



July 2019, Volume 52, No. 7

Come see What's New

Sharing the Spirit of OUR LORD'S NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



**"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

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Endings and beginnings. Goodbyes and hellos. Pulling up roots and sending new ones down into the soil. Summer is a good time for this. The rhythm of nature can give us a model for this time of transition. As we get to know each other, we can trust that God will provide time and space for holy conversations. We can trust that although much is unknown, God intends for us to grow in grace and love for one another. Summer is wildly busy for some households. For others it is a break from the daily patterns during the rest of the year. Therefore, we will get to know each other at different rates according to the availability of each of you. Many of you read the brief biography that was in the newsletter before I came for the Meet & Greet in April. Yet, as I begin my time as your pastor, I want to share a bit more about myself. And, I look forward to hearing your stories about what has formed you into the unique and gifted people of Our Lord's. My bio and some FAQ's are on the following pages.

Pastor Darla Ann



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.OURLORDS.ORG

BIOGRAPHY.

I was baptized at Augustana Lutheran Church in Underwood, North Dakota, where my father had been baptized as an adult. My full name is Darla Ann Rachel Kratzer. I have four siblings. They live in Tucson, Houston, Kansas City, and Bemidji, Minnesota. My mother is retired and lives in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Although I was born in North Dakota and lived in several states as a child, I was raised primarily in the Kansas City area. I have a B.A. in chemistry from a college of the Lutheran Church (Bethany in Kansas). After college, I worked in a hospital hematology and chemistry lab. After three years, I moved to Iowa City to do research work in biochemistry. While in Iowa City, I discovered God was calling me to become a pastor. It was also during this time that I married Tom and our son, Nate, was born. After Tom completed his doctorate, we moved to Chicago where I attended the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, graduating in June 1996. He was a professor at Roosevelt University in Chicago during those years. We moved to Ohio in the summer of 1997 and my husband began his work in the School of Business at Malone University. A year later I was ordained after receiving my first Call from a congregation. I served a total of five different congregations during the 21 years I was in Ohio. A few years ago, my husband entered seminary and the candidacy process in answer to God's call. He was ordained last summer and serves as a pastor of the Wartburg Parish in Southern Illinois. We have one son, Nate, who lives in Louisville, Kentucky with his three-year-old daughter, Raley.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

What shall I call you? I prefer Pastor Darla Ann. (Please note: If that is difficult, I suggest "Pastor Dar" or "Pastor D".)

Where do you live? My husband and I bought a house in the Rolling Meadows neighborhood in Maryville.

What will you do first? I will concentrate on becoming acquainted with the members of the congregation and the community of Maryville.

How do you feel about worship? Worship is the most important activity for the people of God. It is the center of our life together as a congregation. In worship we have the privilege of praising and thanking God. As we worship, we engage in a concentrated experience of several of the fundamental practices of the faith. In doing that we are challenged to become a part of God's mission in the world. Through Word and Sacrament we are fed by God and strengthened for our ministries during the coming week.

What is a sermon for you? The sermon is an opportunity to let the word of God speak to our world, our concerns, our joy, sorrows, challenges and sins. Preaching sets our life stories into a larger story. It allows us to see where human events connect with God's purpose and astonishing love.

MORE QUESTIONS.

How do you prepare for a sermon? The discipline of sermon preparation takes about 8 hours each week. Throughout the week I ask questions, read critical commentaries, and explore the connections between the biblical texts and the things that are going on in our life as a congregation, in the world, and in your lives as you share them with me. Preaching is a conversation in which you are my partners. When I am working on the sermon, I take you with me into the Pastor's Study. The sermon that you hear on Sunday morning is the fruit of the conversation that took place throughout the week. It is God's word to us in this time and place.

How long are your sermons? Usually 12 minutes, but they may be between 9 and 15 minutes in length.



What do you think about our relationship with the synod and the church-at-large? I am always eager to be supportive and involved at both these levels. We are a part of the whole people of God.

Will you have regular office hours? Yes, as far as possible. I will usually be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Thursday and on Thursday afternoons from 4 pm – 6 pm. Changes or additional hours will be published in the weekly bulletin. I am available at other times by appointment and am happy to visit with you in your homes or at a coffee shop during the afternoons.

Can I “drop in” at the church to see you? Yes, please stop in “to just talk.” But if you are coming for a specific reason, it might be good to call ahead so you’re not disappointed by finding me meeting with someone else.

Can I call you at any time in the case of an emergency? Yes, call me (or have someone call me) at 330-244-7963 as soon as possible after an emergency. If I’m not available, leave a message on the answering machine and I will respond as soon as possible. If I’m out of town, there will be emergency coverage through an area pastor.

Do you text message? Yes, texting has its advantages so please feel free to use that mode of communication for brief messages and questions. Email at pastor@ourlords.org can be used for longer communication and complex questions.

Will you take a day off? Yes, having time for rest and renewal is part of the rhythm God intends for all human beings for our health and well-being. During these first few months, I will be taking Mondays off (with the exception of attending the monthly Monday evening Steering Team and Council meetings). I do appreciate receiving only emergency calls on my day off.

