



St. Paul's Epistle

September 2022

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." ~ Matthew 7:7

Our congregations exist in a time of unprecedented opportunity to share the Gospel to the world. Despite all the wickedness around us, there is a hunger for something more in life, a hunger which can only be satisfied in the person and work of Jesus Christ, who paid for the sins of the entire world. We need to get this message of the Gospel out to the people who need it the most.

Here are three things you and your congregation can do to get this message out: 1. Visit, phone, text or email members of your congregation, especially those who have been gone for a while. Find any excuse to contact them, just let them know that you care and are interested in their well-being. But don't start by saying "Where have you been?" If they have been absent from church, they know it already. We don't have to remind them. Instead, try: "Hey, how are you doing?" or "Is there anything I can pray for you?" Let them know you care.

2. Connect with the community. Pastors and Church Workers— get out of your church office and into the community. Go where the people are: to the coffee shop, the high school football game, a community event. Go where you can meet people. Strike up a conversation. Sit with members of your church at an event and let them introduce you to their friends and family. Congregations— have events outside of the church building, give back to your community, get involved with your schools, etc. Connect!

3. Pray for the unchurched every single Sunday. Jesus said in Matthew 7, "Ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened unto you." At every single service in church, pray for those who either don't know Jesus as Savior or who have disconnected themselves from the faith.

Let's see how God will work as we pray! God bless your work in His Kingdom!

In Christ, *Rev. Monte Meyer* Parish Life Facilitator



**Our Sunday morning
worship time goes back
to 11 a.m. on Sunday,
September 4.**

**Sunday School starts
September 11 at 10 a.m.**

**Church Council Meeting is
being held on Thursday,
September 1st.**

**Elders meeting at 6 p.m.
Church Council at 7 p.m.**

Lawn Care List—September—October 2022

Aug. 28– Sept. 3: George Aitchison, Gary Buffington, John Hopkins

Sept 4-10: Steve & Chad Bacon, Harry Batdorf and Tim Anderson

Sept 11-17: Jed, Jordan and Dave Swenson, Ralph Johnson

Sept 18-24: Richard, Ryan, Ralph and Joe Christie

Sept 25-Oct 1: Tony, Brett and Adam Lucek, Dave Wright

October 2-8: Randy, Rick and Ken Leerssen



SHOE COLLECTION

Did you know Lutheran Island Camp collects old shoes? Funds2Orgs gives them .50/lb and the shoes get fixed up and sent to third world countries. There is a box located in our conference room for collecting any old pairs you would like to donate.

LWML UPDATE

Our LWML (Lutheran Womens Missionary League) group will be meeting Sunday, September 18 at 9:30 a.m. We would like to invite any ladies from our congregation to join us! The Fall Rally will be held Thursday, October 13 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Walker, MN. An ingathering will be taken for Immanuel School.

SUNDAY SCHOOL START UP!!!

We will be starting Sunday School on Sunday, September 11 at 10 a.m. We have a new curriculum for the year and a bunch of enthusiastic teachers! Parents are asked to accompany their children on the 11th to register them.

If you are interested in helping, just call the church office at 283-8642. Together we're going to learn more about the Bible and how God's plan of salvation all began!



September Birthdays

A blessed happy birthday is wished to these members of our church family!

September 2: Wren Swenson

16th: Rick Leerssen

6th: John Hopkins

20th: Linda Bacon

8th: Whitney Wright

21st: Garrett Koenig

9th: Kyle Morrison & Sue Hewitt

10th: Dan Andrade

13th: Cortney Christie

15th: Dolores Boquist & Iverne Kuryla



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewards

"Like a Child"

Daily Devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries



Psalm 131:1-2 - O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1b). Apparently, it was an issue of great interest to them and more than once was the subject of their quarrels. Perhaps the disciples hoped that Jesus would mention one of their names as "the greatest." He did not.

Jesus gave His disciples a lesson in greatness, but our Lord does not measure greatness as the world does. He did not point to a military leader to illustrate greatness. He did not discuss the Roman emperor or well-known Pharisees as examples of greatness. Jesus did not even point to Himself, but to a child: "Calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 18:2-3). If Jesus' followers do not become like children, they will not even *enter* the kingdom. Those who humble themselves like that child would be greatest in the kingdom. It is a difficult lesson. In our fallen selfishness, we do not really want to humble ourselves to become like children. We may instead try to elevate ourselves over others as we seek to satisfy our own desires.

Jesus, the greatest of all, the Son of God, humbled Himself to born among us. He became a child, the infant born in Bethlehem, a little child who knew what it was to feel calm and quiet in His mother's arms. Jesus grew to adulthood, humbly serving, teaching, and healing, reaching out to people with mercy and compassion. In humility He took up His cross and died for our sins, including our sinful, self-seeking attempts to enjoy the highest place at the expense of others.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been born anew. Baptized as infants, as older children, or as adults, we are born again in the water and the Word. Through no effort or achievements of our own, like humble children we are brought into the kingdom of God. Like children, who depend on adults for help and care, we depend on our Savior for salvation. As the psalmist says, our "eyes are not raised too high." With the help of the Holy Spirit, we do not lift our hearts high in sinful pride, but humbly count others as more important than ourselves. We look not only to our own interests, but like our Savior, put the interests of others ahead of our own. In the face of the world's constant and anxious search for greatness, we calm and quiet our souls with trust in Christ alone.

WE PRAY: Lord Jesus, help me to trust You in childlike faith and to serve others, as You did, with humble compassion. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler.