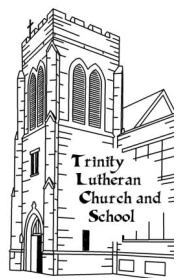


Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



July 2021 Newsletter



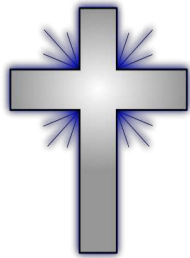
### **Trinity Lutheran Church & School**

300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952  
(920) 722-2662 Church  
(920) 725-1715 School  
[www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com)

### **Come Worship with Us:**

Saturdays at 5:00 pm  
Sundays at 9:00 am  
Education Hour Sundays at 10:30 am  
In Person & Online Worship service and  
Education Hour

## *Oh Yes, Come and Help*



**Ushers  
Altar Guild  
Lawn Mowing**

Call the office 920-722-2662 for  
more information

### **Church Office**

### **Summer Hours**



Monday-Friday  
8am– 3pm

### **SCRIP NEWS!**

SCRIP is sold in the offices. Please  
call ahead, so we can have your  
cards ready! Thank you for your  
continued support!

#### **Trinity Brat Fry**

Thank you to all who participated in the June 12th Brat Fry and Bake Sale at Ellie and Jerry Maynard's home in Sherwood. We had a large team working together to serve our Lord; for this we are most grateful. With the help of Thrivent and the generous donations from Trinity members we saw a profit of \$1429 for the one day sale. A heartfelt thanks to the Maynard's for again opening their home for this fundraiser. The proceeds will go for new window blinds at Trinity.

Paula and Brian Reichert  
Ron and Dottie Kraus

*thank you!*

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of quilts, sheets, blankets and pillowcases. These will make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Thank you.

Petra, Pillars Volunteer



#### **Trinity Camping Weekend**

This year, Trinity Camping weekend is August 20-22 & will again be held at Wild West Campground & Corral. They are located 8 miles west of Waupaca on Hwy 54. Check them out at

<http://www.wildwestcampground.com>.

New this year: Reservations are now taken online. Go to their website and place your reservation today. To plan for future years, a questionnaire will be created to get your input. Question? Contact Roger or Merry Voigt, at (920) 725-9908 or [rwvoigt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwvoigt@sbcglobal.net).



**Now enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year!  
PS3-8th grade.**

Call Nate, in the School Office, for more information or for your  
school tour at (920) 725-1715.



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES- JULY

7/1	NIELSEN, Bart & Jane
7/2	REICHERT, Brian & Paula
7/6	BOSS, James & Cari
7/7	REINKE, Steve & Joan
7/9	JORDING, David & Joann
7/10	SCHMIDT, Craig & April
7/15	BECKER, Mark & Jean
7/15	MODERSON, Michael & Ailene
7/15	ROSS, Andrew & Nicole
7/17	WENDLER, Kurt & Jodi
7/24	SEXMITH, Steve & Barbara
7/26	TSCHIRGI, Donald (Bud) & Joyce



## BIRTHDAYS- JULY

7/1 ACHESON, Hailey	7/13 GAST, Christopher	7/18 SCHRAMPFER, Karen
7/1 EMERY, Heather	7/13 GAST, Jennifer	7/19 GROSHEK, Elizabeth
7/1 KRAUS, Dottie	7/13 KAMPRATH, Elizabeth	7/20 EARLY, Renee
7/ BRILL, Molly	7/13 ROSS, Savannah	7/21 KROES, Ezra
7/2 KROES, Levi	7/14 WENDLER, Cheryl	7/22 NIELSEN, Josiah
7/3 REED, Melissa	7/15 DIONNE, Jeffry	7/23 HOWDEN, Mary
7/4 MAYNARD, Ellie	7/15 HENSCHER, Deb	7/23 LENTH, Payton
7/6 WRAY, Tegan	7/16 ALLIET, Rev. Paul	7/23 MILLER, Lily
7/7 WENDLER, Bradley	7/16 WEINIG, Marshall	7/24 OHLROGGE, George
7/10 KROES, Lilli	7/17 RADTKE, Eva	7/24 WRAY, Sheryl
7/11 THOMAN, Lois	7/17 SCHMITTING, Wynogene	7/27 WUSSOW, Lisa
7/12 BOUCHARD, Jackie	7/18 PUES, Michelle	7/31 JORDING, Joann
		7/31 WENDLER, Arianna

