

THE SERVANT

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

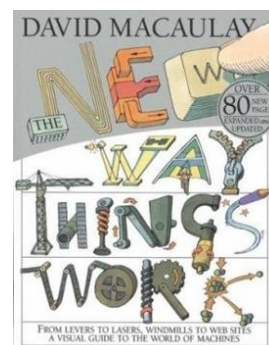
Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ronald Voss, Pastor cell: 563-206-4611; land: 563-682-7359

*****July 2021

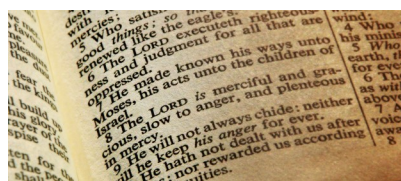
The Way The Bible Works

Dear Servants of the Christ,

Last winter my wife ordered a used copy of the book, “The New-Way Things Work.” She had read about this book and thought it would be interesting. Both of us are in the process of reading about various inventions (there’s a lot there!). Topics include the grand piano; manual typewriter; twin-rotor helicopter; self-winding watch; remote control; sewing machine; the zipper; toilet tank and the list goes on and on. Thousands of things that we use, some of which we use daily. Yet we do not give them a passing thought. But the impact on our lives is huge (the toilet tank alone is a mechanism we do not want to do without).



How Things Work is a phrase that can be applied to the Word of God, the Bible. From beginning to end, the story of God’s plan and love for His people tell us how things work, how they should work, what happens when they don’t work. And just as any invention involves instructions about what it does and how it should work and how to “assemble” the item, so the Bible gives us a “blueprint” of what we need, how things work, what are the results when we “follow directions.” I see three “biggies.”



How Things Work: the Bible calls us to **REMEMBER**.

It begins in Genesis when God tells Noah that the rainbow will help him **REMEMBER** the covenant God made with the people of the earth. The Psalms repeatedly proclaim, “God will (has) **REMEMBERED** His covenant with Abraham.” Upon entering the promised land, Joshua pauses the Israelites and says, “**REMEMBER**, God promised to bring you to a land flowing with mild and honey.” When the people sinned and turned from God, the prophets were sent to proclaim, “**REMEMBER** the Lord from afar, and let Jerusalem come to your mind.” And some of the final words of Jesus to His disciples told them, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your **REMEMBRANCE** all that I said to you.” (next pg.)

Things “work” in our lives when we **REMEMBER** Who God is, what He has done, what He has promised. Read the Bible; that’s how things work!!!!

How Things Work: the Bible calls us to be RENEWED. Renewal: We face the need for this every day. You’ve been working in the garden or mowing the lawn. You are hot, drained, limp. Then you drink that cold glass of water. You are hydrated and renewed. You’ve been working for six hours straight; no break. And now, no energy. You comment that you “are done for the day.” Then you sit down to a good meal and, voila. You are renewed to work a couple more hours. Or think of how a good night’s sleep renews you for another day. We have all experienced these “renewals.” Our lives “work” when we are **RENEWED** by the Word of God; that *is* just how things work! King David knew this. Psalm 51 says, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **RENEW** a right spirit within me.” St. Paul reiterates this thought in Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the **RENEWAL** of your mind.” Call it a second chance, call it a lift in spirits, call it re-energized, call it re-focusing on what is important and productive. That **RENEWAL** only comes through God’s Word, so Read the Bible; that’s how things work!!!!



How Things Work: the Bible calls us to REJOICE. A month ago America celebrated Memorial Day. Either in person or watching the news on television, I saw more rejoicing and joy than I had seen in over a year. Whether sitting at a restaurant, lounging on a beach or riding a bike, whether picnicking with friends or visiting relatives, America was REJOICING at being outside, attending events, being with others, not wearing a mask!!! But note: the rejoicing was based on being able to do what you want; on positive circumstances, on freedom from limitations. And there is nothing wrong with that. But how things work for Christians is that **REJOICING** is not based on positive circumstances—though those certainly occur— but on a positive relationship with our Creator. **REJOICING** comes from knowing “the Lord is my Shepherd; I



shall not want.” In fact, **REJOICING** often takes place in the midst of suffering. Again from St. Paul in Romans 5, “We **REJOICE** in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope . . .” Acts 16 records that when Paul and Silas were in prison, they started singing songs of praise at midnight! **REJOICING!** How does life work for a Christian? By **REJOICING**, and we learn how by reading the Bible!!!

I’ll be glad to let you borrow my book on “How Things Work.” It really is interesting. But if you want your life to work, just open your Bible and read. **REMEMBER**, be **RENEWED**, and **REJOICE**. It really does work!!!

In Christ’s renewing love,

Ron

Mission Giving for July

NALC General Fund: \$667 (2021 support for this outreach is \$8,000)

NALC Seminary: \$1,000 (our total 2021 seminary support goal is \$5,000.00.)

Our 2021 Mission Spending Plan has been expanded to \$24,550, a \$10,000 increase from 2020.

Remember in
prayer our mis-
sionaries in
Madagascar Tsa-
ramana Daniel
and Fagnaky
Josoa Omena.

The NALC 2020 Vision: a 10-Point Plan

The NALC is a mission-
minded, mission commit-
ted church.

The following represents a 2020 Vision for the North American Lutheran Church. The development of this Vision has included input from NALC Staff, Executive Council, Mission District Deans, the NALS President and Board of Regents, and other appropriate parties. This was approved by the NALC Convocation this past August.

This plan supports the Four Core Values of the NALC. It also represents the commitments we are striving to accomplish withing the nest four years. By the year 2023, we see . . .

7. A Church body that takes advantage of the latest advances in Technology and Communications to provide Congregational support, and to serve the Mission Outreach, Ministry Development, and overall Communication efforts with the NALC. Review what is

currently being done; prioritize the next steps to increase use of technology; develop a strategy and work with appropriate people to implement steps to reach our goals.

The Book of Esther

Study continues in July

An intensely personal look at God's providence in difficult circumstances, this study will take us through the often overlooked book of Esther to make sense of God's silence. The author discusses the uncommon features of this fascinating Old Testament book and how they apply to our lives. First, Esther makes no mention of God; second, the book makes no reference to miracles of God. And yet the events recorded there can only be attributed to God, and the books outcome is clearly miraculous.



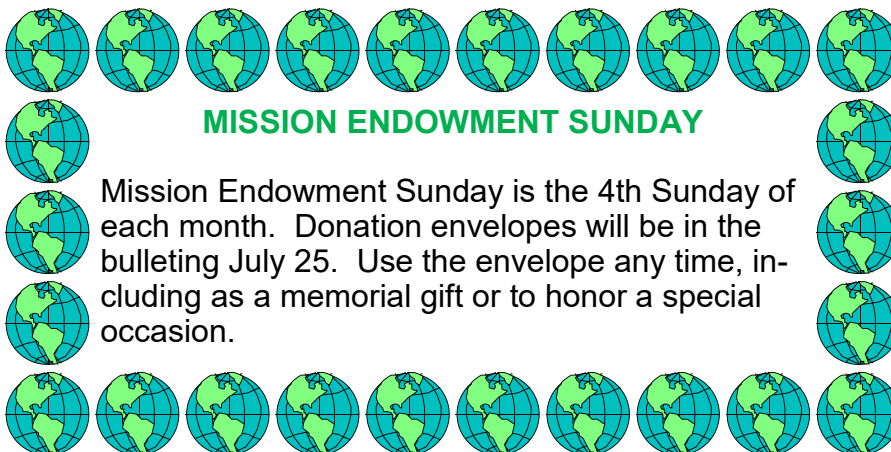
Plan to attend and marvel how God ordinarily works in our daily circumstances

MISSION

There is a new, free, online magazine called *Celebrating Global Mission*. Four excellent Lutheran mission ministries write the articles and offer guidance in how to make global mission a greater priority in your life and the life of your church. Check it out at www.cgmmag.com.

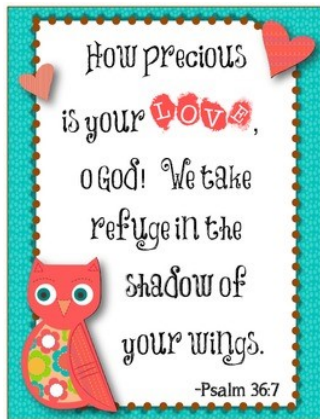


Connections magazine will be sent to anyone who desires a subscription. This magazine is informative and uplifting. Let Ron know of your interest.



This newsletter page is about mission—spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. That happens when we invite locally, when we pray, when we give. Mission and Money are partners. Invite frequently, pray constantly, give generously.





July Servants

Greeter/Usher: Richard Drake
Communion Assistant:
Cliff Waugh

Snacks:

** July 4—Linda Drake
** July 11—LeDonna Retzlaff
** July 19—Lenore Heckart
** July—Ron Voss

Flowers: Mary Collins



We are thankful to the city of Robins which continues to allow us to worship and study in its community room. Servants of Christ has rented this facility for a number of years. Lori Pickart, the city clerk, has been very helpful and supportive of our ministry.



**J
O
Y**

We need to remember the meaning of joy. It isn't a goal or an achievement. We don't invite people to our house by saying, "Come on over; we're grilling hamburgers. Get ready to make some joy." No, joy is a gift. It is a fact, not just a feeling. And joy has one source and one source only: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "I have told you these things so that My **joy** may be **in you** and your joy may be **complete**." John 15:11

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.

