

THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

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“From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, after John had proclaimed, before His coming, a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, one is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’ “

Acts 13:23-25

August 29—Feast of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

Successful Stewardship?



July 11, 2024 / Articles, Ministry
Features / By Nathan
Meador / Leave a Com-
ment / Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship is not a new topic. It has been discussed, dissected, disputed, and in some cases, despised, for generations. Why is that? Stewardship is challenging because it reminds us that everything we have belongs to God — everything we have has been entrusted to us to manage for HIS purposes, even if our purposes do not align with His. We struggle with stewardship because we willfully refuse to answer the question, “What does success in stewardship look like?”

But then again, even that is the wrong question. Any definition of success runs into the Law. The Law of God is good and wise, but we will never succeed in fulfilling it. The metrics and measurements of the Law accuse, causing the steward to ask himself, “Have I done enough?” The honest answer for anyone is, “Nope, I have not done enough!” We cannot do enough because the Law requires perfection. What fulfills the Law? A consistent tithe? Giving everything away for the sake of the

poor? Somewhere in between? Perfection in thought, word and deed, just like we confess each week? Any quest for stewardship success will leave either a conceited steward or a broken and bewildered steward. Neither is successful.

If we cannot accurately talk about stewardship success, what would be the better way? We should use the standard that St. Paul shares in 1 Corinthians 4: “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:1–2). The standard that St. Paul suggests for the stewards of the mysteries of God is faithfulness. While Paul is indeed talking about the exercise of his apostolic office in these words, he uses the same term that is elsewhere used for our everyday stewardship. The standard is faithfulness.

This faithfulness is marked by repentance. Like St. Paul, every steward who knows the Word of God knows that we daily sin and fall short of the glory of God. This is true in our relationship with the Lord and our relationships with others. We

have been created by God and redeemed by virtue of our Baptism into Christ; in our new life in Christ, we strive to be good stewards out of love for God and our neighbors. Yet our stewardship efforts will continue to falter; we fail in our relationship to God, sinning against the first table of the Law, and we fail in our relationships with our neighbors, sinning against the second table of the Law. The faithful steward will readily confess that their stewardship is not in any way perfect.

But the Holy Spirit that has called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified every steward is also the One who by grace through faith in Jesus will then keep the redeemed steward in the one true faith, a faith which then shows itself in faithful stewardship. This faithfulness is created at the font and nurtured at the altar.

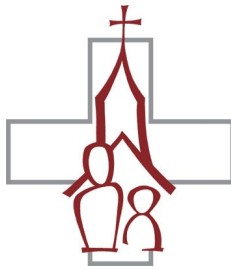
How should we define faithful stewardship? We can use a two-question diagnostic. First, since everything we have comes from God, we ask ourselves, “How has the Lord blessed me?” Second,

since we are royal priests reflecting God’s grace and mercy in the world, we ask, “How is God calling me to respond?” These two questions are challenging because they do not fit neatly into a chart, nor can they be put on a commitment card once a year for budget purposes.

Rather, the answer to these questions flows directly from our identity as children of God and our part in God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. The ultimate purpose of stewardship is for all people to come to the knowledge of the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ and be saved.

Faithful stewardship is nothing other than our faithful stewardship of the Gospel using all the First Article items entrusted to us.

Successful stewardship is faithful stewardship. It is not about amount but rather identity. It is not about balanced budgets but about the way the Gospel works in and through us. Faithful stewardship points people to Jesus.



Sunday Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Aug. 4	Jeremiah 8:4-12	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Luke 19:41-48
Aug. 11	Genesis 4:1-15	1 Corinthians 15:1-10	Luke 18:9-14
Aug. 18	Isaiah 29:17-24	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	Mark 7: 31-37
Aug. 25	2 Chronicles 28:8-15	Galatians 3:15-22	Luke 10::23-37
Sept. 1	Proverbs 4:10-23	Galatians 5:16-24	Luke 17:11-19

FROM THE DEACONESS

It's been five years this month since OSELG called and installed me as Deaconess. Thank you, my dear family, for allowing me to serve you. It has been my joy and pleasure. God has been faithful in keeping me in this calling and I look forward to how He will have me continue to serve His people.

Pax Christi, Dcs. Heather

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.”

-Martin Luther

Did you know. . .The most common but perhaps



least understood monogram often appears in Lutheran churches in the chancel or on the altar itself: “IHS.” It is simply the first three Greek characters in the name “Jesus.”

FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Hello everyone and happy August!

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over already, but here we are! I hope you will join us for our August activities!

First of all, it is a Voters' Meeting Month! This means...Voters' Meeting Potluck! The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall! I can't wait to try the goodies you bring in, or see what recipes are submitted to the cookbook afterwards (don't worry, I haven't forgotten about the cookbook).

And finally, we are having a Trivia Afternoon on Saturday August 24th starting at 1:00 PM! Come for the snacks, stay for the trivia! It will either be a solo competition or teams depending on how many people attend.

As always, come to me with suggestions or questions!

~ Clare

FROM THE LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

July mites donations totaled \$70.46.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. You may bring the mite box any Sunday. If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to Our Savior LWML. Mite donations are sent monthly to the Gulf States District LWML to fund mission grants and district expenses and national mission grants.

As the Bible reminds us, even small offerings can make an enormous impact. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of “mites” — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Combined, these mites amount to millions of dollars for funding mission grants and providing ongoing support for various Lutheran Women in Mission programs.

<http://www.lwml.org>

<http://www.lwmlgulfstates.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LWML Meeting, Thursday, August 29, 2024, 11:15 am, after Women’s Bible Study

Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, Saturday, September 21, 2024, Jehovah Lutheran Church, Pensacola, 9:00 am-1:30 pm “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only” James 1:22

LWML 41st Biennial LWML Convention, June 26-29, 2025, Omaha, NE, “Growing in God’s Grace” 2 Peter 3:18

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Urda, LWML President



The LWML Guild of Jehovah Lutheran Church, 2801 N 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL invites you to the LWML Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally.

Theme: "Actions Speak Louder Than Words-Sometimes" (James 1:22)

Saturday, September 21, 2024

9:30 am-2:00 pm

Registration begins at 9:00 am

Cost \$10.00 per person (includes breakfast pastries & lunch)

Please join us for fellowship, Bible Study, convention highlights, and zone meeting.

RSVP to Linda Urda NLT September 13, 2024 at 850-758-0471 or linurda@cox.net

Gifts from the Heart will benefit The Village Hands of Pensacola, FL charity aiding children and families in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

www.thevillagehands.org

Items needed:

DISPOSABLE DIAPERS of various sizes, if possible #5, #6, #7

PULL-UPS, any size

BABY WIPES, unscented preferred



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

Women's Book Club Begins a Pilgrimage on August 15th

Beginning on August 15th the Women's Book Club will travel with Chaucer's pilgrims on their trek to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket in the Canterbury Cathedral. One hundred years before Luther, we find Chaucer's story tellers in this classic piece of English literature, The Canterbury Tales, using humor to ridicule the many layers of corruption within the Catholic Church. The pilgrims on this trip represent a cross-section of the population in the Middle Ages. We are going to focus on the Pardoner and the Friar, two of the eight ecclesiastical members of the Catholic Church who are traveling with the 27 other pilgrims. We will be examining the two tales through a Lutheran perspective, guided by our Dcs Heather Bien and discussion led by Jennifer Currid. While Chaucer wrote in Middle English, we, mercifully, will be reading the Modern English translation! Meeting times are 11:30-12:30 on the third Thursday of each month: August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, and November 21st. All women of OSELG are most welcome to join us for a fun and educational time together.

[*Anyone who would like to meet at night or on a Saturday at my house, please contact me](#)

[at 850-803-1196. Jennifer Currid](#)

Reminder!

If you are the last to leave the premises, please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.

Thank you!

Men's Group

7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 20

Pastor Parent's house.



COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Coffee with Pastor
begins with
Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to
know him and for him to get to know his
flock!

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us in the study of Proverbs

Birthdays:

Sean Schoonover	8/2
Machelle Grimes	8/5
Bobbie Parent	8/10
Bit Schmoltdt	8/12
Deb Haunschild	8/18
Olivia Widener	8/18
Ellis Quarrier	8/21

Private Confession

Every Sunday, 8:00-8:45 a.m. or by appointment

Please see Pastor Parent.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSELCO

Serve on a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.

Sign up for Flowers—See sign up list in the Parish Hall

Sign up for Refreshments—See sign up list in Parish Hall

Serve on the Altar Guild—See Dcs. Heather Bien

Ongoing Project on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee

Serve as an Usher—See Julie Blaylock

Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall

Coffee with Pastor and Women's Study—10:00 a.m. Thursday

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes (TEAMS)

July 10, 2024



President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien

1. Attendance: Pastor Parent, Dcs. Heather Bien, Alex Franco, Mahlon Haunschild, Brian Hull, Julie Blaylock, Linda Urda, Emily Bien, Alan Widner, Clare Jones, Jennifer Currid
2. Alex called the meeting to order at 6:30. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.
3. The previous council minutes were approved (Brad/Clare).
4. Reports:
 - a) Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) – Pastor contacted a prospective new member referred to him by another LCMS pastor. He received an email from the Sheriff's Department inviting us to a tour of their facility and the MILO training center. Pastor requested that his cell phone number be listed on our Website as the primary contact number and the office number as the secondary number.
 - b) Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) – Heather continues to work on the parament drawings. She will present them to the Pastor and the Altar Guild when they are complete.
 - c) Financial Report (Mahlon) - See attached.
 - d) Treasurer (Brian)- See attached. Additional comments: In order to provide large print ordos for the congregation members who need them, currently Trish is printing them with great difficulty because of our extremely slow printer that handles 11x17 paper. In an effort to find an alternate route, we will order a large print LSB to examine as to its functionality. If that is not acceptable, we will need to consider purchasing the Hymn License.
 - e) Board of Security (Julie) – No recent incidents to report.
 - f) LWML (Linda) - See attached.
 - g) Board of Education (Cindy) – No report.
 - h) Board of Youth (Emily) – Emily is researching the past youth group activities and requests ideas for where this ministry will go in the future.
 - i) Board of Elders (Alan)- The updating of the membership rolls continues. Alan has not spoken to the Elders about the Byrna system as of yet.

j) Board of Trustees (Brian)- See attached.

k) Board of Social Ministry (Clare) – See attached. Additional comments: Until we obtain a license to show movies at the church, we will suspend movie night.

l) Board of Evangelism (Alex) – In the process of discussing whether we wanted a Facebook presence, we discovered that we have two, maybe three, FB accounts. Alan will ask Maggie if she has any information concerning these, and Alex will ask Dee and Vance Tech.

5. Unfinished Business:

a) Summer Carnival update- See Social Ministry report.

b) Discretion with private ballot voting – Alex will discuss the need for congregational feedback on issues prior to voting during the Voters’ Assembly. The council is now providing the congregation with the Voters’ Assembly agenda prior to the meeting to allow everyone to be prepared. At the end of next month’s council meeting, we will identify which items would require a private vote and have the appropriate ballots ready to pass out at the beginning of the meeting.

c) The discussion of donating 1% of the church’s surplus money (after bills are paid) will continue at the next council meeting and will be presented at the August Voters’ Assembly. This 1% donation will be determined from the funds available in our discretionary savings amount after all our financial obligations are met.

6. New Business:

a) Elections Nominating Committee, 2024 – In Alex’s absence on Sunday, July 14th, Brad will announce that we need at least three people to volunteer to serve on the Elections nominating committee. Julie will write a draft of the position descriptions.

b) Movie License – A license to show movies at the church legally will cost \$296 annually. We will put this item on the August Voters’ Assembly agenda.

c) Byrna CONOPS – Alex presented a draft of CONOPS to the council. Pastor advised that we look into insurance to protect the defendant and the church. Brian will check our current church insurance. Julie said she would share the Byrna supplies with the church.

7. Motion to adjourn at 8:29 (Brad/Clare).

8. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid

Council Secretary

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

178 W. North Ave.

Crestview, FL 32536

Phone: 850-682-3154

Email: oselc@oselc.gccoxmail.com

We are on the Web!

www.Oselc.net



Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Secretary: Jennifer Currid

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Mahlon Haunschild

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life:

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education: Cindy Parent

Board of Youth: Emily Bien

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Clare Jones

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Newsletter Editor: Dcs. Bien

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien