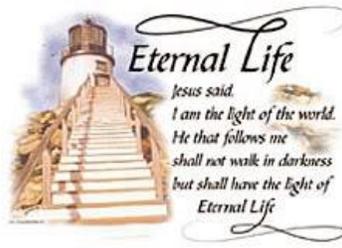


The Messenger August 2016



“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ John 8:12

One of my favorite hiking accessories is the headlamp. When a hike in the mountains starts before sunrise, most hikers use a headlamp to light their way. This small battery-powered device is like a flashlight strapped to your head. I first used a headlamp in 2007 when my brother Dave and I hiked up Wheeler Peak, the highest point in New Mexico. Later this month my brother is coming for a visit and we hope to reach the summit of Longs Peak. That fourteen-mile round trip hike will definitely begin well before sunrise. Between our headlamps and the glow of the moon, I’m sure we will have the light we need.

In our text Jesus declares that He is the light of the world. He assures all who follow Him that they will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. What does this mean?

If you look around, it’s not hard to see the darkness. I don’t mean physical darkness, I mean spiritual darkness. There is deep spiritual darkness in our world. False religions abound: Islam, secular humanism, greed and the worship of money, the love of pleasure, the idea that the world revolves around “me”—to name just a few modern idolatries. All of these amount to the same thing: humanity walking apart from their Creator, humanity walking headlong into eternal separation from the living God. That is a dark, sad picture.

But Jesus is the LIGHT of the world, and that is very good news.

Jesus is the light of the world because He is the heaven-sent Savior come to rescue humanity from an eternity separated from God. Jesus is the Son of God who took on human flesh to reconcile us all to God. As Jesus hung on the cross in the darkness, by God’s special plan this innocent Man was loaded with the sin and guilt of everyone who has ever lived or will yet live. God made Jesus to be sin, and meanwhile declared humanity to be righteous. This truly happened at the cross, as 2 Corinthians 5:21 clearly teaches. We are now called to believe and trust that for Jesus’ sake, God forgives us all our sins, and that God is favorable toward us. This is what Jesus means when He invites people to “follow Him”. He means that we are to believe in Him as our Savior. Nothing else is necessary for us to enjoy true and abundant life as God intended. Jesus has done everything for us. By faith we receive it all.

What God has given us through His Son, Jesus, is truly wonderful. In a dark world nothing is better than having “the light of life”. And this is what we as Christians are privileged to share with the world. We share the good news of what Jesus Christ has done for us all. “Follow Christ,” we say, “that is, turn and believe in Him, and you too will have the light of life. You will know God’s love and favor, and enter into a happy, eternal relationship with God.”

When I click on my hiking headlamp this August, I plan to think about Jesus’ words, “I am the light of the world.” I’m glad that Jesus, our risen Savior, by His death on the cross has restored us to happy fellowship with God. I’m glad that Jesus has sent us to share the news of His light with a world in darkness. Friends at Beautiful Savior, join me in giving glory and praise to God as we walk in Christ’s light and tell His Gospel to the world!

Pastor Groth

THOSE SERVING IN AUGUST

Ushers

Dave Esslinger
Craig Ludwig

Mike Brown
Domino Mbise

Rick Mericle
Wayne Mericle

Elders

<u>8/7</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>8/14</u>	<u>Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle</u>
<u>8/21</u>	<u>Cliff Evans & Mike Brown</u>
<u>8/28</u>	<u>Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle</u>

Acolytes

<u>8/7</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich & Katelynn Rose</u>
<u>8/14</u>	<u>Nicholas Little</u>
<u>8/21</u>	<u>Joey Weinstock & Corrie Rose</u>
<u>8/28</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich & Katelynn Rose</u>

Altar Guild Sue Rada & Jeanne Mericle





I AM NOT A REPUBLICAN 🇺🇸

I AM NOT A DEMOCRAT 🇺🇸

I AM A CHRISTIAN ✝️

By Rev. Kevin Roop

“Pastor, who are you voting for?”

One of my junior catechumens asked that last week. Politics, and political advertising, are wall-to-wall and around-the-clock here in Iowa these days. By “these days,” I mean most of the 10 years since I was called to Iowa.

Summer 2006 found several hotly contested state offices up for grabs. But, we new residents hadn’t seen anything yet. The day after the November general election, before one sigh of relief, the ads began for the 2008 Iowa presidential caucuses, still more than a year away. 2010 and 2014 weren’t any different. Now, it’s once again time for the caucuses.

The answer to that question is never short. Instead, I point our members to two basic Scriptures about the relationship of the Christian to government and politics.

First, Romans 13: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”

Next, to Acts 4 and 5, where Peter and the other apostles say: “We must obey God rather than men.”

Right now, I can’t give the direct desired answer. I just don’t know. Sorting out parties and candidates is terribly frustrating. There is no “perfect” answer. Too many promises have been broken. And the truth is, electing even the “right” candidate will not fix a broken, sin-filled world.

None of this means I won’t vote. We Christians should responsibly exercise the freedom to elect our officials. But there is more to this than just voting.

We also have great liberty to speak to elected officials and to hold them accountable for what is allowed on their watch. Those who bear the name of Christ must pray for these officials, encourage them in their vocation, and lovingly communicate the beautiful worldview the Lord holds out in Scripture (and not necessarily with a direct reference to the Bible).

With the murder of the unborn and the perversion of marriage heralded as normal and preferable, now is no time for the church in America to be silent. We dare not sit this one out.

Though we despair of the available candidates, grieve decisions of the courts and mourn the fruits of elections, we still act, remembering that God says: “the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men” (Daniel 4:17).

The Rev. Kevin Roop is Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Marcus, Iowa.

Submitted by Calvin Meisner for the Board of Elders



August Birthdays

- Aug. 2 Rhiannon Little
- 8 Neil LaVoy
- Julie Vogel
- 9 Conor Woodburn
- 12 Dave Lee
- 13 Joe Hanket
- 14 Dan Nigon
- 19 Amber Mericle
- 20 Calli Boniek
- Jeff Davis
- Barb Wolff
- 21 Wanda Renzelman



Listed below are the names and addresses of some of our members that are either homebound or due to distance and/or lack of transportation are not able to worship with us on a regular basis. I'm sure they would enjoy receiving cards from anyone wishing to send them.

Mrs. Melva Anderson, 1055 Adams Circle, #236, Boulder, CO 80303

Mrs. Dixie Cassily, 12919 Lafayette Street, Unit G, Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Maxine Craiger, 269 Garnet Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Gerd Crandall, 1171 E. 1st Ave., Apt 1702, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Wilda Davenport 1232 Tipperary, Boulder, CO 80303

Mrs. Rowena Davis, 10190 Wadsworth Blvd., Apt 113, Westminster, CO 80021

Karl & Linda Duchrow, 10044 Lee Street, Broomfield, CO 80021

Mrs. Doris Hintz, Clear Creek Care Center, 7481 Knox Place, Westminster, CO 80030

Mrs. Irene Lombardi, 225 Waneka Parkway, Room 283, Lafayette, CO 80026

Mrs. Roberta Nigon, 1213 Jefferson, Louisville, CO 80027

Mr. James Nuoffer, 9160 W. 64th Avenue, Apt. 1, Arvada, CO 80004

Mrs. Wanda Renzelman, 760 Marble Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Vee Rotvold, Crossroads Assisted Living, 451 Malley Drive, Apt. 153, Northglenn, CO 80233

Mr. & Mrs. Don Sall, 12810 Hudson Street, Apt. 322, Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Ruby Stolz, 10300 Sheridan, Suite 103, Westminster, CO 80020

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sylvester, 2425 W. Miller Court, Lakewood, CO 80227

Mrs. Julie Vogel, 12322 Clayton Court, Thornton, CO 80241



August Anniversaries

- Aug. 2 Art & Geri Albrecht
- Matt & Sonya Acker
- 5 Cory & Christine Young
- 10 Dan & Kathy Anderberg
- 11 Steve & Jeanne Hayden
- 12 Cliff & Sue Evans
- 18 Rick & Jeanne Mericle
- 21 David & Julie Vogel
- 24 Dave & Gretchen Lee

Pastor Groth's Experiences at the LCMS Convention

Last month I had the privilege of representing the Rocky Flats Circuit of the Rocky Mountain District at the 66th LCMS Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Attending with me was lay delegate Dr. Christian Kopff, professor of classics at CU Boulder and a faithful member of our sister congregation in Boulder, University Lutheran.

This was my first time attending one of the triennial conventions of our Synod as a voting delegate, and I had a very positive experience. Over 1,000 people were in attendance at the five-day convention, and among them were many old friends of mine, some of whom I had not seen in many years. It was a joy to reconnect with them.

The purpose of our Synod conventions is stated in our Synod bylaws and is worth a careful reading: "The national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. It is the principal legislative assembly which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members. Only a national convention of the Synod shall authorize affiliation or association and the discontinuance of such affiliation and association of the Synod with other church bodies, synods, or federations" (3.1.1).

Several weeks prior to the start of the convention, a national election for president resulted in the re-election of Rev. Matthew Harrison for another three-year term as our Synod's leader. At the convention Rev. Harrison formally accepted this trust, and publicly thanked his wife and two college-age sons, who appeared at the podium with him. Our Synod has six regional vice-presidents who work with President Harrison, and all won re-election in Milwaukee. (One man, Rev. John Wohlrabe, happens to be my mother's second cousin.)

The purpose statement quoted above mentions the priority given to worship and nurture at synodical conventions. That really came through at this convention, as we were immersed throughout the week in Scripture readings relating to the main theme from Matthew 16, "Upon This Rock". The "Rock" upon which Christ promised to build His Church, such that the gates of hell would never prevail against it, is the confession that "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Following the opening Divine Service on the first evening of the convention, we joined our hearts for worship morning, noon, and evening on all the subsequent days. Talented musicians enriched our worship of God.



Continued on next page

As for the business of the convention, I found this both interesting and inspiring. It was interesting to hear the various floor committees present their resolutions to the assembly for consideration. I learned so much about the workings of our Synod as we join together to advance the pure doctrine of Christ at home and around the world, and to extend Christ's mercy in a multitude of ways. I gained a better appreciation for the value of having a synodical union such as we do. It was also inspiring to observe how seriously and devoutly—and, for the most part, humbly—our leaders and delegates engaged in debate about the issues.

An observer of our convention and the resolutions that were adopted would conclude, I think, that we are a church body that by and large supports a robust and vibrant, distinctly confessional Lutheran witness to the world. This was evident, for example, in the adoption of a resolution “To Assist Our CUS (Concordia University System) Institutions in Demonstrating Our Common Confession” (7-06B), which amended our Synod bylaws to provide for an even more careful process for the selection and approval of theology faculty at our synodical universities. Another example of commitment to doctrinal integrity in the interest of vibrant witness was the adoption of a resolution “To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools” (8-01A). Yet another example would be the adoption of the resolution “To Extol and Equip the Blessed Partnership Between the Royal Priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry” (13-01A) as well as the adoption of the resolution “To Regularize Status of Licensed Lay Deacons Involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry” (13-02A), both of which resolutions seek to ensure that our Synod adheres to all our Lord's teachings even as we vigorously make known the Gospel, whether we be ordained pastors or lay persons. (Further information about these and other resolutions can be found at www.lcms.org (click on “Convention”) or talk to Pastor Groth.)



(International Missionaries)

The convention had plenty of moments of emotion and celebration, such as when leaders of our international partner church bodies stood before us on the dais and we rose to give these fellow confessional Lutherans our affectionate applause. Last but not least, there was humor. President Matthew Harrison, known for his walrus-style mustache, was challenged by the Montana District President, Rev. Terry Forke, to put it to a vote of the house which of the two men had the more impressive mustache. That inspired Rev. Paavola, President of the Mid-South District, to propose a resolution challenging all members of LCMS congregations to cast their own vote for the best mustache, along with a \$1 donation, with the goal of raising \$2 million in scholarships for Concordia colleges, universities, and seminaries.

I would conclude this little report with a word of encouragement to the members of Beautiful Savior to continue to inform themselves about our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and to become involved in the ministry of our congregation and the ministry of our circuit, district, and even Synod in whatever way you can. By working together we can, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, keep our Synod a bright light shining the love of Christ into the world.



Our Stewardship Message

(August 2016)

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the Church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthian’s joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything—life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine son-ship, an eternal inheritance—be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For we who believe in Christ, it means forgiveness, life, and salvation in the face of sin, death, and the power of the devil. Here in the church we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

We are “Consecrated Stewards” to the Glory of God!



“The Lutheran Hour” Sermon Schedule for August 2016

LHM produces and airs radio and TV programming around the world in more than 80 languages. “*The Lutheran Hour*” began in 1930 and is the world’s longest-running, continually broadcast Gospel radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1 million people every week on 1400+ North American radio stations!

Please tune to **850 KOA** (AM) at **6:00 a.m.** on **Sunday mornings** OR go on-line to hear and/or download the current or any of the previous messages at: **www.lutheranhour.org**

Aug. 7th ***“The Word in a World of Words”*** (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

It’s “Archives August” and Pastor Seltz revisits a classic sermon by Dr. Oswald Hoffman. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)

Aug. 14th ***“In Spite of Everything”*** (Romans 8:28)

“Archives August” continues, as Pastor Seltz preaches another classic sermon by Dr. Oswald Hoffman. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)

Aug. 21st ***“Hope Not in Politicians”*** (Isaiah 31:1-3)

“Archives August” concludes with a classic yet timely message originally presented by Dr. Oswald Hoffman. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)

Aug. 28th ***“Boasting – Ridiculous or Real”*** (Galatians 6:14)

Modern man boasts, “God is dead,” but what have we gained from such thinking? (Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or mbrown_1llrmd@comcast.net with any questions you may have about “*The Lutheran Hour*” or any of the numerous **Outreach Resources** available from **LHM**.

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a congregational outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of our Savior’s love in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information, please visit **www.lhm.org** or call **1-800-876-9880**. *THANK YOU*



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org



In Christ, for the Church and the World

“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.” (LCMS Mission Statement – 2010)

Dear Family in Christ:

Greetings in Christ! Our lives as God’s people flow not from action but from faith! It seems as though everywhere we turn these days there is an abundance of “nay-sayers” about who Christians are and what the Christian faith is really all about. I found the following article very uplifting and encouraging for combating the pessimism that creeps into my mind from time to time and I pray it will help you as well to keep a faithful perspective on our Lord’s teaching and His will for everyone of us.

The Sin of Pessimism

“Don’t you know that if we don’t do ‘X’, then the Church will die?”

(By: Rev. Jonathan Fisk, Pastor of St. John’s L.C., Oakes, N.D. – The Lutheran Witness, April 2016, Pg. 20)

It’s common enough to find the statement above, or one similar to it, on the Internet or in your Christian bookseller’s leadership aisle or even to hear it from someone with an agenda at your local parish. What more persuasive argument could you ask for? Nothing gets people moving like a crisis. What more significant crisis could there be than that the Church must do ‘X’ or die?

The challenge for Bible-trusting Christians is that in order to bite on this thinking, we then must also decide that Jesus isn’t who the Bible says He is, that He hasn’t promised what the Bible says He promises and that He is incapable of delivering on those promises.

Jesus said, “I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (**Matt. 16:18**). Jesus said, “I tell you, if these [people] were silent, the very stones would cry out” (**Luke 19:40**). And Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing . . . teaching them . . . and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (**Matt.28:18-20**). Jesus said, “Take; this is My body” (**Mark 14:22**).

The Gospel truth is that the Church can’t die unless Jesus dies again and then does not rise from the dead. The Church can’t die because Jesus is alive, and Jesus is the Church. The Church is the Body of Jesus, which He nourishes (**Eph. 5:29**), feeds (**John 6:54, 56**) and knits together (**Col. 2:19**). Founded on who Jesus is (the Son of God) and what Jesus has done (died and risen again for the life of the world), the Church is those believers who assemble around His words about Himself and His plans for eternity, making us “the household of God . . . a pillar and buttress of the truth” (**1 Tim. 3:15**) for no other reason than because He says so.

Of course, this does not mean that individual congregations never close their doors or that the Gospel never moves out of a land or from people who once embraced it. But when it does so, it is never because “we did not do ‘X’, unless the ‘X’ we did not do was “abide in My word” (**John 8:31**).

(OVER)

Changes in local demographics, any focus on non-essentials of parish life, and a lukewarm attitude toward doctrine all can wreak havoc on a local congregation. But even if we find ourselves in such dire straits, shouting about do do do, change change change can only increase our jeopardy. ***Real Church life flows not from action but from faith.*** As Herman Sasse once wrote:

“We are nothing, [Christ] is everything. And that means that the terrible sin of pessimism . . . is finished with as well. It is nothing but doubt and unbelief, for Christ the Lord is just as present in His means of grace today as He was in . . . the first century” (*The Lonely Way, II, 139*).

“I will build My church,” Jesus said. If we fear the Church will perish, it can only be because we have ceased believing Him. If we have ceased believing Him, it is likely because we have ceased hearing His word preached. The only antidote to that is to start preaching it again.

In light of who we are as God’s people and being a faithful witness in this world, I pray this message will continually encourage and strengthen us as we boldly proclaim God’s Word in a world of increasing darkness and despair.

God Bless You Always!

Your fellow servant in the Lord;
Mike Brown, President
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School
Ph: 303 438-5766 / E: mbrown_presbslc@comcast.net

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7)