

The Watchman



February

2021

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak"
Ezekiel 3:17

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



This is the month that, most years, we'd turn our attention to Mardi Gras; it's possible for it to fall in early March, but usually it's a February occasion. Certainly it's been an education for us since moving to the Coast, learning what Mardi Gras is all about and how to appreciate it. But I know that due to the coronavirus circumstances this year and the cancellation of so many parades, balls, and other events, a lot of people around here are going to be disappointed and feel there's something missing.

As with so many other things which have been cancelled or missed since last March, there's always a temptation to feel hopeless or depressed, to moan about what's been lost or chafe against the restrictions we're under. But some people have instead shown us great creativity and imagination, looking at things through a different lens and making the best of a bad situation.

The example I'm most thinking of here is the trend over in New Orleans of "Yardi Gras" complete with a new Krewe of House Floats -- they show how bring something positive out of a bad situation. *Laisserons les bon temps rouler, qu'il y a maladie ou non!*

There's a great lesson for faith to be found there. Our faith often shows itself most in how we react to things: Christians are subject to the same world, the same forces, the same hardships as everyone else, but what sets us apart is how we understand the meaning of such things and how we respond to them. Joseph's reassurance to his brothers in Genesis comes to mind, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." We trust God, even (or especially!) when we don't see the whole picture.

We should also approach life with a "Christian worldview" -- not only in terms of answering the

big questions like "Why are we here?" or "What is life all about?", but simply in terms of viewing the world in a Christian way. So what does that look like? Essentially, it's the "greatest commandment" to love God above all else and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Not to worry or gripe about the current economy, political situation, or coronavirus fears; rather, to love and obey God, to love and serve others. If we can show the same imagination and passion for love, obedience, and service as the Yardi Gras participants have shown for that celebration, we will indeed be living faithfully and thriving.



**January Anniversary
& Birthdays (2020 picture)**

L-R: Richard Heusman,
Cathy & Gary Groff, Melvin
Hayes



Elders & Lay Readers

- 7 Shawn Robbins (Anna K.)
- 14 Kevin Rademacher (Aletha S.)
- 21 Bobby Trehern (Jody H.)
- 28 Jody Heusman (Hanna D.)



Anniversaries

- 26 Sheila & Artimus ("Fella") Williams



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sylvia Feazell
- 13 Kathy Griffin
- 14 Lin Jacobson, III
- 15 Lisa Hoskinson
- 18 Marilyn Trehern
- 22 Robert Maggard
- 23 Karen Dunston
- 23 Artimus ("Fella") Williams
- 25 Brandon Erwin



Bible Treasure Hunt: Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

How was Ruth related to Naomi? Daughter, sister, daughter-in-law or cousin?

Mary Martha News

Will meet on Monday, February 1 at 5:30 pm.

Come join us for our monthly meeting. If you need a ride please contact Kyndel or Janet Torries.

Mites

Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

\$100,000

Throughout the country, there are many devoted first-generation immigrants serving in full-time ministry, reaching out to their ethnic communities and sharing the Gospel. Many of these church workers are enrolled in either of two Concordia Seminary programs – the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) and the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). Both share the mission to make Christ known in their respective ethnic communities. CHS has a four-year program taught in Spanish and includes students from many Hispanic-Latino cultures. The EIIT program already has students that have been working in Word and Sacrament ministry as part of their culture. These students often have strained financial circumstances that are making it difficult to pay for this necessary education. Most hold two and three jobs to make ends meet but are willing to go to great lengths in the service of Christ and His Gospel. It is vital that they have the Biblical foundation to go with their passion for ministry. This grant will go towards funding the education costs of these devoted students and church workers.

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is making important efforts to share the Gospel according to Lutheran tradition throughout U.S. immigrant and ethnic communities and embracing the rapidly increasing ethnic and cultural diversity of 21st-century America; and

WHEREAS, the theological education provided by Concordia Seminary's Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) and Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) programs enables highly devout, dedicated immigrant church workers to bring many people of different cultural backgrounds closer to Christ from the basis of a strong biblical foundation; and

WHEREAS, these ethnic church workers live with considerably strained financial circumstances and do not have nearly the resources to fund their education costs; and

WHEREAS, the congregations that these church workers serve, as well as their LCMS districts, often are unable to support these education costs due to their own financial constraints; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the delegates gathered at the 2019 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Mobile, Alabama, vote the sum of \$100,000.00 to help fund Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities.



Soe Moe is an EIIT student who serves at Southwest Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. His parents, who are from Burma, fled that country during its long period of military rule and considerable unrest. He was born in a refugee camp in Thailand, where his family lived for 11 years before coming to the U.S. At Southwest Lutheran, which is increasing its numbers of Korean and Burmese congregants, he serves as a youth leader and youth pastor. He also assists with leading Bible studies and is part of a church outreach group that tutors youth in academic subjects and in English as a Second Language.

As a teenager, Moe's devotion to the Lord increased considerably when he attended a Lutheran summer camp three years in a row. "I realized how amazing God is, and that He's always there for us," he says. He adds that he also realized then that his calling was to become a youth pastor. "I very much want to continue bringing the Good News to young people and giving them hope," he says.

Sunday Readings

	Feb. 7	Fifth S. a. the Epiphany	Is. 40:21–31	Psalm 147:1–11	1 Cor. 9:16–27	Mark 1:29–39
	Feb. 14	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	2 Kings 2:1–12 <i>or</i> Ex. 34:29–35	Psalm 50:1–6	2 Cor. 3:12–13 (14–18); 4:1–6	Mark 9:2–9
ASH WEDNESDAY	Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19	Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)	2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10	Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21
LENT	Feb. 21	First S. in Lent	Gen. 22:1–18	Psalm 25:1–10	James 1:12–18	Mark 1:9–15
	Feb. 28	Second S. in Lent	Gen. 17:1–7, 15–16	Psalm 22:23–31	Rom. 5:1–11	Mark 8:27–38

A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry



“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.



Meeting Minutes January 18, 2021

Call to order

Pastor Waffel opened with prayer

Reading of past minutes was waived

Pastor: See Pastor's notes

There was a potential COVID exposure Sunday, January 17. A couple sat in the rear left of the sanctuary and tested positive Monday. The council discussed how to alert members for potential COVID exposure. The sanctuary will be sanitized Tuesday.

Soup suppers for Lent will be cancelled out of an abundance of caution. The Pascagoula Mardi Gras Parade is also cancelled. We may be able to have a picnic later in the spring.

Council motioned and approved the Synod's request to extend the convention period another year.

President: Shawn Robbins- no additional information

Vice President: Kevin Rademacher: The flower and usher schedules will be posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Elders: Jody Heusmann: Elders will begin to contact members on their list. The list has been updated to reflect the four elders.

Trustees: Jerold Shepherd: Waiting for bids for painting and repair to the bell tower.

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen

December \$12,553.22

Total 2020: \$118,333.69

January so far: \$7881.00

Treasurer: No report

Evangelism: Rita Shepherd and Cathy Groff: Volunteered to head up the committee. Feel free to send them suggestions

Mary Martha: Kyndel Torries: In November the ladies prepared and sent goodie boxes to local first responders

Youth: Dave Griffin: Mardi Gras cookout cancelled, but may plan a spring cookout.

Social Ministry: Melonee Crews: Social Ministry is continuing to send birthday cards to retirees. Sympathy cards were sent to the Yunker and Schollian families and to Rita Shepherd's sister Dallas for the loss of their loved ones due to COVID.

Old business: Looking into making our organ play using a cd/computer programmed sound system. We are still looking for a new organist.

New business: none

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Council Members:

President-Shawn Robbins

Vice President: Kevin Rademacher

Secretary: Susan Rademacher

Elder Chairman" Jody Heusman

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen

Trustee: Jerold Shepherd

Education: Donna Krebs

Evangelism: Rita Shepherd & Cathy Groff

Mary Martha: Kyndel Torries

Youth: Dave Griffin

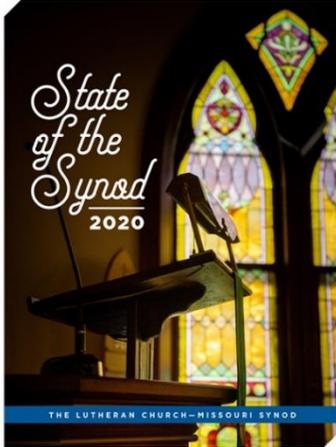
Stewardship: Jay Torries

Social Ministry: Melonee Crews, Kathy Griffin, Tara Heusman

State of the Synod 2020

Mission and Ministry report from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The church finds certainty in Christ, no matter what. Read the “State of the Synod” to see how the LCMS has been blessed and challenged in this uncertain year.



Down load at

<https://www.lcms.org/news/publications/state-of-the-synod>

Synod provides facts and counsel on COVID-19 vaccines

Down load at

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2021/synod-provides-facts-and-counsel-on-covid-19-vaccines/>



Dr. Michael Brown, assistant dean of Pharmacy at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), Mequon, Wis., gives a firefighter his first coronavirus vaccination. Sixteen faculty members and students from the CUW pharmacy department are volunteering locally to help administer vaccines, (CUW)

Hello February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00	Mary/Martha Meeting 5:30					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Elders 11:30 	 Council 6:00					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Congregational Meeting 11:15						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt: Daughter-in-law Ruth 22
28						
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						



1 John 4:19