

*"I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from the beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:10-11*

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God Our Father and Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The grass needs cutting again. Another load of laundry needs to be washed not to mention the dishes as well. Won't be long before the first leaves will start to change color. The children will be back in school. Those big yellow and black holy cows (that's what we call school buses because they are big, slow, and you have to stop for them) will be lumbering down the roads. We'll see them as we're outside raking the leaves so we can see the lawn we worked so hard on during the summer.

It seems our tasks never end. No sooner do we complete a task, then several others pop-up needing our attention. In the words of Solomon above, he is reflecting how nothing in this life provides lasting pleasure. We enjoy it for a time but the joy never lasts. All the awards, trophies, ribbons, and plaques we were so thrilled to receive for our accomplishments in academics, sports, or the arts are great stirrers of our memories but retain none of the glitter and importance they once did. In the search for meaning and significance in our lives, we have to admit there must be more than this; more than what this world can offer. Records set last but a season and then someone with superior gifts breaks them.

Eternity is in our hearts. If anything erases the temporary luster of the things of this world it must be found in the eternal that does not decay. Man was not made to last such a short time. Man was made for immortality. We were meant to live in the garden forever in a perfect relationship with God. The fact that things don't last is of our own doing. Disheartening as that may sound, God from the moment of the fall entered to rescue his children. There were penalties that man would have to toil and work, that women would have pain in child birth, and that we would have to leave the garden. We lost some of the aspects of God's image. God did something else that Adam and Eve must have thought extremely harsh and yet was a great act of mercy. When we were driven from the garden we lost access to the tree of life. That meant we would die. What it also meant though was that we would not have to live for eternity with all our sins, regrets, mistakes, and missed opportunities forever.

Now by the power of the Holy Spirit we are assured of eternal life having all of our sins washed away. Guaranteed to have a new incorruptible body and living once again in a perfect relationship with God when we are called home from this world. The weight of our burdens and tasks were lifted from our shoulders by the one who took on human flesh and lived among us. The faith that the Spirit creates in our hearts holds on to the fulfilled promises of what God has done. Solomon realized that no man could fathom all that God had done for us individually or as his children from the beginning until he comes again and for eternity. Having something that doesn't have a time of beauty but retains its beauty forever. That is love, unconditional and perfect.

What purpose then has life in this world? What then can we do that never loses its luster or importance? It is to become senders of the Holy Spirit by sharing His love and His word with all that need to hear it. For everything in the world will pass away. Whatever job we held will be filled by another when we leave. But when by God's grace, we meet someone we shared the Gospel with in Heaven the rejoicing will never cease. So we can be glad that we know Christ and Him crucified for us! That we know our Lord transcends time because He lives outside it for He himself created it. Just as He created us. Just as He waits to welcome us home to live eternally with Him. The eternity in our hearts yearns for that day. So let us diligently and with a great sense of urgency share Christ, for our time here is short but the gift of Christ is eternal. Amen

SDG,

Pastor John



# News of The Lutheran Academy!

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

## **ACADEMY NEEDS**

Do you, or someone you know, have two hours a week they can volunteer to teach gym at the Lutheran Academy? If so please speak to Pastor, Amy or Jan Wells.

**Excuse me. I have  
to go make a scene.**

Do you, or someone you know, have experience in set/prop building or costuming for children's plays who would be willing to volunteer their time at the Lutheran Academy this fall for our school play? If so please speak to Pastor, Amy or Jan Wells.



All are invited to join us at the LMC on Tuesday, August 13th at 6pm for our cleaning day in preparation for the new school year. Duties include lots of dusting, windows, and various small projects. No heavy lifting.

