

# PRINTS *of* PEACE

VOLUME XLXIV, Number 7

JULY 2021



## GOD BLESS AMERICA

**And bless all those who serve to protect this land  
and our rights. We pray that God brings  
all our troops home safely.  
Happy Independence Day!**

### From Our Head of Trustees, Tommy Campagna

Hello Everyone

I just wanted to give you an update on what's happening with our property sale. We are in the home stretch - one more step and we should be able to close by the end of June.

Also, we had our Fourth Annual Car Show on June 5th and it was a complete success. We raised over \$3,000.00. We registered over 80 cars and hosted a lot of spectators. I wanted to thank all of the donors and volunteers that helped to make this event successful! Thank you to all the people that helped out that day - It was a very hot day and I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

Respectfully, Tommy



## UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

Rev. Steve Gewecke was elected as our new District President! He will take over for President Steinbronn who officially retires at the end of August this year after serving three terms as DP.

Rev. Gewecke previously served as the 1st VP to our district as well as Pastor to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hopewell Township, NJ for over thirty years. He is very much looking forward to serving as District President!

New Vice Presidents are as follows:  
Rev. Deric Taylor (1st VP) - Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fair Lawn, NJ - previously 2nd VP.

Rev. Craig Lutz (2nd VP) - Holy Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, NJ - first term.

Rev. Philip Ressler (3rd VP) - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Old Bridge, NJ - first term.



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We are coming to your neighborhood.

**Where: Howell - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

**When: Saturday, August 7, 2021**

**Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-888-653-6450**

To register for your appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners)

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## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK - July 2021



Dear members of Prince of Peace

One of the most common dreams that people have is that of having the ability to fly. It is frequently paired with a destination where presumably one can escape the problems that beset everyday life. Phrased this way it is a way of dreaming about the land of milk and honey where our problems don't have to be dealt with because we have left them behind. The desire to fly can also be divorced from a destination. Expressed this way it can reflect a desire just to be free.

While it is good to escape for a while in a dream we know that freedom is never absolute. I flew from Seattle a couple of days ago but it was not an exercise in freedom. I couldn't feel the breeze as I was behind two plastic windows. I couldn't take a close look at interesting sights below me because the pilot was in control and was trying to keep to a schedule. I was in a long tube filled with two hundred other people trying to get to my destination as quickly as possible.

As for just leaving our problems all behind us we usually bring them along for the ride. As Pogo said "we have met the enemy and he is us." Wherever we go, there we are.

Let me quote from another character (Porky Pine) in the same comic strip "I been readin' 'bout how maybe they is planets peopled by folks with ad-vanced brains. On the other hand, maybe we got the most brains. Maybe our intellects is the universe's most ad-vanced. Either way, it's a mighty soberin' thought." So, what are we to do?

I believe that we cannot free ourselves from ourselves but neither are we powerless. Sir John Templeton wrote "Time is precious. It is given in equal measure each day to all of us. We have 24 hours in each day. That equals 168 hours in a week. This is our wealth in time. We're going to spend that time doing something, and what we do with that time often determines how we live our lives and what we achieve in our lives." We can cry about our limitations, we can blame others for our failures, we can just give up and let envy of others eat away at our insides. Or we can work to improve our prospects. Walt Kelly the man who wrote Pogo is quoted as saying "we are confronted by insurmountable opportunities."

Here at Prince of Peace we hear of God's solution to our problems. Jesus has atoned for our failure to follow God's precepts for a fully human life. This act has given us the opportunity to face our failures without running away. Even if we cannot ever overcome them ourselves they have lost their power over us. We are, in fact, already free. In his letter to the Galatians St. Paul wrote "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." The yoke of slavery is our bondage to the old way of living, but its power over us is a mirage.

Instead of running away we can laugh because we are already free. That's why Reinhold Niebuhr wrote "Humor is a prelude to faith, and laughter is the beginning of prayer" or as Martin Luther said "You have as much laughter as you have faith."

Yours in Christ's service

Pastor Ken Fosse



### "OANS, ZWOA, G'SUFFA!"

*(Which translated means "One, two, drink!")*

SAVE THE DATE AND COME OUT FOR A NIGHT OF FUN!

Our theme this year is Oktoberfest!

Join us for our 14th Annual Comedy Show / Dinner / Gift Auction

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

Doors open at 3:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 4:30 p.m. - B.Y.O.B.

Laughter begins at 6:00 p.m.

## HYMNALS

During the pandemic we removed the hymnals from the pew racks in order to prevent the possibility of transmission of the virus by people touching the same objects. Now we know that this type of transmission is very unlikely and in any case the number of people who are vaccinated is sufficiently large that the governor has lifted most or all restrictions.

