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Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Please visit our synod's webpage at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

Or better yet visit us in person.

We would love to have you worship with us.

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## A Gift to Enjoy

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Romans 6:23**

***"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."***

My first paycheck. \$100! A ONE with two zeroes behind it! It didn't matter that I spent a week pulling weeds with thistles in a 45-acre field. It didn't matter that I sweltered under a hot July sun. It didn't matter that I earned minimum wage. It had my name on it. I earned it.

There is another paycheck that I'm not so excited about. It comes in the form of guilt pricking my conscience far deeper than a thistle could ever penetrate my skin. Sometimes I see it when my temper flares hotter than the summer sun. I feel it when I know I should be more considerate, more caring, more loving toward others around me. So I work harder to do what's right and try harder to do better than before, but still, it never seems to be enough. And it isn't enough, because the Bible tells me the wages of my sin is death—and it's your paycheck, too.

But, thank the Lord, the Bible also tells us that God is not going to give us what we have earned with our sins. Instead, he gives us something we have not earned—eternal life. It's a gift that has been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus and earned by his death on the cross.

That takes all the pressure off, doesn't it? Instead of the failures of our past, we can look to Jesus' perfect life of love. Instead of the pressures of tomorrow, we can look to the promise of eternal life that is already won for us by Jesus' dying and rising from the dead. As a result, life is not a burden, but a gift to enjoy always



# Lost and Found



"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

July  
2020

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### You Bear the Name of Freedom

*If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. (1 Peter 5:15-16)*

We have seen a great deal of anger and anxiety over the past weeks. Everyone is rightfully upset that a random man, let alone a police officer, could be so callous as to kill a fellow American. He did wrong. However, this incident has sparked the flame of the debate that has always been burning. Is America healed from its racial wounds or is it still an infection that is festering in our systems? This is a worthy debate that we should have. How we should appropriately handle the wounds of the past? Should we ignore them? Should we wipe them clean from the record books? Should we simply learn from them?

I would hope that most Americans realize that when we call ourselves "Americans," we want to emphasize the great qualities of our past and not the ugly baggage. Our ability to adapt to the harsh wilderness, our hard work to establish a home free from religious and political persecution and a people that have fought for the freedom and liberty of many. That's what it means to be American.

A lot of what it means to bear the name "American" is similar to bearing Christ's name. When God called us to know and trust in our Savior, when he personally saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, God placed Christ's name on us. He did it, although we have had a checkered past. He gave us his name, even though he knew we might bring shame to it. Yet, we bear his name, because Christ won that for us. When haters may call us "Christian," they may remember our sins.

However, when we call ourselves "Christian," we remember the great works Christ did for us. He gave us his name, despite our wounds and faults of the past. Christ gave us his name, so that we would have the victory over our past. Our Savior gave us his name so that we would be free from this world that despite all its efforts has evil still lurking in it.

Brothers and sisters, because Christ has given us his name, we will wear that name with pride. Christ has saved us. Christ has guaranteed us the perfect paradise no politician could every design. Christ has done it all; we live our lives showing the perfect freedom Christ has given us. He has given us perfect freedom to praise him, love him and trust in him above all thing. He has given us the freedom to love others over ourselves. He has given us the freedom to focus on the rights, and more importantly, the needs of others. If we should suffer, we know that our Lord and Savior will use it to glorify his name and remind us of the real victory we have – better than an 4th of July or Juneteenth Celebration that we can think of. Thank God that we bear the name and the freedom, so that when we sleep, we will be free from any worry that we have done enough to see heaven. That's the freedom we have; freedom that he has given us through the name of Christ. Celebrate on these Independence holidays, dear Christians. And may God continue to bless the USA!

In Christ, Pastor Matt Nowak

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### Something to think about...

"A human life is a story told by God"  
(Hans Christian Anderson)

## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

The Outreach Committee reported advertising for our church and school at the Bluffton Theatre and on a billboard on CR 313. They're planning on an October Trunk or Treat event again and working on redoing the church website.

The same MI District officers were re-elected at the online convention on June 8. District-President is Rev. Gene Sims; 1<sup>st</sup> VP is Rev. Dave Voss; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is Rev. Tom Westra; and Secretary is Rev. Jason Baldwin. Pastor Bob Krueger has been appointed as the new circuit pastor in our area.