*Happy Birthday*

### ✠ *Trinity Membership Update* ✠

New Members/Transfers In:      Released/Transfers Out:

**Baptisms:** Oliver Jeffrey Ross, June 20, 2021 & Kaylin Kohler, June 27, 2021

**Weddings:**      **Members Who Have Passed:**

<sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup>And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26

# July 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952  
Church Office Hours 8 am—3 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div><div><p>Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.</p><p><i>Psalm 33:12</i></p></div></div>				1 6 am Men's Bible	2	3 5 pm Worship
4-Forth of July Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	5 Offices Closed	6 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30pm Board of Meetings	7 6:30pm Worship	8 6am Men's Bible	9	10 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship
11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	12 Pastor Billings' Sabbath Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	13 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30 Ladies Aid 6:30pm Board of Directors Meeting	14 6:30pm Worship	15 6 am Men's Bible	16	17 5pm Worship
18-Eigth Sunday after Pentecost- 9am Worship 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	19 Pastor Billings' Sabbath Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	20 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30 Ladies Aid	21 6:30pm Worship	22 6am Men's Bible 4:00 pm Fox River Cruise with the Ladies Aid/LWML	23	24 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship
25-St. James the Elder, Apostle Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	26 Pastor Billings' Sabbath Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	27 6:30am Ladies Bible	28 6:30pm Worship	29 6am Men's Bible	30	31 5pm Worship



## Serving Our Lord with Gladness - July 2021

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Associate Pastor/Principal: Rev. Keith E. GeRue



Worship Date/Time	Acolyte Serving	Elder on Duty	Usher Captain	Greeters	Altar Guild
July 3 5 pm July 4 9 am July 7 6:30 pm	NA	Gast, Bruce Nielsen, Bart Harrmann, Tom	Colby, Lee Collingwood, Dave Reinke, Steve	Kester, Tom & Barb Zeinert, Jean	Reichert, Paula Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean
July 10 5 pm July 11 9 am July 14 6:30 pm	NA	Gast, Bruce Nielsen, Bart Harrmann	Voigt, Roger Wittmann, Jim Reinke, Steve	JoAnn Schultz Barb Sexmith	Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean Wirth, Laurel
July 17 5 pm July 18 9 am July 21 6:30 pm	NA	Gast, Bruce Nielsen, Bart Harrmann	Harrmann, Tom Weinig, Lee Reinke, Steve	Liz Kamprath	Zeinert, Jean Burrows, Gail Wirth, Laurel
July 24 5 pm July 25 9 am July 28 6:30 pm	NA	Gast, Bruce Nielsen, Bart Harrmann	Maynard, Jerry Sexmith, Steve Reinke, Steve	Kester, Tom & Barb Jane Nielsen	Zeinert, Jean Wirth, Laurel Wirth, Laurel
July 31 6:30pm	NA	Gast, Bruce	Colby, Lee	Zeinert, Jean	Zeinert, Jean

### Summer Church Office Hours:

(July-August) Monday-Friday - 8am-3pm

Jean Zeinert & Mary Conradt, Church Administrative Assistants

Phone: (920) 722-2662 ext. 201

email: [ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com](mailto:ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com)

### Cruise the Fox River!



We invite you (ladies and gents) to join Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML for a Fox River Cruise on Thursday, July 22 at 4:00 p.m.

We will board the River Tyme Riverboat at 3:45 p.m. at 101 James Street in DePere. The boat is handicap accessible.

Cost is \$24, payable that day with cash or credit card, no checks. Call Dottie Kraus at (920) 991-2705; you may leave a message or sign up on the spinner in narthex.

There is a limit of 46 people, so please sign up or call as soon as possible. We will need to purchase drinks on the boat but can bring our own cold hors d'oeuvres.

### Vacation Bible School

Once again, this year Trinity teamed up with Peace Lutheran in Neenah for Vacation Bible School. This year there were over 100 children in attendance.

This years theme was "God's Wonder Lab!" A science lab conducts experiments that explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. At God's At God's Wonder Lab, we discovered that Jesus does the impossible for us.

Monday, we studied Jesus' First Miracle. (John 2:1-12)

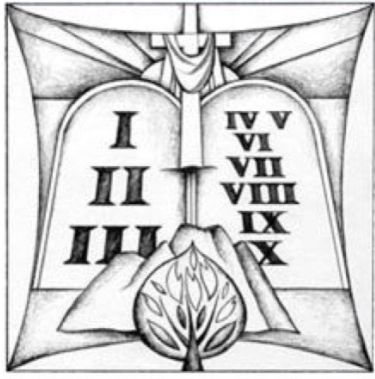
Tuesday, we saw Jesus Walk on Water. (Matthew 14:22-33)

Wednesday, Jesus Gives Life to Jairus's Daughter. (Mark 5:21-43)

Thursday, Jesus Appears to His Followers after His resurrection. (Luke 24:36-49)

And Friday, Jesus Sends Paul. (Acts 9:1-19)

God can make the impossible possible! He does marvelous things!



# Catechetical Comments

A Series

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This month we continue our look at The Close of the Commandments:

*What does God say about all these commandments?* He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” [Ex. 20: 5–6]

*What does this mean?* God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Question 77. *What purposes does the Law then serve?*

C. Third, the Law teaches us Christians what we should and should not do to lead a God-pleasing life (a guide). The power to live according to the Law comes from the Gospel.

The *Catechism 1991* concludes its answer to the question: “What purposes does the Law then serve?” by saying: “Third, the Law teaches us Christians what we should and should not do to lead a God-pleasing life (a guide). The power to live according to the Law comes from the Gospel.” In support of this it lists the following Scripture passages:

**Ps. 119:9** – How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word.

**Ps. 119:105** – Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**1 John 4:9, 11** – In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.... Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Consider: Having a desire to do a thing is not the same as knowing how. Restoring my first car would be an awesome thing (to me), but I wouldn't

have the first clue as to how to get it done. Also is this true with regard to leading a God-pleasing life. I, of my own accord, just don't know how to do it. God's help is needed. This is where the so-called Third Use of the Law comes in. Having been given our boundaries (curb) and shown our sin (mirror), the Law also tells us what we and are not to do.

Our Lord Jesus showed us what this looks like by loving us despite ourselves, giving His own life in our stead. More than just a set of rules, the Law is a description of what it means to love. Acting according to the Law is really the most loving way to behave. Spurred on by the example of Christ, we honor God and love our neighbor, as the Law directs.

It does not empower us to do this, however. Sparking the love which obeys the will of God is the task of the Gospel. As the Gospel impacts our hearts, we are motivated to keep the Law. When we fail, which we frequently do, the Gospel reminds us of the full and free forgiveness we receive through repentance and faith.

Hearing the Gospel, then, is the only way we can truly comprehend the Law. I am regularly reminded of this in my sermon preparation. New and unique expressions of the Law are easy to come by. Yet the same is not true of the Gospel. Asking God's help in this, I try not to hammer too hard on the Law. Speaking from experience, I know I need the Gospel's motivation. So do we all. ✠

Humbly in His service,  
Rev. Steven S. Billings  
Senior Pastor

# From the Principals Office

## Dependent and Free – Luke 9:18-24



245 years ago in this country, there was a revolution. A revolution for independence, which we will celebrate again this Fourth of July. But *today*, there is also *another* revolution going on – also for independence – except this is not a *political* revolution – it is a cultural, a moral, a religious, revolution. And that makes this revolution, in many ways, much more dangerous than any other.

For this is a revolution that is challenging the very foundations of our society, stating that there is no absolute truth upon which we stand, and upon which our life together is defined. No, your culture, your morality, your religion is what you want it to be. All gods are equal, all lifestyles are equal, all choices are equal. None are wrong and none are right, they simply are what you want the truth to be. Or in other words, you are *independent*. No one and no god can tell you who to be, or what is truth. You are *independent*. You are free – and freedom is a good thing, is it not? Except the freedom that this revolution promises is really no freedom at all, but in fact, a stronger slavery to sin. And many people, seeking to be “free,” are sinking into this slavery deeper and deeper. Addiction, dysfunction, confusion, denial, anger, loneliness, hopelessness – these are just a few of the symptoms. Even with these, people *think* they’re going the right way; that they’re headed in the right direction! But it isn’t working. This revolution promises everything, but delivers nothing.

This in fact is not a new thing. This kind of revolution has been going on ever since the beginning. Men and women, declaring their independence. Throwing off restraints. Rebelling against authority. Pursuing freedom. Going their own ways, following their own desires. From Adam and Eve down to you and I today, the story is the same. The result has not been freedom or independence, but stronger and deeper bondage to sin. It’s like quicksand – the harder we fight, the deeper in we get.

Unlike the revolution of 1776 that we celebrate this Independence Day, this is a revolution that we can’t win. It is as we hear Jesus say in Luke 9: “**Whoever would save his life will lose it.**” If we insist on saving ourselves, and freeing ourselves, and declaring ourselves independent from God and anyone else, we will, in fact, have lost. “**But** [Jesus continues] **whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.**” If we lay down our lives in repentance, in faith, and in dependence upon God, *then* we are free; we are forgiven; we are heirs of eternal life. So, this statement of Jesus, which *sounds* so backwards and upside-down, shows us that we are the ones not right; we are the ones who need correcting; we are the ones who need to be put right again. The one and only way that can be done is through the cross of Christ.

That is what Jesus is explaining to His disciples in this Holy Gospel. “**Who do the crowds say that I am?**” He asked. And there is a variety of answers – all, by the way, holding Jesus in very high regard and esteem; equating Him with prophets and holy men of old. Yet at the same time, all are inadequate; all missing something. But when Peter then gives the correct answer, “**You are the Christ of God**” – or in other words, you are the anointed One; the One God sent into the world to save – Jesus not only acknowledges this, but immediately grounds this answer where it must be grounded: *at the cross*. For we cannot rightly know Jesus as the Christ apart from the cross. That is why He charged His disciples not to tell anyone, yet. For the people were looking for a Savior who would give them *independence* – freedom from the Romans, and if they heard that Jesus was the Christ, they would make Him King and expect Him to do this. They would want a cross-less Christ.

But, in fact, there is no such thing. So, Jesus says, “**The Son of Man must suffer . . . many things . . . and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.**” On this we are dependent. Jesus did not use that word “must” lightly. There was no other way. His death and resurrection



are the only means by which we can be truly free. Only Christ's death and resurrection can break the hold of sin on each of us, and clean out the skeletons in our closets. Only Christ's death and resurrection can give us hope beyond the grave. Only Christ's death and resurrection can defeat Satan, and all His works and all His ways; He is too strong and too persistent for us. So, while being independent may *sound* good, it is only until sin bears its fangs against us again, and those skeletons come back to haunt us. Or until the emptiness of the grave looms over us, at the death of a loved one, or in the face of terrorism or disease. Or until Satan begins whispering in your ear and driving you to despair. Independence *sounds good* until then.

Only Christ's death can pay the price for the debt of sin that we have rung up, and only His resurrection can give us a new life. The answer to the freedom that we seek is not to throw off the shackles we think have been put upon us, to rebel and redefine what it means to be spiritual. No, the answer (as the prophet Zechariah said) is to turn to the one who was shackled for us, who was nailed to the cross, and who do not rebel. To turn to the one ***"whom they have pierced,"*** to that bloody, humiliated, corpse on the cross, and confess, ***"You are the Christ of God."*** You are my Savior. For only joined to Him can our shackles be removed. Only He holds the key to the kingdom of Heaven. Only by being dependent upon Him can we be set free.

You see, that is part of the problem. We think that being independent and being free must go together; that we can't be free unless we're independent. But it is not so. Jesus is telling us that dependence and freedom do in fact go together – maybe not politically, but certainly spiritually. For only as we live dependent on Him can we be free.

That is where the *other* cross of which Jesus spoke comes in. For it is not only in His own cross that Jesus grounds Peter's answer – but also in the cross that He places upon each of us. For Jesus goes on to say, ***"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*** If we keep to the mindset that independence and freedom must go together, then we can and will never understand why a loving God would put crosses, struggles, difficulties, and challenges to our faith into our lives. For wouldn't a loving God take these things away from us? Wouldn't a loving God want to take better care of us and make our life easier? But with such questions, we are falling into the same trap as those who lived at Jesus' time, *who wanted a cross-less Christ*. So, your Heavenly Father gives you crosses to bear not because He doesn't love you, and not because He likes to watch you suffer, and not for any other reason than to by that cross drive you to the cross of His Son. For if by the cross He places upon us God makes us dependent on Christ, then He has not, in fact, burdened us, but really set us free. ***"For whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."***

So, it is exactly the struggles of life that drive us to the source of our life. It is the challenges to our faith that drive us to the source of our faith. It is the difficulties to love and forgive that drive us to the source of our love and forgiveness. So that brought to our knees, seeing our neediness, and realizing our dependence, we drink deeply from the Word of God, we wash and rejoice in the waters of our baptism, and we feed hungrily at the table of our Lord's body and blood. For in those means are the fruits of the cross of Christ. In those means are His forgiveness, life, and salvation. In those means we are joined to Christ, and He to us, and we are set free. Set free in dependence on Him.

