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 Allen Steinbeck, Intentional Interim Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 61 – Number 9

September 2023

FROM THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR...



Dear People of God in Christ Jesus,

As we move into September, I thought it good to share with you very briefly. After my August newsletter article, a number of you mentioned that you enjoyed being able to look ahead into the readings for the coming Sundays. You may remember from our August 6 sermon (and emailed notes) that we did a really brief “review” of the word *pericope* and the commonly used Three-Year cycle of suggested readings.

With these things in mind, I’m including a link to all the possibilities for Series A (Church Year 2022-2023). *(Please copy link below and paste into your browser.)* You can see for each Sunday or Feast Day that there are four possibilities from which we choose. I thought you might enjoy having this for your own reference and personal use. Happy reading!

https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/494380EB-EB1A-4792-A6F0-BC308189D70E?_gl=1*10eie4l*_ga*Mjk2OTE4NzUuMTY5MjgwMDI2OQ..*_ga_Z0184DBP2L*MTY5MjgwMDI2OS4xLjEuMTY5MjgwMTQxMC4wLjAuMA..

...Pastor Allen Steinbeck

Sep 03	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Sep 03	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.
Sep 04		Avila Beach
Sep 05	6:00 pm	Elders’ Mtg.
Sep 06	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study
Sep 10	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Sep 10	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Sep 13	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study
Sep 14	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Men’s Group
Sep 15	9:00 am	Oct Ministry Schedule Due
Sep 17	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Sep 17	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Sep 17	11:00 am	Council Mtg.
Sep 17	2:00 pm	Adult Fellowship
Sep 19	4:00 pm	P/S Board Mtg.
Sep 20	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study
Sep 20	9:00 am	Oct Newsletter Deadline
Sep 22-23-24		Family Camping
Sep 24	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Sep 24	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Sep 27	10:00 – 11:30 am	Small-Group Bible Study

MEMORIAL FOR DON BENSON

Saturday – September 23, 2023
 11:00 AM
*(Light lunch to follow in Stahnke Hall
 from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)*

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Saturday – September 30
 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sale Prep > Wed....9/27 (9 am – 5 pm)
 & > Thur....9/28 (9 am – 5 pm)
 Collection> Fri.....9/29 (9 am – 1 pm)

Note: Able-bodied men are needed to assist with preparations on Saturday morning at 6:00 AM.

MOWING IN SEPTEMBER

Sep 02 – Reese Riddiough, Nathan Schofield
 Sep 09 – Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle
 Sep 16 – Mark Hathaway, Lucas Mayes, Dick Scholar
 Sep 23 – Bill Williamson, Harold Oliver
 Sep 30 – Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting





- Sep 04 Darcy Rust
- Sep 09 Lori Lee
- Sep 10 Cheryl Stowell
- 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 29 Melanie Mayes, Stephen Sasser



- Sep 03 William & Marjorie Hord
- Sep 06 Brent & Stephanie Clavin
- Sep 12 Art & Susan Atrops
- Sep 17 Nathan & Dawn Schofield
- Sep 21 Dustin & Jennifer Graham,
Thomas & Deborah Heuchert
- Sep 25 Charles & Jytte Willcox
- Sep 28 Ed & Doreen Fasig

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



August

Sep 03 – Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Marjorie Hord – Set-Up

Lori Williamson – Take-Down

Flowers: Shelly Klotz in honor of her husband's (Jim Klotz) birthday

Sep 10 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Lori Williamson

Flowers: Tom & Debbie Heuchert's 49th wedding anniversary (September 21)

Sep 17 – Praise/Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Peggy Payne – Set-Up

Marianne Heuchert – Take-Down

Flowers: Anita Lange's birthday

Sep 24 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin

Flowers: Mark & Connie Hathaway in celebration of Melanie Mayes' birthday

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we know that we are called and saved by Grace through Faith to follow Jesus, the Son of God that came down to us in love. In the coming months, we will face many changes and with those changes there will be challenges and decisions. I expect we will each be called upon individually and collectively to rediscover our identity as Lutheran Church of Our Savior. It is an exciting time as is the case with most times of change.

As your Council President, and more importantly, your brother in Christ, I am asking each member of our congregation to consider what *you* WANT to do. As followers of Christ, we each have been given gifts to serve in His Kingdom and, given the opportunity, we *will* be moved by the Spirit to serve in our own way in response to the love He has shown us. So, please, look carefully at the activities and opportunities offered in this newsletter. If you are participating and enjoying it, share that with others and offer encouragement. If you are moved to suggest something new, please do so. We each have been given unique gifts by a loving Savior to serve in His Kingdom. My prayer is that each of us is moved, especially now, to step out in faith to seek new opportunities to serve in His Kingdom.



Our church currently has open seats on both the Stewardship Committee and the Discipleship and Outreach Committee. If you see this as an opportunity that you are being called toward, please let me know. We also have opportunities that do not involve being on any committee. There has been discussion about developing new programs which could be the next great thing happening here at our church. These may be opportunities for serving youth, supporting foster children in our area, any number of other such ideas, not to mention the many programs referred to in this newsletter. Most of these will be more short-term task teams similar to how we handle Operation Christmas Child, VBS, and the yard sale.

I hope and pray that you will see something in our churches activities and opportunities that appeals to you and then act on that calling. The biggest challenge we face is the challenge to act on our beliefs and get out there and just do it. ✨

ELDER'S CORNER

(The following article was written by Dawn and Estelle Schofield who shared their experience at the 2023 Higher Things Youth Conference. May you be inspired and blessed by it.)

Recently my daughter Estelle and I had the opportunity to attend a Higher Things Conference held in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for this conference was *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*. We learned about the conference from my sister Bonnie Jo. I'm grateful for her encouragement to attend as I feel God has led us to a real treasure that I want to share with you. Our hope is that you will be inspired to partake in this unique opportunity to worship our great God and spend four days diving deeper into all matters of faith, catechism, and apologetics.

The Higher Things conferences are held on university campuses with the cost of the conference covering everything including meals and housing. It



is an exciting opportunity to “learn” the college life: eating in the dining hall, sleeping in dorm rooms, and navigating the campus. All of the activities take place on campus: using the

chapel for worship services, the auditorium for the Plenary sessions, and various rooms for the breakaway sessions. The activities during free time were held in the gymnasium, sports fields, theater, and pool (appreciated in the San Antonio heat!) The conferences are structured around worship. We opened and closed the conference with Divine service, including communion, and then continued each day with Matins in the morning, Vespers after lunch and Evening Prayer following dinner before free time. At the close of the day, around 11 pm, groups could gather in and around the dorms for Compline. Along with the worship services, we met as a group in the auditorium for Plenary sessions that allowed daily announcements to be made and a focus lecture that delved into the theme of the conference.

During the conference, we attended a total of five breakaway sessions. These were intimate settings that allowed for teachings on various topics. Some of the breakaway sessions offered which we attended were: • **Why Am I Lutheran**—discussions about what sets us apart from other denominations • **Babbling Pronouns**—took on the hot topic of the transgender culture being pushed today and how to talk with and about the issue in a loving way. • **Jesus in Full Color**—a wonderful historical view of church history through the lens of art and how art

can be used today to enhance worship • **In, With and Under**—a discussion of confession and absolution and its value to us in our Christian faith walk • **Why Bodies Matter**—an enlightening discussion about the significance of having been created in the image of God, setting us apart from that of the spirit realm and other created creatures. • **You're Depressed! Now What?**—a moving presentation by a deaconess who suffers with depression, opening up discussion on how a real issue, even within the church, can be dealt with in a loving and helpful manner • **6 Steps to Understanding the Psalms**—an exciting discussion on the importance of the psalms and their meaningful application in our daily faith journey. • **Worship Beyond a Reasonable Doubt**—a fun, engaging look at the reasons we worship and how we as Lutherans structure our worship. • **Dusting Off Deuteronomy**—Although it could be considered a dry topic, the discussion was rich and full. The ties to the New Testament and the relevance to even our country's founding were so enlightening. • **Sharing Your Faith in Life**—a panel discussion that included Mollie Hemmingway (editor-in-chief of *The Federalist*), Devin Jackson (EMT firefighter), Becky Clausen (strength trainer), and David Ziltz (research engineer). This session provided a lively conversation on how to be instruments of God's hope in our places of vocation.

The conference was well organized with the emphasis on young people growing deeper in their faith and coming away with an excitement about being God's Child. Estelle and I truly did both of those things. Our time spent in worship, surrounded by hundreds of voices lifted up in prayer, chant, and song was amazing. (There were about 700+ youth in attendance) The Plenary sessions were rich and deep, filled with many proofs for why we can trust who God is and what He says.

We attended breakaway sessions separately, hoping to cover more topics! Estelle and I walked away from each session with an abundance of knowledge and encouragement. Our only complaint was we wanted some of the breakaways to be longer.

I attended the youth gathering in New Orleans (2001) with the theme Higher Grounds. I was baffled that I have been raised in the LCMS church and had not heard about these Higher Things conferences. When I asked various people at the conference that very question, I was told that Higher Things came about in 2000 when a group of pastors wanted to produce a conference focused on teaching the doctrine of the Christian faith, not just on the wow of a mountain-top-experience. I must say that I was impressed with the amount of

teaching and the youth-friendly manner in which it was delivered. There was little that was “dry” or “boring” about any of the conferences. The comparison of the youth gatherings to the conferences is a bit like comparing apples and oranges in that each has a place for positive benefits.

The conferences are packed full of knowledge—the kind of knowledge that inspires you to want to learn more. As a youth-focused conference, fun competition, plenty of physical activities, and enjoyable artistic avenues were included. Probably the most memorable free-time event we attended was the talent show. Oh, the talents God has given some of our youth in the LCMS church; i.e., juggling, musical instruments, and memorization!!!!



The staff at the conference from beginning to end were friendly and engaging people. In our post-conference discussions, Estelle’s biggest take-aways were: (1) that her baptism matters daily—it isn’t just a one-time event to remember once a year. Rather, baptism is something God has given us to daily remember He has claimed us as His own and that it should be a foundation we stand upon when we face today’s challenges. (2) The various topics at the conference were up-to-date and relevant for the real-life challenges we face. This was an encouragement to Estelle as they didn’t shy away from the “hard” things but gave her insight and help in handling them when they come up. And (3) she isn’t alone in her struggles with stress and anxiety! During a thoughtfully appointed panel session of two pastors, an educator and the director of the conference, and an apologist, we were able to submit questions and Estelle had her question answered about ways to manage anxiety when it comes to the uncertainty of the future. The manner in which it was answered, particularly by one of the pastors who stated he also suffers from anxiety, was most helpful for Estelle. She learned that, even within the Christian church among those who are faithful and in positions of leadership, struggling with anxiety doesn’t make you less of a Christian. She was especially blessed by the suggestion to use one’s anxiety as a way to lean into the gifts that Christ has given us to strengthen our reliance on Him.

My post-conference take-away was the desire to learn more! We left the conference so full of information and excitement about our faith, but also hungry to continue learning more about our awesome Heavenly Father! It is our hope and plan

to attend the 2024 conference. We would love to see more of our youth attend.

Closing in prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for your gifts that you have given to the pastors, church leaders, and educators that have come together to provide a conference in which so many youth can gather to hear their sins are forgiven, that they are adopted as your children, and that they can boldly proclaim the Good News to those they meet every day. I pray for your continued blessings on the future plans Higher Things has in store for reaching more youth with the truth of the gospel. May you continue the good work you have begun in each of us and bring it to completion in your perfect timing. Amen. ✨

... In His Name, Rudy Stowell

FROM THE PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings, fellow congregants! The Pastoral Call Committee is continuing to wait for a list of potential pastors from the District. As we wait, maybe up to six months for that list, we want to make use of this gift of time that God has given us. Pastor Steinbeck, Intentional Interim Pastor and also Circuit Visitor, attended our last meeting. He suggested that, during this period of time, we reflect on our congregational goals and a plan to achieve those goals. Based on the congregational survey, one of the main goals is to bring more people and families to our church. Each of us is challenged to consider how to achieve this goal. What can each of us do in this time period to share Jesus with others so they want to be a disciple of Christ? We are all invited to "Devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us (as a congregation), too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..." Colossians 4:2-3. This ties in well with the book *Why Pray* that is available as a gift from Pastor and Lisa Steinbeck. Pick up your copy in the narthex. ✨

ADULT FELLOWSHIP



The next Adult Fellowship will be on **Sunday, September 17, at 2:00 PM**. What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than to play fun games, enjoy super snacks, and join your church family for some friendly competition! ✨

Puzzle!

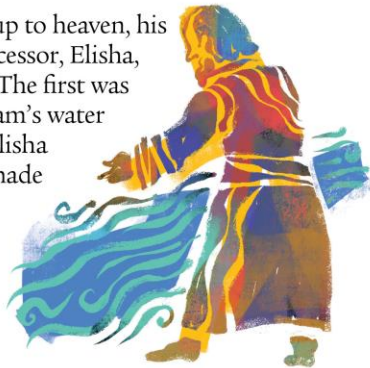
Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?



- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

PRAYER CHAIN

The process for prayer requests to the prayer chain has changed. Prayer requests can now be made to licos.prayers@gmail.com which is the preferred method of contact. If you are unable to email, the church office can be contacted (805-937-1116). We will be emailing everyone listed in the directory soon to clarify who wants to be notified of prayer requests. Many thanks to Linda Bornhoft who will be overseeing the prayer chain emails for the immediate future. ✨

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover the names of some Old Testament prophets. Then unscramble the circled letters to describe what prophets are.

I was called to preach to the people of Nineveh but ran from God instead. (My book is #32 in the Bible.)

--- () ---

I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. (My book is #37.)

--- () ---

Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. (My book is #28.)

--- () ---

My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. (It is #23.)

--- () ---

I had dreams and visions. (My book is #27.)

--- () ---

Because of my predictions, I was often in danger and angered officials. (My book is #24.)

--- () () ---

I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. (My book is #30.)

--- () ---

My book contains descriptions of strange visions. (It is #26.)

--- () () ---

PROPHETS ARE _____ .

Answers: Jonah, Haggai, Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Messengers

SEPTEMBER 2023
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READERS	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
3 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Todd Martin	Mike Foley	Jill Murdock	Terry Murdock	Altar: Marjorie Hord – Set-Up Lori Williamson – Take-Down Flowers: Shelley Klotz in honor of her husband's (Jim Klotz) birthday
10 Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Tom Heuchert	Paul Mattson	Lisa DiModica	Karl DiModica	Altar: Lori Williamson Flowers: Tom & Debbie Heuchert's 49 th wedding anniversary (September 21)
17 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops	Jim LaBelle	Reese Riddiough	Dennis Payne	Altar: Peggy Payne – Set-Up Marianne Heuchert– Take-Down Flowers: Anita Lange's birthday
24 Sunday	10:00 am	Braedon Rappoza	Mark Hathaway	Diana Brown	Michael Southern	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Stephanie Clavin Flowers: Mark & Connie Hathaway in celebration of Melanie Mayes' birthday
Please phone person* at right ONLY if you are unable to find a replacement>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	ELDERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	USHERS *Dennis Payne 934-1101	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Debbie Heuchert (805) 264-4599

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER.
2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).
3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGE(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

SEPTEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	4 Avila Beach	5 6:00 PM – Elders' Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	6 10-11:30 AM – Small Group Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	11 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Men's Group	12 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	13 10-11:30 AM – Small Group Bible Study	14	15 Oct. Ministry Availability Due	16
17 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 11:00 AM – Council Mtg. 2:00 PM – Adult Fellowship	18	19 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	20 9:00 AM – Oct. Newsletter Deadline 10-11:30 AM – Small Group Bible Study	21	22 Family Camping	23 11:00 AM – Don Benson Memorial Svc./Reception - Stahnke Hall Family Camping
24 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc. Family Camping	25	26 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	27 Yard Sale Prep 9 AM – 5 PM 10-11:30 AM – Small Group Bible Study	28 Yard Sale Prep 9 AM – 5 PM	29 Yard Sale Prep 9AM – 1 PM	30 Yard Sale 7 AM – 1 PM