
❖ NewsNotes ❖

July 2017

Vol. 119 Issue 7

Are mortals worth it?

Our Lord never hesitated to pay the price

By Rev. Jeff Zell

It costs what? Usually, that question accompanies a certain incredulous tone and sharp intake of breath. It can't cost that much, can it? We can hardly believe our eyes as we gaze again at the price of the newest and best cell phone, vehicle, house, vacation package, etc. What is it worth? We have to decide: is it really worth the money? And, when we play let's make a deal with the salesperson and come far short of our goal, we have

RLA workday chosen For 'God's Work/ Our Hands' project

In keeping with our shared ministry agreement, Gloria Dei and First English will join forces on Sunday, Sept. 10, to again

participate in God's Work/Our Hand, a nationwide day of service sponsored by the ELCA.



This year's project will be a work day at Resurrection Lutheran Academy, under the direction of Principal Michelle Megyese. Tasks may involve painting, cleaning, window washing, minor repairs and other chores, as the school ma'rm directs.

In order to plan the afternoon effectively, please let the church office or pastor know ASAP of your availability and willingness that day.

All supplies will be furnished, so all that is needed are your hands to do God's work.

to figure out how long is it going to take to pay this off. Is it worth it?

When the Son of God, the eternal Word, was getting ready to become incarnate as Jesus, I wonder if he ever wondered if we were worth it? When Jesus was repeating himself again and again to his well meaning, but confused audience and companions, I wonder if he ever wondered if we were worth it? As Jesus was dying on the cross, and he saw most of his disciples hiding in the distance and heard the mocking of those who wanted him dead, did he wonder if we were worth it?

It would have been much easier to just set a monetary price and be done with it. Surely, sin, death and the devil each has its own monetary price. Unfortunately, the unpleasant trinity of sin, death, and the devil are not content with mere coins. Money is nothing when a life is on the line. They want what truly matters: life. They want our eternal souls. They want

us all to themselves and have no interest whatsoever in sharing with God.

Jesus is filled with all wisdom. Before he became human, he knew our limitations. He was going to have to save us himself by allowing sin, death, and the devil to have their wicked ways with him in our behalf.

In allowing himself to be sacrificed on the cross for our sakes, Jesus did what silver and gold cannot do. He saved us with his life: His life for our lives. In his explanation of the second article of the Apostles Creed, Luther says this of Jesus. *"He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death."*

Are we worth it? We must be because he could have stopped at any time. He could have called down the angels to rescue him or he could have cut a deal

(Continued on page 5)

Annual I-K synod assembly active and involving: Shenemans' report

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gloria and John Sheneman were our voting delegates to the 30th annual assembly of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, June 1-3 in Covington, Ky. The following is their report from the hectic three-day event.

—
"Formed, Reformed, Transformed."

That was the theme for the 30th annual I-K Synod Assembly, in keeping with the commemoration of the 500th year anniversary of the church reformation.

In business, some changes were made

to the Synod constitution, in keeping with the changes that occurred at the Church Wide Assembly in 2016. There it was decided that Ordained ministers are now Rostered Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Deacons/Deaconesses, Associates in Ministry and Diaconal Ministers are now Rostered Ministers of Word and Service.

A resolution was passed in support of the work of welcoming refugees from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee

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In the 'real' story of Creationism, did mankind draw the short straw?

PASTOR'S NOTE: The following was shared at the Wednesday Bible class. e all got a chuckle out of it. We reprint it with the written permission from *Old Tennessee Valley Magazine & Mercantile Advertiser: History, Humor, and Tall Tales of the Tennessee Valley* (www.oldtennesseevalley.com).

Creationism:
 God created the mule, and told him, "You will be mule, working constantly from dawn to dusk, carrying heavy loads on your back. You will eat grass and lack intelligence. You will live 50 years."

The mule answered, "To live like this for 50 years is too much. Please, give me no more than 20 years."

And it was so.

Then God created the dog, and told him, "You will hold vigilance over the dwellings of man, to whom you will be his greatest companion. You will eat his table scraps and live for 25 years."

And the dog responded, "Lord, to live 25 years as a dog is too much. Please, no more than 10 years."

And it was so.



God then created the monkey, and told him, "You are monkey. You shall swing from tree to tree, acting like an idiot. You will be funny, and you shall live for 20 years."

And the monkey responded, "Lord, to live 20 years as the clown of the world is too much. Please, Lord, give me no more than 10 years."


And it was so.

Finally, God created man and told him, "You are man, the only rational being that walks on the Earth. You will use your intelligence to have mastery

Those who have asked for our prayers include

Sara & Lorraine Doolittle, Al Saari (Darlene Scherer's brother-in-law), Judithellen Larson, Jordan Cone, Ken, David Post, Douglas Sorocco, John Sheneman, Lucille DeRoche, Cheryl Barker (Joan Forslnd's sister), our shut-ins.





BUILDING ON FAITH REPORT
 To May 31, 2017

YEAR TO DATE

Receipts for May	\$2,013
Mortgage paid for June	2,379
Loan principal on June 1	70,993
Mutual Bank balance on June 1	15,790
Total paid from scrip sales	56,200

At present, 87% of each payment reduces the principal. Current interest rate is 4.95 percent. Mortgage termination date is June 2020. Thirty-six payments remain. Pledges totaling \$150,543 were received in a 2014 fund drive. Congregation should continue making regular contributions and purchasing scrip.

*Report prepared
 By Dan Lindborg
 June 13, 2017*

over the creatures of the world. You will dominate the Earth and live for 20 years."

And the man responded, "Lord, to be man for only 20 years is too little. Please Lord, give me the 30 years the mule refused, the 15 years the dog refused, and the 10 years the monkey rejected."

And it was so.

And so God made man to live 20 years as a man, then marry and live 30 years like a mule working and carrying heavy loads on his back. He is to have children and live 15 years as a dog, guarding his house and eating the leftovers after they empty the pantry. Then, in his old age, to live 10 years as a monkey, acting like an idiot to amuse his grandchildren."

Stephen Ministry study, holiday beckon Pastor Zell

Pastor Zell will be away on holiday July 10 -24 and away on continuing education leave July 25-Aug. 7.

His continuing education will focus on Stephen Ministry and culminate in a weeklong seminar in Pittsburg, PA in order to become a Stephen Minister.


You can learn about Stephen Ministry at <http://stephenministries.org/>



July



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 5:30 p.m. Said
2 Pentecost V	3	4 Office closed, Independence Day, 	5 10 a.m. Bible Study	6	7 Zeller Rehearsal for Prayer and Blessing after a Civil Marriage, 5 p.m.	8 5:30 p.m. Said 3:30 p.m. Zeller Prayer and Blessing after a Civil Marriage
9 Pentecost VI	10	11 Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15 5:30 p.m. Said Rev. Dr. Max Johnson
16 Pentecost VII Rev. Dr. Max Johnson	17	18	19	20	21	22 5:30 p.m. Said Rev. Terri Peterson
23 Pentecost VIII Rev. Dr. Max Johnson SOCIAL MINISTRY	24	25	26 NN Deadline	27	28	29 5:30 p.m. Said Rev. Terri Peterson
30 Pentecost VIX Rev. Terri Peterson	31	Aug. 1 NN Mailed	<p><i>Every Summer Sunday at Gloria Dei:</i> 5:30 p.m. Saturday, said; 10:30 a.m. Sung Liturgy; Coffee Hour follows.</p>			

July Ministry Schedule

	July 1-2 Pentecost IV 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.	July 8-9 Pentecost V 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.	July 15-16 Pentecost VI 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.	July 22-23 Pentecost VII 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.	July 29-30 Pentecost VIII 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.
Liturgical Assistant	5:30 Ginny Brummitt 10:30 Dan Lindborg	5:30 Brian Saine 10:30 John Miller	5:30 Patty Carr 10:30 Karen Siderits	5:30 Brian Saine 10:30 Leslie Miller	5:30 Patty Carr 10:30 Dan Lindborg
Servers	Thomas Zell Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller	Thomas Zell Liam Boyd	Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek	Liam Boyd Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller	Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek
Lector	5:30 Patty Carr 10:30 Darlene Scherer	5:30 Ginny Brummitt 10:30 Patty Golichowski	5:30 Jim Carr 10:30 John Miller	5:30 Ginny Brummitt 10:30 Jean Petersburg	5:30 Jim Carr 10:30 Patty Golichowski
Communion Assistant	Mary Ann Sorocco	Dolores Miller	Michelle Megyese	Melinda Foley	Don Holmberg
Greeters	Carol & Bob Larson	Dorothy Anderson, Jean Petersburg	Dolores & John Miller	Darlene & Paul Scherer	Dorothy Anderson, Jean Petersburg
Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp	F: Lucille DeRoche Birthday L: Open	F: Libby Yahle and Amy Yahle Birthdays L: Open	F: Jim Carr Birthday L: Open	F: Open L: Open	F: Open L: Open
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski	Phyllis Thompson, Lindy Dreher

Ushers: Harvey Holmes, Stephen Saine, Russ Buysse.

Counters: July 2: Sorocco and B. Saine; July 9: Lindborg and Fortson; July 16: Forslund and Taylor; July 23: Miller and C. Saine; July 30: Suter

Ushers scheduled by Russ Buysse, counters by finance committee;
Altar Guild by Patty Carr, all others by Jack Seifer (mlkusa@sbcglobal.net)

Communion ministry training Sept. 17

Is God calling you to serve as a Holy Communion Minister?

On Sept. 17 from 5-6 p.m., Pastor Zell will lead a training session for those who are called to this ministry.

The time commitment will be one Sunday a month between 15-45 minutes to bring communion to someone who is not able to come to church. Please speak with Pastor Zell if you are interested in serving.

Worth the price?

(Continued from page 1)

with the unholy trinity. Or, he could have said, "good riddance, let's make another batch Father and Holy Spirit!" But, he didn't do any of that. Jesus wants us with him now and for eternity. Luther continues, "*He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.*"

We are grateful that God has decided that we are worth it.

At deadline ...

John Sheneman is at home following knee replacement surgery and "doing great." Pastor Zell visited him on his return from Lutherwald, and John reported he will enjoy "the ministrations of Gloria, home therapists, and other care professionals."

David Holmberg, brother of Donald, died unexpectedly in late June in Vietnam, where he had been living. Plans for a stateside memorial service were pending at deadline.

Former member Judy Kepner died June 22 after an extended illness. Judy, Paul and family were faithful and active Gloria Dei members for many years before moving to Kokomo. Funeral details will be in next month's NewsNotes.

"Rest eternal grant David and Judy and may light perpetual shine upon them."

Next Hope meal July 27: Volunteers?

Your Social Ministry committee is hard at work planning the July 27 meal at Hope Ministries, and as always, they can't do it without your help, fellow members.

Gloria Dei has volunteered to coordinate five evening meals each year, and the number of guests serves averages 150, including men and women of all ages and ethnicity, single mothers with young children and families. No one leaves a Hope meal hungry!



Synod report

(Continued from page 1)

Services. It requests the synodical bishop to communicate our concerns to our federal, state and local elected officials. It also invokes prayer for the displaced and refugees around the world, and gives thanks for the gifts refugees bring to our communities. Another resolution was passed so that now each ministerium will have a Dean and Chaplain, both of which are appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Synod Council.

Elections and other business brought before the assembly was for the most part very routine and uneventful.

The keynote speakers, Beth Lewis on Friday and her husband Dr. Richard Rouse on Saturday, were both very inspirational. Both addressed the issue of the church need, for survival, to reach out to community and beyond. Beth was very encouraging with tales of small churches, right here in the I-K Synod, and the difference they are making in their communities. In our opinion, Gloria Dei can be proud of what we do.

We attended two breakout sessions, one Friday morning, the other Friday afternoon. The one, titled Connect, involves four lay people plus the pastor in a two-year process of congregational renewal. Because this

The menu for July will feature hot dogs (a summer specialty), baked beans, fresh vegetables and dip, a fruit and—of course, dessert. Several First English members are helping in July, and both congregations will be asked to contribute a vegetable plate (carrot and celery sticks, green pepper slices, and radishes) or your favorite cookie or brownie recipe (the end product, please, not merely the recipe).

The committee is always looking for persons who are available to help serve the meal. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

involves commitment of a team, it should be brought before the council for any consideration and deliberation.



There was a Fair Trade booth, with an opportunity to buy goods from village families and support the dignity of their labor. We were able to purchase two lovely gifts for family members. A supporting document is posted on the bulletin board in the

Fellowship Hall.

A small surprise that turned out to be pleasant was a venue on Friday evening of "Beer and Hymns." Beer, wine, soft drinks and bottled water were offered and a small band played a selection of various hymns for one hour.

One of the joys of attending a Synod Assembly is the opportunity to meet again old friends and acquaintances. We saw again two of Gloria's traveling companions from when she went on a missionary trip to Indonesia.

It has been an honor to represent Gloria Dei at the Assembly. We encountered many kind incidents of compassion and help as people stepped forward to help us as they saw a need.

We want to thank again Pastor Zell for all his help, it made the trip that much easier. We thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
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NewsNotes

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Rev. Jeff Zell, pastor
Hours by appointment
Jeff.Zell@yahoo.com

Dolores Miller, office administrator

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Dolores is off on Wednesday.
Office phone: (574) 288-5266

www.gloriadei-in.org

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Please submit information for the weekly bulletin in writing by noon each Wednesday.

NewsNotes Editor: John Miller
e-mail: jdmiller10@hotmail.com



Please notify the church office if a special occasion is missed

Those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries in July include...

July Birthdays

Elizabeth O'Connor	July 2	Evelyn Sult	July 10
Carol Bradley	July 4	Libby Yahle	July 15
John Rhodes	July 8	Jim Carr	July 16
Lucille DeRoche	July 8	Brenda Overton	July 16
Ashley Ulbricht	July 9	Peggy Niedbalski	July 29
Amanda Megyese	July 9		

July Anniversaries

Michelle and Steve Megyese July 7