

MISSION & MINISTRY CONNECTION

Renewal “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...”

Romans 12:2

2021 - REmembering

The Devil wants to be our next pastor...what?!

As I transition to retiring from active parish ministry, into a mode of family ministry. Caring for and tending to needs of those in my family that are aging and in need of help. Lord of Life will certainly have a new pastor (Shepherd of Souls). The search committee directed by the Holy Spirit and seeking the Lord's direction will prayerfully consider possible candidate to interview. And, then the assembly the calling body of the church will seek again God's leading to call its next pastor (shepherd). Would we ever call the Devil to be our next pastor?

Certainly NOT! But think about this for a moment....

The devil wants to be our preacher/pastor. He wants to get into the pulpit on Sunday morning and entertain you, make you feel good, convict you of all sorts of wrong doing, and inspire you to do better. He wants to make you laugh, cry, and sing. He wants to captivate your hearts and leave you feeling like you can conquer the world. Sure, he wants you to be miserable on the way to hell, but if he can get you to enjoy the ride before the car crashes, that suits him just fine. So long as you don't trust in Jesus, the devil is happy to be your preacher.

I worry that the devil has actually crept into many of our pulpits. And it isn't always readily noticeable. In his marvelous book *Christless Christianity*, Michael Horton reminisces on Donald Grey Barnhouse's description of a city run by Satan: **“Barnhouse speculated that if Satan took over Philadelphia, all of the bars would be closed, pornography banished, and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing, The children would say ‘Yes, sir ’and ‘No, ma’am, ’and the churches would be full every Sunday...where Christ is not preached”** (pg. 15).

The devil may have yet to clean up Philly, but it would seem that he's certainly doing everything he can to get into our pulpits and remove Christ.

Since you won't give Satan a call to Lord of Life, he's set out to get your NEW pastor to do the job for him. He comes along to tempt your new pastor away from preaching Christ from the pages of scripture. He tempts your new pastor to give you whatever else you may want to hear and whatever makes him most popular. He'll get him to preach anything but Jesus, however moral or immoral it is. In our culture, it would seem, he's gotten preachers to do both.

The devil is subtle in doing it, but he is set on getting your preacher to put down the cross of the ministry and to become more like him. What does it look like to preach in the image of Satan? Well, first, just look at what's in the name. “Satan” is the Hebrew word for “accuser.”

Satan will tempt a pastor to only look at your sins and what a terrible sinner you are. Now, before you feel too mad about that, you've given the devil plenty to work with! Satan will tell your pastor the only option he has is to attack you with the Law. But this is where the devil is tricky, because you do need that Law. You need your pastor to preach a word that kills the sinful nature inside of you. But God deals out death with a view of the resurrection. And that is what the devil wants to avoid. So, he will send you an accuser, but never a comforter. He will preach death with no resurrection. In other words, he will constantly bludgeon you with the law that exposes your sin and then leave the solution in your hands. He may even provide easy steps to follow and everything!

The Lord kills with His Law, but so that He can raise you from the dead. He calls you a sinner in order for you to finally listen when He says, "You who were dead are alive because I raised you. You were lost, but I found you! You were sinful; I forgive you!" That's the message that undoes Satan and keeps him from the pulpit.

This anti-satanic gift of forgiveness and life is too much for Satan. He cannot overcome it. That doesn't mean he won't try. So, he will come at your pastor with another temptation: he will seek to make the sweetness of the Gospel sappy. That is to say, he will seek to change the forgiveness of sins into approval of sins. He will continue to keep you focused on your sins, just in a different, more positive, encouraging light. He will make your sin allowable. He will silence the Word by saying things like "God loves you just the way you are," or, "God made you perfect," or, perhaps the most deceitful of phrases, "God forgives you anyway." Now, that one is slick. Such language does two things: first, it makes it sound like God never meant His Law in the first place. The Law ceases to accuse because "God forgives anyway." You are supposed to have no other gods. But if you do have one, don't worry about it. God forgives you anyway. No atonement, no sacrifice. Just a wimpy hug from that nice bearded man in the sky. But the Law only accuses if God means it! And He does. The devil is fine with a God who's not concerned with your sin.

Second, then, that "anyway" removes Christ from the conversation. God does forgive you, but not "anyway." He only forgives you for the sake of Jesus who suffered for your sins and died as your substitute on the cross. Forgiveness comes with Christ's blood, not some divine shrug. "Anyway" makes it sound like your sin is no big deal. The truth is that your sin is horrible and sick. But Christ died for it and His sacrifice covers it up. God forgives you for Christ's sake! In other words, Satan will have forgiveness preached without Christ, mercy without sacrifice, divine love without the shedding of blood.

Satan wants to tempt your pastor into preaching something other than God's Word from the Scriptures. God means His Law when He gives it. He means His Gospel when He gives it. Satan wants you to remove the sincerity and severity of the Law so you lose the need for and glory of Jesus Christ. When the preacher says either, "God demands this, but don't worry about it, that's just Law. God loves you anyway," or, "You are forgiven, but you better get it right soon or else!" then Jesus has been removed and the devils become your preacher. God means it when He demands your perfection, condemns your sin, and declares Jesus guilty in your place. What is more, He means it when He baptizes you and declares you righteous, forgiven, and born anew for Christ's sake.

Satan won't have a sinner like you forgiven for Christ's sake. He wants to preach Christ out of you. But he is a liar, and that one little word can fell him. Let us pray that Christ alone would remain in our pulpits, ears, and hearts.

Pastor

A Word from Deaconess Sarah Longmire

Greetings from the Preschool! We are delighting in everything about Spring; we are playing outside, learning about animals, learning about seeds, and enjoying sunshine! We have also loved learning about Easter – our Savior is risen, our sins are defeated, and we are part of God's family!

We had a great time singing in church and enjoying an outdoor picnic! We also loved that the Bubble Bus came! We are looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day and are already looking toward to the end of another school year!

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is open! I have given many tours in the past weeks and am excited for the response from many families in the community – the hope is that our preschool can grow back to its full enrollment potential!

In other ministry areas, great growth and participation has happened:

- 'Family Sunday School' Sundays (about once per month) are still being done with the help of the Early Childhood Ministry Board members; they have been great successes!
- Additionally, the "Youngish Adult Group" for members of our church as well as some of our preschool families has been a fun way for Christians to fellowship with other Christians!
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) is planned for June 21-25. The theme this year is "God's Wonder Lab!" Look for more details in the bulletin about ways to help with this!

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers – for the preschool and for me. I am very blessed to serve as your Deaconess and Early Childhood and Children's Ministry Director!

In Christ,
Deaconess Sarah Longmire

Preschool News

Spanish Time!

Hola!

We are having so much fun learning Spanish!

We started the year learning the colors in Spanish by playing fun games including:

- ☺ "Running to a color"
- ☺ "Bingo with colors"
- ☺ "Musical chairs with colors"

We have learned some other words about:

- ☺ Sizes
- ☺ Gender
- ☺ Numbers (we can count to 10)
- ☺ Family vocabulary
- ☺ Animals

The children love singing our welcome song "Hola Amigos" and playing games. We will continue to learn more phrases and animals.

Thank you for all your support!
Spanish Class 2020-2021

Spanish

Colors

Colores (*Kol-or-ess*)

- Red-----Rojo (RRo-ho)
- Orange-----Anaranjado (an-ah-rahn-HAH-do)
- Yellow-----Amarillo (ah-mah-REE-yo)
- Green-----Verde (BAIR-deh)
- Blue-----Azul (ah-SOOL)
- Purple-----Morado (moor-Ah-do)
- Pink----- Rosa (RRO-sah)
- Black-----Negro (NEH-gro)
- Brown-----Café (ca-FEH)

Family

Familia (*fa-mee-lya*)

- Mom ----- Mama (mah-MAH)
- Dad----- Papa (pah-PAH)
- Brother----- Hermano (ehr-MAH-nah)
- Sister----- Hermana (ehr-MAH - noh)
- Grandmother----- Abuela (ah-BWEH-lah)
- Grandfather----- Abuelo (ah-BWEH-loh)

Weather

El tiempo (ehl tee-EHM-poh)

Sun.....Sol (sohl)
Calor.....Calor (kah-LOHR)
Rain.....Lluvia (YOO-vee-ah)
Cloud.....Nube (NOO-beh)
Wind.....Viento (vee-EHN-toh)
Snow.....Nieve (nee-EH-veh)
ColdFrio (FREE-oh)

Action Words

Walk -----Caminar (kahn-MEE-nar)
Run -----Correr (kohr-REHR)
Jump-----Saltar (SAHL-tar)
Play -----Jugar (hoo-GAR)
Dance-----Bailar (bah'e-LAR)

Gender

Boy----- Niño(NEE-n'yo)
Girl----- Niña (NEE-n'yah)

Phrases

Frases (FRAH-shes)

Where is.....? -----¿Dónde estas? (dohn-deh ehs-tah)
Here is the.....-----Aquí estoy (akee ehs-tah)
Thank you -----Gracias (gras-ee-ahs)
Yes -----Si (see)
No -----No (noh)
Hello-----Hola (O-lah)
Godbye-----Adiós (ah-dee-OS)
What is the weather? -----¿Cuál es el tiempo? (kwahl ehs ehl tee-EHM-poh)
Try again-----Una vez mas (Oona vehs mass)
Please-----Por favor (pohr fah-vohr)
What Color is it?-----¿Qué Color es?
What size is it ?-----¿Qué tamaño es?
I see a -----Yo veo un...
Hello, How are you?-----Hola ¿cómo estás?

Size

Big----- Grande (GRAHN-deh)

Small----- Chico (CHEE-coh)

A Word from Lay Ministry

Return to the Word

Bless Them Coming In. Bless Them Going Out.

Lord of Life has a rich ecclesiastical history. We have been blessed with long stints of pastoral service and leadership. Pastor Mark is certainly no exception. Over the past 13 years Pastor Mark has faithfully served Lord of Life and Shepherded us in accordance with God's Word and sound doctrine. Lord of Life is at a good place financially and structurally with strong MMC, Lay Ministry, Worship and Early Childhood leadership. More importantly in my opinion, the Body of Christ at Lord of Life is strong in unity and the Spirit of the Lord. Unity and the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be essential as we traverse the latest crossroad in the history of our church, the call of a new pastor.

I love the sending hymn from Sunday, "How Firm a Foundation". The strength, unity and sound doctrine in the Lordship of Jesus is a firm foundation for Lord of Life. Pastor's announcement of his retirement and offer to guide us through the pastoral selection process is a blessing. Pastor's love and concern for this transition of Lord of life is Spirit led and Biblically based. It is much like our Lord prior to his ascension promising that "He would not leave us as orphans" John 14:18.

When praying about this month's Lay Ministry news article I have been reading about the occurrences of the Lord's ascension and the believers' waiting. Very similar to us awaiting our next pastor. I am impressed by two specific things when reading the scriptures prior to and immediately after our Lord's ascension regarding His instructions to the Apostles, Disciples and Believers.

1)Acts 1:4 "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised". In other words, Do Not Leave. Stay in place. Now is not the time to look to the right or to the left. Now is the time to bind ourselves together in unity. We are the Body of Christ and we must stand together.

2)Acts 2:1 "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." In approximately three weeks we will celebrate Pentecost. Many get caught up in the manifestations of the Spirit and the signs and wonders, which are all great and point to the supernatural nature of a Holy God that we cannot comprehend. Those who become so preoccupied with the gifts often lose sight of The Giver. The one thing so many fail to recognize before the Lord's visitation at Pentecost is that the believers "were all together in one place". They were in unity. If we expect a powerful move of the Holy Spirit, if we expect guidance and clarity regarding the call of our next pastor, then we will bind ourselves together in unity in one place. We will work together to ensure the continuation of the propagation of the Gospel through the Body at Lord of Life reaching our community and the world as witnesses for Jesus.

There is a mobile hanging from the ceiling in the main hallway of the preschool. It is based upon an old testament scripture and is truly still a Biblical principal by which we should all abide. “You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out” Deuteronomy 28:6. Our dear Pastor Mark and Barb are going out after over 30 years of faithful service. Let us bless them as they go. A new pastor and his family will be coming in. Let us bless them as they come.

For His Glory, Lay Ministry

A Word from our Music Director

*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And make our hearts Your place of rest;
Come with Your grace and heavenly aid,
And fill the hearts which You have made.*

Because Easter was relatively early this year, this is one of the rare times that the high festival of Pentecost falls in the month of May. Regardless of when it falls, Pentecost is always a celebration for the church as Christ keeps His promise of sending the Helper. One of the great and praised hymns of this festival is LSB 498 and 499 “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest.” We know it better by its metrical, stately tune that Luther composed (LSB 498), but the text itself comes from the tenth century and the original melody is a Gregorian chant of the same era (LSB 499). In fact, “next to the Te Deum, this text is most praised of the ancient Latin hymns, and the singing of it was often marked by great dignity and ritual actions (bells, incense, vestments).”

After the celebrations of Easter, it’s all too easy for Pentecost to fall by the wayside. After all, we’ve had 50 days to relax and get back to normal after penitently reflecting on our sins during Lent and celebrating the Resurrection on Easter. In reality, Pentecost is one of the most important events to happen in the life of the church. We are today still in the time of Pentecost and it will be completed on the Last Day when Christ returns in His glory. The Holy Spirit is still at work in the church, dwelling in the hearts of all believers and keeping them in Christ, where He generously gives His good and gracious gifts.

What a gift it is to receive the Holy Spirit, to have one who pleads and intercedes when we pray with groanings too deep for words. To have one who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us. To have one who maintains our faith when our sinful nature wants to snuff it out. This is why we celebrate the day of Pentecost, not because it happened thousands of years ago, but because it happens daily today and will happen until the last person’s name is written in the Book of Life, and the Holy Spirit, like the Father at creation and the Son on the cross, says, “It is finished.”

*Praise we the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, with them One,
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow!
Amen.*

God's peace be with you as we celebrate all of His good and gracious gifts.

In Christ,
Jacob Palmer

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light." For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

May Circle of Concern Needs:

Cereal
 Canned Pasta
 Dinner "Helpers"
 Dry Pasta / Pasta Sauce
 Peanut Butter / Jelly
 Canned Fruit
 Healthy Snacks
 Condiments
 Razors
 Shampoo
 Deodorant
 Ibuprofen

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!

Happy Birthday To:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Paul Suchland | May 1 |
| Kayla Suchland | May 4 |
| Sarah Longmire | May 8 |
| John Reed | May 11 |
| Margaret Drury | May 11 |
| Stan Roux | May 16 |
| Anna Mueller | May 17 |
| Jeremy Schamber | May 24 |
| Dan Schelp | May 25 |
| Daryl Hagstrom | May 27 |
| Mark Androff | May 27 |
| Charlie O'Connell | May 28 |
| Mark Stallmann | May 28 |
| Barb Below | May 30 |
| Vaughn Bremer | May 31 |

May Baptism Birthdays:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Kristin Dye | May 8 |
| Nicholas Roux | May 11 |
| Violet Schnute | May 13 |
| Brenda Paul | May 15 |
| John Dye | May 15 |
| Don Paul | May 16 |
| Daniel Roux | May 17 |
| Diane Wolf | May 25 |
| Maggie Mueller | May 25 |
| Charlotte May | May 31 |

May Wedding Anniversaries:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Daryl & Yvette Hagstrom | Mar 23 |
| Patrick & Connliee Christie | May 12 |
| Bob & Peggy Krause | May 12 |
| Joe & Sharon Delmore | May 18 |
| John & Kristin Dye | May 21 |
| Don & Brenda Paul | May 24 |

Serving Teams

| | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|
| May 2 | 8:00 | Team 3 |
| | 10:30 | Team 4-9 |
| May 9 | 8:00 | Team 7-11 |
| | 10:30 | Team 6 |
| May 16 | 8:00 | Team 1-2 |
| | 10:30 | Team 8 |
| May 23 | 8:00 | Team 5 |
| | 10:30 | Team 4-9 |
| May 30 | 8:00 | Team 3 |
| | 10:30 | Team 6 |

Lay Readers

| | | |
|--------|-------|----------------|
| May 2 | 8:00 | Diane Wolf |
| | 10:30 | Craig Young |
| May 9 | 8:00 | Mark Bossi |
| | 10:30 | Mark Androff |
| May 16 | 8:00 | Megan Clasen |
| | 10:30 | Kristie Nolan |
| May 23 | 8:00 | Mark Kammeyer |
| | 10:30 | Joseph Young |
| May 30 | 8:00 | Janet Kammeyer |
| | 10:30 | Cindy Young |

Counting Teams

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| May 2 | Yvette Hagstrom Cindy Young |
| May 9 | Ken Rosemann Marilyn Evensen |
| May 16 | Linda Rosemann Dennis Oneal |
| May 23 | Jean Urban Sue Andrew |
| May 30 | Joe Delmore Richard Barigela |

Lay Ministers

| | | |
|--------|-------|-------------------|
| May 2 | 8:00 | Mark Kammeyer |
| | 10:30 | Brian Andrew |
| May 9 | 8:00 | Ted Greer |
| | 10:30 | Donnie May |
| May 16 | 8:00 | Justin Langrehr |
| | 10:30 | Joe Delmore |
| May 23 | 8:00 | Mark Kammeyer |
| | 10:30 | Nehemiah Langness |
| May 30 | 8:00 | Ted Greer |
| | 10:30 | Craig Young |