So why haven't we returned the hymnals to the pew racks?

When we looked at the blue hymnals it was apparent that they have suffered wear and tear over the years (many came from the 1970's). Some are held together with tape and others have crayon marks in them.

Before the pandemic, we might be excused for not paying much attention to this as the changes happened over a long period of time. But now it would be jarring to return these books to the pews.

Of course there is a solution.

In 2006 the LCMS published the Lutheran Service Book. Over 95% of the LCMS congregations are already using this resource in their worship and if you attend another LCMS parish when you are travelling you will already have seen and used this book.

It would be hard to call a hymnal "new" when it has been in use for fifteen years but if we purchase these hymnals they will be new to us. And this is what the church board has voted to do.

When we made our budget we did not plan on purchasing new hymnals and with the pandemic donations have been less robust than we would have liked. We're doing okay but there are no excess funds for this purchase.

So we have a different plan.

The hymnals and shipping costs come to about thirty dollars each. We are asking if you would consider purchasing a hymnal for the use in the church on Sunday. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for people to sign up to do this. When we have fifty hymnals we will begin to use the Lutheran Service Book. Ideally we will have about one hundred and fifty hymnals at some point and will have them in all of the pews. Until that happens they will be kept in the narthex and when you enter the sanctuary you will pick up the hymnal along with your bulletin (which will not usually have the liturgy and hymns printed in it).

If you donate a hymnal you can dedicate it in memory of any person you wish. We have dedication stickers in the church office and the dedication will appear in the book.

A dozen of these hymnals have already been donated to the church so it is not an unobtainable goal to ask for fifty.

*(continued)*

## OUR GOD, OUR HELP BY ISAAC WATTS

*(submitted by Pastor Fosse)*

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

Thy word commands our flesh to dust,  
"Return, ye sons of men";  
All nations rose from earth at first,  
And turn to earth again.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood,  
With all their lives and cares,  
Are carried downwards by thy flood,  
And lost in following years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

Like flowery fields the nations stand,  
Pleased with the morning light;  
The flowers beneath the mower's hand  
Lie withering e'er 'tis night.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

We have been asked that since these have been around for fifteen years is the LCMS working on a still newer hymnal. We would be lying if we said an unequivocal no but if they are they have kept it quiet. As far as Pastor Fosse knows they are not.

We have also been asked if it would be possible for a parishioner to purchase their own hymnal and either keep it at home or carry it with them when they come to church. Of course, you are free to do this if you wish. We do ask that if you do this you have your personal hymnal embossed with your name on it in order to avoid any problems with people using "your" hymnal. The additional cost of embossing is six dollars.

Please direct all questions to Head Elder, Denise Abdul-Malak at 732-406-1531



## GETTING ON WITH IT: NJ DISTRICT TRAVEL PLANS IN THE MAKING

In February, 2017, some 35 pastors and people from the New Jersey District and friends traveled together to the Holy Land. In July, 2018, a group visited Martin Luther's Germany. Previously others cruised sites of the Biblical world on the eastern Mediterranean with Dr. Paul Maier. Now Israel and Greece have announced that they are open to much of the world. There should now be ample time for preparation and recovery from the present public health circumstances. Now it is time to plan our next journeys. We invite your input.

Pastor Dan and Connie Schmalz are consulting with NJD leaders to coordinate and broaden opportunities for continuing education and sabbatical experiences.

Together we are setting forth travel plans for 2022 and later:

- I. September 20-30, 2022 Experience Italy Including the Oberammergau Passion Play.  
Originally scheduled for September 2020.  
Including Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice and Innsbruck.
- II. October 2022 (Or February 2023) The Holy Land Experience  
With an Optional Egypt and Nile Cruise Extension.
- III. Projected 2022 or 2023 St. Paul and the Early Church of Asia Minor:  
Turkey and Greece by land or sea.

Please share your ideas with Pr. Dan and Connie Schmalz at [latte972004@yahoo.com](mailto:latte972004@yahoo.com). They can also be reached at 973-697-6899. Their address is 17 Pine Hollow Court, Oak Ridge NJ 07438.

**The alpha males went into full display mode.**



## Should You Still Tithe During the Summer?

The short answer is yes! And we have a variety of ways to give.....in the collection plate, Venmo payments, VANCO Simply Giving or through the secure Faithlife link on our new website!

If you are still hesitant to return for in-person worship, we understand, but please include Prince of Peace in your summer plans. An hour or two of volunteer work in areas such as Vacation Bible School, grounds maintenance or Food Pantry, etc. is always appreciated.

Please also keep in mind that our utility bills and salaries remain constant, even when church attendance is lower. Therefore, we would very much appreciate your keeping up with your offerings, if possible.

