

NEWSLETTER
JUNE, 2017

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

As I write these words today (May 8), many are in the process of planting...planting fields, gardens, flowers, grass, etc. By the time you receive this letter, many of you will be seeing the sprouts of what you planted coming up and growing. Isn't that part of the wonder and beauty of the seasons? So we sing, "How Great Thou Art!" But here's something for you to ponder today...

God is a "Planter." In His parable of the Sower (Matthew 13), Jesus describes how God is ever/always planting the "seeds" of His Word into the hearts and souls of people of all kinds (soils). There are the "hard path" people... those within whom there seems little chance that faith can grow...those who hear, but won't listen...or don't want to hear at all. Then there are the "rocky soil" people...those in whom the Word sprouts quickly in faith, but gets scorched in the heat of life's trials and tribulations. Jesus then describes the "thorny soil" people... where God's Word has little chance to grow because of the many other cares, priorities, and worries that crowd out any chance that little seed has to sprout and grow. But then there is the "good soil" people... where God plants the seed of His Word and it bears fruit.

What can we learn from this little parable?

- 1) God doesn't just pick and choose where He will plant His Word. He's spreading it to all, regardless of how it might be received or even rejected.
- 2) The power to make that seed (His Word) grow is God's...the almighty One for whom nothing is impossible! (Luke 18:27).
- 3) God even has the power to change the nature of a soul's soil too! That's right; He can soften a heart, change a life, redeem one's soul for eternity!

What is our role in all this? Look at your life for a moment, and how God used others to plant the seed of faith in your heart. Now, think about how God is / or may be calling you to be one of His little planters in His kingdom. How can we be planters? Every time you can share a little comfort from God, or a little encouragement from Him, it can make a difference in a person's life. Let's not worry about the condition of their soul... soil, the weather, or even future growth. That's God's domain. He is Lord of all. Simply, be faithful in being what He's called you to be, and doing what He's called you to do... plant! As the farmer plants the seed, then waits and watches as God makes it sprout and grow, so we should be "farmers" in His kingdom too...and always be a "planter."

CELEBRATE...PROCLAIM...SHARE...AND SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD!

Your servant-planter in Christ,

Pastor Asmus

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!! NEWSLETTER ARTICLES FOR JULY ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN **MONDAY, JUNE 12TH.**

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

Treasures in God's Word
Bible Class for you!

As we enter the Summer months... the final chapters of Revelation are a dramatic punctuation point to God's Word and will for the whole world. Beginning on June 25th, Pastor will offer some time for us each Sunday to discuss the Scripture lessons of the day.

The Monday and Tuesday Bible classes have completed the "Basics of Faith" series, and will wait to resume again in the fall of 2017.

4TH OF JULY FOOD BOOTH @ AFTON CITY PARK! On TUESDAY, July 4th, 2017 we will have a booth in the Afton City Park. The booth will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. July 4th profit will be used for our new kitchen. **Watch for sign-up sheets for workers and donations needed.**

VALLEY OUTREACH "THE CLOSET" is still accepting donations of men's, women's and children's new and used clothing (children's new underwear and socks). Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition. Leave items in the designated area by the coat racks marked "The Closet." **(ITEMS PLACED IN BAGS ARE MUCH EASIER TO TRANSPORT TO THE CLOSET.)**

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.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They will meet June 13th & 27th. Join us if you like to knit or crochet or would like to learn. If you have questions, call Gayle Schneider or Linda Craig.

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars: Don't miss this opportunity to help support **St. Peter Lutheran Church**. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice[®]."

A Table Prayer

Father God,
We thank You for Your watchful care,
and for the blessings we share,
for the food we partake,
and the life that's ours for Jesus' sake.
Oh give thanks unto the LORD,
for He is good, and His mercy endures forever. Amen.

A “Life-thought”

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

Godly fathers treat children as delights and not as burdens. Godly fathers rejoice to defend and provide for them, to nurture and protect them in both body and soul. This privilege extends beyond the child-bearing/child-rearing years, even into their adulthood. In so doing, we reflect the unchangeable, steadfast love our heavenly Father has for all.

