# TIDINGS OF PEACE

bello again, as I write to you, reflect on the many experiences of the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans Louisiana: the many speakers—the worship—the music and yes, the humidity.

Every experience was intended to build our Youth up in their faith. The speakers all encouraged and informed our Youth, but something was said by one of them that pleasantly surprised me. A speaker named Bethany Hamilton encouraged our young men, saying; "We need you to be men. Our families need you to be men. Our country needs you to be men."

Bethany Hamilton is well known for inspiring and equipping the next generation to live unstoppable lives while overcoming life's difficulties. She encouraged our Youth to A.D.A.P.T. to appreciate God's grace each morning. To look to God's word for direction; directing them to Proverbs 3:5-6. Seek out healthy associations; surround yourself with the great cloud of witnesses of which St Paul speaks. She encouraged our Youth to persevere; directing them to James 1:12. And Bethany Hamilton encouraged all of us to be teachable; to learn from our mistakes, and to be willing to listen to coaches, teachers, and parents. The implication is that it's not so much about the success at the end

of a journey, but it's about the journey itself. This is just a basic overview of Mrs. Hamilton's presentation, but it was in light of these things that she encouraged our young men to be men.

The reason I found myself surprised by Mrs. Hamilton's words is that ever since my family moved to California in 1967, the only one who spoke that way was my dad. He liked the word; "macho," but what he meant by that was, be a gentleman, be truthful and honest, be helpful and kind—never hit a girl or be mean. But, I'll never forget the first time at elementary school, when I opened and held a door for a girl in my class, only to have her, and many other classmates yell; "YOU MALE CHAUVINISTIC PIG!" I didn't even know that was a thing. But through other experiences it became very clear that it was socially unacceptable to aspire to be a gentleman—or a godly man. Society demanded that men get in touch with their feminine side, and other things that I did not understand.

Traditional God-fearing integrity and gentlemanly strength was under attack; the only safe place to demonstrate manhood was in the arena of sports; and even there, one had to be cautious. So, to hear Bethany Hamilton publicly tell our young men; "We need you to be men," was a breath of fresh air.

But then I thought; "How will the generations 'be men' without

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Page 2 TIDINGS OF **PEACE** 

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#### **Continued from cover**

MEN to show them the way?"

In that moment, as I looked around the New Orleans Super Dome, surrounded by 20,000 young people; I began to reflect on my dad; ever since 1967 I watched him stand alone in the midst of these things—he did his best to teach my brothers and I about integrity and honesty—he demanded of us, hard work and strength and kindness, while other dads fell. And I found myself saddened at the thought of his generation finishing its race and joining that great cloud of witnesses of which St Paul speaks.

I say that I find myself saddened, because when they are gone, who will take their place; who will teach the skills of God pleasing manhood?

If this sounds like a call to arms; that's because it is. Many of you know what it is to be a godly man, and many of you are succeeding and have succeeded in raising up godly men; for that, I thank you. But there is still much to do, many boys in our culture have no one to show them how to be the men God created them to be. So, I ask you to consider them also, in your community life, in your work life, and in your church life.

Thanks for reading.
Pastor

Hebrews 12:1-3 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men...so you will not lose heart."

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Page 11 TIDINGS OF **PEACE** 

#### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Fritz Hubert	8/2	Katherine Kjendal	8/10	Paxton Messinger	8/18
Abby Barth	8/5	Ron Lauer	8/10	Madison Aufrecht	8/20
Cody Goltl	8/5	Madelyn Bird	8/11	Bailey Crick	8/27
Lucas Post	8/5	Pat Penner	8/12	Krystal Hanchera	8/27
James Hall	8/6	Phil Bamesberger	8/14	Lee McConville	8/27
Samantha Huryta	8/6	Jacob Curl	8/14	Judy Schow	8/27
Nathan Cummins	8/7	Debra Gleason	8/14	Susi Bolt	8/28
Lisa Koetter	8/7	Emily Kjendal	8/15	Janet Gray	8/28
Christina Coleman	8/9	Dane Foster	8/16	Brooks Lietka	8/28
Linda Nielsen	8/9	Rylee Mooney	8/16	Elaine Polly	8/30
Hallie Watts	8/9	Kenneth Polly	8/16		

#### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Dillon & Audrey Goltl	8/2/2014	- 11	Gary & Jessica Gramins	8/18/2001	24
Steve & Brigitta Post	8/2/1980	45	Bob & Joann Nemechek	8/19/1972	53
Samantha & Elliot Huryta	8/4/2018	7	Zachary & Becka Hueftle	8/20/2016	9
Rachel & Dakota Lietka	8/10/2019	6	Keith & Kelsey Messinger	8/20/2011	14
Fred & Debra Gleason	8/11/1973	52	Roger & Karen Ziebell	8/21/1971	54
Curt & Cindy Swanhorst	8/11/1984	41	Jeffrey & Kelly Unger	8/22/2009	16
Randall & Carrie Goltl	8/12/1988	37	Larry & Linda Richards	8/26/1962	63
Randon & Laurie Peters	8/13/2006	19	Lonnie & Tanna Felcher	8/28/1976	49
Steven & Sharon Kircher	8/17/1984	41			

We apologize if we have made a mistake. Please contact the office so we may get it corrected.