Being set free, we can finally live. Live free from the burden to be perfect, for we know we are not. Live free from the burden of our sin, for we know it is forgiven. And live free from fear, for we know that in Christ, nothing can separate us from the love of God. And in a world searching for answers, and for freedom, if that's not *revolutionary*, I don't know what is!



***You are Free! Now go as Freed Children of God! Pastor GeRue***

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 2021

	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$12,593.77	\$78,174.95	(\$73,801.91)	\$16,966.81
Nicolet Restricted Funds	\$135,276.18	\$6,365.03	(\$1,025.78)	\$140,615.43
LCMS Endowment Fund	\$123,207.65	\$1,493.40	(\$169.65)	\$124,531.40
LCEF Steward Fund	\$722.02	\$7,958.61	(\$7,414.10)	\$1,266.53
Nicolet Money Market	\$53,473.08	\$1.16	(\$28,000.00)	\$25,474.24
RBC Account	\$49,963.69	\$3,966.48	\$0.00	\$53,930.17
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$8,363.57	\$300.63	\$0.00	\$8,664.20
Nicolet Office Acct	\$1,257.32	\$0.01	(\$130.00)	\$1,127.33
Nicolet Debts Repaid	\$5,388.44	\$0.40	\$0.00	\$5,388.84
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,182.23	\$0.24	\$0.00	\$3,182.47
Nicolet Scrip	\$8,838.01	\$23,704.54	(\$18,181.33)	\$14,361.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$440,075.44</b>	<b>\$121,965.45</b>	<b>(\$128,722.77)</b>	<b>\$433,318.12</b>
 LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	 \$1,090,793.80			 \$1,046,036.94

### Voter's Meeting

At the June 29 Voter's Meeting, the 2021-2022 budget was presented and approved unanimously.

Budget details are posted on the bulletin board.

If you would like a copy of the approved budget, please see Jean or Mary in the office.



## Stewardship Talk – Altar Guild

My name is Laurel Wirth and I have been a member of the Altar Guild since 1997. Initially, Pastor Bergman's wife did all the Altar Guild duties. When Pastor Lichtsinn came in 1951, he thought there should be an Altar Guild committee. Therefore, Altar Guild was created at the time the church was on Chute Street. Char Elliott has been an Altar Guild member for over 60 years. For a long time, communion was only given once a month. There was only the common cup. Communion was then given every other week and now it is given weekly (at all of our services) and individual cups are also used.

I had taught Sunday School when my children were younger and once they were finished, I wanted to volunteer for something else. I wanted to do something that would be "behind the scenes". That is where the Altar Guild fit in. As most Lutherans don't like to sit towards the front of the church, I could do this duty for the Lord and do it quietly.

I started out slowly. Char Elliott and Jeri Pack were very helpful in teaching me what needed to be done. Initially I would only take down the communion vessels. I was too afraid to fill the individual cups and do the set up. I also was afraid to take flowers to anyone because that would involve talking with people and trying to find my way to their home. Those fears have now gone away. It is a blessing to be able to talk with people who may be shut in or not in church for whatever reason.

Preparing the Lord's altar for communion gives me peace; knowing God gave his Son to die on the cross to save all of us from our sins. I think about this every time I am in the Sacristy and approach the altar. I can do this service to the Lord early morning or late evening. I love walking into the church, in the still of the night, and knowing that my Lord is there watching over me.

Setting up communion is only one part of the Altar Guild duties. Another duty that is currently being handled by Sally Bolen and Elaine Weinig are the altar flowers. The Linsdau sisters were florists and members of our congregation. They made sure that flowers were on the altar even after they were gone. At this current time money is donated by individuals to have flowers placed on the altar. Sally or Elaine purchase flowers and arrange them to be placed on

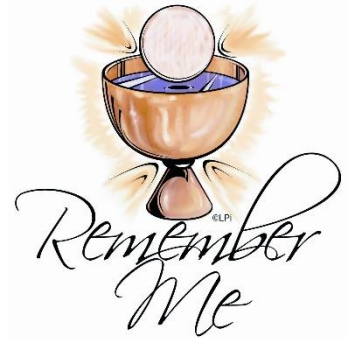
the altar. After the Sunday service, the flowers are given to the individual who paid for them or to whomever they so choose. In the bulletin you will see that the Altar Guild or Ladies Aid have paid for the flowers.

Individuals who receive the flowers at that time are those that have been in our prayers or those that may have a birthday or anniversary.

The beautiful banners that grace our chancel have been lovingly created by members of our congregation. We currently have a banner committee that takes care of the banners. They again have created new banners and have restored and fixed as many of the older banners as possible. You also see wind dancers in the sanctuary above you. Thankfully, we have an individual that has helped the Altar Guild with putting up those wind dancers. He also helps change out the frontal on the freestanding altar and the panels at the high altar.

We have husband and wife teams that serve on the Altar Guild, along with women, who volunteer their time in making the worship service pleasing to our Lord.

I love being a part of this ministry and working together with the Altar Guild members too. As Psalm 100:2 states, "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."





YEAR 1, JUNE 2021

# CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

*The newsletter of Amanda Groshek  
(teaching English, sharing Jesus)*



## STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:

[amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org](mailto:amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org)

Blog:

[Called to Go](#)  
(on Wordpress)

## END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

### Graduations, Stepping Up, Last Bells... It was the last week of school

I walked into one of our last classes together for the school year and one of my ninth graders had a sad look on her face. "What's wrong?" I asked. "Miss Groshek, I just realized that this is one of our last classes together and next year you won't be our teacher," she said. "That may be true, but I will still be around, and you can always come find me. I know it's not quite the same, but I'm not going anywhere," I replied.

The kindergarten students had their graduation ceremony. It was sweet to watch the seniors walk the kindergarteners, bedecked in little caps and gowns, into the auditorium. The kindergarten classroom is across the hallway from my office, so I've gotten to know many of the students well this year. Their ceremony consisted of students taking turns reciting poems and Bible verses, along with singing a few songs as a class. The elementary school principal handed them diplomas and welcomed them to elementary school.

The fifth graders (who I taught this year) had their Stepping Up and Last Bell ceremonies, when they both reflect back on their elementary years while also being welcomed into the middle school. Each of the students gave a speech, many of them thanking God, friends and family. Their homeroom teacher had actually picked a Bible verse or two for each student and put it on a slide along with their picture and a prayer for them. It was really neat!

The end of the school year came fast, even many of the students agreed, even with the switching back and forth between online and in-person because of COVID. And although, admittedly, I am thankful for this summer break right now, I am also looking forward to the fall when I will see all of the students again!







Davit Gijera monastery, Georgia

## SUMMER PLANS

### Visiting a book market, a week in Georgia, and beyond

And now it's the summer break!

My Russian teacher (also a friend of mine) had asked me shortly before the end of the school year if I'd like to visit the Petrivka book market with her at some point. It is the largest book market in Kyiv and has books that span a wide array of genres, topics and languages.

The Saturday after school ended, I also had a chance to join a group of Ukrainians on a week long trip to Georgia where we visited monasteries, Signagi, Tbilisi and Batumi. Although everything was in Russian, a few friends were able to answer my questions in English when I needed clarification about something, and it was a special way to get to see a country that I've long wanted to visit. We also enjoyed several services together, which was very encouraging after a year of mostly online church.

Part of our liturgy that kept cycling through my head on this

trip, which is also a Psalm, was: "Oh come let us sing to the LORD / Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. / Let us enter into his presence with thanksgiving / let us enter into his courts with songs of praise / [...]"

The rest of the summer will be spent here in Kyiv (as of right now). I am looking forward to spending time with friends here in the city and visiting a few friends who live outside of the city as well. I am also looking forward to just having a chance to rest some between the ending of one school year and the starting of another. Towards the end of July, I will be teaching a writing workshop in English to interested middle and high school aged students which will last about a week and a half.

Of course, I would also love a chance to catch up with many of you! Since I am not in the States this summer, we can't meet in person, but I'd love to connect via Skype, Zoom or FaceTime! Please let me know if you are interested and we can find a time. :)



Petrivka book market, Kyiv, Ukraine

### *Prayer Requests:*

- Prayers for health and healing in Ukraine and around the world as many places continue to deal with COVID.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the conclusion of a good school year. Prayers of thanksgiving for this time to rest and recharge and connect.
- Prayers that God would continue to grow my Russian conversation abilities.





# Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



April 2021

[SteelesInAfrica.com](http://SteelesInAfrica.com)



## STEELES IN AFRICA

—COVID has struck again. Classes are on hold until this wave subsides.

—Walter & Robyn are using the break in classes to prepare for next semester.

—Robyn has been asked to teach two Home Economics courses: one next semester and one beginning in August.

—Walter participated in a PhD seminar (via Zoom, of course) on Luther and Lutheran Pastoral Theology.

—We have bid farewell to our good friend and coworker, Dr. Thomas Aadland, who has retired from the field. He will be missed.

—Perhaps the Lord is calling you to consider international missions. The need to train pastors, deaconesses and evangelists remains. If you ever have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to email us.



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

## COVID Cannot Stop Gospel Preaching!



### Preaching at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, in Nyamira County, Kenya

A beautiful day in April, the Third Sunday after Easter. COVID has closed the campus for a while. But no virus can stop the Gospel of our Lord Jesus from sounding forth. An invitation was given. “Professor, will you come and preach to us?” Such is the hunger for the Word of God in Kenya.

“Of course I will!” So, we made our way, about an hour from campus, where Walter preached to them. It was a Communion Sunday. So Walter and the parish pastor, Rev. Gordon Alex, served God’s people with the precious and life-giving Body and Blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. The choirs sang and the people rejoiced to hear how Christ comes to them in Word and Sacrament. We enjoyed the fellowship of those who say: “Christ is risen! Alleluia!”

We pray that soon the government of Kenya will allow schools to reopen. We certainly appreciate their caution. But in the meanwhile, the voice of the Gospel is not silenced. Our students are back home sharing the Word. And with your support, the work continues! Alleluia!



## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That the recent surge in COVID here may soon end.
- That our students will be able to return in May, so we can resume all classes.
- For Walter as he prepares to teach seven courses next semester.
- For Robyn as she prepares to teach Home Economics courses next semester and also in the following one.
- For the Office of International Mission as they seek a replacement for Dr. Aadland, who has retired from the field.
- Thanksgiving for continued support of international mission despite the challenges of these days.
- For our Kenyan coworkers, that they, too, remain healthy and safe.

## HEBREW BIBLE PROJECT

Great news! The Hebrew Bibles (Reader's Edition) have arrived in Kenya. Yes, it took a while. After all, they traveled through Germany to get here. But they have made it in time for the next semester.

The pastoral students are excited to be able to study the Old Testament in Hebrew. They look forward to seeing Jesus on every page of Holy Scripture.

This ability—to learn how to see our Savior in the entire Bible—is a skill that we emphasize in all our work here at Matongo.

When they see Jesus, they then know how better to show Jesus to others, to tell the wonderful story of God's grace in Christ for all.

Remember:

You can support us at [lcms.org/givenow/steele](https://lcms.org/givenow/steele)

Or at the **world-famous Mission Central**

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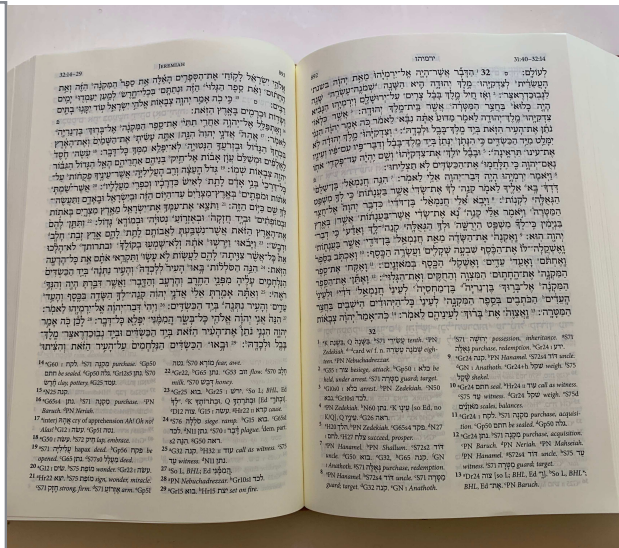
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*For more information on our work and our progress check out:*

Our Website: [SteelesInAfrica.com](https://SteelesInAfrica.com)

LCMS page: [lcms.org/steele](https://lcms.org/steele)

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Walter and Robyn Steele, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Steele/Kenya." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/steele](https://lcms.org/steele).