



# News From the Pews

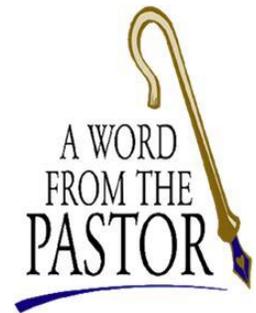
The Newsletter of  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER (LCMS)**  
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**“We Serve Because Jesus Loves You”**

## Spring 2022

Dear Saints in Christ,

I saw this meme a while back on Facebook, shared by one of my seminary classmates and brother pastor:



A picture is worth a thousand words, isn't it? If you have gotten into the mindset that you are a Christian who doesn't need the Church, you need to rethink your attitude. “Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pet. 5:8 ESV). The “Lone Ranger” Christian is tops on his menu! A Christian who fails to make use of the preaching and hearing of God's Word, the Absolution, the Lord's Supper is a Christian who is going to be weak in faith, weak in Christian living, and alone, separated from the body of believers that are the Church, when the devil, the world, and sinful flesh attack and gnaw and rip at you body and soul.

The Church is the Body of Christ—believers in Jesus who come together for worship, fellowship, nurture, witness, and mutual consolation and love. Martin Luther taught in his *Lectures on Genesis* at the University of Wittenburg,

It was no minor matter that in the midst of strange nations Abram is compelled by necessity to separate from a very faithful companion and very dear nephew. A faithful friend is a great boon and a precious treasure in any situation of life, not only because of common dangers in which he can be both an aid and a comfort but also because of spiritual trials.

Even if one's heart is well grounded by the Holy Spirit, it remains a great advantage to have a brother with whom one can converse about religion and from whom one can hear words of comfort. When Abraham is deprived of his nephew, with whom he has lived in exile among the heathen for so long, and loses one who has shared so many trials and dangers, who would not consider this a heavy cross and a great evil? I for my part consider the loss of all my possessions less important than that of a faithful friend.

When Christ was wrestling with temptation in the garden (Matt. 26:37 ff.), we see Him seeking comfort among His three disciples. When Paul, in Acts 28:15, saw the brethren coming to meet him, he took courage from the sight and experienced comfort. Loneliness distresses a person who is solitary and deprived of his intimate friends. He can exert himself and struggle against it, but he does not overcome it without great difficulty.

Everything is less burdensome if you have a brother with you; for then the promise applies (Matt. 18:20): “Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Therefore solitude should be shunned and the companionship of familiar people sought, especially in spiritual perils.<sup>1</sup>

There are certainly enough spiritual perils in our lives that we meet each and every day—temptations of the flesh, the desires of the sinful nature, the suffering brought about by our own sin and those of others. We need, as Christians, the consolation of brothers and sisters in Christ. We need our Church Family! We need to be together listening to the Word, receiving Absolution, uniting in our common confession of faith at the Lord’s Table to receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith in the eating and drinking of Jesus’ precious Body and Blood.

God Himself, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says to us in the Book of Hebrews that Christians should “not [neglect] to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Heb. 10:25 ESV). “By forsaking the congregation, [believers] dissociate themselves from the heavenly assembly in God’s presence. They thereby drift away from the Gospel, shrink back from life with God, and turn away from the living God. . . . [By] their faithful participation in the Divine Service, they encourage one another and so become an encouraging community that is characterized by generosity and love.”<sup>2</sup>

If you find yourself to be that Christian in the photo about being chased by the devil, the world, and the flesh, being that Christian trying to go it alone in this world without the family of God, then it’s time, dear brother or sister. It is time to shake off the dust of the world, to step away from pride and self-sufficiency, and to return to the Church Family who loves you in Christ, supports you, prays for you, and receives the gifts of Christ with you in His holy house. As the hymnwriter penned, “Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits; His blessed angels gather Around the heav’nly gates. No question will be asked us How often we have come; Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home. (LSB 915).

I and the brothers and sisters look forward to seeing you!

In HIS Service,

Pastor Coons

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther, *Luther’s Works, Vol. 2: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 6-14*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 2 (St. Louis: Concordia, 1999), 335.

<sup>2</sup> John W. Kleinig, *Hebrews*, Concordia Commentary (St. Louis: Concordia, 2017), 506.

**Cleaning Volunteers** are always needed  
Please sign up to clean on Saturdays. Refresh your memories by taking a look at the cleaning routine posted. Thank you for serving.



*If you are unable to serve, please contact Tom Savage, Worship Chair.*

June: Sue Thorpe  
July: Mark Parlapiano  
August: Linda Yoreo

## Sunday Readers

*If you would like to volunteer, please see Tom Savage or Pastor.*

### 8:00 a.m.

June 5 Rich Suter  
June 12 Mark Parlapiano  
June 19 George Arendt  
June 26 Gayle Pueschel

July 3 Doug Suter  
July 10 Marcos Iglesias  
July 17 Ron Smith  
July 24 Tom Savage  
July 31 Rich Suter

### 10:30 a.m.

June 5 Margaret Scully  
June 12 Darlene Johnson  
June 19 Linda Stevens  
June 26 Tina Currier

July 3 Margaret Scully  
July 10 Darlene Johnson  
July 17 Linda Stevens  
July 24 Tina Currier  
July 31 Margaret Scully

## Ushers' Schedule

June: 8:00 a.m. Jack Prajzner / Rich Suter  
10:30 a.m. Dave Herzig / Linda Stevens

July: 8:00 a.m. Tom Savage / Jacob McCollum  
10:30 a.m. Dave Herzig / Joe Scott

Aug.: 8:00 a.m. Rich Plumb / David McCollum  
10:30 a.m. Aaron Coons / Dave Herzig

## Car Show

June 25, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed! See Jane Murray or email her at [janemurray351@gmail.com](mailto:janemurray351@gmail.com)

## Vacation Bible School 2022



August 1-5, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Our God can make the impossible possible! A science lab conducts experiments that explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. At *God's Wonder Lab*, discover that Jesus does the impossible for us.

Register students and volunteers at <https://lcorct.org/vacation-bible-school-2022/>



### What Luther Says: A prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father, who sent Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be made man, that He might crush the devil's tyranny and protect us from our wicked adversary: we thank You for this gracious help, and we ask You in all tribulations graciously to come to our aid, to keep us from complacency, and by Your Holy Spirit mercifully to sustain us in Your Word and holy fear, that we may abide in peace from the evil foe until our end, and through Your Son obtain eternal salvation. Amen.