



4725 South Bradley Road
Santa Maria, California 93455
(805) 937-1116
Fax: (805) 937-2107
E-Mail: licosoffice@licos.net
Web site: www.licos.net
<http://www.facebook.com/LCOSSantaMaria>
Stephen A. Eckert, Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 59 – Number 9

September 2021

FROM THE PASTOR...

What are you thinking? We each have our own thoughts and, thank God, they're private. We don't have to share them with anyone. Thinking is maybe the most personal and private thing we can do. I read this on an internet blog: "What should you do when the women you're with asks you: "What are you thinking?" Every male in the world has had to deal with this question. Regardless of what you're doing, you must come up with a complete and satisfactory answer or stand accused of Hiding Your True Feelings: which means you'll spend the next week pretending to be sorry. So you've got to come up with something. And it better be good. Now, the obvious question here is: WHY do women want to know what we're thinking? Simple: they assume we're thinking in the first place. Hard to believe, but there it is. Women are always thinking and often about practical things. Men, on the other hand, are actively thinking for about five minutes out of every hour (usually not in sequence). So, at best, you have a one in 12 chance of catching a man actually having a thought. Despite the overwhelming evidence men are almost never thinking, women will still demand to know their innermost thoughts. In a way, it's touching; women are expressing faith that, if prodded long enough and frequently enough, they may yet boost the number of times we think in an hour. Unfortunately, most of what we'll be thinking is "stop asking me what I'm thinking."

Maybe it's not a great idea to ask "What are you thinking?" But it is a good idea to ask, "What was I thinking?" That's because sometimes we really mess up and when we look back at what we've done, what we've said, or the decisions we've made we truly are clueless as to why we did what we did, said what we said, or decided what we decided. Those are the times we ask, "What was I thinking? That's the



thing about getting older; the more years you have behind you the more times you ask yourself, "What was I thinking?" I'm a Lutheran through and through. I believe the Confessions of our Lutheran tradition—rightly and truthfully represent the basic teachings of the Christian faith. I believe the Bible is true—all of it. And I believe the Bible and our Creeds and the Confessions are important to our faith life. They are important like the foundation of a building. They are like the words of a song. So don't misunderstand what I say next. If your theology or your creeds or your confessions don't lead you into a relationship with the living God, it doesn't matter how Lutheran or Biblical they are. I used to think the truth of my creeds and confessions were big enough to hold all the truth about God. What was I thinking? God is a lot bigger than I thought he was. St. Paul understood; in Romans 11:36 he wrote: From him and through him and to him are all things.

It's useless to try to control something we can't. But that's life, isn't it? God is in ultimate control. He has the steering wheel. We don't get a vote. That's a humbling thing: sin resists it. I used to think I had God pretty much figured out. I put him into my "church" box, nice and tidy. But now I realize God won't be boxed in. You can't fold him up like a pair of socks and put him in your drawer. What was I thinking? God is not who I thought he was. He's much more than I thought he was. And he is in control of life, not me. That's scary.

How big is your God? Is he big enough to pull you through life's swamps? Is he big enough to pick you up and set you back on your feet when you fall down? Is he big enough to absorb all of the unanswered questions and mysteries of your life into himself and speak to you in his promises? Is he big enough to shoulder all the grief and sorrow you lay on his back? Is he big enough to raise you from the dead? How big is your God? How scary is your God? Is he scary enough to confront you with your sins? Is he scary enough to hold you accountable for your actions and decisions? Is he scary enough to challenge you to live a life that's better than you thought it might be and to become more than you help me, what should I do now? (and I feel helpless a lot). That's when God wants to say to me, "Trust my heart when you can't trace my hand."

My big, powerful, and sometimes scary God chooses to reach down to me. In his hands he carries gifts straight from his heart: a manger, cross, empty Easter tomb. And his gifts say to me God isn't just loving and he doesn't just act in loving ways: he IS love. manger, cross, empty Easter tomb: they supply the music to go along with the words of my life. Now simple words become a song: a love song God sings to me. "For God so loved the world" transform to "For God so loved me he sent his only begotten son..." And the song goes on...

The Lord is **MY** shepherd, I shall not want...

Come to me all you who labor and are carrying heavy burdens and [Steve] I will give **YOU** rest...



My peace I give to **YOU [Steve]**...

I am the bread of life. **[Steve]** come to me and never go hungry, believe in me and never be thirsty...

For my Father's will is that **YOU [Steve]** who look to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise **YOU [Steve]** up at the last day...

Sometimes you can know the words but still miss the song. Our God is bigger than you think. He's so big he can be small and come to you in manger, cross, and empty Easter tomb. God is bigger than you think. Big enough to love you even though you don't deserve it, and in loving you—give you music for your song of life. ✿



The next Singles Event will be held on **Sunday, September 19, at 3:00 PM in Stahnke Hall**. The fun will begin with Pictionary the first half, followed by Bingo in the second half. As always, you'll be among friends, have a chance to win a prize, and look forward to tempting and tasty snacks! Feel free to bring a friend. In order to have ample supplies, please RSVP to Anne at the church office (805-937-1116) or E-mail: licosoffice@licos.net by September 16. ✿

MOWING IN SEPTEMBER

Sep 4 – Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle

Sep 11 – Mark Hathaway, Lucas Mayes, Dick Scholar

Sep 18 – Corey Maddison, Harold Oliver

Sep 25 – Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting



STUDY OF ROMANS BEGINS

Small Group Bible Study starts up on **Wednesday, September 15, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. This 9-week study will focus on the Book of Romans. **Please register with Rudy or Cheryl Stowell (805-937-3654) to ensure ample workbooks.** ✿



Shirley Eckert
1224 North Suey Park Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454-2680

Ed & Doreen Fasig
1350 Suey Road, #144
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Barbara Ganschow
1350 North Suey Road, #350
Santa Maria, CA 93454

COME, ALL YE WHO LABOR

Celebrate Labor Day with your church family at **Avila Beach on September 6, 2021!** Location will be reserved by the basketball court and grill provided. Bring your meat to cook, a dish to share, and everything else you need to enjoy a day at the beach. **Come any time after 6 AM!** Any questions, call or text Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443. ✿



LABOR Day

**September 6, 2021
(Church Office Closed)**

?? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

A. once
B. twice
C. three times
D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

**ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE –
September**



Sep 5 – Communion
8:30 AM – Becky Zielke
10:30 AM – Caydee Eckert
Flowers: Jim LaBelle in thanksgiving for family, friends, and new grandchild

Sep 12 – 8:30 & 10:30 AM – Marianne Heuchert
Flowers: Open

Sep 19 – Communion
8:30 AM – Susan Wilcox
10:30 AM – Deborah Maddison
Flowers: Anita Lange's birthday

Sep 26 – 8:30 & 10:30 AM – Stephanie Clavin
Flowers: In memory of Mary Pflingsten



- Sep 4** Darcy Rust
- Sep 9** Lori Lee
- Sep 10** Cheryl Stowell, Jarine Sutton
- Sep 12** Christopher Allen
- Sep 16** Simon Pierce
- Sep 19** Anita Lange
- Sep 21** Marianne Heuchert
- Sep 23** Noah Clavin
- Sep 26** Susan Wilcox
- Sep 27** Sally Symonds
- Sep 28** Vanessa Tate
- Sep 29** Melanie Mayes, Stephen Sasser



- Sep 3** William & Marjorie Hord
- Sep 6** Brent & Stephanie Clavin
- Sep 12** Art & Susan Atrops
- Sep 17** Nathan & Dawn Schofield
- Sep 21** Dustin & Jennifer Graham,
Tom & Debbie Heuchert
- Sep 25** Charles & Jytte Willcox
- Sep 28** Ed & Doreen Fasig



FUND-RAISER

Help the youth group kids raise money for New York Gathering! Do you have a yard or home task with which you could use some help? Let the youth kids help you complete the task! **Please contact Mark Hathaway (805) 345-0548 to coordinate your task!** ☼

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML)

The Mite Box is available every Sunday in the Narthex.

Total Grants 2020-2022: \$124,000

Total Grants Yet to Be Funded: \$70,825

Anyone wishing to attend the Zone 9 (Lompoc to Paso Robles) Fall Rally at Peace Lutheran, Arroyo Grande, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, September 18, should contact Anita Lange at 937-6459. We will



gather at LCOS and car-pool. The Rally theme will be "Comfort Dogs." Well-known local dog trainers, the Randalls,

will explain their mission as well as show several of their dogs specifically trained as emotional support companions.

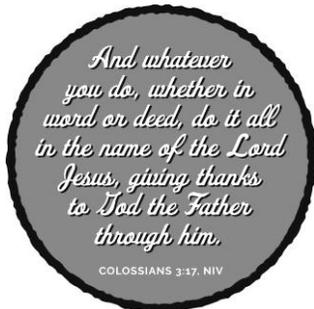
Tentative date for LWML rummage sale:

October 2. Collection will be Wednesday through Friday prior to the sale on Saturday. Help will be needed. Contact Anita Lange or Donna Finlay 937-3690. ✿

LABORING FOR THE LORD

For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being "off duty."

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. "Whatever your task," says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — "put yourselves into it as done for the Lord." Verse 17 tells us to "do everything" in Jesus' name, "giving thanks to God the Father through him."



That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, "Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence." ✿



Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r A y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ o _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 7)

bask - b = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define - ee = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift - t = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, asks, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit



MEN'S GROUP

2nd Monday of the Month

September 13

6 to 8 PM

Chef: Noel Rowe

Devotion: Dennis Payne

SEPTEMBER 2021
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ELDER	LESSON READER	MUSIC... CHOIRS	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
5 Sunday Communion	8:30 AM	Tom Heuchert Dennis Payne	Lisa DiModica		Karl DiModica	Altar: Becky Zielke
	10:30 AM	Mark Hathaway Art Atrops	Floyd Olson		Diana Brown	Altar: Caydee Eckert Flowers: Jim LaBelle in thanksgiving for family, friends, and new grandchild
12 Sunday	8:30 AM	Rudy Stowell	Jill Murdock		Terry Murdock	Altar: Marianne Heuchert
	10:30 AM	Todd Martin	Diana Brown		Michael Southern	Flowers: Open
19 Sunday Communion	8:30 AM	Jim LaBelle Rudy Stowell	Becky Zielke	Praise Team	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Susan Wilcox
	10:30 AM	Art Atrops Mark Hathaway	Deborah Maddison	Praise Team	Chris Allen	Altar: Deborah Maddison Flowers: Anita Lange's birthday
26 Sunday	8:30 AM	Todd Martin	Gary Lange		Dennis Payne Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Stephanie Clavin
	10:30 AM	Tom Heuchert	Debbie Heuchert		Michael Southern	Flowers: In memory of Mary Pfungsten
Please phone person (*) at right if you are unable to serve. >>>>>		ELDERS *Tom Heuchert 934-1051	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	CHOIRS <u>Sanctuary Choir</u> *Diana Brown 448-1990 <u>Praise Team</u> Jane Riddiough 937-5241	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD *Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Debbie Heuchert 805-264-4599

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR NECESSARY CHANGES WITH PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR MINISTRY;
INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116**