

MISSION & MINISTRY CONNECTION

Rejoicing *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”*

Philippians 4:4

A Word from Lay Ministry

Celebrating “Ordinary Time”

Did you know the church is in “Ordinary Time?” In the liturgical calendar, “Ordinary Time” is that time in the church year that is not included in Christmas, Easter or the preparatory seasons of Advent or Lent. There are no long periods of preparation, prayer and fasting that lead up to climactic victorious celebrations like Christmas and Easter. No, this is ordinary time where the church engages in what some may consider the doldrums of summer routine. Committees and extra programs take a hiatus as folks head to the beach or abroad for vacation. The church building enters a sort of summer hibernation as we wait for the next big thing to happen.

I challenge each of us to adopt a new attitude regarding “Ordinary Time” and do something to make it “Extraordinary Time.” Use these long dog days of summer to lift Jesus higher in whatever you do. Seize opportunities to minister to our children and youth. Take a moment to encourage those who are returning to worship after the long pandemic. Welcome the many new visitors who are searching for relevance and a true encounter with the Lord as they enter our doors for worship. Reach out to our shut-ins through phone calls, cards or even a visit. As a follower of Christ, we need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit even in the ordinary time of vacation and relaxation as to how we can minister to others, a random stranger, a waiter or waitress, the bell hop, you name it. Look for the opportunity.

“Ordinary Time” is the time of year we can drive home the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Good News has come, and His message of salvation and redemption are just as relevant during “Ordinary Time” as it was Christmas and Easter morning. The concept of “Ordinary Time” recalls to mind Paul’s admonition to Timothy to *“preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction”* (II Timothy 4:2). Let us heed this charge because when we are privileged to serve the Lord, it is anything but an “Ordinary Time.” It is an **“Extraordinary Time!”**

For His Glory,
Craig Young, Chairman of Lay Ministry

A Word from Deaconess Sarah Longmire

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

There is A LOT going on in the preschool hallway!! Some very dedicated and talented members of our church have been doing some construction; we now have a bigger classroom, a new classroom, a beautiful workroom, and a director's office! Thanks be to God! These changes will allow our student capacity to increase, which means we can teach, love, and serve more students and their families. These changes are also an opportunity to reflect the intentional connection being strengthened between the church and the preschool. Once everything is done, I intend to give a 'guided tour' for all those interested in seeing the changes and seeing the classrooms; look for more about that in August!

For the first time in LOL preschool's history, we had summer camp in July! We are always thinking about ways in which we can continually connect with our students and families; we already offer camp in June, VBS in June, and camp in August. This summer, we thought we would try camp in July – and it was a success! We had a small group of students, but everyone had fun. We intend to build on this for future years! The children went on literary adventures every day – dressing up, playing with water balloons, going on treks around the property, and even painting with a watermelon! Some pictures about these fun times are on LOL's Facebook page!

At the end of July, I went with 2 young ladies to a Lutheran Youth Conference called "Higher Things." We, along with about 500 other youth and chaperones, met on a college campus in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for a week of learning all about Jesus and His forgiveness for us! We had worship three times a day and learned from Lutheran pastors from around the world in various smaller sessions. We also had the opportunity to get to know the youth group from a neighboring congregation, Village Lutheran. This chaperone was tired, but it was a very fun and edifying week!

In July, we had a small Family Sunday School event; we learned all about Jesus being The Light of the World! We sang songs, did crafts, colored, and learned together. Our next Family Sunday School event is scheduled for August 8.

The Youngish Adult group took a break in July, but is looking forward to continuing to get together again in August and throughout the coming year!

Thank you again for your continued support and love for the preschool as well as the other programs at Lord of Life Lutheran Church; I am humbled and grateful to be serving in this place.

In Jesus' Love,
Deaconess Sarah

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that is done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, “Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart” (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God’s gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

August Circle of Concern Needs

Rice/Bean/Potato Sides	4+ Blade Razors
Canned Chicken	Feminine Hygiene Pads
Beef Stew	Laundry Detergent
Chicken & Dumplings	Dish Soap
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Pull-ups, 3T-4T
Cake & Muffin Mixes	
Canned Vegetables	
Dinner Helpers	

Please bring your items and place them in the barrel. Circle can no longer reuse plastic grocery bags. They can only accept brown paper bags. Our goal is 500+ cans each month. Thank you for your support!

August Baptism Birthdays

Justin Roux	August 7
Rachel Schamber	August 9
Mark Below	August 15
Jan Mantovani	August 15
Rachel Anderson	August 17
Connilee Christie	August 21
Nehemiah Langness	August 28
Brandon Pound	August 29
Megan Clasen	August 30
Patty Suchland	August 30

August Birthdays

Rachel Anderson	August 1
Fred Boesch	August 1
Gene Valett	August 2
Taylor Burlis	August 10
Connilee Christie	August 10
Patty Suchland	August 11
Cari Guerra	August 12
Zachary Zeigler	August 14
Alissa Holthe	August 16
Rett Oesch	August 17
Austin May	August 18
Nehemiah Langness	August 20
Ezra Langness	August 22
Brenda Paul	August 23
Dennis Oneal	August 24
Sue Mowczko	August 27
Colin Gilbert	August 29

August Wedding Anniversaries

John & Jerry Held	August 6
Chris & Laura Gilbert	August 11
Terry & Barbara Hoffmann	August 11
Gene & Charlene Valett	August 19
Vaughn & Donna Bremer	August 28

Serving Teams

August 1	8:00	Team 1-2
	10:30	Team 4
August 8	8:00	Team 7-11
	10:30	Team 9
August 15	8:00	Team 5
	10:30	Team 8
August 22	8:00	Team 3
	10:30	Team 6
August 29	8:00	Team 5
	10:30	Team 8

Lay Readers

August 1	8:00	Mark Bossi
	10:30	Sharon Delmore
August 8	8:00	Diane Wolf
	10:30	Mollie Oakeley
August 15	8:00	Janet Kammeyer
	10:30	Cindy Young
August 22	8:00	Megan Clasen
	10:30	Mark Androff
August 29	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Bob Finley

Counting Teams

August 1	Daryl Hagstrom
	Jim Weiss
August 8	Yvette Hagstrom
	Cindy Young
August 15	Marilyn Evensen
	Ken Rosemann
August 22	Dennis Oneal
	Linda Rosemann
August 29	Sue Andrew
	Jean Urban

Lay Ministers

August 1	8:00	Justin Langrehr
	10:30	Craig Young
August 8	8:00	Ted Greer
	10:30	Craig Young
August 15	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Nehemiah Langness
August 22	8:00	Ted Greer
	10:30	Craig Young
August 29	8:00	Justin Langrehr
	10:30	Donnie May