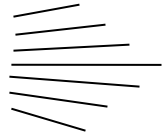




THE

VOICE



The monthly newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001

JULY 2023

VBS 2023

6-8pm, Mon – Fri

August 7-11



God's grace flows over us like water. It's refreshing and cleansing. We can certainly appreciate the affects of water when we are in a hot and dry season.

At VBS the kids will learn:

- God is always with us
- God makes us new
- God gives us all we need
- God washes away our sin
- God sends us to tell about Him

Our stories this year focus on water and baptism. Who can you invite? A registration form is included in this newsletter or you can sign-up online at oslcmandato.org/vbs.

The grace of our Lord overflowed for me. (1 Timothy 1:14)

Contact Info:

Church Office: Phone: 507-385-2180
Fax: 507-345-5113
contact@oslcmandato.org
www.oslcmandato.org
www.facebook.com/oslcmandato

Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2183
Rev. Adam Matheny: matheny@oslcmandato.org
Emergency number: 812-449-6866

Deaconess Office phone: 507-385-2185
Lisa Brand: lisa@oslcmandato.org

Secretary Office phone: 507-385-2180
Sue Hendrickson: sue@oslcmandato.org

Custodian Cell phone: 507-327-2922
Bob Baker rbaker@oslcmandato.org

Music Coordinator Home phone: 507-341-4173
Suzie Gangi suzie@oslcmandato.org

Office hours are Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Unless there is an activity or event taking place, please use the Broad Street entrance by the mailbox.

In case of emergency or urgent need, our pastor is available at all hours and all days by calling his cell phone. Please use the office phone for other business. Please also remember that Sunday morning and other worship times are not for bringing church business to other members or staff but for focusing upon the Word and gifts of God. "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work." - Exodus 20:10

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

- Matthew 18:4

Humility is a difficult thing. To *be* humbled, that is to be humiliated by someone else is among life’s most feared experiences. Simply *being* humble, that is to exhibit humility and resisting the urge to think more highly of oneself than one ought is among life’s greatest challenges. We want to be praised by others, we want to be thought of as grand in the eyes of others, we want to achieve all the esteem we are due and more. We want to be praised.

Yet here the Lord of life teaches us that becoming humble as a little child is how to achieve greatness in His kingdom. Yet we know that He does not simply command humility, He does not merely decree that it shall be so but He Himself embodies humility for us. By His life, by His death, and by His resurrection and word He becomes humility to us and for us. He does not simply command humility, He becomes humility and gives Himself to us.

So as we receive Christ, we receive the humility He requires. He humbles us which is not to be feared but to be cherished as the most gracious and generous gift that it is. In receiving Christ we are freed from the desire to be praised by others, to be honored by others, to be worshipped by others for a life of service to others. We become humble as our Lord is humble and in so doing we become the greatest in our Lord’s kingdom.

Planning Council
Minutes of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mankato
June 13, 2023

Members Present: Matt Brand, Dan Gahler, Doug Haeder, Valerie Elliott, Rob Hobbs, Christine Billiar, Steve Annis, Denise Painter, Judy Hendley, Bev Clark and Pastor Adam Matheny.

Members Absent: Nancy Benson, Judd Schultz, and Missy Schultz

1. President Matt Brand called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Matheny.
3. Public/congregational presentation:
 1. Guest in attendance: Sarah Bjornstad introduced herself and will be shadowing Pastor Matheny and Deaconess Brand this summer as part of her Deaconess Program.
4. Bible Study: Psalm 146 led by Matt Brand. Next meeting bible study will be on Psalm 139.
5. Additions/Approval of Agenda: Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.
6. Motion made and seconded to approve the May 9, 2023, Planning Council minutes as presented, motion carried.
7. Pastor's Report: Pastor has not yet meet with District President about church not receiving a seminary graduate to determine if there are changes, we can make to our odds of placement in the future. There was discussion about the one service and change in start time for the summer.
8. Treasurer's Report: Doug Haeder provided a summary of reports. Doug noted establishment of the higher earning savings account. Motion made and seconded to approve the report as presented, motion carried.
9. Unfinished Business

1. Roof Project Update and Fundraising Update - Discussion occurred about fundraising for the project, including review of draft letter to be sent. Steve Annis noted once Schwickert's is finished with the project at Franklin Elementary school, they will start on the roof project for the church.
 2. Sexual Assault Policy, Manual and Forms Revisions - Christine Billiar presented the updated policy, manual and form revisions. Discussion occurred and suggested changes provided. Christine will revise the items based on the discussion for the Council to review at its next meeting.
10. New Business
1. July and August Meeting Dates - After discussion, it was determined there will be no meeting in July and the August meeting will on the 15th.
11. Board Sharing: **Endowment:** Since Johanna Heidorn is no longer with LCMS missions, the donation made was return; and scholarship applications are due 7/15 for 2023-34 academic year. **Deacons:** Congregational picnic went well; Moondogs Faith Night had good participation; and need for volunteers for VBS meals to assist with serving and clean up. **Education:** Mini-VBS had nine participants; summer Sunday School going well; and need for group leaders and games volunteers for VBS. **Trustees:** Working on many projects, including landscaping, changing phone and internet provider, and maintenance of floors; water alarm installed; and repair and repainting in classroom completed.
12. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM. Next meeting is August 15, 2023, at 6:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Elliott
Secretary
OSLC Planning Council

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus!

Our congregation is blessed with a wonderful facility in which to worship, learn, and fellowship together. As with all facilities, ours requires ongoing investments for maintenance. In 2022, we undertook two projects to improve our facility; the replacement of the exterior storefront doors of the church for energy efficiency and security, and cracksealing and sealcoating of the east parking lot to extend the life of the pavement. The costs for these projects were \$28,832 and \$6,756, respectively.

If you have been in the building during spring thaw or after a big rain, you are aware of the leaking issues we have on the flat roof sections of the sanctuary and hallway. At the last congregational meeting in May, a roof replacement project was approved, with a project estimate (contract plus 10% contingency) of \$97,735.

The congregation had previously decided to use existing capital improvement funds to initially pay for the entrance doors and parking lot projects, and began a capital improvement fundraising campaign to both restore these funds to the capital improvements fund and to begin saving for the upcoming roof project. At the last congregational meeting, the congregation voted to use general fund dollars we have in the bank to pay for the needed roof repairs and to concurrently refocus our efforts on the fundraising goal.

With this in mind, it was proposed to set the fundraising goal for the capital fund drive at \$125,000. To date, approximately \$24,000 have already been contributed, leaving just over \$100,000 to be raised. Thank you for your generosity! We now have a goal of raising the remaining amount by the end of September, which is when we anticipate needing to make the last payment.

We ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to this effort. Contributions can be made with your regular offerings by noting "Capital Fund Drive" on the envelope or memo line

on the check. One-time contributions can also be made electronically through the link on our web site. As the drive continues we will provide regular updates through announcements and a poster in the narthex.

We thank the trustees for their continued work in care of our facilities, and to you for your continued generosity in returning a portion of what the Lord has provided to you. Thank you!

In His Name,
Our Savior's Planning Council

Accessions & Losses

Losses

Virginia Kuske, Christ Lutheran Church, Norfolk, NE, LCMS;
May 31, 2023

Nathan, Elizabeth, Annabelle [age 4] Denn; Saint James
Lutheran Church, Northrop; LCMS; June 16, 2023



“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High” Psalm 92:1

Summer Special Music!- Volunteers are needed! During the summer months, our music groups take a break. We need volunteers to play or sing during the summer months. If you have any interest in providing special music, please contact Suzie Gangi.

Blessings,
Suzie Gangi
suzie@oslcmandato.org
507-341-4173

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending May 31, 2023

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	41,302.26	\$248,986.60
Operating Expenses	-\$38,839.60	-\$219,829.01
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	-\$1,152.67	-\$5,728.75
Net for Period[†]	\$1,309.99	\$23,428.84

[†]Positive net value indicates we received more than our expenses, a negative number indicates that we have spent more than we have received for that period (deficit).

Cash Summary

	Amount	Notes
Checking Account	\$123,449.67	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$142,027.46	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	
Total Cash Assets	\$285,584.25	
Dedicated Accounts	-\$157,002.55	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	-\$3,127.41	Accruals for HSA pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$125,454.29	\$123,991.66 last month

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$228,360.23
Monthly Payment	\$1,845.99
Interest Rate (Variable Annually)	3.625%
Pay-off Date	5/2036

Additional Comments:

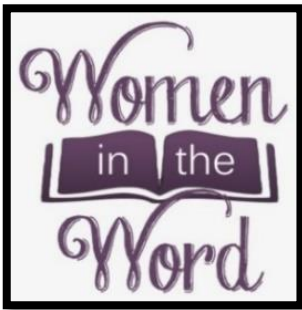
Respectfully submitted,
Doug Haeder, Treasurer



The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Bible Study Circles

- Welcoming You -



The Summer *Quarterly* 2023 is titled, "Proclaiming Christ." The stories of your sisters-in-Christ encourage us to tell our stories. Psalm 96:3 "Declare His glory among the Nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!" Enjoy the read.

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study Circle is Thursday, July 6th in the Fireplace room at 9:30 for fellowship and refreshments with 9:45 Bible study, "Proclaiming Christ Simply and with Urgency", on page 17 of the Summer Quarterly.

Mary Circle Bible Study meets Friday, July 21st at 1:30pm in the Fireplace room. Our study will be from the Summer *Quarterly*, "Proclaiming Christ" on page 17, and "Be Assured" on pages 18-19. Hostess: Bernice Wilson, phone 507-386-7530. Guests and visitors are welcome!

Summer: In your moment of relaxation, enjoy the Quarterly stories in the summer issue.

Men's Bible Study



ATTENTION MEN! The men of Our Savior gather in the fireplace room on the second Thursday (July 13th) from 7:30-8:30 of each month for study together. In July we will continue our study of Song of Solomon together. If you are interested in this please speak with Pastor Matheny.



Book Club



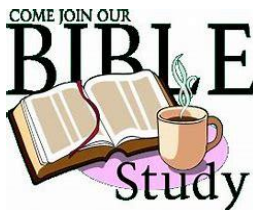
The Our Savior's book club meets from 4:30-6 in the fireplace room on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. We read good books and then discuss them together from our shared Christian perspective. If you enjoy books, or if you would like to learn to enjoy them more then this is the group for you as our discussion will help you to better understand what you have read and offer new and fresh perspectives that you likely won't have considered on your own.

In July we will continue Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* which is often featured on best loved books lists and is considered one of the best novels in the English language.

For our July 9th meeting we will discuss volume 3 chapters 1-9 and for our July 23rd meeting we will discuss volume 3 chapters 10-19. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Matheny.



TSNT meets Sundays July 9th & 23rd at 6:30pm in the Fireplace room. We will begin with time in God's Word, and then play games together. All youth in grades 7 - 12 are invited!



Young Adult Bible Study

Mondays, July 10th and 24th

Young Adults (late high school college, early-ish workforce) are invited to join us in the Fireplace Room at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Contact Karee Bless with questions, 507-381-3826,
kbless@blc.edu.



“We need campfires and cookouts and picnic lunches filled with laughter. Yet, as members of the household of God, we also need

conversation and consolation and prayer. We need to gather, in person, at the Communion rail. Surrounded by our eternal family, we need to hear God's promises and rejoice in His forgiveness.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

Endowment Fund

Student Scholarships Available

Our Savior Endowment Fund has scholarship money available for students in our congregation who will be attending CCA this fall. Scholarship money is also available for post-secondary student members of our congregation who plan to pursue a career in full time church work. Application forms need to be completed and submitted by July 15, for the upcoming academic school year. Forms are available in the church office. Please contact Rob Hobbs, chairperson of the Endowment Board, for more information at 507-340-6313.

Mission Service

Volunteers welcome!

Mission Service will meet on Wednesday, July 19th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We are still collecting cancelled stamps.

Gospel Bracelets tell the story of Salvation and are used for Vacation Bible Schools throughout the world. (Read the article in the Summer Quarterly about MOST Ministries and other mission service projects.) If interested in making Gospel Bracelets at home, please contact Trudy at 507-327-7082.



Orphan Grain Train items are always needed and will be delivered.

DeafOutreach.org. Bringing people to see Jesus. You Deaf? This is for you! You hearing and interested in Deaf Ministry? This is the place for you! Want to improve your religious sign skills? Desire to share Jesus with Deaf people? This is the place for you!

Jesus Signs Workshop: Week long immersion – July 17-21. See bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for full information.



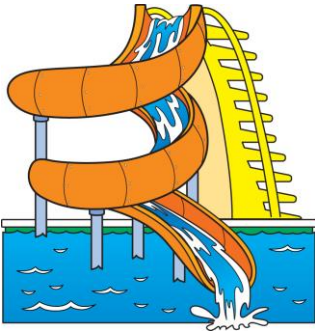
Articles for the August 2023 VOICE are due by Friday, July 21st at 4pm. You may drop-off submissions in the office, or e-mail to: contact@oslcmandato.org.

Potluck Dinner & Bible Study

Do you like bread? How about the Bread of Life? At our potluck Bible study you can have both!

Join us from 5:30-7:30 in the Fireplace room on July 27th for food, fellowship, and time in God's Word. We'll share a potluck meal from 5:30-6:30 and then from 6:30-7:30 we'll study the Scriptures together.

This month we will study the creation account together. Ask Pastor Matheny if you have any questions. See you there!



Pool Party!

Sunday, August 6

6:15-7:45pm

We've rented Spring Lake Park Pool to kick off VBS week. Everyone is welcome!



Prayer Shawl

would like a Prayer Shawl for comfort, please call Marcella at 507-317-4127.

Does anyone want to knit or crochet a prayer shawl? If you'd like to help out, call Marcella at 507-317-4127. Two more prayer shawl's were given out.

If you or someone you know

would like a Prayer Shawl for comfort, please call Marcella at 507-317-4127.

Thank You

I would like to thank Pastor Matheny and the members of our church for the visits to Roger and me in the hospital. It was a great comfort.

Thanks, also, to the ladies who made cakes and served at the funeral, and to you all for your comfort and prayers. I am so grateful to be blessed with a wonderful church family.

Wanda Schwanke



Vacation Bible School 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church
August 7-11, 6:00-8:00 pm

REGISTRATION FORM

We welcome children age 3
through those entering 6th grade.

Child's Name

Age/Grade

Please place my child in the same group as: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone/Cell Phone: _____

Secondary Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please list allergies, medical issues, or special needs we should know:

Please also complete both release forms on the back.

EMERGENCY RELEASE

I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Parent Signature

Date

PHOTO RELEASE

We occasionally publish pictures of our events in print and electronic publications. We will never publish names, phone numbers, or email addresses.

_____ Yes, we give permission for photos of our child to be published.

_____ No, we do not give permission for photos of our child to be published.

Parent Signature

Date



Bible Reading Plan - July

We'll look back at when God saved His people and why they needed saving. (*It's our fault*) We'll look at why He saves. (*His steadfast love and mercy*) We'll look at who can't save us (*kings, idols, ourselves*) We'll hear about Jesus, the Savior we needed and who succeeded.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job 19:23-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jn 11:17-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jn 20:11-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rom 10:5-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sam 2:6-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt 16:21, 17:9, 17:22-23, 20:17-19, 26:31-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9:36-42 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 15:4-52 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 17:17-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 2:18-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13:30-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> Eph 1:15-2:6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 4:18-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 5:25-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20:7-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Col 2:8-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezk 37:1-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 6:40-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24:15-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Heb 11:17-35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7:11-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt 22:23-33 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rom 6:4-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Pt 1:3-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 8:40-56 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt 27:50-53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rom 8:22-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Pt 3:18-22 |

The **VOICE** is available on our web site: www.oslcmankato.org. Click on the "Connect" menu item at the top, slide down and click on "The Voice Newsletter". You will then be able to select which issue you would like to view in PDF format. On the same page, you may opt out of receiving the printed version and be notified by e-mail when the latest issue is uploaded.

Want to review something from a previous issue? The archives will also be available. *Can't wait to read the latest issue?* The Voice will be uploaded to the website before the printed version is in your mailbox. Check it out!



Widowed to Widowed

FAITH

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my
Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions,
they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy
faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
LSB 809

Text: Public domain

This was
according to the
eternal purpose
that he has realized
in Christ Jesus our
Lord. In whom we
have boldness and
access with
confidence through
our faith in Him.
-Ephesians 3:11-12



My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

LSB 702

Text: Public domain



LWML Mites

Mites for Missions

Mite Sunday is July 16th. Thanks for all of you who add your coins (mites) to spread God's love to so many who need to hear God's word. Just think of meeting our two year goal. Beginning a new goal in June 2023.

