



CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

Fall 2022 Volume 14, No. 3



In This Issue

Adult Ministry Minute

Page 2

Senior Living

Page 3

Life Ministry

Page 4

Children and Family Ministry

Page 5

Music Ministry

Page 6

My Favorite Season

by Pastor Laesch

Oh, I'm looking forward to it! As I write this, it's just a few weeks away. My favorite season: Fall. I love the cooler weather, the leaves changing color, the football. What a great season!

And it's not just the weather, the leaves, and football that make fall so wonderful. The fall is a wonderful season in the church too. It's the time for season openers:

The ministry season opens with many opportunities to serve and to be served: The GriefShare program, Mary-Martha Guild, Wednesday evening Bible class, Confirmation, Helping Hands Food Pantry, Youth nights, Discovery Class, and the list goes on and on! What a helpful season!

The Sunday School season began on September 11. Children gathering every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. to hear, experience, and apply God's Word. And adults gathering with a host of Bible study topics, times, and teachers — there's something for everyone. What a great season!

The music season is one of my favorites. Choirs, soloists, instrumentalists, bells — all singing, playing, ringing to the glory of God and for the enhancement of worship. What a beautiful season!

What a wonderful season! Yes, the weather, the leaves, the football - but even more so, the opportunity to share in all that God has given to us through His Church. It's great to begin a new season! ✠✠✠



Pastor Laesch



New Members Welcomed



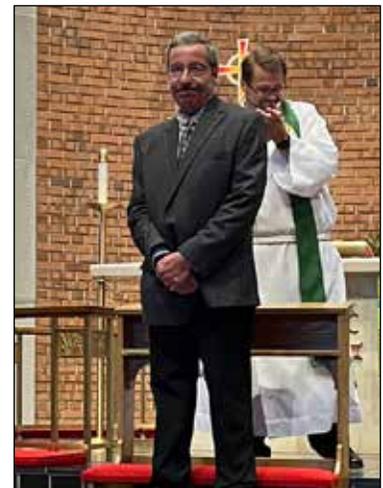
35 New Members transferring from Immanuel Chapel being welcomed on 8/14.



(L to R) Keith Otto, Sandy Otto, Kay Medlock, Michele Futrell, Ken Futrell, Sarah Fielding, Connie Fielding. All recently received as new members and welcomed on 8/28.



Welcome refreshments headed by Nancy Swoboda (Center), assisted by (left to right) Judy Kooi, Karen Totra, Judy Benton, Karen Schaeffer.



Individual adult confirmation of Joseph Miano on 8/28

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Thank you Chapel of the Cross members for helping us feed our neighbors during the pandemic! We were able to supply them with several days' worth of food for their bodies but also with food for their souls with the Portals of Prayer devotion booklets. We gave out personal care items and cleaning supplies. The pandemic is slowing down and things are getting back to

'normal' but we have seen an increase this summer in returning families and new families that have never been to the pantry before, plus an increase in the size of the families. Our pantry shelves are looking bare due to the increased cost to purchase food from the St. Louis Area Food Bank and local grocery stores. (The St. Louis Area Food Bank has seen a decrease in donated food and their cost to purchase food has increased, plus there aren't as many grants out there as there were during the pandemic.) We still are receiving food from Operation Food Search but their donations are also down from the pandemic.

To continue to serve the increased number of families, we will be adjusting how much we place in each order. We appreciate the monetary donations along with the food donations placed in the cart each week. As we move forward with this new normal we ask for your prayers that we are able to shine our light for Jesus as we provide food, personal care products and cleaning products to our neighbors. †††



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Have You Ever Been On a Pilgrimage?

Someone asked me if I ever was on a pilgrimage. I immediately said, "No", and that was the end of the conversation. But afterwards I got to thinking. I really didn't know what a pilgrimage was. So how in the world did I really know if I had been on one. I picked up a dictionary and discovered the first definition was "A journey made by a pilgrim, especially to a shrine or holy place." I never remembered going to a shrine and I never thought I was a pilgrim. I thought pilgrims were the people who came to America and founded a new nation. The second definition was, "any long journey." I guess I would have to admit that I've been on long journeys. Our family once took a 31 day journey to 13 western states in the USA. And as a youngster, I rode my bike from Omaha to Bennington, Nebraska. I thought that was a long journey. So using that definition, I would have to say, "Yes, I've been on a pilgrimage." But I still don't feel like a pilgrim.

I extended my search to find out more about a pilgrimage so I googled the word. Wikipedia said, "A pilgrimage is a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance." It also said, "Typically it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith." People attach spiritual importance to

places of the birth or death of a religious founder or saint, a place where spiritual awaking or miracles took place, or a place that is viewed as having special spiritual powers. The google indicated that a person who makes such a journey is called a pilgrim.

So with that in mind, I concluded that I really am a pilgrim who has been on a pilgrimage. Every Sunday morning I experience a pilgrimage when I rode or walked to church where I experienced the miracle of baptism and where I was reminded of the special gift of God's grace in the person and work of Jesus Christ as the One who sacrificed His life on the cross for me and as He rose from the dead to give me the assurance of everlasting life. And in addition to those pilgrimages to my church, I participated in journeys and trips to camps, retreats, special seminars and events that were truly of a spiritual nature. So now if a person would ask me if I was ever on a pilgrimage. I would say, "Yes, I've been on hundreds of them."

Some special thoughts for the Christian pilgrim:

1. Each morning when I awaken, I am grateful because I have been given another day to love and serve in my old age.
2. When I see the meaning of life in God's love through Jesus, I find grace and strength to accept the changes in my life as I age.
3. Letting go of my "stuff and self" means putting my life in God's hands and seeking to live according to His will.
4. I never stop praising God and giving Him thanks in these later years for His awesome blessings and for the lessons He continues to teach me every day.
- 5 My faith in Jesus prompts me as an aging pilgrim to help someone else's life and help make the world a better place †††

Mary Martha GUILD

The Mary-Martha Guild is resuming their meetings at 6:30 pm. in room 8.

On Monday, October 10th, Chapel's Director of Adult Ministry Bill Rusnak, will be our guest speaker. Refreshments and a short business meeting will follow.

Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30, Mary-Martha will be selling Mixin Fixins. Preorders are to be picked up on those dates. The recipient of this year's proceeds will be announced in the Chapel Weekly. Thank you for your support.

For the November 14th meeting Mary-Martha member, Judy Kooi, will host a showing of quilts that she has made. Refreshments and a short business meeting will follow.

On Saturday, December 3 and Sunday December 4, we will hold our annual Christmas Cookie sale. Recipients of the proceeds will be voted on at a Mary-Martha meeting in May. We thank you for your continued support of this sale.

Our meeting on December 12th will be a Christmas Party. It will again be catered by Catering to You. We will take reservations and determine the cost later. Everyone is invited to bring a gift to exchange. \$5.00 limit. Please join us for an enjoyable evening. More information will follow in the Chapel Weekly. †††

Contributions for the Winter 2022 issue of CrossRoads are due by Sunday, October 30th.

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Chapel Life Team's Mission Statement:

"Motivated by the Gospel and the great love God has demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ, the Life Team of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran exists to equip our church to celebrate, defend, and care for life at all stages."



"Cradled Conception" by Anne Meyer

You may have noticed a new painting displayed downstairs on the Life Team bulletin board. Painted by Chapel member Anne Meyer, here is her story behind the piece, which will soon join other pieces of life-affirming artwork in our upcoming life library area.

Scripture tells us that we are all created by God, fashioned as a potter lovingly sculpts his art, wanted and loved from the moment of conception. In this piece, I wanted to depict this creation moment from God's perspective as the Potter. At first glance, the blue globe cradled within his clay-stained hands reminds us of how God created the earth, and indeed the same God who fashioned the entire universe "zooms in" to the smallest, most intimate moment of human conception and gives his new human creation the breath of life.

The textured blue orb was inspired by an image of an actual human egg and sperm taken with an electron microscope. I have added a burst of light where the fertilization is taking place, based on what scientists have now learned happens when a child is conceived—at the exact moment of fertilization, the egg releases a



burst of stockpiled zinc atoms which immediately bind to molecules around them and give off light. This creation-moment light show is fitting for a Creator we know as the Light of the World.

Finally, the idea of God creating a human life out of clay itself ties into the firstborn of his human creation, Adam, who was made from the dust of the earth. The same blue of the forming human embryo is drawn up from the clay splatters on the wheel and into the orb within the Potter's hands. This is a moment of utter humility—the clay is at the mercy of the hands of the Potter, and there is indeed no more loving place to be.

"But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." 1 Corinthians 13:12

**Keeping Us Focused On
The Cross** by Rev. Ellory Gleen

In 1981, Harold Kushner wrote a book dedicated to his son who died at an early age from an incurable disease. The name of the book which may be familiar to some of you is called "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." In the book Kushner attempts to explain that God does his best but is not able to prevent the suffering of his people. There are two problems with this statement. The first problem is that if God cannot prevent suffering, then it doesn't sound like our God is an omnipotent God. On the other hand, the insinuation that there are good people is a false statement. We read in

Mark 10: "As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher, he asked what must I do to inherit eternal life? Why do you call me good? Jesus answered. No one is good except God alone." What Jesus is telling us is that goodness does not flow from us, but from God. What Jesus is doing is showing the distinction between our standard of goodness and God's. As believers in Christ and in his death and resurrection we are changed from sinners to redeemed.

Now does this mean that as Christ's own that we will have no more troubles? Christ tells us in John's Gospel "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. In this world you will have many trials

and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world." We have seen our share of suffering both within ourselves and within our Christian brothers and sisters. From our most recent outbreak of Covid 19, to heart attacks, strokes, and various physical difficulties, including being paralyzed. We suffer while we are here. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians: "we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." We can't help but notice that Paul mentions all types of suffering mental, physical, and emotional. We can also be persecuted for our faith and ridiculed.

Believe it or not suffering is important for Christians to go through. Suffering can
see page 7



by Mary Laesch, Coordinator for Children and Family Ministry



Tree of Life Vacation Bible School

The Tree of Life Vacation Bible School brought together kids, teens, young people, and adults to enjoy a June weekend filled with Bible accounts, games, snacks, crafts, and science experiments. Kids heard and *experienced* the life-changing message of the Gospel through hands-on activities that demonstrated how the promise of new life through Jesus our Savior is woven throughout all of Scripture. Thank you to the many Chapel youth, members, and friends who helped make this summer's VBS a success!



VBS 2022

National Youth Gathering

In July, Chapel youth joined with youth from Concordia Seminary to attend the *In All Things* 2022 National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Nearly 20,000 youth and adults came together for five days of Bible study, faith-building sessions, worship, fun, and fellowship. When we asked the Chapel youth to describe the gathering, they shared these thoughts: "It was one of the best experiences I have ever had in my life." "All week I learned about how God is in All Things . . . I learned how our life is filled with so many middle words like death and fear but that Jesus is the final word." "I made so many new friends! It was awesome to see so many other kids who are Lutheran."



New Sunday School Classes!

We are excited to begin a new year of Sunday School at Chapel! All children in Preschool through Grade 6 are invited to join us in the church's lower level for Sunday School each week.

Come early from 9:30–9:45 to enjoy a snack and fellowship. Sunday School starts promptly at 9:45, where we will enjoy singing, a Bible lesson, a craft, and a game. All kids will begin together in the large Sunday School room, then separate for the Bible lesson into three grade levels: Preschool–Kindergarten, Grades 1–4, and Grades 5–6. See you this Sunday!

Youth and Family Faith-Building and Fellowship

One of many blessings we enjoy as believers in Christ is being part of the family of God. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we look for opportunities to grow together in faith and in Christian love. Beginning in September, Chapel will host monthly family events as well as regular youth nights for youth in grades 7–12. Check the Chapel Weekly for events, dates, and times. ☪☪☪



National Youth Gathering 2022 in Houston, TX.



Annual Christmas Choir Concert
 Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran
 Sunday, December 11, 11:00 a.m.
 Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with this special musical worship service, including Chapel's various choirs, handbells and orchestra!

