

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2016

"Have you heard the latest news?"

This is a comment that is sure to raise your stress. So often, the news we hear (radio) and see (T.V.) is sensationalized in hyperbole, just for the sake of ratings. I've noticed how many people watch so much news, morning, noon, and evening...that it paints a dismal picture of their world-view. Tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, violence, accidents...are all reported in a way, not just to give us the facts, but to embellish the facts in such a way that their version of "news" will catch our eye, heart, and even our soul. Why, even the weather meteorologists will take a mundane forecast and put some drama into it just to spark our interest, or use the weather to hype us all up over a "marginal" chance of a storm that might be on our horizon. What do you see? What do you think about this?

In addition to the regular news reporting of each day, noting that this is a political election year, candidates are bombing us with their own versions of reality, attacking one another in such vindictive ways that result in so many voters being disenchanted with our election choices, and disillusioned about what might be the actual truth of the matters at hand. What do you think about this? How does it make you feel?

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, 13% of all Americans now use antidepressants to combat depression and anxiety. There is probably an even greater number who have just accepted a degree of depression as being "normal."

One truth about all this "bad news" is...it will all come to pass. Everything in our earthly life and everything about our contemporary world will come to pass...it's all transient in nature. (2 Corinthians 4:18). We want something to last. We need something that won't come to pass...something that will last. I invite you to walk with me in a higher dimension that has eternal realities. It's called walking with God. It's something Enoch did, David did, and Paul did, along with many more sainted ones who had a fix on the eternal things.

As your pastor, I can't change how the news is reported, or what you choose to watch, but I can do something about anxiety and stress. I can give you some good news, and I always do...because the Bible is full of good news! There's the good news of our loving, creator God, who holds the universe together, and even controls the rulers of our world. There's the good news of our Redeemer God, who has made eternal salvation a reality of hope in every Christian heart...good news of hope that is literally "out of this world." He's a God of grace, a God of love, a God of faith, and a God of hope.

Do you really want some good news? Come to worship...every Sabbath (and/or Wednesday evening!). God has good news for your soul. We call it "Gospel!" Do you want to "dig in" to this good news a little more? That's what Bible Study is for. Don't waste your time sweating and fretting over all the bad news the media keeps throwing at us. Look to God. He has some wonderful Good News for you that can change, not only your daily outlook on life, but your eternal uplook as well.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor Asmus

OUR MISSION: CELEBRATING, PROCLAIMING, AND SPREADING THE WORD.

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE FACING SURGERY OR HOSPITALIZATION, please contact
Pastor Erland Asmus: Cell #: (651) 308-8492 Church Office: (651) 436-3357

PASTOR ASMUS WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE A CALL (OR IN HIS ABSENCE, ONE OF THE ELDERS),
BUT WE DO NEED TO BE INFORMED.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR NOVEMBER ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Monday, October 10, 6:30 p.m.

ELDERS' MEETING - Watch the Bulletin for date and time.

Treasures in God's Word

BASICS OF FAITH - Mondays - 7:00 a.m. @ The Machine Shed; Tuesdays - 10:00 a.m. - at church; Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. - during Foundations' hour.

Week of: October 2 - Lesson 4 - "Growing in God"

October 9 - Lesson 5 - "The Bible: God's Scrapbook"

October 16- Lesson 6 - "No Appointment Necessary"

October 23 - Lesson 7 - "The Holy Spirit"

October 30 - Lesson 8 - "On Your Feet in Praise"

REVELATION - Sunday morning Adult Bible Class - 10:30-11:00 a.m. As we have begun on September 18, we are moving forward into this final Book of the Bible. For those who can't attend every Sunday, all materials are made available for you to keep up with us as a self-study, and to join us as you are able. During October, we will be covering Chapters 2 through 6 of Revelation.

S.P.L.C.W. (ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN) FALL MEETING

S.P.L.C.W. FALL MEETING will be held on Thursday, November 10th, 7:00 p.m. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EACH PERSON BRING 2 FLOUR SACK DISHTOWELS. Someone will show us how to decorate them at the meeting and we will be using them in our new kitchen! There will also be an election of officers. If you have questions, call Peggy Oehlke.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND - We will work a shift on Friday, October 14th, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please sign up on the kiosk. We are in need of more volunteers. Any questions, contact Cheryl Schmidt.

CONGREGATIONAL FALL VOTERS' MEETING will be held on Sunday, November 13th, with a POTLUCK at 11:00 a.m.; MEETING at Noon. Watch for more information.

FOUNDATIONS meets on Wednesdays: 5:30-6:25 PM - Grades 5-8 Bible/Catechism;
"Basics of Faith" Bible Study
6:30 PM – Devotional Service with the Lord's Supper.