FINAL QUESTIONS

What do you do to relax? I enjoy walking and biking with my husband. I enjoy taking classes for Line Dancing and Cardio Kick-boxing. Listening to music, reading books, and seeing movies also nourish my spirit. My husband and I enjoy playing cards and dominoes and putting together jigsaw puzzles.

What shall I call your husband? Pastor Tom.

What are some things that irritate you? 1) When someone is upset with me, but goes to someone else to talk about it. Please speak with me directly if you are bothered by something I have said or done. 2) When I am not told about a hospitalization – if I don't know, I can't visit. 3) When people do not follow through on what they said they would do. It is important to say "no" to some things so that we can do those things to which we have said "yes".

What are some of your personality quirks? I have a bit of Upper Midwestern reserve, so at times I am quiet and slow to reveal what I am thinking. Sometimes, when dealing with numbers, my brain and my mouth don't match up and I misspeak a number by a factor of 10. Please correct me. Also, I can be very task oriented. So, if I am preparing for worship, I may forget anything you tell me that is not related to the worship service. If you want me to remember it, write it on a piece of paper and hand the paper to me. The other personality quirk is that I tend to ramble when I speak: I will use 20 words when ten or less would have been enough. Please forgive me when I fail to get to the point.

REGULAR WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Contemporary Worship: Saturdays at 5 pm with Fellowship after the Worship

Traditional Worship: Our Lord's continues their Summer Sunday Worship Schedule of one service at 9 am only. Fellowship will be at 10:30 am in the Commons Area. Will continue through Labor Day Weekend in September! Take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy worship and fellowship with OLLC members and friends you may not normally get to see!

CHANCEL & BELL CHOIRS

Both choirs will be on hiatus through the summer (except for an occasional practice to just keep their skills from going dormant **SEE page 6**). Regular rehearsals will resume in mid-August.

WEEKEND WORSHIP DURING JULY



Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7

Fourth Weekend after Pentecost: 2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30

God is the Source of all Healing

The prophet Elisha miraculously cures the leprosy of Naaman, a General in the Syrian army. But it almost doesn't happen because Elisha's prescription to Naaman seems far too simple. We too may expect God to ask us to do something complicated, when what the Lord requires of us is basic actions done humbly and with trust.

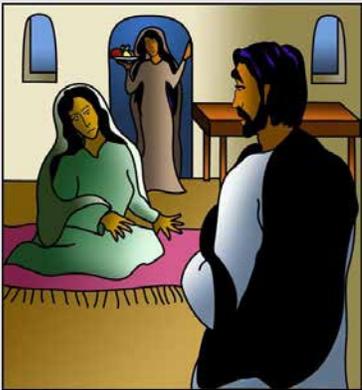


Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 14

Fifth Weekend after Pentecost: Luke 10:25-37

Who is my neighbor?

The beloved parable of a compassionate outsider helping a man whose own people would have despised that Samaritan, gives us a window to what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.



Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21

Sixth Weekend after Pentecost: Luke 10:38-42

Too busy to listen to Jesus?

The story of Jesus' visit to two sisters reminds us that hospitality is about making space for people and being present with them in that space during their visit. Jesus invites us to sit at his feet so as we tend to our relationship with him, we may be strengthened for our tasks and relationships in the world.



Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28

Seventh Weekend after Pentecost: Genesis 18:20-32

Persistence in Prayer

Abraham intercedes for his nephew, Lot, and the whole city of Sodom. We who are baptized are to be rooted in prayer. Sometimes prayer is begging. Sometimes it is arguing with God. At other times, prayer gives us a chance to say thanks or even "Wow, God". So, seek, ask, and knock.

DIRECTORS DEPARTMENT**Special Music in July**

July 7 Chris Diggs, Guitar
July 21 Rhonda Comrie, piano
July 28 Loretta Williams, vocal solo

**Rehearsals for Choir and Handbells**

In order to be prepared for the installation of Pastor Darla Ann on Sunday, August 18th, choir and handbells will rehearse on August 7, 8 and August 14, 15. The installation Service will be Sunday afternoon August 18th.

There will be no rehearsals on August 21 and 22. The traditional music program and the choir and handbells will return to rehearsals for the fall on a full-time basis on August 28 and 29. More information will be forthcoming in a letter in mid-July.

Blessings to All!

Harvey Childs, Director of Traditional Music



FAIR TRADE

With Fair Trade, Our Lord's Is already setting a high goal for our 4th year since our reboot in 2016. Week one of the new fiscal year we took in \$172.28. For the first three weeks we are at a weekly average of \$113. Our Lord's not only has a great in-house gift shop, but it's all for a great cause. Every item sold helps support a small farmer or artisan around the world.



Do you enjoy Grilling or Just Cooking, then check out the enlarged choices of Rubs, Sauces, Spice & Olive Oils in the Fair Trade space. Be sure and check the Our Lord's Token Tins filled with Mini Chocolates. The small bags of Mini's returning soon also.

