Youth: No report

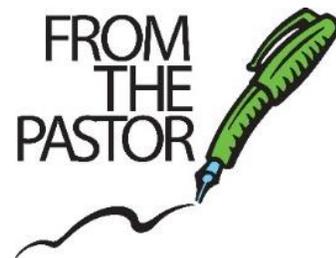
Stewardship: Jay Torries will send out stewardship information when it becomes available.

New Business: Jerold is checking into a concealed carry class.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully, Susan Rademacher

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council June 2019



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: none since last meeting
- In Sunday morning adult Bible class we are continuing our study on Isaiah. A representative from the local Gideon Society will speak to the Bible class on June 30 about their work.
- Confirmation class is off for most of June and will resume in July on Tuesday evenings.
- VBS is scheduled for July 23-25; we are still working on the theme and details. Please invite friends, family, neighbors, etc!

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- I continue to share the "witness and outreach sentences" each week based on the previous Sunday's Gospel reading, as well as recording sermons for Facebook and YouTube.
- Men's breakfast, June 8 and July 13.
- I have started a semi-regular podcast to share on social media; if anyone has any ideas for topics, or would like to help in any way, please let me know. Please share on social media as you are able; so far there are not many listeners.
- Planning a steak dinner for July?

Circuit, District, and Synod

- LWML National Convention is happening later this week in Mobile; I offered to help serve communion at the opening service but was not needed, though will possibly attend anyway.

- Shawn Robbins and I are the two designated voters for our congregation in the election for LCMS synodical president; the vote will be held online June 22-25, with a second round of voting if necessary June 29 to July 2.

Vacation/Travel

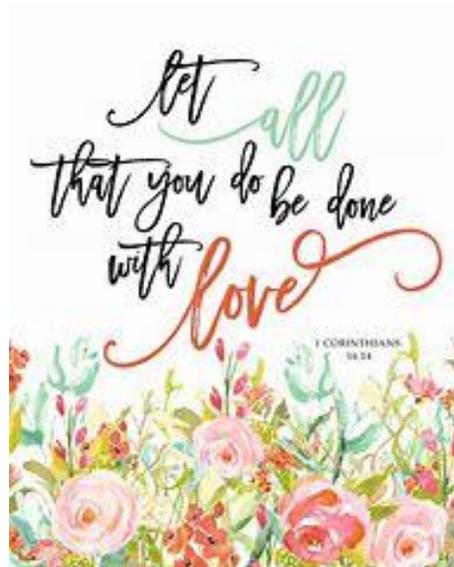
- Total vacation time to date for 2019: 5 days used out of 19 / 1 Sunday out of 3
- Travel in June: I attended a PALS meeting, June 10 – June 12. The subject was finishing material from last meeting on “Building a Long-Term Ministry,” and Bible study on the book of Titus.
- Planned travel in July: none.

Other Activities, General Information

- Open Doors Homeless Coalition board meeting, Thursday, June 13 and Tuesday, July 16.
- Seminary graduate Nate McCarty was ordained in Chattanooga, TN on June 16 and will be installed as associate pastor in Jacksonville Beach, FL on June 30.



WORKSHOP: All members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church are welcome to attend an Estate Planning Workshop on Tuesday, July 9, at 6:00 pm. The presentation will address elder care, estate planning, financial services, living wills, trust, TOA (time of death), etc. It will be given by Mr. Justin O’Keefe of Bradford O’Keefe Funeral Home, along with a local attorney. Pastor Waffel will also discuss pre-planning a funeral service. All ages are encouraged to attend since one never knows if they may need to aid parents, grandparents or a family member. A light dinner will be provided; please RSVP by calling the office or signing up on the sign in sheet in Memorial Hall. If you would like to provide drinks or a dessert, please sign up.



Congregational Statement and Policy on

Issues of Gender and Sexuality

We believe that in the beginning God created humanity as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). We believe that the Fall of mankind into sin has profoundly affected all aspects of God's creation, including human gender and sexuality, resulting in expressions that fall short of God's design and intention. Among these are adultery, fornication, bestiality, incest, pornography, and homosexual, transgender, and bisexual behavior. We strive to be compassionate and welcoming to those who struggle with these, but we affirm the goodness of God's original creation and plan, and we believe that all people are called to live lives of chastity, abstinent outside of marriage and faithful within marriage.

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed towards any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The marriage policy of Christ Lutheran Church, as a member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, is that marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21, is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; Lev. 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27).

Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any ceremony, reception, or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.



A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.



Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.

This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe – 10 percent – of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

“And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves.

“And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deut. 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth the following:

We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This is our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us, like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame, likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us – with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

July

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00				 Office Closed		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00		ESTATE PLANNING Workshop 6-8				Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	Elders 6:00 Council 7:00	Open Door Board Meeting 9:00				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00		 5:30-8:00	 5:30-8:00	 5:30-8:00		
28	29	30	31			
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  Knife

