

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God Our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises to God; and the prisoners heard them.” Acts 16:25

Talk about a rough day. Paul had cast out a demon. The masters of the formerly possessed woman, seeing their source of cash flow dry up, catch Paul and Silas. The missionaries are then taken to the marketplace and falsely accused. The crowd starts to beat Paul and Silas. To add insult to injury, literally, Paul and Silas are then thrown into prison.

Every inch of their bodies must have been sore from the bruises and stripes that the crowd inflicted on them unjustly. They could probably close their eyes and see the angry faces that had surrounded them.

In their cell, they sat praying and singing hymns. They have just suffered a bunch of violent acts for speaking the gospel and doing God's will. Now in prison they sing hymns and pray. Not softly either because others can hear them. The other prisoners were listening when an earthquake occurs. Every door in the prison swings open. I'm sure at this point most of us would say “Thank you God” and rush out.

The guard seeing the open doors pulls out his sword with the intention of killing himself. Wow! Open doors and soon the guard will be dead. Couldn't get any better if we planned it ourselves, we might think. How could we see this as anything but God providing an opportunity for us?

That is exactly what Paul saw and he seized it. “Don't harm yourself, we're all here.” Trembling the guard grabs a light and falls at the feet of Paul and Silas. He asks “What must I do to be saved?”

Was that the opportunity we saw? The opportunity to bring the guard to Christ.

Then Paul and Silas get to speak to the guard's entire household. The guard cleans their wounds. Everyone in the household is baptized, followed by having a meal together. Everyone is rejoicing at receiving new life in Christ.

Honestly, I doubt that anyone of us would have felt guilty had the guard committed suicide and we had escaped. Especially, since it was an injustice that we were even there. Many of us would have cheerfully spoken about how God had provided for us so that we could escape, including the guard committing suicide.

God's work was not to see the guard and his household lost in sin for all eternity. For Christ died for him and his family as well. It would never be God's will and neither would He ever want to see someone commit suicide.

If we reflect on this opportunity, we can only imagine how many we miss every day. This is what loving our neighbor as ourselves really looks like. We know the other prisoners were also affected by the hymns and prayers of these two men as they listened. We just don't know to what extent.

So Paul and Silas' response to their rough day turned it into a moment to inspire others until Christ comes again.

May God open our eyes to His ways and the opportunities that He provides for us to serve Him every day.

SDG,

Pastor

If you have a prayer need or praise to share, please contact Pastor or Amy Betts in the church office anytime at 570-703-0607.

News of The Lutheran Academy!

Working in partnership with God's people to raise up a new generation of faithful Christian men and women!



TACOS & NACHOS

The final fundraiser of the school year happened on May 22nd at the academy building. We held our first ever Taco & Nachos fundraiser and it was a success. The weather cooperated and there were tables outside for on-site eating. Family, friends, and even some Monsey Ave neighbors stopped by to enjoy great food for a great cause.

We are pleased to announce \$648 was raised. Special thank you to those from Peace who stopped by for tacos!

The Lutheran Academy families, staff, and board all appreciate your continued support of the school through these fundraisers, donations, and especially your prayer.

The Lutheran Academy End of Year Awards Night Thursday, June 3rd 6:30pm

You are invited to hear about all the great things learned by the students at the Academy this year. Teachers will also be presenting their classroom awards as well as prestigious Presidential and Principal awards. This will be a virtual event, so if you are interested in attending, please call or email Amy Betts who will share the Zoom link and password.



The Lutheran Academy 8th Grade Graduation Thursday, June 10th 6:30pm

We have 4 students graduating from The Lutheran Academy this year; **Jaelyn, Janique, Trent, and Vincent**. These 4 students and their families, plus the staff and board of TLA will be live in the sanctuary at the LMC for this special evening. We will be streaming it live via our Facebook page and in a Zoom link for the rest of the students, families, and supporters like you to virtually attend.

If you are interested in attending, please call or email Amy Betts who will share the Zoom link and password.

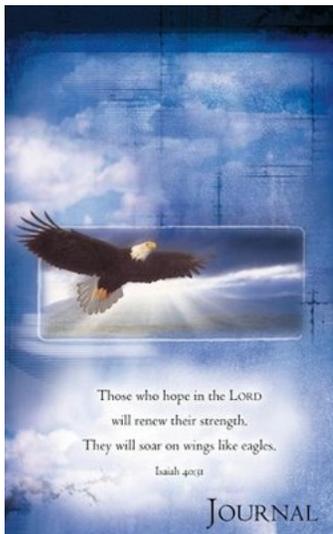
And as always, we ask you to lift up in prayer the futures of our 8th graders as they move on to high school and beyond.

Have you seen the billboard? It will be up until mid-September and we pray that this exposure will lead more families to consider The Lutheran Academy for their student(s) this fall.

If you would like to see it in person, you can find it at the entrance to the Linden Street Parking Garage on the 300 block of N Washington Avenue in downtown Scranton.

Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17

Remember to ask: "How can I pray for you?"



Last month you were asked to think about the questions: Why do people do good things? How did you answer the question? Did you surprise yourself with what you wrote? Was it a response you were proud of? Does the way you live reflect how you responded or was how you answered very different from how you live?

Your question for June is:
Why do people do bad things?

Make sure to place the date and your thoughts on the page. If you would like to discuss them with Pastor that would be great! If you want to keep them to yourselves that is fine as well. You may also want to note whether you prayed for anyone that day and whether you read the Bible at all that day. Don't worry about how few or how many pages you use each day. At the end of the challenge, Pastor will ask you to share some insights from the challenge anonymously for inclusion in the newsletter.

(The questions I am asking you are inspired by Questions on the website of the New Jersey District of The LCMS written by Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, author of a book on worldview.)

