

# Mission Connection

MISSION CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2022

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***"For whoever is ashamed of me  
and of my words, of him will the  
Son of Man be ashamed when he  
comes in his glory and the glory of the  
Father and of the holy angels."  
Luke 9:26***

## Pastor's Message

By this time word has most likely gotten around that I'll be retiring at the end of January in 2024. While that may seem like a long way off, I won't be surprised if the next 17 months don't fly by pretty quickly!

That being said, there's lots to do in the interim. Decisions on our direction and focus as a congregation will need to be made. What will most likely be the most pressing needs of the congregation in the next five years? What level of pastoral care do we desire? How often do we want to receive the sacrament? What can we realistically afford?

Some of the decisions facing us are very day-to-day practical ones: Will we want to continue to have a newsletter? If so, who will take over generating the content? What about our on-line presence? Do we want to maintain the website? Is someone willing to be the website manager? Should we continue to have a presence on Facebook?

There is a well known saying that "every crisis is an opportunity". It comes from the transliteration of the Chinese word for "crisis": wei-ji, where the first word means "danger", and the second means "opportunity". There is a sense of danger in the unknown of the future. But our Lord Jesus has told us that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), and that he will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)! Whatever the future holds, he already holds the future!



## Food Pantry/Community Meal

The next food pantry date is September 21 from 3-6:30pm. Some items the pantry could use are tuna helper, mac n cheese, jello, tomato juice brown sugar, pancake mix and 100% juice. Deliveries are made in Strawberry Point by calling Delaine (563 920 2753) before 3pm on the pantry date. If someone needs assistance before the pantry date, please call Delaine (563 920 2753) or the parish office (563 933 6166)

The community meal on August 17 served 79. The next meal will be September 21 serving from 5-6:30. The menu will be goulash, lettuce salad, garlic bread and apple crisp. If you would like a delivery in Strawberry Point, please call Delaine (563 920 2753) or Kris (563 419 5329) before 3pm the day of the meal.

Thank you, Delaine

### **2022 Dates:**

Wednesday, September 21

Wednesday, October 19 no meal/ food pantry open

Wednesday, November 16

Wednesday, December 21 The food pantry is also

available by appointment by calling any of the following:

St. Mary Office (563-933-6166)

Delaine Gruman (563-920-2753)

Sponsored by these local churches:

*Emanuel Lutheran, St. Sebald Lutheran, Mission in Christ Lutheran, Community Bible, United Methodist, and St. Mary Catholic churches*



## St. Croix Grief Support

On Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, we will begin hosting a grief support group. While we recognize that grief can stem from a wide variety of life experiences, it is that particular grief that comes from the death of close friends and family that will be the focus of the group. Led by Chaplain Pat Malanaphy of St. Croix Hospice, the free sessions will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Mission in Christ. Light refreshments will be offered to participants, so if you would like to help by providing something like lemonade and a plate of cookies, please see Pr. Gary.



## August Worship Assistant Assignments

September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
<b>Lector:</b> Anne Puffett	<b>Lector:</b> Pete Wood	<b>Lector:</b> Terri Gould	<b>Lector:</b> Chris Schlee
<b>Fellowship:</b> Potluck	<b>Fellowship:</b> Pete Wood	<b>Fellowship:</b> Marge Downs	<b>Fellowship:</b> Chris Schlee
<b>Cleaning:</b>	<b>Cleaning:</b>	<b>Cleaning:</b>	<b>Cleaning:</b>



## Adult Bible Class Starts Soon!

The Divine Drama begins on Sunday, October 2! This is a two-part Bible survey course: Part 1 – *The Biblical Narrative* – leads students through the entire book of Holy Scripture in 16 sessions; Part 2 – *Our Narrative* – explores basic Christian teaching in 14 sessions.

Materials for the study will be ordered in about a week. Please make sure you have registered your intent to join the class so that booklets can be ordered for you! Also, if you'd like to help out with the light soup or sandwich supper that will be provided, please touch base with any council member so that you can get in on the rotation sign-up!



## Over the Coffee



If you are silent about your beliefs because you are worried someone will be offended, then your beliefs are not as important to you as what people think about you.



## Cloud of Witnesses



*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

We believe that even those saints who have died are still alive in Christ Jesus. They are those giants of the faith upon whose shoulders we stand, and they, too, comprise this “great cloud”. Here is a list of “cloud members” who are remembered during the month of September:

- September 2: Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
- September 9: Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Columbia, died 1654
- September 13: John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407
- September 11: Dean Helmrichs, Mission in Christ Partner in mission, died 2018
- September 16: Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died ~258
- September 17: Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179
- September 18: Dag Hammarskjold, renewer of society, died 1961
- September 21: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- September 29: Michael and All Angels
- September 30: Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

## Help Needed!

In September we will return to using Setting 2 in the Lutheran Book of Worship for our Service of Holy Communion. Due to the scarcity of accompanists, we will again use the recordings provided to us by Joan Strauss which will require a worship assistant to operate the sound system. While the job is not difficult, it does require focused attention to the service. Consequently, some degree of sacrifice of personal worship is necessary. Please prayerfully consider signing up for a month to assist in this way. If three or four members of the congregation would be willing to help with this task, no one individual will need to be solely or repeatedly responsible.



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## Stanza of the Month



### *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* (LBW #352, v. 1)

With September we return to using the *Lutheran Book of Worship* for our worship time together. Personally, the *With One Voice* is OK, and some of the tunes somewhat novel, but I like returning to the comfortable familiarity and dependability of the tried-and-true texts and tunes of the LBW!

That notion of the comfort that is found in what is “tried and true” is summed up in that first verse of the hymn, *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*:

*I know that my Redeemer lives!  
 What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
 He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
 He lives, my ever-living head!*

Job makes note of that comfort in the wake of a multitude of woes that have befallen him:

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
 and at the last he will stand upon the earth.<sup>[b]</sup>  
<sup>26</sup> And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
 yet in<sup>[c]</sup> my flesh I shall see God,

Job describes a paradox: he proclaims that even after his flesh has decayed, it will be with physical eyes that he will at some future time see God. That reality is declared again by Christ Jesus in John 6:57 when Jesus says, “As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.” The underlying assumption is that because He lives, we live.

The comforting promise is “fleshed out” for us in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans in chapter 6: “...*just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*”

So comforting is this promise that both of these texts are incorporated into the funeral and committal services of the Lutheran church!



## Council Meeting Minutes

MIC Council

August 16, 2022

The Mission in Christ Council met on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Those present were Vice President Doug Puffett, Pastor Burkhalter, Chris Schlee and Terri Gould. President Bill Green, and Michelle Borrett were unable to attend.

Doug called the meeting to order. Chris led a devotion entitled Keep Sowing Seeds, encouraging us to not grow weary in doing even though we do not always witness a harvest right away.

Terri then read the minutes of the last meeting. There were no additions or corrections so Doug declared the minutes approved.

The treasurer's report for July was then reviewed. At the end of July, the checking account balance was \$5,855.97. The offering total was \$5,905.97. Of that, \$50.00 was designated for the Building Fund. This left \$5,855.97 going to the General Fund. The expenses for the month totaled \$8,146.65. There was a question as to why the expenses were more than usual. It was noted that \$1,358.73 had been paid out for benevolence and \$625 in memorial money had been transferred to savings making the expenses appear larger. Chris moved and Pastor seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

The Worship Team had no official report. Pastor pointed out that he had been working on Service of the Word for the Sundays he will be on vacation. Doug suggested Noah be trained for the sound board duties from time to time. A question arose concerning why we are still not passing a plate for offering. The worship team will discuss these items.

Pastor then gave his report. He had three visitations in July. For joys and concerns he reported presiding at a memorial service for Kari Sullivan at the funeral home. He suggested developing a policy for giving information to families who are choosing cremation and are not using the services of a funeral home. The processional cross is still scheduled to ship August 26. Sign up for the new Bible study has been slow so far. We need to finalize plans for refreshments following Grief Support and our light meal before Bible study. Attendance in person and online is holding steady with in person increasing slightly. Pastor will be meeting with Pastor Ede August 22 to discuss moving forward. More promotion was discussed for Grief Support. Pastor will make half-sheet fliers to hand out. He will research making post cards which parishioners can mail to people. Upcoming events: August 27, IMD Convocation in Ruthven, Iowa; September 7, begin Confirmation; September 13, begin St. Croix grief support; September 16-26 Pastor vacation; October 2, Bible study class Divine Drama begins. Pastor commented he would need to cease doing Wednesday night Compline due to the Confirmation schedule.

There was no new business.

Old business began with Bill's written report on the fall dinner committee's decisions. The dinner will be promoted as the Fall Friendship Meal. Serving will begin at 5:30 PM. The tentative menu is hot ham or pulled pork sandwich, chili, one other soup TBD, potato chips and vanilla ice cream with toppings. Milk, coffee and water will be served for drinks. We will be inviting attendees to bring an item for the food shelf. Doug mentioned this could be partially paid for by Thrivent funds. We will ask Lois, who is a committee member, how to apply for this.

Other items under old business were covered in Pastor's report.

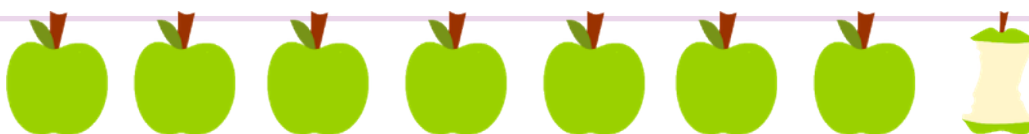
In other business, Chris reported we received the weed trimmer and it has already been utilized. Pastor reported finding a truck from Black Hills Energy on the premises one day. On inquiry he discovered that they had found a gas leak and fixed it.

Having no other business, the group decided to allow Bill to do next month's devotions.

Pastor then moved and Chris seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:53 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Gould, secretary





**Mission in Christ Lutheran Church**  
A ministry of the NALC

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**We're on  
Facebook!**

Join us for Worship  
9 AM Sundays  
And online  
through our  
Facebook page or  
Mission in Christ Website  
Coffee and Fellowship  
immediately following Service

**NALC Core Values**

**Christ-Centered**

*We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.*

**Mission Driven**

*We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.*

**Traditionally-Grounded**

*We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.*

**Congregationally-Focused**

*We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.*