Again I'm reaching out. HELP! I need a few volunteers interested in becoming familiar with the SQUARE Charge Program. It's an easy program to load on a smart phone and very easy to use. Though it varies at times, there have been weeks when 25-30% of our sales are done with charge cards. I will gladly do a one on one training of the program. At the moment myself and Linda Spencer are the only ones using the system on a regular basis as it is needed. I could definitely use a few Sunday people to be familiar with the system. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out.



Our Fair Trade Ministry continues to be recognized both nationally & internationally.

Thank for all your support.

Yours in Christ,

Mike Williams & Fair Trade



FOR CASEYVILLE ELEMENTARY

Weekends of July 27/28 Aug 3/4 and 10/11

Children and their families are invited to bring to the church Narthex, needed school supplies for Caseyville to be blessed.

Items needed include: Pencils, Backpacks, Kleenex, Crayons, Glue Sticks, etc. Lists in Narthex soon.

MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY



All women are invited to a three month summer discussion of the book of **Esther** with the Morning Glories Summer Discussion Group using the "Gather" magazine study. This is a study that accommodates all levels of Biblical knowledge.

We will explore the book of Esther, one of the latest writings of the Old Testament. While reflecting on the life of this young queen, her experiences in a king's court, and the challenge issued her by her adopted father, Mordecai, we will consider how God may be calling us to use our own voices "for such a time as this".

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Life Center Conference Room for the summer months of July and August. Bring a friend if you like. Coffee, water and dessert will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages with you, as desired.

Leader: **Debby Gunderson.**



(For more information and details, see our "Adult Education Opportunities" and "Children & Youth" brochures or visit our website: www.ourlords.org)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children's Sunday School Age 3 through 5th Grade, Confirmation, High School and Adult Bible Study have wrapped up classes up for the school year. All will resume classes on Rally Day on Sunday, **September 8.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School's Theme this year was "Pool Party: Make a Splash with Jesus. Tuesday and Thursday evenings the children listened to lessons on how to make a splash with Jesus to share his love and do his work in their everyday lives. They played games with water balloons just for fun. They learned that different sizes and weights of balls will create different sized splashes, just like different things we do can make large or small changes in others' lives. And of course, there was the Water Slide, Slip and Slide, and Water Balloon Launcher! The snacks at the close of each day were amazing – especially the popsicles that looked like crayons! The BBQ masters delivered delicious burgers, hot dogs and steak bites! Wonder-filled.

Thank you to Erik & Stacie Kirk and all the volunteers who provided meals, filled balloons and organized crafts. Special thanks to Jeremy Lange for the awesome obstacle course under the canopy of the pines. The children had a great time and learned how they could make a SPLASH WITH JESUS to share Christ's love with all! Thank you!



(For more information and details, see our "Adult Education Opportunities" and "Children & Youth" brochures or visit our website: www.ourlords.org)

LATE BOOMERS IN JULY

The Boomers will be meeting on July at a place, date and time yet to be determined. **Jeff & Penny Waterman** are the hosts! Stay tuned for more information!

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on **Monday, July 15 at 11:30 am**. In July, you are invited to read **Don't Make Me Pull Over** by Richard Ratay. Bring a drink and a brown bag lunch to enjoy as the book is discussed. The book club meets in the Life Center Conference Room. All welcome!

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Men's Breakfast Fellowship is on hiatus until September.
Leader: **Steve Hoelscher**



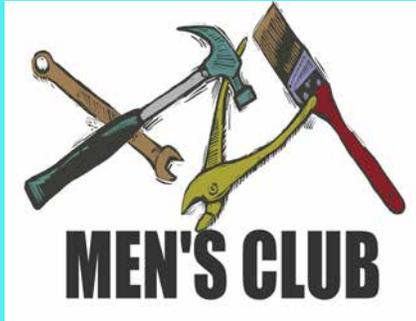
Thank You!

Thank you to all who threw their coins (and checks and bills) in the buckets for the Noisy Offering in June. We collected \$350. It was given in a love offering at the Synod Assembly worship in Springfield in June. It has been designated for the **Ministries of the Lutheran Church in Madagascar**, our sister Synod. Thank you so much!



(For more information and details, see our "Fellowship Ministries" brochure or visit our website: www.ourlords.org)

MEN'S CLUB



Our Lord's Men's Club meets on Saturday, June 29, 7 am. July's chefs are **Don Baden** and **Tim Schoenecker**. Come out for food, fellowship & chores around the inside and outside of the church. (There will be **NO** Men's Club in July!)

Our Lord's Mowing & Trimmer Team Schedule

Our Mowing and Trimming Team are hot (literally) and heavy into the summer grass schedule. We are blessed with a whole list of people who volunteer to mow and trim our huge lawn every week. This helps to keep our expenses down. If you would like to help with this worthy ministry, please contact, **Brian Hartke, Chuck Pugh, or Ted Nemsy** to be put on the list of back up mowers and trimmers.