THE YOUTH GROUP IS COLLECTING “ALUMINUM CANS” for a Fundraiser. Please leave them by the garage door. Please just bring aluminum cans. Thank you.

GRADUATE RECEPTION - S.P.L.C.W. will be sponsoring a “Graduate Reception” during Coffee Hour following the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 11th, for all high school and college graduates. High School graduates are: April Kimes, Joseph Novalany, Alicia Richert, Kenny Veith; College Graduates are: Jason Richert with a Bachelor’s Degree of Environmental Conservation from University of Wisconsin, River Falls and Paula Pryce with a Bachelor’s Degree from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota.

THE TUBMAN FAMILY CRISIS & SUPPORT SERVICES “APRIL SHOWERS DRIVE” for baby and toddler supplies again showed our congregation’s generosity. The inventory of delivered donations was 16 packs of diapers which equals 1,025 diapers; many multi-packs of wipes, pacifiers; 12 blankets, quilts and Shawls—many were handmade; a good supply of bottles, pacifiers, bibs, adorable outfits, sleepers, onesies, toys, baby wash, lotion, soap, activity center/walker and miscellaneous items. The Tubman Family Crisis & Support Services thanked Saint Peter’s congregation for contributing so much for so many babies. It is all very much appreciated. Joan Jordan

THE BLOODMOBILE WENT WELL ON MONDAY, MAY 1ST. Because of the rain and snow, we had lots of walk-ins. Our goal was 43 units of blood and we took in 42 units. Super! 168 lives will be saved with these donations. With all the calling that was done, only 9 appointments were made - with only 5 of those showing up. The big majority of donors applied on-line or received cards with donation sites in the area. I believe next year we will NOT be doing any calling and see how that goes. Thank you to all who helped with this great blood drive. – Coordinator, Peggy Oehlke

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

We will work a shift at Second Harvest Heartland on Friday, June 9th, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sign up on the sheet on the kiosk. If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Cheryl Schmidt.

Our weekly worship services: (Bring your Bible!)

+ *Planting with Jesus*

The Lamb of God, Savior of the world, Lord of life.

The difference CHRIST makes in a believer's life.

Wednesday - May 31

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

Sunday – June 4 - Day of Pentecost

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

Sermon: "Is Anyone Thirsty?" (John 7:37-39)

(No Bible Class - Church Council Meeting)

Wednesday – June 7

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

Sunday – June 11 - The Holy Trinity

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

Sermon: "Making You a Disciple" (Matthew 28:16-20)

Bible Class: Revelation 21:22 - 22:5 - "Looking Inside the
City of God"

Wednesday - June 14

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

Sunday - June 18 - Second Sunday after Pentecost - Father's Day

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

Sermon: "The 'Eagles' Wings' of God" (Exodus 19:2-8)

Bible Class: Revelation 22 - A Final Word from God.

Wednesday - June 21

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

Sunday - June 25 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sermon: "Precious in His Eye (and heart)" (Matthew 10:21-33)

Bible Class: Discussion of the Scripture lessons of the day.

Wednesday - June 28

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

Sunday - July 2 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship with the Lord's Supper

Sermon: "True Freedom" (John 8:31-36)

Bible Class: Discussion of the Scripture lessons of the day.

ELDERS' MEETING FOR JUNE will be held on Tuesday, June 6th, at 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FOR JUNE will be held on Sunday, June 4th, at 10:15 a.m. (No Adult Bible Class June 4th.)

VBS 2017: JUNE 19th-23rd - The dates are set! Get ready for VBS starting June 19th to June 23rd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration is posted online. **The web site is VBSMATE.COM/STPETERAFTON.** Our theme this year is "Mighty Fortress"! We will be discovering how our mighty God is our fortress and strength at all times!

VBS VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED! VBS is right around the corner and we need lots of volunteers to make this another great experience for the youth of our church and surrounding community! VBS will take place this year from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. June 19th through the 23rd. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving in any capacity please talk to DCE Tony Engen. **TEACHERS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED!**

WHAM WEEK – 2017 - WHAM week will take place from Monday August 7th through Friday the 11th this year. More information will be provided soon about the awesome opportunities our youth will have to serve God and our neighbors! All 5th through 12th grade students are invited to join us. See Tony Engen if you have any questions.

7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE MISSION TRIP - Sunday, June 11th, through Wednesday, June 14th, all 7th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us for the Rochester Servant Event! For four days we will be serving, worshipping, and having a spectacularly, awesome time alongside tons of other churches and kids from the LCMS Minnesota South District in Rochester, MN. **THIS TRIP IS TOTALLY FREE FOR ALL ST. PETER YOUTH; THIS INCLUDES ROOM AND BOARD!!!** We do need 2 or 3 adult volunteers who would be willing to drive a car full of kids and stay in Rochester for the duration of the event to be chaperones. Room and board will also be covered for chaperones along with mileage reimbursement. Students and chaperones need to let Tony Engen know ASAP if you plan on going and also fill out registration forms and medical release/detail form. Forms can be obtained at rochesterservantevent.wordpress.com/registration. For more information, go to **rochester servant event.wordpress.com** or speak with Tony.

MISSION-OF-THE-MONTH FOR MAY/JUNE
CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA

For several years St. Peter Lutheran has supported the work of Christian Friends of Korea- meaning North Korea. This group of dedicated Christians sends teams of skilled volunteers into North Korea several times each year with specific set goals in mind. The visits are either Confirming Trips or Technical Trips.

Confirming Trips are for the purpose of making sure the shipments of goods have actually arrived and are accounted for, but also allow quality time spent with doctors, nurses, and patients and getting to understand the real needs of people in the area.

Technical Trips send teams of workers with specific projects to complete – things like installing water systems, building solar green houses, renovating hospital operating rooms, training health care workers, and more. Working mostly in rural areas, the work of CFK includes general aid to the people of NK; clean water projects; renovations and technical assistance; training doctors; agricultural support; Hepatitis projects; solar lighting for Care Centers; tractors, cargo tricycles, and motorcycles – and much more.

Having lived in South Korea in 1961 in circumstances that were grim in the beginning (water only certain days, not much electricity at all, foodstuffs not always available, operating rooms with holes in the ceiling, swallowing de-worming meds regularly, etc.) I can appreciate the plight of these people in the north who have very little of anything. I encourage you to contribute to the work of CFK!

KAMSAHAMNIDA! Joan Riemer

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA IN MAY/JUNE. (Mission envelopes are available in your offering envelopes, in the pews, and on the Mission Board.)

**See the April Newsletter from Christian Friends of Korea on the Mission Board for more information.

JUNE, 2017

ACOLYTES FOR JUNE

June 4 - 9:00 a.m. Gabriella Richert
11 - 9:00 a.m. Izaak Schmidt
18 - 9:00 a.m. Ryan Bernath
25 - 9:00 a.m. Callie Koller

GREETERS FOR JUNE

June 4 - Helen Thielfoldt
11 - Lorraine Hansen
18 - (Open)
25 - (Open)

COFFEE HOSTS IN JUNE

June 4 - (Open)
11 - Graduate Reception (S.P.L.C.W.)
18 - (Open)
25 - (Open)

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR MAY, 2017:

CONFIRMATION:

Emma Schatt, May 7, 2017

FUNERAL:

Wallace Spreeman, May 12, 2017

USHERS FOR JUNE

Rick Bauer, Elder
Dan Ellifson
Steve Wellneer
Sharon Wellner
Stan Simkins

Is Your Computer Running Slow or Acting Funny?
Getting those annoying pop ups?

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

Keep your personal information safe!
Transfer old files to your new computer, ask about programs.

Free pick up and delivery in the East Metro, Work Done by Certified Technicians
Visit us www.fsts-usa.com Email: shop@fsts-usa.com

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De-Clutter your home, Free Hard Drive (HDD) Certificate of Destruction!
Recycled items Fund a Christian Ministry!

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