

LIVING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

726 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168

Rev. Steven D. Latzke

317-839-4800 317-450-7505 (cell)



Living Christ Connection

JULY 2024

Independence

Very soon we will celebrate Independence Day, when the new United States of America declared its independence from the rule of Great Britain. The desire for self-governance was deemed important enough to go to war over it. Our country would determine its own path and not a king and some politicians across the ocean. Our founding fathers thought we should not have to abide by someone else's rules and taxes, without proper representation.



Self-determination runs strong in many people, as they don't want to answer to anyone or be held accountable for actions they have taken. The reality is, however, that there is accountability that is placed upon us as citizens. It was not said in the founding of our country that we would be free to do whatever we wanted because we were still to respect the rights of others and the laws created here to preserve orderliness, property rights, religious rights, etc., to allow for the pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but not at the expense of someone else. There are consequences in this land of freedom.

So, it is interesting that in a land of independence, liberty, and freedoms that people seem to think that that responsibility no longer matters and that this even applies to religion. If we will look to the way God wants things to be then there is a problem when it comes to religious freedom. In our country we have no government interference in what we believe or worship. God also gives us freedom to believe or not to but it does come with different outcomes.

God decided the way to heaven was through His Son, Jesus Christ -- there is no other path by which you can be saved. So, how can we have a problem being in a relationship with Him and the expectations He has for us? When it comes to faith as Christians, we don't seek to be free from God but rather to be bound to Him. We don't want God to be apart from us at all for we know we are helpless without Him. God has told us the best way to live, but not alone and not only with Him, but in a community of believers who support and uplift each other and who also seek to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to others.



God has given us no reason to reject His rules over us for He does all things for our good. He is just and righteous and we need not fear for he has granted us salvation by faith in Christ. Let us follow on the path He has prepared for us and let us praise His name forever. We also rejoice that we are free to worship our Lord in this land in purity and truth.

Pastor Latzke

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Faith Comes by Hearing - Oral Bible Translations

A Door Offering will be gathered on Sunday, July 7th for this ministry as an extension of our support to spread the "Word to those who have not heard"



ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION IS THE KEY TO VISION 2033: GOD'S AUDIBLE WORD FOR ALL

A gift to the Military BibleSticks program provides God's Word to everyone on Earth who still needs access to its life-giving message such as service members, veterans, and their families when you give to Vision 2033. This **Pure Word of God** on the Military BibleStick contains nothing except God's Word. Each service member and veteran receives the New Testament and select Psalms in dramatized, multi-voice audio (English and Spanish versions available).

Family outreach. Along with the Military BibleStick, each service member and veteran has the opportunity to send a free MP3 Bible on disc to their family, so that all may be discipled in God's Word.

The LWML District Convention held their biennial convention in June at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds with 144 voting delegates and 164 non-voting delegates. The Indy East and Indy West LWML zones were the hostess zones for the convention. Several of our ladies from Living Christ were involved as volunteers on the Convention Committees, as delegates representing Living Christ LIFT, and as volunteers serving lunch from Living Christ to the Convention Committee and the District Board. -Pastor Latzke served as the 2024 LWML Indiana District Convention Host Committee Counselor and was also elected to serve as LWML Indiana District Junior Pastoral Counselor.



**Bible Studies, Devotions, Sectionals, Keynote Speaker (Jennie Williamson) and Mission Speaker (Hispanic Mission in Columbus and Indianapolis-Rev Daniel Fickenscher) all were planned with the goal to deepen our relationship with Christ by growing in God’s Word, Connection to Christ, Nurturing others in Christ, and Standing Firm in faith.

**The convention agenda included election of District LWML officers and selecting the recipients for Mission Grants from the Indiana District LWML during the 2024-2026 biennium.

**Ingatherings at the Convention will be used to support these Central Indiana mission efforts:
for the duffle bags for the foster care program at Lutheran Child and Family Services, Indianapolis, the Food Pantry at 1st Timothy Lutheran Church, Indianapolis and the Swaddling Clothes program at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Columbus-Clifty

**In support of the LWML mites, a silent auction of gift baskets was held during the convention. (They were hoping to have 10+ baskets from the 21 zones in the Indiana District donated for this and were pleasantly surprised with 81 baskets given by the zones throughout the state). Funds raised for mites from this silent auction equaled \$4,489! This was added to the mite offering received of \$2510.58.

**The delegates selected the mission grants requests for funding in the 2024-2026 biennium. The funds we send from our Mite Offerings at Living Christ are used to fund these grants.

Receiving approval for small grants totaling \$23,250 were

Calvary Indian Mission, Faith Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Faith Lutheran Church, DeMotte, Japanese Mission Society, Columbus, and Resurrection Lutheran Academy, South Bend.

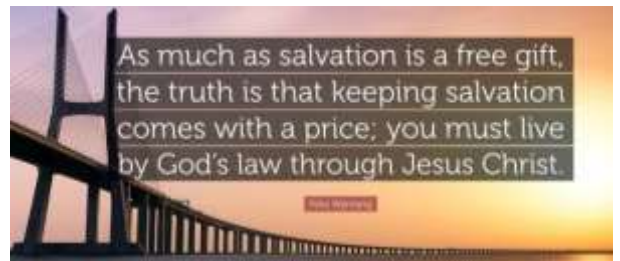
Large grants totaling \$135,000 selected were (in ranking order)

Concordia Seminary Food & Clothing Coop, Fort Wayne, Hope for the Destitute, Fort Wayne, Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew), Hispanic Ministry Outreach (St. Paul, Columbus-Clifty & Trinity, Indianapolis), Y4Life/Lutherans, Columbus, Concordia Counseling, Seymour, Marius Sergiu Trifa, Fort Wayne (Bringing Gospel to Romania student support), Lutheran Bible Translators (Columbus), MOST Ministries, Elizabethtown, KY, and Resurrection Lutheran Academy, South Bend (partial)

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The Rewards of Godliness

It’s no secret that you can’t bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven’s door for their sake. *“For the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23) and the person who *“keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it”* (James 2:10). Rather, **salvation is “the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:23).**



So, your good works won’t earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the “Close of the Commandments”:

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, *“I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.”* (Ex. 20:5–6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. *Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.* (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment:

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land’” (Eph. 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you’d be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: *“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life’”* (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don’t grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

Seeking Religious Freedom

The first German Lutheran immigrants came from Prussia, Germany to New Orleans in 1838-1839 and sailed up the Mississippi to St Louis and eventually emigrated back south to Perry County, MO. These Saxon Lutheran immigrants were seeking religious freedom in the United States and became the original founders of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The Confessional Lutheran doctrines like justification by faith ("by Grace alone through faith alone on the basis of Scripture alone,") espoused by Martin Luther at the time of the 95 Theses and the Reformation) were under threat and challenged by rationalism. This, together with "unionism" or the merging of various Protestant groups being forced by Frederick William III of Prussia in 1817 to merge into one single and united Prussian Union of



churches, drove many German Lutherans including some from the Kingdom of Saxony to emigrate in an attempt to flee persecution and the suppression of the confessional beliefs of orthodox Lutherans. The teachings and practices of the church – as a department of the state – began to be altered by the state. Persecution resulted with police disrupting their congregational meeting places and imprisoning pastors and other oppressive restrictions,

A confessional Lutheran pastor in 1830, Martin Stephan, a pastor from Dresden, Germany, eventually developed a plan to emigrate to North America in order to practice their faith freely according to the Book of Concord. friends in Baltimore, Maryland, for possible sites of settlement. A leave Germany, their homeland, was not made until the spring of planning meeting took place.



from Dresden, America in order to Stephan contacted final decision to 1836, when the first

Stephan grew increasingly impatient with the development of the state church, was subsequently arrested at various times in Saxony for holding secret religious worship and was accused of immoral conduct. This also resulted in outlining "Codes for Emigration".

By September 4, 1838, 707 people had enrolled their names to emigrate. They came from Dresden, Leipzig, Niederfrohna in the Mulde River valley, and from Kahla in the Duchy of Altenburg. Martin Stephan was 61 years old at the time. Next to him in age were Pastors G. H. Loeber, (41), E. G. W. Keyl (about 32), and Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther (27). Five sailing vessels were chartered and sailed out of Bremen with the members of the group. These ships were named Copernicus, Johann Georg, Republik, Olbers, and Amalia, the last and smallest, which was lost at sea and never heard of again.

The group on the remaining four ships, totaling 602 people, arrived in New Orleans in January 1839, and from there arranged for transport on steamboat up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri. During that time, the members of the group were asked to sign a document of absolute submission to "our bishop Stephan".

The group reached St. Louis and spent only six weeks in that city before departing for their permanent home some 100 miles south in Perry County, Missouri. However, 120 members decided to remain in St. Louis, where they founded Trinity Lutheran Church. The main body of the immigrants passed up better



land near St. Louis in favor of the location in Perry County where the hilly topography was reminiscent of their homeland near Tower Rock in the Mississippi River. The Perry County settlers suffered from poverty and their situation was only made worse by financial mismanagement and poorly ordered priorities. More than half of the colonists were forced to camp in tents, booths, or crude cabins. Their belongings, exposed to the weather, spoiled.

They were plagued by malaria and scarcity of food. They survived mainly on rice and bacon. These first years were extremely difficult for the colony, as the men were mostly students and professional men unaccustomed to farming and disease. Despite the hardship and tribulations, the Saxons managed to establish seven small settlements which they named after the communities that they had left behind in Germany, among them Altenburg, Dresden, Frohna, Johannisberg, Paitzdorf, Seelitz, and Wittenberg. They also founded an educational system. A one-room Log Cabin College, Concordia, was erected in 1839 under the leadership of Carl F.W. Walther. Classes in 1839 included six languages, math, physics, history, geography, philosophy, religion, music, and drawing.

In addition to enduring the physical and economic circumstances, the colony's situation was further complicated by the spiritual chaos brought on by the rejection of Stephan. Stephan's craving for power and his extreme hierarchical views had caused him to miscalculate how far he could go before reaching the breaking point. With his sensual living and dictatorial conduct, Stephan not only became brusque and capricious in his handling of people, but he was also accused of sexual misconduct and of mismanaging group funds to satisfy his expensive tastes.

At first C. F. W. Walther kept his knowledge of Stephan's sin secret and only talked about it with some of the other clergy. He attempted to let an unordained ministerial candidate in on the secret by talking in Latin

and at night. This “secret” conversation was overheard and exposed. On May 31, 1839, the colony gathered in Perry County and voted to depose Stephan. He was placed in a boat the next day and rowed across the Mississippi River to Illinois and permanent exile. No one was able to come forward and fill the vacuum created.. A collective sense of guilt descended on the colony concerning the justifiability of the migration, the correctness or error in Stephanism, the nature of the church and ministry. The pastors became despondent, wondering whether they were a church or a mob or even if they were still Christians. In late March, as the colony drifted towards disintegration leading to plans to return to Germany, Walther emerged with a series of propositions that were to prove fundamental in saving the colonies.

On April 15 and 21, 1841, a public debate between F. A. Marbach and Walther in Altenburg was a turning point in the development of the colony. Marbach argued that the entire church polity rested on an indefinite, unclear, and insecure foundation. He doubted that their local congregation was a true Christian church or that their ministry served the will of God. Walther replied that in spite of lingering Stephanistic errors the word of God was present. There were still Christians among them, so the church and the word of God was represented in their midst. It was Walther who stepped forth to guide and direct the successful establishment of colony. The colony voted in favor of Walter's vision and remained in Perry County



In 1847 at the founding of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the church body began with only 19 pastors, 30 congregations, and 4,099 baptized members. At the time of his death forty years later (May 7, 1887), the church body had grown to 931 pastors, 678 member congregations, 746 affiliated congregations, 544 preaching stations, and 459,376 baptized members. With 1.8 million members as of 2021, it is the second-largest Lutheran body in the United States



Descendants of the immigrants continued to live in Perry County. In 2014, 247 residents of the county continued to speak a distinct Upper Saxon dialect of German, with the youngest speakers being over 50 years of age.

The Saxon Lutheran Memorial in Frohna, Missouri, commemorates the German Lutheran migration of 1838–1839, and features a number of log cabins and artifacts from that era. The memorial opened in 1962 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Saxon Lutheran Memorial is an outdoor history museum in the setting of a log cabin village located on the homestead and farm of the Bergt Farm Complex. The complex consists of 30 acres dominated by the log-cabin frame house and hewn log section building that was the home of brothers Wilhelm and Christian Adolf Bergt. This historic building has been through many changes through the years. A lean-to porch was added when the second log cabin was built. In the 1840s, a board and batten lean-to was built to serve as kitchen, bedroom, and porch, and was then removed in the 1920s. In 1870, a room was added beyond the west porch and later the porch was closed in to serve as a kitchen. In 1913 the larger frame addition completed the house.



The site also contains a granary, a timber frame barn which contains within it an earlier double crib hewn log barn, and two log outbuildings. The Memorial was dedicated October 31, 1964, on the 125th anniversary of the Saxon Immigration.

The Motivational Speaker at the LWML District Convention was Jennie Williamson, Christian Music singer, who shared the work of God in her life and in the life of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. She and her husband Brian moved from the Nashville, TN area in 2023 to the Saxony Lutheran Memorial farmhouse to be a part of this heritage and mission. They are excited about the future of the plans to restore and preserve the existing farmhouse, cabins, barns and other structures and growing awareness of our heritage to become a Mission Outpost and future on-site conferences and retreats for Pastors and Professional Church workers, Christian School Principals and Teachers, and many other Christian groups and to encourage others to be a part of the ministry of sharing God's love and forgiveness through the work of the church.



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Orphan Grain Train –
Thank you for your donations.
The trailer was full!



The Old Sign is Gone!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 Pastor Barber	1	2	3 BD-Zane Keefer	4 LCK Closed	5	6
7 Pastor Barber Bible Class -9 am Worship 10:30 am Holy Communion Biblestick Offering	8	9 BD-Doris Motter	10 Annv – Ron & Andy Miller (1971)	11	12	13
14 Pastor Barber Bible Class -9 am Worship 10:30 am	15	16)	17	18 BD-Sue Letterman	19	20 Buffet Luncheon 11 am
21 Bible Class -9 am Worship 10:30 am Holy Communion	22	23 Church Council – 6 pm	24	25 Fun Fellowship 1 pm	26	27
28 Bible Class -9 am Worship 10:30 am	29	30	31			

The Financial Report

May 2024	LCLC		Year to Date Total Assets LCLC	
Income			Income/Assets	
Envelope	\$ 4,847		Envelope	\$ 65,644
LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 7,500		LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 37,500
Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 70		Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 37,627
Total Income	\$ 12,417		LCEF Account	\$ 49,133
			LCLC Saving Acct	\$ 34,782
			LCLC Checking Balance 12/31/23	\$ 29,422
Expenses	\$ 20,538		Total Cash Assets	\$ 254,108
Difference	\$ (8,121)			
			Total Expenses	\$ 137,707
			Difference	\$ 116,401

May 2024	LCK		Year to Date Total Assets LCK	
Daycare Income	\$ 59,354		Income/Assets	
Other Income	\$ 0		Income	\$ 302,670
Total Income	\$ 59,354		Saving Account	\$ 26,386
			LCK Checking Balance 12/31/23	\$ 15,772
			Total Cash Assets	\$ 344,828
Expenses	\$ 53,221		Total Daycare Expenses	\$ 285,820
Difference	\$ 6,133		Difference	\$ 59,008

May 2024 LCLC Endowment Account	
Balance	\$ 2,177