

"THE LOG"

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BUNDY, WI

August, 2014

Our Savior's Council Meeting July 21, 2014

Chairman Ferd Schneider opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with all six council members present. Pastor Al gave a devotion on Romans Chapter 5, Verse 8 and a prayer.

The Minutes from the April meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: April offering, \$5,364; expenses were \$6,605. May offerings, \$5,2567; expenses were \$4,824. June offerings, \$5,448; expenses were \$5,010. As of July 1st we have \$926 in checking and we have \$6,690 in bills due by August 1st. Report accepted as given prior to audit.

Elders 1-2-3 no reports.

Pastor's Report: The past 3 months Pastor Al had 5 office calls, 2 hospital visits and 2 weddings. We have 86 active members and 70 communicant. Report accepted as presented.

Old Business: A church picnic is being planned for September 7th. We have purchased a new dehumidifier for downstairs. Pastor Al will dispose of the old computer at a recycling drop-off center. We again discussed buying our propane tank. It would save us 40 cents a gallon but we decided to rent from Draeger for another year.

New Business: We used about 700 gallons of propane last year at \$1.60 a gallon. This year our contract is \$1.99 a gallon. Pastor Al is retiring as of September 1st; August will be the last health insurance payment. Grace Lutheran will pay his supplement payments. Between both churches he will work about 20 hours a week. With no more insurance payments. We will have \$431 (our part of the insurance payment) to put towards the budget

We adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Krueger

Highway Cleanup

It will be time for Highway Cleanup after Labor Day. If you are unable to do your part of the highway cleanup, give Lynn Houle a call.



August Birthdays

2nd Amy Pequet	12th Mary Sweo
4th Jason Pond	17th Megan Wanty
5th Pam Engstrom	31st Lori Scarcelli
7th Jack Wilson	

If I have missed your birthday, or know of someone I have missed, give Bea a call at 715-362-7605.



NWD LWML FALL RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHER

September 4-6, 2014



All non-refundable fees are due by August 18th

Registration fee \$20.00 plus any meals you choose. They are looking for 1 or 2 yard pieces of fleece for blankets.

Gifts of the Heart List is: Cleaning Supplies, (ONLY supplies listed in the Mission Tidings), Miscellaneous, Arts & Crafts supplies, Clothing. See the Mission Tidings for a complete list. If you would like to donate something but not going to the retreat—a list of items needed will be posted on the back door.

All the information is in the July Mission Tidings, if you are interested in going and don't have a Mission Tidings, give Bea a call for a copy or registration form.

ARE YOU A CROCHETER?

The Ladies Society is in need of help crocheting the plastic sleep mats. The bags will cut and rolled in balls ready to be crocheted. If you are interested in helping out or just want more information give Bea a call 715-362-7605. We have the information as to how they are to be made.



considerations

Counterfeit Spirituality?

Based on information from Rev. Rick Anderegg

This month let us consider **Counterfeit Spirituality**. What it is and how it can harm us is explained below:

How would you feel if someone gave you a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill, when making change for you? Duped? Betrayed? Angry? Few of us enjoy being fooled. Rare is the individual who wants to be

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Cor. 11:14

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

let someone take advantage of him. Ever read *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Many theologians, myself included, are convinced that Lewis was on the mark when he vividly portrayed Satan's demons manipulating the minds of Christians and non-Christians. Far from the red, horned, pitchfork holding, snarling individual anyone could spot, Satan (and

his demons) are more subtle and manipulative. In fact, Jesus calls him the "father of lies," in John 8:44. If Satan is the father of lies, then surely he specializes in counterfeiting. Indeed, he "masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Yes, my friends, there are counterfeits, out there, that threaten to dupe us. There are cheap imitations that ultimately betray us. Some of them feel so much like "the real thing," that it is, at first, hard to tell them apart. Consider the realm of spirituality. What might Satan trick us into believing is "spiritual?" Before I begin the list, we should point out that there is a difference here. Satan is indeed subtle. For these counterfeits are not all like counterfeit money that is worthless. Many of them are very worthwhile in their proper place.

Consider for example, patriotism. Many of us grew up singing patriotic songs like "Grand Old Flag," "Yankee Doodle Dandee" "This Land is My Land," and many others. I know we all considered it a tremendous joy to have patriotism reenter our public lives, following the tragic events of 9/11. Truly none of us should ever just pay "lip service" when we sing (or say) "I'm proud to be an American . . ." But patriotism

is not the same as spirituality, even if it feels that way. We pledge allegiance to the flag. We worship God. We are proud to be Americans. We are blessed to be Christians. When we get emotional at the sight of patriotic symbols, heroes, our military, etc. it is a different kind of emotion than the emotion we may rightly feel when worshipping or receiving the blessings of the divine service.

Allegiance is another of Satan's counterfeits. Standing behind an individual—supporting someone we think has done "the right thing"—is not the same as spirituality. As soon as we become allegiant to any one individual we are very near Satan's lair. What is this trap he sets for us, with this counterfeit spirituality? It is the idea that we must defend the individual we are convinced is right. We must speak up for him or her. Now, again, allegiance to an individual has its place. There is nothing wrong with sticking up for someone, when they need it. But there are times when people silently "pledge" their allegiance to (or against!) an individual or idea based on personal preference rather than God's Word. This is particularly troublesome in a church or synod. Picture the congregation that ends up divided over a pastor's personality—taking sides based on whether they like or dislike the pastor. Truly Satan has succeeded in duping such Christians.

It is even possible for Satan to use pride as a counterfeit for spirituality. Can one be proud of being Lutheran? Is it possible to be too proud? Certainly, a pride that delights only in the name and not in the actual beliefs is a false pride. Likewise, those who are equally proud that they don't "use" the name Lutheran may also be duped.

Yes, avoiding spiritual counterfeits is much more difficult than you might first think. But let me give you some tips, based on God's Word, that may help: First, learn to distinguish between "feelings" and faith. Oh, that's not to say that our feelings are never part of our faith. Still, we do well to reserve the words "I believe" for things of faith. Second, consider the two kingdoms. If an individual, or entity, is clearly in the Kingdom of the Left (the "secular" realm of government or this world) remember that any strong feelings you have are probably patriotism or allegiance, not spirituality. Third, always go back to God's Word. (This should perhaps be number one.) When you're tempted to start "following" an individual remember that (to paraphrase Luther) to allow yourself to be convicted by Scripture and plain reason. Your conscience should always and only be captive to the Word of God." These are just a few tips to keep you from being duped by counterfeit spirituality.

✠ In Christ's Service ✠

Pastor Al

The NWD-LWML convention was held June 20-22 at Rothschild which was attended by Our Savior's delegates Marcia Schneider and Bea Montgomery plus then NWD-LWML President Linda Pelot.

We were greeted with a sea of purple, and seeing many past acquaintances. Locating our hotel room, finding our place in the convention hall and checking out the various vendors, plus all the banners were displayed from each of the zones.

The convention started Friday evening with an uplifting church service with Pastor Bob Selle as sermon preacher. During the convention the Bible study was lead by Past NWD President Arleigh Lutz and guest speaker was Gary Thies. We are all missionaries either here at home or worldwide.

Newly elected officers are:

President: Mary Harrington
 2nd Vice-President: Mary Scharenbrock
 Treasurer: Deb Schalow
 Junior Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Steven Pockat

There were three offerings: The first was for Mites—\$2,978.14. 2nd was for NW Hmong Ministry in Appleton, Green Bay & Eau Claire, \$2,294.96 and 3rd for Lutherans for Life, \$2,221.32. Plus there was a Mission Walk for Mites which raised \$2,236.31.

There were 438 people in attendance including delegates and guests.

The next NWD-LWML convention will be June 23-25, 2016 in Eau Claire. The National convention will be June 25-28, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa.

TRIG'S RECEIPTS: Are you remembering to save your Trig's Receipts? Put **7B** on the receipt and deposit in the container in the front of the store.



At the convention we voted for our new **Mission Grant goal for 2014-2016 as \$100,000**

1. NWD Professional Church Work Student Grant..... \$25,000
2. Orphan Grain Train—Wisconsin Branch..... \$10,000
3. "Every Kid to Camp," Camp Luther, Three Lakes, WI..... \$10,000
4. Victory Lutheran Mission of Hope, Gwinn, MI..... \$20,000
5. Jeremy Faga Memorial in Central Alaska..... \$10,000
6. Lutheran Malaria Initiative (Nets, Medical, Treatment)..... \$15,000
7. Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School Mosinee, WI..... \$10,000

Please hold all these mission grants in your prayers.

NOISY SUNDAY

We will be doing "Noisy Sunday" again in October so save you coins. The monies go towards our Mission Grants for LWML!



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTER

If anyone would like to bring flowers for the Alter for a special occasion, please do so. Maybe someone's birthday, anniversary or just because. Bring them Sunday before church and if you want, take them home after services.



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We have a new fund raising program that is year around. It's time to do spring cleaning, so here is a chance to get rid of working items that are no longer needed or items like furniture that is in good shape and is being replaced. They also do estate sales.

There is information on the back door.

Mission Statement: to make Jesus known within and beyond the church through worship, Bible study, fellowship and service.

Vision Statement: To avail the kingdom of God by developing a community of Christian faith and fellowship through education, communication, growth and unity.

LCEF—Lutheran Church Extension Fund

LCEF: Something for Everyone

For all the unique characteristics of each generation, there are also areas of common interest. For example, check out who's on Facebook these days!

60% of adults ages 50-64 years old that are online, stay connected by using Facebook. Compare that to 79% from the 30-49 age group and 84% of adults 18-29 years of age*. (*According to a December 20113 Pew Research study).

When it comes to your financial needs, LCEF offers investments for everyone from babies to grandparents.

No matter your age, you'll have this in common: Helping to share the Gospel, saving for the future, and using your blessings wisely through your LCEF investments.

Invest today! For rates and details, visit lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.



STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Guidelines for Gathering Stamps



1. Cut the stamps from envelopes with a 1/4" margin around the stamp. Be careful not to cut the stamp. The perforations must be perfect.
2. Do NOT pull or take the stamps from the envelope.
3. Commemorative U.S. stamps, denominations larger than first class postage, and foreign stamps are especially valuable.
4. Do NOT remove stamps from albums, older postcards and/or envelopes, or first-day covers. Send in the entire album, envelope or postcard. This does not include postal cards sold by the post office. An "old card" is usually from 1930 or before.
5. Stamp brokers will now take "Forever Stamps."

Stamps may be place in the container in the narthex.

(NOTE) When placing a stamp on an envelope, move it down a little so it doesn't get torn when opening the envelope.

Remember—Food Pantry Drive

Second Sunday of each month or anytime. Bring a few items to church or a whole bag full.

Put the items in the box in the narthex.



UPDATE FROM DISTRICT

I received a call mentioning that the district is currently looking at a re-alignment of the circuits. One problem is that a few circuits like ours have too few members to qualify when it comes to the synod's requirements. One idea is to absorb our circuit and another circuit into an existing circuit. At this point no decision has been made and no recommendation has been finalized.

Until any changes are made we are being asked to hold circuit forums this fall. I am looking at Sunday, November 2nd, 3 p.m. It could be held at St. Mark, Rhinelander.

Each congregation should send two representatives. Your congregation should also nominate a candidate for the Circuit Visitor for the 2015-2018 term.

A delegate needs to be elected for the District Convention, which is June 7 & 8, 2015.

Rick Miller,
Circuit Counselor (now called Circuit Visitor)

More on this in upcoming months!

Personal Essential's Pantry (PEP) is open to anyone in need of personal items. Items needed are shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste, household cleaners, lotion, etc. *(Please bring items to church—there is a box in back of the church.*

It is held at the Methodist Church in Rhinelander. Check out the display in the John Wesley room.

Funny Signs

Outside a Hotel: "Help! We need inn-experienced people."

Music Store: "Bach in a minuet."

Maternity Clothes Shop: "We are open on Labor Day."

At the Electric Company: "We would be de-lighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant Window: "Don't stand there and be hungry, come on in and get fed up."

In a Counselor's Office: "Growing old is mandatory, growing wise is optional."

Podiatrist's Window: "Time wounds all heels."

Computer Store: "Back in 10 minutes—out for a quick byte."