

THE PEACE LUTHERAN

VOLUME 49, ISSUE NO. 6

AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS

- August 4: *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost* Exodus 16:2-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:22-35
- August 11: **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** 1 Kings 19:1-8; Ephesians 4:17-5:2; John 6:35-51
- August 18: **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18; Ephesians 5:6-21; John 6:51-59

August 25: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 29:11-19; Ephesians 5:22-33; Mark 7:1-13



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will be at Peace on Friday, August 2, from 1:00-5:00PM for a summer blood drive. If you would like to register, please scan the QR code above or copy the link below. If you need registration assistance please contact the church office. <u>https://tinyurl.com/v9ezx34k</u>

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY - SEPTEMBER 9



Please join us for our upcoming Voters' Assembly, Monday, September 9, 7:00PM, in **Sanctuary Hall.** All Peace members ages 18 and older are encouraged to attend.

Rev. Dr. Jon Furgeson, Senior Pastor 314-601-1039 pastor.furgeson@peacelutheranstl.org



JR. CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 4

Our Junior Confirmation classes will begin Wednesday, September 4, 4:00-5:15PM, for students in 6th-8th grades.

The 6th grade class will be taught by Christina Stackle, 7th grade by Pastor Brown, and 8th grade by Pastor Furgeson. Each grade level will focus on different parts of the Small Catechism.

Parents and students in 6th grade, as well as our students new to Confirmation this Fall, please mark your calendars for Catechism Sunday, August 25, at the 10:30AM Service. Students will be presented their Small Catechisms during the service.

A new acolyte schedule and other important information for students will be emailed in mid-August.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION DAY

August 18, 2024 - 9:15-10:15AM



This is an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher, visit with other parents, and learn about our new year in Sunday School. More information will be provided

in the upcoming weeks. We look forward to a wonderful year with your children, and we hope to see you there.

> **Rev. Robert Brown, Associate Pastor** 618-580-8817 pastor.brown@peacelutheranstl.org

AUGUST 2024

NYG YOUTH CAR WASH NEWS



Next Summer our High School Youth will be traveling to New Orleans to Group gather with 25,000 other Lutheran teenagers for the National Youth Gathering. It is at this gathering that our youth have the opportunity

to hear different pastors and speakers, listen to bands, participate in community service projects, and grow in their faith.

Our Youth Group will be hosting a Free Community Car Wash on Saturday, September 14, from 9:00AM to 3:00PM on the West Parking Lot, to help share the love of Jesus while raising funds to attend the conference.

To help raise funds for NYG, and create a free car wash for the community, members of our Youth Group will contact family, friends, and each member of the congregation to ask for their financial support. Youth will have the opportunity to call the people they know between August 11-25. It's possible during the two weeks, you might receive several phone calls from different youth who know you. Please note that you don't need to sponsor each youth who calls. After August 25, we will contact any remaining church members who may have been missed to give everyone an opportunity to support the youth. Youth will be calling from the church office on the following dates: Wednesday, September 4, from 5:30-8:00PM, Sunday, September 8, from 1:00-4:00PM and Wednesday, September 11, from 5:30-8:00PM. No one is under any obligation to sponsor a youth. We appreciate all the love, support and prayers the congregation shares with our youth.

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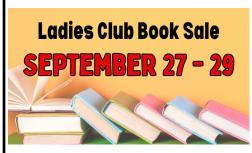
FOOD PANTRY THANK YOU

It is with a grateful heart that we say Thank You for your generous donations of food, personal items, and cleaning supplies for the Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry. The food pantry serves over 150 veterans and active military each month. They receive no government support and rely on the generosity of our community.

We appreciate your kindness in helping us with this worthy endeavor to support our military families!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE LADIES CLUB BOOK SALE!



We have had a great response so far to our request for donations, resulting in a collection of over 4,000 books...and still growing. The deadline to donate is Friday, September 20, so if you haven't brought books in yet, there is still time. Please note, we are no longer accepting encyclopedias, dictionaries, or children's books, as we have reached our quota on those items.

