



MONONA MESSENGER

JUNE & JULY 2019

+ The Time of Our Waiting +

Romans 8:15-23

In words that Martin Luther said should be written in letters of gold, St. Paul assures us that, regardless of how things look in our lives, **we are** God's children. Part of our human tragedy is that we can hardly believe this. If God Himself had not convinced us by His Word that we truly are His children, who would have even dared to think it?

When we see that we share the common lot of all people, the dust from which we were taken and to which we shall return, our flagrant disobedience of God in all our selfishness and sin, it seems arrogant to suggest that we belong to God in a relationship as close as that of a father and his children. How can we even bring our lips to say, "I am a child of the living God?"

We can know ourselves as God's children only by faith in Jesus Christ, only as the Spirit of God brings us to see God in Christ as our heavenly Father. We have been freed from a spirit of slavery that would compel us to stand far off in shame over our sin and dressed only in the rags of our own righteousness. We no longer need to tremble at the thought of God. That's the spirit we find most often in the world; practically everything that the world devises is a frantic effort to get rid of the thought of God, of our guilt before God, and of the death toward which we are hastening to stand before His judgement seat.

It is not like that for us because we have the spirit of adoption, God's own Spirit, who convinces our timid spirits so fully that we even dare to cry out, "*Abba*, (daddy) Father!" God has the heart of a father for us. **We are** His dear children. We can go to Him in simple trust, forgetting everything we have been and done, remembering only who our Father is and what He has done for us. God is our Father; He always does what He does for us simply and only because He is the Father of all love.

So in good Lutheran fashion, "What does this mean?" It means that we are God's children because we are fellow heirs with Christ. He alone has made it possible for God to regard us as His children, and He alone is able to convince us that God does regard us in this way.

Now we are God's children because Christ suffered for us so that we might receive the Spirit of son-ship. He made Himself so completely one with us that we are now fellow heirs with Him. Whatever is His we now inherit—everything that is Christ's is now ours—and heaven is only the beginning of all the blessings we in Christ have inherited.

When He rose from the dead, He entered into His glory; God gave Him the name that is above every name. That same exact glory is ours because we inherit whatever He inherits. Whatever lay beyond His grave lies beyond ours also. Whatever lay beyond His suffering for us also lies beyond our suffering with Him.

Are we God's children just as surely as Jesus Christ is God's Son? Are we really fellow heirs with Christ, so that what is His is ours as well, just as surely as He took as His own what belonged to us—our sin, our curse, our death? Then we will trust Him, gladly and daily take up our cross, deny ourselves and follow Him. Like Him we will pray, "Father, not my will but yours be done!"

Rejoicing with you!

Pastor Nowak

JUNE CELEBRATIONS!!



Joy Hamburg	1
Larry Sewell	7
Shirley Sommer	8
Judy Thompson	12
Diane Sewell	13
Jeanne Nowak	18
Molly Daniels	20
Alyssa Simon	23
Dale Thur	23
Aleah Noll	26
Zeke Bartlett	27



John & Anna McNeil - 56 yrs. 6/1
Rev. & Jeanne Nowak - 34 yrs. 6/1
Mike & Sarah Simon - 36 yrs. 6/4
Dave & Cindy Krivanek - 19 yrs. 6/9
Tami & Richard Noll - 34 yrs. 6/22
Don & Joy Hamburg - 24 yrs. 6/24

Congratulations and God's Blessings

The Monona Lutheran Endowment Fund

Our Endowment Fund continues to grow and provide earnings that are available for growing the mission of Monona Ev. Lutheran Church.

As of the end of the first quarter the total investments in the fund is \$ 54,266.00 available for distribution. The total earnings of dividends and interest for the quarter was \$ 340.00. The amount of funds that are currently available for distribution for the congregations use is \$1088.00.

Remember the purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide monies from investments that can be used for special programs and projects, now and for years into the future. All gifts to the endowment fund are invested and cannot be used for distribution – only the earnings—so your gifts will keep on giving forever.

If you would like more information you can talk to the Pastor or one of the board members or your financial or tax advisor.

Rebecca's Garden Tutoring Program--Thanks to all the volunteers who made this past school year a success. Many hands were there Tuesdays to meet all the needs. We had a stable core of 7 students who mostly returned from the previous year. We will take off during the summer and restart again in September.

Sunday School — It is hard to believe that Sunday School was over as of May 19th. We are a small but mighty messenger of God's word. This year we have been working on memorizing the books of the Bible in addition to our regular lessons.

Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and parents for all you do.

To the congregation — Please keep us in your prayers this summer for a successful start of Sunday School next fall.

Wednesday Bible Study--Please join us Wednesday mornings in the Library from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. as we continue our studies in the Old Testament. We will be learning about Joshua and the judges and kings who followed after. We will continue meeting during the summer months. Any questions, please call Gary Steingraber.



The Lutheran Witness Renewal: Please call the church office at 222-7071 to let me know if you would like to receive the Lutheran Witness magazine. The cost is \$16.00 per year. Please note that the June/July issue is a combined edition so there are only 11 magazines mailed out beginning in September. The deadline to order is **June 25th, 2019.**

Happy
Father's
Day!



June 16th, 2019

It's Celebration Time in the Park!

Join us in Winnequah Park with friends and family for fun summer music! The Friends of the Monona Senior Center are planning four great concerts this summer. The best thing about the concerts other than the great music and environment is IT IS FREE!!! We are inviting back several of the bands and adding a new group.

June 24 – *The Lower Fifth*

July 8 – *Mark Croft Band*

July 23 – *Carl Davick & Friends*

August 13 – *Lynda & The Zeros*

All concerts begin at 6:30 pm.

Food carts will be at the concerts and popcorn and water will also be available for sale.



Steward Builders

A newsletter to help you grow as a steward.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.

Addicted to Money and Stuff

An addiction to money and what money can buy is one of the more subtle addictions.

Alcohol and drug addictions are very visible, whereas our love of money is less



obvious to others and even ourselves. An addiction to money may be subtle, but it is spiritually deadly. Because it affects so many people, it is likely the most widespread addiction in America. The amount of money we possess does not determine our love toward money. We can have very little money but love it immensely. Conversely, we can have a lot of money, but not be devoted to it.

Philip Slater in his book *Money is America's Most Powerful Drug* shares four signs of wealth addiction.

1. "A Closing Hand" – the feeling that we must hold on to whatever we can, to stockpile it, for fear that we will run out of what we need.

2. "Confusion about Goals" – when money becomes an end, our master instead of our servant.
3. "Increasing Possession, Decreasing Use" – when we own much more than we need, we have the added responsibility to take care of all the extra and unused possessions.
4. "Tension and Search Behavior" – the restless, driven quality that marks our lives when we devote ourselves to money.

As God's people, we are as susceptible to wealth addiction as anyone else. We, too, live in the world and are bombarded by our society's focus on material pleasures. We are told that to be happy we must live in lavish homes, drive fancy cars, and have large retirement plans. However, God's Word warns us about storing up treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19).



Rather than trying to amass more money and things and allowing money to become overly important, we are to have a right attitude toward our possessions. With God's help, we can understand that our money is a gift from God that has been entrusted to us to manage. God is the owner; we are the managers. Money and things become addictive when we allow them to control us. When we take control of our money, we can start seeing money as a tool that can be used to help others and further God's kingdom.

Jesus tells us, *“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”* (Matthew 6:24). We can have only one master. One of the biggest if not the biggest challenge to a relationship with Jesus is the love of money. However, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can fix our eyes on Jesus rather than our money and things. May God help us understand that our love of money will *“plunge [us] into ruin and destruction... and pierce [us] with many pangs”* (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

On the Lighter Side

A pastor walks into a Sunday school class of young teenagers and asks the question, “Who knocked down the wall of Jericho?”

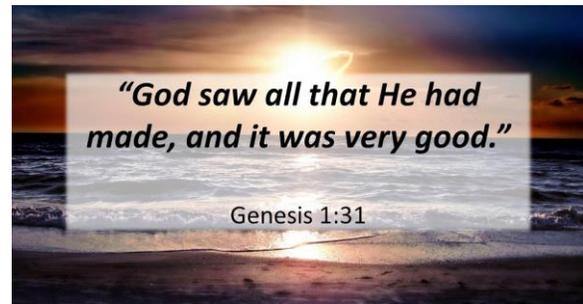
Two boys were discussing this question with each other, when one of the boys said, “I don’t know who did it, but it wasn’t me.”

After the boys and girls left the room, the teacher told the pastor that Jake and Ryan are good boys, and I know they didn’t do it.”

Being Content

Epicurus, a Greek philosopher in the third century B.C. said, “If you want to make a man happy, add not to his riches but take away from his desires.” When we desire less, we can find joy in what we do have. Coveting puts us in a state of discontentment with an insatiable appetite for more, making contentment impossible. Those who are content enjoy what they have rather than complain about what they don’t have. We don’t need more to be thankful for; we just need to be more thankful. As we pray, thanking God for all His blessings,

especially the gift of His Son and His Word and Sacraments, we will find our hearts and minds being filled with more and more reasons to give thanks to our wonderful Lord.



Stewards of God’s Creation

By God’s grace, we acknowledge that God is the Creator Who continues to sustain His creation by the power of His word. This creative work was expended on our behalf and placed under our rule. God gave to man the task of being a steward of His creation (Genesis 1:26). From the beginning of time, God has provided for all our needs, physical and spiritual, and we are reminded by Jesus’ words that we are to share our gifts with others: *“Freely you have received, freely give”* (Matthew 10:8 NIV).

Memorable Quotes

“He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone.”
(C. S. Lewis)

“When riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority”
(John Calvin)

“It ought to be the business of every day to prepare for our last day.” *(Matthew Henry)*

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

Church Picnic July 21st, 2019

Come join us for food and fellowship after the service on July 21st. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Welcoming Area for you to let us know how many will be coming and what dish you will bring. Meat and drinks will be provided.



Come Join Me!

Starting Saturday, June 8th I will be going out to canvas the Glenview area covering the west side beginning with Herro Ln. If interested, we leave to canvas from 10:00-11:00am each Saturday (June through August) weather permitting, meeting up at my house. If you would like to come along with me let me know so I can expect you. We will share with our neighbors the benefits of our tutoring program (Rebecca's Garden) and pass along information on our church—who we are, what we offer and what they can expect. The rest we will leave up to the Holy Spirit—our reaching out to share the gifts offered is ours Lord's wish and our joy and delight. Hope you can join me!

Pastor Nowak

Google Maps: If you would like to help boost our review rating on Google Maps, please feel free. Google Maps is used by our website and by the LCMS website to direct visitors to us, so we don't want someone to be discouraged from attending. Just click on the address marker for us in Google Maps, click on the number to the right of the star rating, click on "Write a Review" and add your rating and comment.

Prayer Chain

Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like *it's* just too much. If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, call our Prayer chain. You may give your prayer requests to Angie TerMaat at 608-246-9608, Susan Bartlett at 608-437-5765, or the church office at 222-7071 or call if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain.

**"Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy."**

Blood Drive: We will be having a blood drive on **Wednesday, June 5th** from **1 pm to 6 pm**. Please consider donating blood and/or helping with the blood drive. We need help unloading and loading back up, greeting upstairs, registration and with the canteen. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table and plan to help, if you are able.

Also, please note that the **Monona High School** will be hosting a Blood Drive here at the church on **Tuesday, July 9th**, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Ann Rubin will also be here at that time.



God's Blessings to those Celebrating

Birthdays in July

Nick Richards	2
Christine Dietz	7
Don Hamburg	8
Jim Meyer	9
Larry TerMaat	10
Dorothy Roth	16
Clem Dohmeier	19
Gene Kosbau	26
Tyler Loss	27
Neil Bartlett	28
Kaitlyn Noyes	29
Amber Daniels	31



Anniversaries in July

Jerry & Jeanette Schellpfeffer - 66 yrs; 4th
 Gary & Gail Steingraber - 42 yrs; 9th
 Mark & Meghan Steingraber - 8 yrs; 16th
 Larry & Angie TerMaat - 34 yrs; 27th



August Messenger Deadline:

July 22nd, 2019

No Late Articles

Please submit articles by this date.

Email to: mlc-ms@hotmail.com OR
 leave a copy on the office desk. Thanks.

Please note that the church office will be closed on July 4th in observance of *Independence Day*. Have safe travels and enjoy your freedoms.

Happy July 4th



MONONA MESSENGER

Newsletter of: Monona Ev. Lutheran Church, LC-MS
4411 Monona Dr.
Monona, WI 53716

Address Service Requested



Divine Worship

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Monday Evening 6:30 p.m.

Communion Services

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Midweek Lenten & Advent

Vespers 6:30 p.m.

NO Monday Worship on Legal Holidays

Sunday Christian Education Hour

Adult Bible Classes 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 am Sept. - May

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Nowak

Office Phone: 608.222.7071

E-mail: mlc-ms@hotmail.com

Website: www.mononalutheran.org

Gift from the Heart: We will be sharing about our recent mission trip to Tanzania with MOST ministries on Sunday, June 2nd, 2019. While there our mission work was done at the Next Life Foundation and that is where the proceeds of the Gift from the Heart will be sent this year. I'll share a little with you here about the Foundation.

The Next Life Foundation is first and foremost a ministry to share the Gospel of Christ with the world through a single Tanzanian village one person at a time. The chosen tool for this purpose is vocational education to affect society while providing the Gospel as the continuing motivation and purpose for the ministry. The purpose of the school is to teach young people a trade – either carpentry or tailoring. This school becomes the initial tool for economic change as the mission demonstrates the love of God. The students are taught a trade which they can use to better their lives and the lives of their families.

Their mission is: To Provide vocational training and sustained opportunities for the young people of Mbuguni, Tanzania. Education in a Christian Environment. Gently sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Their website is: www.nextlifefound.org

We hope you will come to hear us share about our trip and the friends we made in Tanzania. There will be a pot luck lunch after the presentation. Please be sure to sign-up and indicate what appetizing dish you will bring to share with everyone.

Steve & Ellen



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Loving Christ, Serving Others through Preaching, Teaching, Reaching”