

From the Pastor: On Personal Piety

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.”

(Hebrews 5:7 - NASB)

Piety gets a bit of a bad rap in current culture. Many people think of a pious person as a *“holier than thou”* individual who is likely a Bible-thumping Christian of fundamentalist origins. Such people are often characterized as excessively straight-laced and prudish. At the very least, most associate piety with holy or sanctified living according to religious principles and morality.

The word *“piety”* is of Latin origin and simply means *“duty to God.”* The definition has expanded somewhat over the years and is often rendered by modern dictionaries as reverence to God expressed in the devout fulfilment of religious obligations. By such definition, we see why piety is often equated with, or at least associated with, good works – those who honor God obey His commands.

But true Christian piety is much more than just obedience to God, it’s about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As is often the case in Christian theology, various tenets and teachings are distilled to their core essence, namely, Jesus. Personal piety must begin with Jesus. He is the Author and Perfecter of your faith. He is the only source of true piety. After all, it is He who said, *“I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5). By these words we are reminded that we are so grafted into Christ and He to us that we must never separate the life of the Christian from the life of Christ.

But how exactly did you become a branch to *that* Vine? St. Paul tells us, *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:3-4). St. Paul further states that as a result of those waters of Baptism, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20).

So Christian piety is especially concerned with the baptismal life of faith, that is, a life which routinely returns to the font in prayer and worship, to receive, over and over again, sustenance and life, pardon

and peace from the Word of Christ during our earthly pilgrimage. From this regularity in worship and prayer flows the other matters which we normally associate with piety: behaving properly in the world as is fitting for those who bear Christ's name, keeping ourselves from vices, learning to be kind, courteous and respectful, helping those who are in need, forgiving as we have been forgiven, loving one another, and so forth.

But *first* from this must spring the necessity for the nurture and maintenance of the faith we have been given. This is precisely why the Commandments are ordered the way they are: the first table of the Law deals with God, and the second with our neighbor. The point of such ordering is that one must first be right with God if they are going to effectually love their neighbor. To phrase it another way, true piety must find its origin from a faith that is regularly fed through the means of grace.

Christian piety, therefore, must be chiefly inclined to be concerned about such things as regular weekly attendance at worship as well as daily prayer and devotion because *that* is where the faithful interact with Jesus, the Vine who graciously nourishes His beloved branches. In worship and devotion, God's pious elect are at the peak of their piety precisely because Jesus is being heard and received.

So, do as the *Small Catechism* suggests, recite the Creed and the Lord's Prayer at morning and night. Review the chief doctrines of the Christian faith. Read the Bible with regularity. These things are of no small significance, for daily prayers spring forth from the weekly gathering at worship, and that weekly gathering springs from the font of Baptism. The essence of true Christian piety begins with worship and prayer.

Help us that we Thy saving Word In faithful hearts may treasure;
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford New grace in richest measure.

O make us die to ev'ry sin, Each day create new life within, That fruits of faith
may flourish.

(LSB #693 stanza 2)

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

Wednesday: Confirmation Class 6-7 p.m.

Vespers 7-7:30 p.m.

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

Pastor Menet's email address: pdm52@mchsi.com

Church Office: faithluth@aol.com

Web site: www.faithupontherock.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!

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.

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION that you would like to share with the congregation? Please bring it or e-mail it to the office by **February 15**, faithluth@aol.com, to be included in the March Newsletter.

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

Ardie Holmes, 2104 Parrish, Cedar Falls 50613

Leona Jeanne Perkins, 203 Lake St., Cedar Falls 50613

Eddie Swaim, Friendship Village Pavilion, Park Lane #3

Flo Fitz, 1119 Kent Cir. #317, Waterloo, IA 50702

OFFICIAL ACTS in January

TRANSFER IN: Dixie Krieger from Concordia

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP for November*

Total Funds Received \$12,368.60

Required to Meet Budget \$16,524.00

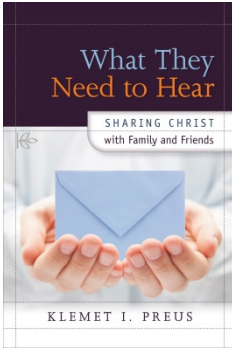
Status (\$4,155.40)

YTD

Status (\$20,097.93)

*December report not available at this time.

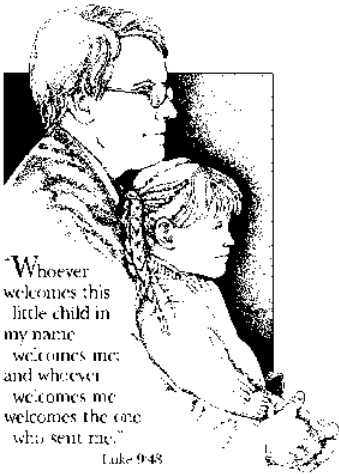
BOOK OF THE MONTH



The book of the month for February is *What They Need to Hear: Sharing Christ with Family and Friends* by Klemet I. Preus. Maybe above all else, we want our family members and friends to rejoice with us in God as our Savior. Yet, those closest to us often present us with the greatest challenges for our witness.

This inspirational book is a collection of Rev. Preus's letters to Lloyd. It is a captivating, real-life story of how one man returned to faith through the witness of his son-in-law. Written over a period of almost two years, these letters contain devotional and doctrinal insight, and offer personal anecdotes and practical advice to help readers who are struggling to reach out to friends or family members who have questions about Christianity.

WOMEN OF FAITH did not meet in January. Our next meeting will be February 12th, 6:30 p.m. at Faith. Pastor Menet will lead us in a Bible Study at this meeting. Ramona Glenn is our hostess.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We know children can be a handful in a worship service. We believe God wants your children to be part of the worship time and so do we.

You can begin training them as soon as they can sit by themselves. To help you, here are some suggestions. First - Worship with them, teaching them the pattern of worship. Folding hands during prayers is a good place to begin and standing when the congregation does. As they get older teach them to follow the service in the hymnal or with a large print

bulletin. Teach them the hymns so they can sing with you. During the sermon, let them color or play quietly.

And finally – they are children and will not be perfect. We expect an occasional “melt down” so hang in there. There is a cry room where you can sit and listen to the service till your child calms down. You can take your bulletin with you and follow along and you can even see the service through the large window looking in to the sanctuary.

IN-SANCTUARY TIPS for Repeating Back from *Whisper, Whisper*
Use your finger to direct your child’s attention to go word-by-word for the spoken responses.

- Hold younger children and encourage older children to stand during prayers and other times during the service when the people speak responses. Learning this rhythm teaches young children about active participation in the service.
- Lean close you your child’s ear when saying responses so he or she will clearly hear the words you say aloud.
- At home, when teaching texts such as the Lord’s Prayer, liturgical songs, or the Apostle’s Creed, start phrase by phrase.

So many people do so much around our church that may go unnoticed. Here are some things that have been noticed:

- Thank you to everyone who helped organize and serve at Kie’s retirement brunch.



- Thank you to Mike Smith for leading the blood drive and to all who donated blood.
- Thank you to Kie Maas for providing the bulletin inserts for Life Sunday.
- Thank you to Ann & Don Wiechert, John Dalluge, and Jim Dalluge for installing the new oven for the kitchen.
- Thank you to Dan Whitmer (Katie Dalluge's brother) for setting up the new router for the office computers.

If you have noticed something or someone that should be recognized, please notify Katie in the office, faithluth@aol.com

February Anniversaries

- 3 Sandy & Joe Warmuth (29)
- 14 Dennis & Toni Hilmer (9)

Happy Anniversary

February Birthdays

- 3 Aaron Elbert, Megan Galle
- 5 Victor Marsh, Don Wiechert
- 8 Charles Klima, Violet Wynstra
- 12 Paul Collins
- 13 Tina Chidester, Malina Chidester, GiGi Garms
- 18 Skip Smith
- 20 Peter Beck
- 23 Tim Chilcote
- 27 Geraldine Mahnke
- 28 Jacob Hewitt

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As February begins, the Christmas season is behind us, and soon Epiphany will be as well. We learned about the visit and worship of the Magi, the boy Jesus in the temple, and Jesus' Baptism. We grow in the Word (Jesus, made flesh) just as He "grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

In the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus, we see His glory through His humanity. He is our long awaited Savior sent to take away

the sins of the world. This will lead us into Lent, a time to repent of our sins and prepare ourselves for Easter.

Students will learn of God's great love for us in Jesus. An unconditional, sacrificial love for each of us; for the world.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

1 John 3:1

"...I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

Jeremiah 31:3b

Join Sunday School classes each Sunday as we continue to be in the Word through confession, music, prayer, and lessons. Weekly bulletins will announce the February lessons.

CONFIRMATION & WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Classes continue to meet each Wednesday as students study the catechism and learn about the faith we confess and believe. The older students will focus on the Lord's Prayer and Holy Baptism. The younger class will be learning about confession and the Lenten season.

Pray for our students, their families, and the staff as we share and grow in our faith together, guided by the Holy Spirit and the inspired Word, the Bible.

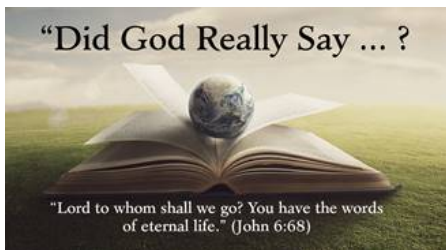
"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105

Winter reminder: When school is cancelled due to weather conditions, so are Wednesday classes.

YOUTH NEWS

2019 Iowa Essay Contest



For students grades 6-12

Any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school is eligible

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents, Lutherans For Life

Contest Guidelines

1. Students will write a life-affirming essay incorporating the 2019 Conference theme: "Did God Really Say..." and Conference Bible verse: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but not limited to: abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (Identify school or church) and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.
 - a. Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words
 - b. Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words
 - c. Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word via email to kmaas48@mchsi.com by March 15, 2019.
5. There will be a \$100 award for each of the two categories for the state of Iowa Essay Contest. The two winners will advance to the national contest.
6. Grand Prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2019 Regional Conference of the winners' choice and one night stay at the conference hotel.
7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see: lutheransforlife.org

Dinner theater, Feb. 15th at 6 p.m. and 16th at 5 p.m. Enjoy an evening of fine dining and laughter and support your campus ministry at College Hill Lutheran Church (CHLC). All the money raised toward our \$3,500 goal goes directly to supporting campus ministry events like our Spring Break Mercy Trip and Fall Fling Study Weekend. Tickets are \$15 and 3 and under are free. All seating is general admission and doors open 30 minutes before each show. If you are not able to attend, but would like to still make a donation, please mail it to CHLC, with campus ministry on the memo line, at 2322 Olive St. Cedar Falls, IA 50613. If you have any questions or would like tickets call CHLC at (319)266-1274.



Spring 2019 LHM Convention: April 13 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Dr. Yahnke to speak on Depression Lutheran Hour Ministries will be holding its annual convention on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE, Solon, IA 52333. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke, Executive Director for Spiritual Counsel with DOXOLOGY. She is a licensed clinical psychologist who has provided consultation to LCMS District Presidents, Pastors and other church workers for over three decades. Her presentation will address the subject of DEPRESSION, a major issue in society today. She says of her presentation,

“SOMEONE YOU KNOW REALLY NEEDS
TO HAVE YOU HEAR THIS!”

Anyone can attend. Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.; the convention starts at 9:30 a.m., and will conclude at about 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$18 (\$20 at the door), and includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by April 6, 2019 to allow time for meal planning.

email office@iodiseca.org

web www.campiodiseca.org

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

Faith-Valley Tuition Fund received another check from Stuff Etc. for \$147.88, and a personal check for \$50, bringing our total to **\$1,462.00**. Tuition and fees cost from \$5400 to \$6000 per year, depending on grade. Valley Lutheran School is a Christ centered, academically excellent Lutheran school and we have the opportunity to help children attend. Please prayerfully consider if you can help defray tuition expenses for members in need that attend Valley Lutheran School. If you would like to donate, simply designate your gift to Valley Tuition Fund and put it in the plate on Sunday.

Each year Valley assesses the financial situation of each family with children attending to determine what level of scholarship and tuition assistance is required. Valley notifies the Association churches of the level of need so we can best work to help those families that would like to send their children to Valley but have financial difficulties.

If you would like to send your child/children to Valley and need some help, this is for you. Call the office or talk to Jeff Elbert.

If you have any questions, please contact John Dalluge, Faith Board member to Valley, or Jeff Elbert.

Our three 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***

David and Valerie Federwitz, serving in Ghana with Lutheran Bible Translators since 2003.

The Lutheran Hour-

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program, **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on more than 1,600 stations. For more information, visit www.lhm.org or call 1-800-876-9880. The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday morning on the following stations:

6:30 a.m. on WMT 600 AM
7:30 a.m. on KCHA 1580 AM
8:00 a.m. on KWAY 1470 AM
9:30 a.m. on KXEL 1540 AM

The Lutheran Hour also podcast their broadcast. For more information go to <http://www.lhm.org/podcasts>

February 3
"Slow Solution"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Some problems can be quickly resolved. Others require us to interact with people, take time to know them, get involved with them. The Gospel is the answer to the hidden problem that separates us from God and from each other. (John 20:21)

February 10

"Where Heaven Meets Earth"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus is the place where heaven and earth overlap and intersect. So what does this mean for us? It means that the night is over and it's time to stop snoozing and wake up! (John 3:1-21)

February 17

"Arise"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook (1 Cor. 15:12-20)

ZOE UPDATE

As Zoe's grandparents and family we continue to give thanks for your prayers and support. God works through them for her and her needs. This includes family, friends, and the team of dedicated therapists, teachers, and medical staff all working on her behalf.

Zoe has been working with a new stander since school began in the fall. It helps her to spend part of her day upright, actually standing with the help of equipment, straps, and braces. It is time spent out of the wheelchair and sitting positions or lying down. She loves it!

Her neck has been more out of her control lately and this makes it difficult for her to hold her head up. Please pray for this as it affects many areas—eating, reading, eye-to-eye contact, and more. It is hard to imagine being dependent on someone else for almost everything.

Zoe will be ten years old this month! A beautifully blessed milestone for her! We give thanks and praise for God's continued blessings upon her. She is in fourth grade, growing taller and heavier, loves reading chapter books and poetry, and is a BIG Disney and Pixar movie fan.

Thank you for your loving care for her and all of us, her family. You are truly a blessing. God is so good as His love shines through all of you!

Papa Mike & Grama Vickey Smith
Josh, Jamie, Noah, & Zoe Jones

You may correspond with them at: 4807 Baldwin St.,
Rapid City, SD 57702-1933

WHERE CHRISTIANITY MEETS CULTURE



Faith Life Team Updates

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

On the evening of January 8, four members of the life team attended Personhood Tuesday to hear speakers from Personhood Iowa. We learned that Planned Parenthood is trying to push an amendment to the state constitution asserting that abortion is a constitutional right. If it passes, Iowa will become the most abortion-liberal state in the union, worse even than California or New York. No other laws against abortion would be passable, and *Roe v. Wade* would be untouchable, in Iowa. In response, Personhood Iowa is trying to pass an amendment stating that there is no "right to abortion." The language of this amendment is neutral, giving ground to neither the pro-life nor the pro-abortion side, but it would lay the groundwork for more pro-life legislation in the future. Iowans can take heart, however; most of the Iowa legislators that supported the "heartbeat bill" were elected in the last election, a sign that the people of Iowa do not want abortion on demand. As it is now, 4-6,000 babies are aborted in Iowa every year.



At the meeting, we also heard a presentation for a **new project that could dramatically improve the effectiveness of the pro-life movement**. Scott Valencia of Natural Journey Alliance, an umbrella company that serves Iowa pro-life agencies, proposed his plan for a **24/7 call center that is connected to a database of every pregnancy center in the country**. With phones manned by registered nurses, a young woman in a crisis pregnancy, or a young person in need of STD testing or any number of services, could have an appointment booked

within minutes at a pro-life center that offers the specific service they are looking for. The nurse receiving the call would walk the caller through every step. All of it would be free, HIPAA compliant, and the caller could remain virtually anonymous until she shows up to her appointment.

Planned Parenthood's business model preys on the fear that comes with unexpected pregnancies. **But what Planned Parenthood offers is not true health care, and despite their claims, it is not free.** Scott's project would advertise using the same "women's health care" language as Planned Parenthood, but would only partner with pro-life agencies that offer true health care and do not refer for or offer abortions. It would not take any credit away from crisis pregnancy centers; instead, it would unify them unlike ever before.

Scott is currently working on raising the first round of funding for this project, and once he has it, his programmers will start work on it the next day. If you would like to learn more, talk to Kie or Katie.

In January our first group of volunteers started delivering for Meals on Wheels to ensure the elderly in our community receive the nutrition they need. We had an orientation on January 8 and signed up to deliver meals three times in January. Five people attended so we have 2 and ½ teams. We could use a couple more people as subs so we can continue to serve while our regular volunteers are on vacation or are otherwise unavailable. Each month we hope to sign up for at least 3 delivery times. Every team decides when they want to sign up each month.

On January 28, the Life Team is scheduled to present a set of "Touch of Life" fetal models to Community Lutheran School in Readlyn. These real life models help students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception.

Cedar Valley Patriots For Christ is pleased to host pro-life legend Matt Trehwella at the Waterloo Center for The Arts on Tuesday, February 5th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (the event is free). Matt will be discussing Pietism: The Reason Pastors Aren't Involved. Matt is pastor of Mercy Seat Christian Church (founded in 1988) in the Milwaukee, WI area and founder of Missionaries to the Preborn. Through his research and teaching on the biblical duties of the lower magistrate, Pastor Matt Trehwella came across the Magdeburg Confession, an important historical work that became the first in the history of mankind to set forth in a doctrinal format what only later came to be known as the Lesser Magistrate Doctrine, a document that has changed the paradigm of the pro-life movement. To learn more about Matt Trehwella and his ministry, please visit <http://www.lessermagistrate.com>

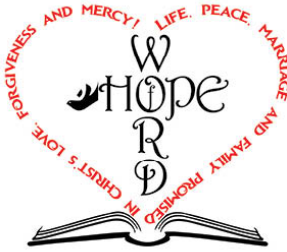
The Life Team would like to compile a list of volunteers willing to bring meals to mothers for the first couple weeks after they give birth. If you are interested in helping out, talk to Kie or Katie.

The next Life Team meeting will be on Monday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. All interested people are invited to join us.



Lutherans
For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be
Gospel-motivated voices For Life



For those who have had an abortion—there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts.

888.217.8679 • www.word-of-hope.org

Word of Hope is confidential and caring and is a ministry of Lutherans For Life.

Word of Hope - If you are in a crisis situation, have had an abortion, are pregnant right now, or have been hurt by someone, here you will find hope.

Alternatives Pregnancy Center

1006 Decathlon Dr. Waterloo, 50701

Offering Christian Compassion, Counsel and Care
for those facing an unexpected pregnancy.

Call or text (319)525-2720



Valley Lutheran School

4520 Rownd St., Cedar Falls

www.vlscrusaders.org

Phone: (319)266-4565 Fax (319)266-4054

By the grace of God, Valley Lutheran School strives to inspire students by strengthening faith in Christ, pursuing academic excellence and preparing hearts for service.

WE ARE REGISTERING new students for the 2018-19 school year to receive a quality Lutheran education. Please contact Jamie Panning at jamie.panning@vlscrusaders.org or by calling (319)266-4565.

For the last 15 years, Kwik Trip Inc. has offered the Milk Moola fundraising program to thousands of organizations in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Over the last several months we have been assessing the impact of this fundraising program. In doing so, we discovered that the cost to administer the program has outweighed the dollars Kwik Trip directly funded to help the participants. Because of this, we have made the decision to end the Milk Moola program and reallocate our efforts and donations in a different direction – in order to more effectively serve our communities. All Milk Moola redemptions will need to be postmarked **3/31/2019** to receive payment. Anything after that date will not be processed. Valley Lutheran will stop collecting Milk Moola labels and caps as of **3/25/2019**