



July/August 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

It's hard to believe that on July 2, I will have been your pastor for two years. It seems like only yesterday that we were in beautiful Preston looking for a place to live as we prepared for our move from seminary to the place we now call home. As I look back over these past couple of years, here are a few observations.

God is on the move at Immanuel! Our youth group is off and running. The nursery school program is expanding. Those who I visit in the community continue to speak of how warm and welcoming Immanuel is. Confirmation is in full swing. And Immanuel continues to be the light of the Gospel in our community and the world, just to name a few.

God is challenging us! Being challenged is good. Challenges test our faith and our resolve both as Christians and as a church. In Acts 4:8-12, we get an example of such a challenge. Here is St. Peter, standing before a church council made up of priests, Sadducees, and the captain of the temple, giving an account of the Gospel in which He was preaching. Jesus has ascended and the church leaders wanted to silence any talk of who they considered a false messiah named Jesus of Nazareth. So when St. Peter was going around preaching the Gospel, they got together and schemed about how it is they would silence the name of Jesus forever. What was St. Peter's challenge? Would he give in and stop teaching and preaching about the death of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins? Or would he continue, even if it



Continued on Page 2



A Prayer For The Fourth

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that "this is our Father's world" and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, "O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet." Amen.

—Sandy Hyland



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Please remember that the administrative assistant may be
away from the office running errands during this time.

Office Phone 410-673-7107

Office Fax Number 410-673-1426

Office Email immanuellutheranpreston@verizon.net

CHURCH OFFICERS — 2019

President..... Ruth Thomas

Secretary..... Gail Crampton

Financial Secretary Dee Lambert

Treasurer..... Carol Frase

Evangelism Chair Marsha Kenton & Shelly Kapitan

Trustee Chair Rex Rosebrock

Stewardship Chair Dicky Wheatley

Board of Education Chair Rene Langwost

Elders Chair Mark Frase

would cost him his life? St. Peter's approach to the challenge before him? He chose to continue to be faithful to the Gospel even though it cost him his life.

We may not be faced with being put to death for our faith, though there are Christians who are martyred every day for their belief in Jesus. Nevertheless, I encourage you to ask the question: How is God challenging me? Is he challenging you to serve on a committee even though you think you have no idea what you are doing? Is He challenging you to speak to that neighbor that you've not spoken to for years because of something that was said or done that you had a falling out over? Could it be that He's challenging you to tell someone about Jesus? Maybe He is challenging you to give more in your tithes and offerings. Or could He be challenging you to come to church more often, to open your Bibles, and to really spend time in His word, getting to know Him and His great love for you. Whatever it is, may your response to God's challenge be bold.

Finally, God is leading us. Sometimes it doesn't feel like it when our offerings and attendance is down. But praise the Lord that during the times, God's grace is sufficient and His ways are best. Already we can see His leading us to greater outreach in our community. We can feel His leading us to a better focus on missions. He even leads us to come out of our comfort zone when it comes to inviting others to church and sharing His Good News with our neighbors. And of course, He continuously leads us to His Word and His Sacraments where we receive absolution, forgiveness of sin, and eternal life with Him.

It's been a wonderful two years as your pastor. I am blessed to be the shepherd of an imperfect church who knows their perfect Savior. And I look forward to the next year with you and all that the Lord has in store for us. God's gracious peace to you.

With a Servant's Heart,

Pastor David



**Pastor will be on vacation
July 2-9.
Rev. Bill Klettke
will be here on
Sunday, July 7th.**

*From the
President's Pen*



As I recently announced in Church, the front and back steps project is finally ready to move forward. Alan R Breeding & Son Masonry LLC has submitted an estimate of \$10,332.00, which has been reviewed and accepted by the Trustees and Church Council. Designated funds were already on hand in the

Special Funds for this project, plus an anonymous gift has been pledged to cover the entire cost. We are most grateful for this anonymous gift, and our congregation's willingness to step up whenever there is a need.

Because of Mr. Breeding's current workload, this project will not begin for several months. When he is available, our Trustees will remove the old flagstone. Some of the stone is to be re-used for the back steps, but new stone will be used on the front so that it all matches.