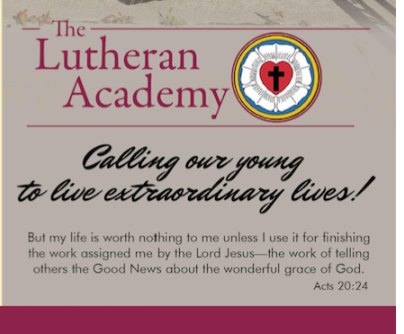


School begins Wednesday, August 28th at 8:15am. Pray for all our students and staff as we open the doors to the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Enrollment Update:**

We ended last school year with 23 students. We are pleased to announce that as of August 1st we have 31 students enrolled in Kindergarten through 8th grade. This is a 35% increase in enrollment. We praise God for this increase and continue to pray for the opportunity to reach more families this coming school year. We ask you to join us in this prayer as well.

Lots of good work happening this summer at the Lutheran Ministry Center. One large classroom and one small classroom were painted. The two large classrooms upstairs had their floors, buffed, waxed, and sealed. Thank you to Mr John Kramer for the exceptional work on the floors, and to Susan Crosbie and Amy Betts for the painting work.



**Sneak peek of brochure cover!**

The school brochure was redesigned this summer and is at the printer. There will be copies available at the back of church and can be mailed to you by request. Please help us spread the word of our school with this professional publicity tool.

Visit and share the Academy website at anytime at [www.thelutheranacademyscranton.org](http://www.thelutheranacademyscranton.org)



# Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17

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

## CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES:

### + SPECIAL PRAYERS & PRAISE

For **Frank Schulze** as he serves the final two months of his prison sentence. We pray for him and his family as they await his return home.

For **Beverly Gedrimas** recovering from surgery.

For safety for **Isabelle Kramer** who is participating in an Outward Bound program the first 10 days of August.

### + COFFEE TIME

After the service, we have been enjoying a time of sweets and fellowship. Consider staying a few minutes and fortify yourself and have some time to socialize before heading home.



All of us heard about the devastating floods that ravaged Nebraska this year. The state suffered the worst damage in Nebraska history. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church helped in the aftermath

but is now looking for volunteers ages 14 and up to help Nebraska rebuild. Project Restore which has received a \$135,000 grant from LCMS World Relief is providing, tools, housing, training, and safety equipment for volunteers willing to come and help. In addition, the church says that most of the volunteers meals will be provided as well. The only cost to the volunteers is their transportation to and from the site.

Our congregation has a great record of helping communities that have suffered a loss. That is one tradition I am anxious to continue. Project Restore will be continuing for at least a year. I have contacted Pastor Ryan and he said they need help in every season, yet the majority of volunteers come in the summer. If you would be interested in going out to Nebraska sometime in February or March and helping the good people there to recover please let Pastor or Amy know!

I was once told we need strong Christians in every field. No news agency report included the very beginning of Mariano Rivera's speech for the induction into the Hall of Fame. So here is what they chose to omit. "I want to start this by thanking my good Lord and



Savior Jesus Christ for giving me the talent, the blessing, opening doors I could never close and no man could ever close. He has given us a beautiful day today. It's a blessing. Thank you Lord for everything you have done in my life."

### SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Saturday evening worship service at 5:00pm.

Sunday worship begins at 9:18 a.m.

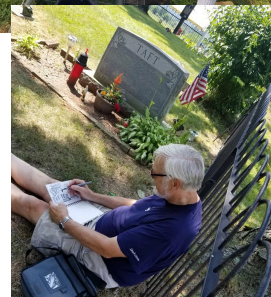
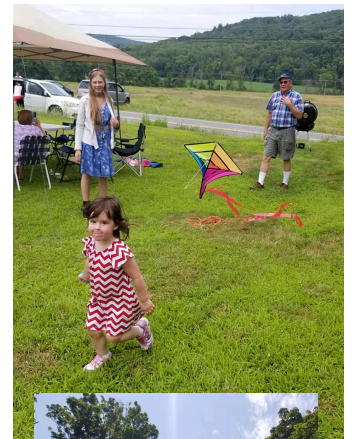
### + HYMN OF THE MONTH:

#### God Be With You SJ #583

This hymn was written by Jeremiah E. Rankin (1828-1904) a congregationalist minister as a Christian goodbye. He served in Albany and Washington D.C. as a pastor. The hymn became very popular after its first singing by the First Congregationalist Church at one of their Sunday evening Gospel meetings and was translated into several other languages shortly thereafter.