The Anniversary Offering was designated to go toward the Outreach Committee's efforts. The company producing our church pictorial directory has been shut down because of the coronavirus and will resume production on June 30. Summer midweek services begin on Tuesday, June 16. VBS is scheduled for July 20-24.

The Trustees are doing some fixing in the teacherage after the Eternicks moved out on June 17. The school library was remodeled. A bus driver is needed for the coming school year. The Deacons recommended using prepared Communion "kits" as a precaution for the coronavirus. The Council decided to have every-other-pew seating in church and reserve the "wings" in church for those wearing masks.

A proposal was brought forth for an approximate \$65,000 storage addition on the south side of the school gym. The recommendation will be brought to the Semi-Annual Voters meeting. A summer fire drill will be discussed. The Elders plan to recommend the calling of a 2<sup>nd</sup> pastor at the summer voters meeting also.

**PLAYGROUNDS OPEN:** Mornings with Mommy summer park play dates are back! Join us at the Jenera Park on the first and third Mondays of July and August starting at 9:30 AM. The dates are July 6 & 20 and August 3 & 17. Come when you can. Stay as long as you are able. Enjoy the sunshine and some fresh air. Let your kids burn off some energy while you talk to other adults. Our regular Mornings with Mommy program is scheduled to start again on September 21 & 22. Online registration is open at [tlcienera.org](http://tlcienera.org).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Trinity's in-person VBS is currently full. If you are still interested in your child/children attending VBS in-person, please contact Jenny Boehm to be put on a waiting list--(262)391-7994 or [mwmtrinity@tlcienera.org](mailto:mwmtrinity@tlcienera.org).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BOX:** Looking for something to do at home this summer? Register for a Rainforest Explorers VBS Box. The rainforest is a wild place. To make it through this unknown world safely, kids need a guide who can keep them on the right path. Kids will learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest and in life with five interactive Bible lessons, music, games, crafts, and snacks. We will prepare a box that you can pick up with Vacation Bible School lessons, crafts, music, and materials for you to do your own VBS from the safety of your home. Visit [tlcienera.org](http://tlcienera.org) to sign up. Questions—contact Jenny Boehm (262)391-7994 or [mwmtrinity@tlcienera.org](mailto:mwmtrinity@tlcienera.org).

**RETIREMENT SERVICE:** There will be a retirement service for Pastor Schmitzer on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m. Silas Schmitzer will be preaching and Andrew Naumann will be presiding. We are planning a meal after the service. Due to health concerns, the food will be catered in prepackaged boxes. If you don't sign up, you most likely will not receive a meal. Please RSVP by calling the office (419.326.4685) or emailing to [tlsoffice@tlcienera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcienera.org). A sign-up sheet is also available in the back of church and in the basement.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Please note the change of date for the July church council meeting. Council will meet on July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm. This will allow for time for preparation of reports for the Semi-Annual Voters Meeting taking place on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**EVANGELISM****Water That Tree!**

"So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way." (Luke 19:4)

Do you remember the tax collector who climbed the tree when Jesus traveled through Jericho? His name was Zacchaeus, a name meaning "pure" or "innocent." Do you remember why he climbed that tree? It was because he wasn't tall enough to see Jesus above the heads of the crowd. Do you remember what he received from Jesus that day? Salvation, forgiveness of sins that he desperately needed and wanted and that truly made him pure and innocent.

There's an old story that says that as Zacchaeus grew older, each morning he would leave his house at sunrise. An hour later he would return, his face lit up with joy. One morning his wife followed to see where he went each day. To her surprise, she saw that he walked directly to that sycamore tree. Quietly she watched as her husband poured jar after jar of water on its roots, pulled weeds from around it, and then patted its rough trunk. When he returned home, she asked him why he did this. His quiet answer was, "Because that tree lifted me up to see Him who brought me what my soul needed."

Our church is like that sycamore tree. Every week it lifts you and me up to see our Savior. It brings us the Word through which the Savior speaks of that forgiveness and salvation that makes us pure and innocent like Zacchaeus. As Zacchaeus watered and cared for that sycamore tree, we support and care for our church with our offerings, our prayers, our personal involvement.

We also "water" our church by bringing others to hear that same Word of forgiveness and salvation that gave Zacchaeus and gives us such joy. It will bring others joy too. Invite them to join you in worship services. (Our summer Tuesday night worship would be a less formal, perhaps more comfortable setting.) Invite children in your neighborhood to Vacation Bible School. Tell others about our wonderful Trinity Lutheran School with its full-time Christian Education. Give people the Word by telling them about Jesus yourself or handing them a copy of the sermon or a religious pamphlet or copy of Meditations from the church lobby. Like Zacchaeus, what joy is ours to know the Word about our Savior and to "water" and support our church where that Word is proclaimed. (adapted from Richard Lauersdorf's "Beside Quiet Waters")

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

# July 2020

**June '20**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**August '20**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 New Teacher Sam Keopsell Moving in	2	3	4
5 Communion Elders' meeting 3:00	6 Elders 7:00	7 Worship Committee 7:00 Midweek Worship 7:30	8 Outreach Meeting 6:00 Faculty/Sch Bd Dinner 6:00	9 Outreach Meeting 6:00 Faculty/Sch Bd Dinner 6:00	10 Circuit Picnic in Toledo 11:00 Wedding Rehearsal 6:00	11 Mullins-Stutzman Wedding 3:30pm.
12 Children's Lesson	13 Church Council 7:00	14 Midweek Worship 7:30	15	16	17	18
19 Communion Farewell for Pastor Schmitzer 4:00	20 VBS 6:00-8:00	21 VBS 6:00-8:00 Midweek Worship 7:30	22 VBS 6:00-8:00 Semi-Annual Voters Meeting 7:30	23 VBS 6:00-8:00	24 VBS 6:00-8:00 Ice Cream Social 7:00	25
26 WELS Connection	27 Newsletter Articles Due	28 Midweek Worship 7:30	29	30	31	1
2	3 Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM Adult and Teen <u>Bible Class</u> 9:20 AM	<u>Money Counters</u> Ron Bower 06.21 - 07.04 Brad Inniger 07.05 - 07.18 Jerry Burkholder 07.18 - 08.01		Monthly Flower Chairperson Mark Burkholder	Lutheran Chapel on the air Sundays 11:00 AM 1230 AM Dial (WCWA)	

**GREETERS FOR JULY**

	<b><u>Early Service</u></b>	<b><u>Late Service</u></b>
5	Richard & Cheryl Kretz	John & Esther Spaeth
12		Alfred & Mary Heldman
19	Josh & Ashley Breitigam	Warren & Marilyn Pratt
26	Jim & Jane Smith	Mike & Jill Woodward

**NEXT MONTH**


**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

10	Jacob Amstutz
11	Esther Spaeth
16	Joseph Amstutz
23	Betty Burkholder
26	Joshua von Stein
27	Justine Mitchell
29	Josh Curth
30	Jean Ann Ritter
30	Pastor Matt Nowak
31	Jennifer Boehm
31	Anna Brand

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

20	David & Mary Lou Reddick
22	Jeff & Marjorie Rettig
28	Michael & Traci Hummer

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Pastor Schmitzer: [bschmitzer@juno.com](mailto:bschmitzer@juno.com)  
Pastor Nowak: [pastormattn@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattn@gmail.com)  
Church: [tlc.jenera@gmail.com](mailto:tlc.jenera@gmail.com)  
School: [tsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tsoffice@tlcjenera.org)  
Webpage: [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org)

**Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church**

301 N. Main St.  
Jenera, OH 45841

Pastor Schmitzer: 419-326-4402

Pastor Nowak: 419-302-5271

School: 419-326-4685

Church: [tlc.jenera@gmail.com](mailto:tlc.jenera@gmail.com)

School: [tisoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tisoffice@tlcjenera.org)

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class 9:20 AM



We're on the Web!  
[tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org)

July  
2020

Return address requested.

**Memory Gem from God's Treasure**

(for parents, children – everyone young and old!)

"Everyone who exalts  
himself will be humbled,  
and he who humbles  
himself will be exalted."  
(Luke 14:11)

**PROVERBS OF  
SOLOMON**

Have you read the  
book

of Proverbs lately?

You will find

God-breathed wisdom  
from the wisest man

"Evil men do not  
understand justice,  
but those who seek

the Lord  
understand it  
fully." (28:5)

