

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

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September 2021

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At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
LCMS.com

Haiti Suffers 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake

On Saturday, Aug. 14, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti, with the earthquake's epicenter located near the city of Les Cayes on the Tiburon Peninsula. As of Aug. 16, the death toll was estimated to be near 1,300, with that number anticipated to increase in the coming days. An estimated 12,000 homes have been either damaged or destroyed, with thousands of people displaced. Many Haitians are finding it difficult to obtain basic supplies, including food and water. The country, the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, is now in the path of Tropical Depression Grace, further complicating the relief effort.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care Disaster Response has begun to evaluate and respond to the situation in Haiti in coordination with the LCMS' partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (*Église Évangélique Luthérienne d'Haiti*), and those LCMS Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that have longstanding expertise operating in and providing assistance in Haiti.

"Our mercy work is done in the name of Christ, along with spiritual care, and through local Haitian Lutheran congregations," said the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS Disaster Response. "This distinction makes giving through LCMS Disaster Response different from giving through other relief agencies such as the United Nations or the Red Cross."

The LCMS has a well-established track record of relief work in Haiti, acknowledged by many outside observers, of effectively directing funds and other resources where they are most needed and beneficial. This work is evinced in the Synod's response to Hurricane Matthew in Haiti in 2016. Following that storm, Disaster Response coordinated a \$500,000 effort, including rebuilding 18 congregations, repairing the homes of 33 pastors, digging 14 new wells, and providing various supplies for basic human needs.

LCMS Disaster Response responds to disasters in three stages, a process that seeks to address the greatest need first. The initial stage involves providing food, clean water and medical supplies. During the intermediate stage, basic needs continue to be met while the focus moves toward reconstructing or repairing homes and church buildings and providing care for church workers. The third, long-term, stage focuses on continued reconstruction and provision of long-term care for church workers affected by the disaster.

All work by LCMS Disaster Response is conducted in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministry. The pastors of the congregations in the affected areas visit those receiving aid, pray with them, share with them the Word of God, and connect them with the local congregation.



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

**Where Mites Go
Deaconess Ministry – Dakota Boys and
Girls Ranch.**
\$81,680

The healing ministries of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch create an eternal, life-giving, impact in the lives of children (ages 10–18) who face unimaginable abuse, neglect and trauma — children who truly are “the least of these”. The specialized ministry of a deaconess has been consistently shown to bridge this gap with the transformational care of Christ, thereby helping both young girls and boys, who have experienced some of the worst trauma imaginable, discover the life-changing hope and healing of Christ Himself. This grant will help fund this life-changing ministry.

**Testimonies from Around the World:
Zimbabwe**

We are running out of Bibles, books etc. We had a teacher from Mutate village about 380 kilometers east of Harare. She was so excited to collect Bibles for the high school she teaches. They have 120 students and all have given their lives to God. She had special times where they gave Bible studies, but non had Bibles. When she heard of the Bibles and books that we get from Love Packages she could not sleep.

She got up at 4 AM to travel to Harare, to see if she could get some. Her fear was there would be zero for her if she came too late. She left as soon as we filled her car—she could not wait to get home and show the students what she was able to get.

They have now included Bible Studies in their school curriculum. She called this afternoon so excited the students are happy and they are all ready to dig in to the Word of God.



A heart-felt welcome to Rev. Matthew Uttenreither and his family! Pastor Uttenreither was installed as our pastor and spiritual leader on Sunday, August 29, 2021.



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

September 5	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
September 12	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten
September 19	Gail Bujnowski Rosalie Streng
September 26	Judy Darville Lois Marten

Deacons/Ushers

September 5	Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
September 12	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
September 19	Tom Friedewald Jonathan Schultz
September 26	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald

Altar Guild

September	Sue Gunia Pam Hrajnoha
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First Thing, Pray

Rev. Jeffrey P. Howell Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church —Grand Crossing Chicago, IL

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”

Luke 18:1 (ESV)

One of the first things we learned as babies besides the natural things like eating, burping and crying, was to roll over on your side. Once that has been mastered, we learned to lift ourselves up on our hands and feet, crawl, and finally, walk. As we grew in our lives as Christians, one of the first things we learned was to pray. We have learned that this is God’s communication with us right from the start. As a member of the LWML, you know that prayer remains an important part of life no matter how mature we become. Jesus, Himself demonstrated prayer’s importance by the time and effort He took to withdraw from the crowds so He could be alone to pray. How is prayer demonstrated in your life? Is prayer a priority, or is it often an afterthought or only a support for tough times? Through the LWML theme text, the Holy Spirit will remind us to “Always pray and never give up.” What a blessing God give us to be connected to Him through prayer! It’s only by His grace that we can come before Him as we are assured of God’s promise to listen and answer. We have a marvelous privilege given to us! Prayer should not be taken for granted. It’s one of the first things we learned as Christians so allow the Holy Spirit to help us demonstrate its continued importance as He prays with us! Amen.

NID Bits-August-September 2021



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

- September 2 Gay Stensland
- September 13 Megan Giannopoulos
- September 14 Giana Aragosa
 Lauren Schultz
- September 15 Christina Aguilera



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

- September 9 Sandy & Tom Friedewald
- September 21 Sarah & Bradley Lindahl

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.

Where Did Labor Day Come From?

Labor Day was created as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the workforce for all they have done to make our country prosperous and strong.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City, and other cities followed this example the following year. In 1894, Congress passed a law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday.

Have a safe Labor Day



Monday, September 6, 2021

2021 ASCENSION COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

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