

St. Peters Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod  
**March 2022**



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Our Mission Statement:

**"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done."**

**Psalm 105:1**



## What In The World Are We Doing For Lent?!

We are moving to a new season of the church year this month – Lent. Nothing too surprising about here. Same thing we do every year. We continue our journey from Christ's birth on Christmas morning to His death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Morning. But maybe there are parts of Lent we do not always pay attention to or maybe even understand at all. The choice of what we are going to be doing for Lenten Services might be one of them. Over the years it might seem almost random the way pastors go about selecting Lenten Series and there is some truth to it. But there is a history to what happened during Lent in the church.

In the ancient church, Lent was a time of instruction for those who were wanting to join the church. These men and women were called catechumenes or students of the catechism. They would come and meet with the pastor at night through Lent and receive teaching in the basics of the Christian faith. As they came to Holy Week they would meet nightly to receive and learn the Lord's Prayer in preparations for baptism during the Easter Vigil on Good Saturday or the day before Easter. On the night of the Easter Vigil, all those who had been instructed would come and present themselves reciting the Lord's Prayer and whatever else was required of them and then would be baptized during the service.

Fast forward to the time of the Reformation. Advent and Lenten services were common, but so were daily services in the church. Christians would have a chance to come daily to pray and hear the Word of God in the church. Luther gives direction that Lent would be a good time for the pastor to preach and teach on the catechism to the whole church, thus giving everyone a chance to be catechized by the pastor each year.

Following this direction, we here at St. Peter's have for the last three years worked our way through Luther's Small Catechism as a way to continue our learning of the Small Catechism and growing in our faith. It gives me time to teach on some topics which do not always come up on Sunday mornings.

The repercussions of this are the format of the sermons is different from what we normally hear. They are less like a traditional sermon and more didactic in nature. Meaning they are meant to be more teaching than preaching in their format and nature. This might make it easier to listen to or harder but knowing the format will help. With that, I would encourage note-taking on these sermons looking toward learning what we believe, teach, and confess on each of the topics covered.

Hopefully, this will be of help as we head into Lent this year and start our Lenten Series looking at the Sacraments of the Church. Or those places in which the forgiveness of sins is delivered to us specifically and we can find comfort in the assurance of that forgiveness and eternal life. Also, hopefully, it makes the selection of topics for Lent a little less random for you.

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Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Welton

## News from the Rajek Family

March 2022

### In This Issue

- Welcome and Update
- Be Patient
- A Fun Fact About Latvia
- Thank You for Your Support

# “To The Ends of The Earth”

## Acts 1:8 (ESV)

*Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”*

### Welcome and Update

Greetings in the name of Christ! Thank you for your continued support in this mission to make Christ known “to the ends of the earth.” As I began my last newsletter, I was hoping to write to you from our new home in Riga, Latvia. Unfortunately, once again, God had other plans as days before our departure, my daughter tested positive for Covid. Since we all have had the virus, this should not be an issue as we make another attempt to travel. Praise God, we’ve all recovered and that we again were able to reschedule our flights without incurring additional fees. God willing, by the time you read this newsletter, we will have finally arrived in Latvia.



### Be Patient

How’s your patience been lately? Is your patience running out? With everything going on in our lives, it can be understandable. Failed plans. The pandemic. Everything costing more. Struggling to make ends meet. Life in a sinful world can sure test our patience.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Rom 12:12 ESV) St. Paul’s appeal to the Roman Christians is as relevant to my family relationships in 2022 as it was to the first century Christian church. Allow me to explain.

For the past six months, my family and I have been eagerly anticipating our move to Riga, Latvia and beginning our work of teaching others about Jesus. We had gone through OIM (Office of International Mission) orientation in St. Louis. We had spent countless hours traveling through Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin in the NSM (Network Support Missionary) process. We had spoken to multitudes of people, shaken countless hands and drank innumerable cups of coffee.

Finally, we had made it. It was days before our target deployment date when I started to feel a bit ... unwell. A couple of days later I tested positive for Covid. And true to its contagious nature, soon those close to me would succumb to this dastardly virus. So much for our target deployment date!



## Prayer Requests

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- Continued prayers for Luther Academy's students and instructors as we begin a new term.
- For continued growth of Luther Academy.
- A prayer of thanksgiving for all who supported us. For the workers at the Office of International Mission at Synod and for everyone at Mission Central, all of whom worked so hard in helping us get into the field to begin our service.
- Continued prayers for my family especially my kids as they begin a new school and life in a new place.
- For peace in our world and especially in Eurasia.

After spending countless time on the phone with the airline, etc., we were able to push our target deployment date back three weeks. We thought three weeks would allow enough time for us to catch the virus (if we were going to catch it) and fully recover. We were wrong.

