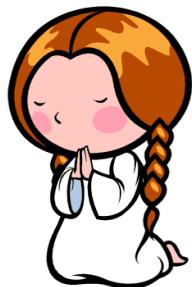


Pastor's Corner

Given the rather chaotic nature of the things ever since the beginning of the pandemic, I think it would be a good time to talk about prayer. Yes, it is a good time for us to repent and ask that GOD accomplish HIS purpose even though we may be afflicted with the uncertainties of the present state of affairs. Yes, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Let Your will come to pass." Of course, as Lutherans we famously ask, "What does this mean?" *The good and gracious will of GOD is done (comes to pass) without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.* How does the will of GOD come to pass? *When GOD breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not allow us to hallow GOD's NAME nor let HIS KINGDOM come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and preserves us steadfast in HIS WORD and faith until our end.* This is HIS good and gracious will. In the midst of this chaos we must cling to this truth, that GOD is still at work, implementing HIS will whether we can readily see it or not.

Now we as Lutherans confess that prayer is GOD-pleasing and heard when it is in accordance with GOD's command and promise, and in the NAME of JESUS, even though (and this is from Walther) it is the halting sigh of a novice in the faith, for such prayer is precious in GOD's sight and for certain will be heard. True prayer is based upon GOD's command, which we find in the Second commandment, "You shall not take the NAME of the LORD your GOD in vain." You shall not make it common or profane. The meaning, "We should fear and love GOD so that we do not curse or swear, use witchcraft, lie or deceive by HIS NAME, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks. In Psalm



Prayer

*How to do nothing
and still think you're helping*

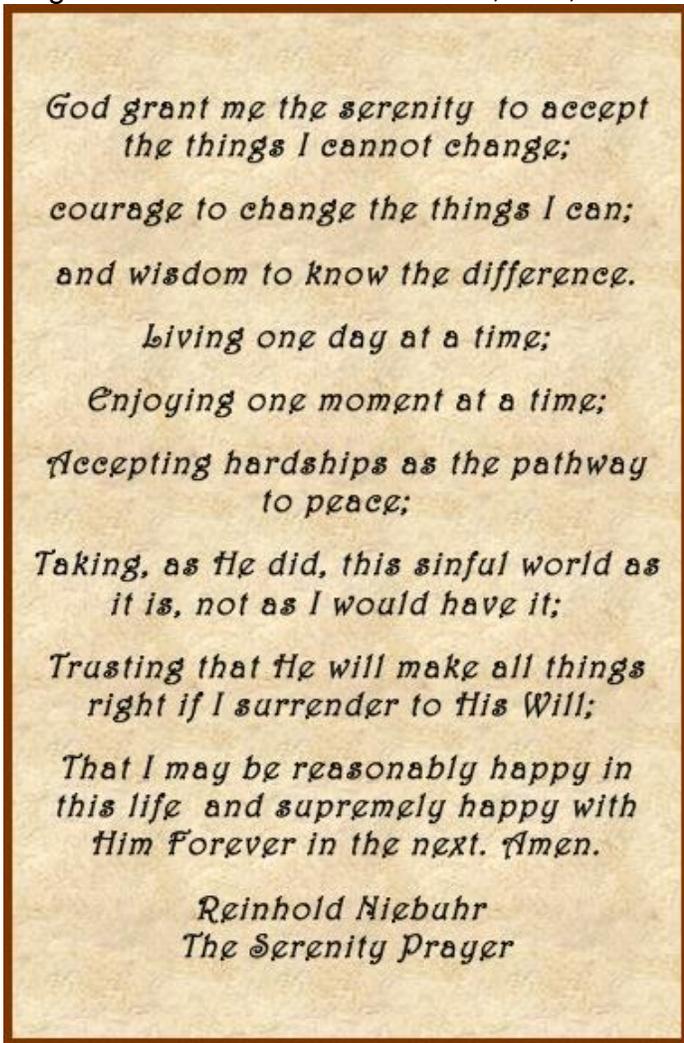
50:15, it is written, "Call upon ME in the day of trouble." GOD does not say, "Pray if you dare." No, HE commands us to pray, to implore HIS help, in every trouble. We recall these words from Luke, "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock and the door shall be opened to you."

