

From the Pastor: On Female Acolytes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Jesus answered, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female?’”
(Matthew 19:4)

It was decided recently at a regular meeting of the Board of Deacons to discontinue the practice of having females serve as acolytes. To be clear, it is NOT sinful to have female acolytes. However, just because something is not sin and hasn't been explicitly forbidden by God in His Word does not mean it is good and beneficial to the Church. In this regard, St. Paul writes, *“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable”* (1 Cor 6:12). Even though God may not prohibit something, we are wise to seek and do that which is most beneficial to the Church and best reflects our confession of faith.

Historically speaking, the Church, in her wisdom, has always only allowed males to serve as acolytes. The old term was “altar boy” and the duties of such were more extensive than just lighting and snuffing candles. The term “acolyte” comes from the Greek word *akolouthos*, which means “follower”. The altar boy, in addition to lighting and snuffing candles, would literally *follow* the priest around in the chancel area to assist him in any way needed. Serving in such close proximity to and with the priest was also intended to possibly plant the seed of future priestly aspirations. Since, of course, the Scriptures clearly prohibit females from holding the pastoral office, it only made sense that the Church historically would not allow females to serve in such close proximity to the priest in the public worship life of the Church. To do so, would not only have the possibility of creating errant ambitions, but overall might create confusion in regard to the biblically based distinction of the sexes based upon the order of creation.

In our current cultural climate of sex/gender chaos (LGBTQ), godless confusion reigns supreme. It is more important than ever that the Church not only teach the truth of the Scriptures, but also utilize every possible venue to further buttress the logical implications of God's created order. We must not merely say what we believe, but live what we believe. Confession of the truth is by both word and deed. And what exactly do we believe?

- Both male and female were created in the image and likeness of God and share in those qualities that enable us to know, love and serve God. Male and female are fully equal in dignity and worth in the sight of God.
- God made male and female to be complementary to each other. We are equal in dignity and worth *but* not the same – there are qualities and attributes proper to each gender.

- We are, in the very essence of our being, male and female. Our qualities and attributes as male and female are not primarily learned behaviors (culturally conditioned), but reflect the creative will of God



- Almighty.
- God's order of creation and gender distinction is evident even in redemption in that Jesus did not take on flesh *as a man* because of social and historical circumstances. Jesus is male because the Church was to be, and is, His Bride.
 - Insofar as we ignore essential differences placed in us by God, we corrupt our understanding of human nature as male and female.

With these things in mind, it certainly seems fitting and safe to limit lay-assistance in the public services of the Church to males only. It is far too simplistic to reduce the matter to pure functionality, that is, that girls are equally capable as boys in the task of lighting and snuffing candles (for that matter, there are undoubtedly many women who could preach better than men). It is not necessarily a matter of ability and it certainly is NOT a matter of "rights." Rather, it is about the beautiful and intricate created order of God. Male and female, mother and father, maternity and paternity, are not "social roles" imposed on us by society and culture. Our gender is part of who we are and we ought to consider it a great and unique blessing of God. Besides, there are plenty of other opportunities for the girls of our congregation to serve (altar guild, Women of Faith, Life Team, choir, instrumentalists, Sunday School teachers and aides, etc.). For our part here at *Faith*, let us all welcome, support and honor this change for the good of our children and as a proper and seemly confession of our beliefs.

Oh, blest the house, whatever befall, where Jesus Christ is all and all!
Yea, if He were not dwelling there, how dark and poor and void it were!

Oh, blest the house where faith ye find, and all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still and do in all His holy will!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed unto their children's foremost need,
and weary not of care or cost! May none to them and heaven be lost!

Then here will I and mine today a solemn covenant make and say:
Though all the world forsake Thy Word, I and my house will serve the Lord.

(TLH #625 stanzas 1-3,5)

In the bond of faith,
Pastor Menet

Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, Scripture Alone, and to God Alone be the Glory!

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Sunday: Divine Service with Communion at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:20-11:30

Thursday: Adult Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m.

Pastor Menet's email address: pdm52@mchsi.com
Church Office: faithluth@aol.com

If you would like to add something to the website, send submissions to Katie at faithluth@aol.com. You can read *The Rock* in color on the website too!

Do you have information that you would like to share with the congregation? Please bring it or e-mail it to the office by **August 23, faithluth@aol.com**, to be included in the September newsletter.

Cancellations due to bad weather can be found on www.KWWL.com. Click on weather, then cancellations. Wednesday night classes are cancelled if schools close.

Hospital stay: Pastor Menet does make it a priority to visit the hospitals. However, the hospital will not call us to let us know when one of our members is admitted. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be hospitalized, please indicate that on your record of fellowship or speak with Pastor. If you are admitted suddenly, call or have a friend or relative call the church office, 236-1771, or Pastor.

No new addresses this month

Please email faithluth@aol.com or call 236-1771 with any changes in your phone or address.

Remember our shut-ins:

Steve Boyken and Kathy Boyken,

Sunset Nursing, 235 N Mill St., P.O. Box 383, Denver, IA 50622,
Kathy: 984-5092

Mary Jo Elbert, 7517 University Ave #33, Cedar Falls 50613

Flo Fitz, 202 N. Magnolia Dr. #102, Cedar Falls 50613

Ardie Holmes, 2104 Parrish, Cedar Falls 50613

Dixie Krieger, 3415 Destin Dr., Waterloo 50702

Mark Mohr, Neuro Rehab Care, Rm 10, 35 Rachel St, Waterloo 50701

Official Acts in July

- **Release:** Randy Hakes
- **Release:** Aaron Elbert

Thank you to everyone who works behind the scenes to keep up the church! You are truly appreciated!

We always thank God, the Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints...

thank you

Colossians 1:3-4

Sunday School Schedule:

There will be no Sunday School August 4, 11, and 18. We will resume classes on August 25 with our Fall Kickoff.

You shall teach [these words of Mine] to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 11:19



LWML News: Women of Faith met July 9 for our annual salad supper with 7 members present. Ann Wiechert was hostess and led us in a devotion. Our August meeting will be supper out at Rodney's restaurant in downtown Waterloo (624 Sycamore St.) We will meet there at 6:00 p.m. Brings ideas for future Women of Faith meetings. All women of the congregation are invited to join us.

August Anniversaries

- 7 Shane & Rebecca Stitchman (15)
- 14 Pastor & Carrie Menet (8)
- 15 Merle & Carmen Hinz (38)
- 18 Paul & Jill Collins (29);
Ashley & Wesley Negus (7)
- 30 Billie & Todd Heth (22)



August Birthdays

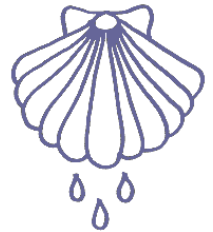
- 5 Jim Meggison
- 7 Jim Dalluge
- 8 Corey Randall
- 10 Leah Tanney
- 11 Morgan Crawford, Keller McBride

- 12 Toni Hilmer
- 13 Deb Bloomquist
- 14 Gary Deitrick
- 15 Carli Chilcote
- 22 Annabell Hilmer-Hakes
- 24 Kathy Boyken
- 25 Austin Deitrick
- 26 Chris Williams
- 30 Brian Wagner
- 31 Sharon Herrmann



August Baptismal Birthdays

- 1. Susan Clark, Lee Thurmond
- 2 Alta Dicken
- 4 Rebecca Stitchman
- 5 Mulbah Marsh, Nowai Marsh, Yamah Marsh, Jim Meggison
- 6 Jacob Hewitt
- 8 Sarah Brackin, Rebecca Evers
- 14 Kie Maas
- 17 Avery Behnke, Morgan Crawford
- 18 Emily Dalluge, Owen Dalluge, Christine Holman
- 21 Evan Dalluge
- 23 Leah Tanney
- 24 Betty Clemmensen
- 28 Zach Dunnwald
- 29 Marj Kleinendorst



News & Events



Why sweat the
Summer is a tough families. Social are often in short care items. From 12, we will be

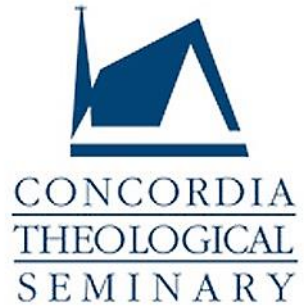
care drive to benefit the Northeast list of needed items is posted on the hall, and there is a barrel in the narthex Please consider how you can help needs of your neighbors here in the Cedar Valley.



small stuff?
time for many local service agencies supply of personal now through August holding a personal Iowa Food Bank. A door to the parish to collect donations. provide for the

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), will host the biannual Prayerfully Consider Visit (PCV) on campus from October 10–12. PCV is an opportunity for both college-aged prospects and those

already in the work force to contemplate a future vocation as either a pastor or deaconess, and to experience life as a student at CTSFW. Attendees not only explore the campus and engage with current students and faculty, they immerse themselves in the scripturally-based and confessionally-rich classes as well as join the community in the daily worship life at Kramer Chapel. As a vital part of the decision-making process, spouses and fiancés/fiancées are encouraged to join their partner. All participants—including spouses and fiancés/fiancées—attend PCV for free, which includes room and board on campus. To view a sample schedule, learn more about the three-day visit, or to register, go to www.ctsfw.edu/PCV. For any additional questions or concerns, contact the Admission Office at Admission@ctsfw.edu or (800) 481-2155.



St. Paul in Mt. Vernon will be hosting a free event on September 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to give LCMS youth an overview of the ways in which they can serve the Church both as a layperson and professionally. The goal of this event is to affirm our youth in their responsibilities as communicant members of the Church and is suited for those currently in confirmation classes as well as those who have already been confirmed. There will be a panel of individuals serving in lay and professional positions, who will also be available at the noon meal for more personal discussion. Additionally, President Saunders will be speaking on the theme for the day during the panel on the pastoral office. We believe that this is a valuable event with the potential to better equip our youth to be faithful servants of the Church. It is a high honor for a congregation to send men and women into the ministry, and sending high quality and well-trained youth into professional church work is critical for the future of the Synod. There is a schedule for the day on the bulletin board in the parish hall. **If you are interested in sending your children to this event, please let Katie know by the end of the month.**

Our missionary families:

Rev. David Preus and family in the Dominican Republic: Rev. David and Jennifer Preus serve the Lord as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Dominican Republic. In this role, David plants new churches in this country. He forms and



develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry. He also helps with theological education as needed and works with local deaconesses in their mercy care ministries throughout the country. lcms.org/Preus

Rev. Micah Wildauer and family in Togo Pastor Wildauer teaches at The Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) which serves as a regional seminary for the French-speaking countries of West and Central Africa. **For further updates of our family and life in West Africa, check out Robin's blog at www.wildauersgototogo.blogspot.com**



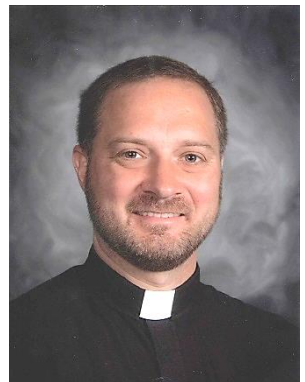
Faith Life Team Updates

The Faith Lutheran Life Team exists to equip our church to be Gospel-motivated voices for every human life.

The next Life Team meeting will be on Monday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, September 15, Pastor Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life, will be hosting a seminar at Faith titled "This Is My Body: Christian Compassion and Courage Concerning Sexuality and Gender". He will also be preaching that morning and leading Bible study. The Life Team will then be hosting a lunch, and the seminar will begin at 2 p.m.

Our culture is wrestling with questions about sexuality and gender. Many of our communities, congregations, and families are struggling with these issues as well. How do our bodies reflect and confess the grace of God? For what privileges and responsibilities has He made us male and female? How does He safeguard these gifts? How can we incorporate and care for individuals experiencing suffering and temptation related to sexuality and gender? How may we speak truth and show love in such sensitive situations? We will be motivated by the



Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will examine instruction from Scripture, engage observations of science, and explore opportunities for servanthood.

Rev. Michael W. Salemink began serving as executive director of Lutherans For Life in January 2016. He received a B.A. in Theology from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., in 1999 and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2003. He has served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Webster, Minn., (2003-2005) and as associate pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and School in Lafayette, Ind. (2005-2015). Pastor Salemink and his wife, Heather, have been married 19 years and reside in St. Louis, Mo., where they attend Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, with their three sons: Christian, Nathan, and Luke. Pastor Salemink writes regularly and speaks nationwide equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for life.