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Notes from the Bishop

“God’s work; our hands.” This catchy phrase has been the tagline for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for many years now, expressing the idea that our faith is lived out in active service to our neighbor, and we do this in an active collaboration with God. We organize an annual day of service on the second Sunday of September each year, “God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday,” kicking off the fall programming season with a flurry of concrete actions to love and serve our neighbor.

This phrase has also been adopted by one of our companion synods, the Diocese of Meru in Tanzania, at the direction of their bishop, Elias Kitoi Nasari, who served as a pastor in our synod for 13 years. It will serve as the theme of their upcoming Diocesan Assembly, August 18-21, and they have invited me to be the keynote speaker. I was planning to attend their assembly in August of 2020, but the pandemic had other ideas, and I am looking forward to my time with them next month.

As I reflect on this phrase and how I might begin to explore it with our Tanzanian partners, I must admit there are times when it all feels overwhelming. For starters, do we even agree on what God’s work is? Every week, we pray for God’s kingdom to come and God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, but would we even recognize that if it came to pass? We seem to have such starkly differing views on how to organize our congregations and our communities to respond to the various challenges of this age: our struggling economy, the ongoing plague of gun violence, the debate over the role of government in striking a balance between individual rights and care for vulnerable members of our society, the uncertain futures facing many of our congregations and faith communities, the call to protect our fragile environment, and so much more.

Furthermore, when I look at the enormity and complexity of the work before us, and I then look at the hands God has given me, they look so small. Whether I clasp my hands together in prayer, or pick up the tools available to me to chip away at the work before us, or join hands with those around me that we might move forward together, it all seems like more than I or we can handle.

In times like these, my thoughts often return to a poem I heard many years ago, when I was a college student. Written by a Polish poet, Czeslaw Milosz, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1980, it is titled “On Angels.” He describes

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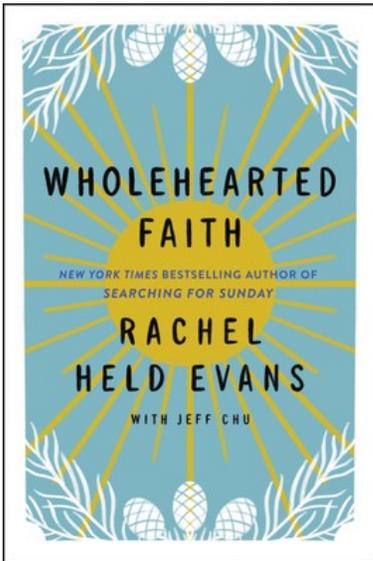
the debate over angels' existence, and finally cites a voice that he hears as "valid proof" that angels indeed exist. The poem concludes,

*I have heard that voice many a time when asleep
and, what is strange, I understood more or less
and order or an appeal in an unearthly tongue:
day draws near
another one
do what you can.*

The road is long, the work is huge, and none of us can complete it on our own. But we can all do something, and God invites us and empowers us to do what we can to chip away at the walls of oppression, division, and injustice, that we might fashion together a world of mercy, reconciliation, and hope.

In Christ,
Bishop Paul Erickson

Read the full poem at <https://tinyurl.com/mvbkxs84>



Monday Morning Bible/Book Study Presents... Wholehearted Faith

"I've come to believe that wholehearted faith isn't just about coming to terms with the heart that beats inside me. Wholeheartedness is about seeing and comprehending my place in a bigger family of faith. It is about risking hurt and confusion for the sake of the thing that so many of us seek: belonging."

Rachel Held Evans

From the front cover: Rachel Held Evans is widely recognized for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books, which have guided, instructed, edified, and shaped Christians as they seek to live out a just and loving faith.

At the time of her tragic death in 2019, Rachel was working on a new book about wholeheartedness. With the help of her close friend and author Jeff Chu, that work-in-progress has been woven together with some of her other unpublished writings into a rich collection of essays that ask candid questions about the stories we've been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.

This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging. An unforgettable, moving, and intimate book.

Please join us for this study beginning Monday, September 12th at 10:00AM. If you need a book, please sign up in the church office by Sunday, August 21 - the cost of the book is \$20 (please make checks out to HCLC). If you have any questions, please see Pastor Laura.



The Children's Chalice



Holy Communion Lutheran Church August, 2022

HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY to the following children
who were baptized during the month of August:

Asia Doidge	Sawyer Krenzke
Jordan Doidge	Reagan Larson
Finley Godson	Phoebe Pfarr

Third Tuesday Bible Study

Our study of the Gospel of Mark will begin on page 41 of William Barclay's New Study Bible. "A Private Miracle" (Mark 1:29-31) is the first miracle recorded in Mark. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law in the privacy of their home. That private act was soon followed with "The Beginning Of the Crowds" (Mark 1:32-34). After praying about it, Jesus left Capernaum and went all over Galilee teaching in the synagogues and performing miracles (Mark 1:35-45). "Your sins are forgiven," and Jesus heals the lame man lowered into the house (page 52 "A Faith That Would Not Be Denied"). Even today many people believe that if someone is suffering they must have sinned. Our discussion will continue to page 55.

The study of Mark will be in William Barclay pages 41-55, Mark 1:29 to 2:6. We meet in Julie Burton's home, 136 Steeplechase Drive, on Tuesday, August 16, from 10:00 to 11:30.



For our August meeting we will be reading for discussion, The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn. We will be meeting on August 10th at 10:00-11:30 at Julie Burton's home, 136 Steeplechase Drive.

This book is based on a true story. Mila Pavlichenko is a bookish history student with a young son, when her life is turned around by Hitler's invasion of Russia. Given a rifle, she is transformed into a lethal hunter known as Lady Death. When news of her 300th kill makes her a national heroine, she is sent on a goodwill tour to America. Mila finds herself isolated and lonely. When an unexpected friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt offers the possibility of happiness.

However when an old enemy shows up, Lady Death finds herself battling her own demons and enemy bullets. What happens changes the course of history forever.

If you are interested in joining the discussion, please email Julie jaburton5914@gmail.com or call her at 262-639-5914.

Quilting Group

The Quilting Group meets at 1:15 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome to join them, even if you have no prior quilting experience, and they would love to have more help. If you have gently used full, queen or king size flat sheets that you no longer need, the quilters can use them for quilt backs. You can drop them off in the back of the church on Sunday morning or in the church office. Call Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527, if you have any questions.

Council Update

Both Pastor Mark and Pastor Laura will be working with all the ministry teams to plan events for the coming year. We need to be together again and welcome people in all formats that they are choosing.

Property Team will be headed by Dave Knudson and Jim Black. There are many items already on the list to accomplish. They will meet with Mike Irish and start to compile some jobs.

Hospitality Team would like to encourage all members to greet visitors when you see them. Or please alert one of the pastors.

Worship and Music is working on finding a date to have caroling with our at home members.

We are interested in sponsoring a mural for the Uptown area. Lynn will contact them to say we can go forward with some plans.

Refugee Report

July, 2022

A big thank you goes out to Gregg and Kylee Albright, Mary Beth and Harry Huizinga and Ann Heide for recently helping in dozens of ways with our Afghan refugees. Since joining us in February, two of our three former Afghan soldiers have moved to be with family/friends in other states. All three appreciated the comfortable furnished apartment and early help members of Holy Communion provided. One Afghan man is still getting our help with food, housing, transportation to work, health care, language lessons and study for his driver's license test. All three still have wives and young children back in Afghanistan. Some of us have also been able to help St. Mesrob church with the challenges they are facing with their Afghan refugee family. Anyone who wants to volunteer or anyone with questions (Lutheran Social Services does not allow us to publish their names or more details) please call Jeri Smith at 262-637-9001 or John Lehman at 262-880-3508.



For the month of August the pantry is asking for donations of:

- jelly (greatly needed!)
- instant potatoes
- pancake mix
- saltines
- cream of chicken soup
- bar soap

A huge thank you to Jamie Burch for holding a fabric sale and donating the proceeds to the food pantry!

The pantry would also like to thank the congregation for purchasing a three door refrigeration unit for the pantry. It is something we have needed for a long time and it will be put to good use.

As always we are very grateful to all who contribute money and food and those who volunteer their time. We could not continue this ministry without you!

Is Your Contact Information Up To Date?

Please remember to contact the church office when your phone number, address, or email address changes. When the new directories are mailed out please check your entry and if any of the information is outdated or incorrect call or email the church office. Thank you!

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 1:00 Food Pantry	2		3	4	5 1:00 Food Pantry	6
7 <i>Setting 3</i> 9:30 Worship	8 1:00 Food Pantry	9		10 10:00 Book Club	11	12 1:00 Food Pantry	13
14 <i>We Are Called</i> 9:30 Worship	15 1:00 Food Pantry	16 10:00 Third Tues. Bible Study		17	18	19 1:00 Food Pantry	20
21 <i>Setting 8</i> 9:30 Worship	22 1:00 Food Pantry	23		24	25	26 1:00 Food Pantry	27
28 <i>O the Joy</i> 9:30 Worship	29 1:00 Food Pantry	30		31			

August Volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers who help keep worship services running smoothly. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, lector, communion assistant, AV technician, usher, or altar guild volunteer, please talk to one of the pastors or call the church office at 262-632-8802.

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Greeter	Lori Neu	Jo Nissen	Roger Degerman	Jo Nissen
Lector	Jim Carlson	Roger Degerman	Laurel Knudson	Steve Barootian
Communion Asst.	Joleen Carlson	Jim Black	Patrick BeBow	Steve Barootian
AV Technicians	Barb Salvo	Kylee Albright Barb Salvo	Todd Jansen Barb Salvo	Lynn Helmke Barb Salvo
Ushers	Dave Barlament, Jim Buhler, Tim Krikau, Gary Wee			
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner, Barb Salvo			

August Altar Flowers

August 7 - In memory of Cornelius & Mariane Vander Brug given by Jill Vander Brug

August 14 - In loving memory of their parents, Herb & Florence Weber and Bill & Elaine Lequia, given by Gary and Denise Lequia

August 21 - In honor of Mya Lequia's and Luke Lequia's baptisms and in memory of Mya's godmother, Jacque Nielsen, given with love by Lisa Lequia.

August 28 - Given by David & Polly Timmerman

Finance Update

	<u>June</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue:	\$35,359.93	Revenue:	\$248,703.49
Expenses:	\$44,620.34	Expenses:	\$276,212.96
Net Income:	(\$9,260.41)	Net Income:	(\$27,509.67)

The Chalice August, 2022

The Chalice is a publication of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for in-person or live-streamed worship services. Our live-stream can be found on the HCLC Facebook page and the videos remain online to view later. Please call or email the office if you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our email list to receive the weekly bulletin and hymns.

Contact Information

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