

Warning: Boring Admin Stuff Below!

By Pastor Phill

How's that for a heading? So consider yourselves forewarned – this article is a brief overview of some issues coming before you.

What, a Voters Meeting we're about to have? We have the normal business of a fall meeting, of course, and in addition we have several other issues to decide upon. Here is a list of the business of that Voters Assembly, November 20 at 2 PM:

① Our Corporate Ministry Plan – the budget. Your Finance Committee has been on target in recent years, forecasting income and expense in the church. Our membership has blessed this parish; we are on solid financial footing and prayerfully expect to continue that way.

② The slate of candidates for elected office, as always, is an important part of our November business. God does raise up people as His servants; we're thankful to present a group of men and women for your consideration that have agreed to servant leadership in our parish.

③ A pastoral call – Vicar Gary, in the spring, will be at the point in his education at seminary at which he will be examined by the seminary faculty for pastoral certification. Pending the approval of his faculty examiners, the Council of Presidents in St. Louis will pass on his acceptance. We need to have our call documents in place, as during Gary's on-campus week in St. Louis, he will receive that

call to our parish. We will likely call him as Assisting Pastor. Note that he must successfully complete the remaining two years of his seminary training, or the call that we issue will become void, and he will be de-certified as pastor.

④ A restatement of our Constitution – as we've been discussing since our last Voters Meeting, the format of our Constitution does not fit the Synod-approved format. Bob Gehrke has worked nearly three years reformatting our Constitution to make it more user-friendly, and to dovetail with the Synod's design. You've seen that provisions of our Constitution have been moved from Constitution to Bylaws, and the other way around, strictly for ease of use. Since we enacted the

A Time to Share

“Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. ...Offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into a spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to Him that He may make it a blessing to others.”

-Oswald Chambers

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Voters Meeting Set

On Sunday, November 20, at 2:00 PM, Voters will meet for the annual fall meeting. Agenda items will include:

- ✓ Election of Officers for 2012
- ✓ Approval of the 2012 Budget
- ✓ Resolution to Amend Congregational Endowment Fund
- ✓ Resolution to change qualifications for holding office (2nd presentation)
- ✓ Resolution to restate our Constitution and Bylaws (2nd presentation)



Boring Admin Stuff

continued from cover

Constitution and Bylaws originally, the church has had to amend it by vote over 20 times – not convenient or effective. The changes we will vote on do not change the sense of our Constitution at all, but do make administration of it much less complicated.

⑤ A provision to allow women to serve as Congregational President at Crown of Life – this is now a common constitutional provision in the Synod, having been passed by the Synod at its national convention in 2004. Our resolution would allow for women to serve in any Church Council position, and will continue to disallow women from serving as Elder in our church. Note that we will be voting on this resolution as a separate issue from the overall restatement of our Constitution discussed in #4 above.

⑥ A resolution to move the administration of our Endowment Fund from the Board for Stewardship to the Finance Committee. In this change of responsibility from one administrative group of the church to another, no change is contemplated in how funds are accessed or used. Principal will be protected, as before, except by vote of the congregation, as before. Uses of interest from the Fund will not be changed – those rules remain the same in this resolution. The Finance Committee will not “manage” the fund, but will be responsible for its oversight.

The time-line for these matters in November will be:

November 5 & 6: information packets containing the resolutions will be made available to the congregation in the Narthex.

Sunday, November 13th at 9:15 AM in the Parish Hall we will have a Town Hall meeting for question and comment regarding the various issues to be voted on at the Voters Assembly.

Sunday, November 20th at 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall will be the Voters Assembly.

Please don't hesitate to contact the President Daryl Irmer, Bob Gehrke, or me to discuss any of these issues – we're happy to talk with you. And may God bless the process of governance of our parish!

President's Message

November, the beginning of a major holiday season and also the end of summer. God has been good to us and now we are looking forward to a new year under His blessings. Also it is a very important time in our church year. November brings us to our second of two annual Voters Meetings. It means election of officers for the next two or three years, adopting a new operating budget and bringing other pending issues to a current status.

The Constitution Revision Committee has worked at re-aligning our Constitution and Bylaws to a more workable format. The wording and intent has not changed (with one proposed exception) only the presentation. The proposed change is to change the wording of who is eligible for any or all of the offices in the church to include either men or women, with exception of Pastor and Elder. A meeting has been scheduled for the hour between services on Sunday November 13th to discuss this proposed change. If you have any questions or input on this matter, please attend that meeting and discussion time. The vote will not be taken until the Voters Meeting on Sunday, November 20th.

As you are aware the parking lot has been re-surfaced and looks wonderful. The outside of the Church has been refreshed with a new coat of paint and also looks great. The winter people are mostly back and we are pleased to see them. As you are aware, we continue to slowly decrease in numbers as people continue to age and go back to be near children or move on to their heavenly home. Lets make it the responsibility of each and everyone of us to invite a friend or neighbor or acquaintance to attend a worship service with us and we will all try to make them feel at home and let them know we would love to have them worship with us on a regular basis.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Daryl

Treasurer's Report

By Dan Mehner, Treasurer

Our offerings for September continue to be behind what was budgeted. Here is where we stand as of the end of September:

September Receipts	\$ 46,634
Year-to-Date	\$554,695
September Expenses	\$ 64,449
Year-to-Date	\$541,728
September Surplus	\$(17,814)
Surplus YTD	\$ 12,967

Moment with Pastor Phill



The Catechism

Do you have a copy of the Small Catechism? If you were Lutheran born and bred, you used to have one – Confirmation class demanded you have one, and worse yet, that you learn it. Many folks kept theirs. And many can still quote from it. The Small Catechism is a wonderful exposition of the Biblical Christian faith in just a few pages, and as useful now as it was when it was written.

The use of written materials for the instruction of Christians, particularly preparatory to baptism, stretches back to the Middle Ages. Luther first published a collection of his catechetical sermons in 1522, in his Personal Prayer Book. Not strictly a catechism, this book established the order of teaching in his later publications, that is, the Ten Commandments, then the Creed, then prayer. A concise discussion of Luther's progress toward a formal catechism can be found in the Kolb/Wingert edition of *The Book of Concord* (Augsburg Fortress, 2000).

Other evangelical north German pastors began to create teaching tools of their own about 1525, including excerpts from the Personal Prayer Book. These books further moved teaching toward the

“chief parts” of the faith (although excluding the 6th part of Luther's later catechism, Confession). A few years later (late 1528) Luther himself was tasked with the official visitation of rural churches in Saxony, and as you'll remember he was appalled at the lack of basic Christian knowledge among the people in the pews, and in particular among the clergy tasked with teaching them. In response, in early 1529 Luther began to publish separate broadsheets of instruction, intended to be for household use.

These broadsheets were soon published together in a different format – the introduction of the printing press changed the culture forever, as we see in hindsight, and made religious instruction a part of everyday life. One wonders how our own culture is changing due to emerging technologies... The Wittenburg edition of Luther's collected broadsheets included a Preface written by him, which Preface still appears in our Catechism, oddly, perhaps, as an Appendix, at page 246 of my copy. He was a colorful writer. The Preface begins with these sentences:

The deplorable, wretched deprivation that I recently encountered while I was a visitor has constrained and compelled me to prepare this catechism, or Christian instruction, in such a brief, plain, and simple version. Dear God, what misery I beheld! The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith, and unfortunately many pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers.”

That first catechism of Luther's included the five chief parts, in a deliberate order of first law (Ten Commandments) and then Gospel (Creed, Lord's Prayer), then Sacraments. Confession as a separate and sixth Chief Part was added later. The only question included in the early editions was *Was ist das*, the answers to which provided the real teaching in the catechism. Luther and others later added additional questions; my edition has 305 questions, enough to confound any confirmation student...

At the same time he was preparing the early edition of the Small Catechism, Luther produced the Large Catechism – originally titled the German Catechism – for a different audience, but stemming from that same realization that most in the church knew little of the faith. It was published in 1529; Luther immediately began revisions, adding a Brief Exhortation to Confession. The next edition, 1530, included woodcuts produced by Lucas Cranach, a longer Preface, more material on the Lord's Prayer, etc. This Large Catechism, intended for pastors, was much longer and more detailed than the Small Catechism intended for family use in the home, at fireside.

By 1530, then, the church had at its disposal instruction for lay people and for pastors created by the greatest theologian of the age. Luther was driven to place into the hands of individual Christians not only the Holy Scripture in their own language but resources useful for teaching the faith in plain language. The lasting result is that you and I draw near to our Lord in our own devotional life, using materials available and understandable to all of us. In the coming months, let's look into that Catechism of Luther's, and ours, and remind ourselves through its teaching of the wonders of our Christian faith. And I promise, no memory work this time through the Catechism...

Hear the Mission

By Jerry McCall, Board for Missions Chairman

Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation.
Mark:16:15

This month we will highlight the reply from our contribution to Living Water Lutheran Church in Buckeye, Arizona by printing excerpts from the letter thanking us for the contribution from Pastor Marty Strohschein & Living Water VBS Team.

“What an incredible week of VBS God gave us at Living Water! We wanted to write once again to say thank you for your generous financial support and give you a report of the many blessings God poured out on us and our community through our 2011 VBS. VBS ended up being a great opportunity to serve many of the children that attend the school whose facilities we rent for our Sunday Services. We were able to send home a flier with the students and had a great response. About thirty children came from the school, and when you include Living Water children and their friends, over forty kids participated. That is double the number from last year, so good thing we had lots of adults and high school volunteers to help things run smoothly. We had a great curriculum that not only had good law and gospel content, but the kids and teachers enjoyed it. The overall theme was "Big Jungle Adventure with Jesus." The kids learned some hymns that originated in Africa, like "Listen God is Calling" and "Jesus is Risen, Alleluia". We also took an offering for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), and the kids gave \$190 which went to LMI to buy mosquito nets and other supplies to fight malaria in Africa. On Friday we had a pizza party and invited the kid's families as well. Before the pizza, kids sang two of the songs they learned for their parents, and some came again on Sunday to sing them for the congregation.

Thank you for your generous financial gift which funded this, and for your prayers which God answered by bringing lots of kids who hadn't heard the gospel to be immersed in it every morning for a week! ”

We invite you to join us in praying that the seed of the Word that was sown would bear fruit, and in thanking God for the new relationships. Please, pray for the COL Board for Missions. Praise the Lord!

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

By Gene Axelson

Your investment with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) carries on the tradition of sharing one's blessings with others to support the Great Commission. By investing in LCEF, you are an example to your friends and family of how committed Christians can work together and effect great change. Your investment in LCEF provides funds that turn into loans for churches and schools of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

To find out more about LCEF investment opportunities, see our congregational representative, Gene Axelson (623)584-3839, or call LCEF direct at 1-800-843-5233 or visit www.LCEF.org.

We've Got Mail!

Thanks to all of the Crown of Life family for all the prayers and best wishes while I was ill. The visits from Pastor Phill and Pastor Ron were a special blessing for me. Bless all of you!

Wanda Hurlbut



What a caring family you members of COL are!! We are grateful for the many prayers, cards, notes, flowers (both edible and "smellable"!!) which you sent on behalf of Anne's recent knee surgery. So many of you know what that replacement process is all about. Now, we can appreciate even more what you have gone through. Anne is delighted to be advancing through the recovery process and to be back at worship. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers and care. You do demonstrate what the Body of Christ is all about!!

Pastor Ron & Anne Luedemann

Advent
Sermon Series

“Comfort, Comfort
Ye My People”

Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14



Holiday Potluck set for November 26

By Judy McCall, Assimilation Committee

The holiday season will kick off on November 26 at 5:30 PM with our annual Old Fashion Potluck Dinner and cookie exchange. The potluck will immediately follow the Saturday Worship service. The ovens will be on for those who need to keep food warm, and the big refrigerator will be on to keep food cold while you attend the Church service. We will be singing our songs as we did last year ... great fun and fellowship!

Are we having a Christmas Day Dinner? Yes!

Watch your weekend bulletin for details!



Holiday Decorating

By Bob Mansfield, Board of Trustees

On Saturday, November 26, many hands will be needed to decorate our beautiful church for the Christmas holiday season. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to this edifying project. We will meet at 8:00 AM and will be done by 10 AM, earlier if more helpers are available! This is a great way to meet other COL members! Coffee will be served. See you there!



Upcoming Holiday Events

Gatherings

Church Decorating - Saturday, November 26 - 8:00 AM
Holiday Potluck - Saturday, November 26 - 5:30 PM

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, November 30
Wednesday, December 7
Wednesday, December 14

Holiday Music

Saturday, December 3 - 4:00 PM
Sunday, December 4 - 8:00 & 10:30 AM

"Tapestry of Light" - A Celtic Christmas Celebration
A choral presentation by the Crown of Life Music Department

Christmas and New Year's Worship Celebrations

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24 - 4:00 & 7:00 PM
Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25 - 10:00 AM
New Year's Eve - Saturday, December 31 - 4:00 PM
New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1 - 10:00 AM



Coming Soon!

By Judy McCall, Assimilation Committee

JANUARY 20-22, 2012

Dr. Paul Maier returns for another great presentation. The Friday evening spaghetti dinner begins at 5:00 PM for members attending. Sign-ups start right after Christmas.

FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Our bus trip to see the Dutton Family show in Mesa. We will be eating dinner near the theatre.

MARCH 2012

Plans are still being made for the trip to the Musical Instrument Museum.

Watch for details!

November Altar Flowers

Nov 6 Jack & Ruth Skriden,

On the occasion of their wedding anniversary



And your purpose in life is.....

By Nancy Garippo, GriefCare Coordinator

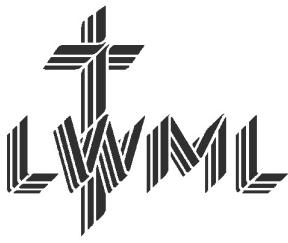
It is very common for those in grief to wonder what they are supposed to be doing with their lives now that their loved one died. What purpose could there possibly be for them now? Often the two lives were so intertwined that the very idea of moving forward without the other seems incomprehensible. People in grief are not the only ones who struggle with the "what's my purpose" questions. Periodically everyone struggles with it. Finding one's purpose is directly related to using one's gifts. We are all God-gifted and have a special area of ministry where that gift can be used. We are called to use our gift for what it will do for others but also for what it does for us. A personal transformation occurs within each of us with the realization that our gift has brought blessings to others. If you don't know what your particular gift is, get involved. God will use people to identify your gift. "You're so good at that; we appreciate your help," can be seen as a sign you're on the right path. Negative comments or results may mean you need to keep searching. We encourage those in grief to reach out choosing one of the many opportunities available to volunteer. The grievers who follow our suggestion always find they are not just helping others. They are helping themselves. They find their talent or gift and are affirmed with a purpose once more. If you're not already out and about using the gifts God has given you, try getting out and about. You too will find your gifts and your purpose. And as a bonus you'll find yourself a happier, more fulfilled person.

"We are Thankful For ..." Thanksgiving 2011

With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching once again, we think how all-encompassing the Psalmist's words are....words which have become a part of our table prayer life: "O Give Thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever!"

This Thanksgiving Eve (Wednesday, November 23 at 4 PM) we will join millions of thankful Americans as we pause to count our blessings and give rightful praise to our incredibly generous God. Mark your calendars!





By Jan Reynolds, LWML President

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

NOVEMBER 5 & 6 IS LWML WEEKEND

The ladies of the LWML will be greeting you as you arrive for worship the first weekend of November. We will also have a display in the Narthex. Please stop by the table and visit with us - and pick up some free "goodies" too. Christmas cards will be available for purchase, along with our large selection of colorful napkins.

MISSIONS is what we are all about -through our financial resources (MITE BOX) hands -on acts of mercy and care, and the supporting of the work of LCMS, we are telling the Good News of God's love to people in our communities, the Pacific Southwest District and around the world. We will be highlighting some of our mission grants so you can learn more about the work of our "Mighty Mites."

MISSION SPEAKER TELLS ABOUT WORK IN HAITI

At our November 8th meeting we will be welcoming Mrs. Iva Richards as our mission speaker. Iva has been to Haiti on several short term mission trips and she will be sharing with us how God's love is being shown to the people there. Of course, we invite and warmly welcome anyone who might want to come and hear her presentation.

COMING IN JANUARY 2012

Clothing Drive for Orphan Grain Train- please start saving your "gently used" clothing.



HealthNotes: Alzheimer's and other Dementias

Dementia is considered a later-in-life disease because we associate it with elderly people. In fact, 5-8% of all people over the age of 65 have some form of dementia, and this number doubles every five years above that age. It is estimated that as many as half of people in their 80s suffer from some form of dementia. More than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease - the most common form of dementia - and that number could climb to 16 million by the year 2050. Women, who are most likely to become the caregivers of loved ones with this disease, face a higher risk of developing it than men.



Next month we look at Alzheimer's Disease ... what causes dementia and how common is it; as well as Alzheimer's Disease.

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Ponder This...

† "A child of God should be a visible beatitude, for joy and happiness, and a living doxology, for gratitude and adoration."

-Charles H. Spurgeon

† "When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep?"

-George Canning

† "There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart."

-Celia Thaxter

† "Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

-Albert Schweitzer