

Messenger

Saved to Share
Called to Care

From the Desk of Pastor

THE MISSION FIELD IS AT OUR DOORSTEPS

As I begin this article, I look around at my desk and can't even see it. Generally speaking it is hard to keep up with all that comes across my desk.

My wonderful secretary places mail, calendars, birthday cards, catalogs, post-its, phone messages, schedules, altar prayers, requests, bulletins, draft letters, reports, addresses etc. on my desk everyday. Much of it I can file into the trash. Others I can respond quickly to and I can take it off my list of to do's, but others need more thought a longer time to process, a future look when I have more time.

What am I trying to say is sometimes I (we) don't have anything inspirational to write. Our lives get so busy, we don't have time for others. Our lives get messy and all we are in is survival mode. No story to share, no antidote to convey.

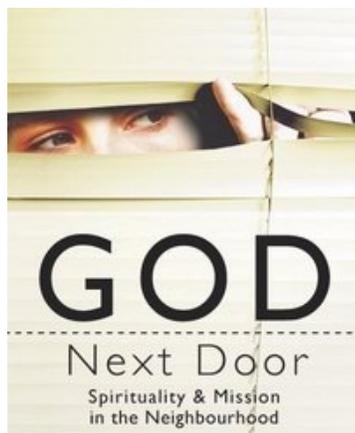
So with that being said you can stop reading and just pray

pastor can get his act together and clear off his desk.

I have already communicated in my Pastor's report much what has been going on with me and our church.

(I'm tempted just to submit that as my article.)

I have been focusing my time on a theme that keeps coming up in workshops, conferences and symposiums, which I believe we will have to address soon or later.



And that is crossing barriers of culture, context, ethnic and language to

Our Mission:

St. Johns Lutheran Church is a diverse family of saved sinners, walking together in forgiveness. Motivated by Christ's love, we will share the Gospel and care for the needs of all people.



Join us as we study the Fruit of the Spirit each Sunday during the Epiphany Season. January 22- February 26 during Sunday Worship and Adult Bible Class

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3738 Morgan Ford Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
314-773-0126
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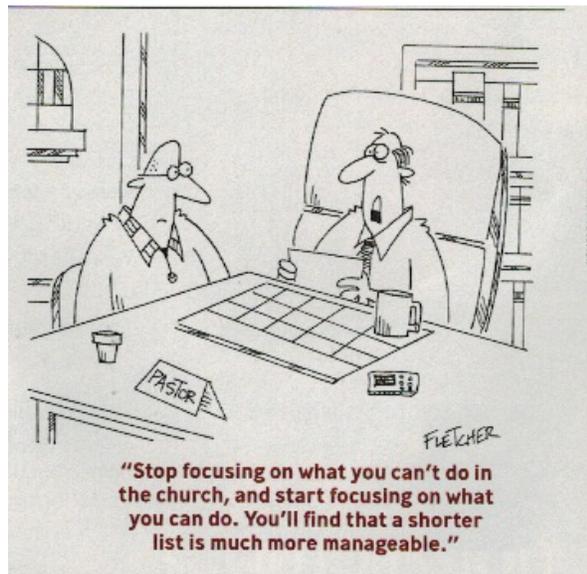
Continued on page 2

continue the mission of Jesus Christ. It means change, which can be stressful, uncertain, and risk taking. Our once Anglo-Saxon community that reflected the church's membership is now so diverse with many people groups that the church could not keep up with reflecting the community's reality. The mission field that once was considered overseas where the church would send a missionary now lives next door to us, the mission field is at our doorsteps. What we are going to about it will be discussed at our planning retreat in April, Saturday the 29th all are

welcome. More details will come your way as we prepare for the retreat.

"World missions was on God's mind from the beginning."

— Dave Davidson



Meetings 2017

	Voters
Installation of Officers Sunday, February 12	March 19
	May 21
	October 15
	December 3
	Executive Council
	February 19
	April 2
	September 17
	November 19

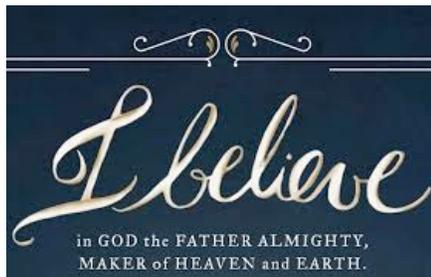
Job Posting

CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

Epiphany of St Louis (LCMS) seeks a personable, organized, & energetic self-starter with experience in leadership and office functions for a 40 hr/wk, salaried position responsible for keeping day-to-day operations organized and clear. This person will not be a soloist, but an administrative director to develop a team of volunteers; ready to start in March 2017 or soon after; submit resumes to pastorzeigler@sbcglobal.net; more info at epiphany-stl.org

STEWARDSHIP

We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.