Come One, Come All on October 29th, 5:00 P.M.
For the St. Peter Lutheran HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE!

Halloween Mystery Meat for Dinner! (AKA Sloppy Joe's).
Bring a Dish To Share...if you Dare! Wear Your Best Costume!

Things to Bring: Lawn Chairs for the Bonfire; A Blanket for the Hayride; A Dish For the Potluck; and most importantly....FRIENDS!

“LITTLE CHURCH OF HOPE” – OCTOBER 8, 2016: Please join us and celebrate recovery for the men of the Christ Recovery Center - Union Gospel Mission on Saturday, October 8, 2016.

“Little Church of Hope” is a program started by Brian Smiley in 1990 to give love and hope to the homeless that evolved to the men of Union Gospel Mission’s Christ Recovery Center. Our day starts out by welcoming our guests as the bus from the Recovery Center arrives for a day of fellowship, messages, music and love and, of course, food! Four speakers will give their message of encouragement and hope to 35+ men. Many men over the years (over 1,200) have come to know Christ through this program.

We invite you to come and listen to the messages throughout the afternoon and to the closing ceremony at 3:00 p.m., or join us for prayers, music, communion and lots of love. At the end, we send them off with a care package, a spirit filled round of “When the Saints Go Marching In...” until the bus disappears.

These men are our little brothers, fathers, uncles, grandfathers, big brothers, husbands, friends. Help support them in their struggle for recovery. The power of prayer is awesome and I would ask everyone to pray daily for them to open their hearts to the voice of Jesus Christ, for the Holy Spirit to come and fill them with His presence and change their lives, then come Saturday and tell them you have been praying for them. We have care packages for each guest and I invite you to write a note of encouragement or put a small gift in each bag.

“Little Church of Hope” is supported by the Union Gospel Mission, our Mission-of-the-Month for November and December. You can make a difference by volunteering to help on October 8th, by attending for part of the day, or by writing a favorite Bible verse or message to be included in the care bag given to each participant at the end of the day.

Look for more information and sign-up sheets as the day approaches or contact the Outreach Committee: Gayle Schneider or Linda Craig.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Mission – our call to proclaim

It is a blessing to walk and work together in witness and mercy with the 35 districts of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and with our 34 partner church bodies around the world. The mission we engage together extends the reach of the Gospel around the world. Coming together as a synod, by sharing resources and people, we by God’s grace, help to change lives now and for eternity. For a closer look at our LSMS Mission work being done today, take a walk down the hallway to Pastor’s office, where you will see a bulletin board display, showing all the countries in the world where we are actively engaged in Missions, along with recent news articles describing what’s happening in these areas.

PLEASE FURNISH COLLEGE ADDRESSES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE.

Couple aims to bring “holy cross” back to the St. Croix River

By Jackie Bussjaeger/Staff Writer Updated Sep 8, 2016



Derek and Carol Nelson have established the nonprofit the Meek League to create a Christian outreach and community center on the banks of the St. Croix River.



The landing comes with three buildings and a small fleet of watercraft.

LAKELAND – Lower St. Croix Valley couple Carol and Derek Nelson are working to intertwine their faith with an inspiring natural setting by establishing a faith center on the banks of the St. Croix. The pair’s nonprofit business has signed a contract to purchase Beanie’s at Maui’s Landing, a popular boat launch just south of I-94 on the Minnesota side. With the purchase comes a number of watercraft that the facility has rented out over the years, including wave runners, several pontoons and a houseboat. The Nelsons hope to provide opportunities to faith-building organizations by offering activities such as Bible study on the river, outdoor services and more. The purchase will include an acre of land, 228 feet of shoreline, 16 water vessels and three buildings.

In French, “St. Croix” means “holy cross.” The river received its name from explorers in the 1600s, though the accounts of the reason for the name vary. “What better place to do God’s work than on the Holy Cross River?” Derek said.

The Meek League is the name of the nonprofit behind the acquisition, started by the Nelsons and spiritually strengthened by several pastors in Minnesota. Part of the Meek League’s mission is to support a meek style of leadership, which adheres to Christian principles. “There are people unfamiliar with the word meek that think it has to do with weakness and someone who’s really quiet,” Derek said. “It’s actually a strong, humble strength, and that’s what I think our society needs more of. We just think of sacrificing more, being more humble, watching the words that you say, treating people with respect, being friends of sinners. We always say that we propose, we don’t impose, and that’s what a Christian should be doing constantly. Showing people what Christianity is just by serving others, so that’s where meek stood out.”

Thy Holy Cross Mission will give the Meek League a chance to share their message and enjoy God’s creation with the wider community. “The meek are supposed to inherit the earth, so we may as well take care of a piece of God’s earth right now,” Derek said. “So we decided that we’re going to dedicate this piece of land to God, equip others in using it but open it up so anybody can use the facility.” “We’re Christ-centered, and we want to be able to have a community gathering place,” Carol said. “There’s not really any kind of community gathering places in this area.”

