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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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FROM THE PASTOR

The other day, my daughter Eden and I went on a walk in the woods. We left our house in the morning to go "fairy hunting." We look into flowers, behind bushes and trees. I don't think either of us know what we would do if we ever found a fairy - but that's beside the point. As we tried to locate Tinkerbelle's home, we stopped and we looked. We listened and we touched. We picked seeds from dried pods (one of which is sprouting in my office as I write this). We watched a bird and wondered where its nest might be. We had no agenda or place to reach. It was a few moments of pure exploration for its own sake.

In that little letting go, I realized how quickly I can forget what quiet abiding is all about. Everything in adult life tends to yell: "Hurry Up!" Maybe it's the literal driver behind you, or the silent accusation of a neglected pile of laundry. Todo lists never get shorter on their own you know. Yet regardless of where the voice may be coming from, we all feel that pressure to keep moving forward.

But where exactly is "forward" or the place we all want to reach? All of us can vaguely locate that place. We all know it has to be out there somewhere. Maybe it's in the future after an achievement or goal. Or maybe it's in the past when things were simpler. But as life keeps its steady pace, the pull to that place is always *just* out of reach. As if we just missed it, or maybe we will get there tomorrow....

That place of paradise has had many names: utopia, nostalgia, High School, the Fountain of Youth, Atlantis, El Dorado....

What is your name for it?

Write it down right now in the margin or text it to yourself.

What makes that place so desirable to you?

If we compared our places, they may seem very different at first. But all of us have the same urge to find, or get back to, a place of paradise. Many human lives, even whole civilizations, have risen and fallen chasing after that mystical place. The good news for us is that Jesus has shown us the true way to paradise. But it lives were we would never have looked on our own.

Humans have always tried to find paradise on our own and failed. The fancy word for trying to bring the "paradise" of the past back is called reipristination. Which is the idea that if we could just: "Do it like we used to" then everything would be okay again.

While on the other hand, the idea of perpetual progress hopes to find paradise in the future. If humans keep inventing and researching and discovering, then somewhere down the line, all that work will add up to a human-built "paradise."

Neither alternative has ever worked and never will. Because paradise cannot come from human effort. The only spring from which it flows is the goodness of our Creator. On the sixth day creation was "very good" because of who created it - not the smarts or abilities of humans.

However disappointing it may feel, God does not delight in the multiplication of your achievements. But as Psalm 147 reminds us, He delights in our clinging to Him:

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. - Psalm 147:10-11

The path to paradise is not paved with human achievements. For it was human achievements that

slammed shut the door of Eden. Human achievements-built monuments and cities on the back of Hebrew slaves. Every human paradise has turned into a living hell eventually. The true way to paradise is only found through the goodness of God.

Life will always keep shouting: "Hurry Up!" It will always prick you to look back and remember those good old days. But take a moment to place where that pull toward paradise truly finds it's fulfillment.

Not in you. Or in the past. Or in the future.

It comes in the words of Jesus:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. - Matthew 11:28-30

May you find the rest of Jesus this Easter season. Because where Jesus and His word abides, there is true paradise. Not only in the future or past, but in the drawing near of the Eternal One.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." - Revelation 1:8

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,

Pastor Brenden Harrell

MAY
Birthdays

- May 01 Dick Scholar
- May 02 Rudy Stowell
- May 02 Marilyn Wagner
- May 02 Charles Menendez
- May 04 John Thomas
- May 09 Dennis Payne
- May 10 LaDene Hersman
- May 14 Lori Williamson
- May 17 Shelley Klotz
- May 19 Jeremy Schofield
- May 21 Matthew Foley
- May 21 Lucy Chaney
- May 23 Cheri Forsythe
- May 24 Nanci Andersen

MAY
Anniversaries

- May 02 Paul & Lisa DiModica
- May 20 Arlin & Sharon Weiting
- May 25 Randy & Danielle Tate
- May 29 Devin & Caitlin Miller
- May 30 Brenden & Katie Harrell



- May 02 Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred**
- May 03 9:00 am – SS/Bible Study**
- May 03 10:00 am – Communion Service**
- May 05 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Shelter prep (SH)**
- May 06 10:00 am – Small Group Bible Study**
- May 07 4:30 pm - Elders' Mtg.**
- May 09 Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes**
- May 10 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- May 10 10:00 am – Worship Service**
- May 11 6:00-8:00 pm – Men's Group**
- May 12 9:30 – 11:30 am – Quilters**
- May 13 10:00 am – Small Group Bible Study**
- May 15 9:00 am –Ministry Availability Due**
- May 15 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Parents' Night Out**
- May 16 Mowing – Williamson, Tate, Oliver**
- May 17 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- May 17 10:00 am – Praise/Communion Service**
- May 17 11:30 am – Council Meeting**
- May 17 2:00 pm – Adult Fellowship**
- May 19 5:30 pm – P/S Board Mtg.**
- May 20 9:00 am – June Newsletter Deadline**
- May 20 10:00 am – Small Group Bible Study**
- May 23 Mowing – Williamson, Weiting**
- May 24 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- May 24 10:00 am – Worship Service**
- May 27 10:00 am – Small Group Bible Study**
- May 30 Mowing – Riddiough, Schofield**
- May 31 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- May 31 10:00 am – Worship Service**

MOWING for MAY



- May 02 – Atrops, LaBelle, Allred**
- May 09 – Hathaway, Mayes**
- May 16 – Williamson, Tate, Oliver**
- May 23 – Williamson, Weiting**
- May 30 – Riddiough, Schofield**



May 03 –Comm. Svc.
10:00 AM – Emma Olney
Flowers: - OPEN

May 10 –Worship Svc.
10:00 AM – Becky Foley
Flowers: - OPEN

May 17 – Praise/Comm. Svc.
10:00 AM – Lori Williamson
Flowers: - S. Klotz’s birthday by G. Lange

May 24 –.Worship Svc.
10:00 AM – Sara Chaney
Flowers: L. Chaney & M. Williamson birthdays

May 31 – Worship Svc.
10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway
Flowers: OPEN



Bible Quiz



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)



Special Dates for May 2026

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2026*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2026*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 14, 2026*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2026*
- Day of Pentecost, *May 24, 2026*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2026*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 31, 2026*

ELDER'S CORNER

Live by faith not by sight

The Christian Family lives in the world but not of the world. We live in the word and as it speaks to us. We must realize that our strength comes by God's power in our lives, and only through Him and his power in us is our strength made perfect. Our duty or our actions should always be through love just as Christ loved us! Ultimately God's Love in us changes hearts and lives. Motive is important in the Christian life. Do we live in our own strength, or do we live in the power of God through the Holy Spirit? God knows the motive of our hearts. What we do in our spare time and efforts either ties us closer to God or away from God. Jesus said what you do for the least of these you do for me.

every instance and moment. We live and move daily through the love He first showed us on the Cross! Living by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7) is the verse that we live by. With daily dependence on God we can accomplish much. We don't need to ask for constant miracles; we need to seek God in every need and His power in the word and His grace covers a multitude of problems and challenges in our lives.

In Colossians 4:5 Paul says; "make the most of every opportunity"! Grace allows us to do what is before us, but God allows us to excel in all we do and accomplish, with Him as our guide. Every day something requires us to take action, or someone needs our help. Do we seek God in every task or instance? How do we react? Difficult times or situations require us to have a secure foundation! That foundation is in Jesus Christ! When our conscience troubles us, or when we don't pray and act as we could have, we feel ashamed or feel "low down". God continually works in us encouraging us to do what is right in His eyes. He says when you help one of these you are helping Me! That should motivate us to do the will of our Father! God's Divine love and grace flows through us to others! When we don't have the answer, we have a loving source available! Our deliverer Jesus Christ! The Holy Spirit warns us and Angels keep guard around us. We as Christians, move as the Holy Spirit works within us. Christians pray and ask God for help each day and challenges that unfold. II Corinthians 2:14 Says "For the love of Christ controls and urges and

impels us, because we are of the opinion and conviction, that if God died for all, then all died; and He died for all, so that all those who live, might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him Who died and was raised for their sake."