If you feel compelled to give, offering can be brought into the church office, mailed to P.O. Box 240 or direct deposited.

### **OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

	Week to Date (July 27th-August 2nd)	Month to Date (July 6th-August 2nd)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-August 2nd)	
Offerings	\$6,759.00	\$23,824.00	\$156,320.00	
Expenses	\$5,021.00	\$23,346.00	\$163,386.00	



#### **SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

There is a School of Religion teacher meeting is scheduled for August 20th at 6pm. Come register your child/children on August 27th anytime from 6 to 7pm. School of Religion and confirmation classes will begin on September 3rd.

#### **MISSIONARY ARTICLE**

One of the missionary's that Peace supports is Jana Inglehart. In the summer edition of the Lutherans Engage magazine, there is a Q&A article with her. Jana serves as communications specialist for the LCMS Latin America and the Caribbean region. A copy of the article is on the office window.

#### **HELP NEEDED**

People are needed to do the live streaming, running PowerPoint and sound on Sunday mornings. If you can push a button, you have what it takes to help. Training and checklists are available.

#### **MOWING SCHEDULE**

The Trustees are looking for some volunteers to help with the mowing this summer. There is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex. They are asking that the lawn gets mowed weekly on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. The mower will be filled with gas prior to mowing, so you won't have to worry about that. Please message Heath Brown @ 340-0257, Chance Koetter @ 737-6850 or Barry Mooney @ 340-9694 when it is your week to mow. Thanks!

#### **AUGUST READINGS**

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
3rd	The 8th S. after Pentecost	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
10th	The 9th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 15:1-6	Hebrews 11:1-16	Luke 12:22-40
17th	The 10th S. after Pentecost	Jeremiah 23:16-29	Hebrews 11:17-40; 12:1-3	Luke 12:49-56
24th	The 11th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 66:18-23	Hebrews 12:4-29	Luke 13:22-30
31st	The 12th S. after Pentecost	Proverbs 25:2-10	Hebrews 13:1-17	Luke 14:1-14

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – August 2025

#### Jesus' transforming presence

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

**TIDINGS OF PEACE** 

#### **ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN**

This program support US troops through the ministry of their chaplains. We pack care packages filled with snacks, bible verses, and notes to thank to them for their service. An LCMS chaplain, Kyle Mietzer, recently returned home and sent this message: "Thank you for your continued care! Your contributions to the overall wellness of deployed Soldiers is far more than you can begin to understand. There will be a replacement chaplain for me fairly soon. His name is Tim Hadley. I'll say that as much as the Soldiers enjoy the tangible parts of your care packages, they also really enjoy reading letters with updates from Nebraska. They liked hearing how the fields were growing! You've put forth a monumental effort in taking care of me and my Soldiers. More than just that, it gives such a witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus that you work to take care of people who you do not know, but are thankful for." Chaplain Mietzer is based at Fort Drum, New York. We mailed care packages to him each month while he was overseas in Syria. Everyone is welcome on the next packing day is Tuesday, August 19 at 1:00pm. Thank you for your many supplies and donations!!

#### **LET'S DO LUNCH TOGETHER**

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. August 24th at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: hot dogs and grill out. RSVP to Hanah at 737-1905 so we can assign menu items. If this month doesn't work for you, don't worry!! The plan is to make this a regular monthly event where we can cook together, eat and have fun.

### **FIREWORKS HOURS**

If you worked at the Fireworks stand this year, please contact the church office in order to get your time designated to the correct account. Thanks!

#### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Sunday, August 10th at the 10:30am service there will be a Blessing of the Backpacks, car keys, coaches' whistles, school keys, etc. to start off the school year!



Page 9

TIDINGS OF **PEACE** 

## TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

#### **SHUT INS**

Please remember those who are unable to worship with us for one reason or another.

**Hillcrest**: Pam Leibbrandt, Ruth Woodhams, and Karen Berry.

**Kinship Pointe**: Betty Harms, and Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Ken & Dorinda Polly

**Benkelman:** Mark Cummins

#### **ELDER VISITATION**

In order to facilitate better connection between the church and members, the Elders are well into a program whereby they have been assigned specific sections of the city and make contact with all members within their assigned area. The purpose of these visits is to not only make contact, but also update contact information and discuss spiritual needs that our members may have. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Elders – Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Harold Carlson, Nick Nothnagel, Lee McConville, Russ Ankersen or Curt Swanhorst.