Mowers and Trimmers for July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Riding Mower</u>	<u>Trimmers</u>
July 5-7	Ted Nemsy	Mike Hester
July 11-13	Scott Comrie	Darrell Bruhn
July 18-20	Don Baden	Steve Hoelscher
July 25-27	Jim Spencer	Tom Steinmann

TREASURER'S REPORT

as of May 31, 2019



Monthly receipts exceeded expenditures by	867.03
YTD expenditures exceeded receipts by	23,885.00

Cash - Unrestricted	48,342
Cash - Replacement Reserve	0
Cash - Designated for specific purposes	26,485
Venturing In Faith contributions	3,510
Cumulative since campaign inception	823,410
Total Principal Paid on Mortgage	2,,237.36
Remaining Principal balance on Mortgage	150,684.48

Submitted by Max Eakin 06/17/19

MARYVILLE OUTREACH CENTER

Open to residents of Maryville, and members of Maryville churches or schools.

Ministries Include:

Resident Assistance Program (RAP): to help people in difficult financial situations. Office Hours: Tuesday from 5:30-7 pm.

Food Pantry: helps families in food deficiencies twice a month. All food items, toiletries, paper products & cleaning supplies are needed. Also, food items easy for homeless people to eat, which does not require cooking and is easily opened.

Pantry Hours: Tuesdays 5:30-7 pm
 Thursdays 10 am – noon
 Saturdays 10 am – noon.

Grandma's Attic: Store offers super cheap clothing, shoes, accessories, household goods, small appliances. Donations accepted when Attic is open or can be placed in tubs under Worship Center mailboxes.

Attic Hours: Tuesdays 10 am-noon & 5:30 -7:30 pm
 Wednesdays 10 am – 1 pm
 Thursdays 10 am – 1 pm
 Saturdays 10 am – noon.

Our Lord's Liaison to Maryville Outreach Board: **Carol Orr**

**CARING MINISTRY TEAM:
 Being God's Presence in Someone's Life**

Provides care to church family as needed. Tasks Include: Visit people in hospital or homes, take previously consecrated Communion to our homebound or sick, called on those experiencing a personal crisis, provide transportation to doctor appointments or grocery shopping, sitting with someone who is ill while the regular caregiver gets some "me" time for rest, shopping, etc. If you need assistance, or can help provide needs, call Mary Olsen or the church office. Team members: **Mary Olsen, Carol Gocken, Kathie & Terry Brady, and Carol and Rod Orr.**

(For more information and details, see our "Service Ministries" brochure or visit our website: www.ourlords.org)

SOS SOUP KITCHEN

Thursday, July 11th, 3:30 - 7 pm

St John's UCC, Collinsville

Menu: Tacos!

Sign-ups in the Narthex for food and volunteers.

Questions: **Gail Jorgenson**



**S.O.S.
SOUP KITCHEN**

CASSEROLE TEAM

Provides meals for members experiencing an illness, a birth or other circumstance when meals would be helpful. Volunteers are needed. If interested in volunteering, as a meal preparer or deliverer, or have questions, please contact Team Leader:

Debby Gunderson



**Casserole
Ministry
Team**



**Office
Angels**

OFFICE ANGELS

Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Life Center Conference Room

Purpose: to help assemble bulletins & visit with church friends.

Questions: **Contact Church Office.**

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY ANGELS

Once a month at **9:30 am in the Life Center Conference Room** towards the end of each month. In July, we move it to **Tuesday, July 30.**

Purpose: to help assemble printed newsletters & visit with church friends.

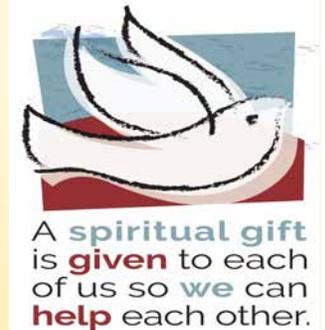
Questions: **Contact Church Office.**

Just a side note: Deadline for **August's** Newsletter is **July 16.**

WORSHIP HELPERS MINISTRY!

(Of course, we can still use your help!)

Volunteers are needed every week to help with worship! These servant spots include: acolytes, assisting ministers, lectors, assisting minister/lectors (Saturdays), greeters, ushers, greeter/ushers (Saturdays), altar guild, projectionist, ride givers, and fellowship.



Two Ways to Sign Up:

People Power on the www.ourlords.org website. Go to People Power, find the date you want to volunteer & sign up! **OR**

People Power Sign Up Sheets: will still be available for those electronically challenged.

The opportunities to serve will be a bit more limited during the summer due to going from two Sunday worship services down to one, so sign up for your favorite dates soon, before they are snapped up! Sign up sheets for July, August and September are already out!

ADMINISTRATION

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

SYNOD WEB SITE: www.csis-elca.org

ELCA WEB SITE: www.elca.org

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries, are available in printed copy in our Worship Center and Life Center or accessed at www.elca.org/prayerventures.

(For more information and details, see our "Service Ministries" brochure or visit our website: www.ourlords.org)

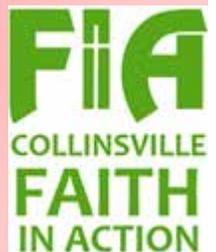
Building with Faith

Faith in Action Offers Nourishment and Shelter for Care Receivers

"It is like a grain of mustard seed, which ... when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." (Mark 4:31-32)

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus tells us that if we work hard, we can see the fruit of our labors grow into a large plant that nourishes and shelters all of us. So it is with Collinsville *Faith in Action*. At its inception in 1998, CFIA followed the basic premise of providing volunteers to help seniors 60 years and older and adults with disabilities in Collinsville, Caseyville, Maryville, and State Park with door-to-door, no-cost services such as transportation to medical appointments, supermarkets, drugstores, banks, and more. CFIA grew in 2004 with the addition of a trained specialist providing the Answers on Aging program to help care receivers with the latest information on benefits and resources. Then in late 2008, CFIA added an outreach coordinator and the Elder Connection program was initiated in 2009 to offer care receivers opportunities for social outings to local restaurants and attractions.

In 2015, CFIA moved into larger new offices and flourished in its mission to put our faith into action to foster the independence of our care receivers. Today, with the help and support of our partner churches, *Faith in Action* is in the process of purchasing and renovating our offices and investigating the expansion of services for the future. Our partner churches are also the vital source of referral for care receivers and volunteers. If you feel someone could benefit from *Faith in Action* as a care receiver, call the CFIA office at 344-8080. And if you're willing and able, call the office and sign up as a volunteer to carry on the legacy of all the selfless volunteers who have preceded you .



(For more information and details, see our "Service Ministries" brochure or visit our website: www.ourlords.org)

HELP NEEDED

Maryville Outreach Center

Both the Food Pantry and Grandma's Attic need more volunteers. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. In the Pantry, volunteers hand out food to clients, sort canned goods and restock shelves. At Grandma's Attic the hours they are open are Tuesday's 5:30-7:30 Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00-1:00 and Saturdays 10:00-12:00. They need help sorting clothes and various donations, restocking shelves and sales. Please let the church office know if you are willing to help or call **Carol Orr**.

The Food Pantry helps families and elderly clients twice a month. Clients are eligible to receive canned goods, hamburger or chicken, paper goods (toilet paper, tissue paper), and personal care items such as shampoo and soap, cleaning products, milk and juice, bread and sweets, laundry detergent, and even pet food when available.

The Resident Assistance Program (RAP) helped one client in April with their Ameren bill.

Grandma's Attic continues to do a brisk business. The money taken in by the Attic is used to fund the Pantry and the RAP and pay for operating costs.

Watch for us on Facebook. Please like our page!

Our Lord's Liaison to Maryville Outreach Board: **Carol Orr**

BLANKET DRIVE

For the month of **July**, we are asking for donations of blankets for the homeless. They can be new or used; they do not have to be in good condition although it would be appreciated if they are clean. Mind the Gap volunteers will distribute the blankets to homeless people who live on the streets in the St Louis area. Look for tote in Narthex to place the blankets. Thank you!



BISHOP S. JOHN ROTH WRITES...

At our recently concluded Synod Assembly, attendees raised the question of how we might assist humanitarian assistance to refugees and asylum seekers (**asylees**) in these days of crying need. **Refugees** are individuals who are forced to flee their countries of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social or political group. **Asylees** are people already in the U.S.A. who receive protected status and are unable to return home for the same reasons that refugees are unable to return home. Here is one relevant option.

The Bishop spoke with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) at the Assembly. In the US Southwest, LIRS works with Lutheran Family Services-Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) for resettlement of refugees. LFSRM Refugee & Asylee Programs have helped people who have been uprooted by persecution and violence work towards self-sufficiency through essential resettlement services, including: housing, employment, English language, and cultural orientation.

So far this year, churches, civic organizations, businesses, community groups, and individuals have made it possible for LIRS and LFSRM to assist 10,000 people seeking to reunite with unaccompanied children, to help 250 unaccompanied children find caring foster homes, to welcome 1500 refugees and SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) holders, and now to provide immediate care to thousands of migrants released in central New Mexico by immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the form of food, clothing, orientation to available, overnight accommodations, and facilitating travel arrangements for those going elsewhere to connect with friends, or relatives. With ICE and CBP buses of migrants arriving weekly, the need continues.

To help financially in this humanitarian work, you may donate directly to LIRS or LFSRM, or you may send your donation to the C/SIS and we will forward it to LIRS or LFSRM.

From an email sent on June 13, 2019.

2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year's Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly took place in Springfield, Illinois, from Thursday, June 6, through Saturday, June 8. 292 individuals attended this event, including Deanne Holshouser, Anita Steinmann, Marian Steinmann (youth delegate), and myself.

In addition to a few minor by-law changes, the majority of the discussion at the assembly centered around Bishop Roth's report he prepared after returning from his recent sabbatical. In his report, Bishop Roth identified eight technical challenges for the near future. These challenges, where resources to address them are already available, included multi-congregational parishes, measures of congregational vitality, and better utilization of synodically authorized ministers.