The boat launch employs quite a few youth from around the community, and Derek said that all of them will keep their jobs with the transition. “If somebody came in and were to buy it and make it a private residence, it would eliminate 20 jobs,” Derek said. “We don’t just want to help and encourage youth in their Christian faith, but we also do it in employment. And that’s just a great way to mentor as well.” He hopes it will also provide an accessible place for underprivileged youth to spend time close to nature.

(Continued)

“It’s a united-in-Christ kind of mission,” Derek said. “Our denomination is anything associated with Christ. Our church is St. Peter Lutheran Church in Afton, but there’s only so much you can do at a church like that. A lot of churches have a lot of empty space that doesn’t get utilized as much – I’d rather have an outdoor church, and a lot of water. That just sounds like what I’d like to do. I’d like to fish with the eagles and do Bible study on the water. And let youth who don’t get the opportunity to see the outdoors and nature like this be able to utilize it.”

Originally from Minnetonka, Derek was an entrepreneur for 25 years. He owned a technology recruiting firm and served as president of a private equity firm, but decided to give it up and turn his business acumen toward serving God. Carol, originally from Albert Lea, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a biological sciences degree, and later became office manager of a small manufacturing company. Derek moved to Afton in 2007.

Civics, outreach and conservation are three of the items the Meek League will focus on while it develops the place. Accessibility for all is also important. “Nobody should ever have to pay to have access to the holy cross river,” Derek said. “So one of the first things that we’re doing is that you’ll never be charged to launch your boat on the river ever again at this site.”

The property includes three structures: a house, a general store and a four season cabin. “We’re hoping that we can open it all up,” Carol said. “The house won’t just be our residence; it’ll be an open house.” They hope the space will offer resources such as healthy snacks, faith-based reference materials and more, but most importantly it will provide easy access and a space for community members to celebrate faith in a unique way.

“We’re open to ideas and suggestions; it’s for everyone,” Derek said. “We’re just managing it for God. The rest is just going to be a lot of fun and solace. Anything we can do to help people’s soul. This is going to be a place where liberty and the Holy Spirit thrive. We’ll do everything we can to honor that.”

If your church, located anywhere in the world, would like to adopt or sponsor the mission, or you are an individual wanting to provide a donation, contact the Meek League at carol@themeeleague.org or derek@themeeleague.org. A website, www.meeleague.org, is currently in development.

A “Life-thought”

From “Life Date” a quarterly journal from Lutherans For Life

The goal of “Lutherans for Life” is to bring the Gospel of Christ into our culture, that all may see the value God gives to all persons - by creating, redeeming, calling, and connecting us. Some powerful effects are taking place across our land today. Here are a few such happenings for which we thank and praise God:

- 1) Pressure has been building to allow physical-assisted suicide, but in 19 states, lawmakers are resisting this pressure. New Mexico's Supreme Court affirmed that killing a terminally ill patient isn't a “fundamental right” even with consent.
- 2) 334 life-affirming regulations have taken effect in the last five years, reducing annual unborn deaths by 500,000 and leading to widespread facility closures.
- 3) 23 states have filed suit against federal threats to withhold funding from schools that distinguish bathroom use by birth gender.
- 4) "Students for Life" campus groups now outnumber their "Planned Parenthood" counterparts by 1,043 to 275.
- 5) 53% of young adults oppose abortion on demand, an increase of 9% in only four years, and less than half support public funding for Planned Parenthood.
- 6) Less than half of high school students surveyed report being sexually active (13% less than 25 yrs. ago), and the number of abstinent young adults has also increased during that time (men: doubled; women: tripled).

Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)

+ *Pentecost: A season of Growing!...in grace...in faith...in love...in hope... IN CHRIST! Alleluia!*
The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.

Wednesday - September 28

5:30 pm—**FOUNDATIONS**—

5-6 grade Bible Class; 7-8 grade Catechism; Adult Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sermon: see October 2.

Sunday – October 2 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship with the Sacrament of the Altar

Theme: Understanding Christian stewardship in all facets of life.

Sermon: "Duty Calls" (Luke 17:1-10)

Bible Class: Revelation 2

Wednesday – October 5

5:30-6:25 p.m. - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 grade Bible Class; 7-8 grade Catechism; Adult Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Devotional worship with the Lord's Supper.

Sermon: See October 9.

Sunday – October 9 - Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost.

9:00 a.m. – Praise Service with The Sacrament of the Altar

Theme: Overcoming challenges.