I can also report that the Audit work on all the church accounts is complete, as follows:

- Nursery School – 2018
- Special Funds – 2018
- Sunday School – 2018
- W.I.N.G.S. – 2018
- Young Peoples Christian Society – 2018
- Operating Account – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,
2017, and 2018

The Operating Account had a software problem that required Carol to work backwards and make corrections. For that reason, multiple years had to be audited this year. Please join me in thanking Connie Overington for volunteering her auditing skills for the Church.

Finally, as previously noted, we are behind budget on the general operating budget. Please do what you can to keep your pledges current and send a little extra if possible.

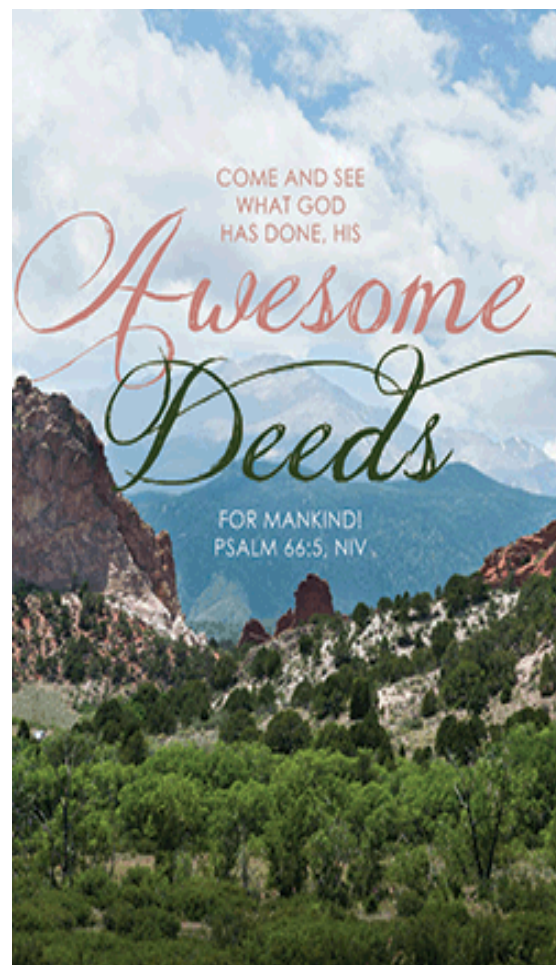
Enjoy your summer!

A guide for giving

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.

—C.S. Lewis

newsletternewsletter.com





WOW!! Another great year at VBS. THANK YOU to everyone for helping to make it such a success. Whatever your contribution was, either helping in the classroom or recreation or if you made something for dinner one night.

It takes all of us to make this a success and I am thankful for all of you. A good time was had by all who came and all who Volunteered in any way. We have an awesome VBS and it's wonderful being a part of it all these years. .

God's Blessing,
Karen Lyons

In the past Phyllis Wilson made our cookies for VBS but due to health problems was unable to make them for several years. We certainly missed her delicious cookies. Pauline Coulbourne (Sarah Durham's grandmother) graciously volunteered to provide VBS with cookies this year. We really thank her for such a wonderful gesture.

VBS PICTURES ON PG.11

Evangelism News

The Evangelism group will not be meeting during the Summer. Thank you everyone on the committee and anyone who has helped us during the year so far. We are still trying for one more order of t-shirts(at that price) so please consider getting one.

Rally Day is September 8th and it would be great to see everyone in their t-shirts.

Thank you to everyone who made a cake for the Preston Carnival or helped work a booth. It means a lot to the Fire Company and Lion's Club.

Have a safe and happy Summer!



God loves you!
REJOICE!

Jesus died and
rose for you!
REJOICE!

All who trust in
Him for salvation
are righteous in
His sight by grace!
REJOICE!

Christ will return
to raise you
from the dead!
REJOICE!

Lutherans are people fully defined by the Gospel. And this Good News fills us with joy.

"Joy:fully Lutheran" expresses our identity in Christ. We are sinful and cannot free ourselves from our condition. God's grace alone gives what we cannot earn. In love, the Father sent His Son to bear our sins in His body on the cross. By faith alone, we trust in the love and mercy of God in Christ Jesus to save us and to deliver us into His heavenly kingdom. In Baptism God unites us to Jesus' death and resurrection, and are called children of God. We are fed by Jesus' own body and blood as we live as sinners justified by Christ. This life in Christ is a life of joy.

Find out more at joyfullylutheran.org

**JOY:FULLY
LUTHERAN**
1 THESS 5:16-24

Care and Compassion



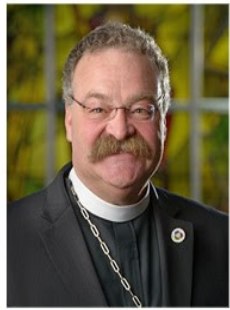
Summer is upon us and school is out. In the summer children are home and can't depend on their schools for two meals a day. There is great need for items that children can prepare for themselves like pop-tarts or cereal bars; canned soups and pastas; and canned meats. Please leave your

gifts in the narthex in the designated basket. Thank you for your support.

The mission is in very low supply of children's clothing - especially infant through toddler sized clothing - for both boys and girls. Donations of housewares - dishes, pots, pans, etc. are also needed at this time. Clothing and houseware items can be left in Geiger Hall in the designated area. The Compassion Place in Cambridge is looking for part time help - 20 hours a week at \$10.00 an hour. If you are interested in this position or want to know more about it call 410-228-8437 and ask for Linda. If you have any questions or need help getting your donations to church, call Irene Wheatley - 410-310-2571. Please keep LMS in your prayers.



lcms.org



Harrison elected to serve fourth term as LCMS president

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 51.76 percent of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a fourth term of office, 2019–2022.

The nomination process for the position of Synod president began last fall with the mailing of nominating ballots to all congregations of the Synod. All nominations were required to be submitted by Feb. 20, or five months prior to the start of the Synod convention, when the ballots, received by an outside auditor, were tallied and delivered to the secretary of the Synod.

The resulting candidates for the office of president were the three ordained ministers who received the highest number of votes in the nominations process and who consented to serve if elected. The three nominees for Synod president were Harrison; the Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier, president of the LCMS Michigan District; and the Rev. Timothy M. Klinkenberg, senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange, Calif.

Four weeks prior to the convention, the secretary's office provided a secure method and opportunity for two voting delegates registered by each congregation or parish to participate in the vote via electronic balloting services provided by Election-America, a Garden City, N.Y., company (now to be known as YesElections) that conducted the balloting via a Web-based voting site, June 22–25. The voters in the presidential election were the 6,449 pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.3) before the March 24 deadline, or their substitutes (as validly submitted before June 15).

The results of the ballot tallied and reported to the secretary of the Synod by Election-America are as follows:

- Harrison was voted president-elect with 3,014 votes (51.76 percent);
- Maier received 2,323 votes (39.89 percent); and
- Klinkenberg received 486 votes (8.35 percent).
-

The bylaws of the LCMS instruct the secretary of the Synod to notify the candidates in the Synod's presidential election of the results of the balloting at least two weeks prior to the convention. The candidates were informed earlier today, June 26, of the results of the June 22–25 ballot.

lcms.org/convention.

Stewarding the Fifth 'T'

If you read or listen to enough stuff about Christian stewardship, you may run across a familiar saying: We are God's managers (stewards) of our time, talents and treasure. These are often called "the Big Three Ts." An insightful pastor I know, the Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator of LCMS Stewardship Ministry, talks of stewardship in terms of our vocation as a Christian, or what some mistakenly labeled as a fourth "T": toil. What Curtis means by "vocation" is our entire life as baptized and redeemed children of God living under His Word.

I have several vocations: father, husband, son, member of my congregation, called worker of the LCMS, team leader and coach, and more. What I do or don't do in each of those specific vocations involves the wise management of something or someone God has placed into my care. So the fourth "T" (toil) represents all the joyful actions under our various vocations that serve both Jesus and neighbor.

That gets me to a fifth and often-ignored "T": tissue. I don't mean the kind that comes out of a box. I mean the physical body God has given me. Stewardship of the body — the very tissues it contains — is and can be as tough as managing time and finances. All I have to do to see that I need to improve in this area is to compare the size of the pants or shirts I wear today to what I wore several years ago.

But the biggest piece of tissue I struggle to steward is the one inside my mouth: my tongue. Words matter. What I say to others and about others, or even about myself, is a matter of stewarding my tongue and even my brain. I can choose to speak idle gossip, selfish or self-absorbed tirades, or condescension and judgment. Or I can choose words of compassion, empathy, forgiveness, tenderness, respect and love. Sometimes, I choose to say nothing at all.

