

MISSION & MINISTRY CONNECTION

A Note from our Director of Music and Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

On this Tuesday after Easter Sunday, I am thinking a lot about rest. It's been a full week, and I'm ready for a Sabbath! But, in true Lutheran fashion, I'm not content to just acknowledge that I'm tired. I must ask: What does this mean? That is to say, what is the spiritual significant of needing rest?

We often turn to Genesis 2:2 to demonstrate the creation of a rest day. "And [God] rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done." Simple enough, right? God was just designing the first week, and knew that we would need a day off later on, so He rested.

Well, yes...and no. God didn't *only* take a day off to set an example for us. In fact, God's creative work was finished, it was complete. There was no more left for Him to do to make the world ("it was very good"), so He stopped creating. He rested.

God the Father didn't need physical rest, but God the Son sure did. As a true human being, Jesus needed to sleep for the same physical reasons we need sleep. Perhaps one of the most well-known accounts of Jesus being tired is when He finishes a long day of preaching, gets into a boat, and is so exhausted that He sleeps through a good part of a major storm. Waves were crashing into the sides and water was filling the boat, yet Jesus was snuggled down in the stern, snoozing away. That's some serious need of a post-church nap!

Scripture tells us that, on Pentecost, "divided tongues as of fire appeared to [the apostles] and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:3-4). Now, God the Spirit didn't need to rest in a physical way, but rather as an indication of direction, to mark the apostles as set aside. I imagine that on that day, they were also filled with much anticipation and expectation, even for a brief moment before the speaking in tongues kicked in, and they were wondering what would happen next. As a musician, this is the most intriguing part to me. Wolfgang A. Mozart is quoted as saying, "The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between." That in-between-the-notes silence is more commonly called "rests." The Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs are quite familiar with me reminding them to enjoy the rests and allow them to be nice and full, as that is where the anticipation lies. When seemingly nothing is happening, there is a lot going on.

Dictionary.com lists 37 definitions of rest. And yet, that list lacks the most critical definition for us Christians. Matthew 11:28 reads, "[Jesus said,] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." In the Lutheran Study Bible, the text note for that verse defines rest as "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding and guard our hearts and minds in

Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). For the Christian, then, true rest is synonymous with peace that only Christ can give. That peace, that rest, is what He came to suffer, die, and rise to give us. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Elin Gomez

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! I rejoice in our Savior’s resurrection – the defeat of sin, death, and the power of the devil! Eternal life – ours in our baptism, paid for by Jesus. Thanks be to God!

I also rejoice that I will soon be joining you in Chesterfield! I am excited for the work that God has put before me as the director of Lord of Life Lutheran’s preschool.

I am the daughter of two Lutheran Educators; my dad (Duane) has been in a classroom for 39 years! My two brothers (Ben and Aaron) and I were blessed to have our mom (Kari) stay home with us when we were little, but for over 20 years she too has served as a church musician and music educator. My parents live and serve in Green Bay, WI.

My younger brother Ben is a civil engineer and is married to the beautiful Natalie. Together they have two amazing daughters (Mabel 3, Marta 1) and a son due in June. I am blessed to be an aunt! This part of my family lives in Willmar, MN.

My youngest brother Aaron lives and serves at St. John’s Lutheran School in Bakersfield, CA. He loves to coach basketball and bike everywhere!

I have two bachelor degrees: one is in Lutheran Early Childhood Education and the other in Lutheran Theology (trained as a deaconess). I have been blessed to utilize both of these fields of study in Thailand, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and soon in Missouri.

A deaconess is a woman who gets to live out the vocation to ‘serve one’s neighbor’ and I delight in doing this task especially with children and their families. I am excited to come to Chesterfield and have the opportunity to work with Pastor Below and the dedicated and educated staff of the preschool. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with you in the congregation to foster a Lutheran community within the preschool and strengthen the bond between church and school. I am excited to work with the various ‘youth-oriented’ ministries within the church to foster and encourage a Lutheran identity within the younger members of the church.

I ask for your prayers as I make this move, transition, and become settled in a new place and new community. I certainly have a busy summer ahead of me!

In Christ,

Deaconess Sarah Longmire

Your deaconess; your director of early childhood and children’s ministry

Lay Ministry

The Office of the Keys

In the April monthly meeting Lay Ministers, under Pastor Mark's direction, briefly studied The Office of the Keys. This is an interesting topic as we prepare for post-Easter services during May.

What is the Office of the Keys? According to Luther's Small Catechism it is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. (pp 314) Even as keys lock and unlock, so the authority to forgive and retain sins opens and closes heaven. Jesus gives two keys to His Church: One key absolves from sin and opens heaven. The other key retains sins and closes heaven to those who are impenitent. (Question 335)

All those who repent and ask for forgiveness of their sins are to be absolved. (Question 336) This is tremendous authority Christ gave to His Church. We should give thanks and praise for His work on the cross and how it impacts our lives daily!

