

THE MONTH OF
JUNE
2021

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEDERLAND, TEXAS

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Message from Pastor

Whose Name Are You Chasing?

We live in a culture that constantly urges us to make a name for ourselves. One can barely step out the front door without feeling squeezed by the pressure of performance. Bookstores stock their shelves with suggestions for how to embrace our destiny and realize our full potential. When we look at life through this lens, God becomes a means to an end rather than the Lord of our lives.

The Faithful Unnamed

Many of us have a natural proclivity to read the Bible and place ourselves in the shoes of its heroes. We tend to draw prescriptive truths from figures like Moses and David in ways that cause us to overlook the many nameless, faceless characters decorating the foreground of the biblical narrative. Certainly, some individuals play more visible roles than others in advancing the story of God's redemptive work, but the majority of the Bible is composed of anonymous figures included for their faithfulness in bringing renown to God.

Consider the story of Moses, perhaps the most famous figure in the Old Testament. The mere mention of his name conjures images of the burning bush, the plagues in Egypt, and the parting of the Red Sea. But his story never would have happened if not for the compassion of Pharaoh's daughter, who found the baby Hebrew and took him in as her own. Scripture never gives a name to this woman, but God used her to secure not only Moses' future, but also the exodus he had promised to Israel.

Following the Exodus, God led his people to the foot of Mount Sinai where they spent a year learning to follow his law, which included the building of the tabernacle. Prior to construction, the Lord appointed two men—Bezalel and Oholiab—to lead the project as well as "all able men" involved in the work to be done. These able men are never named, yet they are an integral piece of building the tabernacle by God's good design.

This pattern ripples through the Old Testament and into the New, with many unnamed individuals appearing on the narrative stage. Following Jesus' birth, two groups of travelers came to see him—the magi and a ragtag collection of shepherds. Scripture records none of their names, yet they gathered around the manger to herald the birth of the Christ child.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, the Bible introduces a number of nameless individuals commended for their faith. Perhaps the most famous anonymous figure of the New Testament is the Samaritan woman Jesus met at a well outside of her community. After a brief conversation, she beheld Christ and raced back to her town to declare the saving mercies of the Messiah. Many of her neighbors experienced salvation as a result of her testimony, yet we never learn her name.

Anonymity is a feature common to each of these individuals. God has seen fit to include them in his story of redemption, but Scripture omits their names—not because they are without value, but because the point of their lives, like ours, is to make great the Name Above All Names. That is the legacy we are called to leave behind.

As is often the case, Scripture asserts an upside-down logic compared to that of our world. Consider the legacy of John the Baptizer. Despite the fact that he lived in the wilderness, wore camel skin for clothing and ate locusts and wild honey, Jesus declared that no one greater had been born among humanity. John did not receive such praise due to his own accomplishments, but because he sought in every way to make great the name of Christ without claiming any recognition of his own. As he himself said, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

A Name for His Glory

From Genesis to Revelation, we are exposed to the redemptive narrative of the Lord's work across time, and it's one in which we play a part today. NT Wright describes our role in the story of God by saying, "The earth goes round the sun. Jesus is the hero of the play, and we are the bit-part players...[we] come on for a moment, say one word, and disappear again, proud to have shared his stage and, for a moment, been a tiny part of his action." We build a satisfying life not by storing up our own accolades, but by turning our focus to the hero of the drama—Jesus Christ.

None of this is meant to say that we should live our lives void of ambition. If God has given you a passion, pursue it. If God has gifted you with the capacity to meet a particular need, follow through. If God has granted you a dream, chase it. But consider the aims of your heart. Are you working to build a name for yourself or for your Savior? Have you devoted your life to his increase or your own? Your answer will make an eternity of difference.

Our lot in life is not to make ourselves great, but to make Jesus great in all that we do. Ultimately, that is a freedom because it releases us from the pressure of performance in order to live within the call of God. Odds are, you and I will not be remembered like David or Moses. We may not have our names etched in the stones of history, but we have reason to praise nonetheless.

Rejoice not that you have made a name for yourself in this fleeting life. Rather, rejoice that God knows your name and has written it in the book of life and among the halls of heaven.

God's peace and all the best,

Pastor Joshua Knippa



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

Members are invited to join the Trustees to help clean-up our church campus from June 19-25 during the day if you have any questions contact the Trustees or church office.

Upcoming Meetings:

MOAW Meeting
Tuesday, June 15 @ 7pm

Board of Elders Meeting
Tuesday, June 21 @ 6pm

Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 22 @ 6pm

Everyone is invited to **MOVIE NIGHT OUT** at Holy Cross on **Friday, June 4 @ 6:30pm in the FLC.**



Attention all 4th—8th Graders!
You're invited to join us at **Max Bowl** in Pt Arthur on **June 23 @ 11am** for fellowship and fun!



JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

- 2—James Teel
Jeannine Walther
- 3—Beryle Woolbright
- 4—Marvin Ermel
- 5—Kirk Cogswell
Timothy Lavespere
- 6—Brandy Winstead
- 7—Blake Ford
- 8—Kathryn Sturgis
- 10—Mia Miller
- 11—Austin Ronning
- 12—Addison Ashby
Amber Brown
Don Gribnau
- 13--Addison Hollomon
- 14—Cass Bryson
Jody Swango
Katelee Zampini
- 15—Sandra Erickson
Laurenda Wolford
- 16—Dawson Adair
Dawn Hardy
- 17-Landon McCullough
Kim Ronning
Caleb Spinks
Trent Vickers
- 18—Logan Nelson
- 19—Amber Borel
- 20—Brayden Hickman
David Laurents
- 22—Megan Trahan
Andre' Wimer
- 23—Thad Kieschnick
Kylie Stump
Tayler Trojck
- 24—Cathy Borel
Marla Kieschnick
Megan Odom

- 25—Kathy Wingate
- 26—Rodney Davis
- 27—Dedie Orta
- 28—Indy Kieschnick
O. W. Withrow
- 29—Carla Derouen
- 30—Denise Shipley
Justin Stewart



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-Kandace & Will Rash
- 5- Ruth & Walter
Perryman
Catherine & Gavin Bruney
- 7—Dawn & Ted Graeter
Lisa & Steve Hartman
- 10-Moni & Brad Hopper
Susie & Mitchell Koop
- 12—Julia & Don Gribnau
- 13—Gena & Doug Carter
- 15-Linda & Marty Lovelace
- 18-Connie & Rodney Davis
- 19-Carlene & Larry Singleton
- 21—Shele & Keith Eason
Brandy & Jarred Kotz
- 26-Beth & Russ DeVillier
- 29-Layne Ford & David
Diltz



Join us on
Sunday mornings
9:30am

- K-4th Grade in FLC
- Youth in the
Education
Building
Youth Room
- Adult Bible Class in
the Education Big
Room.



UBM Needs You!

United Board of Missions is in need of Volunteers (stocking & organizing pantries & more). If you're interested, please contact either—**Pam Vincent @ 718-5767** or **Carolyn Barras @ 963-7866**. Thanks!



To Co-Chair our Bereavement Committee.

This would involve co-ordinating a family meal after the passing of one of our members. There are many volunteers already on the committee to provide food, money, &/or serve the meals. The Co-Chairs would be the ones to contact the committee members and make arrangements for the meals. Please consider the opportunity for this outreach ministry.

Celebration Band
practices at **8:30am**
on **Sundays**

Adult Choir practices
after Worship on
Sundays

Lauren Millner-Sanchez,
director 679-6062



Deadline for July Newsletter is Monday, June 21.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Tuesday, June 8
@ 5:30pm

in the FLC Foyer

Picnic for LWML members &
Quilting Circle members.



Join us at

Fit & Fun

Tuesday, June 15

@ 1-3:30pm,

FLC foyer for
food & fellowship.

You can bring a
snack to share
if you wish.



Prayer Card
Ministry
Tuesday,
June 22,
@ 10:30am.
in the
Conference
Room.



“Check Out” our
books available on the
red cart in the Narthex.

Please feel free to
take 1 or 2—just leave
check out card in the
bucket provided
on the cart.

You can also visit our
Church Library in the
Education Bldg. If you
take a book, just sign
your name on the card
& leave it on the desk.



LWML MISSION STATEMENT
*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we
joyfully proclaim Christ, support
missions, and equip women to honor
God by Serving others.*



Please see the above which is an updated
“LWML Missions Statement”
that was unveiled (at the Presidents Assembly)
along with the following 5 Core Values.

Core Values

- Christian Women-we live as redeemed children of the Triune God.
- In God's Word-We live in joyful response to the Holy Scriptures.
- Mission Focused-we answer God's call to share His Gospel at home and abroad.
- Embrace Diversity-we are sisters in Christ who value and benefit from each other.
- Servant Leaders-we are called and equipped by God to serve others.

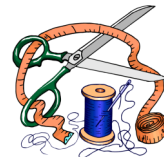
Quilting News:

Come join us **Thursdays**
9:30am-2:30pm.

You do not have to know
how to sew to join us.

Thank you to all that have given memorials
to the quilters fund. We really appreciate
the funds & can always use funds for supplies.
If you know of anyone that would like
or needs a quilt, please call

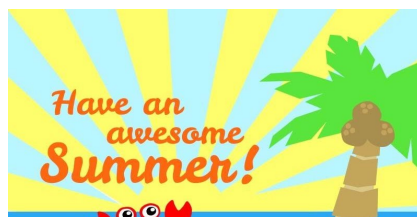
Rosemarie Herring, 201-5710

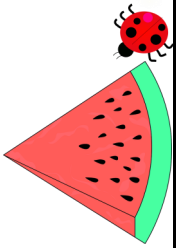


EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION NEWS

Thanks for sharing your kiddos with us this past school year. We wish you all a fun & safe summer. We are still accepting registration for next school year—call #(409) 7422-2177 for details. We will see some of you in the Fall.

Veronica Ochoa & the ECE Staff





June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elders: Joel Pinnit 363-3223 Mike Tucker 979-324-3633	Altar Guild: Jo Ann & Ronnie Vize	1	2	3 9:30am Quilting	4 Pastor's Day Off 6:30pm Movie Night in FLC 	5
6 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service w/ Communion	7	8	9	10 9:30am Quilting	11	12
13 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Blended Worship	14	15	16	17 9:30am Quilting	18 Pastor's Day Off	19
20 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service w/ Communion HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!	21	22	23	24 9:30am Quilting	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
27 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	28	29	30	23 11am Max Bowl 4-8th grade. Pt. Arthur 	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
<i>LWML National Convention, San Marcos, TX</i>						
<i>LWML National Convention, Lexington, Kentucky</i>						
Lay Readers: 6—Erin Prioux 13—Grace Prioux 20—Brennyn Denn 27—Lynne Holloman						
Ushers: 6—Don Gribnau David Prioux 13—Chad Ford David Smalley 20—Charles Schrader Pat Sturgis 27—Steve Swango Ronnie Vize						
Acolytes: 6—Landon Riley Greyson Elisar 13—Aiden Fortune Avery Katz 20—Dane Stewart 27—John McCall Thomas McCall						
<i>LWML National Convention</i>						



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH
 Workdays will continue through Thursday, June 25