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Michael Mandrick for
Rob Chinberg
- Altar Guild on Duty
Phyllis Abbott
Kim Hullinger



Sunday School 9:00 am
 Adult Bible Class 9:00 am
 Worship 10:00 am
 (Holy Communion on 1st
 and 3rd Sundays)



Sunday Morning Worship
Service
with
Pastor Oddi

KNIM 1580 AM or 95.9 FM
10:00 am to 10:30 am

Hope Lutheran Church, 931 S. Main Street, Maryville, Mo 64468
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Rural and Small Town

This month I am reprinting an article from January’s “Reaching Rural America For Christ,” the LCMS rural and small town newsletter:

**“STRONG FAITH,
FERVENT LOVE:
Immersed in Rural Life”**
by Pastor Todd Kollbaum,
LCMS director for rural
and small town ministries.

“Cows, hogs, trucks, dirt, tractors, mud — all things we would expect to find on the farm. But what about hightech computers, global positioning devices and industrial cheese making equipment? Participants of the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission’s (RSTM) latest Rural Seminarian Immersion experienced all this and more, including conversation with a lot of faithful folks and great food.

On the heels of our 2018 national conference, LCMS RSTM was privileged to host our third immersion event in partnership with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. We find that holding these

events is especially important for the benefit of those who will be serving in rural and small-town congregations.

As you might know, more than 50 percent of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is made up of rural and small-town congregations. Each year at the Call Day services at both our seminaries, an average of 50 percent of the new calls are issued to men to serve in these congregations. Most of those called to serve do not have a background in rural and small towns; they are typically from more urban and suburban areas. To be sure, they are trained well by our seminaries to proclaim God’s Word, administer His Sacraments, teach, care and serve. Yet, we have found that because of the “culture shock,” these men often struggle to

make the transition to RSTM or they simply don’t last that long in these congregations. Additionally, many of these congregations come to see themselves as just a “first call” or less important than other, bigger congregations with “more to offer.” This simply isn’t and shouldn’t be the case.

We at RSTM are endeavoring to break that cycle through these immersions as well as other training events. We want congregations to know and understand that they have a vital role to play in the Kingdom of God. Likewise, we want these men serving them to think of their new rural and small-town call much like C.F.W. Walther describes it when he said:

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Our Sunday Servants



Organist

- 2/3 – Nancy Jenkins
- 2/10 – Pam Shannon
- 2/17 – Nancy Jenkins
- 2/24 – Pam Shannon



- 2/3 – Pam Myers
- 2/10 – Mike & Liz Mandrick
- 2/17 – The Brunnert Family
- 2/24 – Art White



- 2/3 – Royce & Jan Duncan
- 2/10 – Dean & Dottie Biermann
- 2/17 – Terry & Lisa Ewing
- 2/24 – Smiley Oltman



- 2/3 – Chaim Jenkins
- 2/10 – Twyla Hazen
- 2/17 – Liz Mandrick
- 2/24 – Jean Memken

Rural and Small Town

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“When a place has been assigned to a Lutheran candidate of theology where he is to discharge the office of a Lutheran minister, that place ought to be to him the dearest, most beautiful, and most precious spot on earth. He should be unwilling to exchange it for a kingdom. Whether it is in a metropolis or in a small town, on a bleak prairie or in a clearing in the forest, in a flourishing settlement or in a desert, to him it should be a miniature paradise. Do not the blessed angels descend from heaven with great joy whenever the Father in heaven sends them to minister to those who are to be heirs of salvation? Why, then, should we poor sinners be unwilling to hurry after them with great joy to any place where we can lead other men, our fellow-sinners, to salvation?” (Twentieth Evening Lecture)