July National focus grant is #24 – Reaching the Homebound with God's Word - \$100,000. Lutheran Media Ministries produces Worship Anew and broadcasts on DIRECTV the Tri-State Christian Television (TCT), American Forces Network (AFN), plus regular air channels. It is also accessible via the internet and on smart devices such as Roku and AppleTV. Worship Anew reaches the homebound with the Word of God through Scripture readings, a sermon by a Lutheran pastor, and choirs singing hymns. For more information, go to: www.lwml.org/2021-2023-mission-grant-24

The Minnesota South District focus grant is #12: International Outreach – Hope Lutheran High School – Winona - \$20,000. This international program is complete with housing for four years, resident directors, and house supervisors.

Outreach Committee

Free cab rides to services are made possible for our members through Our Savior's Taxi Fund. To procure a ride, call WS Transportation at 420-4503 or 388-0708. Please call a half hour before you would like to leave. To call for a return ride, you may use the phone in the office or kitchen. Please dial 9 before you enter the number. Let WS Transportation know where you will be waiting—the front door on Broad Street or the back parking lot door. Thank you.



Young at Heart / S.A.G.E.S.

Young at Heart is Our Savior older adult ministry and
Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving

(S.A.G.E.S.) is the District older adult ministry

LHM Lutheran Hour Ministries

LLL Lutheran Layman's League



S.A.G.E.S.



(S.A.G.E.S. = Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)

Report from the S.A.G.E.S. Gathering: The S.A.G.E.S. Gathering was a time of JOYFULLY AGING. Other good news to share is that five circuit groups received new volunteer representatives. Thanks and praise to God! They are: Pamela Hunter from Prior Lake, Paul & Carla Puckett from Mayer, Evan & Suzie Schiller from Pipestone, Vern & Carol Strusz from Medford, and Stan & Kathy Tordsen from near Rochester.

New life to the older adult Ministry Board, yes, nine new members all filled with God's love. Still need new Mankato area representatives. Come with me, Trudy, to our next meeting on August 1st at Peace Lutheran, Arlington. 2024 May 6 & 7 planning has started. Country Inn & Suites is reserved.

Lutheran Hour Ministry and Lutheran Layman League information: Julie and Trudy need the LHM and LLL former members to help make some final decision on the LHM donations. Watch bulletin for date.



Ladies of Our Savior *July 2023*

The 'New' began with the June convention in Milwaukee – A new mite goal for 2023-2025, new mite projects, new officers, new or changes as we go forth “Proclaiming Christ to all the peoples” as in Psalm 96:3.

Begin at home with your own life, walking with the Lord, then family, reaching out to relatives, friends, neighbors, and others as we reach out to all mission fields.

Our Savior ladies are using the gifts we each have to make Christ known. Thanks be to God for each of you. Hope many of you were able to live stream parts of the convention. After each convention, a retreat is held for those who were not able to attend. September 16th a Retreat will be held at Camp Omega. This is a one day retreat, or you can sign up to go on the 15th overnight.

Another Fall event with sisters in Christ will be a Rally (no date yet). Word is out that we at Our Savior would like a ladies get-together. Planners needed. Call Trudy 507-327-7082 with your help and ideas.

Reminder: Our Arlington Zone President is Vivian Grisham, vgrisham12@gmail.com, phone: 507-237-5264 (land line), 612-269-3892 (cell).

Our Circuit Delegate is Beverly Evans-Peterson
Budach429@gmail.com.





**Birthday Bags for ECHO
VBS Mission Project
2023**

You're invited...to help the students of our Vacation Bible School prepare "birthday bags" for the ECHO Food Shelf! Birthday bags are a frequently requested item at ECHO. They contain all the essentials for making and serving a birthday cake, with some special extras for a party:

- Medium size birthday gift bag (approx.. size 11" x 13")
- Cake mix (child-friendly variety)
- Canned frosting
- Birthday candles (packages of 24-36)
- Party plates
- Plastic forks (packages of 12; may be packaged at home in Ziploc bags)
- Party favors

Please bring your donation of any of the above items to the birthday bag display in the narthex from **Sunday, July 9th** through **Tuesday, August 8th**.

Thank you!

The 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



The 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held from July 29 to Aug. 3, 2023, at the Baird Center in downtown Milwaukee.

The Synod will gather under the convention theme, “We Preach Christ Crucified,” based on 1 Corinthians 1:18–25. In a world of uncertainty, the church’s proclamation, mission, and identity remain the same. We preach Christ crucified.

The Mankato Circuit of the Minnesota South District will be represented by Pastoral Delegate Rev. Adam Matheny, and Lay Delegate Chad Lease of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, North Mankato.

During the Convention you can be involved at home:

- Watch the livestream:
www.lcms.org/convention/livestream
- Listen to interviews: www.kfuo.org
- Subscribe to the LCMS news:
www.lcms.org/reporter-signup
- Stay tuned on social media:
 - www.facebook.com/lcmsconvention
 - www.Twitter.com/lcmsconvention

Public Policy

The Public Policy Advocate for Minnesota South District is Fred Hinz. Contact him with your questions at: fred.hinz@mnsdistrict.org or 507-317-9634.

You can read One Voice Blog, get reading recommendations, and sign-up to receive Minnesota public policy news and updates at: <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/public-policy>.

Pick up a copy of One Voice for Public Policy, Minnesota's 2023 Legislative session, "Counting the Cost", in the Mission Center.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: Go ... Sell All You Have?

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends. Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born

into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry:

lcms.org/stewardship



KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares **Christ for you anytime, anywhere** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music.

So **faith** comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the **word of Christ**.

Romans 10:17 ESV



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Annual Summer Noontime Organ Recitals

The Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents its annual Summer Noontime Organ Recitals at 12:10pm on Tuesdays, The series continues in July at Grace Lutheran Church, 110 North 4th Street, with a performance by:

- Garrett Steinberg on July 11th

The series moves to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 South 2nd Street, Mankato, with performances by:

- Wayne Wagner on July 18th
- Craig Hirschmann on July 25th

The recitals are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.agosiouxtrails.org.



Minnesota Twins Lutheran Night 2023!

The annual Lutheran Night at the Twins will take place on Tuesday, August 15th as they take on the Detroit Tigers!

Groups of 20 or more will receive discounted tickets and may, if interested, participate in the Lutheran Night National Anthem Choir! It's also "Dollar Dog" night and family value concessions are available for sections 120, 133, 311. For group reservations, please contact Ryan Thomson at 612-659-3582 or ryanthomson@twins.com. For individual ticket purchases, go to: <https://fevogm.com/event/LutheranNight2023>

The Voice
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad Street
Mankato, MN 56001

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THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Vel Brunner
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Mel Hendrickson
Rhonda Rastedt
Julie Schlichting
Dianne Schmidt
Bernice Wilson

June 2023

Address Service Requested

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JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<p>Sunday Matins is aired at 9:00am each Sunday on KTOE 1420AM</p> <p>Our Savior's Worship service is aired Tuesday at 7pm and Wednesday at 2pm on KTV (Public Access).</p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Time 10:20 Bible Class 10:20 Sunday School	6:30 Early Bird Bible Study Pastor Matheny Vacation	<u>Independence Day</u> Office Closed		8:30 Gardening Group 9:30 Ruth/Lydia Circle 10:00 Bulletin Deadline	3:00 Wedding Rehearsal	3:00 Wernsing/Fogal Wedding →
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Time 10:20 Bible Class 10:20 Sunday School 4:30 Book Club 6:30 TSNT	6:30 Early Bird Bible Study 6:30 Young Adult Bible Study	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 5:15 Board of Education 6:00 Board of Elders 7:00 Board of Trustees		8:30 Gardening Group 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 7:30 Men's Bible Study		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Mite Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Time 10:20 Bible Class 10:20 Sunday School	6:30 Early Bird Bible Study	10:00 Staff Meeting	4:00 Mission Service	8:30 Gardening Group 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Stephen Ministers	1:30 Mary Circle Bible Study 4:00 Voice Deadline	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Time 10:20 Bible Class 10:20 Sunday School 4:30 Book Club 6:30 TSNT	6:30 Young Adult Bible Study	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study	6:30 Sunday School Teachers	8:30 Gardening Group 9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 1:30 Endowment Board 6:30 Pottluck/Bible Study Lisa at Continuing Ed →		LCMS Synod Convention July 29 th – August 3 rd
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Time 10:20 Bible Class 10:20 Sunday School LCMS Synod Convention Lisa at Continuing Ed →						

Staff, Officers, and Board Members

Staff

Pastor Rev. Adam M. Matheny Office: 385-2183 Cell: 812-449-6866	Deaconess Lisa Brand Office: 385-2185 Home: 389-9088	Music Coordinator Suzie Gangi Home: 341-4173	Secretary Sue Hendrickson Office: 385-2180 Home: 388-3557	Custodian Bob Baker 507-327-2922
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Congregational Officers and Elected Board Members

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