



OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

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MAY 2024

FROM YOUR VACANCY PASTOR

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

In the musical Camelot, there is a phrase that I think many people believe is the right course of action. “Tra la, it's May, the lusty month of May That lovely month when everyone goes blissfully astray Tra la, it's here, that shocking time of year When tons of wicked little thoughts merrily appear.”

Why do I say that? It is because after the celebration of Easter is over, it seems some members believe attending worship becomes optional. The attendance figures do not lie. They will confirm what I am saying.

So, you might say, “What’s the big deal?” The big deal is that people are treating God’s gifts for them as they are not really that important. The devil sells people that bill of goods, because he is hoping that when they do not receive the gifts that Christ earned for them on Calvary they will begin to wither and die spiritually.

Receiving God’s spiritual gifts are far more detrimental to you than skipping meals or not having enough food. These gifts are meant to sustain you through the trials and testing which you must endure in this sin-laden world. These gifts are what give strength and encouragement when it seems like the world and the devil are throwing all they could in order to cause you to despair even of life.

What are those gifts? The first is God’s inspired and inerrant Word. That is what it is crucial that not only are you reading your Bible personally, but that you come to hear it read and expounded in the sermons

that your pastor prepares to feed you the sheep of the Good Shepherd. They are words of life that will help you to live your daily life in His care and service.

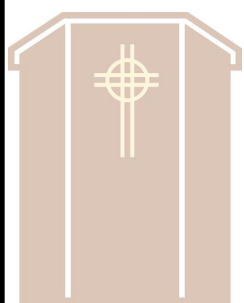
The second is the Lord’s Supper. It is there that you receive the very body and blood which was nailed to the cross so that you might have forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of life eternal. His resurrected body and blood offers, gives and seals to you the forgiveness of sins. Dr. Martin Luther commented on this saying, “And where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.”

That is why Satan wants you to consider worship attendance as optional. He does NOT want you to receive the gifts Christ has procured for you through His sin-atoning sacrifice. Satan knows that, if he can get you into a weakened spiritual state, he can throw a curve ball at you in order to knock you out of the game of eternal life into being subjected to his realm of darkness.

That is why the Lord tells us in the book of Revelation, “Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life,” and “Hold fast that which you have, that no one takes your crown.” How do you do that? Come to the Lord’s house and let Him feed you on the richest of food that only He can provide!

In the Lord’s service,

Rev. Howard Shane



CALL MEETING

All voting members are invited to attend a call meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 4—10:00AM

Deaconess Amanda's Activities



YOUTH GROUP
(GRADES 7-12)

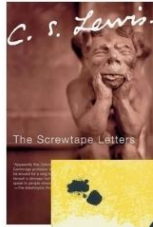
**Dinner with
Deaconess &
Scavenger Hunt**

May 5, 5-7 pm
in the Lounge

Kids 4 Christ
(Grades K-6)

May 3
May 17-Sendoff!
5:45-7:30 pm

Book Club



The Screwtape Letters
by C.S. Lewis

**Thurs, May 30
6:30 pm in the Lounge**

Next Read: June 13
Anne of Green Gables
by L.M. Montgomery



He is Risen

Thank you to all the ladies who attended the Women's Spring Retreat! I greatly enjoyed the time with you and I hope it was a wonderful time spent in God's Word and fellowship. Blessings!





May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month, a time to spread awareness about the dangers of skin cancer, share the facts, and help save lives.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, affecting more than five million people each year.

Skin cancer, the out-of-control growth of abnormal cells in the outer skin layer, is a cancer you can see. Yet skin cancer often goes undetected until it's too late. Early detection of skin cancer can save your skin and your life. Cancer awareness month aims to inspire you to open your eyes, get to know your skin, and **check yourself from head-to-toe once a month.** Skin cancer comes in many forms, and tumors don't always display the most well-known characteristics of the disease. To simplify the process, here are three things to look for when you are looking for skin cancer:

Keep an eye out for any **new** moles or blemishes that have popped up.

Always check if your spots are **changing** or **unusual** in color, shape, size, or texture.

If you see something new, changing, or unusual **go get checked** by a dermatologist. It could save your life.

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common form of skin cancer and the most frequently occurring form of all cancers. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 3.6 million cases are diagnosed each year. BCCs arise from abnormal, uncontrolled growth of the basal cells of the epidermis.

Because BCCs grow slowly, most are curable and cause minimal damage when caught and treated early.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the skin is the second most common form of skin cancer, characterized by abnormal, accelerated growth of squamous cells in the epidermis. When caught early, most SCCs are curable.

Melanoma begins in cells known as melanocytes, the skin cells that produce melanin pigment, which gives skin its color. While melanomas make up a slightly smaller number of skin cancer cases than BCC or SCC, it is more dangerous because of its ability to more rapidly spread to other organs if it is not recognized and treated at an early stage.

The good news is that if you catch skin cancer early enough it can mean the difference between life and death.

skincancer.org

Karen Morfitt RN
ORLC Parish Nurse

GUYS' GARAGE

Guy's Garage will meet in the church fellowship hall **Thursday May 16 at 6:00 p.m.** for a meal and a second cribbage tournament. Please bring a cribbage board if you have one and a deck of cards and a side dish. The main dish will be a rotisserie chicken. If you do not know how to play cribbage here is a website with the rules and strategies: <https://bicyclecards.com/how-to-play/cribbage/>

All ladies are invited to attend a ladies' luncheon on **Saturday, May 11 at 11:30 a.m.** This is an annual event put on by the men of our congregation.



Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend!



Our church softball team plays each Thursday! They are playing at Sherman Park (next to Great Plains Zoo on Kiwanis Ave). Come cheer them on!

May 2	7:30 pm—Field E	May 23	6:30 pm—Field I
	8:30 pm—Field E		8:30 pm—Field G
May 9	6:30 pm—Field I	May 30	6:30 pm—Field E
	8:30 pm—Field I		7:30 pm—Field F
May 16	7:30 pm—Field F		
	8:30 pm—Field E		



*KDLT (NBC)
channels 5.1 / 46.1*

*This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit:
www.mainstreetliving.com*

10:30 AM - Rev. Daniel Deardoff, Sr., pastor at Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brandon, presents a message titled "A Prayer Meant to be Overheard." This sermon is based on John 17:11b-19.

May 5, 2024

10:00 AM - "How Come A Nice Girl Like You" - A nurse struggles with what to do after reconnecting with an old boyfriend.

10:30 AM - Rev. Bob Moeller, pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Pipestone, MN, presents a message titled "How to Overcome the World." This sermon is based on 1 John 5:4-5.

May 12, 2024

10:00 AM - "A Will to Live" - A man leaves a large portion of his money to the church and hospital, then has his will contested by relatives.

May 19, 2024

10:00am - "Man in the Middle" - Two Men are left with a "secret" when one tells he has terminal cancer.

10:30 AM - Rev. Steve Schulz, from Mission Central in Mapleton, IA, presents a message titled "The Spirit of Truth." The sermon is based on Acts 2:1-21.

May 26, 2024

10:00 AM - "Return Trip" -The modern-day story of a prodigal daughter.

10:30 AM - Chaplain Craig G. Muehler, Director of Ministry to the Armed Forces in St. Louis, MO, presents a Memorial weekend message.

**Members:**

Mary Berg
 Carol Daniels
 Mike Gabel
 Bob Graham
 Gary Hickcox
 Chuck Kuntze
 Roberta Mathiason
 Ken Schmuck
 Clarence Strampe
 Jeanne Toay
 Mary Warns

Betty Berry
 Krysten Ehlers
 Lorraine Gage
 Norb Griebel
 Donna Kunz
 Louise Lafrentz
 Al Schlueter
 Susan Schopp
 James Streyle
 Rhoda Thomas
 Lois Willson

Our Homebound Members:

Mary Berg
 Dan Clauson
 Marge Dreesman
 Cib Gaffer
 Duane Genzlinger
 Roberta Mathiason
 Maxine Owens
 Larry Sroufe
 Maria Warns

Betty Berry
 Mary Clauson
 Dorothy Dueis
 Lorraine Gage
 Darlene Johnson
 Dorothy Oleson
 Ken Schmuck
 Jeanne Toay
 Audrey Wintersteen

Serving in the Military:

Joshua Bohling
 Curtis Furry
 Andrew Quam
 Matthew VanTassel
 Caleb Wosje

William East
 Luis Martinez
 Dawson Schopp
 Tyler VanTassel

Loved Ones :

Clara; Helen Hartmann's Sister
 Kolbe; Friend of Roberta Mathiason
 Randy; Karen Morfitt's Brother
 Matt; Barb Ewoldt's Son
 Byron; Roberta Mathiason's Son
 Robin; Bob & Pam Berg's Daughter
 Bernard; Brother of Helen Hartmann
 Susie; Daughter-in-Law of Helen Schauer
 Debra; Ed & Jean Harmdierks' Friend
 Mark; Son of Bob Graham
 Dillon; Kathy Haar's Cousin
 JoAnn; Roberta Mathiason's Sister
 David; Friend of Our Redeemer
 Augustin; Blanca Giron's Brother
 Joan; AJ Holtz's Grandmother
 Brian; Kathy Haar's Cousin
 Ashley; Kathy Haar's Cousin
 Dan; Duane & Helen Hartmann's Son-in-Law
 Garth; Friend of Roger & Kathy Lueth
 Marlys; Sharon Strampe's Sister
 Jennifer; Bob & Marlene Nelson's Daughter
 Mike; Ed & Jean Harmdierks' Nephew
 Jodi; Niece of Larry & Rose Marie Sroufe
 Lorraine; Mother of Carol Daniels
 Alaina; Friend of the Morfitts
 Chad; Nephew of Ed & Jean Harmdierks
 Jayden; Niece of Ashley Consoer
 Carol; Friend of Roger & Kathy Lueth

Organist / Accompanist



May 5	Kathy Lueth
May 9	Kathy Lueth
May 12	Rev. Howard Shane
May 19	Mary Sandbulte
May 26	Kathy Lueth



May 5	Drew Dewitz Evelyn Thorn
May 12	Drew Dewitz Will Thorn
May 19	Elliott Leonard Adalie Ross
May 26	<u>Acolyte Needed</u> <u>Acolyte Needed</u>



Altar Flowers

May 5	Chuck & Sandie Kuntze, in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary
May 12	None
May 19	Tim & Kristy Eden, in celebration of their wedding anniversary and Rachel's graduation
May 26	None

MAY WORLD WATCH LIST COUNTRIES

Syria

Despite Syria's conflict easing slightly in recent years, the challenges facing Christians continue to be numerous and severe.

In areas where Islamic militants are active, leaders of historical churches are particularly vulnerable to attack or kidnap, while most buildings belonging to such groups have been demolished or co-opted for Islamic use. For Christians living in these areas, there is little scope for expressing their faith, and many have been forcibly displaced from their homes.

In government-controlled areas, the authorities are tightening their grip on those whom they feel are a threat to social stability including converts from Islam to Christianity. The attitude of the Syrian government towards churches is determined by the Christian community to which they belong. Although all Christian communities come under pressure, historical churches are in a stronger position to defend their rights than those from non-traditional church groups such as Evangelicals, Baptists and Pentecostals.

Throughout Syria, pockets of conflict persist, and Christians continue to be caught in the crossfire. In some

cases, they're deliberately targeted, for example, in Afrin, where Turkish-backed troops are reported to be targeting Kurdish Christians.

Those who choose to leave Islam to follow Jesus can face intense pressure from their own families, particularly those living in Sunni regions.

- Pray that God will continue to help His people to be salt and light following last year's devastating earthquakes.
- Ask that believers from Muslim backgrounds will draw strength from the Holy Spirit as they face opposition for choosing to follow Jesus.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will give relief and refreshment to Syrian Christians who have endured so much over the last decade.

Saudi Arabia

The small number of Saudi Christians has been slowly increasing and they're becoming bolder, sharing their faith with others online and on satellite TV, but it comes at a cost.

This is because conversion from Islam to Christianity is unacceptable under Islamic law, in fact it's considered

one of the biggest sins a Muslim can commit. If discovered, men and boys are more likely to be forced out of the home, whereas women and girls are usually isolated and abused within the home. All converts risk being killed to "restore" the family honor. While some Saudi Christians are open about their faith, most choose to keep it hidden, even from their own children, so they don't inadvertently reveal their parents' faith.

Foreign Christians can face similar challenges. All expatriates are severely restricted in sharing their faith with Muslims and gathering for church activities. Doing so can lead to detention and deportation. Asian and African workers are regularly exposed to verbal and physical abuse because of their ethnicity and low status, but their Christian faith can also play a role. Persecution can be exacerbated if they are from Muslim backgrounds.

Encouragingly, there seems to be more openness in society to expressing and exploring new ideas, and some Saudis are exploring Christianity. There are also reports that many young people would not be against allowing the presence of church buildings in Saudi Arabia. Amid pressure and persecution, God is on the move.

- Please pray that secret believers will find other Christians to meet with, and that Christian communities will have discernment and courage as they distinguish between true believers and spies.
- Ask that Christians will be led to those who are searching for truth, and that the number of people coming to know Jesus will grow.
- Pray that Saudi society would be opened to allowing people to freely follow Jesus.

Mali

The Islamic extremist insurgency that devastated the north of Mali in 2012 continues to have huge implications for the country's small number of Christians.

Churches were burned down and many Christians lost their homes and had to flee the region. Although some Christians and congregations have returned under police protection, they still live under the threat of attack. Those living in areas controlled by militants have been denied access to water and land to grow crops. Believers who engage in evangelistic activities in the north are especially vulnerable to violence, while Christian missionaries live under the constant threat of abduction by jihadists. Those who leave Islam to follow Jesus risk violence and pressure from their relatives and communities if their new faith is discovered.

The jihadist violence is spreading southward, and the country's institutions are breaking apart at a fast rate,

further playing into the hands of jihadist groups. The authorities' inability to stem the insurgency has led to public protests and contributed to two military takeovers (in 2020 and 2021). The country has also become a geopolitical battleground between the west and east, making Christians vulnerable to government-related persecution.

- Please pray for courage and safety for Christians living at risk of attack from Islamic militants
- Pray that those affected by persecution will have a profound experience of God's comfort
- Ask that elections will go ahead this year, leading to stronger, just governance in Mali.

Algeria

In Algeria, persecution is driven by society and extremist Islamic teachers who exert influence over state authorities. This means Christians experience persecution from their families, their communities and the government.

Most Algerian Christians are converts from Islam. They face harassment and discrimination in their daily lives, and their families and community may try to force them to continue to adhere to Islamic norms and practices. They also face pressure—from both the government and their surrounding communities—to renounce their faith in Jesus and return to Islam.

Additionally, state pressure has increased on Protestant Christians to a level not seen in decades. Previously closed church buildings are still shut down, and many other churches were ordered to close. The government threatened to prosecute some church leaders if their churches continued to meet.

Algeria has laws restricting non-Muslim worship, including rules that prohibit anything that would "shake the faith of a Muslim" or could be used as a "means of seduction intending to convert a Muslim to another religion." These vague laws can be used to pressure Christians to keep their faith quiet and to discourage anything outside of the majority faith.

- Please pray that God would be with Algerian church leaders and Christians who have seen their churches close. Ask God to intervene and help believers find a way to meet together.
- Pray for Christians who are accused or suspected of breaking the regulation making it illegal to "shake the faith of a Muslim."
- Ask that every Christian in Algeria would be able to worship freely with other Christians. Pray that God would protect them from abuse and oppression from family and community.



FROM THE

Pulpit

May 5, 2024 / Sixth Sunday of Easter

Topic: No Partiality

Text: Acts 10:34-48

May 9, 2024 / Ascension (THURSDAY)

Topic: Who's In Charge?

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

May 12, 2024 / Seventh Sunday of Easter

Topic: We're Still Here (Rev. Corey Aker)

Text: John 17:11-19

May 19, 2024 / Pentecost

Topic: The Lord and Giver of Life

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

May 26, 2024 / Holy Trinity Sunday

Topic: High and Lofty, But Compassionate

Text: Isaiah 6:1-8



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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