Everything we have comes from God, so let's remember to include him in our plans. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer.



*Tithes and offerings*

## Stewardship Newsletter Article for July 2021

*(Reprinted from the LCMS website)*

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

## Car Show Wrap-Up

This year’s Fourth Annual Car Show was a resounding success! We would like to acknowledge everyone’s hard work before, during and after the event – a special shout out goes to Tommy and MaryAnn Campagna for their organization of the event. We are grateful to all our food and prize donors as well - we couldn’t do it without you!

Please see Tommy’s summary on Page 1 of this newsletter for more details. See you next year!

## Family News

Baptized at the 10:15am service on Sunday May 30, 2021, Michael James Reinhard, son of Michael and Desiree Rheinhard. Michael’s sponsors were Emma Kreft and David Torosian. We ask for God’s continued blessings on Michael and his family.

**The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to know Christ  
and inspire people to be caring instruments of God  
in spreading Christ’s love, with joyous enthusiasm, by word and deed.**

# The State of the New Jersey District

A Message from Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn  
Reprinted from the NJ District LCMS Website

The world has changed quite a bit since 1982, when I received my first call to serve a dual parish in Northeast Nebraska. If one was an ordained pastor, having graduated from a recognized theological seminary, there was a relatively high view of the pastoral office within the culture and community; being a golfer, I especially appreciated the free golf that the county extended to clergy (the county even closed the golf course on Mondays and only the local clergy were allowed to play – and there were four of us who played – Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran – the big four).

Even back then, though, religious life in America was experiencing significant change, with some identifying 1968 as the watershed year of change; and I experienced that reality in my next congregation that was a church plant in Northwest Lincoln Nebraska (Go Big Red!). During the two years of church planting, one-third of our members were raised Lutheran, one-third of the members were inactive Protestant, and one-third were not raised within the Christian faith. Back then, through a generous grant from the Synodical fund-raising initiative called "Forward in Remembrance," a very modest building was provided by the Nebraska District and I had the mandate to have the congregation be off of district subsidy within two years. As I look back, those two years were the most fruitful years of my ministry; yet, they were costly, since I don't remember that I was much of a husband to Carol and a father to our young children.

One more observation: the peak year for the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, in terms of its baptized and communicant membership, occurred in the early to mid-1970s. As a Synod, the peak year for baptized membership took place in 1972 with 2,781,297 baptized members and the peak year for communicant membership took place in 1976 with 2,025,336 communicant members; fifty years later, there is an estimated 1,968,641 baptized members and 1,545,124 communicant members within the LCMS. During that same fifty-year period, the US population had grown from 205,100,000 in 1970 to its present size of 331,002,000.

In order to help us understand the State of the New Jersey District, and acquire perspective as to the ministry trends that have taken place among New Jersey District congregations since its inception as a LCMS district, here are the recorded data on its congregational size and financial giving for the years 1974, 1983, and 1991; along with the main findings from that data:

+ 1974

+ the average congregation had 540 baptized members, 358 communicant members, with an average worship attendance of 172

+ 22% of the congregations worshipped less than 100 members on a Sunday, with the smallest congregation experiencing an average worship attendance of 46 and the largest congregation worshipped 506

+ the average amount of funds available for "work at home – local congregation" was \$43,453 (the 2020 dollar equivalent would be \$226,393) and \$8,478 for "work at large – district and synod" (the 2020 dollar equivalent would be \$44,174)

+ 1983

+ the average congregation had 511 baptized members, 368 communicant members, with an average worship attendance of 154

+ 33% of the congregations worshipped less than 100 members on a Sunday, with the smallest congregation experiencing an average worship attendance of 40 and the largest congregation worshipped 505

+ the average amount of funds available for "work at home – local congregation" was \$84,158 (the 2020 dollar equivalent would be \$217,129) and \$9,232 for "work at large – district and synod" (the 2020 dollar equivalent would be \$23,819)

+ 1991

+ the average congregation had 470 baptized members, 332 communicant members, with an average worship attendance of 146

+ 40% of the congregations worshipped less than 100 members on a Sunday, with the smallest congregation experiencing an average worship attendance of 28 and the largest congregation worshipped 324

+ the average amount of funds available for "work at home – local congregation" was \$123,068 (the 2020 dollar equivalent would be \$232,599) and \$17,893 for "work at large – district and synod" (the 2020 dollar equivalent would be \$33,818)

We are not alone when it comes to experiencing these realities in congregational health and membership; for example, in 2018 the median average weekly worship attendance within the 6,000 LCMS congregations was **seventy-one** (that is, one-half of all LCMS congregations had seventy-one people or less in worship during any given week) compared to a median weekly worship attendance of one hundred in 2007.



## *A Note from the Vice - President of Gospel Outreach*

LWML Mite Grant #3 Presentation

June 6, 2021



Members of the Our Savior's LWML Dorcas Guild posed for a picture after church with the giant-sized check.

The LWML NJ District is pleased that we have completed our third Mite Grant goal for the 2020-2022 biennium. On Pentecost Sunday, Pastor Deric Taylor and the members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fair Lawn welcomed Brenda Breza, LWML NJ District Treasurer and Joanne Naumowicz, Vice President of Gospel Outreach. Members of the Outreach Committee were presented a \$1,000.00 check from LWML to be used for The Good Shepherd Mission in Patterson, NJ. These funds will help provide one hot chicken and potato meal a month for seven months for the residents of The Good Shepherd Mission. Even during the pandemic, Our Savior made arrangements for a boxed fried chicken meal from a local restaurant for the men at the mission. The Good Shepherd Mission, a rehabilitation center to men in substance abuse and a temporary homeless shelter, has as its mission to preach the Gospel, feed the hungry, and minister to the poor as our Lord instructs us to do in Matthew 25:35-36. The grant was possible through the giving of mite offerings by LWML women groups all over New Jersey. Together we can do more than we can on our own to support mission projects like The Good Shepherd Mission.

Our next goal is to raise \$3,000.00 for Mite Grant #4 which is to start a Christian Campus Ministry at Bloomfield College. This grant submitted by St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield would benefit the students with a Christian community on campus and build a better connection between St John's and The Bloomfield College Campus Community. It is our hope to complete this project in time for the fall semester in September 2021. After over a year of restrictions it would be great to provide this campus ministry. So, let's continue on and place our mite offerings in our Mite Box over the summer.

Submitted by,

*Joanne Naumowicz*

Vice President of Gospel Outreach LWML NJ District

*"As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,  
and equip women to honor God by serving others."*

## PROPERS PREVIEWS

*A look at the readings to help you prepare for worship*

### **July 4, 2021**

#### **The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 2:1-5 Ezekiel's sending as prophet of the Lord God.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 The sufficiency of Jesus' grace and power for every human need.

Mark 6:1-13 Jesus ministers in Nazareth and sends out the Twelve.

### **July 11, 2021**

#### **The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 7:7-15 Amos stands up against a false prophet and the king.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Our eternal inheritance is sure because of God's grace in Christ.

Mark 6:14-29 Herod thinks that Jesus is John the Baptist come back to life.

### **July 18, 2021**

#### **The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 God promises to replace Israel's sinful human shepherds with a truly righteous Shepherd.

Ephesians 2:11-22 Jews and Gentiles are united in Christ.

Mark 6:30-44 Jesus feeds the five thousand in the desert.

### **July 25, 2021**

#### **Saint James the Elder, Apostle**

Acts 11:27-12:5 Jesus is killed and Peter imprisoned.

Romans 8:28-39 God's everlasting love.

Mark 10:35-45 The request of James and John.

## THOSE WHO SERVE

Brandon Chornobroff will be the Elder at the 8:00 a.m. services (unless otherwise noted)

Lynne Berghoff will be the Lector on the first Sunday of each month.

Denise Abdul-Malak, Head Elder, 732-406-1531, schedules Assisting Ministers

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Lisa Tess, Elba Hillis and Anne McDonnell

Lisa Tess, 732-905-0687, is Directress of the Altar Guild.

Members serve for one month on a rotating basis.

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Please place \$25 per dedication in a Flower Fund Envelope (which can be found in the Flower Book) and place it in the offering plate. There is a maximum of three dedications each week.



## **GRADUATIONS AND SCHOOL NEWS**

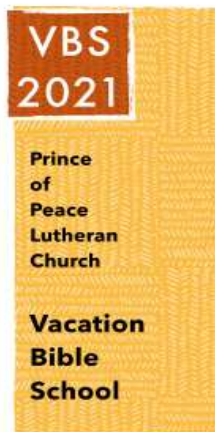
Congratulations to Nicole Rose Hillis! Word was sent to us from her proud grandparents, Joe and Elba Hillis, that Nicole graduated from Gulliver High School on May 26, 2021. Nicole will be attending Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. Congratulations!

## JULY DEADLINE

If you have an article that you would like placed in the August 2021 newsletter, please email it or drop it off in the church office.

The church email address is [popchurch@optonline.net](mailto:popchurch@optonline.net).

**The deadline is Friday, July 23, 2021**



Pre-Planning for VBS has begun.

Please respond to the survey in your email box. Text Dani Romano at (908) 692-4686 with your name & current email if you were/are a VBS volunteer and did not receive the survey. Two separate surveys are being sent out over the next few weeks.