We are, therefore, commanded to pray. But elsewhere, we are exhorted to be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12 says, "Persist in prayer." 1 Thess. 5:17 famously says, "Pray without ceasing." Ephesians 6:18 tells us, "Be those who pray at all times in the spirit, through prayer and supplication." This is to say, that we are to offer up prayers and supplications at all times. The situation does not have to pass some hurdle criteria before it is worthy of prayer. There should be nothing so small that we should not lay it before GOD.

Having explored the command, we move to the promise of prayer. James 5:16, "The prayer of one who is righteous is able to accomplish much." Prayer is not only commanded it is also backed by the promises of GOD and GOD is not a liar. GOD promises to hear such prayer and to answer it. The righteousness of which we speak is the righteousness that is reckoned to us because of CHRIST, not because of the literary flair of our prayers. SO it is, that we base our prayers solely upon the merits of CHRIST, which is to say, we pray in the NAME of JESUS. JESUS HIMSELF says to us in John 16:23, "Whatever you ask the FATHER in MY NAME, HE will give it to you." Or from Matthew 21:22, "Whatever you may ask in prayer believing you will receive," or as it is recorded in Mark 11:24, "I say to you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you received it, and it will be granted to you."

The Large Catechism says, "The NAME of GOD is honored and properly used in prayer and petition -"which is to say that GOD is deprived of HIS honor if anyone doubts that his prayer is being heard, either by withholding from GOD the honor of truthfulness within the depths of his heart, or if he considers that he is

not worthy or is inadequate and therefore should not be heard, thereby doubting the mercy of GOD. Once again, we see the magnitude of what it means to fear, love,

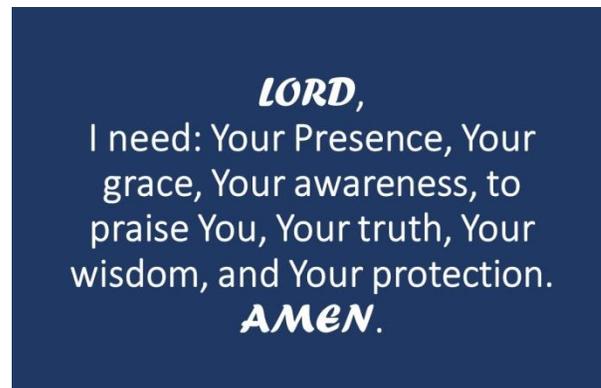


and trust in GOD above all things. As Christians we should ever hold fast to the GOD's command and promise and never cease to plead, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."

Finally, we should pray with confidence even when the crisis is so severe, so pressing, that words seemingly fail to have meaning, and when we cannot even think coherently. IN such a state, the Christian must breathe a sigh,

"O GOD be merciful to me, a sinner," for this is indeed the most effectual prayer we can offer. At no other time does a Christian pray as earnestly and fervently as when in extreme distress to the point of losing consciousness. In such a situation, the CHRISTIAN is the true Israel, wrestling with GOD and will surely win the victory. When a Christian feels within himself only his personal weakness, when he regards his prayer as weak and perhaps even blasphemous, yet still fervently desires to escape the situation he is in, then that sigh is a cry that fills heaven and earth. The less we rely upon ourselves and the more we rely upon GOD, the better. Isn't that always the case?

As chaotic as things may seem, as foreign as they may appear, let us be faithful to GOD's command and promise and constantly pray, asking that above all that GOD accomplish HIS purposes for HIS glory and that HE, in HIS mercy, protect us and defend us from the dreadful trio of devil, world, and flesh. Let us also pray, that inasmuch as our national heritage is important to our ability to live peacefully that HE grant us once again to celebrate the day when 13 colonies joined together to declare independence against a far more powerful foe and relight the glimmer of unity.

