

THE PILGRIM HERALD

November 2016

PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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NOVEMBER: THE LANGUAGE OF PRAISE

*"My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble
hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!"*

[Psalm 34:2-3]

As the leaves change color and the temperatures drop, as the grocery store shelves swell with the jellied cranberry sauce, the 10lb bags of potatoes, the plump turkeys, and the pumpkin and pecan pies, as November bleeds into December, we often turn to a more reflective mood. We hold closer the precious gifts that have abundantly fallen from our Father's hand, and we grieve greater all that has been taken away, all that is broken, and all that is lost. It's a good time. It's a hard time. Yet it remains always a time of thanksgiving, a life and language of praise.

In the recent past, I finished a book entitled, *"Bright Valley of Love"* by Edna Hong. Its pages narrate a true story of a young boy by the name of Gunther. He was born in Germany in 1914. His father was off fighting in World War I. His mother had deserted him. His grandmother ended up looking after him. Her lack of attention and abuse of Gunther led to the debilitating disease of rickets, a bone disease in children that causes weak bones, bowed legs, and many other bone malformities. These first pages are very dark and painful to read. Hope begins grow in 1921 when his father and grandmother give him up to a Christian colony near Bielefeld, Germany. Its name is Bethel ("house of God,") and Gunther stays in a house called Patmos. It's named after the Greek island where St. John received a vision from the Lord of the promised new heavens and new earth. This safe-haven for the world's unwanted is led by Rev. Fritz Von Bodelschwingh. As the pages are turned, one learns about Gunther's experiences and education, and his relationships with other children; the emotional strains of entering adulthood; and

the unique personalities of the pastors, including one bearded pastor who constantly plays hymn tunes on his brass trumpet. The book begins in a valley of shadowy dereliction and abandonment, only to end in a valley of Christ's love, poured out for all.

All of life is an act of worship, of prayer and praise, of thanksgiving. One chapter in this bright valley of love enlightens us to this truth. It was a Sunday in August of 1921 that for Gunther eternity entered into time. He is seven years old. His mind and spirit had yet to experience the world in all its uniqueness and giftedness. What are these things: wind, stars, sand, mud, pebbles, angleworms, butterflies—Gunther had no idea. He knew not the nature of love, how it felt, how to express it. "I love you" was a foreign phrase to him. His ears had never heard its tender sound. But Gunther would discover that day, that His Father and Creator, intended him to be, meant for him to live, to be loved, and to love. Enlivened by his Father's gift of life, Gunther wanted to live, he wanted to know who his heavenly Father was. A fellow friend, known as "blind Willi" had begun to tutor Gunther in the language of praise. That Sunday morning when "Sister Mathilde" went to get Gunther dressed, she was met by an ecstatic Willie, who exclaimed that he had taught Gunther how to pray. This exchange, like many others in the book, brings joyful tears to one's eyes:

"Gunther pray for Tante Mathilde."

"Or-r-r Fah-h-er hoo-oo is-s-s..."

Gunther looked questioningly at his teacher.

"Our Father, who is in heaven. In *heaven*, Gunther."

"Or-r-r Fah-h-er hoo-oo is-s-s in heff--en

"Good Gunther! Wonderful!" cried Sister Mathilde (42).

From this point on Gunther's body, mind, and spirit continued to develop. Eager to make up for lost time, Gunther asked tons of questions and was like a sponge when it came to his heavenly Father's world. In a one-room school house, with ten children, Gunther learned about numbers and colors, words, and much more. Hong writes, "Here in this little schoolroom Gunther began learning the language which is very special to the Valley of Bethel. True, it is an international language and not just Bethel's alone. Every nation has some persons who know the language. It is a super-national language and has nothing at all to do with nations. It has to do with grateful hearts. Since Bethel was a valley full of grateful hearts, it spoke this language fluently. That is, the language of praise" (46).

That Sunday in August of 1921 Gunther didn't understand the wrong that had happened to him, or much more, why it had to happen. He knew that something was not right, not only with his body, but of all those who lived in the House of Patoms. He saw it with his own eyes. Friends who were suffering in life to pre-birth, in-birth, or after-birth maddening and mysterious suffering. There was Henrik, who couldn't control his muscle movements. To feed him was a herculean task. He would spasm so often that it was near impossible to get him to swallow the food as his teeth clenched and the food dribbled to the floor. There was Leni and Manfred, who could walk and talk and feed themselves, but something was wrong in their brains. "Fit's" they would call them. Later, they would be known as epileptic attacks that come upon a person suddenly and unexpectedly, as perhaps a sneeze or a spell of hiccups. Others had little moments of pure confusion, brownouts in the mind, dizziness, sagging head, small jerking and twitchings of the body. Other epileptic seizures that Gunther saw were quite violent, like a sudden shriek, or a raucous cry of a bird.

