

From Pastor-Elect Konkel

Expectations

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1:9-11 (NKJV)

Introduction

Dear saints of Christ Lutheran, what a joy it is that God has answered our prayers. You have been praying for a pastor for the last seven months, but also for faithful laborers to be sent into the harvest for many years. My family and I have been praying about this for years also. We are overjoyed to be here and I am further pleased to soon be your pastor. Thanks be to God!

Ordination

As of July 5th I will be ordained into the Office of the Ministry. So, what does that mean? By divine right or command [*jure divino* is the latin words found in the Lutheran Confessions document, *Treatise of the Power and Primacy of the Pope*], God has called me (Mt. 28:18-20, Jn. 20:21-23) to be a ἐπίσκοπὴ (1 Tim. 3:1; episkopé), an overseer or bishop. In simple terms, God has called me to be a pastor. The term *pastor* is translated from ποιμήν (poimein, Eph. 4:11) which can also mean shepherd. Christ, of course, being the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10) caring for His sheep. The pastor's main responsibility is to carry out Christ's Word to His people. All power (Mt. 28:18) remains with Christ for He is the Lord of the Church. The laborers are few but He sends faithful laborers into the harvest to carry out His work (Mt. 9:38). There are many responsibilities of the Office of the Ministry. A few to list would be 1. to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19) and administer the Lord's Supper according to Christ's Word (Mt. 26:26-

28, Mk. 14:22-24, Lk. 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-26) 2. To teach *all things* that Christ has commanded (Mt. 28:20) 3. To bind the sins of the unrepentant and to loose the sins of the repentant (Jn. 20:23) 4. To preach the whole council of God, to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (Lk. 24:46-47, 2 Tim. 4:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:1-2) in season and out of season; to protect the sheep from false shepherds (Mt. 7:15) by teaching them the truth of the Holy Scriptures 5. To be an example (1 Tim. 3:1-7, 1 Tim. 4:14-16, 1 Pt. 5:2-4) for the people of God. By the grace of God, He will enable me to do this great work.

Installation

What about you? You are the people of God, the saints of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, who faithfully hold to the inspired Word of God, and receive Christ's holy sacraments according to their institution. You confess that you hold the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of Holy Scripture and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. And now your prayers have been answered to receive a pastor in your midst. Thanks be to God! So, then, what responsibility do you have? Holy Scripture lists a few for you too, that is 1. To obey your leaders and submit to their authority because they must give an account for you at the Last Day. Further, obey them so that their work be a joy (Heb. 13:17, 1 Thess. 5:12-13). The 4th Commandment meaning in the Small Catechism also includes love, honor, and cherish their authority. 2. To provide financial support and care for him and his family (1 Cor. 9:14, Gal. 6:6-7, 1 Tim. 5:17-18). 3. To discern the truth and approve the things that are excellent (Phil. 1:9-11). 4. To hear the Word of God preached and taught and to receive the holy sacraments whenever they are available. 5. To be doers of the word (Jm. 1:22) and tell others about Christ crucified and raised. By the grace of God, He will enable you to do this great work.

Expectations

Like any new venture, whether it be a new school, new job, or the joining of a new husband and wife, there will be expectations. Some spoken out-loud and some will be silent. We both come from two different places joining into one. There will be a honeymoon phase and there will be some failures. Neither of us are perfect. In fact, we are both poor miserable sinners and we will sin against each other. However, the greatest treasure that we both share is Jesus Christ who has taken on our sinful flesh and borne all our sins on the cross of Calvary. He has conquered our death and has risen again to life everlasting that we, and all those who believe in Him, may live eternally with Him. Christ Jesus has forgiven our sins and so we forgive one another (Fifth Petition). Forgiveness is our greatest treasure. From this forgiveness flows love and care for one another in all kindness and gentleness. From this forgiveness flows taking care of our tongues and putting the best construction on everything. From this forgiveness flows rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. Expectations are hard sometimes, but the more we can communicate them together the more we can live in concord and peace together.