Sermon: "Surviving the Fires" (2 Timothy 2:8-13)

Bible Class: Revelation 3

Wednesday – October 12

5:30-6:25 p.m. - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 grade Bible Class; 7-8 grade Catechism; Adult Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper.

Sermon: See October 16.

Sunday – October 16 - Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost.

9:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship with Holy Eucharist

Theme: Justice and mercy.

Sermon: "Wrestling with God" (Genesis 32:22-32)

Bible Class: Revelation 4

Wednesday – October 19

5:30-6:25 p.m. - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 grade Bible Study; 7-8 grade Catechism; Adult Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with Holy Communion

Sermon: See October 23.

Sunday - October 23 - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Praise Worship with Holy Communion

Theme: The kingdom and will of God.

Sermon: "Children of God" (Luke 18:15-17)

Bible Study: Revelation 5

Wednesday - October 26

5:30-6:25 p.m. - FOUNDATIONS - 5-6 grade Bible Study; 7-8 grade Catechism; Adult Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Devotional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sermon: See October 30.

Sunday - October 30 - Reformation Sunday

9 am - Special Reformation Service with The Sacrament of the Altar.

Theme: Justified by Faith.

Sermon: "Believing and Doing" (Romans 3:19-28)

Bible Study: Revelation 6

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA is dedicated to serving Christ by ministering in His name among the 24 million people of North Korea through the delivery and confirmation of humanitarian aid, as well as construction projects and training. Their aid goes to the very needy segments of the population. People ask why they do what they do, especially given all that is in the news regarding the political, security, and diplomatic tensions in and around North Korea. Their response is simply, as followers of Jesus Christ, they are compelled by grace and motivated by love to obey His command to feed the hungry and heal the sick. (Matthew 25: 31-46). Christian Friends of Korea has a unique opportunity to minister to those who are suffering in North Korea. Each time they visit, they confirm delivery of everything that they send and learn of new needs. As long as they are able to do these things, with God providing the means, they say they will continue in these efforts. Their goal is to bring hope and healing in the name of Christ to the people of one of the most suppressed nations in our world. CFK is non-denominational.

Their humanitarian aid comes in the form of food, medicine, agricultural supplies and equipment, bedding and blankets, medical equipment, and supplies, as well as other needed goods for hospitals and rest homes in North Korea. Through their developmental aid, they are involved in the renovation of multiple health care facilities, reequipping projects, solar powered water projects, water well drilling, greenhouse building, medical staff training, and the list continues. The need in the DPRK is extensive, but as God provides, they respond.

Please consider supporting this special mission project during the months of September and October. You will find contribution envelopes on the Mission Board in the narthex, in the pews, and in your offering envelope boxes.

OCTOBER, 2016

ACOLYTES FOR OCTOBER

October 2 - 9:00 a.m. Callie Koller
9 - 9:00 a.m. Malachi Oberdeck
16 - 9:00 a.m. Gabriella Richert
23 - 9:00 a.m. Ryan Bernath
30 - 9:00 a.m. Lucas Oberdeck

USHERS FOR
OCTOBER

Jerry Clare, Elder
Don Kosen
Donna Kosen
Dawn Plunkett
Sue Clare

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

October 2 - 9:00 a.m. Lorraine Hansen
9 - 9:00 a.m. Eunice Kanning
16 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
23 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)
30 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

**MORE GREETERS ARE NEEDED!!
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE BOOK
ON THE KIOSK.**

COFFEE HOSTS
FOR OCTOBER

October 2 - Doug & Karen Stoltzmann
9 - John & Cheryl Schmidt
16 - (Open)
23 - Judy Hansen
30 - (Open)

**MORE COFFEE HOSTS ARE
NEEDED! PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE
BOOK ON THE KIOSK.**

READERS DURING
WORSHIP SERVICES IN OCTOBER

October 2 - 9:00 a.m. Christy Peterson
9 - 9:00 a.m. Joann Decker
16 - 9:00 a.m. Shelly Love
23 - 9:00 a.m. Laura Bauer
30 - 9:00 a.m. (Open)

**MORE READERS ARE NEEDED!!
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE BOOK
ON THE KIOSK.**

ALTAR GUILD
FOR OCTOBER

Janel Busacker
Karen Stoltzmann

XYZ CLUB for seniors 55 years and older meets on Tuesdays at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. This includes cards and visiting 9:30 a.m. to Noon. For information, call Marian Glasbergenner.

Valparaiso University Guild
PECANS-FALL 2016
\$10/lb. Contact Eunice Kanning

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Getting those annoying pop ups?

You Have Viruses that you are sharing with your friends and family...
Special \$30.00 Virus Removal and Diagnostics

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Transfer old files to your new computer, ask about programs.

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Preserve your cherished home video by converting them to DVD today.
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TODAY—AND IN RETIREMENT!**

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