So, after spending a lot of time together quarantining, our second deployment date finally arrived. Making our way to the airport, we stopped off to get tested for Covid (a requirement for entering the country). After about 15 minutes, the results came back, the one person in our family who did not have any Covid symptoms the first time, now tested positive for Covid. And so, the process of rescheduling our flights, etc. had begun ... again!

Be patient. These words mean more to me now than ever before.



Be patient when our best laid plans fail. Be patient when we must spend countless hours with teenagers who aren't feeling well. Be patient with a loved one who becomes irritable when spending numerous hours on hold with an airline. Be patient.

Of course, we find reason for our patient behavior in the fact that God is patient with us. In His Son, Jesus Christ, He bore with us in love when He took on our human flesh. His whole life on earth, His every interaction with others and His submissive death on the cross displayed the patient endurance that accomplished our salvation. By His sacrifice, He paid for all our sins of impatience. Through faith in Him, Jesus' life of humility and tireless patience is credited to us.

And even though we stumble, His patience towards us never runs out. He is with us always, forgiving us, reassuring us and enabling us to reflect His perfect patience to those around us, especially to those closest to us.

So, how's your patience been lately?

Resting on God's loving patience in His Son, we can say with confidence that, yes, we have the patience to meet every day's frustrations and challenges. Amen.



## Fun Facts About Latvia

Did you know that over half of Latvia's territory is covered with forests? Additionally, approximately one fifth of the country is made up of nature preserves. Though it's roughly the size of West Virginia, Latvia boasts 4 national parks, 42 nature parks and 260 nature reserves. Now consider that Latvia has over 300 miles of coastal beaches, 12,000 river sand over 2,000 lakes not to mention all wildlife contained therein. It's no wonder this little country is an ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

(Source: <https://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2017/04/21/10-fun-facts-about-latvia-for-kids/>)



A picture of one of Latvia's many beaches. Latvia has more than 300 miles of beaches.

## Thank You for Your Support



missionaries around the world.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of this very important mission. God continues to do wonderful things in the Eurasia region through the Riga Luther Academy in particular and I'm so thankful for your partnership. A special thank you for the continued work of Missionary Gary and his crew at Mission Central. Praise be to God who continues amazing work through you on behalf of

If you'd like to support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Dr. Cory J. Rajek you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 P.O. Box 66861  
 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Cory Rajek." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/rajek](https://lcms.org/rajek).

Or You can also send your support to our friends at:



Mission Central  
 40718 Highway E-16  
 Mapleton, Iowa 51034

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [cory.rajek@lcmsintl.org](mailto:cory.rajek@lcmsintl.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

# From the President.....



## THE #1 CHALLENGE IN ENACTING CHANGE

In 36 years of ministry (yes, I've been a pastor longer than some of you have been alive), I've been through two hymnal changes when *Lutheran Worship* came on the scene and then *Lutheran Service Book*, two carpet color changes in naves, and various staffing changes. I've dealt with dozens and dozens of changes.

I have learned that the #1 filter that most church members use in evaluating a change is this: "Will I like it? Will it make me comfortable? Will it be convenient for me?"

I wish the filter were: "How will it impact the preaching and teaching of God's Word here?" or "How does this change help us to 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ' (to quote St. Peter)?" or "How will this change help us to be active in 'seeking and saving' the lost, as ambassadors of Christ?"

But instead, not always but too often, it's: "Will I like it?"

How does this happen in our churches? Well, the sin that is in me – and you – is certainly the culprit. Wretched people that we are!

Rampant individualism is a terrible reality in society today and, regrettably, it is something that wells up in you and me from time to time. For this, we must repent.

Soon, in the Church Year, we will be walking with our Lord from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem where He would suffer and die. Can you imagine the disciples saying to Jesus, "We don't like it that you have to go through all that"? "It makes us uncomfortable. It's not convenient for us as your followers."

I guess we can imagine it, because Scripture testifies that the disciples didn't like the plan. They questioned it. They even protested it.

But Jesus was lovingly relentless. He went the way of the cross. He paid for all sin, including that of the rampant individualism that resides deep in our hearts. He rose from the dead, and now lives and rules for all eternity as Lord of the Church and of our lives. He gives us His Spirit, and because that Spirit is always working through the Word of God, hearts and minds can change. They can be aligned with the will of the Lord.

And so, we teach and teach and teach some more. We share the Good News of God's grace to us in Jesus Christ again and again and again. Over time, people change, because the grace that saves us also changes us. More and more, God's people are led to know that it is not to be "What's in it for me?" when a change is considered in the Church. Rather, they consider the purpose Christian churches exist in the first place – to be distributors of Christ's forgiveness of sins via God's Means of Grace. To be places of important relationships, where we support and encourage and correct each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Churches exist to equip God's people to serve others in their various estates in life – as family members and workers and citizens. And churches exist for the sake of those who are not yet a part of the Church; we share the Gospel with those who do not yet believe the Good News. And the Spirit takes it from there. Because of Him alone, miraculous changes can occur: the blind see and the dead are made alive.

And less miraculous changes can happen, too! Some folks will see that the change from red carpet to gray really isn't all that important, and they'll quit raising a stink about it. And some (hopefully many) will see that the change from a red or blue hymnal to a maroon one is good for us as we worship the God of our salvation.

--Rev. Scott Sailer  
District President



**Blessed For Life**

# Lutherans For Life

## 2022 South Dakota

### Essay Contest

**Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents**

#### **For Students in Grades 6 through 12**

*Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation, e.g., confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher, is eligible. Students may also enter through a Lutheran home school, when validated by their Lutheran pastor.*

#### **Contest Guidelines**

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **Blessed For Life** with the Bible verse: “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” **Psalm 41:2**. (Consider being blessed with the gift of life, blessed by God for one’s entire life or blessed to be a blessing to others.)

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student’s name, grade (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.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to [jjohns8@yahoo.com](mailto:jjohns8@yahoo.com) by April 1, 2022.

5. There will be a \$500 first place award and \$250 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email [jjohns8@yahoo.com](mailto:jjohns8@yahoo.com) with any questions.
6. Grand prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2022 Lutherans For Life National conference 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](http://lutheransforlife.org)





## Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay

(maximum of 21 points for each essay)

	3	2	1	0
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> Structure Transitions	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are mature and graceful. The essay has a nice smooth flow between ideas.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. The essay has a flow of ideas.	Organization is clear. Transitions are present in some places but may be missing in others. In places flow is interrupted or doesn't exist.	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present. Connections between ideas seem confusing or incomplete.
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Background/History Thesis Statement <b>CONCLUSION</b>	Well-developed introduction engages the reader-creates interest. Contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position or belief. Conclusion effectively wraps up & goes beyond restating the thesis.	Introduction creates interest. Sufficient background information is provided. Thesis clearly states the position or belief. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position or belief. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.
<b>MAIN POINTS</b> Body Paragraphs, Bibliography	The main idea or thesis statement is clearly defined. There may be more than one key point. Appropriate relevant information and details are shared from a variety of sources including personal experiences, observations, feelings and prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate, relevant, and helpful in clarifying the main idea(s). Statistics or research are used effectively. A simple bibliography gives the references for the resources used.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares relevant information, facts and experiences. There is a clear distinction between general observations and specifics. Supporting details are relevant and explain the main idea. Research is evident and statistics are used. Missing information in bibliography.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares some information, facts and experiences, but may express feelings without much to substantiate it. There may be problems going from general observations to specifics. Stronger support and greater attention to details would strengthen this paper. Statistics and research do little to help support the main idea. Incomplete bibliography.	More than one of the following problems may be evident: The main idea is not identifiable. The writer shares some information, but it is limited or unclear. Details are missing or repetitious. Statistics are missing. No bibliography.
<b>FOCUS</b> LFL Mission, Conference theme verse	The paper is in complete agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper is in agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and somewhat focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper doesn't completely agree with the mission of Lutherans For Life and touches on the conference theme verse.	Little or no effort has been made to address the mission of Lutherans For Life and doesn't focus on the conference theme verse.
<b>BIBLICAL ACCURACY</b>	Several Biblical references give strong support for the main idea and are a natural part of the essay. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	Biblical references are used to support the main idea. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	There are places where a Biblical reference would have helped support the main idea. There are some problems with interpretation of the verses used. Citations are accurate.	Little effort is given to use Biblical references to support the main idea. Problems exist in the interpretation of the verses and their citations.
<b>STYLE</b> Writer's Voice, Audience Awareness	The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural yet thought-provoking. It brings the topic to life. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure.	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure.	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety.	Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Language is vague. No audience awareness. No variety in sentence structure.
<b>MECHANICS</b> Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are correct. No errors.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2)	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4)	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization

	POINTS
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION</b>	
<b>MAIN POINTS</b>	
<b>FOCUS</b>	
<b>BIBLICAL ACCURACY</b>	
<b>STYLE</b>	
<b>MECHANICS</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church/School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



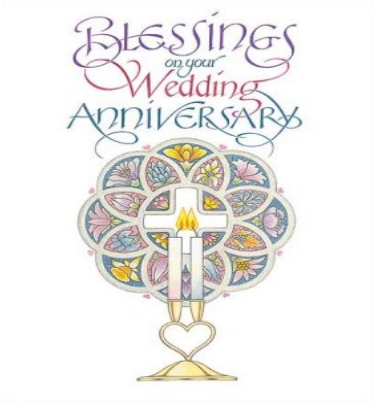


Parents of Bible History and Confirmation Students,

Camp Comeca information is here! We will be going May 31st, - June 2nd, 2022. The Cost will be \$161 which will include travel, lunch on May 31st at Pizza Ranch and the Camp. The Theme is A Good Conscience. There are sign-up sheets and supply lists at the back of the sanctuary. Please have registration back to pastor no later than April 24, 2022. We look forward to taking the students again to camp.

**MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Terry & Carol	Feldmann	March 14, 1969
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## *MARCH BIRTHDAYS*

Kayla	Welton	Mar 2, 1986
Julie	Delfs	Mar 3, 1968
Louis	Lindholm	Mar 3, 1990
Myranda	Moad	Mar 3, 2001

Ashes	Dean	Mar 4, 1989
Brennex	Feige	Mar 6, 2019
Verl	Uthe	Mar 6, 1938
Deb	Graff	Mar 8, 1952
Joslyn	Baumberger	Mar 10, 2013
Kayla	Dean	Mar 10, 1991
Virginia	Heidelberger	Mar 10, 1949
Lee	Limmer	Mar 10, 1951
Paisley	Olinger	Mar 14, 2019
Kasey	Gehrels	Mar 15, 1987
Shirley	Zimmer	Mar 16, 1943
Jane	Rentz	Mar 17, 1940
Mindy	Olinger	Mar 18, 1992
Emily	Breck	Mar 19, 1996
Kolter	Gehrels	Mar 20, 2014
Tarri	Minor	Mar 20, 1962
Eric	Milbrandt	Mar 24, 1994
Mandie	Miller	Mar 25, 1993
Jim	DeVaney	Mar 26, 1952
Brett	Martin	Mar 29, 1993
Janessa	Baumberger	Mar 31, 2015

# MARCH BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Liz	Tammen	Mar 1, 1946
Myranda	Moad	Mar 3, 2003
Stacy	Lindholm	Mar 5, 1989
Landen	McManus	Mar 6, 2011
Nathan	Gerry	Mar 9, 2003
Nora	Baumberger	Mar 11, 2018
Tara	McManus	Mar 11, 1982
Lori	Hansen	Mar 14, 1985
Carrol	Olson	Mar 14, 1943
Joslyn	Baumberger	Mar 17, 2013
Ted	Lindholm	Mar 17, 1946
Paisley	Olinger	Mar 17, 2019
Amy	Lindholm	Mar 19, 1967
Kayla	Welton	Mar 23, 1986
Brennex	Feige	Mar 24, 2019
Deb	Graff	Mar 27, 1952
Kasey	Gehrels	Mar 29, 1985
Kolter	Gehrels	Mar 30, 2014
Emiliv	Breck	Mar 31, 1996





To read the Bible in one year:  
**SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**

DATE	FIRST READING	SECOND READING
March 1	Isaiah 64:1-9	Numbers 16-18
March 2	Psalm 85	Numbers 19-21
March 3	Psalm 86	Numbers 22-24
March 4	Psalm 87	Numbers 25-27
March 5	Psalm 88	Numbers 28-30
March 6	Psalm 89	Numbers 31-33
March 7	Psalm 90	Numbers 34-36
March 8	Psalm 91	Deuteronomy 1-3
March 9	Psalm 92	Deuteronomy 4-6
March 10	Psalm 93	Deuteronomy 7-9
March 11	Psalm 94	Deuteronomy 10-12
March 12	Psalm 95	Deuteronomy 13-15
March 13	Psalm 96	Deuteronomy 16-18
March 14	Psalm 97	Deuteronomy 19-21
March 15	Psalm 98	Deuteronomy 22-24
March 16	Psalm 99	Deuteronomy 25-27
March 17	Psalm 100	Deuteronomy 28-30
March 18	Psalm 101	Deuteronomy 31-34
March 19	Psalm 102	Luke 1
March 20	Psalm 103	Luke 2-3
March 21	Psalm 104	Luke 4-5
March 22	Psalm 105	Luke 6-7
March 23	Psalm 106	Luke 8-9
March 24	Psalm 107	Luke 10-11
March 25	Psalm 108	Luke 12-13

March 26	Psalm 109	Luke 14-15
March 27	Psalm 110	Luke 16-17
March 28	Psalm 111	Luke 18-19
March 29	Psalm 112	Luke 20-21
March 30	Psalm 113	Luke 22
March 31	Isaiah 64:1-9	Luke 23-24