

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER



“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). Today is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. “*Held*: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives” (SCOTUS, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, 1).

“[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” (Luke 1:52).

Today is also the Church’s feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord’s unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all, even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and advocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord “has visited and redeemed his people” (Luke 1:68).

Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord’s hand “we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us” (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God’s gift of the one He sent to “go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins” (Luke 1:76–77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death” (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus’ call, “repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don’t be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God’s love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though *Roe v. Wade* has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did. Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today’s decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Matthew C. Harrison, President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

This column is the ninth in a series of commentaries on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together". Bonhoeffer is telling the reader what we must do individually to uplift the Christian Community. Last month we discussed Chapter 2, "The Day with Others". His narrative here is in the framework of daily family activities [let's call it fellowship] conducted together such as daily prayers, reading the scriptures and family meals accompanied by saying grace to be thankful for our blessings.

Today we will discuss Chapter 3, "The Day Alone". I have to say that I was very curious about how this chapter would unfold, when the book's main idea [and title] was "Life Together". Well, Bonhoeffer says that some folks cannot stand to be alone, I'll bet that some of you readers know someone like this. I recently happened to hear an old song from the 50's [and 60's] called "I'm so Lonesome I could Cry" the songwriter [Hank Williams] put all kinds of emotional lyrics in there describing how much loneliness can hurt. Maybe all of us have experienced a little of this and that is what made the song so popular back in the day. Our author, Bonhoeffer, says that many people seek fellowship because they are afraid to be alone. He says because of this fear they are driven to seek the company of other people. Surprisingly, Bonhoeffer is not supportive of this reason to seek community fellowship. He explains it this way: There are Christians who cannot endure being alone, who have had some bad experiences with themselves and they hope they can gain some help in association with others. In doing this they are often disappointed". He further says: "The person who comes into a fellowship because he is running away from himself is misusing it for the sake of diversion, no matter how spiritual this diversion may appear." I interpret this as the person in question is not seeking Community fellowship at all but is seeking only distraction which will allow him to forget his loneliness for a brief time. Bonhoeffer suggests that Christians need alone time as well as community fellowship time to lead a balanced Christian life and keep their faith in God growing. I give you Ecclesiastes 3: 7: "...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." Bonhoeffer ties keeping silent as an enabler to understanding and accepting the Word of God. I quote: "The Word comes out, not to the chatterer but to him that holds his tongue". It does make sense that our daily prayers should be 'alone time' to focus our energy on talking to, and receiving the Word, from God. Bonhoeffer breaks down 'alone time' this way: 1-scripture and meditation, 2-prayer, and 3- intercession. Now I have always thought intercession was part of my daily prayers, that is, praying for the help of God to others. I believe that Bonhoeffer calls it out to help us understand that God requires this service of ours to others. God wants us to perform this service on His behalf. Considering the tribulations, we are going through in America right now, the timing is right to talk in more detail about intercessory prayer, a great gift from God. In times of division, that we are experiencing now, there are differing world views in competition. This happens in community, local, and national situations. Concerning matters of faith, there will be times that we will not agree with what our leaders [or perhaps the more vocal people who get heard more often]. Let us turn to praying for these folks, It becomes really tough to hate someone you are praying for. If you have not practiced this very much, I believe you are in for a happy discovery if you will devote some time to it. Bonhoeffer says: "Intercession means no more than to bring our brother into the presence of God to see him under that Cross of Jesus as a poor human being and sinner in need of grace. Then everything in our brother that repels us falls away and we see him in all his destitution and need." If you are reading this article, perhaps you might concentrate at least half of your 'alone time' daily prayers to intercessory prayers for America's leadership. God has more power than all of our

governments put together. Your prayers can turn this big ship, America, around. I am asking you to do this along with me and let us see if we can make some progress. The month of June has seen some turn arounds already in matters of faith nationwide. Let us keep the momentum going as we celebrate our nations birthday on the 4th.
Blessings and peace!
Deacon Joe



Women's Bible Study THE CHOSEN is the first ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. It allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him. It is a faith-based drama and something new for us at Good Shepherd. We urge the ladies of the congregation to join us in the Brown Fellowship Hall at 10 AM on Saturday, July 9th. Besides seeing Jesus as His followers did, we also get a good idea of what life was like back then and what the people had to deal with. Everyone I've talked to who has seen the videos, really likes them, so please join us for this unique way of having a Bible study!!



Greetings,

My name is Nathaniel Jensen and I am an LCMS missionary serving as pastor of Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Our congregation consists of mostly U.S. military in a region with over 50,000 Americans. Most are associated with Ramstein Air Base, Landstuhl hospital, or any number of U.S. military installations in the area.

In our congregational prayers we pray for other congregations that support military installations. I just wanted to let you know that this morning we prayed for you and the saints at Good Shepherd in Shalimar. If we ever have members PCS to your area, I will let them know about your church. We ask that you do the same should any of your members end up in Germany.

May the LORD bless you and your work!
Pastor Jensen

7/1 Fran Chandler
 7/3 Chad Potts
 7/6 Patricia Rudolph
 7/7 Doris Day
 7/9 Tim Finn
 7/11 All Hemmer
 7/11 Carol Panzenhagen
 7/13 Ann Lienemann
 7/16 Katherine Bier



7/16 Violeta Brunner
 7/18 Sherry Kruschke
 7/21 Marion Wright
 7/24 Beth Bier
 7/24 Don Hudson
 7/27 Ray Angerman
 7/30 Mike Eckhoff
 7/30 Laura Hill



7/11 Jim and Mary Keeler
 7/28 Don and Martha Haggerty
 7/30 Brian and Anne Carstens

7/5 *Where's the Justice?*
What to do when life seems unfair
 7/12 *Make a Difference Now*



7/19 *How to Live to 100*
Advice from those who've done it
 7/26 *Fake Christianity*
Why some and not others

CHARLIE BROWN SOFTBALL GAME





The Ark Encounter Trip





Pentecost Sunday Preparations