Imagine if pastor and parish together considered this ministry a great joy and were more than willing to “hurry after them with great joy.” This is why we spend time doing things like our seminarian immersion. It is through events such as this that we are able to focus on those subjects, which can help future pastors (and even current ones) decrease the learning curve and hit the ground running. While we won’t make them agriculture experts, we hope to expose them to those that are so that they may gain an understanding of how things work in a rural and small-town areas and how that affects the congregation’s life together. Through visits to working farms and dairies, we learn how agriculture has transformed over the years and what it takes to make it in that world. We see for ourselves the high-tech equipment and how it has changed the face of farming. In order to better understand leadership in town and country, we visited with agriculture industry leaders, local volunteer firemen, bank presidents and business owners. We learned about parish life from pastors of larger and smaller congregations and from those who shepherd in congregational partnerships. We talked to school leadership about what that dynamic means for the congregations. We worshipped, we ate, we prayed and we learned, all in an effort to better serve the rural and small-town congregations of the LCMS.”

I pray that this article helps us to see the importance and attention given to rural and small town congregations by our synod.

God’s Blessings - Pastor Dave



The Potential for Greatness

A small church in rural Kentucky prided itself on being a training ground for seminary students ministering in their first pastorate. While interviewing pastoral candidates, a member of the search committee mentioned the former pastors who had gone on to serve in prominent capacities - one as president of a seminary and pastor of a large city church, another also as a seminary president and a third as president of two denominational conventions and an international alliance.

"How in the world did you find that many potentially great men in this little church?" the astonished candidate asked.

"Find them," said the committee member. "We didn't find them. We made them."

-Patricia Bolen, quoted in *Current Thoughts & Trends*



- 2/5 - Lesley Oddi
- 2/6 - Beth Goudge
- 2/6 - Hope Pappert
- 2/8 - Kim Rist
- 2/8 - Jenna Mason
- 2/11 - Mervin Bettis
- 2/15 - Rev. Carl Droegemueller
- 2/16 - Shelia Brunnert
- 2/17 - Mary Ann Zanzie
- 2/19 - Brynlee Johnson
- 2/21 - Carson McMillen
- 2/21 - Dawson McMillen
- 2/21 - Rebecca Hanna
- 2/28 - Linda Myers



2/5 – Bill & Jeanette Whited



February 14, 2019, 5:00 pm

- Liz Mandrick
- Marie Walsh



LWML Looks Ahead to a Busy Spring Season

The LWML met on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm to undecorate the church from the Advent/Christmas season. Some members came during the day to undo a few things. By 6:45 pm, hostess Marcia Droegemueller was serving us refreshments which included Poppables Sea Salt chips, blueberry pretzel bar dessert, mixed nuts, yogurt raisins, Polar Blast Blue Punch and coffee. WOW!

At 7:00 pm, the meeting was called to order by President Lesley Oddi. Members present included Lesley Oddi, Liz Mandrick, Pam Myers, Mary Ann Zanzie, Marie Walsh, Marcia Droegemueller, Jean Memken, Phyllis Abbott, Virginia McNair, Twyla Hazen, Marilyn Bettis, Beth Goudge, Pat Bobzien and Pastor Oddi.

Phyllis Abbott led the devotion “Striking a Balance When You’re caught in the Middle.” Knowing who you are begins with your relationship with God. It is eternal. Isaiah 64:8-9 tells us that we have been made by God. Romans 3:22-24 tells us that we are forgiven sinners. 1 Peter 2:9-10 tells us that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood. 1 Peter 3:15-16 remind us to always be ready to share that Jesus is the reason for our hope but do that with gentleness and respect. Romans 12:2 tells us to not conform to the world. Mark 16:15 tells us to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all creation and that means everyone. Colossians 3:12-13 tells us that our attitude should be holy, compassionate, kind, humble, meek, patient and forgiving. When this calling seems difficult, Hebrews 12:2 points us to Jesus who endured the cross to pay for our sins and make us one with God again. We should focus on Revelations 21:3-4 to remind us of the sure hope of life eternal with God in our real home in heaven.

The ingathering for this meeting was for the Ministry Center.

Jean Memken has a birthday on January 25 and was given Happy Birthday wishes.

Secretary’s report – Twyla Hazen presented the minutes from November 27, 2018. There is a correction under Unfinished Business the first item. The Bibles were purchased for the Hope Lutheran Church Bible study room rather than the Campus Center. Twyla will make the correction and resend the minutes. Minutes were approved as corrected

Correspondence

1. Thank you from Pastor Oddi for his Christmas gift.
2. Thank you from Jean Memken for her Christmas gift as church secretary.
3. Merry Christmas card from the Cima family
4. Invitation to the Concordia Seminary Guild Lunch

Treasurer’s report – Virginia McNair

Virginia McNair presented her report which was then filed for review. No new bills were presented but she is expecting one for the Bibles and for the Poinsettias.

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LWML Looks Ahead to a Busy Spring Season

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Unfinished Business

- 1) Love gift – 24 compact pew Bibles are now in the Bible study room and used every week. Jean Memken created dedication labels to put inside each cover. Thank you, Jean.
- 2) Sunday School ornaments – everyone liked them and they appear to be all gone. The Potluck after the Sunday School program was nice and well attended.
- 3) Battery Candles/Bows on the Candelabras – Bows looked nice and the candles for the Christmas Eve service also looked good. They flickered like real candles.
- 4) Do we need anything for next year's decorating – anything need to be replaced due to age, wear and tear? - No comments
- 5) Poinsettias looked beautiful!

New Business

1. Spring Rally – March 16, 2019 at Hope Lutheran Church in Maryville. We decided on a theme – “Lettuce Grow in Grace.” Registration will begin at 9:00 am. Final arrangements and signup sheets will be passed around at our February meeting. We will need a sign in table for registration. Juice, coffee, hot tea and yummy goodies will be served in the bible class room. We will need decorations in the bible class room and the entrance. The speaker will be Charlie Clodfelter from Lettuce Dream. We will use heads of lettuce as centerpieces for the luncheon. The menu will be meat, veggie and dessert salads. Lesley will find out what they need at Lettuce Dream that we can collect for our ingathering. Lesley will be in touch with our Zone President, Carol Sharp with flyer information for the Rally to share throughout our St. Joseph Zone.
2. Love gift –will be collected in February. Be thinking of suggestions for how to spend.
3. Treat boxes for college students will be packed during our February meeting. Jonathan Rogers, Felicia and Jessica Sheil, Jarret Cronin and the LCC.
4. Quilt tying “Knots of Love” – Thursdays from 1-3. No additional supplies are needed at this time.
5. LWML National Convention will be in Mobile, AL on June 20 - 23, 2019 – Those planning to attend from Hope are Pastor and Lesley Oddi, Liz Mandrick and Twyla Hazen. The Oddis will be driving. Liz and Twyla plan to fly.

Mite Box devotion - Jean Memken presented information about the January focus mission grant, Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team 2017 – 2019 Mission Grant 17 for \$25,000. Seeking to expand their educational exposure, nursing students in the Concordia University System would be afforded the opportunity to participate in a short-term mission trip to Madagascar with a Mercy Medical Team. This service opportunity for students to work with medical professionals in providing medical and/or spiritual care to the under-served would be invaluable.

Next Meeting:

- 1) Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7 pm (Lesley will be out of town: Vice President Liz Mandrick will preside)
- 2) Hostess is Liz Mandrick
- 3) Devotion leader is Jean Memken
- 4) Ingathering is for the Children & Family Center
- 5) Shepherd's kitchen January 10 - Pat Bobzien and Jean Memken
- 6) Shepherd's kitchen February 14 - Liz Mandrick and Marie Walsh

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Twyla Hazen, Secretary



“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—Anne Bradstreet

Mercy, Me?