Conclusion

It is a joy to have this union of pastor and congregation this month. My family and I are overjoyed that our prayers have been answered as I am sure you are too. God has called me to serve as a bishop in the Office of the Ministry. He has worked by the Holy Spirit's guidance to join me as a pastor to you the saints of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. We will have many joys together and many sorrows. We will sin against each other but we will forgive one another. I want to leave you with this. We worship the same triune God together, we partake of the same body and blood of Christ together, and we pray that the Lord would continue to send His Holy Spirit upon us to keep us in the one true

faith forever and ever. We already have so much in common. May God grant us faithfulness.

✠ God's Peace ✠

— Pastor-Elect Konkell

Encouragement

I would encourage you to read the Bible passages cited in this newsletter as well as any others you find on this topic, or even read all of 1 and 2 Timothy and the other Pauline Epistles.

I would encourage you to read the Table Of Duties found in the Small Catechism. (This is posted on a poster in the basement of the Church on the north west wall if you don't have a Catechism at home.)

I would encourage you to learn by heart the 4th Commandment and its meaning this month as well as read the Large Catechism on this Commandment.

Prayer

Continue to pray for faithfulness to God's Word, for the shut-ins and homebound, the community, and for us all in such perverse days.

Thank you

A special thanks to all who helped us move in, those who gave us wonderful gifts, and to the men's group for the warm Wisconsin welcome of Culver's. We are deeply grateful for all you have done to make for us a beautiful parsonage to live in and make for a smooth transition. Thank you all.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
MID-YEAR
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 26
11:30 am

Discussion topics will include financial updates and progress reports on ongoing and upcoming projects. We will also have an election to fill one partial (6 month) term for Board of Finance. Please watch bulletins for more information.



Tuesday, July 21 – Friday July 24
Noon to 4:00 pm

This year's VBS theme will be "Led by Moses, Freed by God" which will look at the parallels between the Exodus and Christ.

It's time to spread the word! **Register online** at:
tinyurl.com/ChristLuthVBS

Flyers are available at the back of church. Please take some to hang at locations where families with children might see. Invite your neighbors, family, and friends. **VBS Yard Signs** are ready to pick up in the fellowship hall.

Participating children will be invited to sing on Sunday, July 26 and everyone is invited downstairs after service that day for snacks, songs, and a small showcase of what was done and learned during the week.

"Set up" day will be 9:00 am to Noon, July 20 and "clean up" day will be 9:00 am to Noon, July 27. Anyone interested in helping in any way (being a helper during the week or providing donations) should reach out to Tana or Danielle.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

"Many thanks" to all who have volunteered in the past few months on the many projects and activities of our congregation and preparations for the Konkel family and Pastor-elect Konkel's ordination / installation.

ATTENTION GARDENERS

Do you have fresh produce to share through Christ Lutheran Food Pantry? We will gladly receive any produce you would like to give. Our summer pantry distribution dates are: July 21, August 16 and September 15. Produce should be brought by 8:30 am on those days. Please do not bring produce more than 2-3 days prior to those dates. Let Jenny Ludeman (608-931-5304) know if you have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Birthdays

Dean Pohlman (2018).....July 11

Baptism Birthdays

Brody Funke..... July 14

Abigail (Abi) Christensen.....July 16

Sunday School classes continue through summer, with the lesson theme being "Christmons". We'll look at some of the Chrismons, learn what they mean, and make our own. It will be neat to see if the kids recognize any on the Christmas trees later this year!

*May the Holy Spirit ever keep our students in
His baptismal grace and faith unto life
everlasting.*

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



AUGUST 16 at NOON

Church Picnic and Bingo is confirmed for Sunday, August 16 at Turtle Creek Parkway (like last year). Fried chicken, potato wedges, and cake will be provided. Other sides/desserts are welcome!

Please watch bulletins for more information as it becomes available.

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

9:00 a.m., Saturday, July 18

The CELC Men's Group Schedule through August: We will **NOT** meet on 7/04/26. We **WILL** meet on the following Saturdays: 7/18, 8/1, 8/15. All men, young and seasoned, are welcome to come for Bible study, fellowship and mercy event planning.

Scoopie Night Thank You

Thank You to all who supported CELC Men's Group with their three 2026 Culver's Scoopie Nights. Your help as volunteers, diners, and helping spread the word about the events is much appreciated. In total, \$1,018.55 was raised at the first two events; we will find out the amount of the June 15 Beloit event on July 14. The total funds will be split evenly between the CELC Bell Tower Fund, a donation to the Rock County Housing for Our Vets program, and purchases to make hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train.

Mercy Pennies

The Men's Group reports that the Mercy Pennies collected in March, April, May & June totalled 3,553 pennies. When we add this to the 1,111 pennies from January and February, you have donated 4,664 pennies in 2026. In the first 6 months of this year, your donations will help ship **1,555 Mercy Meals**. Thank You and Praise be to God.

"They will know we are Christians by our Love."



Do you have aluminum beverage cans to recycle? We are collecting aluminum (**beverage only**) cans to raise money for the Bell Tower fund. **These should be rinsed out and dry.** The collection bin is located in the kitchen next to the utility sink. In the past year, about \$70 each month has been raised from can collection.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN



Thank you to all who have donated clothing and other items to Orphan Grain Train in the past. If you have non-clothing items to donate, questions, or are interested in helping sort and pack at St. Paul's Lutheran, please contact Dan Ludeman (608-931-8304).

DONATION COLLECTION of clothing and non-clothing items

August 7

4:00 – 5:00 pm

in the church parking lot

Sorting & Packing at
St. Paul's Lutheran, Janesville

August 8

8:00 – 10:30 am

REVEREND KONKEL'S ORDINATION and INSTALLATION

Sunday, July 5 at 4:00 pm.

All are invited to attend. Women's Society will host a light supper following the service. Sandwich meats, rolls, beverages and cake will be provided. Potluck side dishes are welcome, as well as kitchen help. Please contact the office or Elaine R (608-676-4984) or Patty V (608-553-1048) with questions or offers.

ALTAR GUILD

Special thanks to those who have offered to help with altar guild. More volunteers are still welcome. If you are interested in helping, please speak with Debbie Britich.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY
AUGUST ACTIVITY EVENING

Thursday, August 20, 6:30 pm

All women are invited to join us for an evening of service, fellowship and a dessert buffet. We will assemble hygiene kits for Christ Ev. Lutheran Church's food pantry

For this project we ask you to please donate any of the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| - toothpaste | - toothbrush |
| - floss | - deodorant |
| - body wash | - bar soap |
| - lotion | - wash cloths |
| - shampoo | - comb / hairbrush |
| - chapstick | - bandaids |
| - travel size Kleenex | |

Anyone (men, women; kids, adults) who wishes to support this worthy organization may bring items to church by August 10. A box will be available under the north coatrack starting July 12.

To make the evening even more fun, we will be holding a delicious "Dessert Buffet"! This will be "potluck style". Feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share.

OTHER NEWS

The Clinton Garden Club will host a "Community Garden Party at Herb Reffue Park on Sunday, July 12, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. This is a free event with fun and games, an ice cream social., with tables and areas planned by local organizations. Christ Ev. Lutheran Church will have a table set up to attract new members, let the community know more about us.

Patty Van Stone will lead a Jam Making Class at Clinton Senior Center to benefit Alzheimer's **XXX** on Wednesday, July 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Sugar-free jam recipes will be made. Cost for the event is \$5/person. Each person takes home a jar of jam. You are encouraged to call Patty at 608-553-1048 if you plan to attend.

Dear Saints at Christ Lutheran Church,

LCMS Stewardship (an article from LCMS.org, with slight editing)

Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things. And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or people are absent during the summer. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Your Servant in Christ,

Vacancy Pastor Rather

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

<i>JULY</i>		<i>CHRIST LUTHERAN</i>			2026	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
						<i>Independence Day</i>
						(No Men's Group)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School						
4:00 Rev. Konkel Ordination/Installation						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School						9:00 Men's Group
		7:00 Church Council				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School	8:30 Food Pantry Packing 9:00-Noon VBS Setup	9:00-11:00 Food Pantry Distribution Noon-4:00 Vacation Bible School	Noon-4:00 Vacation Bible School	Noon-4:00 Vacation Bible School	Noon-4:00 Vacation Bible School	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:00 Worship 10:30 VBS Showcase & Celebration 11:30 Mid-Year Congregational Mtg	9:00-Noon VBS Cleanup					(There is no Women's Society meeting in July) LCMS Convention in Phoenix, AZ, July 18-23