The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that

we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.



Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly,

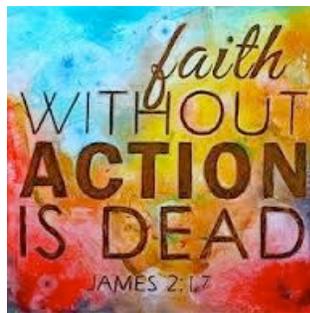
divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and



innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

Social Ministry

James 2:14-18—“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith. I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”



Our” faith and actions” gives us the opportunity to provide food and clothing for our community. The number of clients we are serving is less than a year ago, but these people have the same needs. With your support we are financially able to continue to provide this service. We were able to assist a client with some funding for housing. We pray that this small gesture will show him our love and concern.

Social Ministry Board decided that we will continue to close the food pantry on the 5th Saturday of the month.

Blessings and peace to all of us as we continue to demonstrate our faith and deeds together as a congregation through this ministry.

Christ Memorial Productions presents
a Concert for Lent



March 10 at 7:30pm

A Free Event

Doors open at 7:00pm Refreshments will be Served
Opening Music by Christ Memorial’s GEN52 Band

For advanced tickets and details see:

CMPShows.org

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
5252 S. Lindbergh Blvd 63126 314-631-0304



The LCMS National Housing Corporation (NHSC) has been working to lift up neighborhoods and communities throughout the Metro St. Louis area for a decade.

During the season of Lent NHSC will be holding a campaign called Welcome Home Proclaiming Christ’s Mercy - Building Stronger Communities.

NHSC and their partners are seeking congregations to join the Metro St. Louis area Congregation Support Network. If you would like to learn more about NHSC and how you can provide support by volunteering or donating go to their website at national housingsupport.org.

Donations can also be sent to:

LCMS National Housing Support Corporation
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

Evangelism

NO, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS NOR RULERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. - ROMANS 8:37-39

It was the 1930s and a group of friends was sitting at a restaurant sharing sad stories.

One told of the suicide of a once-rich man who could not face financial ruin. Another spoke of recent cuts at the local factory. Still another told of meeting an entire family, which was sleeping, homeless, in the city park. With the telling of each story, the mood of the group darkened.

One of the men, a minister by the name of William Stidger, thought he heard God whisper in his ear: "Why not give thanks for the people who have been a blessing in your life? Why not encourage them in a time which is terrible?"

As Stidger gave the idea some thought, his mind recalled an old school teacher, a lady who had gone out of her way to help him. Stidger sat down and wrote a letter to the elderly lady.

He was surprised at how soon a reply came back. Written with a wobbly hand, the letter began, "My dear Willy."

"Willy"? the man thought to himself. "I'm almost 50 and have lost most of my hair. How long has it been since someone called me

"Willy"?" Willy smiled and kept reading.

This is what the teacher wrote: "My Dear Willy: I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely, and like the last leaf of autumn, lingering behind. You might want to know that I taught in school for more than fifty years, and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning, and it cheered me as nothing has done in many years."

Stidger cried.

And he wrote another letter: this one to a kindly pastor -- a pastor who had just said an earthly goodbye to his wife.

In two days a letter came back: "My Dear Will: Your letter was so beautiful, so real, that as I sat reading it in my study, tears fell from my eyes, tears of gratitude. Before I realized what I was doing, I rose from my chair and I called my wife's name to share it with her, forgetting she was gone. You'll never know how much your letter has warmed my spirit. I have been walking around in the glow of your letter all day long."

Having told that story, I have to confess this devotion could go a number of different ways. I could talk to you about how it is sad when we forget those who have helped us. I could even talk about how, if we look hard enough, we can find a silver lining in the darkest of clouds.

But this devotion wishes to say that we Christians have been given "Good News of great joy which is for all people" (see Luke 2:10). In the salvation won by the Savior, we have been given forgiveness, hope and the knowledge that, ultimately, we will emerge victorious.

The world may be filled with darkness -- our lives overflowing with difficulties, but in everything we will ultimately enjoy Jesus' great and final victory. That is our good news, and it's worth sharing with others who need to hear "Jesus loves you!"

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, You are the Good News which has changed my world. Help me help others to realize nothing in this world can overshadow the joy You bring us in having our sins forgiven and our eternity assured. In Jesus' Name I ask it. Amen.

This article has some good thoughts and ideas for us, but most importantly it reminds us that we are blessed to know that "Jesus loves us" and we can share that good news as we anticipate inviting people to our Friendship Sunday Celebration on April 2. Let's pray for God to show us whom we can invite to attend that day with us.

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“Go and Be Reconciled: What Does This Mean?”

(A one-day seminar of reconciliation)

Conflict in congregations can cause hurt and divisions that divert our attention from the work that the Lord has given to us. This seminar is intended to help congregational leaders to model biblical approaches to conflict.

“Go and Be Reconciled: What Does This Mean?” reflects on the biblical teaching for reconciliation while reviewing the six chief parts of Christian doctrine from Luther’s Small Catechism. The study answers “What does this mean?” through two parts: “Be Reconciled to God” and “Be Reconciled to Others.”

Basic teachings from Luther’s Small Catechism reflect God’s ministry of reconciliation and how we ought to relate to God and to one another. Each section begins with a review of a chief part of Christian doctrine from Luther’s Small Catechism. Not only will this serve as a refresher for many, but it also will serve to demonstrate how reconciliation is meant to be a way of life for the child of God.

Deaconess Ruth McDonnell, a participant at a previous seminar states, “The Ambassadors of Reconciliation seminar reminded me of some important distinctions

with regard to conflict resolution. First, mediation does not include reconciliation, and second, even forgiveness does not automatically produce reconciliation. As Christians, though, reconciliation should be our goal whenever conflict occurs. We could all benefit from the biblical techniques taught by the Ambassadors of Reconciliation and apply them both in our churches and in daily life.”

This seminar is hosted by the Missouri District and will be led by Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR). It will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2201 Rollins Road, Columbia, MO 65203 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11. The registration fee is \$20 per person and lunch will be included. Pastors, elders, church and school staff and leaders are all encouraged to attend. Please visit the Missouri District’s website at mo.lcms.org/events for additional information and to register.



THE NEW LUTHER MOVIE

“Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World.” Good Shepherd and St. John’s Lutheran churches in Arnold are hosting a special one-night-only screening of the new Luther movie at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6th, at the Wehrenberg Ronnies 20 Cine, 5320 South Lindbergh Blvd., Saint Louis, MO. Tickets must be purchased online at:

<http://arnold.NewLutherMovie.com>

Other showings have sold out quickly, so don’t wait. We are hoping to get a Luther scholar or two to answer questions following the movie.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We’re excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other nonprofits, including St John Lutheran Church, through Thrivent Choice®. Based on member recommendations, St Johns Lutheran Church received \$1,104 in charitable outreach funding in 2016. The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities. As a reminder, 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31. Go to www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/ for more information.



Please consider sending our homebound members birthday wishes.

Jeanette Creamer
3629 Oak Hill
St. Louis, MO 63116

Mel Frentzel
6900 Lake Park Circle
St. Louis, MO 63123-1600

- 2/12 Eunice Bain
- 2/7 Tamarris Bohannon
- 2/7 Jeanette Creamer
- 2/7 Carolyn Dickhoener
- 2/7 Melvin Frentzel
- 2/20 Debra Meyer
- 2/6 Pastor Tanney
- 2/2 Earl Welch
- 2/17 Mabel Wilke

Please note updates to the calendar.

Eagle activities are included that use our Fellowship Hall. All other building use is provided on the monthly Building Use Calendars located on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

If you would like to reserve space, please contact the Church Office.

February 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00am Confirmation 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESOL	2 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	3 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	4 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
5 9:00am Worship Lutheran Hour Ministries 10:30am Bible Class	6 8:30am-2:00pm Eagle in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Elders	7 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Confirmation	8 10:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESOL	9 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	10 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	11 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
12 9:00am Worship w/ Communion Installation of Officers 10:30am Bible Class	13 8:30am-2:00pm Eagle in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts in Cafeteria 6:30PM WOW	14 9:00am Winkel at St. Johns in Fellowship Hall 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Confirmation	15 10:00am Confirmation 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESOL	16 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	17 Eagle Closed NO Bible Study Pastor Out of Town	18 8:30am Food Pantry Pastor Out of Town
19 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class 11:30am Executive Council Pastor Out of Town	20 Eagle Closed Church Office Closed Pastor Out of Town	21 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Confirmation	22 10:00am Confirmation 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESOL	23 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	24 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	25 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
26 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	27 8:30am-2:00pm Eagle in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Evangelism 7:00pm Ushers	28 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Confirmation				

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