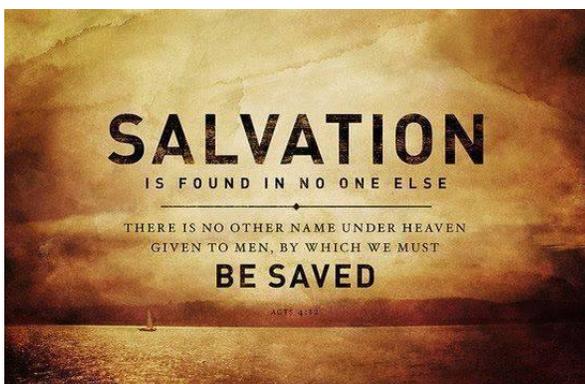


May you all have a safe and blessed July,

Pastor Sievers

Considering our Three Births in Life

"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said,



"You know the commandments." And the ruler replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come,

follow me." (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our

neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are **born into the church by water and the Word of God**, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are **born into a family**, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are **born into society**, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

THE ABC'S OF SALVATION



ADMIT:

Admit that you are a sinner and have made mistakes.



BELIEVE:

Believe that Jesus is God's only Son and He chose to die on a cross for you.



COMMIT:

Commit yourself to a life of following Jesus and serving others.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to

support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

LCMS Stewardship

Available:

Portals of Prayer for July – September. Copies can be picked up in the church lobby or give Evelyn a call, text, or email that you'd like a copy. (317-292-3195) (evocar163@aol.com)



Worship Sunday Services for Living Christ and Worship Anew from Indiana District – Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne can also be sent as a You-Tube to your email or smart phone. Again, let Evelyn know if we can help.

Donations for Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne – A delivery is planned in the near future for the Food & Clothing Coop at the Seminary. If you have donations, please let Evelyn know so they can be included in our donations.

Financial Reports from Cindy



Attached are the financial reports for March, April and May. The March and April reports were included in the May newsletter but revised numbers are included in the reports below that we wanted to share with you as well as the report from May.

We have been blessed by those who have been consistent in continuing their giving during the pandemic and provided the means to help the

church and the daycare to continue their ministries. Year-to-Date balances shows that at the end of May LCLC is at a \$ - 1138 and LCK has a balance of \$-4617 following a 3 pay period month. No funds have been needed from the LCLC Reserve Funds and LCK also has a \$10,117 savings balance. Daily attendance at LCK continues to increase reaching the 60's again (an increase from the 20's in March). We give thanks for your faithfulness in these challenging times and pray for the Lord's continued blessings over LCLC and LCK.

| | LCLC | LCK | | Year to Date | LCLC | LCK |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | | Income | | |
| Envelope | \$ 8,019 | - | | Envelope | \$ 22,898 | - |
| LCK (Bld & Maint.) | \$ 7,500 | - | | LCK (Bld & Maint.) | \$ 22,500 | - |
| Bld Fund/Loan/Misc | \$ 802 | | | Bld Fund/Loan/Misc | \$ 2,932 | |
| | | - | | | - | - |
| Total Income | \$ 16,321 | \$ 49,544 | | Income | \$48,330 | \$ 166,493 |
| Expenses | \$ 15,861 | \$ 59,529 | | Expenses | \$ 49,626 | \$ 157,814 |
| Difference | \$ 460 | \$ (9,986) | | Difference | \$ (1,296) | \$ 8,678 |
| Reserve Withdrawal | | | | Reserve Withdrawal | - | - |
| | | | | Difference | \$ (1,296) | \$ 8,678 |

Remaining Balance on Reserve Funds \$23,681 as of Mar 31, 2020.