Despite all this sadness, brokenness, while the world has always pushed them out of sight and mind, those living in the House of Bethel, this House of God, knew that from strongest of them to the weakest of them, all of them knew and understood the language of praise. Dora, one of Gunther's closest friends, who was greatly stricken with being deaf and unable to speak clearly and could only shout uncontrollably, one only had to look into her eyes to know that those sounds spelled sheer delight and a life of praise. Her eyes said, "I love you."

A life of praise, a language of praise, never looks like we think it should. That Sunday in August of 1921, the eternity and love of God poured out in strange way, in the midst of suffering, in the midst of the great "why's" of life, in the midst of a child struggling and joyously learning the simple yet eternal language of his Heavenly Father. The children of God never look the way you think. The children of God never praise their Father in words of their own, but in the words that have been given them to speak, to praise their most gracious God, for the greatest gift: His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. It's not flashy. It's not relevant. It's not smart. Rather, it's simple. It's outdated by the world's standards. It's foolishness. It's a crucified God yet risen from the dead.

In the small little schoolroom, Gunther learned what God is to him: Father. And this Father has many sons because His one and only begotten Son carried out His Father's will that He rescue everyone. And so you, along with Gunther are sons of the Father, and the Father has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, "Or-r-r Fah-h-er hoo-oo is-s-s in heff—en." Thanksgiving is not absent in the midst of human suffering, even in the mysterious "thorn in the flesh." Rather, we vow that having manifold

proof that God loves us in His Son, no matter who we are and what crosses befall us, that what our Father has said has come to pass for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of this great gift, our life will be a perpetual song of praise in the courts of all the redeemed. Reflect on this, this thanksgiving season. Reflect that it's not just a season, it is a way of life here below, and the way of eternity in the courts of heaven forever.

In the peace and joy of Christ,
Pastor Raffa



Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour for Daylight Savings time on Saturday, November 5.

**** Little Book on Joy** will not be meeting in November and December. It will meet again on the 4th Tuesday in January. January 2, 2017 at 9:00 am. See you then.**

SILENT AUCTION

Thank you to all who donated, bid, bought, and bought raffle tickets helped and participated in any way. The grand total for debt reduction is

\$1800.50. That amount is being sent to the bank for reduction on amount Pilgrim owes on the new addition. A BIG thank you to all for making this our best year to date with the Silent Auction.



DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN UP for the Pilgrim Family Thanksgiving Dinner. To be held here at Pilgrim on Thursday, November 24 at 11:30 am. Come enjoy the day with the Pilgrim family and watch the games on the T.V. in the fellowship hall.

Sign up sheet for the Pilgrim Family Thanksgiving Dinner is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Church Council Meeting minutes from 10-10-2016

Attendance: Scott Densow, Judy Frank, Jerome Sommers, Mary Schwittau, Fred Leffin, David Boehlke, Tanner Schmidt, Allen Latall

Jerome opened with prayer

Minutes from September meeting were approved.

Elders Report – given by Tanner Schmidt

Schedules made out thru November 10th

Website development is progressing – additional help needed

Allen Latall submitted his letter of resignation

Discussion on processional cross

Discussion on church debt

A point of clarification on the removal of uncontactable lapsed members – done at voter's assembly

Discussion on organ playing rotation

Suggestion for Pastor Raffa to lead catechetical series of studies on Sundays

Duties for elder liaison formerly done by Allen Latall will be done by Tanner Schmidt

Trustee Report – given by David Boehlke

A basement egress window at the Fisher residence has been replaced

The computer for the church secretary has been updated along with new software

Board of Education – no report

Treasurer Report – given by Fred Leffin

Preliminary 2017 budget presented

Pastors Report – no report (both pastors at a conference)

Additional topics

Voters meeting will be held on October 30th at 1pm in the fellowship hall

At the October voters meeting the following positions will be available: Vice President, Secretary of Voter Assembly,

Board of Education, Church Council (1 seat), Trustee (2 seats), Elder (2 seats) – if interested in any of the positions listed please contact any member of the Church Council, Pastor Fisher or Pastor Raffa

Endowment committee completed review of document – to be reviewed by an attorney

Motion passed to adjourn the council meeting

Allen closed with prayer

Respectfully Submitted – Scott Densow

Board of Elders Meeting Minutes, Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church 9/6/2016

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Fisher at 6:35. Present at the meeting were Ken, Tanner, Brian, Dave, and Ron. Absent were Gary, Howie, and Allen.

Schedules were made through Sun, Oct. 9.

Pr. Fisher mentioned a proposal to sponsor/adopt Taylor Brown, deaconess student and former intern. The general consensus was positive, inclining toward a collection basket, the funds of which would be matched within the congregation's ability.

Pr. Fisher noted that a modest advertisement in social media resulted in a boost to web traffic.

Pr. Fisher notes that St. Andrew's is covered.

Pr. Fisher notes that his chapels and Bible classes at Auxiliary Court may possibly be taken up by the new pastor at St. Andrew's.

Pr. Fisher will not be able to attend the September council meeting.

Pr. Fisher explained the discussion held with a local pastor concerning him allowing heterodox teachers to lead a marriage seminar at his congregation.

The webpage setup is currently acceptable, though we look to find helpers still. Amanda V. and Austin M. were mentioned as possibilities.

There is an usher shortage in some teams, so we must either recruit or redistribute our current ushers.

Confirmation begins 9/7.

Pr. Raffa notes that inactive and unaccountable members will be soon released from our rosters. Any with knowledge of whereabouts will be sought, as the pastors and elders desire to be as evangelical as possible in this situation.

Pr. Raffa also presented the newly designed bulletin, being the product of the pastors' and elders' discussions of implementing a "green sheet" ala Rev. Mech's study for the purpose of continued catechesis for all.

The study of the aforementioned book was postponed owing to the lateness of the hour.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanner Schmidt

Sunday School

We are now half way through the Fall quarter. Average weekly attendance for the first five weeks was 27. We thank the parents who have informed us in advance of planned absences as our teaching team puts a lot of time into preparation each week.

We like to take this opportunity to thank those who have donated supplies to the Sunday School. A big "Thank you" to the Hausmann Family for the Memorial donation.

We continue to enjoy our music time and singing some much loved hymns as well as some fun Sunday School songs. Money has been added to our birthday bank as we recognize birthdays each week.

Our lessons for November include *Saul Becomes King* (1 Samuel 8-10; 11:12-15), *David and Goliath* (1 Samuel 17), *David and Jonathan* (1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20:1-42), *David Becomes King* (1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-10).

We are still in need of Substitute Teachers. If you could help us, please contact Diane Swanson.

Mark your calendars: Our Christmas program scheduled for Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m. A light meal and time of fellowship will follow the program. Details will be announced next month. Rehearsals will be held on Saturdays, December 3, 10, and 17 in the morning. Our third and fourth grade students will be creating our program covers. Students who would like to play an instrument, sing a solo, duet, trio, etc. need to notify Sunday School Superintendent Diane Swanson by Sunday, November 27th to be added to the program.

Ladies Guild/LWML

The LWML hosted the Zone 7 Fall Rally. We learned many things about **A Place of Refuge** from our speaker Trish Kagerbauer. Thank you to our Pastors for leading devotions. A big "Thank You" to all the members of the congregation who contributed to our Ingathering. It is very much appreciated.



Cookies, Cookies, Cookies—Our Christmas Cookie Sale will soon be taking place. We are hoping that you will bake a double batch of your favorite Christmas cookies! Please bring your cookies to church by 11:00 am promptly on Saturday, Dec. 10. We will sell our 1-pound boxes for \$7.00 each after both services on Dec. 11. The money raised goes to Rev. Micah Wildauer who is serving as missionary in Togo, Africa.

Thank you for baking buying and enjoying the cookies. Ladies Guild/LWML



CHRISTMAS SHOPPE:

Now is the time to start planning for the annual Pilgrim Christmas Shoppe.

You can start bringing in new or look like new items for the Shoppe. We will have a special table set up for hand made items that are being donated by the members of Pilgrim. If you are willing to donate hand made items that you have made please leave your name and the price you would like to have on the item. Baked goods and snack items are always appreciated. Let's start setting up November 17, 18, 21 and 22nd 9:30 am.—Noon. If you are willing to help but can only make it in the evening, please let us know and we can arrange a time that fits your schedule. Please let Norma Benz know if you can help. The Christmas Shoppe will be open Sunday, November 27—Sunday, December 18. If you are able to help at the checkout table on Thursday evenings, and Sunday mornings or for set up, please contact or for set up please contact Norma Benz at 334-4274 or contact the church office. Thank you.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

We are in need of the following items for the food pantry. Please bring them in and place them in the Blue Barrel in the Narthex.

Toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex type tissue, ketchup, mustard, Coffee, regular and instant, Jams and jellies (no grape please), Cake mixes, Pie filling.

As of right now we have enough pasta and pasta sauce.

PILGRIM DIRECTORY

The dates for the Pilgrim Directory Photo shoot are, December 30, 31, and January 6-7 2017. Jeff Barger is not looking to sell anything, if you are interested in portraits he will set you up with the company who will be doing the prints. If those dates do not work for you, please contact Jeff Barger at 262-338-9822 to set up a time to do your photo shoot. We are looking to have 100% of the Pilgrim members involved in this so our Directory is complete. Forms are available on the page 19 of the Newsletter, in the Church office, or the Narthex. Please return completed forms to the Office. Sarah will schedule your appointment for you.



Address Changes

IMPORTANT If you have moved or changed your phone #, or someone in your family has, ***please***, contact the Church office with the updated information.



YEAR END/ANNUAL REPORTS

Please have your Year End/Annual Reports to the Church office by December 12. I would like to have them in the January Pilgrim Herald. Thank you.

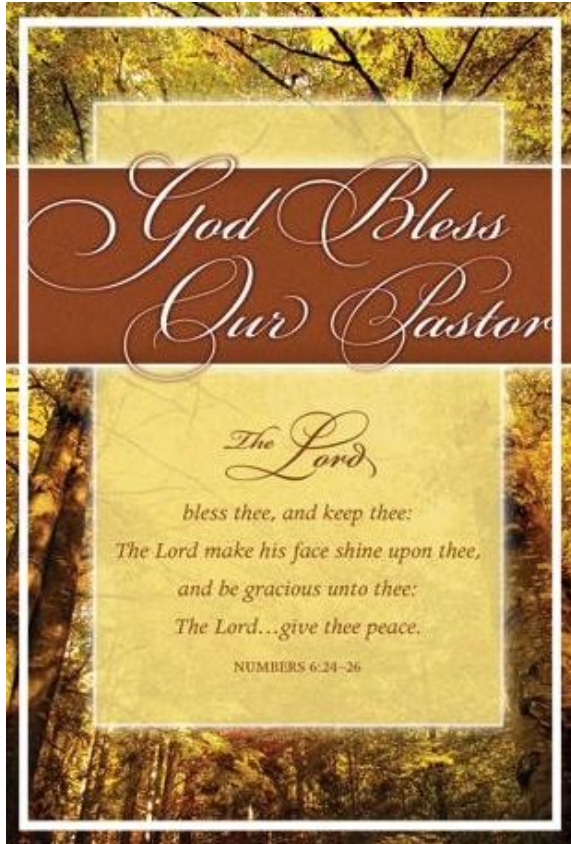
October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Pastors are an essential part of what church is about. Each of us knows how precious a faithful pastor is not only to the congregation but to each of us as members of a parish. My pastors; Rev. Joseph Fisher and Rev. Chris Raffa, are great blessings to my wife, Lynn, myself, and my mother who is in a nursing home in West Bend. Part of my appreciation is to mention them here as I give thanks for their faithfulness and pastoral care of the Bride of Christ, the church.

Most don't see all that a pastor does in a normal week. Being a pastor involves more than forty hours a week. Each week there is a new sermon to write, perhaps more than one if there is a funeral that week. There are preparations for various meetings and as well as Bible Classes to teach. There are visitations with the sick and shut-in. There may well be counseling sessions with individuals and couples. There are home visits to make. President Harrison has been talking about the necessity of pastors doing that more. There are circuit meetings and district pastors' conferences to attend from time to time.

Most don't realize how comprehensive the office of being a pastor is. The list of pastoral responsibilities to God and His people are inexhaustive. We expect our pastor to always have a smile on his face, regardless of how difficult the day has been. We expect him to always have time for us when we call or stop by, regardless of what else has been on his agenda that day. There are things that our pastors do which we will never see. Their witness, the way in which they honor the office they hold, their compassion and dedication are to be commended.



Pastors also have families; children and a wife, parents, brothers and sisters. As demanding as is the pastoral office, the pastor's family is more important. Does your pastor take the time to care for his family, time to spend with his wife and children?

The emotional, psychological, and spiritual stressors in a pastors' life can be exhausting. I have walked with more than a couple pastors and their families as they have journeyed down that dark valley of exhaustion and depression. It is not a fun place to be. There are organizations that help at times like that: DOXOLOGY. Shepherd's Canyon. Grace Place. We have provided scholarships to pastors and their families to take advantage of what those helping organizations

offer.

That said, ordinarily the best place for pastoral care is the local parish. Rev. David Muensch, pastoral care advisor for Concordia Health Plans, describes what that might look like when he writes in a recent article:

It has been suggested that Pastoral ministry involves activity in at least 13 different "task clusters" (i.e. Administration, Care-giving, Rituals and Sacraments, Management, Communication, Preaching, Public Worship, etc.) which require 64 personal competencies. Now, you and I know that Pastors are human,

and no one is "excellent" in every one of these specific competencies, but the importance of the work means that your Pastor(s) are making efforts in each of them. Many of these efforts happen in quiet, confidential, and private ways. It could not be otherwise. As a result, there is much which is accomplished in Pastoral ministry of which you are unaware until/unless it intersects with you and your family, and it can be difficult for him to know of the support and affirmation of the people he's called to serve. Please consider regularly providing support and affirmation for your pastor(s), and especially in October-Pastor Appreciation Month.

Here are some ideas to get you started in your planning:

- Pray for your pastor
- Authorize the formation of a special committee to "care for pastor"
- Express appreciation, written and spoken
- Respect his time, and encourage him to get appropriate rest and renewal
- Live in peace
- Discover and encourage him in his personal interests

- Support a strategy for professional connections, including outside of ministry
- Encourage him to plan significant and meaningful time with his loved ones
- Lovingly insist he take vacation, and provide resources for his duties to be covered in his absence
- If he's married, learn from his wife of the special/unique challenges confronting her, and be sensitive to expectations inappropriately placed upon her.

["Appreciating Pastors" 28 September 2016, by Rev. David A. Muench Director of Ministerial Care]

Definitely some food for thought as God's people care for their pastors. My prayer is that you will care for your pastor(s). In this new world in which we find ourselves that aspect of mercy from God's people demonstrated toward their pastor(s) goes a long way to promote healthy church workers, church worker families, and good relationships.

May our gracious Lord bless you as you are a blessing for your pastor(s).

Rev. Dr. John C. Wille

President SWD

IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

All servicemen at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For the sick.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For our Seminaries, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Suggested Scripture Reading

This outline is a devotional reading plan that covers the entire Sacred Scriptures each year. The selections are based on ancient models and are generally in harmony with the liturgical church year. The average reading is three chapters daily. The lectionary is in accordance with Martin Luther's suggestions: "But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided in lections, let this be preserved in the ears of the church". Also: "after that another book should be selected, and so on, until the entire Bible has been read through, and where one does not understand it, pass that by and glorify God."

NOVEMBER'S READINGS

Nov. 1	Exodus 15: 1 – 18 Hosea 8 – 10	Nov. 11	Psalm 131
Nov. 2	Psalm 122 Hosea 11 – 14	Nov. 12	Psalm 132
Nov. 3	Psalm 123	Nov. 13	Psalm 133 Zechariah 1 – 5
Nov. 4	Psalm 124 Amos 1 – 5	Nov. 14	Psalm 134 Zechariah 1- 5
Nov. 5	Psalm 125 Amos 6 – 9	Nov. 15	Psalm 135 Zechariah 6 – 10
Nov. 6	Psalm 126 Obadiah, Jonah	Nov. 16	Psalm 136 Malachi
Nov. 7	Psalm 127 Micah 1 – 3	Nov. 17	Psalm 137 Matthew 1 – 2
Nov. 8	Psalm 128 Micah 4 – 7	Nov. 18	Psalm 138 Matthew 3 – 4
Nov. 9	Psalm 129 Nahum	Nov. 19	Psalm 139 Matthew 5 – 6
Nov. 10	Psalm 130 Habakkuk	Nov. 20	Psalm 140 Matthew 7 – 8
		Nov. 21	Psalm 141 Matthew 9 – 10
		Nov. 22	Psalm 142 Matthew 11 – 12
		Nov. 23	Psalm 143 Matthew 13 – 14
		Nov. 24	Psalm 144 Matthew 15 – 16
		Nov. 25	Psalm 145 Matthew 17 – 18
		Nov. 26	Psalm 146 Matthew 19 – 20
		Nov. 27	Psalm 147 Matthew 21 – 22
		Nov. 28	Psalm 148 Matthew 23 – 24
		Nov. 29	Psalm 149 - 150 Matthew 25 – 26
		Nov. 30	Exodus 15: 1 – 18 Matthew 27 – 28 Jonah 2: 2-9



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Joanne Haller
- 2- Joanne Klumb
Chloe LaFlash
- 3- Jim Schmidt
- 4- Cheryl Thill
Tom Greve
- 5- Justin Krueger
- 6- Ashley Chapman
- 7- Madden Smith
Andrew Virchow
- 8- Ian Janssen
- 9- Joy Buchholz
Jeremy Baerenwald
Ronald Virchow (Sr.)
Jasper Rios
Meredith Janssen
- 10- Brittany Virchow
Rev. John Wille
- 12- Ross Weber
- 13- Bernadine Faul
Muriel Magnus
- 14- Donna Tessar
Hannah Hand
David Gronowski
Georgia Janssen
- 15- Bernard Doyle
Wendy Franke
- 17- Nicholas Brodzeller
Beth Brehm
- 18- Courtney Zehetner
Jillian Held
- 19- Janet Schellinger
Denise Spaeth

- 21- Brenda Fettig
Paul Henckel
- 22- Carol Shay
- 23- Michael Krueger
Betty Schroeter
- 25- Joan Prine
Mary Schauland
McKenna Schulz
Lena Teeters
- 26- Scott Densow
Matthew Kemeny
Audrey Hager
- 28- Amy Barger
Donald Meisenheimer
Beatrice Kiesow
- 29- Lucas Skrenty
- 30- Jeffrey Dahl
Thomas Dembski



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Tom & Nicole Kabitzke
- 5- Jeff & Mallorie Held
- 14- Chris & Leighann Haas
- 15- Chris & Nicole Zehetner
- 28- James & Kathy Sullivan
- 30- Don & Cheryl Thill

News from. the Wildauer Family, serving the Lord in Togo and West Africa



The Lutheran Center for Theological Studies-2016-2017 Academic Year

What a pleasant surprise this morning to come to the school and find that all the families are dressed and ready for family photos! Back in August, not everyone had arrived for the opening service and first day of classes. Now in our fourth week of studies, everyone has settled into their homes and have begun to celebrate our common faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. At the center of the campus (and campus life) is the symbol of our faith, the cross. The mark of the Alpha and Omega is a common symbol used by the CLET as well as the national Lutheran church in Togo. We gathered here today for this photo.

Rejoice with us during the beginning of this new Academic Year. The students represent 6 different church bodies (6 countries: Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi) of which 6 students are returning for their final year and 14 students are beginning their three years of study. Among the families, 11 wives are here and attend the Ladies' School 3 times a week. As you can also see, there are plenty of children as well! Pray for their transition, health and well-being, for their assimilation into the community, and most of all, their continued growth in the Christian faith. Thank you, my fellow redeemed, for the support and prayers you have given to the proclamation of the Gospel through this theological institution and these future pastors and families.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
[OR] 40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (or "LCMS").

Please include "Wildauer —Togo" in the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely through the LCMS website using my online giving page at www.lcms.org/wildauer.

To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks.
The only vowel used is the letter A.

1. The mountain where Noah's ark rested (*Genesis 8:4*)

2. Jacob's grandfather and Ishmael's father (*Genesis 18:1, NIV*)

3. She sometimes laughed inappropriately. (*Genesis 18:12*)

4. He had a talking donkey. (*Numbers 22:28*)

5. This bird is both a color and a species. Did he come from the Islands?

6. This can refer to a hat, canal, country or isthmus.

7. The country with the largest area in the Western Hemisphere

8. This animal is an early entry in the dictionary.

9. A magician's exclamation

10. A brand name for motorcycles and pianos

Answers: 1. Ararat, 2. Sarah, 3. Balaam, 4. Balaam, 5. canary, 6. Panama, 7. Canada, 8. aardvark, 9. abracadabra, 10. Yamaha

Quotable

"God gave us five senses; it is sheer ingratitude to worship him with any less."

—Martin Luther

* * *

"Greed says the more you get, the more you have. Christ says the more you give away in love, the more you are."

—Frederick Buechner

* * *

"Anyone who truly loves God travels securely."

—St. Teresa of Avila

* * *

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."

—W.J. Cameron

LET'S BE THANKFUL...

Always Thankful

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" in 1636. At the time the Thirty Years' War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day—including services for his wife and the only two other pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including "Now Thank We All Our God." Originally intended as a table prayer, it's now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God's "countless gifts of love" - even during hardships.

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you are tired and weary, because it means you made a difference.

-Author unknown

Some Perspective

We can be thankful to a friend for a few acres, or a little money; and yet for freedom and command of the whole earth, and for the great benefits of our being, our life, health and reason, we look upon ourselves as under no obligation.

- Seneca the Elder (54 B.C. –39 A.D.)

From harm to good

Squanto, the Native American who helped the Pilgrims, had a background remarkably similar to that of Joseph in Genesis.

Years before the Pilgrims arrived in America, English traders kidnapped Squanto and other Native Americans and sold them as slaves in Spain. Incredibly, Squanto was bought by monks, who set him free and taught him about Jesus. Later Squanto sailed to England, hoping for passage to America. But he had to wait

years, so he worked as a stable hand and learned English. Finally able to travel home, he was devastated to find his tribe wiped out by smallpox.

A couple of years later, the Pilgrims came ashore, tired, sick and having lost many shipmates on the way. Implausibly, they met an English speaking Native American, who shared his friendship and knowledge. Like Joseph going from his homeland to Egypt and from slave to expert leader, Squanto experienced God's leading—even when the path was littered with misfortune.

Using Squanto, God saved a whole community. What some intended for harm, God turned to good (see Genesis 50:20).

Thanksgiving prayer

Author and radio host Garrison Keilor put a unique spin on the expressing gratitude for special meals. He painted the following table prayer on his dining-room wall, encouraging guests to sing it together before eating.

O Lord, we thank Thee for this food,
For every blessing, every good.
For earthly sustenance and love
Bestowed upon us from heaven above.
Be present at our table, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
Thy children bless and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee.

“It's inspiring to hear 15 people find harmony around the Thanksgiving table,” Keilor writes. Singing together “sets a tone. No crying in the cranberries. ... there is much to be grateful for.

A blessed Thanksgiving to everyone.

Please print legibly as this is going into the directory. Fill out form completely. Thank you

FAMILY NAME_____

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CHILDREN'S NAMES_____

CURRENT ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____

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2nd ADDRESS (if applicable)_____

CITY_____ STATE_____

ZIPCODE_____

HOME PHONE # (if applicable) _____

CELL PHONE # _____

Email address (if applicable)_____

Please list your choice of date and time for your photo shoot. Number of people in picture_____.

Dates available are. December 30 or December 31, 2016

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Thank you

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen



What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.



Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.

come you these Lord if blessings you the accompany
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

I	J	T	Z	Z	L	M	X	N	W	C	I	Z	Y	H
X	V	U	B	M	O	O	O	V	I	O	L	T	R	T
N	L	V	L	I	R	A	D	S	L	M	R	H	A	T
B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
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H	G	Y	S	L	R	A	W	E	Y	J	E	E	U	U
I	O	R	I	W	F	I	C	Y	O	U	R	L	R	T
Z	D	B	N	I	A	B	Y	C	V	M	R	X	C	E
G	K	D	G	Y	D	M	A	O	O	T	U	F	M	R
C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
F	S	X	F	R	T	L	P	M	F	B	L	A	A	O
Y	Y	Y	O	U	H	T	U	A	P	A	I	U	N	M
E	O	K	N	U	E	A	Z	U	F	E	F	B	D	Y
T	Q	U	Y	N	I	N	O	O	V	E	O	T	Z	I

"All _____"

28:2, NIV

Answer: "All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV