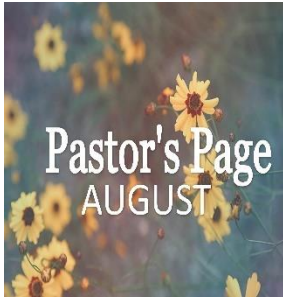


News

from the

Pews

AUGUST 2023



It's happening! It's time for school to begin! It's a time for normalcy. It's time to get back to the

ol' routine. Vacationing and traveling has been good and now is winding down, and everyone is settling in for the end of summer (and the start of football – wait – did I say football). There still may be one last trip planned or one last visit from loved ones, but the start of school is just around the corner. Getting back to learning and routine is comforting.

With all this change and hectic scheduling, it is comforting to know that, in spite of all the craziness of summer, God is still in control. God still loves you. God is still looking out for you and your family. Jesus still died for your sins. Jesus still has risen and lives. You are still saved by grace through faith in Christ.

We humans, though we are children of the Heavenly Father, are very good at getting distracted. Life and the world has a way of throwing a lot at us. It can be easy to lose our way. Thankfully, being a Christian means that it's not up to you to stay focused on God. Instead, God comes to you! God gives you His Holy Spirit, so you don't forget Him. God refreshes and strengthens your faith when you hear His Word in church and when you're receiving His Sacrament. God loves you so

much that He comes to you to give you the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. Have you been able to continue to come to in-person services regularly and commune with your brothers and sisters in Christ this summer? Great! Keep doing so, and God will continue to grow your faith. If you have been unable to come regularly because of extra summer work or an overfull schedule...that's ok. Every Sunday or Monday can be a brand new beginning towards a closer walk with Christ. I pray all is well with all of you. Have a great August and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless, a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17



Scheduled Services
9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

6 p.m. Mondays
on Communion
weekends. In-person
only until Aug 21

Bible Study on Sundays will continue through the summer months.

Enjoy Coffee & after church services.

Office hours resume in August 8am - 3:30 p.m.

Monday evening services will be at 6 p.m. on August 7 and 21 - weekly Monday services resume as of August 21.

- **Sunday, August 27: Outdoor church service at 10 a.m. followed by all-Trinity picnic**

Resuming in the fall...

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes on September 10**
- **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS resumes in the fall**

Facebook:

Find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>.

Services and Bible classes air live on Facebook @TrinityLombard

[\(https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/\)](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/)

and can also be viewed live at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/>. Worship is online each Sunday morning at 9 a.m.



*August
16: First
Day of
School*



**Sunday, August 13,
Principal Terrell and
The Teacher
Installation,
9 a.m. service**

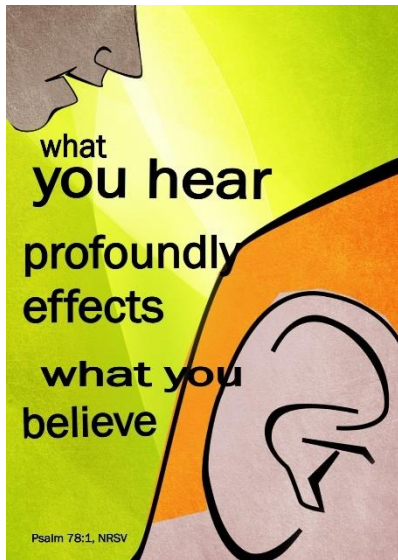
Will be followed by a **reception** in the parish hall.

Mrs. Virginia (Ginny) Terrell will be joining our staff as our interim principal and 5th and 6th grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Terrell will be teaching our 5th and 6th graders. Mr. James Baerenklau will take over responsibilities in 7th and 8th grade, and joining our staff will be Mr. Justin Allegretti as our Physical Education teacher. Justin is a student at Elmhurst University studying to be a physical education teacher.

- **Wednesday, August 2: Back to School Registration Night, 5 p.m.**
- **Sunday, August 13: Teacher Installation, during 9 a.m. church service followed by reception in parish hall**
- **Wednesday, August 16: First Day of School for the 2023-2024 academic year at Trinity Lutheran School, **NEW START TIME THIS YEAR, 8:15 a.m.**, special opening day chapel at 10:30**

Read the full article online at
<https://lcrifreedom.org/> #lutheran
#religiouliberty #freedom



What you listen to, and what you hear, has a profound effect on what you believe

The following article is a good example of just that fact. “As long as they believe in God, it’s okay.” That statement has been made by many people. Many believe that we all worship the “same” God but by different names. People who we put in charge of the government and agencies that make decisions for the nation, those writing the school curriculums that are educating our children are all affected by what they believe and who they believe in. **BUT, who they believe God is, makes all the difference in their own Salvation, and it makes a profound difference in how we live in this nation and in this world. Does what we do in our government, honor God? Does what we teach our children, honor God?**

JULY 24, 2023 by Matthew Emadi

Early in pastoral ministry, I became a police chaplain for the department of Sandy, Utah. I didn’t last long.

The head chaplain was a Mormon, and he wanted all the chaplains to unite together

regularly for prayer. When I explained to him that I couldn’t do so because we didn’t worship the same God, he was shocked I’d say such a thing. He didn’t understand that using the same terms—God the Father, Son of God, Jesus Christ, Holy Ghost—didn’t mean we meant the same thing.

This gave me an opportunity to explain why the God of the Bible isn’t the God of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and to make it clear that we weren’t praying to, worshiping, or trusting the same God at all.

What, then, do Mormons believe about God? Here are two pillars of their doctrine of God: (1) God the Father is an exalted man and (2) each person of the Godhead is a distinct and separate god.

‘As Man Is Now, God Once Was’ Mormons believe God the Father once existed as a man. In an 1844 sermon known as the King Follett discourse, Joseph Smith (the founder of Mormonism) said, “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!” He went on to say that God “was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth.”

Even now in God’s exalted state, Smith claimed, God has a body like ours: “If you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form—like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man.” Mormon scriptural canon confirms Smith’s teaching: “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s” (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22).

If God the Father used to be a man, where did he come from? According to LDS authorities, he came from *his* father. Orson Pratt, one of the early Mormon apostles, wrote,

We were begotten by our Father in heaven; the person of our Father in heaven was begotten on a previous heavenly world by His Father; and again, He was begotten by a still more ancient Father; and so on, from generation to generation, from one heavenly world to another still more ancient.

Mormons believe there are many worlds with many gods. These gods have children who populate their worlds and can progress toward deification.

The path toward divine exaltation is the goal of every Mormon. Lorenzo Snow, the fifth president of the LDS church, summarized Mormonism's doctrines of God and deification with one of the most recognizable quotes from a Mormon leader: "As man is now, God once was; as God is now man may be."

Mormonism teaches that worthy Mormon men may follow the same path as Heavenly Father ("the law of eternal progression"). They can evolve from preexistence to mortal human existence to divine exaltation. Women too may achieve celestial exaltation, becoming like Heavenly Mother, the wife of God the Father, though the LDS church admits their knowledge of Heavenly Mother is limited.

In sum, the LDS God (Heavenly Father) is an exalted man who once lived on a planet like ours. He achieved celestial exaltation, exists with a physical body in the celestial realm, has Heavenly Mother as his eternal wife, and populates our planet with his children.

This is enough to establish Mormonism as a polytheistic religion. Still, most Mormons would reject that label; they claim that while they recognize the existence of other gods, they give their worship only to the God of our world. This God, according to Mormonism, is part of a Godhead consisting of three distinct and separate beings: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The path toward divine exaltation is the goal of every Mormon. Bruce R. McConkie, a Mormon apostle in the 1970s and early 1980s, explained, "**Three separate personages**—the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—comprise the Godhead. **As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that a plurality of Gods exists.**" Joseph Smith similarly claimed Christian trinitarianism is a "popular but erroneous doctrine" and instead referred to the Godhead as "three distinct personages and three Gods."

The official LDS website contains an article titled "Becoming Like God," which states, "Latter-day Saints also believe strongly in the fundamental unity of the divine. They believe that God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, *though distinct beings*, are unified in purpose and doctrine" (emphasis mine).

Mormonism claims to worship only one God, but they mean one in purpose—not in being.

The LDS chaplain of the police department failed to recognize that the Bible's doctrine of God and Mormonism's doctrine of God are mutually exclusive—they cannot both be true. As the Creator God explicitly declares through the prophet Isaiah, "Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me" (Isa. 43:10). And similarly in Isaiah 45:5, God says, "I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God."

Mormonism claims to worship only one God, but they mean one in purpose—not in being.

**With the universal Christian Church, the LCMS teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God: the Father, creator of all that exists; Jesus Christ, the Son, who became human to suffer and die for the sins of all human beings and to rise to life again in the ultimate victory over death and Satan; and the

Holy Spirit, who creates faith through God's Word and Sacraments.

The three persons of the Trinity are coequal and coeternal, one God. Being "Lutheran," our congregation accepts and teaches Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century.

The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone.

- **Grace alone** - God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.

- **Faith alone** - By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him.

- **Scripture alone** - The Bible is God's inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine.

Christians have rightly confessed through the centuries that the only living and true God is triune—one God who exists as three coeternal, coequal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Godhead is fully God. They're identical in essence and equal in power and glory.

Only this triune God, revealed in the pages of his Word, is worthy of our worship. Only this God can save us from our sins. And only this God can hear our prayers.

This is why studying God's Word is important. This is why knowing the one TRUE God is what is taught in the Lutheran Church, our Lutheran School, Adult Bible Classes and Sunday School at Trinity.

Submitted by Judy Cuchetto

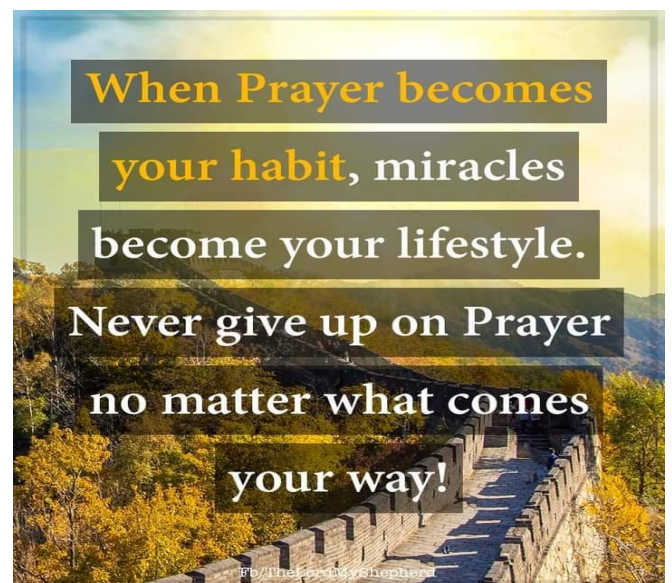


Mary/Martha extends an invitation to all women to gather together to engage in either a bible study, a project or simply fellowship.

"**God is Enough**" is the title of the women's summer Bible study. Join in when you can. We will meet on Aug. 4 and 8 at 7 p.m. in the screenhouse at the home of Judy Cuchetto. Address: 118 S Ardmore, Villa Park.

All women of Trinity are considered a part of Mary/Martha and LWML. There is no membership, just an invitation to gather together as sisters in Christ's name.

Any questions may be directed to Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or Judy Cuchetto 630.698.2208. Call or text.





Proverbs 22:9. 9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.



Trinity Lutheran Church and School contributes to two local food pantries: St. Vincent de Paul, York Center. Food pantries don't just provide food for the body, they provide nourishment to the soul through the kindness offered and the recognition of a need. God provides the means to provide food for those who are not able to provide through their own means. By bringing non-perishables (rice, pasta, mac-n-cheese...) canned goods, breakfast cereals, granola bars etc. along with you when you come to worship services, you are helping to provide nourishment and kindness to those in need. Some have asked about money. YES, the pantries need money to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and meat. If you choose to give cash, we ask that you give it to Ron or Dawn Tyler directly. There is a table in the corner of the parish hall where you can place your donations. You may never know who benefits from your generosity (for all you know, it could be your neighbor or a family member), but God does. And He reminds us: "...And the king will answer them, 'Whatsoever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40 WOW! Next time you place that bag of food on the table in the parish hall, picture Jesus Himself standing there with open arms, thanking you for sharing His love! Questions? Contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.