We all have a "ministry". John the Baptist was a servant of God, as he baptized all who asked for Jesus Christ in their lives. We are all called to be servants, to do the work of God when the Holy Spirit moves us. II Corinthians 5:18 says; "But all things are from God. Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself (received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself) and gave us the ministry of reconciliation-that by word and deed we might help bring others into harmony with Him". So, God says that through Jesus Christ, God draws us to Himself. So we like Him, can be servants of all, allowing us to grow into what God wants us to be, all motivated by God's amazing Grace and Love for us. We then discover the gifts of joy, grace and peace in living and abiding in "That favor and harmony in Christ"! Being a servant of all, allows Christ's power to work in and through us and being a servant of God we grow daily in everything we do and say! God has much more in store for us and to reveal to us in "His way or path". God has great power, grace, love and rewards for those who love Him and have faith and trust in Him!

In His Love, Truth and Grace!
Tom Heuchert



Update from bwabkenya, AKA Fikisha, on Instagram. "Schools are closed... but your growth doesn't have to stop. Join the Changemakers Program and 1) Grow through discipleship, 2) Get academic support through tutoring and 3) Make a real impact through community outreach. We are raising dynamic leaders, and this could be your starting point."

Thank you for continuing to support our friends in Kenya and their mission. Paul and Lisa are planning to visit them in Spring of 2028. For more information about bwabkenya, their mission and the travels, ask Paul and Lisa DiModica.



July 13th-16th
9:00am-11:30am

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS!

Family Night: July 17th
6:00pm

Preschool-5th Grade
*must be potty-trained
unless parent present



May 2026

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD/FLOWERS
3 Sunday	10:00 AM Communion	Greg & Vicki Amaral	Trevor Schofield	Tom Heuchert Todd Martin	Michael Southern	Debbie Heuchert	Dennis Payne	Emma Olney FLOWERS: R. Scholar's B-Day
10 Sunday	10:00 AM	Evie Cronan	Piper Chaney	Rudy Stowell	Mike Foley	Marjorie Hord	Diana Brown	Becky Foley FLOWERS: OPEN
17 Praise Sunday	10:00 AM Communion	Ernie Heuchert	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops Mark Hathaway	Bill Williamson	Reese Riddiough	Estelle Schofield	Lori Williamson FLOWERS: Lange for S. Klotz B-day
24 Sunday	10:00 AM	Jane Riddiough	Lucy Chaney	Dennis Payne	Jim LaBelle	Becky Zielke	Julie Martin	Sara Chaney FLOWERS: L. Chaney & M. Williamson's B-Days
31 Sunday	10:00 AM	Lori Williamson	Drew Schofield	Art Atrops	Sarah Ganschow	Jill Murdock	Terry Murdock	Connie Hathaway FLOWERS: OPEN
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		GREETERS *Estelle Schofield 598-6907 Sarah Ganschow 266-0046	ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	ELDERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	USHERS *Art Atrops 937-0485	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	MEDIA *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Becky Zielke 598-6924 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Rowes 623-5161

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER

2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).

3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE - 937-1116

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
3 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Communion Svc.	4	5 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	6 10:00am Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell practice	7 4:30pm Elders' Meeting	8	9 Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes
10 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	11 6:00pm Men's Group	12 9:30am Quilters	13 10:00am Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell practice	14	15 Ministry Availability Due 6:00pm Parents' Night Out	16 Mowing: Williamson, Tate, Oliver
17 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Praise/Comm. Svc. 11:00am Council Mtg. 2:00pm Adult Fellowship	18	19 5:30pm P/S Board Mtg.	20 Newsletter Deadline 10:00am Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell practice	21	22	23 Mowing: Williamson, Weiting
24 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	25	26	27 10:00am Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell practice	28	29	30 Mowing: Riddiough, Schofield
31 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	1 2:00pm Elections set- up	2 6:00am Elections 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	3 10:00am Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell practice	4 4:30pm Elders' Meeting	5	6 Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred