



# **MONONA MESSENGER**

## **MAY 2019**

### **+ TAKE A WALK ON THE QUIET SIDE +**

We have already experienced the blessings of God through the refreshing rains of early spring. These were greatly needed. The earth desperately needs the watering from heaven in order to bring forth the new life in plants, grass, trees and crops that we depend upon for our life. "April showers bring May flowers" is a well-known phrase and common approach for springtime, which reveals the basic flow of life from the deadness of winter to the change of life and beautiful things in spring.

The pleasure of taking a walk this spring, watching as the earth renews itself, with new leaves on the trees, flowers poking through the soil, and birds building their nests, is a thrill that we look forward to, every chance we get. When one sees all these "miracles of nature" we can't help but know that there is a God above. We also know that even greater miracles than these have occurred. That is why this Easter Season we should.....**take a walk on the quiet side!**

In spirit we quietly walk pass the cross where the Savior Jesus Christ shed His innocent blood for our sins, and now showers us with forgiveness of sins, blessings in life and eternal peace. What a miracle of love! We kneel in humble adoration before Him who fulfilled His destiny of being the sacrifice for the people of the world, for all time, and in all places.

**Take a walk on the quiet side** this Easter season; walking again past the open tomb, pausing briefly to look inside and going on, hearing the angels voice, "He is not here, He is risen, as He said." What a tremendous miracle of life and love! The Lord proved that His words were true by appearing alive and well, so that all the world may know that His resurrection is a prelude to our resurrection, as Christ said, "Because I live, so you shall live also!"

We are now in the after-glow of Holy Week—of our Savior's gifts to us—the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the knowledge that in Him we have the blessedness of eternal life. In spirit we will do what so many have done in the past; **take a walk on the quiet side.**

In our worship we proclaim the "empty cross and the open tomb" and then, quietly and lovingly, we reach out to our own family and friends and proclaim the fact that **Jesus Christ Is Risen From The Dead** and that in Him we live, and move and have our being! With Joy in our hearts we keep-on singing our songs of thankfulness and praise until at last we, too, are gathered up around the throne of the Lamb.

In His Service and Your Servant,  
*Pastor Nowak*



**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE w/COMMUNION**  
**Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**6:30 p.m.**



**PRESENT MEMBERS OF MONONA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WHO ARE MILITARY VETERANS**

(Please let us know if we missed anyone. Thanks.)

Bill Boyer	1951-1953	Korea	Army
Clemens Dohmeier	1950-1952	Korea	Army
Donald Hamburg	1966-1968		Army
Eugene Kosbau	1954-1957		Navy
Daniel Lindert	1989-present	Iraq	Army
Marcel Lindert	1965-2001	Cold War	WI Army NG
Marcel Lindert	2001-2005		Army Reserves
Dr. Gordon Lofgren	1951-1954	Korea	Navy/Marines
Durwood Meyer	1957-1961		USAF
Edward Neese	1943-1945	WWII	USAAF
John Russell	1955-1974	Vietnam	Navy
Gerald Schellpfeffer	1953-1955	Korea	Army
Lawrence Sewell	1961-1965	Vietnam	USAF
Larry TerMaat	1965-1969	Vietnam	Marines
Larry TerMaat	1977-1997		Air Nat'l Guard

**This Memorial Day**, we remember those who courageously gave their lives. To those who have fought and those who are fighting, we admire your courage and appreciate your sacrifices. We salute you, honor you and thank you.

**House of Thrift News:** Bethesda Thrift Store will **NO LONGER** be accepting donations. They will be closing their doors on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Everything is now 25% off. Please call them at 223-1228 if you have any questions. Members of Monona will continue volunteering there on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month until they close or find another location.

**TLC Group meetings:** The **Tuesday morning Tender Loving Care** group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at Pastor's house beginning at 9:00 am. The **Thursday evening** group meets in the church library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> *Thursdays of the month* beginning at 7:00 pm. This is a great group if you want to strengthen your faith, get to know your fellow members better, introduce a friend or neighbor to our congregation

**VOTERS' MEETING**  
Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

10:30 a.m.



**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanks-giving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

# *Steward Builders*

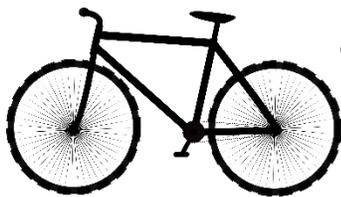
*A newsletter to help you grow as a steward.*

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.

## **Placing our Trust in God**

Essential to a loving relationship with our Heavenly Father is trust. It has been said that love is the foundation for a relationship and trust is the way to keep that fellowship straight and true. As our trust grows in the Lord, we will become more and more obedient, more and more willing to follow our Lord's leading, so that He can entrust even greater gifts and responsibility to us.

The importance of trusting in God is beautifully shared in this story titled "The Bike Ride." The author is unknown, but I know you will enjoy it.



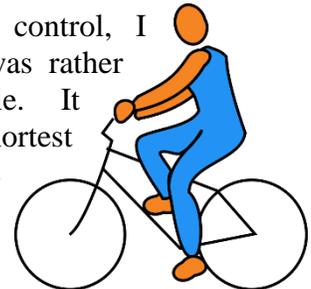
"At first, I saw God as an observer, like my judge, keeping track of things I did

wrong. This way, God would know whether I merited heaven or hell when I died. He was always out there, sort of like the President. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him at all.

But later, when I recognized my higher power better, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride, on a tandem bike, and I noticed God was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since...life with my higher power, that is, making life much more exciting.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring but predictable. It was always the shortest distance between the



points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful cuts up mountains and through rocky places and at breakneck speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He kept saying, 'pedal, pedal!'

I worried and became anxious, asking, 'Where are you taking me?' He just laughed and didn't answer, and I found myself starting to trust. I soon forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure, and when I'd say, 'I'm scared,' He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey. Our journey, that is, God's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, 'Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight.' So, I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him at first to take control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it. But He knew bike secrets, knew how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to

clear places filled with rocks, fly to shorten scary passages.

And I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, my God, my Heavenly Friend.

And when I'm sure I can't go anymore, He just smiles and says, 'Pedal...'

May God grant us all trusting hearts, so we never stop pedaling.

### **Giving of Ourselves**

Being a good steward implies more than the giving of money. God wants most of all not our money but ourselves. In writing to the Church in Corinth, Paul used the example the Macedonians as an example of generous giving. Even as an impoverished people, the Macedonians gave so freely because as Paul wrote "...they gave themselves first to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5). Only when we have given ourselves, through faith, to the Lord are our possessions acceptable to Him. We are to be stewards of our lives, time, and talents. No amount of giving of money will substitute for the faithful giving of ourselves.

### **Store Up Treasures in Heaven**

Several years ago, when John D. Rockefeller Sr. died, there was the reading of the will for his family, which, of course, caused a lot of attention because he was so wealthy and well known. As his personal attorney left the family, a reporter came up and asked, "Could you tell us, sir, what he left behind?" The attorney looked at him sadly, shook his head, and said, "He left it all; he left it all."

This story is a reminder to us that things of this world are only temporary. Jesus tells us *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."* (Matthew 6:19-20). Through faith, we have the strength not to become so attached to worldly things, and we will store up treasures in heaven.



### **The Practice of Tipping**

The practice of tipping started in a butcher shop in England in the mid-1500's. A cup was placed on the counter with the letters T.I.P.S. printed on it which meant "To insure prompt service." The obvious message was that, if you wanted to be waited on before others who were also waiting in line, you put a contribution into the cup to insure prompt attention and service. Because the practice of tipping has become such a normal practice, we are led sadly to consider the following question: "Why is it so easy for so many people to tip a waiter or waitress who they don't even know 15-20 percent, yet they are often reluctant to give God Who has given them both their physical and spiritual lives a generous percentage? May God grant us faith so that we continually show Him our gratitude for who He is and what He has done for us through our giving.

*Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!*

**The next Healing Service** will be held again on Sunday, **June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019** after the service. If you have a burden or sickness that you would like to commend to the Lord, this would be a great time to do so. Copies of the service can be found on the table in the narthex for your convenience.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:**

Please join us on Sunday's after the service as we continue to study the Book of Daniel.

**Monona's LWML** group will be getting together again on *Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>*, beginning at 9:00 am to continue with the service project. If you have questions, please call Jana Hoffmann at 244-5154 or email thehoffers3@hotmail.com.

**Rebecca's Garden:**

Our tutoring program continues to flourish, thanks to the efforts and contributions by many. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gary Steingraber.

**Wednesday Bible Study:**

The book of Exodus is the current topic Wednesday mornings. Feel free to join us if you have the opportunity. We meet in our Library from 10 to 11 am.

**Blood Drive:** Our next scheduled blood drive is Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 pm. The collection site will be here at Monona. If you are interested in donating, please contact Ann Rubin at 221-1495 and she will be able to make an appointment for you. Thanks for all of your support in the past with donations and volunteering.

**Volunteers Wanted:** Thank you to those who have signed up to volunteer. However, we could use a few more people to volunteer to be put on the schedule as an **usher, reader, greeter, assist with communion or helping on the altar guild**. The more people we have, the less times you will be put on the schedule. Please consider volunteering. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcoming Area or call the church office (222-7071) with any questions anytime between 8 am and 1 pm; Monday through Thursday. Thanks.



Anneliese

**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."**



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|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Meghan Steingraber | 13 Diana Russell  |
| 5 Barb Prescott      | 14 Wayne Kosbau   |
| 5 Lucille Prescott   | 19 Ann Rubin      |
| 10 Gail Hansen       | 21 Dan Neuser     |
| 11 Emma Steingraber  | 21 Andrea Noll    |
| 12 Gary Steingraber  | 26 Gloria Lawton  |
| 13 Milly Boyer       | 30 Judie Krubsack |



- Zeke & Melissa Bartlett – May 20<sup>th</sup>; 2 years*  
*Paul & Susan Felton – May 21<sup>st</sup>; 9 years*  
*Steve & Ellen Peck – May 30<sup>th</sup>; 38 years*

**Congratulations and God's Blessings**

**Gideon Presentation:** We will have a representative from the Gideons here on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to let us know what they are involved in. The presentation will be after the worship service.

**June/July Messenger Articles** are due Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Remember that if you misplace your issue you can always find a copy on our website: [www.mononalutheran.org](http://www.mononalutheran.org)



*May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

**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](mailto:mlc-ms@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.mononalutheran.org](http://www.mononalutheran.org)

**JUNE/JULY 2019**

Messenger Deadline

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**NO LATE ARTICLES**

Please submit articles by this date.

Email to: [mlc-ms@hotmail.com](mailto:mlc-ms@hotmail.com)

or leave a copy on the office desk

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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