



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

May 2012

56 Meadows Dr. Pagosa Springs Colorado

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Beatles once famously sang, “All you need is love.” To be sure, this is a great classic rock song—unless you insist on taking a side in the Elvis vs. Beatles debate. Believe it or not, this song can lead us into a deep discussion about God. In confirmation class, it’s pretty common to describe God using so-called “negative” attributes: omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresent. Now, these “negative” attributes aren’t things that are bad, it’s just a theological way of talking about what God is *not*. He’s not limited in his power, He’s not limited in his knowledge, and He’s not limited by time or space. This last list of attributes (the definitions of the three “omnis” from above) is negative, because it tells us what God is *not*. In our world today, many theologians prefer to speak about God positively, that is, telling us what God *is*. Just so you don’t think I wanted to show off my love for classic rock, let’s take up the popular “positive” description of God as love.

God certainly *is* love. In fact, 1 John 4:8 says, “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because *God is love*.” What is love, though? This may seem like a strange question, but think about your usage of the word “love.” I “love” a lot of things: I love my wife, I love my kids, I love a good single-malt scotch whiskey with a good cigar, and I love to read. Heck, I even love football and baseball. We say that we love a lot of people and things, but that word means different things in each context. In reading the local paper or popular Christian materials, I see a lot about how “God is love,” and it seems that the definition for love there is “accepting of all things, non-judgmental, loves you the way you are.” I would shorten this to “God is warm and fuzzy.”

Unfortunately, as much as this god (intentionally *lower case*) may appeal to us, this is not the one true God of which Scripture speaks. God isn’t accepting of everything in a sort of everything goes kind of way. God lays out his demands quite clearly in the 10 Commandments. Jesus also tells us, “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).” God also judges sin harshly. We confess every week that we believe that Jesus will come back to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1) in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds. Finally, God does not love you as you are. Like me, you’re a poor, miserable sinner who has not loved God with your whole heart, neither have you loved your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39). You might look good according to the world’s standards but not according to God’s standards of perfection. God is not this kind of warm and fuzzy love.

When we say, God is love, what *do* we mean? St. John writes, “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16a),” and, “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation [blood atonement, payment] for our sins (1 John 4:9-11).” You see, God’s love is a love that spares nothing, sacrificing His Only Begotten Son, to make you new again, cleansing you from all unrighteousness (Revelation 21:5, 1 John 1:9). This is a far greater love, that God would sacrifice everything to rescue us from sin, death, and hell by the very blood of His Son (John 15:13). This is true love that defines the love we have for God and our neighbor (1 John 4:7).

In Christ,



“Stewardship”

“April showers bring May flowers. April, traditionally a rainy period, gives way to May, when flowers will bloom because of the water provided for them by the April showers” (According to Wiktionary—a wiki-based Open Content Dictionary). In many parts of our country this old idiom still rings true. Proper amounts of rain and sunshine combine to produce beautiful flowers. It is a kind of “action/reaction” thing. There is an application for our lives as God’s stewards and

managers of all of life and life’s resources for His purposes. Dr. Martin Luther’s explanation to the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed states it so well when it credits God with being our Maker and Provider. God richly provides us with **all** that we need to support this body and life. **All** is used nine times in Luther’s explanation. Our Almighty Father in heaven has made us and all creatures, gives us all we need and defends us against all danger and guards and protects us from all evil.

The clincher for us as God’s stewards comes in the closing paragraph of Luther’s explanation of the First Article as he writes: *“All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”*

The truth of the matter is that our Heavenly Father provides everything that we need in this life. His greatest gift is His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came willingly to this sinful world to offer up His holy life for the sins of the world—yours and mine included. That takes care of our spiritual welfare. That is the most important gift, but God also lavishes all kinds of physical gifts upon us as His people.

God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17b), but He also wants us to use all these blessings in unselfish ways to bring glory to His holy name and blessings to those people around us, just like April showers bring May flowers. Our faithful management and use of God’s gifts makes life more beautiful and fragrant for us and others.

How we use our time, abilities and financial resources makes a big difference for us and others. How we manage our relationships, God’s creation, our own bodies and the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus also makes a big difference for us and others.

We give thanks to God for calling us to be His maturing stewards who are privileged to manage all of life and life’s resources for His purposes! May God’s Holy Spirit work richly in, with and among us so that we live each day as God’s redeemed children who are growing in the divine traits of loving and giving!



Meetings:

Elders meeting: Sunday April 15, 7:00 AM

Board of Education meeting: April 19, 6:30 PM

Council meeting: April 26, 6:00 PM

PRAYER & STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM

Friday Men’s Bible Study 7:00 AM

Friday Ladies’ Bible Study 9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Fellowship 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:30 AM

Children’s Sunday school 10:30 AM

Check the bulletin for daily prayer opportunities with the Vicar!





Church News



Thrivent: We are looking for a congregational advocate to represent us at Thrivent. If you are interested, see John Widmer.

VBS: We need Volunteers to help with Vacation Bible School. Please contact Vicar McKinley if you can assist your church in this outreach. VBS is a great opportunity as it gives us a reach into the community, telling them about what Christ has done for them. The Vicar will be holding a VBS informational meeting after service on Sunday; May 13. Please plan to attend!

New HP Cartridges: The office has some new ink cartridges that need a new home. If your home printer uses this type, numbered HP26, please call Allison (731-4668). She would love to give them away.

Baby Bottles: Do you still have that baby bottle at home that is half-filled with change for the Pagosa Pregnancy Support Center? Please leave it here at the church office--as they will soon be starting this year's fundraiser and need as many of their bottles back as possible. Thanks!

Contributions needed: for materials for renovating the "old youth room." The goal is to have an attractive, comfortable meeting room available for counseling and youth activities. Furniture and labor have been donated, but we are still \$100.00 short. All contributions, great or small, would be appreciated. Please write "Room Renovation" in the memo line of your check or on your envelope.

Roof Repair: We will be in need of roof work in the near future. We have started a roof maintenance fund. If you would like to contribute to this endeavor, please write, "Roof Fund" on the memo line of your check.

The Four Corners Circuit of the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod will meet at Our Savior Lutheran Church here in Pagosa on Tuesday, May 15th. We will have a brief Divine Service that will include the Lord's Supper. The congregation is cordially invited take advantage of another opportunity to hear God's Word and to eat and drink Jesus' true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The service will begin at 9:30.

On Thursday, May 17th: We will be celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord, which occurred 40 days after Christ raised from the dead (Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:1-11). This service will include preaching and the Lord's Supper. Please plan to join us at 7PM.

The June Newsletter Deadline: is Wednesday, May 28, 2012.



PRE-SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES



Give your child a great educational start in a fun filled and Christian Environment at

Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten
Children Ages 3 to 5 for Preschool
Kindergarten

Full or Part time Sessions
Lunch Provided

Monday through Friday 7:30 AM -5:30 PM
September –May

For information or to preregister for the 2012-2013 school year call 731-3512
‘Train a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not turn from it.’
Proverbs 22:6

Preschool Prayer Partners: Please continue to pray for the child you picked. They will need continued prayer through the summer.

The staff would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU! Thank you to all who helped pick up lunches, helped with Chapel, read books, pushed swings, and to all those who made this such a successful school year!

The School is adding Kindergarten to next school year. Please let all your friends know!

May 16th Preschool Graduation

May 25th Last Day of School (dismiss at Noon)

Have a Blessed and Safe Summer-See you in September!!!

KAIROS #15

We are planning our next Kairos Prison Ministry event in Santa Rosa, NM, for the weekend after Memorial Day. (May 31 – June 3). The team building meetings will be at Montgomery Boulevard Church of Christ, 7201 Montgomery Blvd., Albuquerque on the following Saturdays:

Meeting #2: **April 21**

Meeting #3: **May 5**

Overnight Meeting: **May 18 – 19**

Event Kairos #15: **May 31 – June 3**

Instructional Reunion: **June 9**

We are not just looking for inside team volunteers but also for the outside team whose primary responsibility is the preparation of meals. If you are interested in participating on either team, supporting the event, or have questions, talk to John.

P.S. We will be taking 1000 dozen homemade cookies to the prison, 1 dozen for each inmate and guards. Home made cookies are a tangible expression of Christian love and an indication of God’s concern for a group of people who seldom encounter either in the course of their daily lives. Your loving sacrifice will provide “bread” that shines the Light of God’s Grace into the darkest corners of a prison unit.

May God bless you for your gift of baking! (There will be a sign up sheet and directions in the Fellowship hall.)

Cookies due: last week of May-June 1st. John Widmer



Quarterly Meeting – Please join us on Sunday, May 6, at 10:30 for our regular quarterly meeting.

Mite Boxes - The Rocky Mountain District LWML projects for 2010-2012 are completely funded. Thank you for your contribution. For more information on the programs and projects funded by mites visit LWML.org or rmdlwml.org. A list of the grants that are funded is on the LWML bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Rocky Mountain District LWML will choose new projects for the next biennium at the convention in June.

The new sitting room across from the vicar's office will also serve as our church library. New shelves will complete the room and the church library (from the closet in the fellowship hall) will be moved. For more information see Kay Saathoff, Deanna Myers, or Alisha Brodner.

Thanks to all those who helped make new **bookmarks** for the hymnals in the sanctuary. If you would like a similar bookmark for your Bible, see Lee Sanderson.

Upcoming events include:

- Making Crismons
- Preschool blankets
- Adventures in needlework
- Church library overhaul
- Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

The 2012 Rocky Mountain District LWML Convention will be held at the El Paso Marriott on June 22-24, 2012, for all LWML Women of the Rocky Mountain District. Plan to attend for Worship, Bible Studies, Fellowship, to hear humorous and inspirational Speaker Elaine Bickel, Gifts from the Heart, LWML HUGS, Shopping, and more Fellowship. Complete details can be found at rmdlwml.org

Lutheran Women in Mission!

May 2012

Birthday



Timothy Cochran	5/3
Ian Geraghty	5/6
Pennie DeClark	5/7
Douglas McInnis	5/7
David Snarr	5/7
Robert Prescott	5/14
Lisa Maranz	5/17
Madison DeClark	5/22
Glenn Liudahl	5/24
Carol Fisher	5/27
Mark Young Jr.	5/31

Happy Baptism Birthdays

Jennifer Mueller	5/5
Lisa Maranz	5/9
Arvold Fisher	5/17
Dorothy O'Harra	5/27

Happy Anniversary

Fred & Elizabeth Martinez	5/5
Sherwin & Shirley Iverson	5/8
Timothy & Deborah Hainer	5/12
Jeremy & Anette McInnis	5/23



Church Ladies with Typewriters:

Some of the next funny blurbs were actually in church bulletins. Have yourself a good laugh today.

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow....