



Immanuel Lutheran Church

PASTOR KIRK LEE Office: 218.338.2511 Cell: 218.639.1947

Fax: 218.338.5106 Parsonage: 218.338.5351

Secretary email: immanuel@midwestinfo.net Pastor email: ilcpp@midwestinfo.net

Website: www.immanuelparkersprairie.com

April 2024

A Word from The Pastor

“Joseph and Jesus: God Meant It for Good”

March 28 Maundy Thursday

March 29 Good Friday

March 30 Easter Vigil

March 31 Easter Sunday

A Meal with the 12

God Meant it For Good

Buried in Hope

My Son is Alive!

Genesis 43

Genesis 50

Genesis 50

Genesis 45-46

Dear Friends in Christ,

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER JOY

Please join us for each of the special services coming up as we walk through the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. Special thanks to everyone who has helped with our Lenten services and suppers and all the volunteers involved in our Holy Week services. God bless each of you!

NEW WEBSITE

Check out our new website at immanuelparkersprairie.com. Ashley Iverson has done a great job getting it set up. If you have suggestions for our website contact her or the church office. Special thanks to Sherry Wendt who has served as our webmaster for several years!

BASEMENT BATHROOM REMODEL

The remodel is underway! The old bathrooms have been torn out. New plumbing has been done in the walls. Electrical work is next, followed by sheetrock. Part of the project is to eliminate the old water meter. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project and to the trustees and those who did the bathroom demolition. Check out the pictures on the next page.

SANCTUARY PAINTING

The next project that we are looking at is repainting the interior of the sanctuary. Our sanctuary was last painted in the 1980's. The cost for this project is \$4,900. Help us freshen up this sacred space. Designate a gift to the trustee fund.

LWML SPRING RALLY

Our women's group is hosting the Zone Rally for our Alexandria Circuit on April 20. Peacefully Serving God's Mission is the theme chosen for the rally. God is the source of our peace and that peace empowers us to do God's mission. Jacy Roste, who grew up in Alexandria, is the speaker. Jacy is a missionary trainer of young adults to serve as volunteer overseas missionaries. Registration and coffee is at 8:30 AM. The rally begins at 9 and concludes with lunch. All women (and even men) are welcome! Registration fee is \$8 and includes lunch. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, come April 19 at 1 PM. Any help cleaning up after the rally would also be appreciated.

QUESTIONING

Our 8th grade confirmation students will be sharing their knowledge of the faith into which they were baptized at their Questioning on Wednesday, April 17 at 7 PM. They have completed three years of formal study of Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism. Jesus tells us that disciples are formed by baptism and teaching of God's Word. Come and hear our confirmands share their faith and knowledge of Scripture. The elders will serve refreshments afterwards.

CONFIRMATION

11 of our youth will be confirmed on Sunday, April 28 at our 9 AM service. We rejoice with them in their growing faith and in their receiving of Holy Communion for the first time. Pastor Mark will be here that day and preach for the service. He was their confirmation teacher in 6th and 7th grade. (He will also preach at Trinity, Carlos, at 11). Watch the bulletin for more information about Pastor Mark's visit.



Immanuel Lutheran Church

PASTOR KIRK LEE Office: 218.338.2511 Cell: 218.639.1947

Fax: 218.338.5106 Parsonage: 218.338.5351

Secretary email: immanuel@midwestinfo.net Pastor email: ilcpp@midwestinfo.net

Website: www.immanuelparkersprairie.com

April 2024

A Word from The Pastor

CALL DAY

Pastor candidates, deaconesses and vicars will be assigned at services at our seminaries in St Louis and Ft. Wayne on April 23 & 24. We have submitted a joint application with Trinity, Carlos, for a vicar for the coming year. Please keep the assignment process in your prayers, for the Holy Spirit to guide the placement of each person. If we are assigned a vicar, he would begin August 1, living in the parsonage at Carlos. He would help with worship here most Saturday and Sundays and also lead worship at Carlos on non-communion Sundays. He would help lead Bible Classes, teach confirmation, help with our youth and get a taste of all aspects of our congregational life. You can watch the call services online at csl.edu and ctsfw.edu for both the vicar and pastor candidates at each seminary.

HIGHER THINGS

Higher Things is an organization in the LCMS that organizes summer youth conferences. 10 of our youth and 3 chaperones have registered for the Higher Things Youth Conference in Portland, Oregon in July. Our group will be traveling by Amtrak. To help support this event our youth are doing an envelope fundraiser. They have a board with envelopes numbered by even numbers from \$2 to \$100. Please consider supporting our youth by taking an envelope and placing a donation of that amount in the envelope. Thank you to those who have already supported this fundraiser, along with Superbowl subs, Lenten soup suppers and this weekend's Palm Sunday Brunch and Silent Auction.

VOTERS MEETING

Our Quarterly Voters Meeting will be April 21. Church Council will meet April 18. Plan to attend!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Needed each month in 2024	\$21,848.00
February Offerings	\$15,899.40
Mar. Offerings through Mar. 17	\$14,284.00
Offerings under budget Feb. 29	\$10,572.91

**God's Blessings,
Pastor Kirk Lee**



April Anniversaries

Larry & Joanne Moske	4-8-1960
Dan & Danielle Kreidler	4-11-2015
Jake & Amber DeBlieck	4-13-2019
Brian & Heather Wittrock	4-20-2013
Roger & Eloise Wallner	4-23-1955
John & Linda Barrows	4-24-1976
Josh & Shauna Nordlund	4-25-2015
Ryan & Kelley Pexsa	4-25-2003
David & Julie O'Brien	4-29-2000
Dale & Marcia Ratajesak	4-29-1995
Wyatt & Janessa Samuelson	4-30-2022