#### **FOOD PANTRY**

As discussed at a meeting, here are the items for Peace to place an emphasis on, by month. January – soup or stew, February – crackers, March – Mac & Cheese, April – canned meats, May – canned vegetables, June – flour & sugar, July— flour & sugar (again), **August – Peanut butter**, September – canned fruit, October – pork & beans, November – dry pasta, and December – beans. **Of course all donations are welcome (like cake mixes, icing, condiments, etc.)** 

If you have an article, an announcement, pictures, etc... that you would like to submit for the "Tidings of Peace" newsletter, please bring it by the church office no later than the 4th Thursday of the month.

## SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

August 3rd	
Elder on duty	Lee McConville
Organist	Shawn/Emma/Hannah
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Emmett Felcher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow

Live Stream Tina Cummins

August 10th	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist ,	K.C. Eckhartd
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Raegan Kisher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Amaya Ely
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

·	-				
August 17th		August 24th		August 31st	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson	Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert	Elder on duty	Nick Nothnagel
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel	Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel	Organist	
Audio	Paul Sellers	Audio	Harold Carlson	Audio	
Greeter	Elaine Polly	Greeter	Nancy Rippen	Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Jeff Polly	Greeter		Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	Eugene Custer	Usher	Eugene Custer	Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney	Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin	Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee	Acolyte	Cason DeWester	Acolyte	
Acolyte	Will Kunkee	Acolyte		Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins	Powerpoint	Harold Carlson	Powerpoint	
Late Service		Late Service		Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall	Greeter	Pat Penner	Greeter	
Greeter	Jim Hall	Greeter		Greeter	
Usher	Ben Schow	Usher	Curt Swanhorst	Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney	Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst	Lay Reader	
Acolyte	Paxton Messinger	Acolyte	Maxson Stewart	Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte		Acolyte	Zander Stewart	Acolyte	
Powerpoint		Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins	Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney	Live Stream	lan Brown	Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

Page 5

Unwanted. That can describe an experience that could be painful and isolating. In contemporary society, encountering rejection, isolation, or neglect is not an unusual experience. For various reasons this can occur due to hatred, abandonment, or spite. Whatever the culprit, the unwanted reality is like being tossed into the wind like chaff. If you are living in an experience like this, misery loves company. It might help to make you aware that there is a man I know quite well that could relate to all these things. He was first accused of being an illegitimate child (John 8:41). They say He was a deceiver (John 7:12), and that He must be plain "nuts" (John 10:20). The poor guy was even accused of being a blasphemer (Mark 2:7). Not only that, but people misunderstood His Words (John 21:22-23) and twisted them into lies (Matthew 26:60-61). Of course, you know by now that I am talking about my friend Jesus Christ. The rumors that were flying around when He dwelled on earth amid those that hated Him were brutal. Yet, He went about His way undeterred. He was an innocent Man that was accused of crimes He did not commit. Despised, stricken, smitten and afflicted (Isaiah 53:3-4). His rejection ultimately led to His death on the cross. Why did He endure all this? Jesus willingly accepted this abuse so our sins could be paid in full. The suffering I deserved was taken upon Him for the forgiveness of my sins. What a demonstration of selfless love for those who believe in Him. That truth will give us better understanding now when we go about society and the evil one works at making you "unwanted." When we face those that question our judgement, ethics, or Christian values. People who will gossip about us and attempt to make us into something we are not. Now it is starting to sound like what the disciples had to endure. We will have to expect to be treated in the same manner (John 15:20). Truth to be told, if you are truly serving the Lord, you are expected to experience these things. If you strive to "do as Jesus did", you must expect to be lied about, and others will believe the lies. If Jesus is really working within you, I predict you will fall victim to rumors, gossip, slander, and all sorts of things. There is a saying, "If you want to find an Apostle, look under a rock." However, be comforted to know that Jesus will be under that rock with you. He will be with you when you get attacked in so many unwanted ways. Look to Him, for He will be your strength and shield (Psalm 28:7). His love will enable you to love those who have made themselves your enemy. God's love will cast out all your fears. Dear Lord, give me strength when I feel unwanted and help me to turn my rejection into your reflection. Amen.

> Peace, Love, and Unity Phil Bamesberger

#### **Peace Lutheran Church**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	<b>2 7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
3 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	5 9:00am Worship Committee	6	7	8	9 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
10 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	12 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	13	14	<b>15</b> Wedding rehearsal	16 7:00am Men's Bible Study Wedding
17 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	19 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	20 6:00pm School of Religion Teacher meeting	21	22	<b>23 7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study
24Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Young Adults	25 2:00pm LWML	26	27 6 to 7pm School of Religion Registration	28 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	29	<b>30</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study
31 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship						

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