More discussion, however, took place on three adaptive challenges identified by Bishop Roth. With adaptive challenges, resources to address them are not readily available. Adaptive Challenge #1 addresses necessary adjustments as the conventional paradigm for ordained ministry diminishes. Adaptive Challenge #2 addresses the attraction and preparation of pastors and deacons willing to invest themselves in declining situations. Adaptive Challenge #3 is for congregations and clergy to remain God-centered as we struggle to address both technical and adaptive challenges. If you would like to review Bishop Roth's entire sabbatical report, you can find it at www.csis-elca.org.

On a lighter note, our synod is considering a change to its name. Since 1988, when the ELCA came into being, our synod has been assigned the name Central/Southern Illinois Synod. This name has proved to be both awkward and confusing. Recommended changes were submitted at the assembly - it is very possible we could have a new synod name by the end of 2019. Since I know many of you cannot wait to hear our new name, I will be sure to pass it along as soon as I find out!

Tom Steinmann

The League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area honored **Meg Oberlag** for her 50 years of dedicated service at the 64th annual meeting today. Thanks, Meg for all your years of service!



GRADUATIONS

Alice Azure has two graduates to “crow” about – two grandsons! Her grandson, **Luke Liljegren**, son of Michael & the late Kelley Liljegren, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Collinsville High School on May 18. He will be attending the business school at Indiana University at Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI) this fall. He will be on the soccer varsity team, as well. Then there is **Bo Lindstrom**, her oldest grandson and the son of Patti and David Lindstrom, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Kansas State on May 18th. He was awarded a BS degree in electrical engineering. An internship with Honeywell will become part of his master’s work, to be completed May 2020.

Congratulations graduates! Looks like these smart young men take after their grandmother in the brains department! Congratulations, grandma! We know you are very proud!



We Have Been Blessed!

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

First Thessalonians 1:2-3

I used the Thessalonians Text above for our Greeting to you in June 2018. We truly meant all that is stated in the text. What was true in June of 2018, is still true this July. We have daily lifted up the ministry of Our Lord's in our prayer life, and we continue to admire your commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The past year at Our Lord's has been a Holy and Blessed time for the Parks. We thank you so much for taking us into your lives, and granting us the honor of being in ministry with you. You have been and will remain in our daily prayers.

The two Godspeed Celebrations were delightful, and we thank you so much for the generous monetary gift. However, your greatest gift to us has been your commitment to serving those in need.

In addition to the marvelous Office Staff of Loretta and Linda, the two dynamic Music Directors of Brian and Harvey, and the amazing support of Church Council President, Tom Steinmann, we would love to list those persons who have been so helpful to us, but we would end up unintentionally missing someone. As a result, we simply say thank you to each and every one of you.

We rejoice at the Calling of Pastor Darla Ann and pray blessings on your shared ministry together.

Some of you have asked for our Peoria address. It is –

4019 West Talus Court
Peoria, Illinois 61615

In God's Agape Love,
Pastor Paul and Rosy

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Events and special observances.

AUGUST

- Men's Club Breakfast, Aug 3
- Worship Services in Chapel in the Pines, Aug 3-4
- Farewell & Blessing of College Students, Aug 3-4
- School Supply Collection, Aug. 3-4 & 10-11
- Blessing of Back Packs, Lunch Boxes & Children, Aug 10-11
- Morning Glories Summer Bible Discussion, Aug 8
- S.O.S. Soup Kitchen (1st Presbyterian), Aug 13
- Newsletter Deadline, Aug 15
- Installation and Reception of Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer, Aug 18
- Confirmation Orientation, Aug 25
- Newsletter Assembly, Aug 28

SEPTEMBER

- Labor Day/Church Office Closed, Sep 2
- Men's Club Breakfast, Sep 7
- Fall Sunday Worship Schedule Returns, Sep 8 (8 & 10:45 am)
- Worship Services in Chapel in the Pines, Sep 7-8
- Blessing of the Three Year Old's, Sep 7-8
- Dedication of Education Staff, Sep 7-8
- Sunday School Classes, 3 Year-Adults Resume, Sep 8
- Rally Day Picnic, Sep 8
- Grandparents Day, Sep 8
- Various Adult Bible Studies Resume, Sep 9, 11, 12 & 21
- S.O.S. Soup Kitchen, (St. John), Sep 12
- Newsletter Deadline, Sep 17
- Alzheimer's Walk, Sep 21
- Fall Begins, Sep 23
- Newsletter Assembly, Sep 25
- Fair Trade Fall Tea, Sep 29

OCTOBER

- Men's Club Breakfast, Oct 5
- Blessing of the Animals Worship Service in Chapel in the Pines, Oct 5
- World Communion Day/Taste of the World Event, Oct 6
- S.O.S. Soup Kitchen (1st Presbyterian), Oct 8
- Columbus Day/Church Office Closed, Oct 14
- Newsletter Deadline, Oct 15
- National Boss Day, Oct. 16
- Feed My Starving Children/Manchester Event, Oct. 18
- High School Youth Greenery Fund Raiser Begins, Oct. 19-20
- Reformation Weekend, Oct 26-27
- Newsletter Assembly, Oct 30
- Reformation Day, Oct 31





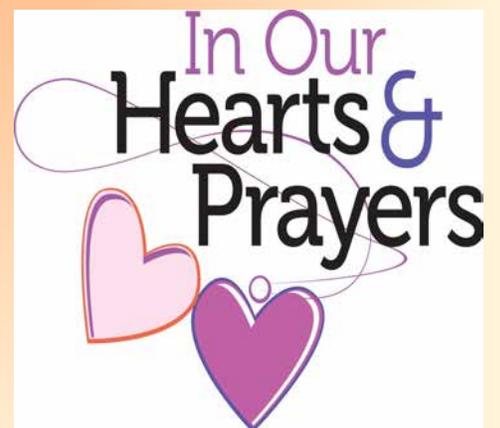
PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell
 Major James Carmichael
 Capt. Blake Crosby
 Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby
 Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby
 SPC Bill Homes
 Charles Homes
 Zach Huff
 AB Lucas Maue
 John Meyer
 Zachary Neubauer
 Amador Ochoa
 Josh Pace
 Scott Prengel
 Jake Randall
 Jack Scoles
 Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith
 Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)
 Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

Ruth Ann Blotevogel
Terry Brady
Dan Homes
Barb Erickson
Greg Fremder
Jim Green
Linda Harriss
Rudy Kantola
Don Klingsick
Erick Larson
Claire Maue
Patrick Noga
Sue Perkins
John Puricelli
Dona Racich
Jeff Scheiter
Harry & Lynn Thiel
Karen Tilashalski
Larry Trucano
Joan Vail
Jean Weishaupt
Elizabeth White
Lisa White





IN SYMPATHY

Lori Fremder Family (at the death of her cousin & Godfather Tom on June 5)

Karen Larson & Dave Geiler Family (at the death of their Uncle George Sticksel, and the late Margie Geiler's twin brother) in late May.

Chuck & Cindy Pugh Family (at the death of Chuck's father Dwight Pugh on May 19)

Rhonda & Scott Comrie Family (at the death of her cousin Greg Rubin on June 18)

Tony DiBartolo Family (at death of his Uncle Michael Montilone on May 31)

Joette McNeilly (at the death of her husband Denny McNeilly on June 15)



THANK YOU

"Thank you so much for the condolences at the passing of my dad. We truly appreciate all the warm words of comfort during this tough time."

Chuck and Cindy Pugh
The Family of C. Dwight Pugh



PRAYER CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Cassie Fremder-Jones
Tesla Krueger
Lynn Thiel
Randy Helms
Hazel McGuire
Connie Nyland
Sarah White
Ruth Ann Blotevogel
Karen Eastby
Forrest Hancock
Sue Perkins
Nicole Williams
Connie Wyvell
Mary Ann Fritz
Gail Jorgenson
Roberta Maue
Rebekah Perry
Sharon Bruhn
Don Simonson
Cassie Turner
Megan Corrie
Danny Schrader
Evan Blind



John Mladucky
Leighton Morris
Elaine Baden
Kristina Becker Wright
Chuck Pugh
Tom Steinmann
Matt Turner
Lia Kampwerth
Tonia Bridenbaugh
Bruce Fritz
Laurie Hensley
Brian Lotz-Manns
Courtney Litton-
McGuire
John Huster
Emerson Morris
Don Schlonat
Barb Stahlheber
Tyler Wyvell
Terry Sanders
Kathy Shemwell
Alice Azure
Zeke Huster



Jim & Marcine Lemke
Don & Jackie Schlonat
Scott* & Michelle Mihalich
Matt & Liz Blind
Nathan & Meghan Richard
Tim & Laura Schoenecker
Mike & Loretta Williams
Lee* & Barb Werne
Josh & Meredith* Eastby
David & Caryl Kassing
Don & Elaine Baden

Prayers for Family and Friends of Church Members

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Gladys Adams (Nicole Williams' friend)
All Farmers
Steve Anderson (Beth Giese's brother)
Jeff Bombal (Comrie's nephew)
Isabella Boyer (Noga's 13 year old neighbor)
Estella Brock (Irene VanHooser's Friend)
Pat C. (Schoenecker's friend)
Jeff Callahan
Lucian Cojucaru
Bill Cross (Mike Williams' friend's uncle)
Austin Cummings (Erick & Karen Larson's grandson)
Brenda Cussanelli
Priscilla Donals
Judy Douglass (Karen Tilashalski's aunt)
Fred Edmonds
Bruce Fernie (Lori Fremder's friend)
Vickie Finan (Kassing's niece)
Carol Gendron (Lori Messina's mother)
Glenda
Miranda Goes (Kassing's friend)
Penny Grimes (Hoelscher's friend)
Matt Gross
Sue Harris (Linda Spencer's close friend)
David Hendricks
Jean Huster (Dora Clawges' sister-in-law)
Sandra Ingram (Mike Williams sister)
Leslie Johns

Journey Kampton (Erick Larson's Friend's granddaughter)
Thom Kolosieke (Megan Kolosieke father-in-law)
Lura Lee
Bishop Phillip Lichtenwalter (Caitlyn Baczewski's friend)
David Lydick (Deanne Holshouser's cousin)
Gene Manly (Tatjenhorst's neighbor)
Kathryn Martin (Karen Larson's friend)
Maryville Outreach Center & Volunteers
Jim Maue (Roberta Maue's friend)
Jerry McBride
Charlie McCord
Heather McKinley (Carol Orr's Cousin)
Michael Meyer (Barb Erickson's grandson)
Don Muller (Terry Menz' brother)
Margaret Neubauer (White's sister-in-law)
Brantley Noble
J. Grace Parsons (Harvey Chiles friend)
Peggy (Caryl Kassing's friend)
Stephanie Polston (Karen Larson's friend)
Jason Ralston (Jodi Pugh's brother)
Rhonda Reuter (Sue Green's H.S. friend)
Pr. Lev Reynolds
Lucas Wade Rodell (Carole Callahan's nephew)

Brenda Simmons (Irene VanHooser's friend)
Loralee Snyder (Tim Nyland's aunt)
Alex Spudich
Harriett Stensland
Ken Strong (Carole Callahan's brother)
Rod & Sharon Summer (Williams' neighbors)
Steve Tatjenhorst (Fred & Joyce Tatjenhorst's son)
Doug Wannan
Jean Wheeland (Beth Giese's mother)
Robert White (David White's father)
Diane Wooden
Nick Zappia (Davidson's son-in-law)
Kirsten & David and Expected First Child





"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A= E= I= O= U=

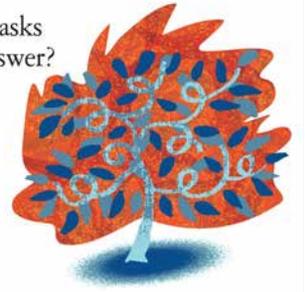
I k _ _ p my _ y _ s
 I l w _ y s _ n th _ L _ RD.
 W th h _ m _ t my
 r _ ght h _ nd,
 w ll n _ t b _ sh _ k _ n.
 Ps _ lm 16:8, N _ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV

Bible Quiz

At the burning bush, Moses asks God's name. What is God's answer?

- A. The Lord
- B. I AM
- C. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- D. All of the above



Answer: D (See Exodus 3:14-15.)

Puzzle!

Determine the letter patterns and fill in the blanks to complete Galatians 5:1, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

F	Q	L	V	C	R	O				
G	R	K	U	D	Q	P				
H	S	J	T	E	P	Q				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
I	O	B	H	A	L	P	Q	K	D	W
H	P	C	G	B	M	O	R	J	C	V
G	Q	D	F	C	N	N	S	I	B	U
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F	E	U	L	P	W	E	D	V		
E	F	T	K	Q	V	F	C	U		
D	G	S	J	R	U	G	B	T		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
P	B	Q	R	V	C	O	H	B		
Q	C	R	S	U	D	P	G	C		
R	D	S	T	T	E	Q	F	D		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

Answer: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1, NIV)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3 - 8 - Illinois Global Academy	2 10:30 - Staff Meeting 7 - Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon	3 Thomas, Apostle 10:30 - Office Angels	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 Church Office Closed	6 Pentecost 4 3:30 - Praise Band 5 - Worship/Chapel in the Pines 6:30 - 1st of the Month Dinner Out
7 Pentecost 4 9 - Worship/Chapel in the Pines 10:30 - Hospitality	8 3 - 8 - Illinois Global Academy 6:30 - Steering Team	9 10:30 - Staff Meeting 7 - Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon; Praise Band	10	11 10 - Morning Glories Summer Bible Discussion 10:30 - Office Angels 3:30-7 - SOS Soup Kitchen; St John's UCC 6 - 8:30 - Hindu Worship	12	13 Pentecost 5 3:30 - Praise Band 5 - Worship 6:15 - Fellowship
14 Pentecost 5 9 - Worship 10:30 - Hospitality	15 11:30 - Serendipity Book Club 3 - 8 - Illinois Global Academy	16 Newsletter Deadline 10:30 - Staff Meeting 7 - Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon	17	18 10:30 - Office Angels 6:30 - Recovery 360- Family Support	19	20 Pentecost 6 9 - Le Leche League 12-5 - Nemsky Bridal Shower 3:30 - Praise Band 5 - Worship 6:15 - Fellowship
21 Pentecost 6 9 - Worship 10:30 - Hospitality 1-6 - Henderson Graduation/Send off Party	22 Mary Magdalene, Apostle 3 - 8 - Illinois Global Academy Church Council 6:30 -	23 10:30 - Staff Meeting 7 - Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon ; Praise Band	24	25 James, Apostle 10:30 - Office Angels 6 - MOC Board	26	27 Pentecost 7 School Supply Collection 3:30 - Praise Band 5 - Worship 6:15 - Fellowship
28 Pentecost 7 School Supply Collection 9 - Worship 10:30 - Hospitality	29 3 - 8 - Illinois Global Academy	30 9:30 - Newsletter Assembly 10:30 - Staff Meeting 7 - Narcotics Anonymous, Nar-Anon	31	