### + JULY PICNIC IN RANSOM

Following the worship service on Sunday, July 28th, we enjoyed a summer picnic out at Ransom Valley Lutheran Church. Thank you to Chuck Mercer for the idea to visit Ransom and for grilling a mean hotdog!



### Looking Ahead . . .

**August 28** First Day of School at TLA

**September 7** Ladies Luncheon for the women of Peace and The Lutheran Academy held at the Lutheran Ministry Center

**September 27** Family Game Night held at the Academy

**September 28** Block Party - come meet the neighbors!

**October 5** Blessing of the Animals - Plan to bring your pet!

**October 26** Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, President of the LCMS New Jersey District and Author of the book "Worldviews: A Christian Response to Pluralism," will lead a presentation on the Parables of Jesus. Time and details TBA.

## August

### Birthdays

Levi Black 1

### Baptism Birthdays

Tammy McClure 12  
Joann Roberts

Pastor Babbitts led a Vespers Service July 13, 2019 at Goose Pond Scout Reservation. Pictured also is Jacob Spies, John Babbitts, and Ryan Spies at Goose Pond.



## PASTOR BODE'S RETIREMENT PARTY

After 29 years serving the Lord at Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Kim Bode will be retiring. All are invited to his retirement party. Here are the details.

**Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**5:00-8:00pm**

**Heart Lake Lodge**

1598 Heart Lake Rd Jermyn (Scott TWP), PA 18433

Buffet dinner with soda/coffee/tea, and cake

\$24.95 for adults

\$12.95 for Children under 10 (chicken fingers or Mac & Cheese)

Cash Bar: \$3 Beer, \$5 Wine and Mixed Drinks

RSVP and send payment by Sept 6th to

Lorraine Stanton

Grace Lutheran Church

351 Greenwood St Hop Bottom, PA 18824

Indicate on check how many adults and how many children will be attending.

**Two calendars?** On the back of the church event calendar, you will see every month a prayer calendar. Please pray for the person that appears on that day.

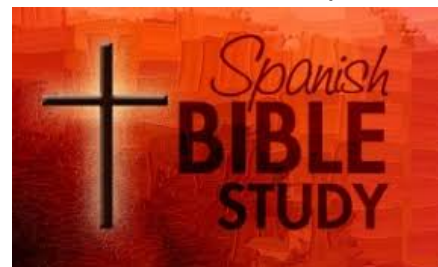
Pray for them to filled with the knowledge of God's will with all spiritual wisdom and understanding to help them walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. That they would be strengthened by God with all power according to his glorious might for all endurance patience with joy that they would give thanks to God for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father that they have qualified that person and us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light and that He has delivered that person and us from the domain of darkness and transferred them to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom that person and us have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



This is the prayer of St. Paul for the Colossians. We will then send that person a note letting them know that as a congregation we have lifted them up in prayer. For August and the first few days of September, we will be praying for the District Presidents of our Synod.

*Did you know? Of non-English speakers in Scranton almost 5,700 speak Spanish or Spanish Creole.*

Estudio de la Biblia...That's right in a few weeks we will be beginning a bible study of the parables of Jesus for people who find it easier to communicate and understand in Spanish. The time and days will be announced shortly so watch your bulletin for more information AND if you know anyone who would be interested in joining us please let them and Pastor or Amy know!!





# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SCRAMBLE

1. aaiish \_\_\_\_\_
2. deju \_\_\_\_\_
3. eraz \_\_\_\_\_
4. ojb \_\_\_\_\_
5. scat \_\_\_\_\_
6. loje \_\_\_\_\_
7. soma \_\_\_\_\_
8. eiland \_\_\_\_\_
9. tuits \_\_\_\_\_
10. karm \_\_\_\_\_
11. sudexo \_\_\_\_\_
12. kuel \_\_\_\_\_
13. ethers \_\_\_\_\_
14. spervrob \_\_\_\_\_
15. negises \_\_\_\_\_
16. chaim \_\_\_\_\_
17. zeeliek \_\_\_\_\_
18. munah \_\_\_\_\_
19. najoh \_\_\_\_\_
20. oshea \_\_\_\_\_

21. rhut \_\_\_\_\_
22. sssoolanic \_\_\_\_\_
23. sejam \_\_\_\_\_
24. altaganis \_\_\_\_\_
25. levertanio \_\_\_\_\_
26. agaigh \_\_\_\_\_
27. breshew \_\_\_\_\_
28. hojn \_\_\_\_\_
29. smalps \_\_\_\_\_
30. naletemations \_\_\_\_\_
31. snuberm \_\_\_\_\_
32. hiboada \_\_\_\_\_
33. whetamt \_\_\_\_\_
34. hehemian \_\_\_\_\_
35. shojau \_\_\_\_\_
36. stiviluce \_\_\_\_\_
37. smoran \_\_\_\_\_
38. chimaal \_\_\_\_\_
39. longossofnomo \_\_\_\_\_
40. phisneesa \_\_\_\_\_

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## EYEGASSES COLLECTION

Susan Crosbie is collecting eye glasses, sunglasses and cases. They will bring up to 3,000 eyeglassed on the trip. Don't worry if they are scratched, many scratches can be rubbed out or a coating put on. There is a shoe box at the back of the church to place your donation. She will be going on a Lutheran MOST mission trip this September to an area near Quelzalterango, Guatemala and looks forward to helping get these glasses to those in extreme need. Thank you to all who have already donated.



# AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Save the Date September 8th - RALLY DAY!</b>				1 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	2	3 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
4 9:18am Worship Service with Communion	5 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	6	7 1:00-2:00pm PLARN 3:00-7:00pm Academy Open House	8 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	9	10 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
11 9:18am Worship Service	12 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	13 6:00-7:30pm Academy Final Cleaning Day	14 1:00-2:00pm PLARN @ Peace	15 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	16	17 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
18 9:18am Worship Service with Communion	19 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	20 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	21 1:00-2:00pm PLARN @ Peace	22 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	23	24 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
25 9:18am Worship Service 1-3 TLA Back to School Picnic	26 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	27	28 First Day of School at The Lutheran Academy	29 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home 6:30 Back to School Night at Academy	30	31 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion



# AUGUST 2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

## PRAYER CALENDAR

4 Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy - English District	5 Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Walton - Florida-Georgia District	6 Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Berge - Indiana District	7 Rev. Dr. Steven Turner - Iowa West District	1 Rev. Dr. Derek G. Lecakes - Atlantic District	2 Rev. Michael Lange - California/Nevada/Hawaii District	3 Rev. Mark Miller - Central Illinois District
11 Rev. Dr. Roger C. Paavola - Mid-South District	12 Rev. Donald J. Fondow - Minnesota North District	13 Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford - Minnesota South District	14 Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan - Missouri District	8 Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders - Iowa East District	9 Rev. Peter K. Lange - Kansas District	10 Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier - Michigan District
18 Rev. Anthony j. Steinbronn - New Jersey District	19 Rev. Arie Bertsch - North Dakota District	20 Rev. Dwayne M. Lueck - North Wisconsin District	21 Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss - Northern Illinois District	15 Rev. Terry R. Forke - Montana District	16 Rev. Richard L. Snow - Nebraska District	17 Rev. Timothy Yeadon - New England District
25 Rev. Dr. Michael E. Gibson - Pacific Southwest District	26 Rev. Roger E. Schlechte - Rocky Mountain District	27 Rev. Waldemar R. Vinouskis - S.E.L.C. District	28 Rev. Scott C. Sailer - South Dakota District	22 Rev. Dr. Paul A. Linnemann - Northwest District	23 Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Wilson - Ohio District	24 Rev. Barrie E. Henke - Oklahoma District
				29 Rev. Dr. John Wille - South Wisconsin District	30 Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger - Southeastern District	31 Rev. Eric C. Johnson - Southern District