

# The Witness

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

## *Ascension Lutheran Church*

LCMS

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**August 2021**

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When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
LCMS.com



# NEWS & VIEWS

by Rosalie Streng

Suddenly it is summer. The calendar shows it too. We rejoice in the recent rains. We are glad to see open windows and fans in the sanctuary. We are also happy to see many of our members drifting back to regular worship. We have missed them. We don't miss the masks, although; I for one, have not had a mask burning. One never knows. How nice to shake hands with people and Pastor again. How warm to share a hug with our member friends.

Lately we saw storage containers on our grounds. Play ground equipment has vanished from view. The basketball teams are showing up for practices. The parking lot has more cars. Activity within the parsonage indicates new occupants are being prepared for. Ascension is on the move. Pray for success.

Pastor Anderson has been trekking down from Wisconsin each week. We are glad to have him preach and lead Sunday Bible class as well. A special treat occurs when the full Anderson family worships together with us. Three darling boys and a sweet little girl, plus mom. One Sunday we enjoyed a meeting with NID president, the Rev. Alan Buss, and his leading of the worship service.

Monty's ankle has healed and he is at the organ again. We hope to hear Lance at service soon. His horn playing is always welcome. One of the brightest moments occurred during this awful pandemic when Monty put together a mini-concert for us with piano and violin players. What a treat to hear fine music in our sanctuary. The artists were also glad to have a live audience to play for, and the live audience loved it.

There are plans for a summer VBS, perhaps a virtual one. Stay tuned. Meanwhile we continue to worship our Lord each week, receive the blessing of forgiveness and the Lord's Supper. Our Altar Guild ladies have held things together. We thank them!

The April-June Portals of Prayer June readings were based on hymns. We hope you read them and maybe even reviewed them from our hymnal. What a treasure! And what a blessing if you know some of the verses by heart. Sing, praise, and enjoy.



**Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League**  
Lutheran Women  
In Mission

**Where Mites Go**

Bible Books for Africa's Children  
Lutheran Heritage Foundation  
\$100,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation continues its work of translating, publishing, distributing, and introducing Lutheran materials throughout Africa where the population is more than 1.216 billion people. Sadly, over half those souls are still waiting to be introduced to the one true Savior, Jesus Christ. Islam has made huge inroads in the continent. But thanks be to God, Christian missionaries have been spreading the Light of the Gospel also. Economic and political conditions may force missionaries to leave a country, but the Lutheran books they leave behind stay — and teach — for generations. This grant will fund the printing and distribution of 129,500 engaging, colorful books which will introduce children to Jesus in their Lutheran schools, Sunday schools, and orphanages.

**Testimonies from Around the World:  
Malawi**

The power of literature has been demonstrated in a local Market in Malawi. One of the youth members from Christ Church came to our distribution center and got one 50kgs bag of literature and decided to distribute in the market. When people saw that it was spiritual books, Bibles and gospel tracks, there was a great commotion in the market as everyone wanted to have at least a copy. He called us explaining the situation and we took several more bags and ended up having a crusade. Several people gave testimonies that they were changed and inspired, and many have confessed Jesus as Lord and savior. Another young man took some literature to a government office and give to some security guards. When the boss was passing by, he asked, "What is happening?" He got a copy of Real Life Story, now he has asked for more to be distributed to the whole institution.

**More Pocket-Watch Christians**

Many Christians are like wheelbarrows: not good unless pushed.

Others are like canoes: they need to be paddled.

Some are like kites: if you don't keep a string on them, they fly away.

Still others are like balloons: full of wind and just waiting for a chance to explode.

Then there are others like footballs: you just can't tell which way they'll bounce.



But praise the Lord, many Christians are like good pocket watches: with open faces and busy hands, they are well-regulated and full of good works. Christians like these are the backbone of the church.

~ Author unknown  
"Church Bulletin Bits"



The Board of Christian Ministries is collecting food donations **every Sunday** for local food pantries. Many more people in our community depend upon these pantries to feed their families during this continuing pandemic. Any canned or packaged items of your choice would be appreciated.

# Time & Talent

## Greeters

August 1	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
August 8	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten
August 15	Gail Bujnowski Rosalie Streng
August 22	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
August 29	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten

## Deacons/Ushers

August 1	Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
August 8	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
August 15	Tom Friedewald Jonathan Schultz
August 22	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
August 29	Tom Friedewald Jonathan Schultz

## Altar Guild

August	Lois Marten
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# The Perfect Pastor

At last, a model for a perfect pastor has been developed! He's guaranteed to please any church that calls him. He preaches exactly fourteen minutes. He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone's feelings.

He works from 9:00 in the morning to 11:00 at night, doing every type of work—from preaching to custodial services. He wears nice clothes, reads good books, has a nice family, drives a nice car. His salary is \$100.00 a week. and he gives \$50.00 a week to church.

This perfect pastor is thirty years old, but has been preaching for thirty-five years. He is tall, short, thin, heavy-set, and very handsome. His hair is parted in the middle, with the left side dark and straight and the right side light and wavy. He has a burning desire to work with young people, and spends all his time with the older folks.

He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work. Although he makes ten calls on church members, ten to the unchurched, and five on shut-ins, he is always available for telephone calls in the office. If only we could all be so perfect!

“Church Bulletin Bits”

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## Showing Jesus to Children

by Jenny Scott



We congratulate the following members of Ascension as they celebrate their **birthdays** in August.

August 11                      Audrey Schultz

August 20                      Rosalie Streng

August 21                      Sally Parison

August 28                      Marc Schultz

August 29                      Arlene Koprivnik

August 31                      Jim Jenne



And we congratulate the following couples as they celebrate their **wedding anniversaries** in August.

August 2                      Mark & Melinda Plucinski

August 8                      Jonathan & Kristina Schultz

August 15                      Richard & Sandy Schultz

August 25                      Nicholas & Christina Aguilera

These are the **birthdays** and **wedding anniversaries** recorded in our church records for the coming month. If any birthday or anniversary was omitted, please notify the church office.

Savannah Schmitz is the kind of young person who gives great hope and inspiration for current and future Lutheran witnessing. She is a freshman in the Lutheran Teachers Education Program at Concordia University Chicago. Her major is Middle Grades Education, with an emphasis on Science and Literacy.

*“After I graduate in 2024, I hope to teach amazing students all about the love Jesus has for them and I hope to show them how to serve people everywhere as Christ-like individuals,”* said Schmitz.

A member of the AALC, a Lutheran Church body in fellowship with the LCMS, Schmitz grew up attending Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa. She attended Lutheran elementary, middle, and high school, so she is well versed in the knowledge of the LCMS Church.

During her high school freshman year, she worked with about fifty children at a Chicago kids camp. A challenging part of this mission was that the missionaries were not allowed to talk about Jesus specifically for risk of offending some campers. This is a frustration as we know that it is our joy to share the message of Good News that is ours in Christ. Instead, they were asked to show God’s love through their actions.



*“When you have to actively show Jesus rather than just speak what He says to us in the Bible, your actions become so much more intentional,”* said Schmitz. *“The children embraced us quickly, and I truly believe this was no coincidence.”*

Schmitz also went to Houston, Texas, during her junior year of high school to help rebuild hurricane-ravaged houses, served at her church Vacation Bible School during high school summers, and put in over 160 service hours at her school and in her community.

At CUC, Schmitz has been able to worship in person for quite a while now. They have masked and socially distanced chapel every day in addition to Evening Prayer offerings several nights a week.

*“By attending these services, I can learn more about the faith to use when I have the opportunity to witness to people on campus and in my daily life,”* she said.

## 2021 ASCENSION COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President:</b>	Tom Friedewald
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jim Jenne
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandy Friedewald
<b>Secretary:</b>	Audrey Schultz
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Carolyn Jannusch
<b>Board of Deacons:</b>	Jim Jenne (Chair) Hal Downs Tom Friedewald Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
<b>Board of Christian Ministries</b>	Lois Marten (Chair)
<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	Jason Romano (Chair)
<b>Board of Youth:</b>	Sarah Lindahl (Chair)

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## OFFICIAL ACTS

None on record

Do you have an announcement to share about your family such as a birth, death, engagement, graduation, etc., **let us know! We'd love to hear from you!**

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