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Summertime

Is it time to take a break? Summertime is often considered to be vacation time, because it seems to be the optimum time for individuals and families to take a break. Taking a break from the regular work activities is very important in order to rest and replenish the strength of body, mind, and spirit.

Jesus knew how important it was to take a break. "The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves" (Mark 6:30-32, ESV).

People today are very busy, and some might believe too busy to take a vacation. But taking breaks, like vacations, are important to the health and well-being of individuals and families. It is important to take a break from daily demands of juggling work and home.

A few vacation benefits ... If time is spent in the sunshine, vitamin D is free, and essential for maintaining healthy bones and keeping the immune systems and nervous system functioning normally, just don't over do it. Play is not just for kids, and has wonderful benefits for children and adults. Spending time together enriches relationships. Vacation time shrinks stress and anxiety ... and there are many more.

So ... Is it time to take a break? Blessed Summertime!

Family Ministry Moment

(a publication of the family life and youth board of the Missouri District - LCMS)



JULY & AUGUST NEWS & NOTES



SUMMER FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

Sunday, July 7th – Winner will receive a basket of information on our Founding Fathers and their brilliant plans for our nation that still holds meaning for the Christian church today. Must be in Adult Bible class to participate.

ALL STAR GAME

Tuesday, July 16th is the All Star Baseball Game

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for food, fun, and fellowship as we tune in to watch the 84th edition of the MLB All Star Game! We will share a pre-game dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by Wii Baseball (*for the non-professional players*). Then at 8:00 p.m. we will watch the All Star Game coming to us live from Queens, New York! Please note on the sign-up sheet what type of "All American" food you will be bringing. July 14th is the sign-up deadline. (*All baseball caps are permitted. Talking like a New Yorker is optional but preferred.*)

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013 AFTER LATE SERVICE

Picnic style lunch provided – just bring yourself, but please sign up on the Christian Fellowship Bulletin Board. Games, contests, cake walk and prizes! Hope to see you there!



Look for more details for all upcoming activities in future bulletin announcements!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY!



We will be celebrating Christian Education Sunday on August 25th!

The Board of Christian Education is thrilled to once again give the children entering 4th grade a Lutheran Service Book for their personal use. We encourage them to bring it to church and use in worship. This year the hymnals will be presented to Abby Alonzo, Grace Hotzel, and Shawn Jeffcott in the late service, right before our picnic takes place.



THANK YOU !

I'd like to say a very special thank you to our faithful Sunday School Teachers!

As the Sunday School Superintendent, I get the privilege of working with a very dedicated group of teachers in our church basement. They include, Miss Tabitha Schubert, Mrs. Joyce Johnson, Mrs. Diana Meyer, Mrs. Danielle Hung and Mr. Mark Bliese. Thank you for your devotion in instructing our youngest children in the Christian Faith. May God continue to bless your faithful efforts!

EVANGELISM CORNER



Please join Evangelism Members at Mackenzie Place for our next two evening worship services on **Thursday, July 25th and August 29th at 6:30 p.m.** These services consist of hymns, readings and prayer. Following the service, while enjoying refreshments, we have an opportunity to visit with residents of Mackenzie Place. We encourage all interested Reformation Members to join us in this ministry.

Thank you to so many who gave of their time and talents to make this outreach possible. If this is a ministry that you would like to consider, please contact Jim Fink at 636-692-1145. If you are unable to attend but would like to be a part of this ministry, we are always in need of baked goods to follow our worship services.



NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

The following groups/organizations will not be meeting during the months of July and August:

Retirees	Care and Share
Elders	Council/Boards
Wednesday Morning Bible Class	

Meetings and activities will resume in September. Look for dates and times in the September newsletter.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the September newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, August 19th**. Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.



CHURCH OFFICE VACATION SCHEDULES

→ Sheri is on vacation Thursday, July 11th and Friday, July 12th.

→ The church office will be closed in observance of the July 4th Holiday on Thursday, July 4th and Friday, July 5th.

Please keep these dates in mind if you need something from the church office!!

YOUTH CATECHISM

Youth Catechism resumes this fall with a brief meeting with 7th and 8th grade parents and students on **Wednesday, September 4th at 5:30 p.m.** Class will follow from 6-7 p.m. (future Wednesday class times are 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.) Also, a Sunday morning (9:30 - 10:30a.m.) 7th & 8th grade curriculum will also be an integral required part of confirmation instruction. We would like to encourage parental participation throughout the year for an ongoing, meaningful discussion of Christian teaching between parent and child.