LCK Saving Account started March 2020 Balance \$10,100

| April 2020 | LCLC | LCK | | Year to Date | LCLC | LCK |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | | Income | | |
| Envelope | \$ 7,737 | - | | Envelope | \$ 30,635 | - |
| LCK (Bld & Maint.) | \$ 7,500 | - | | LCK (Bld & Maint.) | \$ 30,000 | - |
| Bld Fund/Loan/Misc | \$ 720 | | | Bld Fund/Loan/Misc | \$ 3,652 | |
| | | - | | | - | - |
| Total Income | \$ 15,957 | \$ 43,327 | | Income | \$ 64,287 | \$ 209,820 |
| Expenses | \$ 16,296 | \$ 56,196 | | Expenses | \$ 65,923 | \$ 214,010 |
| Difference | \$ (339) | \$ (12,869) | | Difference | \$ (1,635) | \$ 2,031 |
| Reserve Withdrawal | | | | Reserve Withdrawal | - | - |
| | | | | Difference | \$ (1,635) | \$ (4,190) |

Remaining Balance on Reserve Funds \$23,695 as of April 30, 2020.

LCK Saving Account Balance \$10,109 as of April 30, 2020

Note: 3 pay period for LCK in April

| May 2020 | LCLC | LCK | | Year to Date | LCLC | LCK |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | | Income | | |
| Envelope | \$ 8,150 | - | | Envelope | \$ 38,785 | - |
| LCK (Bld & Maint.) | \$ 7,500 | - | | LCK (Bld & Maint.) | \$ 37,500 | - |
| Bld Fund/Loan/Misc | \$ 801 | | | Bld Fund/Loan/Misc | \$ 4,453 | |
| | | - | | | - | - |
| Total Income | \$ 16,451 | \$ 41,575 | | Income | \$ 80,738 | \$ 251,394 |
| Expenses | \$ 15,953 | \$ 42,002 | | Expenses | \$ 81,876 | \$ 256,012 |
| Difference | \$ 497 | \$ (427) | | Difference | \$ (1,138) | \$ (4,617) |
| Reserve Withdrawal | | | | Reserve Withdrawal | - | - |
| | | | | Difference | \$ (1,138) | \$ (4,617) |

Remaining Balance on Reserve Funds \$23,709 as of May 31, 2020.

LCK Saving Account Balance \$10,117 as of May 31, 2020

Recently seen in a church newsletter:

Scriptures for Daily Survival

- TOOTHPICK.....Remember to pick out the Good in others (Matthew 7:11)
- RUBBER BANDRemember to be flexible, God has it under control
(Romans 8: 28)
- BAND-AID.....Remember to mend hurt feelings yours or someone else's
(Colossians 3: 12-14)
- PENCIL.....Remember to list your Blessings Daily (Ephesians 1:3)
- GUM.....So you can stick with it. With God you can accomplish anything
(Phillipians 4: 13)
- BUTTON.....Remember to button your lip when needed (I Peter 3:10)
- LIFESAVER.....Remember the Lord is always there to help (Psalm 46:1)
- MINT.....To remind you that you are worth one (John 3: 16-17)
- PUZZLE PIECE.....Remember without God we are not complete (Proverbs 14:20)
- TEA BAG.....Remember to relax and go over that list of blessings ...
Be thankful (I Thessalonians 5:18)

Birthday Blessings for July

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| July 10 | Lonnie Lagle |
| July 18 | Sue Letterman |
| July 25 | Geneva Steuck |



Wedding Anniversaries for July

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------|
| July 10, 1971 | Ron & Andrea Miller | 48 years |
| July 22, 1967 | Richard & Ellen Veirs | 52 years |
| July 24, 1999 | Dale & Jennifer Benning | 21 years |



LC LIVING CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

4800 S County Rd 600 E

Plainfield, IN 46168

www.livingchristplainfield.com

And I'm Proud To Be An
AMERICAN
Where At Least I Know I'm
FREE  **and i won't**
FORGET
The Men Who DIED
who gave that **RIGHT** to me.
And I Gladly Next To You And
STAND UP **DEFEND**
HER *still*  **Cuz there ain't** 
today. **NO** *doubt*
I **LOVE** *this land.* 
God Bless *the* **U.S.A.**