My favorite Sunday of the month is the fourth Sunday because that is when we typically don't follow any of the regular orders of worship in the hymnal and instead use worship ideas from a special publication called, "Creative Worship." You will note on the fourth Sundays we have special responsive readings in the liturgy that are tied to the Bible readings of the week, and we often sing a hymn verse or two in place of some of the musical parts of the liturgy. Sometimes the ideas for those hymns come from Creative Worship and sometimes I scan the hymnal to try and find a hymn verse that conveys the same idea as what we might sing for the Gloria in Excelsis or the Offertory. However, one of the greatest challenges when putting these services together is the Kyrie. Creative Worship typically gives the direction to "Include the Kyrie" without giving much advice as to what that exactly should be.

You all know the Kyrie by heart as we do include it in almost every worship service here at Hope. "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy." You would think over the 500 years of the Lutheran Church, there would more variations of this, but if there are, I have not found them. I have uttered and sung the Kyrie so many times, I'm afraid I don't even think

about what I am saying sometimes. So I thought it might be a good idea to look at our Lord's mercy, and our own for that matter.

Even though the Lutheran Church is pretty focused on one message for the Kyrie, there have been hundreds of different quotes about mercy throughout history, some from the Bible, some from philosophers and evangelists, and many from popular reading. God's mercy is somewhat of a constant theme in the Bible. The word mercy is used 262 times in the King James Version. Obviously, God wanted us to understand and practice the concept of mercy, that is, showing compassion and forgiveness to someone who doesn't deserve it.

Graham Greene once said, "You cannot conceive, nor can I, of the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God." How true! To love and care for someone who does not reciprocate that love and care, to give your only son to die on a cross so they might live forever is hard to understand. How more so for King David, who only had the promise of a coming Messiah.

David might not have fully understood God's mercy, and yet he was one biblical author who used the idea of mercy often in his Psalms, usually as a cry for help to God. In Psalm 6 he writes: "*Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger*

or discipline me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint; heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony." (vs. 1-2) How many times have we done that, too? When you hit rock bottom, sometimes the only thing you can think of to say is "Lord, have mercy on me."

David is such a great example for us because he is like us in so many ways. He loved God, but he struggled, he felt weak, he was sorrowful, he was a sinner. And what does he do in those situations? Cries to God for mercy. But for David and for us, it sometimes seems like God isn't listening. He is, though. At the end of Psalm 6, David continues, "*The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.*" (vs. 9) Think of all the times God showed mercy to David and rescued him. There will come a point in

your life too when you can say the same thing: the Lord has heard my cry for mercy.

Although there are many examples of God's mercy in the Bible, the one that sticks in my mind is that of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham was not a special or an exemplary person. But he had one thing in his favor: faith in God. In Genesis 15: 6 it says, "*Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*" In other words, because of his faith, Abraham received God's mercy and forgiveness and was righteous in God's sight.

Because of Abraham's faith, God was merciful to him and his wife Sarah and gave them a son in their old age. It was because of Abraham's faith that his nephew Lot was saved from Sodom and his son Isaac was not sacrificed on the altar.

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Mercy, Me?

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Abraham’s faith led him to the land God promised to him and his descendants. It provided his son Isaac with a wife. It afforded him God’s mercy day in and day out.

Yes, God extended a lot of mercy to Abraham because of his faith. And guess what? He does the same for you and me. We ask for mercy each Sunday in the Kyrie, and asking is good. But we can be assured that mercy is already ours because we believe in Christ Jesus as our Savior.

Finally, Jesus’ teaching in the New Testament is all about mercy. Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. Turn the other cheek. The Good Samaritan. All are examples of Jesus trying to show us that mercy doesn’t just come from God. It is supposed to come from us as well. And not just to those we love and care about. We are supposed to be merciful to everyone, even those whom we disagree with, or who have wronged us. As Joyce Meyer said, “Mercy is the stuff you give to people that don’t deserve it.”

Why should we do that? Well, first we are following

Jesus’ example when we do. He showed mercy for all. He love people and healed many. He died for all. Can we not reach out and show mercy to at least some of those who could use it: those in need, the forgotten, the prisoner, the victim of bullying? We can and we should, and God rejoices when we do.

Second, showing mercy marks you as one of God’s children, in the world, but not of the world. It makes you extraordinary, just like the relationship we have with our Lord is extraordinary. Do something extraordinary for someone else this week - show them mercy when they don’t deserve it.

Finally, our mercy towards others is directly related to God’s mercy toward us. Granted, God’s mercy is a free gift, given to all, but how can one really receive that mercy if he/she condemns and looks down upon others or ignores their needs? In the book of Matthew, it tells how Jesus was criticized for mingling with sinners. How does Jesus respond? In Matthew 9:12-13, he says, *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not*

sacrifice.” In the Bible translation called “The Message,” that verse is translated as “I’m after mercy, not religion. I’m here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders.” That is a call for us to do the same.

In “The Merchant of Venice,” William Shakespeare wrote:

“The quality of mercy is not strain’d,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath, it is twice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.”

To be merciful is to be a blessing to someone else, but it is also to be blessed. To give mercy, is to experience God’s mercy, and as sinners, there is nothing we need more.

So, the next time you sing the Kyrie, just remember, God’s mercy is yours for free because of your faith in Christ. But along with that wonderful gift of mercy comes the command that you be merciful to others, and not just those you like or get along with. And the blessing of mercy you give to others will also be a blessing for yourself as you follow Christ’s example. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy. **You** have mercy, too.—jm



Here are some of the things that were discussed at the last Church Council Meeting.

Elders: Dean Biermann reported they are going to begin elder training. There is one Elder position open.

Trustees: Larry Abbott, per request from a member, is looking to seeing whether or not chimes can be installed to play inside the church. We also need to purchase a new commercial sweeper for the church.

Education: Karla Roush reported they are preparing for Easter and Vacation Bible School

Campus Relations: Joyce Cronin will take over the LCC Director duties at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year. Pastor Oddi will finish up this school year. The students would like the meals to be moved back to Sundays. So far, there are no students interested in living in the Center next year.

No report from Finance or Long-Range Planning.

Old Business: Royce Duncan presented the proceeds from the soup and chili supper to the Ministry Center. There was an article in the newspaper about it.

Officers will be installed at the January 13 worship service.

New Business: None

Our New Home

A preacher who had always feared death felt powerless to comfort others who were facing it. Toward the end of his life, he moved to another house. When all the furniture had been packed, he lingered in the home where he’d raised his children and prepared many sermons. An assistant interrupted those reflections by saying, “Everything’s gone, sir, but the new house is better than this one. Come away.”

The preacher never forgot this lesson. God has prepared for his children a home infinitely better than earth — “an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands” (2 Corinthians 5:1, NIV).

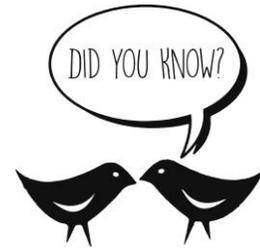


Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit. Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE									
CHAPEAU									
TRANQUILITY									
BECOME MATURE									
RESPOND									
SPHERE									
OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN									
DISCOVER									
CONFIDENCE									
ALWAYS									

Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness



-- **Vanessa Pappert** was featured as one of the Athletes of the Week in the Maryville Daily Forum. Vanessa plays on the Jefferson Girls' Basketball team.

-- Our donation to the Ministry Center for the Energy Assistance Program was publicized in the Maryville Daily Forum. In all, we raised \$2,208.29. **Royce Duncan** presented the check to the Ministry Center Board President and some of the Center's volunteers.



Love and Laughter Go Hand in Hand

Share these jokes with your beloved on February 14 — or whenever some humor can brighten a day!

Q: What valentine did the French chef give his wife?
A: A hug and a quiche

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?
A: "I find you very attractive."

Q: What did the pencil say to the paper?
A: "I dot my i's on you!"

Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend?
A: He gave her a ring.

Q: What do you call a very small valentine?
A: A valentiny