



THE GREATEST TEACHER

by Pastor Laesch

One of our members gave to me her father's doctoral dissertation to read. Very interesting (but very deep) research about the Greek philosopher, Plutarch. It's going to take me some time to get through it, but as I started to read the Foreword, these words of thanks from the author to a college teacher struck me: "Though the youthful folly of resisting his patient

instruction may have been partially successful, still it proved to be impossible to seal oneself off from the permeating leaven of his excitement over the delights of classical studies." Apart from his wonderful use of the English language, it reminded me what an incredible impact a teacher can make in the life of his student.

If you think back to school days, I'll bet you can remember a teacher or two who had a great impact on you. I can remember more than one or two! My first-grade teacher, Miss Toenies (whom we affectionately, but secretly, called "Miss Toe-Nails.") and my second-grade teacher, Miss Dahlke (whom I'm still in contact with today) taught necessary concepts and behaviors in a firm yet loving (and I would say, "motherly") way. I remember my Sunday School teacher, Mr. Scheidt, who patiently taught me about Jesus and His love for me. He was a wonderful, kind man who reflected the goodness of God. Mr. Bachtold was my Latin teacher in high school. He taught me to sing *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town* in Latin (among, thankfully, many other more important things!). Professor Froehlich, my Greek teacher in college, was a brilliant, yet unassuming man who blamed grammatical anomalies on the tower of Babel (see Genesis 11). And of course, I could never forget my wonderful seminary professors: Bartelt, Brighton, Gibbs, Rossow, and many more. So much was learned from these incredible servants, even if in my own youthful folly I tried to resist their patient instruction!

As my children have recently started school again this fall, I'm excited for them to sit at the feet of their own teachers, servants of God who not only teach math and science and grammar, but also share with them the "one thing needful," (Luke 10:42) the blessed Word of God. And as we start up our fall ministry program here at Chapel, I'm excited for you to join in the giving and receiving of instruction of God's Word. Some of you will become memorable teachers to children and youth and adults at Chapel. Others of you will be blessed to sit at the feet of teachers, servants of God who teach about the truth of our salvation in Christ; of God's love and grace; of heaven and resurrection and eternal life; of Christ's presence at every moment of every day; of the victory won on the cross of Calvary; of our Lord's leading, His guarding, His guiding; of Jesus, who is the way and the truth and the life. As we study and learn and receive instruction from the greatest Teacher, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may we confess with the Psalmist: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 †††

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HOLIDAY WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Eve Worship
November 22 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Worship
November 23 9:30 a.m.

Advent Services
December 6, 13, 20 6:30 p.m.
Dinners served at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Choral Concert
December 10 11:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program
December 17 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24 5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship
December 25 10:00 a.m.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

by Mary Laesch

What happens when you combine God's Word, volunteers from several churches, summer, water, and kids? A fun- and faith-filled week of Vacation Bible School! This summer, Chapel of the Cross joined with Grace Chapel and Blessed Savior congregations to host God's Living Water, a VBS focused on our Savior Jesus, the Living Water.

Kids experienced God's overflowing grace through interactive Bible accounts, awesome music, cool crafts, yummy snacks, great games, and amazing science demonstrations. Kids from all three churches and the community came together every evening of the week to learn about Jesus and have fun together. The kids weren't the only ones who enjoyed the week! A wonderful group of adult and youth volunteers from the three churches had a great time interacting with the kids, sharing Jesus, and getting to know one another. †††



LIFE LIBRARY

by Jill McEuen and Anne Meyer

Some of you may have noticed some changes happening in the alcove near the small chapel. The Chapel of the Cross Life Team is excited to share that we have created a "Life Library," where people can go to relax, learn, and/or chat. We envisioned a space that welcomes the moms and families visiting Friend of Moms, as well as Chapel members and others, while also drawing them to the resources we have available.

It consists of a lounge area with two loveseats, a coffee table, and a rug for the adults to enjoy; and a kids' table, chairs, and bookshelf, for the kids to enjoy. The coat racks were removed, the walls were painted, and lightbulbs were replaced. We have already hung some art work and hope to do more with art in the future. The bookshelves contain life-related materials, including books and videos that can be checked out, and brochures that can be taken. A member installed a plexiglass door on two of the shelves so that our fetal models and other items can be displayed, but remain protected.

