

August Newsletter 2017



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
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From the Pastor's Desk:

God is Still in Control – Random Thoughts on the Eclipse August 21, 2017

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Genesis 8:22



I am not too excited about the eclipse that is coming up on August 21. The moon is to cover the sun that day and a total eclipse will take place. It doesn't happen very often and we are to be in the path of a total eclipse. It will be a once in a lifetime experience for most of us. Even members of my family are coming from Minnesota and Michigan to see this wonder of God. Although a total eclipse is rare it is a natural part of God's creation. It is the way God made our solar system. Other than growing dark during the day I don't expect anything else. People make references to Bible passages that seem to mention eclipses. Solar and Lunar eclipses have happened since creation so it is not unusual that the Bible would make references to eclipses. It is not a sure sign in of itself of the end of the world and the last judgment. It is, however, to make us think of the end times.

Matthew 24:29

"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:24

"But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT,

Revelation 6:12

I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

Revelation 8:12

The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

I think of another time of Darkness. It was the time of Noah and his family being held in the ark during the great flood.

It was dark around the clock; the sun had not been seen for over a month. There was no escape from the smell of manure, and the cramped conditions made it hard to sleep. This is how I imagine it was for Noah as the forty days of rain were coming to an end. Noah, a believer in God and his promises, had faithfully loaded the animals and his family onto an ark, where they would remain for several months while the earth was destroyed. Perhaps the animals were hibernating, but there still must have been some care that was needed during this time, and it couldn't have smelled good. It was a difficult time to trust, and yet God showed Noah, and us, that he has all the power.

God always keeps his promises. God spoke the words in our reading "in his heart" after the flood. During those rainy days, the entire earth was destroyed, as were the normal patterns of the earth such as the seasons and daylight. God saw that these patterns are needed for our daily well-being, and he promised that we can depend on them "as long as the world endures."

We are also reminded that the world will end. From other parts of scripture, we know that the earth has an expiration date that has not been revealed to us. But we know that God will be with us, until the end and beyond. God is with us when we work through our daily challenges. He is with us as we rest or play, when we eat and sleep. He promises to fill our needs, although perhaps not in a way that we planned. God filled our most desperate need of all by providing forgiveness and new life through the death and life of Jesus Christ. Ask yourself: “How do the changing seasons and other earthly patterns give you comfort that God is in control?”

Prayer: Dear Father, thank you for keeping the world and everything in it in your hands. Thank you for keeping all your promises, including the promise fulfilled in the gift of your Son, Jesus, who redeemed us from this world of sin. Amen.

Missionary to Speak at Ebenezer Lutheran Church

As part of Pastor’s duties as Circuit Visitor for the Washington Circuit he must visit congregations on Sundays. Pastor will be at Mount Calvary in Bell and Zion in Owensville on August 4th. The congregations at Bell and Owensville have provided our congregation **Reverend Stanish Stanley** to lead services and teach Sunday School.

Rev. Stanish Stanley born in Mumbai (Bombay) India as the son of a Lutheran Pastor, is an ordained minister of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC), a Partner Church of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Rev. Stanley has served as an IELC pastor at the Vasai Lutheran Malayam congregation in Mumbai. He also initiated a preschool and scholarship assistance program for Lutheran children, this in partnership with Children's Christian Concern Society, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. Rev. Stanley is now pursuing his Ph.D. degree in Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Rev. Stanley recently accepted responsibility as Coordinator for the CFNA After School Tutoring program. Held twice weekly at the Peace Center for nine months each year, the After School program regularly attracts 60 to 70 New American students each week, all of them capably tutored by approximately 15 volunteer teachers.

Rev. Stanely is married to Beenakumari Stanish, and they have been blessed with two lovely children; Catherine age 7 and Riona age 3.

Pleased join us in extending a hearty welcome to Rev. Stanish and Beena Stanish and their children.

July Quarterly Voters Meeting Minutes

Pastor's opening devotion was the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13.

Pastor's report

July 17 minutes read and approved

No new members

Treasurer's report – Roland reported we are almost breaking even. \$383 was collected from the Ascension Day collection

for the Bible sticks. Wilbert made a motion to accept the report, Mary Wesche seconded. Motion carried
Elder's are meeting. No report.

Trustee's report –

-Mike Hubenthal submitted a bid to paint the church roof, the doors and repair the deck on the parsonage all for around \$7000. Wilbert make a motion to approve the bid, Mary Wesche seconded. Motion carried.

-Someone is to check the sensors on the outside lights.

-Parts need to be replaced on the front doors. They no longer lock. The needed parts were found at a cost of approximately \$3800. It should be less, because not all of the parts will be needed.

Alan Hilkerbaumer and Brian Adams will do the work.

Marvin Sprick made the motion to do whatever needed to be done to fix the doors. Mary Wesche seconded. Motion carried

Stewardship – no report

Sunday School - VBS is next week. Plenty of volunteers available. 22 enrolled so far. Good Ascension service. About 50 in attendance.

Evangelism – no report

Brian and Mark will head Pork Sausage dinner. Wilbert made a motion to have the pork sausage supper on Oct 22. Mary Wesche seconded. Motion carried.

Wilbert questioned the need for the officers meeting prior to the Voters meeting. We have it because it is in the bi-laws that there will be an officers meeting. There is low attendance

and the agenda is the same, so is it necessary? Paul said the bi-laws could be changed by writing out the change and bringing it before the voters. Paul will talk with Warren Bauche to decide.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Monthly Treasurer's Summary
June 2017**

Beginning checking balance	\$27,402.43
Receipts	\$14,970.84
Disbursements	\$11,829.18
Ending checking balance	\$30,544.09
LCEF savings balance	\$30,504.33
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,659.53
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$2,400.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	\$-3,174.36

Blessings From The Table Cookbooks

We still have a number of Cookbooks with recipes from our members or relatives available for \$15.00. These would make excellent Christmas gifts. There is a sample on the table at the back of Church. See Nancy Quinn if you'd like to purchase one of these Cookbooks!

August Birthdays

- Doug Eckelkamp 8-1
- Yvonne Gleitz 8-1
- Renee Hellmann 8-1
- Mary Wesche 8-3
- Keith Wettling 8-4

Jon King	8-4
Dale Gerding	8-5
Jenise Southerland	8-5
Aurora Hilkerbaumer	8-5
Heidi Bunge	8-7
Abigail Rose Gilbert	8-8
Mikayla Glosemeyer	8-8
Sarah Eckelkamp	8-9
Kevin Hoemann	8-14
Karon Herring	8-14
Lois Thurman	8-17
Abraham Wesselschmidt	8-17
Karen Scheer	8-18
Leola Deppermann	8-19
William Zastrow	8-20
Joan Menke	8-20
Dane Brune	8-20
Mildred Althage	8-21
Brian Koch	8-22
Ed Svancara	8-22
Jillian Huellinghoff	8-25
Wanda Kassebaum	8-26
John Wesche	8-28

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed correctly, please let Mary know.

August Anniversaries

Jerry and Barb Gilbert	8-7
David and Debbie Brune	8-7
Derek and Kayla Meyer	8-27

Usher Schedule for August

- 1: Elmer Kellmann
- 2: Paul Brune
- 3: Adam Brune
- 4: Eugene Scheer
- 5: Matt Kassebaum
- Alternate: Albert Bade

Head Usher: Lee Kassebaum
Acolyte Schedule for August
Confirmation Class

Bell Ringer Schedule for August

August 6
Corey Adams

August 13
Jeff Hohlt

August 20
Cody Adams

August 27
Trent Huellinghoff

Holy Habits for Hope-Full Health

Here are some HOLY HABIT questions to enable you to hopefully REST more this summer. Discuss these questions with other people. Use them to refresh your own mind regarding your own RESTing patterns and needs.

1. How do you find REST these days?
2. What makes you feel RESTful?
3. How can other people help create a RESTful spirit within you?
4. When someone says, "Get some REST," how do you respond to their suggestion?
5. Do you feel more RESTed by doing things or by just sitting and relaxing? Remember Satchel Paige's quote, "Sometimes I sit and think and other times I just sit!"
6. How can you encourage others to REST?
7. Discuss with others the importance of using mind, body and spirit in our RESTing activities.

8. Do you REST better while you are alone or while you are traveling or with others? Why?
9. What other questions and activities will help you to REST more?
10. Free one: "...so on the seventh day God rested"!

What a great idea, as we all REST assured in God's love!

This came from a booklet entitled "Hope-Full Living" "Daily Devotions for Living Life to the Fullest". By Lutheran Senior Services.

Stewardship Newsletter Article – August 2017

Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten, and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so, it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our

focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—to asking the question—what have they done for me lately. We become more self-ish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more because when we give we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus we are reflecting the divine nature. As Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

PLEASE READ THE UPCOMING BULLETINS FOR 2017 VBS “Mighty Fortress” REPORT

Botswana Lutheran Bible Translators

Hilbert Happenings

Newsletter from Rob and Mical Hilbert

Our Ebenezer Mission Society helps support Mr. and Mrs. Rob Hilbert as they are serving in translation ministry in Botswana with Lutheran Bible Translators.

“We’d like to take some time to update our ministry partners on what has been happening with the Hilberts in Botswana. The Shekgalagari translation team was able to accomplish a big step towards completing the Gospels – finishing team checking John. Our translation method requires us to go through a very specific protocol. The first step is research and drafting, the second is team checking. That means that Mark, Matthew, Luke and John have all made it through the second step. The Shekgalagari translation team is making good progress towards our goal of finishing drafting in 2018 and publication in 2019.

What Else Does LBT Do in Botswana? We are participating in a few other projects in addition to the Shekgalagari Bible Translation Project. The Shekgalagari Literay Project’s first

workshop took place in May. The goal is to train Shekgalagari speakers in the Kalahari District to use Bloom software. Bloom allows users to easily produce literacy materials. Rob also held a training workshop with Rev. Tim and Lisa Beckendorf's project in the San language of Khwedam. To date the Khwedam team has already produced seven books in their language using Bloom. Rob is also assisting with the set up of the Chiikuhane Bible Translation Project and a few other Scripture engagement activities. There are many other projects here in Botswana that Lutheran Bible Translators is involved with through our partners. The projects are really too many to list, suffice it to say, there is a lot of good work taking place in Botswana! Please continue to pray for God's guidance in these activities to further spread His Good News.

Thank you as always for your support. The various translation and Scripture engagement projects we are involved with would not be possible without your prayer and financial support". Blessings, Rob, Mical, Carsten (6), Annabelle (4), and Josephine (1).

Robert and Mical Hilbert
PO Box Ha 137 Hak
Maun Botswana

Lutheran Bible Translators
205 South Main Street
Concordia, MO 64020

There is a copy of this Newsletter on the bulletin board at the back of Church.

Trip to Minnesota

Pastor Zastrow and Margaret will be going to Minnesota on August 7th to visit with his mother who turned 98 on July 28th. Pastor and Margaret will return on August 10th. For Pastoral assistance or a pastoral emergency please contact Rev. Jacob Ehrhard of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Haven.

You can contact Pastor Ehrhard on his cell phone 573-578-6269 or at church 573-237-3026

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Elders 7:00 PM	2	3 Bible Class 10:00 AM	4 Pastor at Circuit Visitors Meeting at Concordia Seminary Ladies Aid 1:30 PM	5 Worship 5:00 PM with Holy Communion
6 Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00	7 Pastor to Minnesota	8 Pastor to Minnesota	9 Pastor to Minnesota	10 Pastor Returns from Minnesota	11	12 Worship 5:00
13 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	14	15 Circuit Meeting St. John, Beaufort, 8:30 AM	16	17 Bible Class 10:00 AM	18	19 Worship 5:00 PM with Holy Communion
20 Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00	21 Eclipse Day	22 Sunday School Teachers and Education Meeting 7:00 PM	23	24 Bible Class 10:00 AM Pastor to St. Louis in PM	25	26 Worship 5:00 PM
27 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	28	29	30	31		