



The Watchman



August
2022

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



*(This article was
written by Juliette
Alvey and published
at www.mbird.com)*

The game on May 15th in St. Louis between the Cardinals and the Giants had an ending that fans would never want to miss. No, I don't mean a walk-off homer, a steal home, or even a close score (final score was 15-6). This particular game ended in pure fun.

Unlike some baseball fans who arrive in the 3rd inning and leave after the 7th inning stretch, I always argue that you should never leave a baseball game early because you never know what can happen. The tables can turn even at the last out. This game was no exception, but this time it didn't have to do with winning or losing.

The Cardinals were up 15-2 and the Giants were out of pitchers, or at least ones that they wanted to use in this kind of blowout. So, they had their rookie outfielder,

Luis Gonzalez, pitch. What did they have to lose? They had basically already lost. Seeing Gonzalez pitch was entertaining in itself — his pitching looked like a slow-motion replay with his change ups and curveballs. His slow-pitch style made me think that slow-pitch softball may be harder than it looks. His strategy was good (he was not going to risk throwing a not-very-fast fastball right down the pipe), and amazingly he didn't give up one run.

In response to this unique fielding choice, the Cardinals raised them one by bringing one of their most beloved players of all time to the mound: Albert Pujols.

Cardinal's fans seriously love this guy. To give you an idea of how much they love him, they would give him standing ovations when he entered Busch Stadium, even when he wore a different uniform (Angels and then Dodgers). Some players would be seen as traitors,

but not Pujols. It turns out their unconditional love for him was rewarded by him returning to the Red Birds in 2022. I personally will miss seeing him give great big bear hugs to Dodgers teammates when they get home runs this year, but it is fitting and feels right to see him back in red.

So, the 42-year-old Albert Pujols walked up to the mound to make his pitching debut in the major leagues — the oldest player to do so since 1929. The fans were on their feet as if this was the last out of a World Series game. His technique was similar to the other "pitcher," with maybe a tad bit more speed, and every strike he threw won him a roaring applause. He did give up two home runs (one of them a 3-run homer by Luis Gonzalez!), but the Cardinals were so far ahead, what did they have to lose? They had basically already won.

This was one of the most enjoyable innings of baseball I've

ever watched in my life. What struck me most was the amount of smiling out on the field, in the dugouts, and in the stands. It was pure joy.

Maria Guardado on mlb.com quoted Giants manager Gabe Kapler as saying, "I think it was just what was needed, at least for our side. Obviously, their fans loved it, and I'm sure their dugout was hanging on every pitch ... It was the right time to kind of let go of the negative outcomes of the game and get involved in the fun of it." For his part, Pujols called it, "A dream come true."

This event was a break in the seriousness of this sport that has become so professionalized, so monetized, and so performance-oriented. And it demonstrated what can happen when winning and losing is no longer a concern. Because whether you have already lost or already won, when the game is "over," the pressure is gone. You are left with what baseball was originally: a game.

I wish I could live my life in this same way. It's not that I don't want to take anything seriously or want to make life a game. I have real problems and real

responsibilities. But I wish I could live in the kind of freedom and joy that both teams showed that day. It feels impossible, but who knows? Maybe it is more of a possibility than we realize.

We tend to think of life as a game to be won rather than a game to be enjoyed. We feel the pressure to determine the outcome. But what if we already know the outcome? We no longer need to worry about whether we will win or lose because those of us who are in Christ have both lost and won. Because he died and now lives, we have also died with him, and we will live with him (2 Tim 2:11). So, if that's the case, what do we have to lose?

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

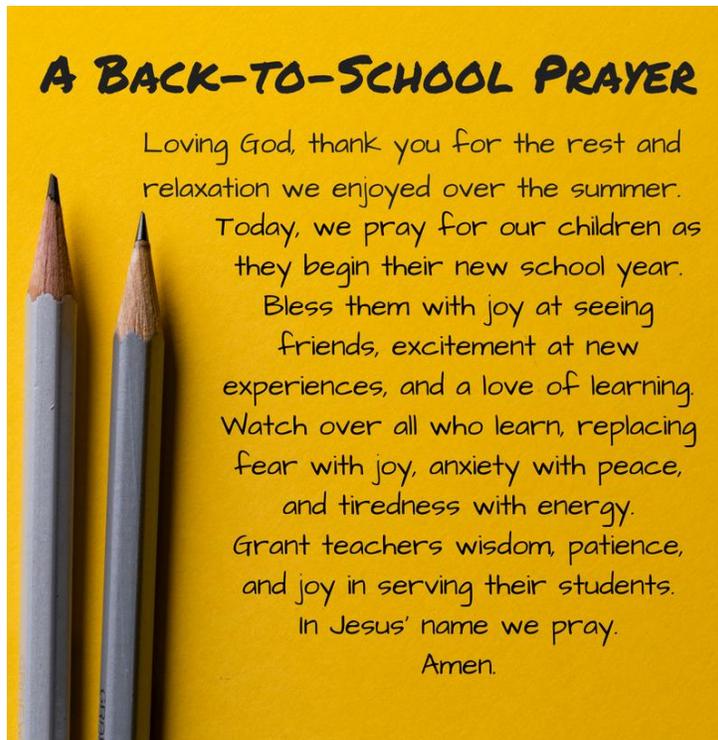
Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.





July Anniversary & Birthdays 2019

L-R Kevin & Susan Rademacher,
Anne Marie Purdy, Dave Hamilton,
Marlene Bontly, Ladye Hahn, Melonee
Crews



Elders & Lay Readers

- 7 Jay Torries & Dave Hamilton (Anna K.)
- 14 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Aletha S.)
- 21 Dave Griffin & Kevin Rademacher (Elder)
- 28 Dave Hamilton & Jay Torries (Hanna D.)

- 1 Elizabeth Jacobson
- 1 Tara Heusman
- 4 Jenna Hamilton
- 6 Susie Denton
- 12 Kathleen Cox
- 22 Kevin Rademacher
- 23 Jay Torries
- 23 Kimberly (Trehern) Bonetti
- 25 Rita Shepherd

HAPPY
Anniversary!

6 Kirk & Emma Pellegrin



- 7 Susan Rademacher
- 14 Crystal Robbins
- 21 Aletha Schollian
- 28 Debbie Schulte

Mary Martha News

Mary Martha will meet again in August. Don't forget to continue collecting your Mites!



OTHER NEWS

- **PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST:** As a reminder to all members, a chain phone call prayer request is available for all members. To either make a chain call prayer request or to start receiving chain prayer calls, please contact either your Elder or Pastor.
- **NURSERY:** Nursery is provided for children during worship service.
- **NEW CHURCH EMAIL:** The new office email is CLC1888@outlook.com
- **MEMBER INFO UPDATE:** Please complete the member form and turn it in to an elder, usher, or send it in an email to help update our records.
- **MOVIE NIGHT:** A movie night is tentatively set for Friday August 19. Time to be announced. Hope to see you there!
- **SUGGESTION CARDS:** Suggestion cards are available in the Sanctuary for recommendations and/or complaints.

August Scripture Readings

	Aug. 7 (Prop. 14)	Ninth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 15:1-6	Psalm 33:12-22	Heb. 11:1-16	Luke 12:22-34 (35-40)
	Aug. 14 (Prop. 15)	Tenth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 23:16-29	Psalm 119:81-88	Heb. 11:17-31 (32-40); 12:1-3	Luke 12:49-53 (54-56)
	Aug. 21 (Prop. 16)	Eleventh S. a. Pentecost	Is. 66:18-23	Psalm 50:1-15	Heb. 12:4-24 (25-29)	Luke 13:22-30
	Aug. 28 (Prop. 17)	Twelfth S. a. Pentecost	Prov. 25:2-10	Psalm 131	Heb. 13:1-17	Luke 14:1-14

A Note from the Education Committee:

Thanks to everyone who could attend VBS – 2022! Our daily average was around 25-30 and everyone had a great time. Of course, the fellowship was wonderful and the dinners weren't bad either!

Let me give special thanks to Melonee Crews, Ladye Hahn, Kathy Griffin and Cathy Groff for their help with the kitchen duties - Setup, presentation and clean up: they made things run smoothly. I am especially grateful to Kyndel Torries for her assistance with the children's classes and crafts.

As always, His Peace be with us all!

Donna



Church Council Meeting: 07/18/2022

11 attendees

Vice President, Dave Griffin, called the meeting to order and Pastor Waffel opened with prayer. Copies of the June minutes were not available. Motion made (Lin Jacobson), seconded (Carl Erichsen) and carried to waive reading of the June minutes.

Pastor's Report: See attached report.

Pastor is planning another Movie Night for August 19, 2022 and sought suggestions for potential movies.

Eve Waffel (board member of Singing River Little Theater and director of its next production, scheduled for October, 2022) and Hannah Dunlap, stage manager, would like to use Memorial Hall for auditions (August 8 and 9: a Monday and Tuesday) and possibly early rehearsals. Discussion and comments made via e-mail indicated approval as this would be good exposure for Christ Lutheran.

Rally Day is scheduled for September 18, 2022.

President - Kevin Rademacher: Dave Griffin presented Kevin's report. Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws will go before the voters at the next meeting on August 21, 2022. Development of a Safety Committee is on-going and Shawn Robbins has agreed to serve as Chair.

Vice President - Dave Griffin

Volunteers to serve as Ushers and Greeters are still needed. The Altar flower sign-up sheet is posted.

Elders - Jay Torries - No report

Trustees' Report: Louis Bontly - No report

Financial Secretary - Carl Erichsen

June collections - \$8575.00

July to date - \$8452.00

Year to date - 64,627.77

Treasurer - Lin Jacobson

Current bank balance is \$5,812.89, with all bills paid.

CEF Accounts: \$16,719.10 - Self-insurance fund

Evangelism - Cathy Groff & Rita Shepherd - No Report

Mary Martha - Donna Krebs for Kyndel Torries

Mary Martha is on summer break until August. An in-gathering of large print puzzle books and (sharpened) pencils is on-going to be used in Celebration of the 80th birthday of LWML. These will be distributed to local convalescent homes.

Youth - position vacant

Education - Donna Krebs

Sunday Schools classes for children and adults are on-going. VBS is scheduled for July 19, 20 and 21st with a theme of Prayer - It's Good for the Soul.

Social Ministry - Kathleen Cox

Birthday cards continue to be sent out to retirees.

Stewardship - Michael Southern - No report

With no other business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

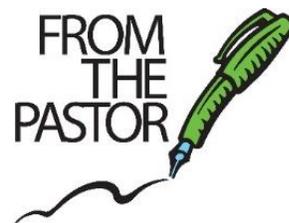
Respectfully Submitted,

Donna M. Krebs

for Susan Rademacher, Secretary

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula MS

July 2022
Rev. Derek Waffel



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education - Membership changes: none

- The Sunday adult Bible study is going through the book of Acts. Never too late to join us!
- Janet is still working on an updated church directory; if you have not already sent her your current information, please do.
- We have started including a short explanation for prayer requests in the bulletin, such as "upcoming surgery" or something like that to provide a little context but preserve everyone's privacy as desired.

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- The online services are a good outreach tool! I encourage everyone to share these on your own pages, as some of you already have.
- VBS is scheduled for this week, July 19-21, 5:30pm to 7:30pm as a family/intergenerational program including dinner. The theme for this year is prayer. If you would like to assist in any way, please let Pastor or Donna Krebs know!
- I will be the guest again on a KFUE radio Bible study, "Thy Strong Word," recording on July 27 but I'm not sure yet when it will air.
- We have a movie night scheduled Friday, August 19. I haven't decided yet what movie. Let me know if you have any suggestions for what to show!

Circuit, District, and Synod

- Circuit meetings: we are in summer break from regular circuit meetings, which will resume in September. I was installed as circuit visitor at the service of installation for District officers on Saturday, June 25, and our circuit currently has two vacant congregations (Biloxi and Hattiesburg).

Travel

- Vacation time for 2022: 12 days out of 21 (1 Sunday out of 3)
- Planned travel for August: possibly making a short trip up to TN to see family the 3rd week.

- Planned travel for September: I am planning to attend the wedding of a friend in Milwaukee, and will be gone Sunday, September 11.

Other Activities, General Information

- We have a new office email address: clc1888@outlook.com. The old Bellsouth email address is no longer accessible; please change your address book.
- I am planning a program to share my experiences serving in Wittenberg for a Rally Day, Sunday, September 18.

WHO IS THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF LCMS



The Southern District is one of 35 regions of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We cover Alabama, the Florida Panhandle, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Southern District is comprised of people engaged in ministries – congregations, schools, and recognized service organizations (RSOs) – who share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those they serve in their communities. Each community of the Southern District is unique, ranging from urban to suburban, rural, beach, and bayou. The ministries of the Southern District are as unique as the communities they are in. What does not change is the message of Christ crucified: the Savior of all people, in every community, and our only hope in this hurting and broken world.

To support the people of the Southern District in fulfilling their mission, the District leadership has set the following priorities:

- Support the planting of new starts to ensure the best possible place, plan, and person for the mission
- Assist congregations in focusing/refocusing their mission work
- Practice good stewardship in our operations to increase the resources available for the mission
- Transition staff from program providers to mission facilitators who connect our congregations to the best mission practices
- Utilize a form of governance which enables the leadership to focus on the mission and be accountable to its work

Our History

A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Our roots go deep into The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The LCMS was formed in 1847. In 1855 it was divided into four districts: Eastern, Central, Western, and Northern.

In the first 34 years the following districts were ‘spun off’ of the original four:

- 1863 – Indiana (from Central)
- 1874 – Northwestern (from Northern)
- 1875 – Illinois (from Western)
- 1879 – Iowa (from Western)
- 1979 – Ontario (from Northern)

In the 35th year, 1882, four more new Districts were formed: Michigan (from Northern), Minnesota-Dakota (from Northwestern), Nebraska (from Western) and SOUTHERN (from Western).

OUR GENESIS AS A DISTRICT

BIRTHDATE: February 8, 1882

BIRTHPLACE: Zion, New Orleans, LA

BIRTH SIZE: 13 congregations (4 in LA, 9 in TX)

GEOGRAPHY: States of TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, and FL

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT GAVE BIRTH TO TWO OTHER DISTRICTS

In 1906 the Texas District was formed, taking 62 of the 90 congregations. In 1948 the Florida-Georgia District was formed, taking all but 62 congregations and preaching stations. (The district held onto the one congregation in Atlanta, and the one in the Florida Panhandle.)

AN HISTORIC MERGER

Recall the formation date of the Southern District – 1882. There were four New Orleans congregations in that original district. Two Lutheran congregations not included were Mt. Zion and St. Paul. They were the original congregations of the Synodical Conference Mission Program. Mt. Zion was formed in 1878 and St. Paul in 1879. It was in 1963 that the total of 54 Black congregations of the Synodical Conference Mission Program in our geographical area were merged into the Southern District of the LCMS. The 33 congregations in the Central Alabama area were consolidated into 10 congregations a short while later. [Learn more about Dr. Rosa Young here.](#)

HISTORIC SUPPORT FROM SYNOD

From 1950 through 1992 the LCMS undergirded the mission and ministry of the Southern District. (Other ‘saltwater districts’ received financial assistance to a lesser amount for a shorter time.) During that period over \$21 million of Synodical aid was generously given to our district, enabling a rapid expansion of mission starts, and the assimilation of the Synodical Conference Mission Program.

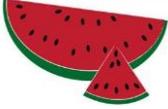
INFORMATION ON OUR CURRENT DISTRICT

The Southern District geography is large, perhaps the 5th-7th largest of the 35 LCMS Districts. It is approximately 800 miles from Northeast to Southwest, and approximately 450 miles from North to South. It includes 152 Congregations (56 – Alabama, 20 – Florida, 53 – Louisiana, 23 – Mississippi). It also includes 25 Schools (7 – Alabama, 4 – Florida, 12 – Louisiana, 2 – Mississippi).

Approximately 25 of our congregations are “historically” black congregations. This number is one of the real blessings given to the Southern District. Our District geography contains Concordia College, Selma, begun by the Synodical Conference Mission Program in 1922 under the leadership of the sainted Dr. Rosa Young. The congregations in black ministry in this area have produced the majority of the black pastors and teachers for the LCMS. Many of our historic white congregations now have African-American members. We have one historic Hispanic congregation.

August

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						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 11:00 Mary Martha: 11:00	Council 6:00				Movie Night	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Congregational Meeting: 11:00						
28	29	30	31			
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						