

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

*"I will lift up my eyes to the hills-From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2*

We were being outfitted with boots and a walking stick to hike upriver in the Virgin river. The Narrows is one of the most celebrated hikes in Zion National Park. The girl helping us gave us this piece of advice: "And don't forget to look up."

As you can imagine, if you have never had the actual experience that might be a danger and yet at the same time it is the main reason that you are taking the hike. However, a hiker's natural inclination is to look down because it is very easy to slip on a smooth rock, or stumble by tripping over one. The walking stick helps you test the depth of the water and probe for rocks and safe walking areas. The current of the water can carry your foot or if you fall, your whole body, if the water is deep enough and the current strong enough.

By necessity, we look down. But what turns the challenge of hiking upriver so enjoyable, making you want to go back and do it again? It is the unique view of the mountains and the refreshing feel of the water and the bond you feel with those who are making the same journey. As you watch others you see where they struggle. You learn from those who find a safe place to ford from one land area to another. Most importantly though, it is the beauty of the scenery that draws you forward. Most on the hike will stop where the river divides.

The Psalmist gives us the same advice as the girl outfitting us for our journey. "Don't forget to look up!" We often live our lives looking down. We want to be wise stewards with the gifts we have been given. We want to keep our feet from stumbling. To plumb the depths of the waters we struggle through in the currents we face in life.

Life can become very toilsome this way. It can become nothing more than one frustrating task after another. Many times we don't even notice how many are struggling with the same things we are, or take the time to listen and observe to save ourselves from making the same mistakes.

God's witnesses in creation are all around us. God has given us so many reminders of His love and the beauty of the life He has provided us with. Where does our strength come from to see the journey to its end? It is the Lord who made heaven and earth. It is He who gives the strength to continue to move forward.

We shouldn't just look up when the waters are swift and the way is hard. We need to stop and look up and enjoy our relationship with God. Take time to enjoy the gifts that He has given. Enjoy the company of the people we run into and talk with them to see how we can share each others burdens, share in each others joys and excitement, and what we can learn from each other. All the time lifting up our eyes and testing what we think against what God has told us is true that we may not stumble from the foolish advice or from the wrong conclusions based on our experiences. We can also share our faith with other Christians and with those who need to be introduced to the one from whom our strength comes.

For our Lord Jesus Christ experienced every temptation that we do yet without sin. He knows exactly how we feel and exactly what we face. For this reason, He took on flesh becoming true man that we would look to Him for our strength. He paid the price for our sin that we could be able to follow Him. He assured us through His resurrection that when we end the journey we will see even more beautiful sights in Heaven.

Enjoy the journey by not forgetting to frequently look up.

SDG,

Pastor

# News of Lutheran Education!

*Working in partnership with God's people to raise up a new generation of faithful Christian men and women!*

As announced last month, the academy Board was pleased to hire a new teacher - **David Haines** for the 4-6th grade class for the 2021-22 school year.

Mr Haines is a graduate of Marywood University with a degree in Early Childhood Education. He is most looking forward to getting to know the students and working with them each day.

Mr Haines will be installed as a teacher during Rally Day at Peace on Sunday, September 12th at the 10:30am service. We hope you will join us in worship to welcome our newest teacher.



## Praying for The Lutheran Academy

While we know COVID is still here, we praise God for a fresh start to the 2021-22 school year. Below are some of the many prayer requests we lift to the Lord at The Lutheran Academy. We ask you to join us in prayer.

- \*For strength, endurance, and creativity for the teachers
- \*For healthy staff, students, and families, and no COVID cases here at the school
- \*For our families to show strong support of both our school policies and our teachers
- \*For our financial needs to be met. For families to timely meet their financial commitments, fundraisers to be successful, donors to see value in our school mission, and our board to be wise stewards of all resources.

**First Day of School  
Wednesday, September 1st**

*Our full time staff seen here participating in an intensive pre-service training all week.*

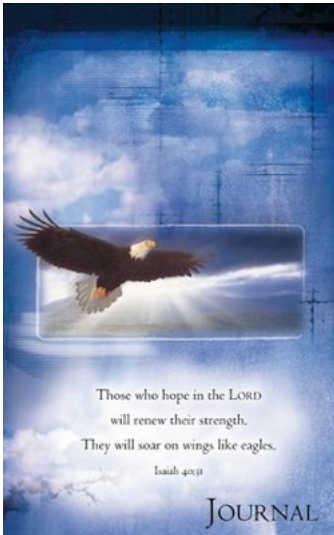


**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was held on August 16-20. Attendees learned about how God can make the impossible possible!