AFTON CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS



For the months of July and August we will continue to focus on food pantry staples which include:

Canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned fish, canned beans, canned soup, tomato sauce, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, flour, sugar, powdered milk or shelf stable boxed milk.

Please bring the suggested items and place in the

grocery cart in the parish hall or the hamper in the narthex. The food will be taken to the Affton Food Pantry. Thanks for your help! *Ladies Club*

Thank you for your donations!

2013 LAY BIBLE INSTITUTE

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host its summer 2013 Lay Bible Institute from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10 in Sieck Hall 202 on the Seminary campus. "Luther as Pastoral Theologian" will be presented by Dr. Erik Herrmann, associate professor of historical theology at Concordia Seminary.



Luther was a complex figure – a professor, theologian, monk, polemicist, and reformer. But he was also a pastor, his most important and comprehensive role. In this course, we will look at Luther's life and theology afresh from the perspective of his work as pastor. We will read together some of his letters, sermons, and other catechetical and devotional writings that touch on pastoral themes like prayer, consolation, dying, doubt, music, art, and humor.

To register, please call 314-505-7286 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email ce@csl.edu or register online at www.csl.edu. Cost is \$20 per person and includes all handouts and refreshments. Deadline is August 1st. Concordia Seminary is located at 801 Seminary Place.

A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

On Sunday, July 28th at 10:00 a.m., Ascension Lutheran Church will celebrate the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Charles Spomer. The celebration will take place in the Word of Life Gymnasium, 6535 Eichelberger.



SIX FLAGS TICKETS AT A DISCOUNT!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is excited to offer a special ticket price this summer at the Six Flags St. Louis Theme Park. Ticket price is \$27.99* for a day pass (compared to the main gate price of \$52.99 or Dierberg's at \$42.99) Promo code is good from June 15-July 14, 2013.

Purchase tickets online at www.sixflags.com/stlouis

with promo code Thrive from June 10-July 14. Children age 2 and under are free.

Don't miss the fun and the savings. Anyone can take advantage of this special offer, so make sure to tell friends and family! Contact your Financial Representative or Congregational Advocate for more information.

*Not including tax, parking or a one-time handling fee. All rides, shows and attractions are subject to availability.

SUMMER WORKSHOP OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY

Biblical Marriages and Same-Sex Unions:

From the Normal to the New Normal

Dr. Robert Weise, Professor of Practical Theology

July 29-30, 2013

Concordia Seminary, Clayton, MO

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This workshop will discuss the recent normalization of same-sex unions in nine states and its impact on the biblical Teaching of Creation (order in Creation and human sexuality as gift), Marriage and the law/gospel witness for all Christians and especially pastors. What are Christians to do and say as we live in the Left Hand 'political' Realm? Cost \$135 and the registration deadline is July 8th. Register online at www.csl.edu or call the church office for a "mail-in" registration form.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE!



Do you have a couple of hours to spare? Are you interested in museums and your own church history? If so, we have an opportunity for you! Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) is seeking volunteers to assist visitors and tour groups at the CHI museum at the LCMS International Center in Kirkwood. They are looking for those willing to volunteer regularly and to occasionally fill-in when a volunteer needs a day off. Shifts are either in the morning (8:00 – 11:45 a.m.) or in the afternoon (11:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.). If you would like more information or want to serve as a Greeter, please contact Marie Roth at: 804 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105-3014, (314) 505-7900, chireception@lutheranhistory.org.

“Why Should the Average Lutheran Kid Go to Church”

(A Letter to My Two Teenage Boys)

Okay, guys. I've never told you that "you are the future of the Church." And I never will. The Bible says the Church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). Jesus is the future of the Church. Jesus is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Jesus has a future, and so every person connected to Jesus has a future.

That's why, more than anything else, your mom and I want you connected with Jesus. That's why I baptized each of you. That's why we read all the Bible stories to you as toddlers. That's why we have a time of devotion when we can actually eat together. That's why we've prayed for you from day one. That's why we sent you to a Lutheran grade school. That's why we made sure you knew the catechism. That's why we always go to church. And that's why we are LCMS Lutherans. The LCMS is simply the best thing going because for orthodox Lutherans, it's all about Jesus--all about being connected to Jesus.

The Church has a profound responsibility to pay attention to young people. The Bible teaches that all over the place. Today, the Missouri Synod has just less than half the high-school-age young people that it had when I graduated from Sioux City, East High in 1980. Why? Mainly because we've just followed the national trend of European-descent Americans who are having fewer children.

In any case, as LCMS young people, you are a precious commodity, indeed! But don't let that go to your heads. The Bible teaches that young people are very much prone to particular and serious sins. "Remember not the sins of my youth" (Ps. 25:7). And I hardly have to tell you what they are. Luther said the sins of youth tend to be sexual, while the sins of old age are greed. All sin condemns. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). I've never pulled any punches in teaching you what the Bible says about sin. We deserve hell, pure and simple. "But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23). And so we've always spoken forgiveness at home to each other. We're sinners. We are forgiven sinners. And so we sinners forgive others who sin against us. We are Gospel people to those around us. Christianity is not about ethics. It's about Jesus.

The Sunday liturgy shows you why we go to church. Luther said we are beggars who stand before God with an empty sack. What happens in the liturgy? The pastor starts us off in the Name of the Triune God. God's there to do His stuff! Then in the confession of sins, "I, a poor miserable sinner . . ." we say, "Dear God, I've got an empty sack!" If you don't think you're a sinner, if you don't think your bag's empty, you'll never understand why we go to church. "In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins," says the pastor. He drops a load of forgiveness, grace and mercy into your bag. And you say, "Amen! Yup! It's in my bag!" Then the Scriptures are read, and more grace and Gospel and mercy is dropped in. Then the sermon is preached, and you are told that you are damned by the Law, but that Jesus comes only for sinners. Hooray! "I came not for the righteous but the unrighteous!" (Mark 2:17). And at the end of the sermon, you say (and don't leave this to the pastor), "Amen! Got 'er in the bag!" Then you kneel at the altar to receive the body and blood of Jesus. "Take and eat, Christ's body and blood for you, for the forgiveness of all your sins." And you say again, "Amen! It's in my bag!" This continues right through the Aaronic blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you, and give you peace." Amen! Amen! Amen! It's in the bag. I've got it tied up and hoisted on my shoulder as I head out of church.

Now, how shall I live with that big bag of forgiveness, grace and mercy? When my dad sins against me, what do I do? I open my bag and say, "Here, Dad, you misunderstood me and thought ill of me, but I forgive you 'cause I've been forgiven." Then that teacher at school drives you crazy, and you open your bag again. Then that awful bully harasses and embarrasses you, and when your emotions calm, you open your bag of grace and pray, "Forgive him, Lord. He doesn't know what he's doing. And he's hurting inside big time." Then you run into a friend who's really in need because her home life is chaos, and you show her love and compassion like Jesus. In fact, the mercy of Jesus is the greatest compelling factor for you to live a meaningful life of service and love to others.

This happens all week long. Then comes Sunday morning, and you find yourself in church again confessing, "Dear God, I've got an empty sack."

Honestly, boys, I'm frightened for you. This world is an absolute mess. But I'm also confident. Jesus grabbed you at the font, and He won't let go. "No one can snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28). I'm proud of how you've grown. I'm proud of how you've stood the test. I'm proud of how you've kindly witnessed to Jesus in your young lives. And I'm absolutely sure the Church has a future because Jesus has a future, and He's made you His very own for eternity. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

Dad

Pastor Matthew Harrison

Reprint of an article from the February 2013 Lutheran Witness entitled "Why Should the Average Lutheran Kid Go to Church"

UN-APPROVED MINUTES for CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION-LUTHERAN
Church Council Meeting, June 13, 2013

PRESENT: Mark Bliese, Brenda Hargett, John Hargett, Derek Hotzel, Jack Jeffcott, Dan Kamp, Linda LaFlamme, Jill Pelsue, Dan Reimler, Dale Thielker, Hal Uthoff, Pastor Pelsue. Derek arrived fifteen minutes late. Jim Fink was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice-president Hal Uthoff. A quorum was present. John Hargett read a devotion from "BBQ Living" by Edward Grube, published by CPH. It was entitled, "Church Picnic", which he thought was appropriate for the coming summer season. Pastor will have the devotion for the September meeting.

The minutes of the May 16, 2013 Church Council meeting were reviewed. Jack Jeffcott moved that we accept the minutes as read. Brenda Hargett seconded his motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Derek Hotzel had no report.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Hal Uthoff had no report.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: John Hargett read Dan Kamp's report on the monthly income summary for May 2013. A sub-total income toward budgeted expenses of \$13,418.60 was collected, with interest on checking and savings of \$1.27 and \$36.77 in Thrivent Foundation and eScrip electronic funds transfer, for a combined sub-total budgeted income of \$13,456.64. Income toward non-budgeted designated funds was \$682, with \$221 in pass-thru funds, for a sub-total non-budgeted income of \$903. The total income for May was \$14,359.64. The full reports can be viewed on the bulletin board near the nursery.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Kamp presented John Hargett's report. He noted that we are current on all obligations. We had \$16,175 in expenses for May, with \$392 in non-budgeted expenses. Notable items in these expenses include \$850 for KFUD Radio "Church of the Week" (which was from an estate gift). Two miscellaneous items were noted. \$420 savings per month will be realized as Pastor's Concordia Health Plan has changed from Self and Family to Self and Spouse, and there were no elementary school or property insurance premiums in May.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported he has been working with Matt LaFlamme on adult instruction using Lutheranism 101. Pastor has also been working with a steady visitor in the hopes she will join the church. He has made many homebound visits during the month. The Wednesday Bible study will go until the end of June, then break for July and August. Pastor thanked Prof. David Lewis for his Bible study on Islam. The Sunday morning Bible study will be doing a five-part study on baptism as a precursor to the LCMS Convention this summer, whose theme is baptism. Rev. Roger James will be the guest preacher and also provide the Bible study for June 16. Pastor reports that the Thursday night service at Mackenzie Place has been going well, with a steady core group. It is every month, the fourth Thursday of the month, and congregational members are welcome to attend. Dale Thielker gave a little background on Ethan Shrunk, who we have been praying for.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Linda LaFlamme reported she has given Mark Bliese some items to post to the church website. She is looking at an LCMS Bible study on stewardship for Fall. Pastor will take a look at the Bible study and work with her on this idea.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Jim Fink was absent. No report.

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP: Jill Pelsue reported the backyard barbecue was attended by thirty-two individuals, ages 2 to 90. It started outside but moved inside because of severe weather. Donna Schilling was watching the weather and keeping us posted. The remaining time was just a leisurely time just sitting and conversing over food and drink. A special thank you to the bell choir who left doughnuts. A special thank you to Joyce, Tab, Dale and Pastor for helping clean up. June's Random Act of Kindness is scheduled for June 16, Father's Day. A tie swap is planned. July's Random Act of Kindness will be celebrating our Christian founding father's leadership on July 7. The July activity will be held on July 16 - the annual All Star Game. A pre-game potluck will be held at 6:00 p.m. Members can bring All American food and drink, with the Christian fellowship committee providing roasted peanuts and tableware. A Wii baseball competition will serve as a warm-up to the game at 8:00 p.m. Finally, pictures of the various events have been printed and are posted on the Christian Fellowship bulletin board.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Dan Reimler reported the elders met June 5. The elders approved the transfer in of Sandra Kaasch from Faith Lutheran Church, Kirksville, MO. The elders removed Orda Gibbs by self-exclusion. The elders discussed supporting Rev. Roger James as a missionary to Sri Lanka. They also discussed the idea of having an Epiphany Star in the chancel during the Epiphany season. They also discussed the recent Boy Scouts of America decision to allow gay scouts.

BOARD OF PROPERTIES: Jack Jeffcott has received one quote for waxing of the parish hall and kitchen. He plans on getting some more before making any decision. He reported that door stops have been put on all restroom doors so they will not remain open.

BOARD OF FINANCE: Dale Thielker stated that for May we had a deficit of \$2,718, which gives us a deficit of \$5,141 for the year. We also have \$149,437 total cash available for budgeted expenses and the vicarage fund balance is \$10,277.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Brenda Hargett reported that the summer Sunday school will be held in a large group instead of individual classes, with the exception of Mr. Bliese's class. Openings are centered around the 10 Commandments, with a different commandment each week. Our extensive collection of Arch Books are being used with a story helping to illustrate the commandment. Then they are traveling to the "movie theater" (Nursery) to view a DVD from The Living Bible. This DVD is a series of Bible stories which were produced by Concordia Films in the 1950s. The stories appear to be historically very accurate. Projects will be supplemented as needed. As Christian Education Sunday is August 25, Shelly Bliese, Sunday school superintendent, will not be able to attend because of work obligations. Brenda Hargett, Chairperson of the Board of Education will distribute a Lutheran Service Book to the 4th grade students. Brenda also reported that she has not received a report from the Liebmann's on youth group activities.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Support for Rev. Roger James, utilizing the Vicarage Fund was discussed. Hal spoke in favor of this idea of supporting him. Dan Kamp gave some financial figures on the vicarage fund and how it has grown. Pastor gave his thoughts on how this idea can be approached.
- Discussion of the Haven and Christian Liebmann's Eagle projects. Pastor reported that he has communicated to the scout troop the church council's desire to have them clean out the bird houses once a year. He has not heard back from them on that issue. It was also noted that no record could be found of church council's approval of Christian Liebmann's Eagle project, which is the picnic table outside of the Parish Hall by the bird houses. Hal Uthoff moved that we accept his Eagle project. Dale Thielker seconded his motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastor handed out two items on the recent Boy Scouts of America decision. One was entitled, "Boy Scouts Adopt Contradictory Policy on Gay Scouts, Leaders" by Ken Klukowski, Director of the Center for Religious Liberty. The other was entitled, "Boy Scouts of America: What the Policy Change Means" by Rev. Bart Day, Executive Director, Office of National Mission, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. These were for the council to read. They had also been shared with the elders and they have been posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

ADJOURNMENT: Dale Thielker moved to adjourn. Linda LaFlamme seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m., with Pastor offering a prayer and inviting the council to join in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mark J. Bliese, Secretary



July Birthdays!

1st Shirley Ciegel
 2nd Linda Koenig
 Micah Hung
 5th Thomas Lowe
 Inga Duke
 7th Ada Venn
 9th Lucas Hung
 11th Tony Diego
 13th Joseph Bauer

14th Thomas Gill
 Acacia Jones
 17th Derek Hotzel
 18th Zachary Groppe
 20th Joyce Drechsel
 23rd Dorothy Wilke
 24th Daniel Bliese
 Matthew Franklin
 David Adams
 Jack Jeffcott

25th Laura Pelsue
 27th Wilma Lind
 28th Betty Suschank
 30th Deborah Larson

God's Blessings to You!



July Schedule

8:15 Service

10:45 Service

Altar Guild Schedule:

July 7th Betty Heermann
 July 14th
 July 21st Betty Heermann
 July 28th

Julia Graudin
 Julia Graudin

Greeters Schedule:

July 7th Ann Greb
 July 14th Shirley Ciegel
 July 21st Ron & Judie Paul
 July 28th Lisa Adams

Amy Hotzel
 Norma Grau
 Joyce & Carol Drechsel
 Carol Geiser

Usher Schedule:

Don Bartz
 Dan Dowling
 Mike Klemme
 Richard Koenig

Dale Thielker
 Dan Reimler

Acolyte Schedule:

July 7th Philip Bliese
 July 14th John Larson
 July 21st Katie Meyer
 July 28th Philip Bliese

Mary LaFlamme
 Christian Liebmann
 Haven Liebmann
 John Schilling



August Birthdays!

1 st	Don EerNisse Keith Taylor	13 th	Marianne Cutt	22 nd	Marion Lewis
4 th	Rev. David Pelsue	15 th	Sharon Burgeois Lorna Larson Joan Wunderlich	26 th	Anthony Pelsue
6 th	Rosemary Smith	16 th	Carol Reimler	27 th	Stacey Hill
7 th	Barbara Rowland Stephen Cutt	17 th	Rev. Henry Gerike	28 th	Kasey Duneman
8 th	Gloria Lawton	19 th	Judie Paul	30 th	Stephen Gill
12 th	Michelle Starns Ruby Brown	20 th	Katherine Kirkwood Jamie McAlister Nicholas Venn		God's Blessings To You!



August Schedule

	<u>8:15 Service</u>	<u>10:45 Service</u>
Altar Guild Schedule:		
August 4 th	Shirley Ciegel	
August 11 th		Karen Liebmann
August 18 th	Shirley Ciegel	
August 25 th		Karen Liebmann
Greeters Schedule:		
August 4 th	Don & Karin Bartz	Denny & Jan Schrader
August 11 th	Anne Greb	Mary Lou Tucker
August 18 th	Sandy Townsend	Marilyn Jones
August 25 th	Mark & Deb Eischer	Hal & Lois Uthoff
Usher Schedule:		
	Daniel Bliese	Mark Graudin
	Chia Hung	Bev Heermann
	Mike Klemme	
	Ron Paul	
	Robert Klemme	
Acolyte Schedule:		
August 4 th	John Larson	Mary LaFlamme
August 11 th	Katie Meyer	Christian Liebmann
August 18 th	Philip Bliese	Haven Liebmann
August 25 th	John Larson	John Schilling