

AUGUST 2024

The Communicator

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

Torch Bearer in Paris

It's Olympic season in Paris! All the athletes and teams from nations around the world converged on Paris. They were sorted onto boats and sailed down the River Seine in front of crowds of people cheering. There were all kinds of creative productions, stages with freestyle cyclists and skateboarders, dancers choreographed to riveting music, and dramatic adaptations of many historically known stories. The torch made its way being carried by several public figures from music, Olympians, and a mysteriously hooded figure.

The city of lights was lit up, Eiffel Tower displayed an amazing array of lasers and other lights, and flags from many countries were flown in celebration. Efforts to foil the joy and excitement were made through attacks on the train system and even the rain drenched them all. But the show went on. Some participants covered in plastic, others embracing the elements, they all wouldn't have their spirits tarnished.

During the later parts of the parade the cameras focused in on a lone figure - a metal robotic horse and hooded rider, seemingly hovering over the river holding a torch! It was graceful, scary, exciting, mysterious, and otherworldly. As I watched, the camera zoomed out and panned to reveal what attendees were seeing. It was on a dark raft of some sort being pulled slowly through the river by a small watercraft.

There had to be some kind of trick to it! The illusion was really cool looking, but the full detail of it all brought my senses back to earth. The timing of this was almost perfect as I had just been preparing for the Sunday's Gospel text from John 6:1-21, where Jesus walks on water.

Maybe someone planning this did it on purpose? Who knows...

Thinking of the disciples, exhausted and discouraged from rowing miles against the wind on rough waters, the water parade provided a sort of parallel. What if that Horse and rider wasn't on a raft being pulled? What if it were really hovering over the waters? It still wouldn't be as impressive as Jesus coming to them in the early morning hours, unexpected.

In a storm, after an amazing display of power, coming out from the darkness like a ghost on the water - Jesus found them. Not in front of a parade or part of an already exciting event, no cameras, lights, and no expressions of great human accomplishment. Just a crew of tired and sweaty disciples trying to get to Capernaum.

Parallel accounts in Matthew and Mark record something similar, with some nuances. Hoping to provide some kind of presentation, I searched and prayed. I wanted to say something that would feed my desire to see things in an exciting way, some expert pastoral perspective to inspire readers.

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Inspiration is here: Jesus wasn't doing this for attention or accolades, he just wants to catch up to the disciples whom he loves. Of course, Jesus knew it was going to appear to be miraculous, although it was just another stroll for him – that is inspiring to me. What I was somehow thinking I needed to dress up, got in the way of me seeing something wonderful and loving. Jesus doesn't forget us, he remembers, has compassion, wants to bring comfort, and nothing is going to get in his way.

When we find ourselves looking for confirmation of God's love and power in brilliant displays of light, entertainment, or accomplishment; remember this Jesus. Jesus is within grasp, pursuing us in love, and doing the impossible he writes love upon our lives saying, "take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Have a happy Olympic season!

Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15am, in-person/Facebook
live

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am, in-person

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10am, in-person

LCLC Staff

PASTOR

MATT HELFRICH
314-914-4776

SECRETARY

CYNTHIA SWAN

CHOIR

DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

DAVID EGGERS

PIANIST

GREG OTT

OFFICE HOURS 8:30AM-
12:30PM

Articles Due 21st of each
month

June 2024 Treasurer's Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Randy Henning

For those of you that don't know, the pack for FMSC at Atonement on July 13 was a big success. The concern was always whether we could ignite folks to support the effort again after failing to have a pack in 2023. Mission accomplished. Our 2025 pack is already being planned for the weekend of July 11-12. Fund raising will be a key issue for next year. So if you have skills in that area, the leadership team could use you to help with that. Contact me if you are interested or just want to join the team in some capacity. Our goals will be greater next year, so we need all the help we can get.

