



## **THE SERVANT**

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328  
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;  
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15  
Ron Voss, Pastor

\*\*\*\*\***July 2019**

Dear friends in Christ,

The players are on the field or the basketball court. The game is in full swing. The cheerleaders are positioned in front of the stands, jumping, waving their arms, and shouting: V-I-C-T-O-R-Y! Is our team's battle cry!!! They cheer the team on when it is winning, when it is losing, when it is struggling, when a spectacular catch is made. Always cheering the team on.

The church has entered the season of Pentecost, the longest season of the church year (up to 26 weeks). Most of the "highs" of the church year have passed: Christmas, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, the flames and wind of Pentecost. Now, as Christians, we are called to "play the game" . . . day-to-day living. Hebrews 12:1-2 offers real encouragement as we "play the daily game":

**Since we have such a huge crowd of men and women of faith cheering us on, let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us. <sup>2</sup>Keep your eyes (focused) on Jesus, our leader and instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterwards; and now he sits in the place of honor by the throne of God. Our "cheerleaders" shout: *REMAIN FAITHFUL!! STAY FOCUSED!! BE FRUITFUL!!!***



1. **REMAIN FAITHFUL.** In 2000, the movie "The Patriot" hit the theaters. That movie contained this phrase: "stay the course." As we live each day—with its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, its challenges and defeats—our cheerleaders remind us to remain faithful, to stay the course. In the book of Revelation, Jesus encourages us to "be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life." Play the game . . . and remain faithful!

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2. **STAY FOCUSED.** A number of years ago, with the goal of making more money, some major American corporations/industries decided to diversify, invest in subsidiary products. As years went by, corporate leaders were forced to admit that profits did not increase but rather decreased. Why? Because the companies had lost their focus. Lost focus equaled lost revenue. It was only when corporations returned to manufacturing one product, regaining their focus, did profitability return. Again, Jesus Himself gave the warning . . . Gospel of Luke . . . one thing is needful.” Our cheerleaders encourage, STAY FOCUSED!
  
3. **BE FRUITFUL.** Win games in sports or you no longer have a coaching job. Produce a healthy bottom line in business or receive your walking papers. It’s about productivity. In the every day living of Pentecost, we are challenged to be fruitful. Now, before we panic and think, “If I don’t bring more people to Christ, am I out the door?” Scripture never says that. We are told to love one another, care, forgive, visit the sick, feed the poor. Being fruitful at Servants of Christ, Robins, Iowa, includes faithful worship, inviting others, praying, assembling school kits, supporting Water Mission, participating in Crop Walk . . . and the list goes on. Non-spectacular, ordinary events that the saints cheer.



It’s Pentecost. Next “biggie” in the church year is Reformation Sunday (end of October). But listen to our spiritual cheerleaders who encourage us in these ordinary days to be extraordinary as we Remain Faithful, Stay Focused, and Be Fruitful.

Cheering you on,

Ron

**POWER** is the word that best describes the Christians in the Book of Acts. They were a dynamic people in a dynamic church . . . And what they said and did changed their world.

We continue our study on the people, the Church, and its message in the book of Acts. We will come to a greater understanding of:

- ◆ The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
- ◆ How to be an effective witness for Christ.
- ◆ How to turn persecution into blessing.
- ◆ How to understand and solve Church problems.



The Holy Spirit of God is with us today, and His triumphant power is available to God’s people. The invitation to you is to yield to the Spirit and its dynamic power. Join us on Sunday mornings. Learn how God used early converts to share the Good

Invitational brochures are printed and ready for distribution. Speak to Ron if you would be willing to distribute to homes in your neighborhood.

## IOWA MISSION DISTRICT UPCOMING EVENTS

July 21-28 - Youth Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Jason Cooper (cooper\_jd@yahoo.com) or Pastor Tony D. Ede (tonyede@gmail.com) for more information

August 5-9 - Lutheran Week in Indianapolis (NOTE: Election of NALC Bishop)

September 14 - Iowa Mission District Convocation, First Lutheran, Manchester, IA

October 5 - *Stewardships of God's Influence Workshop*, Manchester

### LEGACY GIFTS MATTER!

Prayerfully consider including the North American Lutheran Church and/or the Seminary in your will or estate planning. Pass on the love of Jesus to future generations.

#### ***July Mission Giving***

\$417 - The North American Lutheran Church  
General Fund



### **July Servants**

Greeter/Usher: Linda Drake  
Communion Assistant: Dan Heckart  
Snacks:  
\*\*July 7—Mary Collins  
\*\*July 14—Tami Gerdemann  
\*\*July 21—Ron Voss  
\*\*July 28—Lenore Heckart

Flowers: Mary Collins

## **LUTHERAN WEEK 2019 - Indianapolis, IN**

**August 5 - August 9**

Theme: ***Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit***

***Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium***: August 5, 9:00 am to August 6, noon

***Women of the NALC Annual Gathering***: August 6, 9:00 am to 5:00 am

***Carl E. Braaten***: Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology: August 6, 1:00 pm to August 7, 11:30 am

***Mission Festival & Convocation***: August 7, 1:30 pm to 9:00 pm; August 8, 8:00 am to August 9, 5:00 pm

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh . . . . The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5

# STEWARDS OF GOD'S INFLUENCE



**TIME**  
**TALENTS**  
**TREASURE**  
**TESTIMONY**



Iowa Mission District Invites You to Attend:

The NALC's Living and Giving Stewardship Team  
presents ***Stewards of God's Influence***

**Saturday, September 28, 9-12:30**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church, Laurens, Iowa**

**Saturday, October 5, 9-12:30**  
**First Lutheran Church, Manchester, Iowa**

## AGENDA

- |         |                                                                                                    |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | Devotion and Opening Prayer                                                                        |
| 9:10    | Biblical Emphasis and Year-Round Stewardship<br><i>Implementing Annual "Every Member Response"</i> |
| 10:30   | Break                                                                                              |
| 10:45   | Financial Peace University: An Introduction<br>The Rev. Tony Ede, First Lutheran, Manchester       |
| 12:00   | Leaving a Legacy of Gifts<br>The Rev. Ron Voss, Servants of Christ Lutheran, Robins                |
| 12:30   | Wrap-up & Closing Prayer                                                                           |