The public sale will be held on Saturday, September 28, 9:00AM to 3:00PM in the Peace gymnasium. A "preview sale" will be held Friday night, September 27, 5:00 to 7:30PM where, for a \$5.00 entrance fee, the book sale will be open for business. Also, on Sunday, September 29, from 8:30AM to 12:30PM, an

exclusive "Fill-A-Bag for \$5.00" sale will be held for **Peace members only**.

The sale will feature books for all ages! Many notable authors, along with a wide variety of book genres, will be available for purchase. We hope you will be able to come and get some great deals!





PRAYER - SUNDAY MORNING SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Gadeken continues leading the Sunday Morning Bible Study in Sanctuary Hall, 9:15-10:15AM. The second half of the summer, we will get to know this God of prayer with a study of some of the famous prayers in the Bible, and then move into a study of some of the most famous Psalms (Scripture's prayer book).

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Men's Morning Bible Study will not meet during the month of August. Class will resume on Thursday, September 5, 7:00AM in Sanctuary

Hall. Men's Bible Study meets every other Thursday morning, (with the exception of holidays). Led by Pastor Brown, they continue studying the Large Catechism, with Annotations, and Contemporary Applications. Future Bible study dates can be found on our church website calendar or watch the weekend bulletin.

MARY MARTHA BIBLE CLASS

Our Bible study will resume Thursday, September 5. Please join us as we begin our new study this fall on Spiritual Warfare, led by Pastor Furgeson and Pastor Brown. We meet each Thursday morning at 9:00AM for fellowship, with Bible Study at 9:30AM, in the Kitchen Meeting Room.











Sunday, September 8, 9:15 - 10:15AM Commons Conference Room



Christina Stackle will lead the class and cover the basic teachings and logistics of baptisms at Peace. To register, please visit our website at www.peacelutheranstl.org. If you are unable to attend this class, but desire

to have your child baptized prior to September 8, please call the Church Office at 314-892-5610.

Future class date is November 10.

Interested in... ONLINE GIVING? Scan this QR code or click on "Online Giving" on our Peace website. Questions? Contact Denise Grant @ 314.591.8207

or email finance@peacelutheranstl.org

Vanco, our online giving provider, allows you to set up one time or recurring gifts to Peace Lutheran Church in three simple steps:

- Scan the QR code on this page or go to https://peacelutheranstl.org and click on "Online Giving" to be directed to the Vanco online giving site.
- 2. Click the "give now" tab in the appropriate giving box.
- 3. Follow the screen prompts to make a one-time donation or create an account to set up your online recurring giving donations. Questions?

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPE INFORMATION



If you give online or through another giving method and aren't using your offering envelopes, please call the church office with your name and current envelope number. We can then

assign you a permanent giving number. This will save time and money as we make plans for 2025.

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL AT PEACE

Co-Ed volleyball plays on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00PM in the gymnasium. Co-Ed volleyball is open to anyone 18 years and older. Play will resume on Tuesday, October 1. For more information please contact Cameron Stinnett at 314-413-3412 or camstinn16@gmail.com.

PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY AT PEACE

Adult, co-ed Pickleball plays on Sunday evenings, 6:00-8:00PM in the gymnasium. The group is open to all levels of experience, ages 17 and older, with equipment and training provided. For more information please contact Jack Jeffcott at liporccarman@gmail.com or 314-856-5379.

MENS CLUB

Join us for our meeting on Tuesday, August 27, from 6:00-9:00PM. Our evening begins with a meal and fellowship, followed by our regular meeting. Men's Club is open to all men of Peace, 21 and up!

QUILTERS CORNER



A big Thank You to Audrey and Jeff Myers for donating a quilting frame to Peace Lutheran Quilters! Stop by to check out our "New Baby Quilts" and quilt with us on Tuesdays, from

9:00AM to 2:00PM in Sanctuary Hall. All you need is a sack lunch, we'll provide the rest: needle, thread & thimble, a delicious dessert and a very good time! If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Turley at 314-223-0744.

"The love of sewing is our common thread!"

MARRIED COUPLES CLUB

See our August Trivia Night Event information on page two of this newsletter. We hope you will join us for this evening of fun and fellowship. Ticket sales begin July 21, at the Commons Counter, before and after all services. All monies go to support Peace Lutheran Church.

do everything

1 Corinthians 16:14

LADIES CLUB

PERMA! Do you have it? Not sure what that is?

Join us for Ladies Club on Tuesday, August 20, at 7:00PM in Sanctuary Hall. August is the National month of HAPPINESS, after all. Enjoy a night of laughter and snacks. Be quizzed on all things happiness, hear about others' happiness and speak of your own. See you there! Ladies Club is a social organization and open to female members of Peace, ages 18 and up.

SURVIVING SPOUSES BREAKFAST

Join us on Thursday, August 8, at 9:00AM at the Denny's on South Lindbergh. Our group meets on the second Thursday of each month. For more information on Surviving Spouses, please contact Joyce Schutte at 314-267-7051.

PLASTIC MAT MAKING



In the June/July Newsletter we showed a picture of Brent Ludwig picking up some our finished mats. Brent and his team recently hand delivered our mats to persons who had been homeless for a few weeks, and how happy they were to get a mat. This makes all our efforts so

worthwhile. We would love to have more helpers. If you don't crochet, you can help fold, cut or loop the plastic bags. Can't make it on Tuesdays? We can show you how to work from home! Our group meets on the first and third Tuesdays each month, from 9:00AM to noon. For more information, please contact Anita Thomas at 314-200-6753.

LWML-LADIES GUILD



LWML Ladies Guild will not have an August meeting, but join us on Thursday, September 19, at 10:45AM in Sanctuary Hall. Paula and Brenda will present the results from the June LWML Missouri District Convention in Independence, Missouri.

Our Mite Collection Box is available at the Welcome Center the second weekend of each month to accept your donations. All money collected helps support LWML Mission Projects. We appreciate your continued support!

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

May 19, 2024 - Brewer Louis Moore June 8, 2024 - Ava Mackenzie Mazzaferro June 23, 2024 - Baylor Marie Fritsche June 30, 2024 - Eleanor Grace Webb July 7, 2024 - Bella Sophia Blanc July 7, 2024 - Brynn Noelle Blanc July 13, 2024 - Conrad Joseph Kettinger July 14, 2024 - Anastasia Neoma Mungle

WEDDINGS

June 15, 2024 - Julia Anna Brandtner and Jack Richard Smith Dinkins July 14, 2024 - Meghan Christine Woodruff and Kyle Alan Hopfer

Adult Confirmations

July 14, 2024 - Timothy Paul Baur July 14, 2024 - Samantha Jean Fischer July 14, 2024 - Anastasia Neoma Mungle July 14, 2024 - Jody Lee Mungle July 14, 2024 - Christine Marie Mungle July 14, 2024 - Catherine Suzanne Westholt

FUNERALS

June 13, 2024 - *Edmund L. Yepez, 62 July 10, 2024 - Susan M. Conrad, 75 July 17, 2024 - Jerry H. Birk, 87

*Non-member



MISSIONARY NEWS

o therefore and make disciples of all the nations Newsletters from Pastor Jensen in Germany and Pastor Cundiff in Latvia are available on our Peace Website or the Bulletin Board in the Commons.

If you would like to support the missionary efforts of Pastor Jensen and Pastor Cundiff, please direct your contributions to "Synodical Missionary Support" at Peace, or directly through the LCMS website.

PEACE COMMUNICATION SIGN-UP



If you would like to receive text and/or email notifications when a beloved church member dies, or for emergency situations such as church event cancellations due

to inclement weather, please contact the church office to sign-up. You may choose email and/or text.



HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Holy Communion is offered on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month.

ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS



Altar Flower orders are received through the Church Office. Arrangements are \$25 each. Please call the church office with your requests at least two weeks in advance.

SUNDAY SERVICE ON KFUO



Peace's Sunday service is rebroadcast on KFUO AM 850 every Saturday, from 4:00-5:00PM. Please share this information with your neighbors, friends, family, and especially our homebound members.

LORD TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME Psalm 23:3b

Sponsored by Southern Illinois District LCMS and Missouri District LCMS

Enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, Illinois

EXCELLENT WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

Grief Share • Medical Issues • Water Exercises • German Heritage Women of the Bible • Burial Practices • Armed Forces Ministry

PRESENTERS INCLUDE

Rev. Dr. Zeigler • Rev. Tom Noll • Dr. Beth Hoeltke Glenn & Patti Sprich • Marilyn Coplin • Rachel Little

WEDNESDAY ENTERTAINMENT Florissant Men of Harmony

RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

Margo Wolf 618.979.3376 | dmwvette74@gmail.com Registration options available Full Registration: \$125 plus lodging

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL A WILD JUNGLE JOURNEY

Our Jungle Journey Vacation Bible School at Peace was Wild and Wonderful! It was great to share the love of Jesus with over 130 children from our congregation and the community. A big thank you to our over 75 volunteers who shared their gifts and love for Jesus with us each day.

Each day we shared the story of faith through "The 7 C's!" Creation, Corruptions, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross and Consummation! Our VBS offering went to Birthday Blessings in a Bag Project, and we collected over 60 birthday bags for children in need.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who helped donate food for our snacks and closing picnic, and especially for your continued prayers.

Registration will open March 1, for our 2025 Vacation Bible School June 23-27!





SAVE YOUR CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

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LWML Ladies Guild is very thankful to Peace members and friends for saving their cancelled postage stamps.

All stamps are welcome, except the metered stamps and stamps from advertising bulk mail. Stamps may be

placed in the container located on the Commons counter.

All money earned benefits the Missouri District Mission Grant Projects.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - HELP NEEDED



Sunday School is looking for substitute teachers to help in all grade levels. Interested? Please contact Pastor Brown for more information.

USHERS NEEDED



We are still looking for men who are willing to serve on an usher team. This is one of the easiest ways to serve our congregation. Typical service is

only one Saturday/Sunday per month, with the exception of months with special services, (e.g., Lent, Advent, Christmas, etc.) If interested, or for more information, please contact Barry Hammon at barry.hammon@wwt.com.

FELLOWSHIP TIME - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Help is needed with the coffee and pastry set-up and cleanup on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. If you would like to help, please contact

Ralph or Grace Truemper at 314-544-0233.





Summer has brought on big and important changes at Green Park. Inside, we have rearranged classrooms and offices to accommodate the growing enrollment and improve the arrangements for teachers and staff.

Love sports and want to get involved? Green Park is looking for Athletic Coaches for our Fall sports teams. We're seeking passionate athletic coaches for the following: Girls B-team volleyball (grades 4-6), Coed B-

team Soccer (grades 4-6) and Robotics team (grades 4-8). Experience is preferred but not required. Coaches will focus on teaching skill development and game rules. Interested candidates should email experience and availability to the Athletics Department at <u>athletics@greenparklutheranschool.org</u>.



Congratulations are in order for Peace members, **Aubrey Declue and Lucie Wildman**. Aubrey received The Chuck Lind Scholarship Award at closing Chapel, and Lucie was awarded The Spirit of Christ Award at the 8th Grade Graduation.

Enrollment continues for the 2024-2025 school year and new families are encouraged to schedule a tour. School tours are hosted

throughout the school year and over the summer months as well. Contact Katie Gaeta at katie.gaeta@greenparklutheranschool.org to set yours up today.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see frequent updates about Green Park activities, students and staff.

Follow us at: www.greenparklutheranschool.org • www.facebook.com/greenparklutheranschool www.Instagram.com/greenparkls • www.Twitter.com/greenparkls



The mission of Green Park is to welcome and care for all families with the love of Jesus and to academically prepare children in a challenging and enriching environment.





Lutheran South has been named a Top Workplace by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the fifth year in a row! LuSo was the only private high school to make the list!

With stops in England, France, and Italy, 40 LuSo students spent two weeks on a European adventure! They waved to King Charles outside of Buckingham Palace,

watched Phantom of the Opera, had dinner on the Eiffel Tower, saw the Mona Lisa and Michelangelo's David, visited the Sistine Chapel, and toured the Roman Colosseum. They tried new foods, made new friends, navigated European transportation, and ate lots of gelato! We are happy to have them back!





James King, MJ Staley, and Jonah Gregory attended Boys State this summer at Lindenwood University. Kallista Nguyen attended Girls State. All four students participated in an eight-day hands-on experience in the operation and fundamentals of government. Missouri Boys and Girls State draws together the best and brightest high school juniors to develop leaders through "doing," not just learning.

LuSo OnStage received a Special Recognition Award at the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards. The award, presented at The Fabulous Fox Theatre,

recognized OnStage for "Going the Extra Mile" in their production of James and the Giant Peach this spring. The musical included a sensory-friendly performance along with sign language interpretation. Four OnStage cast members and crew additionally participated in a performance at the awards ceremony.





Longtime Lutheran South teacher and coach Cathy Wietfeldt was inducted into the Saint Louis Officials Association Hall of Fame! Cathy was a MSHSAA basketball official for 23 years, and one of the first women referees. She worked three Final Four games and worked Sectionals and Quarterfinals for 20 consecutive years. She was selected as the MSHSAA Basketball Official of the Year in 1996. She was a math teacher at Lutheran South and also coached basketball, swim, and field hockey. She additionally ran the game clock in football and basketball games and was the announcer at numerous track meets. She was a mentor to many basketball officials, especially new female officials. Cathy was a trailblazer for

female officials not only in the St. Louis metro area but across the state of Missouri.

Calling all Lutheran South alumni soccer players! Dust off your cleats and join us on Saturday, August 24, for an alumni game following the Black and Gold intrasquad scrimmage. There is no cost to participate. The scrimmage begins at 10:00AM. The alumni game follows at noon with a barbecue afterward. Thank you to those who have already responded. If you don't want to play, we would love for you to come watch and stick around for the barbecue after the game. There is no cost to attend, but be sure to RSVP so we have an accurate food count. **Register at LSIancers.org/events**

Join your fellow classmates, alumni, parents, and friends as we host the secondannual LuSo Open to support Lutheran South athletics. Make plans to join us Monday, October 7, at 11:00AM at the Tom Fazio designed Missouri Bluffs Golf Club in St. Charles. **Day of Golf includes:** 18 holes of golf with cart Refreshments on the course Lunch and LuSo Swag. Games, Contests, and Prizes **Register to play or sponsor the event at LSlancers.org/golf**





St. Trinity CEMETERY



Non-Sectarian – Endowed Care Owned and Operated by Peace Lutheran Church

> 2160 Lemay Ferry Road (Lemay Ferry at Reavis Barracks) St. Louis, MO 63125 314-892-3662 www.sttrinitycemetery.com

Mark McDaniel Superintendent Monday – Friday 7:30 – 4:00 Saturday by Appointment Only

ST. TRINITY CEMETERY—PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

There have been many articles in this space over the past couple of years regarding the clean-up and removal of fallen or damaged trees at St. Trinity Cemetery. Thanks to the donation of materials and labor by an anonymous Peace family, we have the opposite type of "tree news" to report! Three new Concordia Oak trees have been planted along Concordia Street and seven more around section five in the back of the cemetery. This unique type of oak tree was named for Concordia Missouri, where it was discovered growing natively by Paul Thomson in 1974. These trees are being lovingly watered and tended by St. Trinity Cemetery Board Member, and Peace Member, Dan Prange (pictured below).



Planting a tree in a cemetery requires a fair amount of planning. Cost and long-term viability are considerations, and someone has to water the new trees regularly, which means toting water to their location. You will note in the picture that the young trees are fenced to protect them from deer and other wildlife (and they were netted to keep the cicadas away!). In addition, planting a tree often means that one or more potential burial spaces are "decommissioned", so the impact on the cemetery layout is also a consideration. Even with all of that, it is most definitely worth the effort to add beauty and shade to the grounds.

Follow us on Facebook at St Trinity Cemetery or visit our website at www.sttrinitycemetery.com.

PEACE EARLY CHILDHOOD



August 2024

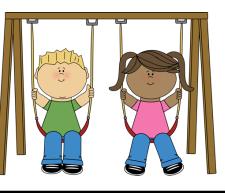
A fun filled summer was enjoyed by our Early Childhood students. We wish those going onto elementary school this month the very best.

We begin preparations this month for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

The Preschool Plus Program is offered from Monday through Friday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM. This program is for children beginning at the age of six weeks.

Half-Day Preschool for children beginning at the age of three is available Monday through Friday from 8:45 to 11:45AM.

To learn more about our programs, or to schedule a tour, please contact Sue Velten at 314-892-8844, or email earlychildhood@peacelutheranstl.org. Visit our webpage at peacelutheranstl.org, and follow us on Facebook at Peace Early Childhood.



EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED



Early Childhood is seeking a part-time Preschool Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

A detailed job description is posted on the church bulletin board, or you may contact the

church office, or Early Childhood Director, Sue Velten at 314-892-8844 for more information.





2024 - 2025 MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Burnell L. Hackman

Director of Music Ministries 314.892.5610 ext. 112 - office 314.650.9415 - cell burnellhackman@gmail.com

Peace's Music Ministry Website www.peacestlmusic.org

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU IN ONE OF OUR MUSIC ENSEMBLES!

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord. Serve the Lord with gladness come before His presence with singing." Psalm 100 says - Serving and Singing -- two wonderful ways to praise God!



Music is such a powerful thing! It can reach the hardest of hearts when nothing else can. Then, when we join music with the Gospel, the allpowerful Word of God, we have an explosive combination! Just as it was at the dedication of the temple, we can experience God's presence as we lift our voices in praise to Him through our Music Ministry. There is a Latin motto that states "Bis orat, qui contat": "Those who sing pray twice."

Please take a moment to look over the following groups and select the one right for you! <u>We need YOU now more than ever!</u> Please feel free to

call or email with questions and to sign-up!

Chancel Choir

The **Chancel Choir** is the cornerstone of Peace's Music Ministry and alternates singing between 8:00AM and 10:30AM services. This non-auditioned choir is open to all high school students and adults.

First Fall Rehearsal: Thursday, September 5, at 7:00PM

Bells of Peace

The **Bells of Peace**, the Adult/High School handbell ensemble, provides anthems and other special music for worship services about once a month and presents programs when requested. Prior music or handbell knowledge is helpful but not necessary. Members of the community who enjoy ringing are invited to attend.

First Fall Rehearsal: Monday, September 9 at 7:00PM

Orchestra/Winds of Peace

The **Orchestra of Peace** consists of all band and orchestra instruments. The orchestra plays for worship monthly and rehearses the week before the performance. High school students and adults are welcome. Younger musicians are welcome by audition. Music is available in advance so musicians can come to rehearsal prepared. Please contact Burnell Hackman so your music will be available.

First Fall Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00PM

From members of the Orchestra of Peace come other smaller instrumental ensembles including, **The Peace Brass, The Peace Bass Consort, The String Ensemble,** and **Woodwind Quintet.**

To register for one of our ensembles, please visit: https://peacestlmusic.org/ensembles/

We look forward to YOU joining us!

LIFE MINISTRY - CULTURE



In 1620, the Pilgrims landed in America to establish a community where they could practice their religious beliefs without government persecution. Half of the group died during that first harsh winter. Prior to their dangerous voyage across the Atlantic, they had spent ten years in the Netherlands to escape religious persecution in England. Why did they leave the Netherlands? They saw their children being drawn away from their religious values and lifestyle.

Four hundred years later our reality is exactly what the Pilgrims were trying to avoid. According to George Barna's Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, "A majority of adults accept lying, abortion, consensual intercourse between unmarried adults, gay marriage, and the rejection of absolute moral truth as morally acceptable," He also notes: "Millennials and Gen X have largely dismissed Christianity as irrelevant." Is it any wonder that addiction to alcohol and drugs has skyrocketed and we have a record number of people dependent on antidepressants? The United States has one of the highest suicide rates among wealthy nations.

For the first three hundred years, most American children were taught by their parents. Parochial schools were common, the early public schools openly taught morality based on the Bible and the culture was dominated by Christian values and beliefs. This changed after World War I as society became more secular. John Dewey, an atheist, became "the father of American education." One of his goals was to gradually rid the schools of Christianity. He succeeded.

What can be done? Private school tuition is too expensive for many families although there are some scholarships available based on need. Home schooling is becoming a more popular option, especially after the Covid lockdowns forced many students to stay home and learn remotely. There are associations and resources to help make home schooling a viable option for many families.

If public school is absolutely the only option, parents need to be committed to reading the lessons, particularly in history and language arts, to know what is being presented. They need to have conversations with their children about what they are learning in school. Are these Christian values? If not, it's time to challenge what the textbook says when it contradicts the Bible. Children are so impressionable, and parents should be their primary teachers.

The Pilgrims risked their lives to ensure that their children were grounded in Biblical truth. They gave up comfort and security because they valued eternal life more than anything this world can offer. The stakes are no different today. Grounding your child in Christian faith is the most important responsibility of a parent. It involves commitment, courage and sacrifice. We in our Christian community need to actively seek ways to help our families find alternatives to a public school system that is opposed to what we confess and believe.

"Through the love of Jesus Christ the Life Ministry Team exists to equip Peace Lutheran Church to sanctify life at all stages"

Peace Life Ministry Team



LUTHERAN SOUTH GOLD CLUB

Are you a Lutheran South Graduate from 1973 or earlier? You are invited to a Gold Club Celebration on Saturday, August 3, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trattoria Toscana, 11686 Gravois Road, St. Louis. Cost is \$30 per person which includes lunch, dessert, and beverages. A cash bar will also be available. Register at www. LSlancers.org/ events.



THE EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY LIFE - THE STAKES ARE ETERNAL

When Christ entered your life, you were thrust into an adventure. You have been transformed from sinner to also saint, to a child of God. In that reality, You are also now privy to the secrets of reality: You are made in God's image, Your life has been caught up in Christ, and we are eternal beings.

Christ won the victory at Calvary. Christ is the one who rules and reigns now. Yet, our road in this life is still fraught with peril and the stakes are eternal. For every person is eternal. But, as CS Lewis noted, "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors" (Lewis, The Weight of Glory)

Most persons do not think this way, and we do not normally want to do so. That is because such stakes seem so high, we balk at considering them.

Yet, we must consider them, because our enemies do and are, in fact, seeking to keep us from doing so. The reality is that you, your family, your friends and acquaintances, are all in grave danger.

This is not an exaggeration. Things out there want you dead, physically now but especially in an eternal way. Let's look at this claim for a moment. God gives all things life and through Jesus gives eternal life. But the Creation is fallen, and rails against the reign of Jesus. Creation is in open rebellion against God. As a result, everything not of Jesus is going to Hell and its eternal separation from God. The world hates God. The world hates Jesus. The world is in open rebellion against God. And the world wants you to be in rebellion against Him also, and so to also die with it. The world wants you rebelling against God.

Moreover, your sinful nature wants to be at the center where God's authority rightly resides. Our sinful nature would rather wrest God from your life than have Him dictate to it. Your sinful nature wants Jesus out of your life.

And yet more, when Jesus ascended into Heaven, He kicked Satan out of Heaven forever. But then we are told in Revelation, "Woe to you, earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows his time is short!"

The devil, hating God, has made his deepest desire to destroy the faith of as many of the people of God as possible, to spite God since He loves each person. One of the main ways the demons do this is by encouraging us to forget the eternal reality of everyone around us, even ourselves; so caught up in our busy days and into our own sins that we forget the larger picture and what is at stake. We lose sight of the Adventure (and Christ) and fade into the wilderness of the broken world, coming to nothing—a slow death is still a death.

We are surrounded by enemies, seen and unseen, everyday. Creation is fallen, including our own struggle with sin. The world is fallen and wants you to join it in its march toward death in rejection of Christ's reign. The devils are there to encourage all of this so you will join them in Hell. The endpoint of their path is eternal death, separation from God forever. There is no end, there is only whether your eternal story becomes a triumph or a tragedy. But Christ has not left us alone in the midst of our foes. His Spirit is with us, and He gives us an additional gift: each other. You have an Adventuring Party, given by God, with which to navigate these treacherous roads beset by foes.

-Pastor Jon Furgeson



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

737 BARRACKSVIEW ROAD SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63125 (314) 892-5610 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2024 ISSUE



Farewell Summer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

3:30PM - ICE CREAM SOCIAL

4:00PM - CONCERT BY THE ORCHESTRA OF PEACE