Just an update on our financial condition. We have a strategy team in place to look at the different alternatives to fixing that issue. We are working with a real estate person and are trying to find ways to minimize or help the problem. We have a couple of organizations that might want to lease space, but we really can't do much without having a lawyer to protect us contractually. So if you know a lawyer who could help with that, please let me know. Obviously, we don't have a lot of money to pay for one, so that would have to be a concern. But we are looking at all alternatives to mitigate our financial woes. Obviously, if you can afford to give more, that always helps. We will continue to find possible ways to keep the spirit and passion of LCLC alive and well, whatever form that eventually takes. God will lead us in our efforts.

Category	June <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
INCOME	\$12,980	\$66,882
EXPENSES	\$14,840	\$88,104
Congregation Coord	\$0	\$300
Cong Vitality Team	\$0	\$0
MISSIONS	\$1,663	\$7,163
OFFICE	\$145	\$2,269
OUTREACH	\$250	\$250
PASTOR FUND	\$0	\$0
PROPERTY	\$2,409	\$19,917
STEWARDSHIP	\$0	\$225
SUPPORT	\$2,512	\$11,661
WAGES	\$7,663	\$45,732
WORSHIP	\$47	\$586

Total YTD Income	\$ 66,882
Total YTD Expenses	\$ 88,104
Total YTD Difference	-\$ 21,222

The expenses for the month of June were \$14,840 and the income for the month was \$12,980. This month had expenses \$1,860 more than income. The year-to-date expenses of \$88,104 exceed year-to-date income of \$66,882 by \$21,222. For the first half of the year our deficit is now averaging just over \$3,500 per month, or about \$42,000 by the end of the year. We still have 6 months left this year to help make up the shortfall.

2024 General Funds paid to missions are as follows:

Central States Synod	\$ 4,000
Outreach/Local Missions	\$ 3,163

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. Thanks.

Dave Endorf, Treasurer
dave.endorf@gmail.com 502-612-3518

Nurse's Note:

Bill Kaepfel

Watching the news? Reading the paper? Having problems? Getting depressed? Trouble getting to sleep?



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being; it affects how we think, feel, and act, how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. We need help coping with the stresses that can affect our mental health. As disciples of Jesus, we have a resource beyond all other "therapies."

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23)

"Come unto me, all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28-30)

Maybe a prayer: Luther's morning and evening prayers

Morning prayer: I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would protect me today from all sin and evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all things. Let your holy angels be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening prayer: I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Or a hymn:

Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.

And if you're feeling overwhelmed, you have another great resource: the community of saints. You can call the pastor, talk to a church friend, or consult a parish nurse. That's what we are all here for, in The Lutheran Church of the Living Christ.

Happy Anniversary

YOU ARE INVITED!

We wish to share the celebration of our
65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
with our church family. You are all invited
to join us for a luncheon **August 10, 11a-1p**
in the church basement.

No presents please; just your presence is desired.
Please sign up (name and number of guests)
on the church bulletin board or RSVP
by phone or email so we know how many
to expect.

314-378-6308/314-276-6139/kaepfel@sbcglobal.net



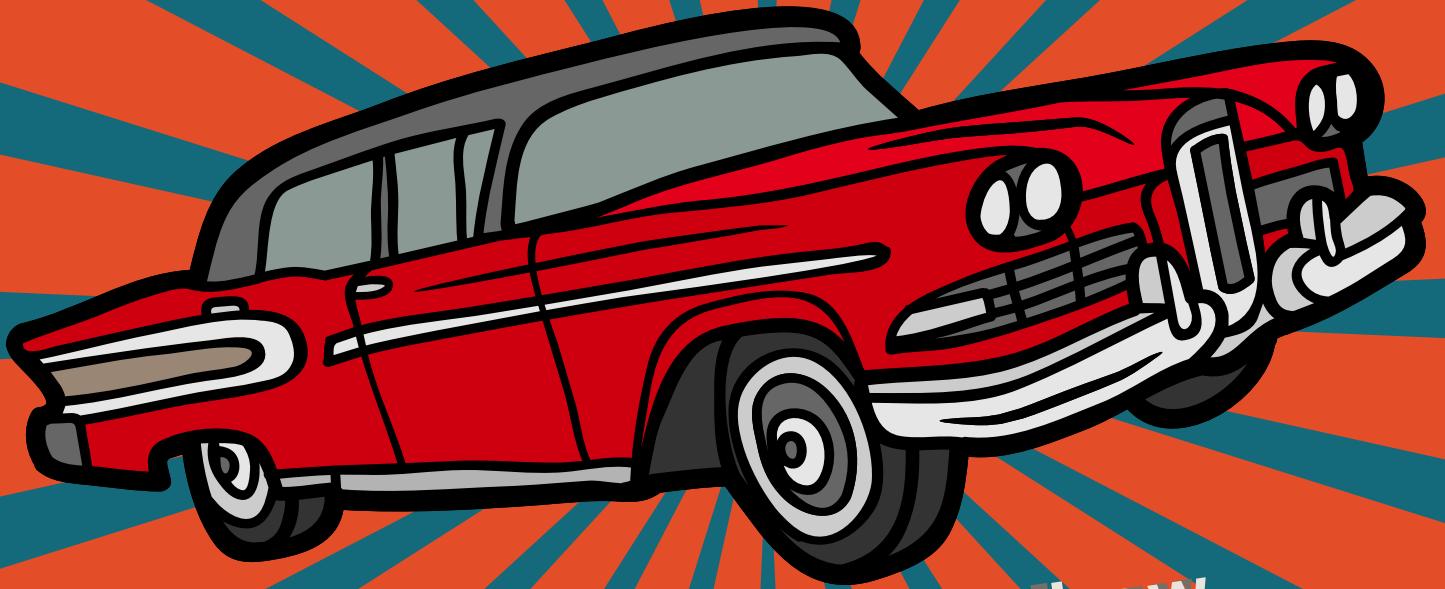
Nancy & Bill Kaepfel

COUNCIL BULLETS

- Breakfast Club – The next Breakfast Club will be on Sunday, August 25 before worship.
- Car Show – Saturday, September 7. Karen Haynes is coordinating and will schedule a meeting soon. Anyone interested in being a part of the Car Show is invited to attend.
- God's Work Our Hands – Sunday, September 8 will be a joint effort with the congregations in the GRC.
- Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 26.
- Strategy Team – All options presented at the June 30 Congregation Meeting will be explored and discussed by the Strategy Team.

Car Show

Walter Haynes
2nd
Annual



Registration day of show
no cost

Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 AM - 4 PM

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
(Halls Ferry at Concord Dr.)

Great Rivers Collaborative

The Great Rivers Collaborative is asking for your talents. If you can share your talents with others, we would like to know. We are looking for people who might lead activities such as book clubs, knitting groups, cleaning crews. These groups will be composed of congregational members across the North County Great Rivers Collaborative and could lead activities at any of our seven congregations. You might have a talent for cooking and would be willing to share meals with someone who is home bound in one of our congregations. Please let Laurie Brown know if you are interested (314) 210-0242 or complete the talent survey handed out during the June congregational meeting.

Free Little Library

Thank you for everyone for the donation of books to the Little Library. It appears the library is getting a lot of use as we regularly replenish books. I want to provide some clarification of the types of books to be donated. The purpose of the library is to offer our neighbors opportunities to read and share books.

Types of books we need:

- Children's books
- Novels (both fiction and non-fiction)
- Book size does matter – large books do not fit into the shelves of the library; keep book size to approximately 8 1/2" X 6" or less

Please do not donate the following:

- Reference books such as dictionaries and textbooks
- Magazines
- Travel guides
- Multiple copies of the same book
- Cookbooks
- "How to" books

We appreciate everyone's support and would encourage more donation of children's books. If you have any questions, please reach out to Laurie Brown (314) 210-0242.