The Rev. John Fale, who leads the Synod's Office of International Mission, caught me one time in a situation where my stewardship of my tongue was found wanting. After listening to me vent, he calmly counseled: "Sometimes the best response [to that kind of situation] is to not respond at all."

I'm often amazed, although not surprised, to see how our great enemy can and will use the tongues of Christians to split the church. Lutherans, well meaning and passionate as they are, will "speak in tongues" that divide one part of the body from another. Our personal wants and needs, our desire to control, or even our fears and distrust of one another become tools in Satan's hands.

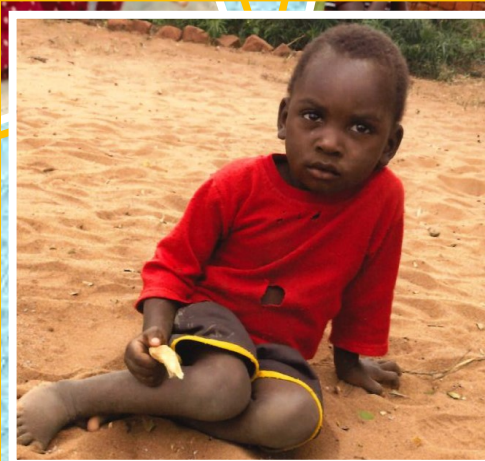
Thanks be to God that we are forgiven by the death and resurrection of God's own body in our Savior, Jesus, and empowered by His Word and Sacrament to seek a more excellent way: the way of love, forgiveness and compassion toward one another and our neighbors. For in Christ, all things are possible — even stewardship of the tongue and all our tissues.

Mark Hofman | Executive director of LCMS Mission Advancement.

A message from Ken Woods of Lifetime Wells



Everyone
Thanks so much
for help and your help
Mandy. God Bless
Ken



THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL JULY 2019


Date	Usher	Lay Reader	Greeter	Assisting Elder	Kids Worship	Acolytes	Head Tellers
July 7th	Mark Frase & Windsor Meyer	Ruth Thomas	Myrna Roth	Mark Frase	TBD	Catie Casey-Motley	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
July 14th	Mark Frase & Windsor Meyer	Arlene Stevens	Mark Frase	Dale Kenton	TBD	Veronica Phillips	Doris Maser Karen Lyons Olga MacDonald
July 21st	Mark Frase & Windsor Meyer	Chrissy Frase	Glen & Mary Lou Plutschak	Glen Plutschak	TBD	Hayden Plutschak	Dee Lambert Glen & Mary Lou Plutschak
July 28th	Mark Frase & Windsor Meyer	Desi Casey-Motley	David & Kathy Schmidt	Rex Rosebrock	TBD	Kalei Durando	David & Kathy Schmidt

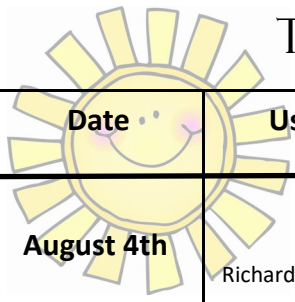


Jennifer Flannigan	7/1	Darlene Wilson	7/9	John Monroe	7/18	Dana Limpert	7/24
David Lambert	7/1	Joanne Gounraj	7/10	Julie Schmidt	7/18	Mary Lou Frase	7/26
Robert Hopkins	7/2	Carole Greenage	7/12	Zachary Braband	7/19	Ann Ferkler	7/29
Kathy Schmidt	7/4	Corryn Johansen	7/12	Bobby Schmick	7/19	Emilie Schanken	7/29
Laura Glessner	7/5	Veronica Phillips	7/12	Chelsie Frase	7/20	Ronald Andrew	7/30
Nikki Morris	7/7	Thomas Ferkler	7/13	Susan Kirwan	7/20		
Jonathon Nichols	7/7	Kendall Sterling	7/14	Dee Lambert	7/21		
Catie Casey-Motley	7/8	Luke Dutton	7/16	Mildred Quidas	7/21		
Christa Delano	7/8	Caleb Erskine	7/16	Kyle Starken	7/21		
Joanne Fuchs	7/9	Jacob Erskine	7/16	Katie Taylor	7/21		
		Samantha Fisher	7/16	Andrea Johansen	7/23		
		Hunter Marshall	7/16	Desi Casey-Motley	7/24		
				Linda Fairbanks			



July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00 Al-Anon	4 	5	6 7:00 AA
7 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	8 7:00 Elders Meeting	9	10 7:00 Al-Anon	11	12	13 7:00 AA
14 10:30 Worship	15	16	17 7:00 Al-Anon	18	19	20 7:00 AA
21 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	22	23	24 7:00 Al-Anon	25	26	27 7:00 AA
28 10:30 Worship	29	30	31 7:00 Al-Anon			



THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL AUGUST 2019

Date	Usher	Lay Reader	Greeter	Assisting Elder	Kids Worship	Acolytes	Head Tellers
August 4th	Richard Wheatley Rex Rosebrock	Richard Wheatley	Myrna Roth	Mark Frase	TBD	Hayden Plutschak	Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
August 11th	Richard Wheatley Rex Rosebrock	Kathy Schmidt	Dale & Marsha Kenton	Dale Kenton	TBD	Veronica Phillips	Doris Maser Karen Lyons Olga MacDonaald
August 18th	Richard Wheatley Rex Rosebrock	Iris Rieck	Ruth Thomas	Rex Rosebrock	TBD	Catie Casey Motley	Dee Lambert Glen & Mary Lou Plutschak
August 25th	Richard Wheatley Rex Rosebrock	Glen Plutschak	Rene Langwost	Glen Plutschak	TBD	Kalei Durando	David & Kathy Schmidt



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS
 Kari Edwards 8/1
 Dorothy Wilkes 8/1
 Christopher Headley 8/2
 Phineas Ayers 8/3
 Donna Degroat 8/3
 John Schmidt 8/3
 Martha Ann Schmick 8/4
 Thomas Starken 8/5
 Linda Nabb 8/6
 Shelby Hochmuth 8/8

Victor Rieck 8/8
 Ag Sturtz 8/8
 Christopher Ruark 8/9
 Peggy Meyer 8/10
 Charles Fry 8/11
 Kate Frase 8/14
 Eric Karge 8/14
 Robert Lorenz 8/14
 Emilie Schmick 8/14
 Meredith Brooks 8/15
 John Crampton 8/15
 Zachary Kirwan 8/17
 Joanne Smith 8/17
 Raechl Cannon 8/20

Keirsa Buckingham 8/21
 Alan Kenton 8/22
 David Schmidt 8/22
 Windsor Meyer 8/23
 Grace Schmick 8/24
 Heidi Devoe 8/25
 Austyn Ostermann 8/25
 Barbara Wright 8/25
 Jack Collins 8/26
 Ryan Andrew 8/29
 Allen Reichlin 8/30



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES
 Larry & Shelly Kapitan 8/1
 John & Gail Crampton 8/5
 Thomas & Ann Ferkler 8/5
 Charles & Laura Frase 8/5
 Jeffrey & Patti Frase 8/10
 Allen & Evelyn Reichlin 8/11
 Debra & Jeffrey Chambers 8/25



August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7:00 AA
4 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	5	6	7 7:00 Al-Anon	8	9	10 7:00 AA
11 10:30 Worship	12 7:00 Elders Meeting	13	14 7:00 Al-Anon	15	16	17 7:00 AA
18 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	19	20	21 7:00 Al-Anon	22	23	24 7:00 AA
25 (:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26	27	28 7:00 Al-Anon	29	30	31 7:00 AA



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS — JULY 1-15

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) School Ministry serves as a national voice for Lutheran schools, upholding the standards of Christ-centered schools that are academically strong and respectfully operated. Nationwide, there are 1,992 LCMS schools, which include 1,127 early childhood centers, 778 elementary schools and 87 high schools.

Remember God's work in Lutheran schools as you pray:

1. for the children attending Lutheran schools, that their eyes, ears, hearts and minds would be open to God's Word.

2. for Lutheran school teachers, that they would correctly divide and deliver Law and Gospel to students through real-life applications each day.

3. for Lutheran school principals, who lead people to passionately embrace the witness our schools provide to the community. Pray that pastors, principals, directors and teachers would work together in God-pleasing unity.

4. for pastors, who champion the Kingdom work happening in our schools. Pray that pastors would be excited to be an integral part of their school's ministry and the teaching of the children.

5. for the ability of Lutheran schools to serve every child in their care. Ask that the Lord would provide the means to help schools serve children who have disabilities, who have experienced trauma or who come from families with limited resources.

6. for Lutheran schools that are struggling to fill empty seats. Pray that God would revitalize their ministries, energize their staff members and bring more children through their doors.

7. for parents who support our Lutheran schools with their time, talents and treasures. Give thanks for their dedication to the mission of the school.

8. for daily opportunities for our teachers and staff to show God's mercy, love and forgiveness both inside and outside of the classroom. Pray that God would maintain our ability to practice our faith in Lutheran schools.

9. for church members who tell the story of their Lutheran school, that their recommendation might lead more students through the school's doors.

10. for the many non-Christians and exchange students who are coming to our schools. Pray that God would work through the Gospel that they will have faith in Jesus.

11. for first-year teachers, that they may apply their gifts to demonstrate grace and mercy. Pray that God would give them strength and patience.

12. for our early childhood centers that introduce young families to the saving love of Jesus. Pray that they are a faithful witness to the littlest of God's children and their families.

13. for courageous Lutheran schools willing to take calculated risks that will result in significant rewards for students. Give the leaders of these schools wisdom in their decisions.

14. for comfort and healing for school faculty and students during times of injury, illness and loss.

15. for God to raise up wise and gifted leaders who are willing to serve in administrative roles at Lutheran schools.

JULY Pray For Us Calendar

CAMPUS MINISTRY — JULY 16-31

The challenges to Christians on our nation's college campuses are increasing exponentially. On practically every campus, objections are increasing to the biblical worldview, Christian doctrine, traditional ethics and moral practices. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) campus-ministry arm, LCMS U, aims to encourage, support and help students, faculty and staff in their response to these challenges so they can boldly bear witness to Christ.

Remember God's work through LCMS U as you pray:

16. for the 200-plus LCMS U chapters around the country, that they would receive the support they need to effectively reach out to America's college students.

17. that more congregations and individuals would become involved with their local LCMS U chapters or start new ones.

18. for the growth of LCMS U on urban campuses and at community colleges, two fertile mission fields. Pray that the Lord would open doors to the spread of His Word in these places.

19. for all the dedicated staff and volunteers involved in campus ministry, that God would energize them for their work and use them to plant seeds of faith that will continue to grow.

20. for students starting their first year of college, that they would find a church to attend,

Christian friends and make good decisions while living away from home for the first time.

21. for the parents of college students, especially those who have an empty nest for the first time. Pray that they would find joy and contentment in the midst of life's changes.

22. that Lutheran college students would be bold witnesses to their faith in Jesus Christ, even when faced with pressure from peers and professors.

23. that young people would hunger for the certain truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not be deceived by the half-truths and lies of Satan.

24. for the 800,000-plus foreign students studying at American colleges and universities. Many come from countries where the Gospel is not freely preached. Pray that their time in the U.S. would provide the opportunity for them to learn about Jesus.



25. for the international students who came to faith while studying abroad. Ask the Lord to provide support so that they can continue to grow in their faith after they return home.

26. for busy college students, who are pulled in many directions with the demands of school, work, friends, family and other activities. Pray that they would make God a priority by setting aside time for worship, Bible study and Christian service.

27. for the development of campus-ministry programs at institutions of higher education around the world.

28. that God would bless and guide the work of all students

involved in mission work and volunteer opportunities both at home and abroad. Pray that this time would be a blessing to them and others.

29. with thanksgiving for a new school year. Pray that students and campus-ministry workers would return refreshed and with renewed dedication.

30. for recent college graduates, that they would find gainful employment as well as a church home where they can learn about God's holy Word in all of its truth and purity.

31. for all students, that God would protect them and provide people to share with them the Word of God.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-6267 to request a copy.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUMSFORD

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar



CHURCH WORKERS — AUGUST 1-15

Pastors; deaconesses; Lutheran school teachers; directors of Christian education, Christian outreach and family life ministry; parish musicians. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed with many faithful church workers who assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, while building up the Body of Christ.

Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:

- 1.** with thanksgiving for the many dedicated church workers in the LCMS, who share in our joys and sorrows. Ask the Lord to comfort and defend them from every assault of the devil.
- 2.** for the Synod's pastors, that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching God's truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.
- 3.** for the Synod's deaconesses. Pray that they would be equipped with all things needful to love and serve people in every situation.

4. that God would bless the work of directors of Christian education, as they develop educational ministries for children, youth, adults and families.

5. for the Synod's directors of Christian outreach, that God would guide their efforts to support a congregation's or organization's outreach and evangelism work.

6. for directors of family life ministry. Ask that God would guide their vital work to strengthen the families in our congregations.

7. for teachers and administrators in Lutheran schools, that they would model Christ-like behavior

for students and incorporate the Gospel message into each and every day.

8. for directors of parish music, that they would find joy and satisfaction in their work of enhancing the worship life of the church.

9. for the Synod's commissioned lay ministers, who work under a pastor's guidance to support a church's efforts in evangelism, Christian education, parish administration and other areas that are God-pleasing.

10. for missionaries, who leave home and family to work in faraway lands. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and protection as they do His work.

11. for those involved in Specialized Pastoral Ministry, who serve the ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled and isolated. Give thanks for their service to people in the midst of tragedy or crisis.

12. for military chaplains, who put themselves in harm's way to minister to members of our armed forces. Ask God to keep them safe as they share Christ's love with our servicemen and women.

13. for the health and well-being of all church workers, that they would utilize opportunities for rest and renewal.

14. with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation as an elder, an usher, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support full-time church workers in a variety of ways.

15. with thankful hearts for the blessings God gives to His people through full-time church workers. These faithful men and women care for us, pray for us and teach us the Word of God.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/FRANK LINSFORD

AUGUST Pray For Us Calendar

THE CHURCH — AUGUST 16-31

“The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments” (Augsburg Confession VII).

Remember God's work through the Church as you pray:

16. with thanksgiving to God for raising up voices in every age and generation as He continues to call people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

17. that God would raise up in our own time faithful pastors and church workers who will preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen, for the edification of His people and for the sake of those not yet of the faith.

18. with thanksgiving that God does His bidding through unworthy and unlikely people. Pray that He would keep us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought and keep us focused on the proclamation of the Gospel.

19. that God would give us faith so that we may not fear in times of trouble nor fall away in times of prosperity.

20. for the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above to be given to us, so that

God's Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people.

21. that the Church would work together in God-pleasing unity and that their joint efforts would further God's kingdom.

22. for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and other institutions that prepare servants for the Church, that they would properly prepare men and women to serve God and His Church.

23. with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the work of the Church. The prayers and financial support of God's people enable the Gospel to be shared at home and around the world.

24. for young people, that the Lord would lead them to serve Him and bless His people.

25. for us, that when we are tempted to focus on the things



of the world or on ourselves, God would direct our attention to His Word and will.

26. with thanksgiving that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments.

27. with thankful hearts to God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again so that we might have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

28. that we would joyfully study the Sacred Scriptures as a light to our path and gratefully make



use of the Lutheran Confessions to help us understand and apply the Scriptures.

29. with thanksgiving for shepherds in the Church's history and pastors today, whom God uses to guide His flock.

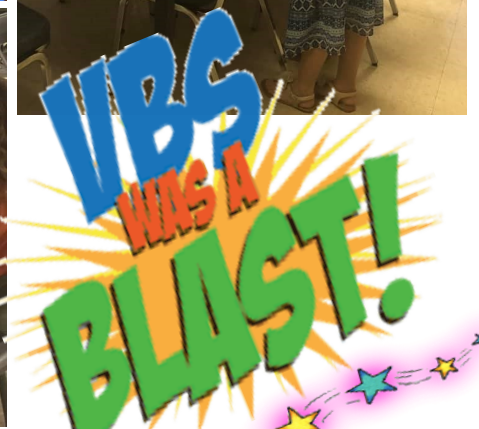
30. that God would keep all Christians from being led astray by false teachings, and instead bring them to a deeper knowledge of Him.

31. that we all would be given a trust in the saving Gospel and a great passion to spread its joy with others in our lives.

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Fruits of the Vine
July/August 2019

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