Throughout the scriptures, we read how music is an important part of God's creation: singing angels, various instruments, heavenly music, etc. Since Old Testament times, music has played a vital role in the worship life of believers, and this is still true today. The various choirs and ensembles of Chapel's music ministry have already begun rehearsing, but we can always use new members! We would like to invite you to consider joining one of our music groups this Fall – all ages are welcome! Please contact Ryan Meyer, Director of Music Ministry, for more information. Our current ensembles are listed below:

- Children's Handbells meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
 - Chapel Bells (adult handbells) meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
 - Joyful Noise (contemporary) meets Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.
 - Choral Singers (mixed choir) meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- †††

Lutheran Women in Mission

by Clara Mueller

Lois Westbrook and I were privileged to attend the MO District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention June 3-5, 2022 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet in St. Louis.

The theme was "For Such Time as This" Esther 4:14. The Host Zones were the four zones in the St. Louis area and Rolla. Our zone was represented by 7 ladies. 186 delegates and 384 total attendance.

HIGH LIGHTS: Bible Studies led by District Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Michael Potts Schmidt, on the theme "For Such a Time as This."

Mission Speakers, Bob & Kristi Roegner, serving the Lord with 'Apple of His Eye Ministry'.

Keynote Speaker, Gregory Seltz, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and presently serving at the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

Beena Stanish, serving at Christian Friends of New Americans with her husband Pastor Stanley Stanish.

The selection of 12 new Mission Grants for the next biennium and election of new officers.

Bill Westbrook with his group who offered the Saturday evening entertainment since the original entertainer had to cancel.

Fellowship with other sisters in Christ, **Mission Fair, Mission Walk, Singing, In gathering**, and all of the creative **Zone Banners**.

THANK YOU to all who contribute to the Mite Box every 1st Sunday of the month. You can see the mission grants that are being funded, by picking up the Quarterly magazine and/or looking at the poster on the bulletin board near the gift shop.

June 22-25, 2023 will be the LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI.

June 7-9, 2024 is the date for the next MO District Convention. †††

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Membership Matters

Transfer In

From Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, St. Louis, MO

David Beckman

Stanley Carver

Ted Dargan

Edem Ekpo

Aulderay Fields

Patricia Gabel

James and Yenyea Hallowanger and daughters Ellen and Plaseyh

Wayea Hallowanger

Clara Hampton

Ressie Holton

Erica Johnson

Marlo and Lowanda Johnson

Vernice Jung

Michael and Ellen Kehe

Jonathan Kersten

Charles and Kathryn Kinder

Matthew Kinder

Molly Kinder

Robyn Littlejohn

Corey Smith

Samantha Smith

Vernida Summers

Betty Williams

Frank Williams

Rosie Williams

Virgil and Tori Wright and son Myles

Transfer In

Rev. Jeffrey Thormodson from Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MO

Confirmation

Joseph S. Miano

Affirmation of Faith

Benjamin and Allyson Kehe

Kay Medlock

Transfer Out

Don Loberg to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville, MO

Dennis and Cindy Vogelsang to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville, Mo

Former number of members: 865

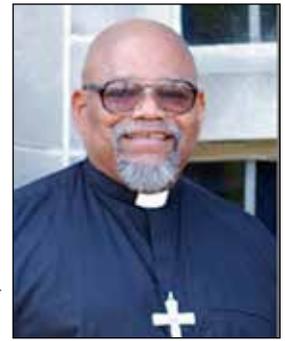
Gains: +36

Losses: -3

New number of members: 898

Focused On The Cross (from page 4)

build faith because when we suffer, we have two choices. First we can depend on ourselves. This always fails because when we turn inward we forget that it is only through God that we can find help. We can turn to others for help still without reaching for God. This happens most often when we depend totally upon doctors and medicine to heal us. But when we turn to God for help, He will provide everything we need in order to recover if that is His will.



Rev. Ellory Gleen

In the book of Job, we read how he suffered even though God said he was a just man. Satan was allowed to do everything but kill Job, taking everything from him including his health. But Job stayed faithful to his Lord and refused to curse God. He remained faithful and was rewarded not because he deserved it but because God chose to bless Job. During our time on earth we will suffer, not because we've done something wrong, but as a reminder that this world is temporary and that our suffering keeps us focused on the cross that redeems us and brings us life. ✠✠✠



Kirk Mueller

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Have you remembered your favorite ministries?

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To find out more, contact:

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Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

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Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes
9:45 a.m.

Saturday Evening Worship Service
5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran
exists to show the love of Jesus to
the people of North County and
beyond so that all may have a
living relationship with Christ.*