SUMMER HOURS begin on Father's Day - Sunday, June 20th
with one Sunday morning service at **9:18am.**
Saturday service will continue at 5:00pm.



Confirmation

Faith Babbitts, Monica Fornaszewski and Trent Mancini (and 8th grader at TLA) are scheduled to be confirmed on Sunday, June 20th at the 9:18am worship service.

Please join in praying for these young people as they make their public declaration and complete this next step in their faith journey.

+ HYMN OF THE MONTH: **SJ #178 Thy Word**

Thy Word is a song that appeared on Amy Grant's album Straight Ahead released in 1984. It was the product of Michael W. Smith and Amy based on Psalm 119:105. Michael had written the tune and some words for the chorus. Amy loved what she heard. Michael gave her the song to finish the lyrics. At the time they were at the Caribou ranch in the Rocky Mountains. Amy got lost at night on the 8,000 acre ranch. Walking in the pitch black darkness of night she finally saw a light in the distance. It turned out to be her cabin. She went inside and wrote down the words we sing.

*When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.*

As we travel through the uncertainty of life this song reminds us we need never fear.

JUNE

Birthdays

Emiline Black	9
Tanya Babbitts	12
Ky Betts	26
Jim Calpin	29
Nicole Calpin	29

Baptism Birthdays

John Babbitts III	6
Amy Betts	8
Alfred Betts	23

Could we pack anymore into ONE day?

On **Father's Day, June 20th, 2021** we go to one service at 9:18 a.m.

On **Father's Day June 20th**, we will be lifting all our Covid measures and going back to normal.

On **Father's Day June 20th**, we will be celebrating Confirmation. So mark **June 20th** on your calendar for worship time change, return to normal worship practices, and confirmation.

Did I mention that is **Father's Day on June 20th?**



Expand kids' worldview with an interesting, age-appropriate introduction to LCMS International Mission.

This series of five video-based sessions is designed for 1st through 6th grade students, and can be adapted for younger children as well.

These 45-60 minute sessions will introduce kids to the people and places of LCMS International Mission, showing them how God uses missionaries in diverse places to add to His family.

The videos can be used in individual or classroom settings, and a Leader's Guide will be offered to help parents or teachers walk their kids through the sessions.

Content is designed to be used at your own pace throughout the summer with a final mission celebration event in August.

Visit international.lcms.org/missions-unpacked

for more information about Missions Unpacked.

June Fundraiser: **Pot Roast Dinner**

Saturday, June 5th
TAKE OUT from 4:00-6:00pm

\$11 each
Peace Lutheran Church

Advanced tickets are recommended.



Jim Calpin will once again delight our tasebuds with his delicious pot roast dinner. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers to purchase a meal and support the work of Peace Lutheran Church.

This one will sell out fast, so get your tickets early!
No guarentees of walk-in meals being available.

Speak to Amy Betts at church or by calling the office (570-703-0607)
to reserve your dinners.

The coloring page in the newsletter each month can be turned in and we will send them to the residents at The Gardens at Greenridge where our beloved Audrey Russell lives.

God Bless You! From your friend _____ at Peace Lutheran Church.



JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am-noon Academy Open House	2	3	4	5 3:00-4:00pm Confirmation Class 4-6pm Pot Roast Dinner Fundraiser 5:00pm Worship
6 8:15 Worship with Communion 10:30 Worship with Communion	7	8	9	10 6:30pm - 8th Grade Graduation at TLA (guests may attend virtually via ZOOM)	11	12 3:00-4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
13 8:15 Worship with Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	14	15	16	17	18	19 3:00-4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
20 Father's Day Confirmation Sunday 9:18am Worship Service with communion	21	22	23	24	25	26 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
27 9:18am Worship Service	28	29	30			

JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rev Dean Schroeder – Martinus Lutheran Church, Utica, SD	2 Rev Aaron Asmus, Rev Douglas Slavens - Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls SD	3 Rev Ray Greeneth - Messiah Lutheran Church, Murdo, SD	4 Rev Matthew Utecht – Messiah Lutheran Church, Redfield, SD	5 Rev Christopher Navurskis, Rev Kevin Koester – Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD
6 Rev Micah Bauer, Rev Matthew Wurm- Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD	7 Rev Iver L. Possehl, Mt Olive Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD	8 Rev Ryan Drevlow- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD	9 Rev Lucas Edwards, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD	10 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Philip, SD	11 Rev David Warner, Our Redeemer, Custer, SD	12 Rev Kenneth Johnson – Our Savior Lutheran Church, Springfield, SD
13 Rev Clint Thorson- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, SD	14 Rev Jordan Anderson, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD	15 Rev David Warner – Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hill City, SD	16 Rev Martin Herzberg – Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wilmot, SD	17 Rev Michael Keller – Peace Lutheran Church, Alcester, SD	18 Rev Timothy Rynearson, Rev Samuel Thole – Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD	19 Rev David Lindenberg, Peace Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD
20 Rev Timothy Rynearson, Rev Samuel Thole, - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Flandreau	21 Rev Jens Jenson – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, SD	22 Rev Matthew Utrecht, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Doland, SD	23 Rev Christopher Ascher – Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD	24 Rev Jonah Domenichelli, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Tea, SD	25 Rosebud Lutheran Church, Rosebud, SD	26 Rev Lloyd W Redhage, St John Lutheran Church, Britton, SD
27 Rev Leonard Spiehs, Rev Richard Weeman, St John Lutheran Church, Wolsey, SD	28 Rev Steven Weisfennig, Rev Levi Wilms, St John Lutheran Church, Yankton, SD	29 Rev John Andraesen – St John Lutheran Church, Columbia, SD	30 Rev Clint Thorson St John Lutheran Church, Howard, SD	PRAAYER CALENDAR Pastors and Congregations in South Dakota		