

# *Covenant News*



## **August 2022**

### *Pastor's Spin*



Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

Greetings! Since the wider church recognizes Mary, Mother of Our Lord, on August 15, we will take the day on Sunday, August 14, to do our part in giving thanks to God for her impact, which goes beyond even the most pivotal role of giving birth and raising Jesus. Although there have been seemingly countless artistic portrayals of Mary over the centuries, the one that sticks with me the most is Michelangelo's *Pietà*, a sculpture that sits in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

So many emotional reactions can run through someone looking at the statue in-person or even through a picture. Although *Pietà* can literally be translated into "pity" for us English-speakers, evidently, it can also mean "compassion." That word is meant to represent one of our central callings as the living disciples of Christ: *compassion*, as I've heard over the years, basically meaning, "suffering with," as if we're not meant to allow our siblings in Christ suffer alone. Michelangelo seemed to bring *compassion* to life in a saddening, yet so awe-inspiring form, in his exquisite *Pietà*.

I'm no artistic critic by any stretch of the imagination, but I'm drawn to a couple parts of the masterpiece. It's Mary's eyes, for starters. They seem to be closed, not looking at her son, who just died on the cross. It's almost as if she's experiencing the most defeating moment of her life. Then, it's her left hand, held out as if she's desperately asking, "What now!?!". I have a feeling she isn't just going through this traumatic experience as a mother, but as a child of God, as someone who knows what her son, the Lord, the Messiah, meant for herself, her family, her surrounding community, the world; wondering, "What now!?!". feeling so defeated by what her humanity just did to her precious child, to her and their Savior.

It so happens that Mary ends up being part of the “What now!?!” response, as she emerges in Acts 1 still dedicated to a ministry of prayer, and I have a feeling that she was still bringing *compassion* to life, to her family, the disciples, the surrounding area and beyond. Mary’s ministry does not stop with shaping her son in his younger years, but continues when her son, her Lord, our Lord, rises from the very dead that she witnessed herself, that she may have even grabbed hold of as depicted by Michelangelo. Jesus rises from that seemingly defeating hopelessness to empower Mary and countless others to be the “What now!?!” response with the same loving fervor that ultimately defeated death itself.

And yes, we living disciples continue to be part of that “What now!?!” response. That doesn’t mean we’re going to avoid our moments of experiencing first-hand the heart-wrenching realities of the Pietà, when we lose a loved one, for instance. We will have our moments when all we can do is close our eyes, when our well of tears have run dry, and we don’t know where to turn. We will have our moments of open hands wailing at God, “What now!?!” But God’s Resurrection ministry continues today in a variety of forms. It may not be in the sense of a bodily-rising from the dead for us to witness first-hand as it did for those in Galilee thousands of years ago, but God will manage to find ways of doing so as our Lord continues to be compassionate for us: suffering with us to not only comfort us, but to encourage us with the hope and grace that life and love will always win the day. So, on August 14 and 15, and always, we give thanks for Mary, and all the Mary’s in our life who still show us the Resurrection power in our very midst. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,  
Pastor Brad

*Image: from ArtinContext.org*



For the month of August, on Sunday mornings at 9am, we will worship outside together from our parking lot. Bulletins and Communion will be available to be picked up from our side driveway, by the office door. Then, feel free to find a spot to sit and enjoy God's Creation and worship our Risen Lord, whether you stay in your vehicle, or you bring a chair along to sit wherever you like. If the weather does not cooperate, we will worship in the sanctuary for that respective Sunday.

# Happy Birthday

8/8 Carolyn Frajter  
8/11 Ann Droste  
8/16 Marie Zahn  
8/17 Arlene Stoltz  
8/17 Chris Constant  
8/19 Douglas Pekar  
8/21 Jane Skowronski  
8/28 Jeff Garvin  
8/31 Alex Hohenstein



8/11 Jane & Jim Gradert- Happy 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
8/12 Barb & Chuck Gaglione- Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
8/14 Deena Gaglione-Hernandez & Ben Hernandez -  
Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
8/20 Paula & Alex Hohenstein - Happy 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary!  
8/20 Arlene & Jim Stoltz - Happy 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!





**FREE**

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL**

At The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH 44137

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

Come to the back of the church to enter the church hall

**DINE-IN ONLY**

**(Take-out available for those physically unable to attend)**

**Questions? Call Mary (216-924-6096)**

July 28, 2022	November 17, 2022	March 23, 2023
August 25, 2022	December 22, 2022	April 27, 2023
September 22, 2022	January 26, 2023	May 25, 2023
October 27, 2022	February 23, 2023	June 22, 2023



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Situation Report: Ukraine and Eastern Europe**

July 7, 2022

Lutheran Disaster Response has raised over \$10 million in support of refugees and internally displaced people in Ukraine and surrounding countries. New partnerships in Eastern Europe include:

- **L'Arche** has nearly 60 years of experience supporting people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities and knows they are among those most at risk in times of crisis. It is providing immediate relief to refugees with disabilities in Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland. Activities will include purchasing accessible vans to transport people with disabilities within Ukraine and along the border, building the capacity of local disability service providers and adaptations for people with disabilities who evacuated under duress without the necessary support for life with disabilities. This project allows L'Arche to live out their mission on behalf of those with disabilities and their surrounding communities as they work to survive and to help others to their greatest ability, even while under the threat and impact of the current war.
- **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)** is the international humanitarian aid and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. IOCC is providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced people in Ukraine, Romania and Poland. This humanitarian assistance includes distributing essential items, securing temporary accommodations, training volunteers and helping students continue remote education.
- **Lutheran World Federation** has expanded its programming to the Czech Republic, where it is working with local partners and churches to retrofit multipurpose spaces to accommodate refugees from Ukraine.

*For more information, and to view other ongoing ministries of Lutheran Disaster Response, please visit [LDR.org](https://www.ldr.org).*

## UKRAINE CRISIS: YOUR IMPACT THROUGH LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Your gifts of over **\$10 million** to support relief for those impacted by the crisis in Eastern Europe are already at work.\* *Thank you!*

### EXAMPLES OF RESPONSE PROJECTS

- Cash support for refugees and displaced people
- Emergency items such as beds, blankets and shelter
- Food, clean water and hygiene items
- Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups
- Psychosocial care, pastoral support
- Gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse



Additional responses with partners in these countries and others in the region are expected in the coming weeks and months. Learn more and give by visiting [ELCA.org/Ukraine](https://ELCA.org/Ukraine).

## 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.



# The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

## August 2022

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich		1	2 1:30 Worship & Music meeting 6:30 Women's AA meeting in Parish hall	3 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall	4	5 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	6 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 Worship in sanctuary
	7 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	8	9 7:00pm Council Meeting in Parlor 6:30pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	10 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall	11	12 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	13 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck	14 Mary, Mother of Our Lord 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	15	16 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	17 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall	18	19 6:30 8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	20 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 Worship in sanctuary
	21 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	22	23 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	24 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall	25 4:30-6:00pm Community Meal in Parish Hall	26 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	27 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	28 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	29	30 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	31 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall			

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Congratulations Graduate! Good Luck at Heidelberg!

