

News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church

February 2020

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A Message from Pastor Brandt

Wasn't that a wonderful article by Pastor Anderegg in last month's newsletter? As I reflect on his words of there being two pastors and as I watch the snow coming down (it's January 11th), two thoughts come to me: God is alive and well, and He still works in mysterious ways!

Some of you have heard this from me, but it's unique enough to bear repeating. On Sunday, June 3, 2018, I gave my farewell sermon at First Lutheran Church in Ada, OK. I had done the same the week before at my other congregation, Hope Lutheran in Sulphur, OK. Our three children were there helping us to finish packing, loading, and moving here to the Lake by Friday of the same week. In the coming week I approached Pastor Lehenbauer and Pastor Morris at Christ the King and told them we wanted to transfer our membership. Ironically, I had attended Pastor Lehenbauer's Installation at Hope Lutheran as a Mission Developer around 1994 while being a Vicar from Holts Summit. I told both pastors that the past nine months had been very stressful with preparations for not only the physical move, but also leaving so many friends I had made all throughout Ada and at other Lutheran Churches in our Circuit where I had served as their Vacancy Pastor on multiple occasions. It was truly hard to leave so many friends! Anyway, I told them that I didn't want any duties whatsoever the next seven months until the first of the next year—I just wanted to sit beside my wife and worship with her—something that obviously pastors can't do. Well, four weeks went by, and then while leaving church on Sunday morning both of those guys looked at me at the same time and motioned for me to come see them. In short, I was told of a crisis situation at Peace Lutheran in Camdenton. "Please pray about helping them out," I was told. Before the week was over, the MO District President, the Circuit Counselor from Sedalia, and Mic Carlson had called. My wife and I met with Mic the next week. The three of us were practically in tears. My wife nudged me and said, "You have to help them out!" On July 29th, eight weeks after my final service in Ada, I was back in the pulpit. So the question is: "Who orchestrated that?" You? Me? The District? No, that was a "God thing!" One of those mysteries He performs—one of those things we cannot anticipate. My father-in-law used to always say, "You can't anticipate the future!" He first said that when I was around 30, primarily referring to where I might be working in ten years at



Happening This Month!

Feb. 2	Worship	9 a.m.
	Bible Class	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 3	Elder's Mtg.	9:30 a.m.
Feb. 9	Worship	9 a.m.
	Bible Class	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 10	LWML Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Feb. 11	Council Mtg.	
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day	
Feb. 16	Worship	9 a.m.
	Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 17	Newsletter Deadline	9 a.m.
	President's Day	
Feb. 23	Worship	9 a.m.
	Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 26	Ash Wed. Serv.	6 p.m.



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Newsletter DEADLINE

The **deadline** for the **March** newsletter is **Mon., Feb. 17** at **9 a.m.** If you have an article you want published, or information you want to get out to the whole congregation, prepare it and send it to plccamdenton@gmail.com.



Peace Lutheran Church

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Rev. Gary Brandt
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Monday-Wednesday
8:00 to 12:00 pm

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Website:
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Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, Missouri
Like us on Facebook

Our Mission

"We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."

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the same factory as he and my dad and my grandpa had done. He also that you can't anticipate where you might live and even what tragedies might strike you. (Ponder on your own life)! The point is: **God is in control!** God orchestrates the mysteries that we cannot anticipate.

Although I had met Pastor Anderegg and Sara one time on a Germany Reformation Tour in 2004, I hadn't seen them since and had no idea they were in this area nor that he was available to share preaching/worship duties. Oh, but God knew! God knew He would care for the family of Peace Lutheran and provide part-time help from two pastors who were able to assist. I am reminded of the words of the Lord to the child Jeremiah in Chapter 1, verse 5: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."* And although Jeremiah became God's faithful servant, the Israelites rejected the Lord, ending up in captivity under the ruthless Babylonians. But God had not forsaken them. He writes to Jeremiah in Chapter 29, *"This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are complete for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'"* (v 10-11).

For many years, JaneAnn and I knew that when I retired we would return to Missouri; just not where! We bought this condo here at the Lake four years ago and rented it for more than two years before moving into it. We didn't know what plans God had for us, but He did. You didn't know that a tragedy would strike your congregation. But God did! He knows it all and orchestrates the timing and the outcome. No, not always as we would like, but according to His will!

Know that the Lord has plans for Peace Lutheran.

None of us can anticipate what they will be! But we do know that the Holy Spirit is alive and well here, and the Lord gives us a gracious promise: *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Thus, as we move into this new year of 2020, may you have 20/20 spiritual vision! Look up to the Lord, then look around to see the opportunities set before you! With your 20/20 vision, you will see that the future of Christ's Church and our Peace Lutheran Congregation is bright and clear!

Peace be with you!

Pastor Gary Brandt



AshWednesday

Mark your calendars for February 26 for the
Ash Wednesday Service at 6 p.m.

Thank you to everyone for your cards and prayers during my resent surgery and recovery. God has blessed us with a wonderful and caring church family.
Jaccy Heinlein



Weather permitting, we will have a Thrivent dinner/meeting on February 20 at 5 pm in the church fellowship hall. Menu: Chili or vegetable soup with crackers, cornbread, dessert, and drinks. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. A sign-up sheet is on the credenza in the narthex for you to sign so we know how many to prepare for. Bring news ideas, projects etc so that we can plan out our year and take advantage of the Action Teams privileges. See you there. You do not need to be a member to attend this dinner/meeting.

Bob Borgmann, Drew Brandt, JaneAnn Brandt, Norma Flenker, Charlie Gifford, Jim Janssen, Dorothy Jost, Chuck Kral, Bob Mueller, Carol Murrell and the Murrell family, Barb Powell, Mark & Rita Riemann, Rodney Schulz, Russell Schulz, Diana Schwab and the Schwab family, our visitors, those celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, those in the nursing home and care facilities, the peacemakers and protectors and their families, and all others who are troubled, lonely, ill or recovering from illness. We pray that our loving God will bless and comfort them.

Our Lenten Focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.



The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

Time Change

The following special services will begin at 6 p.m.: Ash Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, Advent, and Christmas Eve.

Directory Updates

Dale and Doris Lawson transferred their membership to Christ the King.

The email address for Pastor Anderegg should read as follows: rickanderegg87@gmail.com

The credenza has several new directory sheets available. Check your directory to see if you have these sheets.



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Feb. 3 Ed Heinlein
Feb. 12 Sara Sosnowski
Feb. 20 Hayden Carlson
Feb. 24 Sara Anderegg

Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900



Last month's answer: B. They returned to their own country by another road (or way).

Peace Prayer Chain

If anyone has a prayer request for family members, friends or yourself, you can request that it be put on the prayer chain by calling Carol Murrell 573-374-0357 or the church office. If you would like your name to be added to the list, a sign-up sheet is located in the narthex or call Carol.



Here's What's Going On at Peace



BIBLE STUDY



Wow, where does the time go? Here we are headed in to the dreaded February, in my experience the real month of winter. February is the shortest month and in four short weeks, February 26, Ash Wednesday, we begin the Lenten season.

We have been studying the book of Revelations in Sunday Adult Bible Study. If you have not been able to participate, you have missed some excellent Bible study sessions on what is probably the most difficult, yet interesting book of the Bible.

At one of the recent sessions we were discussing what it may be like in Heaven. One thing that came out of it was most of us would prefer not to have cell phones, computers and internet. We did not actually vote, but that seemed to be the sense of the meeting. You have to remember, the average age of the dozen or so attendees must be 70. We are not millennials, we are pre and post World War II perhaps baby boomers. Our children and even more so our grandchildren are part of this electronic age. Most of us got our first introduction to computers in our twenties, but the age of desk top and then lap top computers we began to see in our late thirties early forties, and the cell phone certainly in our forties. Now we have smart phones with more memory than the on board computers that NASA had, when they sent a man to the moon. Sorry, that was an excursive. The real point is, *to encourage YOU to join our Sunday Adult Bible study*. I cannot speak for everyone, but I am learning a great deal and enjoying these classes. This month we will have a Thrivent fundraiser "Nuts for Bible Study", where we will be selling nuts to raise money for our newly acquired Lutheran Study Bibles.

I would also ask you to consider helping us with a couple of the tasks we have to still accomplish. Our journey continues.

- Music for our services will continue, at least for the short term, utilizing the Concordia Publisher discs. We need to train three additional people on how to operate the sound system and assist in providing the music for our various services. If you would be willing to contribute one service each month, the training is written up, and with a couple of assisted practices, you would be proficient in providing this service. No musical skills required and if I can do it, any of you could.
- Every year I ask different people to provide, or assist with audit of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's documentation. People always tell me, "They will consider it and get back to me". Interpretation, "I need to think of a good excuse not to volunteer for this task". First, you do not need to be an accountant to handle this task. Second, I will help you work through the audit. Finally, we are talking about maybe three or four hours of work.

Thanks to our Co-Pastors for their leadership over these past couple of months. Our services continue at the same or an even higher level than they were over the past eighteen months. The Sunday Adult Bible Study is starting to have improved attendance, the Bible studies are at a high level and we are having fun expanding our knowledge. Our members are being cared for spiritually when they are hospitalized, or not feeling well and home bound.

A reminder, Pastor Brandt is in the office, or making calls on our membership on Mondays and Pastor Anderegg is in the office on Wednesdays. If you are having any issues, call them and schedule a time to come by and visit with them.

They are here for you.
Mic Carlson, *President*

He's Working All Things Out for Your Good

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Paul begins this verse by saying: 'And we know.' There are so many things in life we don't know. We don't know if the economy will dip or how our kids will turn out. We don't even 'know what we ought to pray for' (v. 26). But we can 'know' these four things:

1. **'God works.'** Even though you can't see Him, He's busy behind the scenes. He hasn't checked out or moved on. He's ceaseless, tireless, and He never stops working.
2. **'God works for the good.'** Not for our comfort, pleasure, or entertainment, but for our ultimate good. But then again, He is the ultimate good, so would you expect less?
3. **'God works for the good of those who love Him.'** Behold the benefit of a loving God! Make His story your story, and your story takes on a happy ending. Guaranteed!
4. **God works 'in all things.'** God works, not just in a few things, or the good things or the best things, or the easy things. He works in 'all things.' And He doesn't make the plan up as He goes along. The Bible says, 'In him we were also chosen... according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will' (Ephesians 1:11). And the best part is—God's plan includes you! So stop fretting, stressing out, and losing sleep. Turn it over to God and believe that He's working 'all things' out for your good and His glory.

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Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for always being at work—to my good. Help me trust that and to follow You in what You have worked out. In Jesus' Name, Amen.
Tim Hetzner, President/CEO of Lutheran Church Charities



There is still work to be done, but, some new information with pictures has been added to our website! plccamdenton.org
Pastor Anderegg and Pastor Brandt's pictures and bios were added along with drop down menus. Also the newsletter section has been updated.

Our hope is when people are surfing our website they will find information with ease.

Let us know what you think!! If you have any questions, or have anything you would like to see added, just let us know.

To know **Christ** and to **believe in Him** is no achievement of man, but the **gift from God.**

- Martin Luther

Plan to Attend!

Our first LWML meeting, of 2020, will be held Monday, February 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. The roll call word is **with/about contentment**. Diane Borgmann will serve as hostess.

The LWML wishes to

thank you to all members who supported the Jan. 5th collection for our Pocket Change for Mites. We collected \$61.18! Our next Pocket Change Mites collection will be Sunday, February 2.

LWML ladies



The Journey of your LWML Dollar

District Operating Fund

DEPOSITED into this fund

- ½ of Society dues contributions
- ½ of the dues stay in the zone
- any funds left over after convention
- designated offerings/donations

PAID out of this fund

- expenses of district officers
- expenses of District Board of Directors
- convention speaker costs/honoraria
- advanced district convention expenses
- bonding insurance
- Concordia Historical Institute
- memorials given
- music licenses
- meeting supplies/expenses
- stamps/postage/envelopes/stationary
- bank service charges
- travel assistance fund (used to help with national convention)

District Mission Fund

DEPOSITED into this fund

- Mite offerings
- mission fair (convention)
- mission walk (convention)
- memorials/honorariums
- designated rally (other) and convention offerings
- stamps for missions
- LWML Sunday offerings (other)
- Velvet Pouch (seminary grants, education)
- prayer service offerings
- quarterly offerings

PAID out of this fund

- mission grants dispersed
- Church worker study grants and seminary grants disbursed
- website expense (as needed)
- young women rep expenses
- 25 percent to national LWML
- mite box expenses
- workshops and retreats



Servants of God for February

Elder: Jeff Hedberg

Altar Guild: Jacey Heinlein

February 2

Greeters/Coffee Servers: Janet Bartels & Rita Riemann

Ushers: Robert Hansen, Penny Jost, Paul Bartels, Mark Riemann

Counters: Bob Mueller

Flowers:

February 9

Greeters/Coffee Servers: Paula Emery & Shelia Hartenstein

Ushers: Earl & Shelia Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery

Counters: Bob & Diane Borgmann

Flowers:

February 16

Greeters/Coffee Servers: Matt & Sosnowski

Ushers: Bob & Diane Borgmann, Sheryl Bald, Mic Carlson,
Rodney Schulz

Counters: Mic Carlson

Flowers:

February 23

Greeters/Coffee Servers:

Ushers: Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Bob Mueller, Russell Schulz

Counters: Ed & Jacey Heinlein

Flowers:

February Worship Schedule

February 2—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Gary Brandt

Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed

Hymns: 394 (1-3), 655, 650, 394 (4-5)

February 9—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Richard Anderegg

Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Nicene Creed

Hymns: 410 (1-3), 735, 578, 410 (4-6)

February 16—Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Gary Brandt

Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed

Hymns: 395 (1-3), 398, 633, 395 (4-6)

February 23—The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Richard Anderegg

Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed

Hymns: 790 (1-2), 413, 621, 790 (3-4)

February 26—Ash Wednesday (6 p.m.)

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Richard Anderegg



From Everyone His Witness

Encourage by Praying

A witness of Jesus should pray before, during, and after engaging with people. But prayer should be kept in perspective in that no one is saved through prayer – it is not a Means of Grace. But even though sharing the Means of Grace through the Word of God is more important than prayer when witnessing, why would you not? The Lord gives us the great gift of prayer to use passionately. But realize that prayer can't do what the Word of God can and should not be a replacement for God's Word. When praying make sure to honor God's name. When speaking to someone listen and ask to find out a person's views on God (many confess in false gods) and that will help to make the best use of prayer as you witness. One way to encourage is to pray in their presence. You can take what you have learned about them (after you listened and asked) to address their specific needs and continue a connection with them. You also show interest, that you have listened and learned the needs, concerns, and interests of the person that will make prayer effective. You will find out how they connect - HEAD, HEART, HANDS - and what they know about Christ. Always direct the prayer to the Lord and not a sermon directed at the person. Bring the person's needs, concerns, and worries before Him. Make sure to ask the person if it's ok to pray with him and not be pushy. Whether or not you pray with a person, always pray **for** the person.

We have spent several months discussing the LAS-SIE approach to Evangelism to help make speaking about Jesus to others easier and more effective. It's goal is to enable all of us to bring the Good News of salvation to them and bring them to Faith in Christ. If you missed any of the previous newsletter messages on LASSIE, they are achieved at our website www.plccamdenton.org in the newsletters. And always remember that we are all evangelists.

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missed any of the previous newsletter messages on LASSIE, they are achieved at our website www.plccamdenton.org in the newsletters. And always remember that we are all evangelists.

The prayer: Dear God, I am not always as persistent as I should be when it comes to sharing the message of Your love and the salvation Jesus has won. Please let me be persistent in my life, in my witness, in my faith. I ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

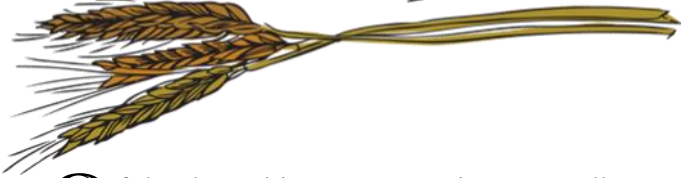
In future issues we'll be moving on to apologetics. Apologetics means to make a defense for what one believes to be true. The word comes from the Greek word *apologia* and is used by the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:15 "Be ready always to give a defense (*apologia*) for the hope that is within you, yet with gentleness and reverence." Giving a defense for our Christian beliefs is not optional but is mandated Biblically. And it's not only the pastor's task to defend the faith. Those of us in the pews are also to give reasons for our faith and here's why. First, in this day and age, chances are very good that you will run into someone who questions your faith. Many times they will come up with objections that one may be unprepared to answer. Questions concerning why evil exists? Why is God hidden? Isn't God a tyrant in the Old Testament? Why do bad things happen to good people? How do you explain "contradictions" in the Bible? How do you know God exists? Is Jesus' resurrection really true? Etc. One popular book on apologetics is *The Case For Christ* written by Lee Stroble. Stroble was a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist for the Chicago Tribune and a devout atheist. When his wife suddenly became a Christian - much to his dismay - he set out to prove Christianity false by interviewing the top Christian apologists of the day - such as Wm Lane Craig, Ravi Zacharias, Bruce Metzger, Gary Habermas, J.P. Moreland among others. He had hoped to stump them with his questions. But by the time he finished the interviews he had to change the tenor of his book from an affirmation of atheism to a testament of Christianity. He is now a Christian minister and blogger. Another book is by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek called *I Don't Have The Faith To Be An Atheist* which examines Faith starting from whether objective truth exists (it does) and builds a case one block at a time to prove God's existence by explaining the Divine design, objective morality, the existence of miracles, and testimonies about Jesus. The authors continually show how it takes more faith to be an atheist than a Christian. And the book *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, who also was an atheist until he realized there could be no moral law without a moral law giver. And, finally, there's Lutheran apologists John Warrick Montgomery, Allan Quist, and Craig Parton. Their books are available at CPH and offer a wealth of information and answers to the questions that are often brought up by unbelievers, skeptics, those of other faiths, and sometimes even Christians. So if we are going out into the world to bring tidings of great joy to people, we need to be "well armed" to give answers

that are often brought up by unbelievers, skeptics, those of other faiths, and sometimes even Christians. So if we are going out into the world to bring tidings of great joy to people, we need to be "well armed" to give answers and convincing arguments to those with hard questions. Next, apologetics is an excellent tool for evangelism. Through the Holy Spirit in hearing the Word of God, nonbelievers can come to know of His grace through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Though not a substitute for the Word, a good apologetic can often begin to open that door. And finally, having good answers to these questions can also strengthen one's own Faith at a time of doubt, conflict, or crisis. Our best expression or confession of our Faith is explained by the three creeds: The Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian. So how and why do we know that these creeds are true? It can be answered in one word - revelation. We can know truth through God's revelation to us. Apologists will often cite three kinds of revelation: 1) general, 2) special, and 3) personal. General revelation cites rational (as well as Biblical) reasons for God's existence. Some of its arguments: The cosmological (aka the first cause argument) the teleological (the divine design of the universe), the anthropic principle (design of life), moral objectivity (it's not just a matter of opinion) to name a few. These are good apologetics for the Maker of Heaven and Earth. Next, special revelation is all about God the Son - Jesus Christ - and the testimonies of the disciples and the reasons we can know they're true. Finally personal revelation is through God the Holy Spirit as he comes to us through His Word. More on apologetics in coming months. It's a broad subject with abundant concepts and terms and will only have room for the basics, but it should be informative and interesting.

On the Web: The Word of the LORD Endures Forever is a fifteen minute Bible study by Pr. Will Weedon. If you haven't heard Pr. Weedon you're in for a treat. He puts emotion into the readings and intellect into the teachings. It's wonderful as a daily devotion. www.thewordendures.org
Russ Schulz, *Evangelism Chair*



Stewardship News



Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It’s something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn’t be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else’s possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles’ Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner’s wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther’s Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let’s look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

Let’s look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This

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is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

from The Reporter

January 14 Council Meeting

Jeff Emery called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Anderegg opened with a prayer.

The following council members were present: Mic Carlson, Jeff Emery, Vicki Stauch, Rita Riemann, Bob Borgmann, Diane Borgmann, Jeff Hedberg (for Bob Mueller), Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz, Pastor Anderegg and Pastor Brandt. Absent: Susan and Chuck Kral.

Minutes from the November 12, 2019 Council Meeting were approved.

Financial Secretary: Presented the 3 year summary of church contributions. She compared December of 2018 to 2019 and noted the following changes: envelope was up \$678.00, plate was up \$532 and other was down \$350.52 with the total being up \$859.48. The year to date total is down \$6,443.48 and envelope down \$2,079.61. A question asked, if the new weekly giving envelope numbers changed. The response was that they did, and they should use their new envelopes. If any giving was made using their old numbers, it would be caught and changed. It was also asked if their mailbox number changed, and the response was not right now, but in the next month that would happen. The report was accepted and approved.

Treasurer: Rita presented the monthly figures and noted that our income exceeded our expenses by \$852.49. In presenting the Quarterly and Annual numbers, it was noted that the Nadine E. Meyer gift was removed from the income numbers because it distorted the income numbers. She noted that the fourth quarter income over expense was \$5,289.71 and the year to date (after adding back in the Certificate of Deposit) was \$30,834.69. During the discussion it was noted, that we would have been at an almost breakeven, had our current pastoral contract been in place for the complete year. The report was accepted and approved.

Board of Elders: Jeff Hedberg reported the Elders had met on January 6th and their new meeting time and date would be the first Monday of the month at 9:30 am.

- They reviewed the membership which continues at 56 baptized and confirmed and an average Sunday Worship of 43.1 for the year.
- To minimize the confusion of having different starting times for mid-week services it recommended to the Pastors and with their agreement, all mid-week services would be held at 6:00 pm.

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- On Christmas Eve, we had a visitor communing who asked if we had a non-alcoholic wine. This issue was discussed in depth at the Elders meeting and they talked about our following the practice of serving non-alcoholic wine, and the Elders felt it would be a good idea. The Pastors concurred that is was done and is done by many churches. A general discussion of this topic ensued and Pastor Anderegg suggested we should continue to discuss this issue before implementing it.

The report was accepted and approved.

Ushers: Bob distributed the years weekly and cumulative attendance figures for 2019 and the annual attendance totals for 2011-2018. He noted you had to be careful, because the number of actual services varied based on the calendar and snow days. He noted our attendance was down 221 from 2018, but we had five snow days in 2018 and only three in 2019. The average attendance for the year was 43. The Report was accepted and approved.

Board of Trustees: Chuck Kral gave his report to Mic to present.

- Matt Sosnowski took down and put away the outdoor manger scene.
- Trustees (Mark) fixed the timers on the outdoor lights.
- Mark and Chuck reorganized the wiring in the main circuit box by the furnace.
- Chuck is working on making an enclosure for the outside trash container.
- Chuck reports that the armadillos continue to cause damage to the cemetery. Feels we need to have grub control put down in the cemetery.
- Chuck repaired the manger scene fence and the boards it hangs on.
- November 18th Chuck and Mic met with Truesdell Fence Co regarding the cemetery fence. Chuck has contacted Turesdell twice during December and we do not have the quote yet.

Chuck's report was approved and accepted.

Board of Evangelism: Russell reviewed the activities for the past month, including:

- Newsletter for February is submitted starting with his articles on "LASSIE" this month is "Encourage through Prayer", and started his introduction to Apologetics, beginning with special revelation of testimonies for Jesus.
- He pointed out the Engage Magazine, winter edition Where the People Are, Pamela J. Nielsen as a church working with the homeless, the blind, college students, etc.
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1. This led to looking up charitable organizations around the Lake of the Ozarks and looking at how we might help them, i.e., human services offer spiritual support.
2. Consider a blood drive at the church.
3. Opportunities to get our brochures out when they are ready.

- Looking at other opportunities: T shirts, bumper stickers, LWML tray favors for Easter.
- Continue updating our Facebook information.
- Still has not been able to find a source or research that might indicate the type of turnout we could have in any joint venture program with Lake Regional Hospital.

The report was accepted and approved.

Board of Stewardship: Dawn discussed the research she had done on companies and costs to develop information and costs for selling cards for a mission project. Vicki Stauch has some boxed cards she will bring to look at. Dawn would like to proceed with trying to set up selling of cards on an honor system as soon as possible. The report was accepted and approved.

Cemetery Committee: Diane indicated she had nothing new to report. The Cemetery Bank account has \$2,435.00 and the CD is \$20,522.80.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brandt reported on the calls he has been making.

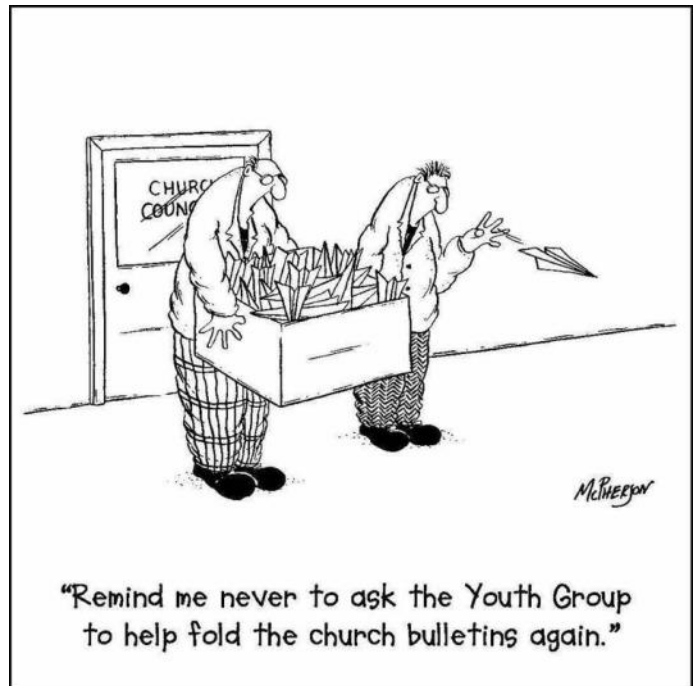
President's Report: Mic reported:

- Cemetery Perpetuity Application not complete.
- Bruce Kelly, Kelly Organ and Piano Sales and Repair has been retained to come and do diagnostics on the Johannus Sweelick 20 Delux organ. From how I described what had happened he feels it might be as simple as replacing the power supply. Will be coming January 17th between 9:00 am and 10:00 am. Jeff will meet him at the church.
- **Carillons and Bells.** The equipment has been sent to the original manufacturer in California. Waiting on further contact.
- Finance Committee will consist of President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Secretary. The committee is meeting this evening after the Council meeting. It will be joined by the Planning Committee that did our Long Range Plan in 2019, approved by the Voters July of 2019.
- Suggested we consider a texting system to notify members when we are not going to have church. Research indicates we could use the same system the local schools use. This led to discussion of when and how the determination was being made to not have church. At the end of the discussion, the Pastor who will be preaching that Sunday will attempt to make the determination on Saturday, and he will notify the head Elder who will notify the other Elders to call members to notify them. The use of an automated system was tabled for

and he will notify the head Elder who will notify the other Elders to call members to notify them. The use of an automated system was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Report was accepted and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mic Carlson for Susan Kral



Three in One

Everyday objects can serve as simple lessons about biblical truth. To illustrate the profound concept of the Trinity, for example, some teachers use an apple, an egg or a three-leaf clover. During winter, you can point to a kid-friendly snowman to describe how God is Three in One.

The ball of snow on the base represents God the Father, our Creator and strong foundation. The middle ball, with stick arms reaching to the side, reminds us of Jesus, who died on the cross. And the snowman's head stands for the Holy Spirit, our ever-present Counselor who helps us and speaks God's truth to us.