One Service

Recently the Board of Lay Ministry was asked to discuss the possibility of having one service during the summer months; particularly June and July. Historical attendance information was provided by the Pastor, Lord of Life Church Office and the Director of Music and Worship for review and discussion during the January through April monthly meetings. Some of the benefits for one service is to have the entire congregation worship, sing and commune together. Disadvantages include changes in schedules for corresponding Sunday events and service planning as well as the service time that many congregation members currently find acceptable then re-establishing the schedules in August. After several round table discussions the Board of Lay Ministry decided not to adopt the one service schedule at this time and to focus on efforts to increase worship opportunities.

May God continue to bless you, your family and our congregation.
Board of Lay Ministry

Preschool and Kids' Day Out

The month of April is busy! On the very first day we had a visit from two Chesterfield Police Officers who showed us all of the parts of their uniform that helps them do their job. They spoke to us about safety and the fact that police officers are our friends and want to help us. Later in the week we were visited by Delta Gamma volunteers who completed vision screening with each of our students.

The second week of April we celebrated our school with two Spirit Days! Our hallways were decorated with purple balloons that the children got to take home. The students wore their purple Lord of Life Preschool and Kids' Day Out t-shirts. We ate purple grapes and graham crackers with purple icing for snack AND students stayed for Lunch Bunch and enjoyed pizza and ice cream.

Our chapel and Sonshine Time topics covered the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Preschoolers ask deep questions and understand serious concepts. We discussed the fact that we all make bad choices and there are consequences. We are all so grateful that Jesus was willing to take the punishment that we deserve! And we are all so excited that Jesus rose from the dead so that we can be forgiven of the wrong things that we do and enjoy eternal life with Him!

Creativity has been overflowing this month. The students not only worked on Easter projects which are on display on our hallway bulletin boards, but they also prepared frames to decorate with their grandparents on our annual Grandparents' Day. Each of our two days of celebrations boasted close to 100 students and grandparents. We enjoyed a light breakfast, chapel, classroom observations and crafts. The grandparents enjoy seeing our preschoolers and teachers in action and we love meeting the special adults who have made loving impacts in the lives of our students!

In addition to our Grandparents' Day Celebrations, the fourth week of the month included our Annual All School Family Field Trip to Purina Farms. It was a rainy day and we all huddled under the pavilion to watch the dog show. However, students and their families enjoyed staying dry in the barn while watching the cow milking demonstration, petting the small farm animals, swinging into the haystacks and playing with tractors and wagons in the corn. Our busy week concluded on Friday with a visit from the Library Story Lady! Ann

Miss Ann

My Super Heroes

Able to leap mountains, faster than a speeding bullet, sweet as pie, courageous as the Lion, it's all six of my students!! Who would have thought that my first year of teaching would entail students teaching me how to be a superhero?!!!

Looking back, I can recall partnering with Ms. Elaine, who hired me, to construct an age appropriate, colorful, child orientated, center and inquiry-based classroom: A nurturing environment through relationship building strategies would be critical to meet the needs of my diverse learners!! I knew it would be imperative to have many visuals at eyelevel - Visuals to encourage positive behavior and individual interactive schedules to keep my heroes on task, along with zoned colored areas!! Music and movement would definitely be the ongoing anecdote for a peaceful environment during the day.

What was most rewarding was the way these super heroes worked together! Each hero arrived with their own challenge, as we all have, but seem to forget. Each hero also brought their individual creativity, learning style, interest and unique gifts!!!! Amazingly, through it all, the love shared and displayed for our learning community and the Chesterfield Fire Department carried us through to the finish line of social, emotional, character and academic success. How? Well, I'll tell you!! Somehow when the students would hear the fire truck they would stop and pray immediately. I soon caught on and transferred that behavior into our class room for any 911 situations that arose during circle, play, activity and learning time! I give credit to Ms. Elin who I

found out downloaded this creative and powerful intervention for classroom management and community building.

Each hero reached the necessary milestones to successfully transition to the next level of learning - kindergarten!!! By linking their likes and learning styles to content, together we were able to meet and develop goals. I thank my heroes for teaching me what forgiveness and patience looks like. These wonderful kids displayed how to work through conflict and move forward. The barriers of disappointment and challenging situations never kept them from rescuing each other. Today I extend a salute to the super heroes that have helped transform my heart and mind.

I also enjoyed implementing our Monday afternoon musical character educational program entitled Happy Choices. Weekly Happy Choices would take real life experiences such as Bullying and link the topic with a character component. Students engaged in role playing to act out the appropriate responses to one who might Bully them. Learners were taught the why's and how's to help understand why Bullies hurt others. A few of the many topics discussed encouraged teamwork, listening skills, cultural diversity, empathy and fear. My first degreeed year of teaching will be cherished thanks to the heroic team of adults I was blessed to get to know, along with the families I served! Might we learn from our Heroes!

Miss Teondra

**Register Now for Vacation Bible School!
Monday, July 15-Friday, July 19 from 9 a.m.-Noon**

Plan to join us on a “Miraculous Mission, Jesus Saves the World” VBS, your children learn that God created a big, beautiful world for us to live in! Earth is big, but it's an even bigger solar system! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Plus, learn that all God's promises are Yes in Jesus! Can't wait to see you there!

We invite everyone from 3 year olds (must be completely potty trained and 3 by June 1) up through students who are just completing Fifth Grade. Friends, neighbors, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins are all welcome to join the fun! The registration fee is **\$10** per child for the week.

To register, pick up a Registration Form at the VBS display in the Welcome Center, complete the form and submit the registration fee (make checks payable to Lord of Life). See Charlene Valett on Sunday mornings or Sharon in the church office during the week to pay your fee and pick up your CD.

On the second day of VBS, each child will receive a FREE VBS T-shirt. We expect a great response, so enroll your child today! We will only accept 30 preschoolers and 30 grade school children.

Support our VBS!

We Need You!! Be part of *Miraculous Mission* VBS, sharing God's miraculous message. We have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Students who are just completing Sixth Grade on up through Adults are invited to pick up a VBS Staff Form from the VBS Display in the Welcome Center, fill it out, and return to the display. To learn more about how you can serve, contact Charlene Valett, VBS Director, at 314-374-7191; cfvalett@earthlink.net

Supply Request Tags for snacks and craft supplies needed at our *Miraculous Mission* VBS are posted in the Welcome Center. You are invited to take a tag and bring in a needed item by June 1. We appreciate your support!

We appreciate your prayers for our *Miraculous Mission* VBS. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
(Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

May of Concern Needs:

Jelly
 Snacks
 Canned Pasta
 Bar Soap
 Lotion
 Body Wash
 Conditioner
 Cereal
 Laundry Detergent

The Yellow Meal-A-Month Bags are on the Circle of Concern barrel in the entryway. Please take one, bring your items in those bags or a paper bag, and place them in the barrel. Circle has informed us that they can no longer reuse plastic grocery bags. They can only accept brown paper bags.

Our goal is 500+ cans each month. Thanks for your support!

May Baptism Birthdays:

Betty Blank	5/6
Roger May	5/7
Kristin Dye	5/8
Nicholas Roux	5/11
Violet Schnute	5/13
John Dye	5/15
Brenda Paul	5/15
Don Paul	5/16
Daniel Roux	5/17
Marla Hofrichter	5/24
Maggie Mueller	5/25
Diane Wolf	5/25
Glen Eatherton	5/27
Charlotte May	5/31

Happy Birthday To:

Paul Suchland	5/1
Jeanette Krafft	5/2
Kayla Suchland	5/4
Margaret Drury	5/11
John Reed	5/11
Stan Roux	5/16
Michael Clasen	5/17
Anna Mueller	5/17
Jeremy Schamber	5/24
Daniel Schelp	5/25
Daryl Hagstrom	5/27
Charlie O'Connell	5/28
Mark Stallmann	5/28
Barb Below	5/30
Vaughn Bremer	5/31
Luke Eatherton	5/31

May Wedding Anniversaries:

Patrick & Connilee Christie	5/12
Bob & Peggy Krause	5/12
Joe & Sharon Delmore	5/18
Greg & Sheri Beirne	5/21
Ed & Libby Liebig	5/22
Don & Brenda Paul	5/24
Ted & Martha Greer	5/29

Serving Teams

May 5	8:00	Team 2
	10:30	Team 8
May 12	8:00	Team 1
	10:30	Team CAAN
May 19	8:00	Team 5
	10:30	Team 6
May 26	8:00	Team 3
	10:30	Team 4

Lay Readers

May 5	8:00	Zach Zeigler
	10:30	Marty Schamber
May 14	8:00	Janet Kammeyer
	10:30	Carla May
May 19	8:00	Tracy Heaton
	10:30	John Dye
May 26	8:00	Mark Bossi
	10:30	Sharon Delmore

Altar Guild

Team #2
 Beth Bossi
 Kristin Dye
 JoAnn Erselius
 Linda Rosemann
 Jackie Schamber

Lay Ministers

May 5	8:00	Justin Langrehr
	10:30	Eddie Marx
May 12	8:00	Nehemiah Langness
	10:30	Brian Andrew
May 19	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Donnie May
May 26	8:00	Ted Greer
	10:30	Joe Delmore

Nursery – 10:30

May 5	Barb Below
May 12	Carla May
May 19	Robbie Doebert
May 26	Colleen Clasen

Counting Teams

May 5	Ken Rosemann Marilyn Evensen
May 12	Linda Rosemann Denis Oneal
May 19	Jean Urban Sue Andrew
May 26	Joe Delmore Richard Barigela