

October 2022 Vol. 62, Issue 10

CHRONICLER



Voter's Meeting
October 18 at 7p

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH—
MISSOURI SYNOD

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Message From Pastor

Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

As I write to you today, the contractors have started the project of removing the old parking lot surface here at the church, right outside the window of my study, and section by section, replacing it with new concrete. This reminds us that we are given abundant blessings by God to maintain that which He has given us, His church, His house of worship and its surrounds, to the next generation. Thanks be to God that we have such generous souls as those who have given the funds to make this happen, both to prevent accidents, and to slow the deterioration that happens to everything this side of heaven.

We know that this tent in which we dwell, our physical bodies in this mortal life, are subject to decay and rot because of sin. The only way to escape this destiny of destruction is the actions and will of our heavenly Father, through the work of Jesus the Son, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Anything that distracts us from the hope of the world to come, any teaching that changes the focus of our hope from heavenly things, which will not pass away, to earthly treasures, which moth and rust will destroy, must be minimized. Let me be clear – ***we live in this world, but we are not of it***. We take care of our responsibilities in this world, but never at the expense of straining ahead, like a runner toward the finish line, for the wondrous joy of the kingdom of glory in heaven to come.

By the time of the late Middle Ages (early 1500s), this message of transformation, of Law and Gospel, had dimmed substantially. Martin Luther was the God-chosen messenger of this ***restoration of the truth to the preaching and teaching of the church***. Luther himself might have doubted that he was the best man for the job; he was a sinful and very flawed man, just like you and me. But, in obedience to and in the hands of the most-high God, extraordinary things can be done by ordinary people. Even though at first Luther didn't want to start over with a new church body, and divide the visible church on earth, he discovered through the course of his challenges to the churchly authorities that it was not only inevitable, but necessary, for there to be a separation. That being said, Luther set out to only eliminate those aspects of the church, her liturgy, and her doctrine that were truly abominable. He reacted strongly to those who wanted to extend the changes to the point of chaos. That has earned Luther the term by historians of a "conservative reformer." We celebrate the anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation at the end of this month (October 31st), 505 years ago to be exact.

Rev. Dr. Richard John Neuhaus, who journeyed from being a conservative LCMS clergyman to becoming a Roman Catholic priest, can be paraphrased as saying that ***if we can no longer come up with reasons to be separate, to be Lutheran, then maybe we shouldn't be divided from the rest of Christendom anymore***. I would mostly agree with this statement, except I would disagree on this point: ***there are plenty of reasons to remain distinct today***. We teach the whole counsel of God as embodied in the Scriptures, that the Bible IS the Word of God. We believe that the Lutheran Confessions ARE a 100% faithful exposition of that Word of God. We confess that the Word and the Sacraments are the ways in which God has chosen to deliver His forgiveness of sins to us. We are committed to an understanding of the total depravity of man, ever since the fall into sin. We rejoice in the complete and utter, objective, one-time justification of mankind by the death and resurrection of Jesus as the ONLY cause of our salvation. Luther put it more succinctly: ***Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone***. Rather than being novel and inventive, or merely pithy phrases to



Last May, OS� invited a local young girl to come speak at our May LWML meeting (check out the May Chroni- cler for more background.) Lucy and her mom shared with us the mission of

Lucy's Pet Pantry to assist Jasper County pet owners who need short term assistance to provide for their pets be- cause of hardship or financial struggle. LWML presented Lucy's Pet Pantry with a cash donation after her presenta- tion, but our hearts said we need to do a little more. **For the month of October**, LWML through Care & Share is providing an opportunity for our congregation to show their love for God's furry creatures by collecting items (or cash) to donate to Lucy's Pet Pantry.

Donation suggestions for *Dogs or Cats*: adult or puppy/ kitty food, food treats, cat litter, puppy pads, activity and chew toys, collars, or leashes. Look for a collection tub in the narthex. If you wish to donate with cash or check, look for the specially marked container, also in the nar- thex. (Checks should be written directly to Lucy's Pet Pantry - we will pass all monies directly to the organiza- tion at the end of the collection period.)

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memorize, Luther was doing nothing more with this mantra than summarizing St. Paul, especially in the apostle's letter to the Christians at Rome. Luther was a "restitution theologian" – he wanted to bring back sacred truths from the past and bring the church back to a time when things were taught in their truth and puri- ty.

That's what the Reformation is all about, even today! I hope to see you in church, in Bible study, and around the community. God's blessings to you and yours!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Daniel M. Provost



LWML NEWS.....



Our first meeting of the new year was held on September 19th. We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 2nd and are encouraging eve- ryone to bring their mite boxes or extra change to dump in the BIG mite box. Quilting dates for October and November will be decided upon soon so watch for those details. Our next meeting will be a Potluck Salad Supper to be held at 5:30 (note time change) on Monday, October 17th. All women of OS� are encouraged to come and enjoy the fellowship. All you need to bring is a salad and yourself! No formal meeting will be held but we would like to share what mission projects our LWML sup- ports. Hope you can join us!!



We are updating our church directory. If your in- formation has changed (address, phone numbers, email addresses — please let the office know. Thank you!!



Oct 18
7p



ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Fall is rapidly approaching and with it comes our annual election of officers to the Church Council. Some individuals have already agreed to have their names appear on the ballot for the 2023-24 term while others consider the possibility of serving for another term. Regardless of how those decisions play out, several vacancies exist in the boards of education, missions/evangelism, elders, and trustees. Some of these positions could accommodate a one-year term in order to maintain continuity of the boards. In addition, the office of President presently requires staffing for the 2023-2024 term.

Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to assist in one of the open offices highlighted below. If you are willing to add your name to the ballot, please notify Randy Ervin or any of the currently serving Council members by early October. The elections will be held at the October 18, 2022 Voter's Meeting. If you are willing and able, your church needs you.

Office	Current	Current Term Expires	New Term	Current 2023-2024 Ballot Status
President	Randy Ervin	2022	2023-2024	Doug DeJong
Secretary	Deanna Ihde	2022	2023-2024	Deanna Ihde
Treasurer	Sue Fortune (acting)	2022	2023-2024	Sue Fortune
Financial Secretary	Donita Huegel	2023		
Elders				
	Doug Woebeking	2022	2023-2024	
	Jerry Roby	2023		
	Jary Boger	2023		
	Doug DeJong	2022	2023-2024	
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Trustees				
	Bob Bringolf	2022	2023-2024	Bob Bringolf
	Carmen Sanders	2022	2023-2024	Carmen Sanders
	Tim Huegel	2023		
	Steve Hartz	2023		
	---		2023-2024	
Missions/Evangelism				
	Vacant		2023-2024	
	---		2023-2024	
	---		2022-2023	
Education				
	Vacant		2023-2024	
	---		2023-2024	
	---		2022-2023	