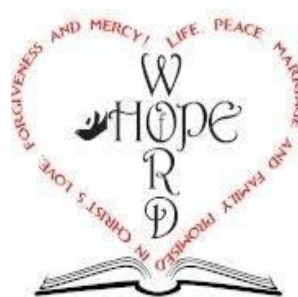
Care Net

Our Mission

Acknowledging that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection, Care Net offers compassion, hope, and help to anyone considering abortion by presenting them with realistic alternatives and Christ-centered support through our life-affirming network of pregnancy centers, churches, organizations, and individuals.

Our Vision

Care Net envisions a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families.



Do you, or someone you know, have a heart full of pain, because of an abortion in your past? Do you know that God wants to offer you His forgiveness and healing?

He can free you from guilt, hurt and pain. God says, "I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." (Isaiah 44:22) Jesus offers forgiveness for ALL our sins - He gives us a Word of Hope that can begin to heal your broken heart. If you or someone you know is hurting because of an abortion, call Word of Hope for *confidential* help at 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. "Return to me, for I have redeemed you." Isaiah 44:22



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

GIFTS FROM THE HEART thru the Voice of Hope Behind the Wall Ministry NID has evolved

in the past three years reports Deaconess Lori Wilbert. After 34 years of working behind the wall at Stateville Prison and working in ministry within the Northern Illinois District for 38 years, Deaconess Wilbert has transitioned into working with those being released from prison in the Illinois Dept. of Corrections. The teaching ministry at Stateville continued during the Covid shut down with the blessing of the warden and with staff he assigned to the ministry. Prison staff delivered class lessons and assignments to the cell houses each week, picked them up, and sent them back to Deaconess Wilbert. This teaching model continues. As a result, there is time to assist those coming home from prison,

something NOT allowed previously in Illinois. The blessing and gift of ministry with those being released has become a part of the transitional journey on which these men are about to embark. Some of these individuals were part of the teaching ministry in the past. Things have come full circle! ☺ Deaconess Wilbert will provide spiritual counseling along with practical advice on making choices, finding employment, repairing family relationships and the challenges of leaving an environment of negativity, confinement and isolation. To have freedom after 20 to 30 years of being locked up can be an arduous journey in and of itself. The church can be there for these men coming home. The church has a message of hope, grace and forgiveness. Upon their release, former prisoners need items that help an individual set up an apartment. These Gifts from the Heart will enable each person to have a solid start as he re-integrates into his community.

SEE THE NOTICE FOR THE LWML FALL GATHERING INFORMATION BEING HELD AT TRINITY IN SEPTEMBER



Saturday, August 19, 2023

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Schaumburg, Illinois**

Celebrate people of all abilities at the **2023 Voice of CareFEST!** This **FREE**, inclusive fun fest is on Saturday, August 19, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This **FREE** family-friendly celebration features a complimentary Chick-Fil-A picnic lunch, inclusive games and activities, plus opportunities to financially support **Voice of Care's** ministry of equipping churches to serve people with disabilities and their caregivers. All are welcome. It's all **FREE**, but please register here as either a participant or volunteer at voiceofcare.org - **volunteers are asked to arrive at 9 a.m. local time.**



Power in the Spirit

Often we think that we will not be able to witness our faith or a truth from God's Word, because we don't feel equipped to do so. The Holy Spirit equips us. Through our baptism, we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Trust the Spirit to give you what is needed.

This article was offered up by Rev Jim Bales. John the Baptist, whose baptism was limited to water, prophesied that Jesus would "Baptize...with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). The Bible tells us that after Jesus' resurrection, he spent forty days instructing his followers about the kingdom of God. On one occasion he gave them his command, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John truly

baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:4-5).

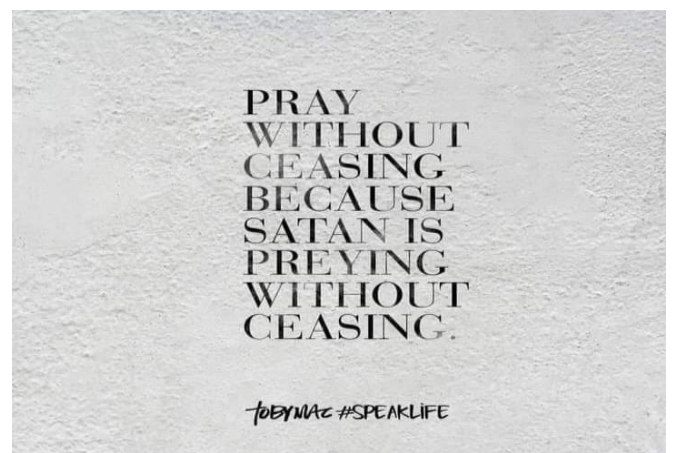
God desires each believer in Christ to be dynamically empowered by the Spirit. This experience doesn't make a Christian "more special" to God, because God does not show favoritism. However, the baptism in the Holy Spirit will give you a greater boldness, along with a measure of power equal to the power that dwelt in the early believers. The person who receives this power will be able to speak about the marvelous works of Jesus as well as witness their faith in God.

Among many other truths, Peter said in Acts 2:38-39 that this "promise" is "for all who are far off". We are those people of whom Peter was speaking. God never intended this experience to be for the early believers only. It is for us. All over the world today, millions of Christians are receiving the same gift Jesus' early followers received.

Remember...we ourselves witness every day, knowingly or unknowingly, how we witness, is how others see our trust in the Savior. How have you witnessed this past month?

Rest in His goodness and grace.

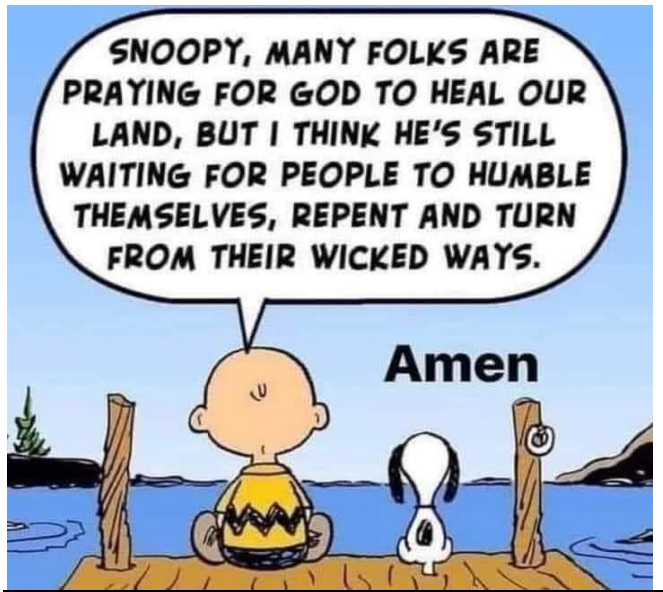
Blessings,
Board of Evangelism



IT IS OUR JOB AS CHRISTIANS, TO BE AWARE, BE VIGILANT AND TO PRAY FERVENTLY... for our families, our churches, our schools, our nation and the salvation of

those who have not yet confessed Christ as their Savior.

Our nation is under attack by the enemy of God, who is our enemy dressed in many forms, who preys against us,



*"I was ready to be sought
by those who did not ask for me;
I was ready to be found by
those who did not seek me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that was not
called by^[a] my name.*

*²I spread out my hands all the
day
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not
good,
following their own devices;
³a people who provoke me
to my face continually, ..."*

Isiah 65:1-3



NEWS from LWML

Our LWML (which includes every woman and young girl in our church) here in Lombard, will host the FALL GATHERING



2023 Fall Gathering

September 29 & 30

This year we are gathering to learn about Scripture journaling and creating illustrated encouragement cards. Virtual Faith Ministry, featured in the Fall 2022 Quarterly, will guide us through Bible Study, a presentation about their ministry, and two unique workshops to teach us how using visual illustrations of Scripture verses can enhance our own spiritual faith walk and encourage others. Even if you don't think you are "creative," this workshop will have something for you! More details to come!

Trinity Lutheran Church
1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd
Lombard IL 60148

Friday, September 29, 2023 - 7 to 9 p.m.
Scripture Journaling Workshop
Includes Fellowship and Dessert

Saturday, September 30, 2023
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Bible Study, Presentation
and hands on workshop to create illustrated
encouragement cards
Includes light breakfast and lunch

You may come to one or both of the events.

Contact Kris Blackwell 630.234.1491 or
kbwrk123@gmail.com for information

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

GIFTS FROM THE HEART Fall Gathering

2023 Note: **All items must be new and package sizes appropriate for an individual Household**

Items: Toilet paper	Paper towels/Kleenex
Laundry detergent	Dish soap
Lysol toilet cleaner	Cleaning cloths
Kitchen towels/	Dish cloths
Bath towels/	Washcloths
Queen or Full Sheets	Set of basic pots/pans
Set of plates	coffee mugs/glasses
Silverware	
Personal Needs:	
Hand soap/Body wash	Shampoo/Conditioner
Toothpaste/brush	Hair brush/Comb
Disposable razors	Shaving Cream Deodorant
Lotion	

Gift cards for Walmart, Walgreens, or Jewel-Osco
Any or all would be a blessing.

Registrations for one or both events must be confirmed by September 11. Please see Arlene Solyom for more information.

Other LWML news:

- Eleven members of a **MOST** Ministries Eyeglass team left for Guatemala on Friday July 21 and returned on July 29. Prayers were lifted up for safe travel to and from Guatemala and safety as they traveled by bus 3 hours to Gualan where the team would then be serving from Sunday afternoon thru Thursday, July 27. Prayers were also offered for the local people who would come to the clinic that they would receive both physical site through glasses and spiritual site through the work of the Holy Spirit.

God bless these willing workers who went to Guatemala through MOST ministries. **MOST Ministries** enables committed Christians to go on short-term missions and share God's love through both witness and acts of service. A grant through LWML helps to support this ministry.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention Report

40th Biennial Convention was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, welcomed over 3,500 people to their 40th biennial convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023, under the theme "**Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.**" The convention theme was based on Psalm 33:12–13.

2023–2025 Mission Goal and Mission Grants

The Lutheran Women in Mission voting body adopted a **\$2,350,000 mission goal** for the 2023–2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will **fund 31 mission grants**, as women and men respond in prayer and mite offerings during the next two years.

Lori Solyom, one of the attendees from Trinity said:
One of my favorite parts of the convention was the parade of international flags, followed by all of the children and workers from Camp Celebration...I just kept hearing Jesus' words,

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," from Matthew 28:19, and "Let the little children come to me..." from Matthew 19:14.

It was also pretty exhilarating to stand on the stage on Sunday morning as part of the host committee as all of the volunteer workers from the Northern Illinois District, and North and South Wisconsin Districts filled the front of the auditorium. It was a real, "wow, we did it!" moment.

I have never laughed so hard as I did during the Lutheran Ladies Lounge Family Feud game when Erin asked for the top things to add to Jell-O and Jan Struck piped up with "the correct color of the liturgical season." Oh my!

Lori, Arlene, Ann, Hannah and Rachel were blessed by their participation.

More news will follow on the grants chosen for the new mission goal.

(listen, ask, seek, share, invite, and encourage)

LCMS New evangelism module addresses witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

***Every One His Witness® (E1HW)* is The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) resource for equipping Lutherans to share the Gospel with the people they encounter in their everyday lives.**

Since the launch of *E1HW* in 2017, modules have been released on witnessing to a wide array of people who need to hear God's Word: Muslims, "Nones," LGBTQ people, Jewish people, those who have left the church, those influenced by critical theory, those who struggle with depression or grief, and those

who are dealing with the consequences of abortion.

Now, a new *E1HW* module is available: "Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses." The introduction to the module notes that "many people are familiar with the Jehovah's Witnesses because of their active evangelism efforts" as they go door-to-door in neighborhoods and disseminate printed material in public spaces. The module encourages faithful Christians, rather than hiding from Jehovah's Witnesses or avoiding conversations with them, to see interactions with them as "opportunities to bring the Good News to people oppressed by the burdens of the Law and false teachings about Jesus."

The new module, like past modules, makes use of the LASSIE approach to witnessing, which is the foundation of the *E1HW* program: Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage. The LASSIE approach is presented in depth in the program's core module, which is available at no cost at everyonehiswitness.org.

All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted **if possible by the 20th of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1st of the month.**

Thank you. Send to vinjud60@yahoo.com

Questions?...call or text - Judy Cuchetto 630.698.2208 at any time.