April Birthdays

Kim Castle	4-1
Nickolas Briggs	4-2
Joe Kastner	4-2
April Adickes	4-3
Kason Gaarsland	4-3
Grace Gustafson	4-3
Bruce Sjobeck	4-3
Karen Marotto	4-4
Nicole Rosengren	4-4
Arabella Lammle	4-5
Avri Lucht	4-5
Taylor Schroeder	4-6
Andrew McDaniel	4-7
Josh Nordlund	4-7
Kinleigh Downing	4-8
Kayla Fiedler	4-8
Jenna Randall	4-8
Raelynn Bettermann	4-9
Stephanie West	4-9
Becky Cook	4-10
Michelle Moats	4-10
Zoey Moen	4-10
Alex Looker	4-11
Westie Revering	4-11
Ashley Vogt	4-12

Brandon Crawford	4-13
David Kalpin	4-14
Jurlienne Riedel	4-14
Eric Schultz	4-14
Spencer Mobley	4-15
Cindy Wunderlich	4-15
Robin Samuelson	4-16
Shane Hanson	4-17
Aaron Adickes	4-19
William Bastyr	4-19
Rylen Olson	4-19
Angela Wenzel	4-19
Nicole Rupert	4-20
Jenny Chermak	4-21
Thomas Collom	4-21
Lori Henning	4-21
Charlie Klimek	4-21
Wesley Kruse	4-21
Tricia Melbye	4-21
Alisha Nustad	4-22
Natasha West	4-22
Kayla Gaarsland	4-23
Saren Springer	4-23
David Hanson	4-26
Sabrina Moske	4-26
Sandi Rud	4-26
Vickie Roberts	4-27
Beth Ward	4-27
Blake Adickes	4-29
Sterling Iverson	4-29
Trey Boyd	4-30
Kaitlyn Collom	4-30
Waverly Jerome	4-30
Eli Melbye	4-30
Justin Newberg	4-30

If your April birthday or anniversary is not listed, please inform the church office.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

At Lutheran Island Camp



Alexandria Circuit Confirmation Students.

Letter from Pastor Jason Wolter, MN North District Life Coordinator, St Marks, Benson MN

This is an urgent message from your representative to the LCMS MN Public Policy Committee (which discusses the various issues related to Life; Marriage, Family and Sexuality; Religious Liberty; and Parental Choice). As the Life Coordinator for the LCMS- Minnesota North District, there are times when I feel compelled to address you about certain things that are- or will have- a tremendous impact on your ministries. The reason for this message is **that there are some VERY disturbing things going on in the Minnesota legislature**. As you probably know, there is one party rule going on in Minnesota. Going back to 1992 (the last year for which I could find data) there has never been control by the conservative side of government. On the other hand, there have been four times when the other side has had full control of the Minnesota government. That has been the case for the past two years. Normally, I would keep my nose out of political matters. But I can hold my tongue no longer. Our state has done, and continues to do, all kinds of things that will have an impact on our ability to serve our members. To keep it organized, I'll post these things by the four areas I listed above.

First, let's take a look at **Life Issues**. In no particular order, you should know that a **new Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** is on the docket again. But it's not your parent's ERA! In addition to protecting women's rights in the workplace, it will also protect the "rights" of LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, plus all other "genders") community. Here is the actual amendment: 2024 PROPOSED Robust ERA Language for SF37: *All persons shall be guaranteed equal rights under the laws of this state. The state shall not discriminate against any person in intent or effect on account of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex, including but not limited to pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and reproductive freedom, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.* As you can see, the underlined parts are problematic for us (who believe that the Bible is our source- and guide- for what we believe and proclaim). And *the most dangerous part* of all is that there won't be any exemptions carved out for ministers. If this passes (*which it probably will*), we (as ministers of the Gospel) will be under the same rules and regulations as everyone else. And this was intentional. The leaders of the committee made that clear. They think that conservative Christians are using "hate speech" when they preach against these things. And they refuse to let that happen. In another disturbing case, SF 3967 and HF 4053 propose to **make ALL insurance companies cover the cost of an abortion**. That's because they consider abortion to be another example of "women's health". In last year's legislative session, Minnesota became a "sanctuary state". In other words, women were allowed to kill their unborn children at any point, up to (and past) the child's birth. The MN Appeals Court refused to hear a Mothers Offering Maternal Support (MOMS) attempt to defend a number of pro-abortion laws that we enacted in 2022. Those laws included the **requirement that abortion providers notify parents** before performing an abortion on a minor. Now, it won't be necessary for any parents to be notified about their child's decision to kill her unborn child. The reason that the court refused to hear their case was because they trusted the MN Attorney General (Keith Ellison) to advocate on their behalf... like he said he would. But after the deadlines passed, Mr. Ellison refused to take up the case. In simple terms, he let the laws go into effect without any opposition.

The next area of concern is related to **Marriage, Family and Sexuality**. A proposed change (HF 4021) to the **Minnesota Human Rights Act** (at which the LCMS was represented by Rev. Fred Hinz) would carve out an exemption for religious associates, religious corporations, religious societies or any other entity organized for the education of children. If not passed, it would force everyone in the state (including ministers) to go along with the views of the current government, regarding the rights and privileges of the LGBTQ+. In other words, it would grant all ministers the right to exercise their First Amendment issues. But the chair of that committee was very clear: the exclusion of those religious entities was intentional. The amendment was voted down on party lines. Watch it for yourself, starting at the 13:00 mark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loldyAvohmg> As Rep. Niska said, "The masks have come off".

HF 3386 would provide **an additional \$1,000,000 for the act of “kidnapping” children** who cross into Minnesota and want to transition to another gender. I call it “kidnapping” because our state already assumes temporary parental control over that child and refuses to send them back to their state of origin until the transition has taken place. In other words, it’s another assault on parental rights. Another House File (HF) is supposed to be coming down the pike (it doesn’t yet have a number assigned to it), which would grant a \$400,000 to **schools to teach “Before Racism”**, in order to prevent racism in children aged 1-5. HF 174 / SF 662 is a proposed change that would allow **non-teachers to teach classes on Comprehensive Sex Education**. You can look that up on your own. What I want you to know is that those “non-teachers” would be using material that was developed by Planned Parenthood... and taught by members of that organization. HF 2280 / SF 2236 would **Promote Gender Affirming Care** for minors. It would guarantee that the right of every child- *regardless of their age*- to make decisions about their gender... WITHOUT any kind of parental notice or input. Perhaps the most concerning issue of all, is the **presidential redefining of Title IX**. That was the national law, passed in 1972, which, “prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government.” Soon, President Biden will alter that law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, sexual identity and gender expression. In reality, it will force all schools- including private, Christian schools to force compliance with students’ preferred pronouns, mandate that biological males be allowed to compete in women’s sports, encourage children to change their gender without the knowledge of their parents, and allow biological boys into girl’s locker rooms. This will be a big win for LGBTQ+ groups. I don’t know if this will go to the Supreme Court or not; but if it is allowed to pass into law, that will be a huge issue for our schools.

On matters of **Religious Liberty**, I’ve already written about the removal of religious exemptions from the Minnesota Human Rights Act. But there is one other issue that needs to be mentioned. As Supreme Court Justice Alito warned, back when the Obergefell ruling was made the law of the land, **now it is legal for Christians (at least those who hold the Biblical view of marriage) to be excluded from serving on juries**. I suppose some folks will see that as a good thing (hopefully not!), but what it means, in effect, is that conservative Christians are being even further marginalized. I don’t know how this will turn out if it is brought to the Supreme court, or even if will make it that far. But it is a concerning development!

When it comes to **Parental Choice**, there is only one troubling matter. In addition to the recently mandated “Ethnic Studies” curriculum (which was made law last legislative session for all public schools), now all licensed teachers in Minnesota will be **required to teach the new Minnesota Social Studies Standards**. These Standards ensure that all kinds of “woke” ideology will make its way into all schools.

By now you might be wondering **what we can do** about these things. Well, for **one thing**, you can share them with your congregations. I don’t know if it would be appropriate to talk about them from the pulpit (other than the obvious sinfulness of some of these groups); but it would be great to talk about them after church, in Bible study, an LLL or LWML convention (which some churches are doing) or any other gathering of saints. I have to believe that more people would be opposed to these things- if only they knew they were going on. You are the ones who can educate them about all these things. **Secondly**, you (and members of your congregations) can write to your legislative leaders and make them aware of your opposition to these things. Most of these things are still in the proposal stage. There is still time to do something about them! **Thirdly**, if (or when) a 2024 Voter’s Guide is provided, PLEASE make sure that your members are aware of it... and use it to help guide their voting decisions. **Finally** (and most important of all): PRAY! We may not have the ability to change the hearts of our legislators; but God does. I don’t know if He will or not; but we are encouraged in Scripture to pray constantly. If there is anything that troubles us, let us bring it to the Lord in prayer. May God have mercy on all of us as we attempt to chart these uncharted waters.

Your faithful servant in Christ, Pastor Jason Wolter LCMS Life Coordinator – MN North District, Benson



Lutheran Island Camp

Upcoming Events

April 17th-21st: Spring Quilt/Craft Retreat

Come out to the Island for some quilting and crafting. This retreat is set up for you to work on all your projects in peace! Whether you stay the whole time or come for just a couple days, you're sure to leave refreshed and feeling accomplished. Pricing is as follows: 1 night-\$90, 2 nights-\$140, 3 nights-\$180, 4 nights-\$220. Sign up today at islandcamp.org/schedule, or call the office at 218-583-2905.

April 26th-28th: Women's Weekend

Ladies, join us for our annual Women's Weekend! Dr. Stacy Lung is our speaker for the weekend. She is the executive director of Lutheran Island Camp and will be leading us in the theme "Redeeming the Imagination". You won't want to miss this weekend full of learning, fellowship, fun, and relaxation! To view the schedule, and to sign up, go to islandcamp.org/schedule. The cost is \$140 for those staying on the Island (includes food and lodging) and \$90 for those commuting (includes food).

May 11th: Spring Work Day

Help us get the Island ready for summer! We will be cleaning up the grounds and prepping our facilities for the busy summer season. This event starts at 8am and ends at 2pm. Lunch will be provided for all our volunteers. As always, lodging will be available for those coming from long distances. You do not have to sign up in advance but we do appreciate a courtesy call to let us know you're coming so we have enough food! You can call the office at 218-583-2905.

For more details about these upcoming events visit our website www.islandcamp.org!

From the Director's Desk



As spring arrives and the days grow longer, summer camp excitement builds at Lutheran Island Camp. This summer, we are looking forward to learning more about Christ, through whom and for whom all things were created (1 Corinthians 8:6), by focusing on the "I am" statements Jesus made about himself. It is precisely in pointing to Christ that Lutheran Island Camp finds its own mission and purpose as we seek to "nourish the whole person for joyful Christ-centered life and service." What makes summer camp a unique avenue for youth, in particular, to learn about and grow in Christ?

Dr. Sorenson's research on "Sacred Playgrounds" sheds light on why summer camps are more important now than ever before. He argues that summer camps provide an environment unlike any other, where children are free to discover, create, and connect with God's word, His creation, and each other. These summer camp playgrounds offer a break from the structured routines of daily life, allowing children to immerse themselves in the present moment and cultivate a sense of wonder. In today's world, where screens dominate much of our children's leisure time, the chance to engage in spontaneous, imaginative play outdoors is increasingly rare. Summer camps offer a welcome respite from technology, encouraging children to explore the natural world, build forts,

and engage in activities that foster creativity and resourcefulness. Camp also fosters relationships through shared experiences such as campfire devotions, team-building challenges, and late-night faith conversations under the stars.

So **why summer camp**? Dr. Sorenson's research provides a **compelling** answer:

because in camps across the country, children discover the **joy** of play, the **power** of friendship, **meaningful** conversations around a campfire, **shared** acts of **service**, and a chance to **explore questions of faith** in a supportive environment.

Here's to a summer filled with Jesus, adventure, and laughter!



Program Corner

Spring is in the air, the ice is melting, and Olivia has already kayaked around the Island once this year! Registration for summer camp is OPEN! Highlights this summer include Fishing Camp, Splash Camp, Art Camp, and High School Camp. Want to enjoy camp with your camper? Our Little Lambs and Family Camp programs are a great way to experience all the adventures of camp and grow in your faith with your family. Register today at www.islandcamp.org/registration!

Our Men's Weekend was an absolute blast! Thank you to Dr. David

Coe for leading us through his book "Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten

Commandments". The weekend included service projects, lots of delicious food, and an outing to Perham for bowling and beer! Ladies, it's your turn for a relaxing weekend of fun and fellowship on the Island! Mark your calendars for the Women's Weekend on April 26th-28th with our very own Stacy Lung! Explore with Stacy the ways wonder, beauty, creativity, and worship enrich our faith and lives as Christian women. Activities will include a spa party, arts and crafts, pickleball, and a shopping outing! Register online or call the office at 218-583-2905.

Our summer staff is coming together, but we are still in need of several male counselors, male junior counselors, and maintenance assistants! If you know someone who would make a great addition to our staff, have them check out our job descriptions at

www.islandcamp.org/employment. Please continue to pray for our staff as they finish the spring semester and prepare for a summer proclaiming the Gospel at Lutheran Island Camp.

Check out our Amazon Wish List!

Check out our list of items we could use to further our mission and ministry! Click this link to view the wish list: <https://a.co/g0Ne3WM>.

Thank you to everyone who donated kayak paddles! We are still in need of two more. Please kindly consider gifting kayak paddles to LIC before the summer season!



Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars to LIC

Thrivent members--Directing Choice dollars to LIC is a great and easy way to support our ministry!



For info on how to do so, go to www.islandcamp.org/donate! 45011 230th St | 218.583.2905

www.islandcamp.org



MEET THE WOOD FAMILY

Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Eleanor, Caroline, and Kermit serve in Medan, Indonesia with LCMS International. Matthew supports *The Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI)*, by mentoring pastors, providing continuing education, and managing mercy and translation projects.

**GIVE NOW &
KEEP US IN INDONESIA!**
SCAN BELOW



OR TEXT

'LCMSWOOD' TO 41-444

OR MAIL IN A CHECK

Payable to:

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861
On the memo line include:
Wood-Indonesia



To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter write to:

Matthew.Wood@lcms.org
with ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

PEKANBARU



Pastor Eben Ezer Aruan (Left) and Pastor Wood (Right) present on the biblical understanding of Church and Ministry.

Pekanbaru is a city of about one million people in the Riau province of Indonesia located in the central area of Sumatra. By car it is about an 18 hour drive from the central office of the GKLI and about an hour and a half by plane. There are several GKLI congregations in and around Pekanbaru and it is difficult for their pastors, evangelists, and elders to make the journey to Medan or the GKLI offices Sihabonghabong. They have long been asking that we come to them so that they can all participate in a theological workshop.

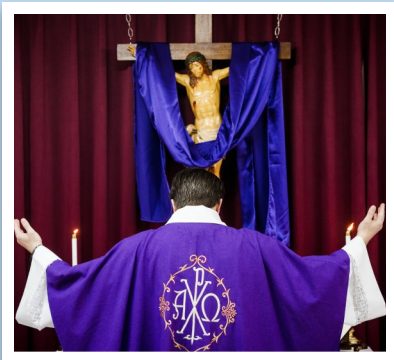
Church and Ministry

Bishop asked me to modify the Church and Ministry presentation I made to the vicars and pastoral candidates last year. The blessing and curse of teaching on Church and Ministry is that it really is about everything. Answering the question, "Who is the Church?" gets into faith and justification. Answering, "Where is the Church to be found?" gets into the theology of the Word and Sacraments. The topic of ministry encompasses the distinction between the universal priesthood of all believers and the ministers that serve in their midst. The job of proclaiming the Gospel gets into distinction of Law and Gospel during which there is opportunity to talk about the three functions of the Law. Of course there is al-

ways opportunity to talk about the Church's ministry to unbelievers, worship, the relationship between Church and state, and so much more. So much of our theology influences and is expressed through the theology of Church and Ministry that there's no limit of what to talk about.

**Where there is forgiveness of sins
there is life and salvation.**

Unfortunately, there is a time limit to talk about it all. We had one day on Church and one day on Ministry. Eben Ezer and I tried to keep our commentary brief and allow for questions which could guide the discussion to things that the GKLI pastors, evangelists, and congregational elders were curious about. One big question was, "How can a pastor forgive sins?" We turned to Scripture and saw how Jesus calls the disciples to forgive sins in Luke 24 and John 20 and also how the whole Church is involved in Matthew 18 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. The Church and the pastor are not in competition trying to show off a higher authority or a more genuine forgiveness of sins. Rather we see The Spirit working through the Church, the Apostles, and pastors to distribute the gift of reconciliation with the Father that Jesus won through is death and resurrection.



PRAYERS

SUPPLICATION

- Family of **Sahat Hangoluan Sinaga**, a reading and writing teacher for the Sanak people, who was discovered dead in a river by his wife and mother-in-law.
- For Visa renewals due on April 4.
- For continued work on the Indonesian Lutheran Hymnal. That we would reach our March 31 deadline to have it ready for lay out and design.
- For continued work with the GKLI and to identify ways to expand our reach in Indonesia.

THANKSGIVING

- For successful renewing of Matthew's and Caroline's passports.
- For a successful and safe workshop in Pekanbaru on Church and Ministry.
- For the amazing financial and prayer support received in 2023!

FAMILY UPDATE

Eleanor recently celebrated her 7th birthday with some friends at a local hotel pool.

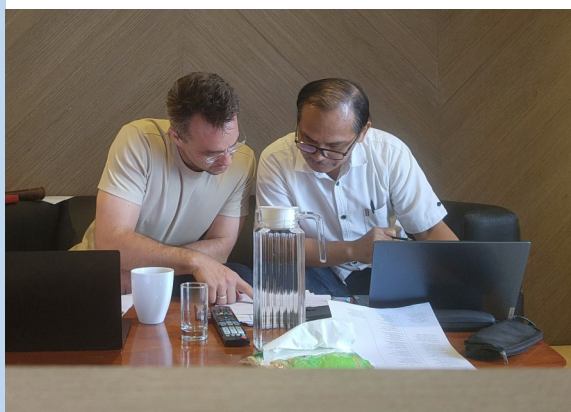
All three girls recently started gymnastics classes once a week and they are loving it!

The school year rolls on. Eleanor is becoming an excellent reader and mathematician. Laurel reads everything she can get her hands on and also doing remarkably well in Latin. Caroline is not in school yet, but she's ready to go next year!



INDONESIAN HYMNAL UPDATE

It has been a while since I have provided an update here about the Indonesian Lutheran Hymnal. The final proof read of the Hymnal is scheduled to be completed by March 31st. We should finish within a day or so of that deadline. Deaconess Sandra Rhein is working on the agonizingly tedious process of gathering all the metadata for the hymns and liturgies. It seems like an inordinate amount of work goes into all those little words at the bottom of every page, the index, and copyright acknowledgements. However, all those little words are invaluable to those who know how to use them!



Our goal, as of today, is to have the Hymnal ready to print by July and a dedication ceremony in November, which would coincide with Deaconess Sandra's travels and a second visit from LCMS Church Relations.

Pastor Wood and Pastor Aruan work together on editing hymn translations. There will be over 40 new hymn translations available in the Indonesian Lutheran Hymnal.



Lutheran Bible Translators

A Little Federwitz Family

Training and Traveling

Nathan and Sarah Federwitz

March
2024
Vol 2 no 2



Pre-Field Missionary Life

Flying and Such

As Pre-field missionaries (missionaries who have not yet been deployed overseas) our main goals are: 1. to get the training we need and 2. to build relationships with prayer and financial partners.

January was a month full of training for both Nathan and Sarah. Nathan worked to get as many flights in as possible prior to leaving for the Midwest. He continues to hone his skills on airwork, take-offs, and landings, in order to be prepared to fly overseas where there will be less room for error because of the terrain and airstrips he will be navigating. He has also been doing some flight scheduling for JAARS. This means he gets to keep track of the flights that have been planned and makes sure the schedule is in order for the day.



Nathan showing Enoch a JAARS airplane that was fueling.

As Nathan was continuing to fill his weeks at aviation, Sarah was learning all about translation programs. She spent January playing catch-up on a translation course for LBT partners that had started back in September. This course involved reading a document written by LBT employees and discussing the various things to take into consideration when planning a translation project. Sarah learned much and enjoyed growing in her knowledge of translation.

Staying in the Ruts

In January, Nathan and Sarah were also able to attend a manual transmission and four-wheel drive safety course at JAARS which will help us to prepare for situations that we may encounter overseas. The course involved learning to drive manual (which Sarah had never learned before) and 4-wheel drive safety. There was a classroom portion covering the ins-and-outs of manual transmission and 4-wheel drive vehicles, as well as general vehicle maintenance. This was followed by a hands-on portion of the course seen in the pictures below.



We learned how to use a high-lift jack, repair a tire, and use a winch. Here we are winching a car back upright.



These are the muddy ruts on the 4-wheel course. Our instructor's advice: stay in the ruts to keep going forward, don't fight them, you will only slide back in.



We took turns signaling to each other to get down this rocky path without damaging the tires or undercarriage.

Travels

Since late January we have been even busier than we were before because we have been traveling. Every Sunday, and often during the week, we have been visiting churches, meeting with congregations, and speaking at Bible studies and women's groups.

So far, we have visited 6 congregations for their weekend services and Sunday school time, and 5 small groups in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. Before Holy Week we will be visiting churches and individuals in Indiana. After Easter we will be back in Iowa before heading to Michigan to connect with churches there.

We have really enjoyed connecting with many individuals already and look forward to meeting many more in the upcoming weeks! God has led us to so many encouraging and supportive prayer and financial partners. We praise Him for the connections that we have made!

We will continue to visit churches throughout the Midwest until May. If you are interested in meeting with us during the middle of the week, please contact us to see if we might be able to visit with you, your small group, or congregation.



We had the privilege of speaking at the church we worshipped at while attending college. Nathan's sister, Rachel, was able to join us for that service!

Our family cannot be deployed overseas until we are fully funded. We especially need recurring financial support. We also have the expense of Nathan's JAARS training. One-time gifts to Nathan's flight training are a wonderful opportunity to support us as we prepare to go overseas. **If you feel so called, consider partnering with us! God's blessings!**



Blessings from our little family!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise for Nathan's progress as he continues to grow in skill through his flight training.
- Pray for our safety as we continue to travel, and praise for safe travels so far.
- Pray for faithful partners to partner with us and the work of Bible Translation through prayer and financial support.

CONTACT US

Nathan and Sarah Federwitz

Email: Nathan-Sarah.Federwitz@lbt.org

Nathan cell: 651-202-6091

Sarah cell: 973-906-2299

Address: 8335 Loma Linda Ln
Waxhaw NC, 28173

Give at go.lbt.org/nsfederwitz

Scan the QR code to go directly to our ministry page.





THE BEGINNING OF 2024 IN PUERTO RICO

CHILDREN'S ENGLISH CLUB

At Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz, Mayaguez, a new outreach started in January. On a Saturday morning Missionary Ruth Maita, started an English group for little children. In December, for Christmas, the Maita family visited the HeadStart preschool (who rents the first floor of our church) and invited all the families to join our new English group. We sang English songs like "Jesus loves me", and "the itsy-bitsy spider". We read the bible story of Daniel and Lion's Den. We talked about how God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths, and we made a happy lion craft. We were joined by 2 new families with 2 children each. I helped by preparing the craft and snack for the activity.



PICNIC IN THE PARK OUTREACH

On January 27th, Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios, our congregation in the San Juan Metro area hosted an outreach event at the Isla de Cabras (like a state park). The day started off rainy, windy, and cold but turned into a beautiful day. We sang hymns, enjoyed a picnic lunch, and fellowship time together while telling others at the park about the Lutheran Church. It was worth waking up before the sunrise and driving across the Island to join these joyful Lutherans!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN PUERTO RICO.

At all the congregations on Wednesday nights we have activities. In Mayaguez and San Juan, we have a Bible study, eat food and sing hymns. In Ponce, we started a new Noche de Fogata (Bonfire Night) with food, hymn sing and games aimed at University Students. These are all wonderful opportunities to be in the word of God together as congregations.



Left: Mayaguez | Middle: San Juan | Right: Ponce

PERSONAL UPDATE.

Back in October of 2021, I broke the Fibula bone in my ankle. The bone healed but since then I have had a lingering pain in my ankle that would come and go when I did alot of walking. In January 2024, I went to see a doctor here in Mayaguez about the pain and had an MRI done. It was discovered, I had a tear in the tendon that connects the foot to the ankle. I have been receiving treatments and have been in a walking boot since the beginning of the year. I have my last treatment at the end of March. I thank God that my tendon is healing wonderfully, and I didn't need surgery.



Jan 2024 | Nov 2021



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The new English outreach to children
- The new outreach to University Students.
- Continued healing of my ankle.
- All the ministry that happen around the Island.
- For the Torres Family (Members of the Principe de Paz) moving to Florida in March.
- The friends of our churches who are in catechism class: Emmanuel and Mirangely (Mayaguez), and Igsi and Mama Igsi (Ponce),

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The Confirmation of Carlos.
- Jim and Cindy Nelson, and Julie Lang for their wonderful work on the Playground in Ponce.



CONFIRMATION SPOTLIGHT

On Sunday February 4th, Carlos confessed his faith through confirmation.

SHORT TERM TEAM SPOTLIGHT

For over two years our congregation in Ponce has been planning and praying for a playground to offer to the church community kids! Every Friday our church campus is filled with a group of 30 homeschool families. We are blessed with a lot of space in our church campus but didn't have any actual areas for kids to focus their play.



From February 6th to February 13th, Trinity Lutheran Church in Creston, IA sent a team to help us build a playground! A big thank you to Jim, Cindy, and Julie who spent the week with us to construct a great set up for the kids! With the help of Pastor James Neuendorf, they helped design it and bring it to life. It was a special blessing, as Jim & Cindy, are Mission Sender Supporters.



WORKSHOPS

We continue to host workshops at our Mercy Centers on topics that may be of interest and of help to the community. Crafts are of high interest with a lot of ladies in our area.

Two friends of the congregation in Ponce - who first came to know us through ESL classes over three years ago and are now in confirmation classes - led a Valentine Day card making workshop for us on February 10th. We always begin the workshop with a short devotion and prayer for our time together.



The beginning of the year also included a lot of administrative work, that is boring to read about because it involves long hours at government buildings. So here is a selfie Deaconess Christel and I took at the bank. We thank God for the new and continuing activities that are happening in Puerto Rico this year.

You can support my work by giving online to www.lcms.org/lehr or

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting missioncentral.us/Lehr/



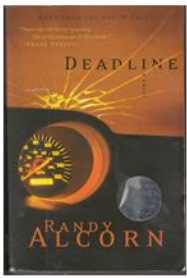
A check can be made payable to the **LCMS** with **Ashley Lehr** in the memo to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Mission Central

A check can be made out to **Mission Central** with "A10899-69467" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central 40718 HWY E16 Mapleton, IA 51034



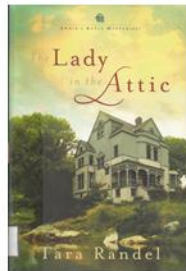
APRIL showers bring MAY flowers!
Think Spring!! May God send us showers!

Inspirational Fiction



Deadline by Randy Alcorn. (His body hung suspended between two friends —His soul between two worlds.) Deadline is a dramatic & vivid novel of substance, filled with

hope & perspective for every reader who longs to feel purpose in life. Great read. Code: white Alc



Lady in the Attic by Tara Randel. *Annie's Attic Mysteries*. Annie's adventure begins with a phone call "I am the attorney for your late grandmother, Elizabeth I am calling to tell you he left you with Grey

Gables & all its contents. When can you come to take care of the paperwork". What would you feel like? Code; Ran



Pontius Pilate by Paul L. Maier. The startling yet untold story of the ambitious Roman politician whose fateful verdict forever changes the course of history but whose conscience can never rest with the consequences. (Church History fiction)

Code: (Biblical fiction) white Mai



Fly Away by Lynn Austin. Mike has been a U.S. Air Force pilot, a great career, strong marriage and now faces—a battle against terminal illness. He desperately searches for courage to face the inevitable. Will he take the future into his own hands? Will faith

see them thru? Code: white Aus



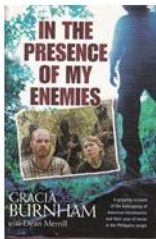
Jerusalem Vigil by Bodie & Brock Thoene. Boo k #1 in the *Zion Legacy* series. May 19, 1948 the new day in Israel is proclaimed. Following the earlier series the *Zion Chronicles* and the *Zion Covenant*. Story of

Moshe & Rachel. Code: white Tho



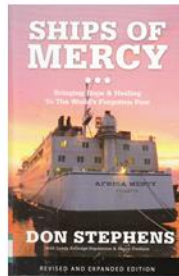
A Powerful Secret by Dr. Kevin Leman & Jeff Nesbit. Sean has always felt like an outsider in his own family. Now he must risk never achieving what he wants most—His fathers love. Code: white

Missionaries, Missions and their stories.....



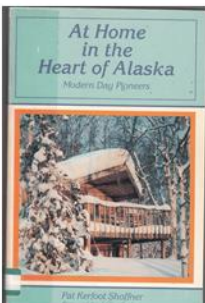
In the Presence of my Enemies by Gracia Burnham. A gripping account of the kidnapping of American missionaries and their year of terror in the Philippine jungle. What started out as a lifetime anniversary getaway turned into a horrific nightmare. You will find refreshing honesty in this battle with

darkness that is in the human heart. Code: Green Bur



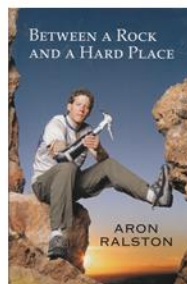
Ships of Mercy by Don Stephens. Don had a vision: a floating hospital that would serve the world's neediest people. This is the story about his mission of mercy Including birth of a special needs son & a meeting with Mother Teresa—all helped him focus on the dreams of his life. Code: Green (Bio) Ste

Biographies worth reading.....



At Home in the Heart of Alaska by Pat Shoffner. Pat was born on the Gunflint Trail in MN's Northwoods. She & husband homesteaded in Alaska's interior, 60 miles from civilization. Their story of challenges of life in the wild with the building of

their home and feeding & teaching their children. Biography Code: Green Sho



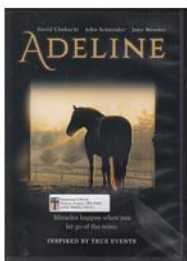
Between a Rock and a Hard place by Aron Ralston. His story of extraordinary survival. Six days trapped in a remote spot in Utah and how one inspired act of bravery brought him home. (On his hike in a canyon slot a boulder crashed and

pinned his right hand & wrist again the canyon wall & so began 6 days of hell for Aron. Code: green Ral

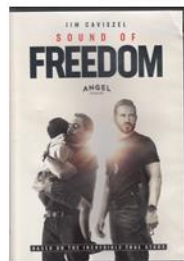


Erickson's Outdoor Activities: I miss my Dog. By Bob Erickson. 50 true stories about hunting, fishing, outdoors. Harlan's dad used live tame ducks as decoys (legal then), put ring around

their neck and lower them in the water. Many stories inside. (Gift: Ron Zaun) Code: Green Bio Eri



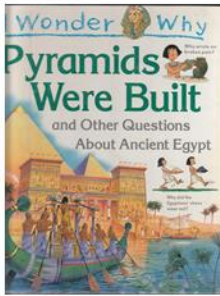
Adeline is inspired by true events. 95 minutes. A small Midwestern community becomes the epicenter of miracles when a mysterious woman brings a healing horse to town.. (Miracles happen when you let go of the reins) **DVD** Code: white FFF



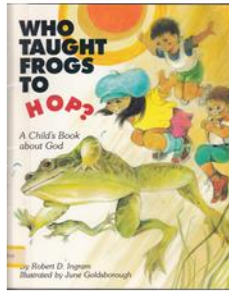
Sound of Freedom is based on the incredible true story. 131 minutes running time. God's children are not for sale. A federal agent rescues a young boy from ruthless child traffickers & then learns the boy's sister is still captive & so decides to go on this dangerous mission to save her. **DVD** Code: Green: Angel #4



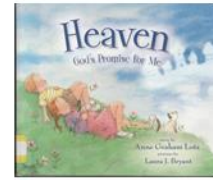
Dandelions, usually are Mother's first bouquet. But they can be used for Jelly and wine too.



I wonder why Pyramids were Built by Philip Steele. Ever think Why did the Egyptians' shoes wear out? Why were mummies wrapped up? How did the Egyptians travel so quickly? Find the lively answers that will amaze, amuse, satisfy, & inspire. Code: Yellow Ste (GREAT for HOMESCHOOL)



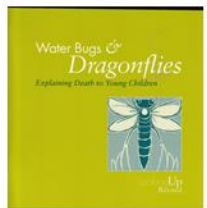
Who taught frogs to HOP? By Robert Ingram. (A Child's Book about God.) Teach about good things God has created. Who put the crunch in apples, water in the melon & corn on the cob?



Heaven God's promise for me by Anne Graham Lotz. A beautiful boardbook to read with your child & a prayer on the back for you and your children. Code: yellow Lot.

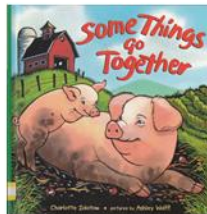
Capture the enthusiasm of kids while learning. Code: yellow Ing.

Code: yellow Lot.



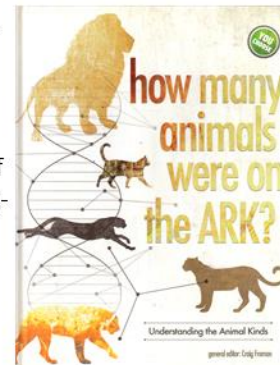
Water Bugs & Dragonflies from Doris Stickney. Explaining Death to young children this mini book tells the story of leaving this earth to enter Heaven using a

Dragonfly in a swamp and leaving it to go to the sky. Great. Code: Yellow Sti. Mini book 23 pgs. Sc.



Some things go together by Charlotte Zolton. A great exploration of pairs helping youngsters beginning to understand that relationships exist

between two objects in the world. Great pictures. Code: yellow Zol



How many animals were on the ARK? Craig Froman editor. Help you understand the animal KINDS. Find out how Noah & his family could have cared for all life on the Ark & how Noah would have only needed a few 1000 animals with him. Code: Blue 215 Fro

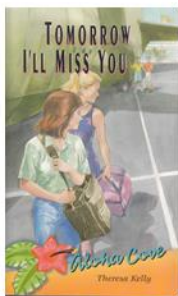


Scripture Shorts Vol. 1 are entertaining cartoon object lessons that illustrate Bible verses for children to learn and love. Contains: the armor of God, The Big Race, Camel Eye, The Dot and the Line, Salt & Light, Tue consequences and more. DVD Code: yellow SS 1



Action Bible Songs—over 30 min of live action sing-along video. 17 classic Christian songs for kids. Contains 2 DVD on main program plus Bonus Features 10 more songs and learn about the cast. Code: yellow Music

Teens & Preteens—check out this Library for books that will get your attention, enjoyment and learning.



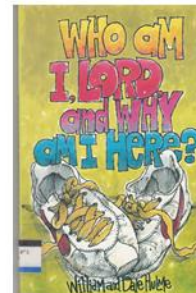
Tomorrow I'll Miss You by Theresa Kelly. Cass & her stepsister Tabitha are around 16 years old. Both girls face hard decisions & family struggles as they look to God to lead them where He thinks best &

bring them safely home again.. Youth Fiction from CPH Code: black Kel



Dream a Little Dream by Theresa Kelly. Cass & Tabitha's high school years are coming to an end. Their Mom wants them to think what God wants them to be. They ask God to help them put away habits that do not please him & learn

to dream about becoming women of God Youth fiction from CPH. Black Kel



Who am I, Lord and why am I here? By William and Dale Hulme. Young adults face enormous pressures. ?They are encouraged to seek instant gratification—often with tragic results. It does not have to be like

this, there is hope, the hope of Jesus Christ for a new life. This book offers you a fresh start with topics like drugs, peer pressure guilt, suicide presented thru real life situations and frank discussion. Code: Bl/Blue 248.8'3 Hul

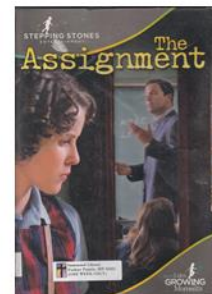


Forget me not by Theresa Kelly. A year of change for 17 year old Cass & stepsister, Tabitha Both girls face hard decisions and family struggles as they look to God to lead them. Just when they think things are figured out: one more crisis tests

their faith. Youth Fiction. Code: Black Kel



Mystery Lights of Navajo Mesa (*Last chance Detectives*) from focus on the family. A fast passed mystery adventure where kids learn the biblical principle of forgiveness. DVD Code: FFT Black LCD-1



The Assignment—94 min. Mr. Clements is the exciting new history teacher. His first assignment uncovers a disturbing mystery for Eliza about her own past? Will it change things? DVD Code: Black FFT 29

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pastor Lee 338-5351 Church Office 338-2511 Charlie/Jodi Klimek, Cust. 338-2929	6 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 Bible Breakfast	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 6:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 6:30 ACT Class	9:00 Footcare 1:00 LWML 2:00 Women's Bible Study	1:00 Ministerium at St. Wms <i>JCT</i>	10 Birthday Party 7:00 Worship w/Communion Lockin
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 Worship w/Communion, also Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School 2:00 St. William's Living Center 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	6 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 Bible Breakfast	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 6:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 6:30 ACT Class	11:00 Windmill Ponds Communion		10 Shower 7:00 Worship
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 Worship, also Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	6 PM Women's Bible Study	8:30 Winkel at Villard 9:00 Bible Breakfast	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 6:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Questioning	7 Church Council	1 PM Rally Setup	8:30 LWML Spring Rally 7:00 Worship w/Communion
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 Worship w/Communion also, Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Voters Meeting 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	6 PM Women's Bible Study	9:00 Bible Breakfast 10:30 St. Williams Communion	10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom 3:30 6 th Grade Confirmation 6:00 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation 6:30 ACT Class 7:00 Confirmand Welcome			7:00 Worship
28	29	30	The Lutheran Hour			
9:00 Worship w/Confirmation & Communion, also Livestreamed 10:00 Coffee NO Sunday School 7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14	6 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PPHS Speech/ Theater Awards	9:00 Bible Breakfast	WCCO Mpls 830 6:05 AM KWAD Wadena 920/1430 8:30 AM KXRA Alex 1490/100.3 6:30 AM KFGO Fargo 790/94.1 7:30 AM	KWAD Wadena 920/1430 8:30 AM KPRM Staples 94.7 9:30 AM KMRS Morris 1230/107.7 12:30 PM		

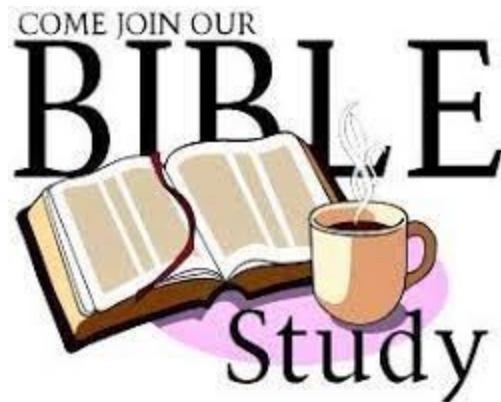


Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

P.O. BOX 66—PARKERS PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 56361

Forwarding & Address Correction Requested



We are offering 3 interesting Bible Studies each week.

- ◆ Monday nights at 6 PM All women are invited to a Women's Bible Study led by Peggy Winter. Each week is a new topic. Come when you can.
- ◆ Tuesday mornings at 9 AM everyone is invited to join Bible Breakfast led by Pastor Lee. Come for good food, great conversation & encouragement and digging into God's Word.
- ◆ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM everyone is invited to a Bible Class led by Pastor Lee. This class will be starting the LifeLight study of Ephesians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Study at home and in class.