50+ News

50+ River Cruise August 14

Plan to sign up for a 2 hour boat ride on the Hakuna Matada from Grafton harbor on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Meet at church at 9am or at Grafton harbor at 9:45 for a 10am -12 noon sailing. Cost is \$35 per adult and \$20 per child with payment to the church prior to the event. Mark 50+ boat ride on your check. Lunch will be pay on your own at the Oyster Bar restaurant at Grafton harbor after the boat ride. Give checks in advance of the trip to Joyce Wolf or Erle Craig.

Fund Raiser

Mark the Date – Sunday, October 20

Fall Craft Sale, before and after church. What is your special talent? Sewing? Quilting? Knitting? Crocheting? Embroidery? Tied throws? Wood working? Baking? Canning? Donations of items will be sold with funds raised going towards paying church expenses.

Please price your own items. A Sign Up Sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Jeanne Calderwood, 314-307-4391

August Lunch Bunch

The August Lunch Bunch will meet on August 8 at Cugino's located at 1595 N. Hwy 67 in Florissant at 11:30am. For reservations please contact Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or 314-838-3741. The menu includes appetizers, wings, sandwiches, salads, drinks and friendly conversation! Everyone is welcome to attend.



July Lunch Bunch Recap

Ten ladies and 5 gentlemen and 10 ladies met for lunch at the Applebees on the St. Charles Rock Rd on July 11. The menu included lunch specials, salads, wings, burgers and other menu choices. Our server was very patient with our group and as always a nice fellowship time for all attending.

Create Day

Create Day is August 16th from 9am-11am, to sew quilts tops, backs, assemble layers for LWR quilts gearing up for partnership with the Girl Scouts coming up in September/October.



Celebrate August!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Shirley	BEINS	1
Kathy	ENDORF	1
James	STOEHNER	8
Rod	WALLACE	8
Nancy	KAEPPPEL	13
Dave	WILSON	18
Dave	BARNES	20
Denise	CHAPPELL	21
Bryan	CLIFFORD, JR	26

Wedding Anniversaries



William and Nancy	Kaepfel	9th	65 yrs
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August Worship Assistants

August 4, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel
Lector: Randy Henning
Live Streaming: Erle Craig
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Levaughn & Sheila Smart
Greeter: Kathy Endorf
Altar Guild: Joyce Wolf & Ann Schultz

August 11, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Donna Glennie
Live Streaming: Rod Wallace
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Dave Endorf & Randy Henning
Greeter: Joyce Meyer
Altar Guild: Doris Stoehner, Bill Kaepffel & Marilyn Wiley

August 18, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Bill Kaepffel
Live Streaming: Gary & Laurie Brown
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Jim & Doris Stoehner
Greeter: Jeanne Calderwood
Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

August 25, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel
Lector: Terry Calderwood
Live Streaming: Erle Craig
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Gloria Broderick & Cathie Lehr
Greeter: Gloria Broderick
Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

*****If you are unable to serve on your assigned date,
please swap with someone or find a replacement*****

AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Tiam Exercise Class 11:30am Lunch Bunch	2	3 KAEPPELS 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
4 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum Tiam True Vine Church	5 10am Mutual Ministry	6 10am Bible Study Tiam Exercise Class	7	8 Tiam Exercise Class 11:30am Lunch Bunch	9	10 KAEPPELS 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
11 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum Tiam True Vine Church	12 6:00pm CVT 7:00pm Council	13 10am Bible Study Tiam Exercise Class	14 9am 50+ Boat Ride	15 Tiam Exercise Class 7pm NCOTC- (LL)	16 9am Create Day	17
18 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum Tiam True Vine Church	19	20 10am Bible Study Tiam Exercise Class	21	22 Tiam Exercise Class	23 LCLC/Zion Council Gathering	24
25 9:15am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum Tiam True Vine Church	26	27 10am Bible Study Tiam Exercise Class	28	29 Tiam Exercise Class	30	31

Zoom links for events can be found on our website:
www.lc-livingchrist.org/calendar

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
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