Isabelle Kramer once again lead VBS and brought to life for those in attendance the miracles of our heavenly Father. Thank you also to Beverly Gedrimas, Grace Babbitts, and Jim Calpin for their time and talents during VBS.

# Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17

**Remember to ask: "How can I pray for you?"**



Last month you were asked to think about the question: *Are there invisible beings that exist?*

How did you answer the question? Did you surprise yourself with what you wrote? Was it a response you were proud of? Does the way you live reflect how you responded or was how you answered very different from how you live?

Your question for September is: **If invisible beings exist what relationship do they have with God and humankind?**

Make sure to place the date and your thoughts on the page. If you would like to discuss them with Pastor that would be great! If you want to keep them to yourselves that is fine as well. You may also want to note whether you prayed for anyone that day and whether you read the Bible at all that day. Don't worry about how few or how many pages you use each day. At the end of the challenge, Pastor will ask you to share some insights from the challenge anonymously for inclusion in the newsletter.

(The questions I am asking you are inspired by Questions on the website of the New Jersey District of The LCMS written by Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, author of a book on worldview.)

## **RALLY DAY** **Saturday, September 12th**

We will head into fall with the return of Sunday School hour at 9:30am beginning, Sunday, September 12th. There will be Sunday School classes for ALL ages to attend every Sunday.

During the 10:30am worship on Rally Day, we will install the new teacher and bless all the staff of The Lutheran Academy. We will install the Sunday School teachers at Peace, and say a blessing over ALL youth who have returned to school for a new year of education.

## **+ HYMN OF THE MONTH: #702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

"I gave form to what I felt, by writing, with little effort, the stanzas. I recollect I wrote them with very tender emotion, and ended the last line with tears." wrote the hymn's author Ray Palmer. Born in Compton, Rhode Island he was the son of a judge.

In the hymn's words he first calls to God in faith as a penitent sinner. He then asks God to give him strength and zeal to serve God. Knowing life has trials strewn along its way he asks God to take away life's sorrows and tears and to light his way in this world. Finally, he asks that when death comes for him that God would bear him to heaven.

Palmer penned this hymn after he had just graduated college in 1830. He would go on to serve congregations in Bath, Maine and Albany, New York. He was called home to heaven while living in Newark, New Jersey in 1887.

My Faith Looks up to Thee is a good prayer for us to sing that God may work in our lives and our lives may be in service to Him until we are called home.

Quotation from [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Beginning Sunday, September 12th Sunday School classes will be offered for children ages 4 through adult. Sunday School begins at 9:30am. Hope to see you there.

### **SEPTEMBER**

#### **Birthdays**

Terry Kramer	8
Isabelle Kramer	10
Chuck Mercer	14
Titus Black	15
Ali Kramer	20
Ramona Brown	22
Grace Babbitts	25

#### **Baptism Birthdays**

Faith Babbitts	24
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# Thank you!

Thank you to all who join in celebrating the house demolition and new parking lot with a **picnic** following our morning worship service on Sunday, August 15th. There were approximately 40 people in attendance including 3 of our Parker Street neighbors.

We look forward to many future fellowship opportunities.



## Life at Peace

### Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you to all who supported the August 21st Chicken BBQ Dinner fundraiser. The Lord blessed us with a gorgeous day for a BBQ. A dinner like this is only as successful as the team who rallies together.



From the kitchen, to the BBQ pit, to the bake sale contributors . . . a HUGE thank you to all involved.

And thank you to all who purchased dinners and who shared and invited family and friends to come as well.

A profit of \$800 was made and lots of great fellowship was enjoyed by all.

*Pictured here: Jason Sauter and Kinsley Black flipping the racks of chicken.*



Ladies Luncheon  
**Saturday, September 11**  
11:00am - 1:00pm

On September 11th, we will host our fourth annual Ladies Luncheon for the mothers and grandmothers of the children of our Lutheran Academy and the ladies of Peace Lutheran Church. The event will be held from 11am-1pm here at Peace. As always, there will be delicious food and time to talk to old friends as well as make some new ones. Ladies please share with your friends and let Pastor or Amy Betts know if you will attend.

The coloring page in the newsletter each month can be turned in and we will send them to the residents at The Gardens at Greenridge where our beloved Audrey Russell lives.



# State of the Church at Large

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

In the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod we have approximately 6,000 congregations. 400 of those congregations are experiencing a vacancy. In the next ten years 3,800 pastors will be retiring. Last year both Seminaries reported graduating 60 pastors total between the two of them. In addition to this the liberal churches are seeing a large exodus of their membership to the more bible based conservative churches. It is estimated that the ELCA will cease to exist in thirty years or less.

You may have noticed, if you have been attending regularly, that I have been gone one Sunday a month since April. All of the active pastors in our circuit are serving two congregations at this point. There are some pastors who are serving three congregations. One man I attended seminary with is serving four. In the Sussex county area of the LCMS New Jersey district 2 of the four congregations are experiencing vacancies. In order that the congregation at Good Shepherd, Blairstown, NJ can receive communion I have been leading worship one Sunday a month. Their congregation has not had pastoral leadership in four years. They have children who have not been confirmed and are beginning their last year of high school because no pastor has been available. In order that some vacancies can receive Holy Communion once a month and confirmation and other events that require a pastor may take place I will be spending some Sundays at other churches.

Although I am taking an active role in leading worship and providing pastoral leadership at other congregations they have not detracted my ministry at Peace. Any activity at other congregations has been in addition to continuing to meet my responsibilities at Peace.

When I grew up there always seemed to be enough pastors for one to serve every congregation and enough retired pastors to preach when the called pastor at that location was away. That is no longer the case. I am very grateful for the commitment of Chuck who serves most Sundays as the Liturgist and to Kinsley Black who delivers, in my absence, the sermon I've written. I am also very grateful to retired Pastor Kim Bode who shares the responsibilities of teaching religion with me at The Lutheran Academy, leads chapel there and visits our shut-ins. Though the Lord always provides for His people and I'm told the Seminary graduating classes are increasing in size we have to assume that at least for the near future our pastors will be covering multiple locations. There are a few models of how best to accomplish this being discussed. Our circuit did have a meeting on this very topic before the pandemic.

If you know someone in the church you think would be excellent in serving in a church calling please encourage them to pursue it. If you have any free time you would be willing and able to spend helping at Peace or The Lutheran Academy now would be a great time to step up to the plate. As always the work is plentiful but the workers few.

SDG,

Pastor

If you have a prayer need or praise to share, or to start/participate in a bible study or prayer team, please contact Pastor or Amy Betts in the church office anytime at 570-703-0607.

**On the 7th day God said.....**



All He had  
made was  
very  
good  
and  
then He rested.



# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First day of school at The Lutheran Academy	2	3	4  5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
5  9:18am Worship Service with communion	6  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	7	8	9	10	11  11am-1pm <b>Ladies Luncheon</b> 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
12  <b>RALLY DAY</b> 8:15am Worship Service with communion 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18  5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
19  8:15am Worship Service with communion 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service with communion	20	21	22  4:30pm -Academy School Board Meeting	23	24	25  5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
26  8:15am Worship Service with communion 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service	27	28	29	30	<b>Looking Ahead:</b> Saturday, October 9th: Blessing of the Animals 2pm	

# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

## PRAYER CALENDAR

LCMS International Missionaries

5

Rev Micah & Robin Wildauer and Family, Belize

6

Rev. Herb & Markie Burch, Belize

7

Chelsea Irwin, Czech Republic

8

Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul, Czech Republic

9

Chelsea Irwin, Czech Republic

10

Benjamin & Rebecca Helge, Czech Republic

11

Rev. James & Peggy Krikava, Czech Republic

12

Cindy Zirbel Wrucke, Czech Republic

13

Herman & Sheila Strozier, Czech Republic

14

Rev Dale and Suzanne Kaster, Czech Republic

15

Hayden Rensner, Czech Republic

16

DCE Krista & Joel Young and family, East Africa

17

Kipp and Tami Beaudoin, Eastern Europe

18

Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett and family, Ethiopia

19

Rev Mark & Stephanie Rabe and Family, Ethiopia

20

Rev Gary Schuschke, Germany

21

Rachel Krause, Germany

22

Rev Christian & Gudula Tiews and family, Germany

23

Rev Nathaniel and Emma Jensen, Germany

24

Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, Germany

25

Rev David & Joyce Erber, Ghana

26

Rev Dr Steven & Cynthia Schumacher, Ghana

27

Deaconess Carol Halter, Hong Kong

28

David and Barbara Bush, Hong Kong

29

Rev Paul & Genevieve Nelson and family, Indonesia

30

Rev Matthew & Kali Wood family, Indonesia