We are eager to move forward with some of our ideas on how to use the area and enjoy it with the congregation. We are hoping to be able to start providing donated books to the children who visit Friend of Moms. We are also thrilled to announce that we are planning an art fair, so that members can get creative and submit art work that will be displayed in January to help us celebrate the "grand opening" of the Life Library (see info at right).

So, if you haven't seen the Life Library in person yet, make sure you stop by and check it out next time you're at church! The Life Team would like to thank the Chapel members who helped make all of our ideas happen! We appreciate you and your contribution to our new area. †††



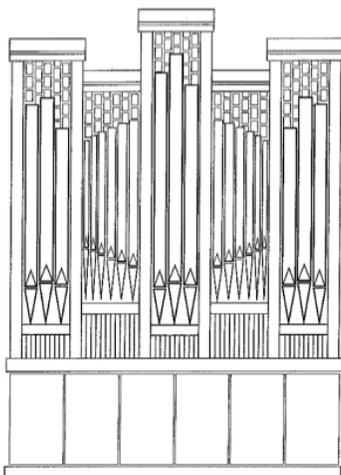
Choose Life...

**for God is your life
and length of days.**
Deut. 30:19-20

ART FAIR - JANUARY 2024

All ages and stages are welcome!

Visit www.chapelofthecross.org/life-team for more information.

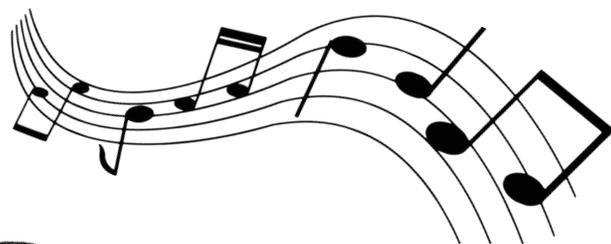


"Favorite Hymns" Festival

**Sunday, October 22
4:00 p.m.**

On Sunday, October 22, Chapel will hold a festival of hymns voted by the congregation to be their favorites. During the month of September, the congregation was invited to submit favorite hymns or songs, and we chose from their top choices to use for the hymn festival. So mark your calendars to attend this afternoon of singing and fellowship – and to find out which hymns were voted people's favorites!

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran presents:



Annual Christmas Choral Concert

Sunday, December 10
11:00 A.M.

ELDER'S MESSAGE

by Jerry Bowen

We believe as Lutherans a doctrine of justification "by Grace alone, through Faith alone, on the basis of Scripture alone." Luther taught that God's grace given in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was (and is) sufficient for our salvation. We are saved, not by what we do for God, but by what God does for us. Luther's teaching and preaching sparked a great revival in the church throughout Europe. In fact, Martin Luther began what was to be known as the Reformation, a religious reform movement which started from Luther's attempt to reform the Roman Catholic Church. Today, there are several Lutheran denominations. One of the main Lutheran denominations in the United States is our own Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, a conservative branch of Lutheranism that teaches that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant word of God.

We as Lutherans believe in the Triune God that Scripture has revealed. God is one, yet He is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that God the Father created the world. We believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, and true man is the world's Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He alone won life for us by His perfect life, death, and resurrection from the dead. God the Holy Spirit graciously delivers life and salvation through God's saving Word and Sacraments, which create faith and sustain us in our faith.

We believe and confess "the one holy Christian and apostolic Church" which consists of all those who hear the Gospel of Jesus and believe and confess Him as Lord by the Spirit who works true faith through the Word and Sacraments.

It should also be noted that Lutherans do not worship Martin Luther. We worship none other than the Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have access to the Father by the Spirit. Christ alone saves us and is worthy of our adoration and praise.

God loves the people of the world even though they are sinful, rebel against him, and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly. Everything we as Lutherans believe comes from the Bible. It is God's message of love and hope for all people. The Bible is the Word of God, handed down to us in order to point us to the truth that we are saved from our sin and eternal death by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. †††

WOMEN IN MISSION

by Clara Mueller

I enjoyed being one of the 3500 women (and a few men) who attended the biennial convention of Women in Mission, also known as LWML, this summer. The highlights for me:

- Renewing and making new friends.
- Bible Study based on 'Celebrate the Lord of the Nations' Psalm 33:12-13.
- Opening and Closing Worship; Speakers; Keynote speaker, Rev. Greg Seltz; Mites in Action reports; Phil Zielke, a cancer survivor and founder of 'Phil's Friends;' and Rev. Xiong on the Hmong ministry.
- Announcement of the new Mission Goal: \$2,350,000!
- Selection of the 31 Mission Grants for the 2023-2025 biennium.
- Parades! Each of the 40 LWML Districts make a banner based on the theme of the convention to be brought in by the District President. Parade of the nations: large flags for each nation are carried into the convention center.
- Fun! Singing with song leader Dina Vendetti; humorous interrupters Jan Struck and Abby Goehring; and the Saturday evening program "The Lutheran Ladies Lounge," which included Audrey Luedtke's granddaughter!

My time there was also special because my daughter Sara, from near Madison, Wisconsin, was with me. My travel there and back was by train, which was peaceful and relaxing.

Lastly, a note of encouragement to keep on with your love offerings of mites! Truly a blessing that mites from so many across the country serve to fund many missions. The Mite Box is out on the first Sunday of the month and mites are also gathered at the monthly Mary-Martha meetings. Prayer bookmarks will soon be available with the list of the mission grants.

Consider being inspired by Women in Mission at the next District convention, to be held in Independence, Missouri, June 7-9, 2024. The next biennial convention will be in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. †††

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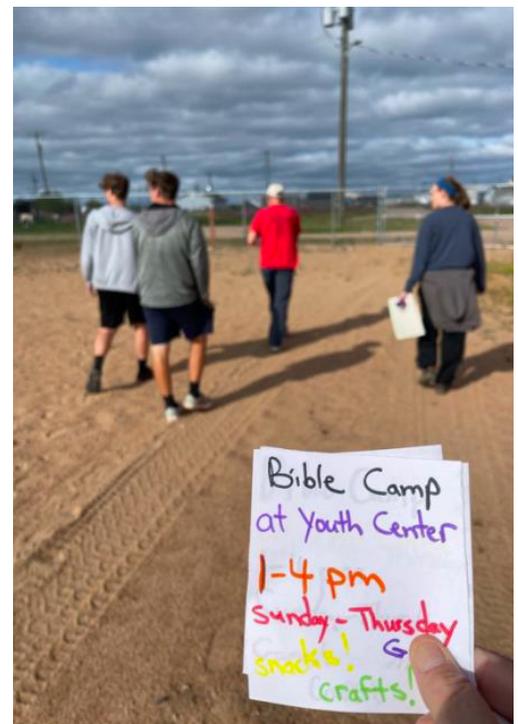



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LAMP MISSION TEAMS - SUMMER 2023

by Ellen and Michael Kehe

This past July Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis combined with Good Shepherd, Centralia, Missouri to send two short term mission teams to Manitoba, Canada with LAMP...Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. The mission was to lead VBS (called Bible Camp) in First Nations indigenous remote communities. This is possible because of the many years of ministry in the north by LAMP missionaries and volunteers. Teams can only come to First Nation communities by invitation of the leadership of that community. The teams were comprised of 12 people who divided into a team of 7 and a team of 5 to minister to the communities of Lynn Lake and Brochet. The Bible Camp theme was: "GOD RESCUES US" and the curriculum focused on water-based Bible stories demonstrating how God shows us grace by rescuing us. LAMP provides a curriculum each year for teams to use, but this year we developed our own curriculum and were able to field test it in our communities. After a few modifications, the curriculum will be provided to the LAMP office for future teams to use. The following are the daily themes, Bible references and Bible memory verse. (Continued on next page)



LAMP Mission Teams (continued)

- **Day 1:** God Rescues Noah. Genesis 6-9. VERSE: Psalm 18:2a "The Lord is my rock and my deliverer."
- **Day 2:** God Saves His People (Parting of the Red Sea). Exodus 14. VERSE: Exodus 14:13 (Moses said) "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord."
- **Day 3:** Jesus Calms the Storm. Mark 4:35-41. VERSE: Mark 4:41 "Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey him?" (Jesus!)
- **Day 4:** Jesus heals the Blind Man. John 9. VERSE: John 9:5 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
- **Day 5:** Jesus rescues me (Jesus' death, resurrection/miracle of net full of fish). John 21:1-14. VERSE: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He sent his only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."



TEAM HIGHLIGHTS: After being absent from our communities for 4 years due to the pandemic, the team members who had previously gone on a LAMP trip were unsure about how they would be received. Would we be starting over in rebuilding trust? However, communities welcomed the teams back with open arms and many verbalizations of affirmation and thanks. I think we all would agree that we felt like WE received a big hug!



LYNN LAKE: Members of this team included: Bethany Kehe (team leader), Mike Kehe, John Zvirgzdins, Joe Miano, Jayme Zvirgzdins, and Anna Zvirgzdins. Attendance fluctuated each day but a total of 54 different children attended this year's LAMP Bible Camp. A good group of children attended every day, in addition to all of the evening activities. We had one day in which children from the nearby reserve, Marcel Colomb, came to town and attended. We will work on extending our LAMP week out to the Marcel Colomb reserve next year. The team arrived in the community in the midst of a complete power outage. The community rallied together around everyone whether they were lifetime residents or, like us, having just arrived in the town. We also felt very welcome throughout the week by members of the community, which was a concern as it had been 4 years since we had last been there.



BROCHET: Members of this team included: Ellen Kehe (team leader), Hannah Kehe (Good Shepherd), Gary Seidner (Good Shepherd), Nate Laesch, and Jake Laesch. We had 56 different children attend Bible camp... This year we were so blessed to see God at work in the community. We were able to worship with 5 elder ladies at the Catholic Church. We were invited to (and attended) a gospel revival worship. We were visited by many former Bible Camp students who are now adults and they shared with us how much they enjoyed Bible Camp. Many new seeds were planted in the hearts of many new younger children; but what a blessing to see how God waters those seeds when we are away.



This year we had 7 team members who had never served on a LAMP mission trip. Each member stepped into the unknown and trusted God to go with them. They each brought their God-given talents to the team and were happy to share their talents by serving the children of Brochet and Lynn Lake. They saw God give them the courage to try new things (maybe even new foods!), and they saw God give them the words to show love to the children. We thank the congregations for supporting the teams with prayers, financial donations, craft prepping, buying pizza and providing canned goods for the teams to eat while in the communities. We thank God for equipping the body of Christ to do His work. †††



THE BLESSING OF WORK

by Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15

Work may be a four-letter word, but that does not mean that it is bad. In Genesis chapter 2, God’s creation of man and woman flow from the responsibility to care for the land that God had created. God created the man, placing him in the garden “to work it and keep it.” Before the Fall, work was indeed good, a calling given to man by God. However, after the Fall, the effects of sin reached not only relationships, but also tainted everything that humanity would experience, including the working of the ground, now cursed with thorns and thistles.

Sadly, work has been so maligned by our society that it is deemed by many to be something bad and futile. The Christian worldview, rooted in the Scriptures, helps humanity to see a calling by God with the gifts He gives and among the people with whom He surrounds you. Work remains the Christian response to God in stewarding His creation by means of our hands and feet, mouths and minds. There is certainly a place for rest, as God designed, but there is also a calling that is work by which God uses us to care for His world with our respective abilities.

God’s design for His humanity is work. We even can look forward to paradise restored in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. There the curse will be lifted and we will return to the garden, that is paradise, where we can now eat freely from the tree of life. “No longer will there be anything accursed,” we read in Revelation 22:3. There will be no futility or sweat, no thorns or thistles, only the joyous work of opening our hands to receive the gifts that God gives without the effects of sin interfering. Until that day, rather than complaining about the work to which God calls us, may we find delight in being His instruments of care for His creation and look forward to the day when the curse will be no more.

Prayer – Heavenly Father, grant Your mercy and grace to Your people in their many and various callings. Give them patience and strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to their neighbor in Christ’s name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. †††



Kirk Mueller

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Confirmation (July 30, 2023):

Annette Mason

Transfer Out:

Joel Marriott to Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown, TX

Death:

Joan M. Arban (June 26, 2023)
Doris Mae Bachmann (Nov 12, 2019)
Denise Hildebrand (June 15, 2023)
Elsie Meyer (July 24, 2023)

Former number of members:	891
Gains:	+1
Losses:	-5
New number of members:	887

Contributions for the Winter 2024 issue of CrossRoads are due by Sunday, December 3, 2023.



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Weekend Worship Services

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Education Hour
(Sunday School, Youth, & Adult Classes)**

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran
exists to show the love of Jesus to
the people of North County and
beyond so that all may have a
living relationship with Christ.*

