**Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church LC-MS**

Monthly Newsletter --- September 2022

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

Phone: 724.347.3620 (Opt. 2, Pastor Deal; Opt. 3, Office)

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“THE ROCK and THE SWORD”

“Built upon the Rock of Christ and wielding the

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.”

**Guest Article:**

***“Service in the Church”***

***~Rev. Arthur Baisch, Pastor Emeritus***

Having been asked by Pastor Deal to write a brief article for the September newsletter, I spent a good deal of time trying to decide on which subject to write, and finally settled on “Service in the Church.” After some on-line research, and upon careful examination of the Scriptures, it seems to me that every Christian ought to be in service to the Church, serving both our Lord, and our fellow believers, in the body of Christ. The apostle Peter, in writing to the early church, said: *“Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace . . . with the strength that God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen”* (1 Peter 4:10, 11). Thus, an important step in determining how best to serve in the church is to determine what gifts God has given us. Fortunately, we need not necessarily know what our gift or gifts may be before we start to get involved. In fact, often we may discover out gift or gifts in the process of our service.

There is a difference between the Body of Christ universal, the Church throughout the world, and our own local church or congregation, that is, Christians who attend corporate worship. But there is no difference in how we, as Christians, ought to use our gifts, because serving God is a 24/7/365 proposition, not a Sunday AM only enterprise. All Christians everywhere should be serving God in their local congregations, and also looking for opportunities for service outside the walls of their church buildings. It may be difficult to discover which particular gifts God has granted you, yet it is important that each of us serve. Often, the more we get involved, the more our gifts come to the fore; as we serve in various capacities, we come to learn what we are good at, and what it is that we have a desire for.

There are always more needs than there are willing workers; this was true in the early church and is still true in our day. It is never a problem to find a need in the local church; from outreach to cleaning the bathrooms, there is always work to be done. It is good to ask those who lead in your church what needs there may be in the congregation. Speak with your pastor, or an elder, or one of the officers about what needs there are, and how you may, or may not, be suited for one or another of them.

Anyone who is a member of a church ought to at least consider serving in some way. And every servant of our Lord should remember that service is more than just serving others, it’s loving them, i.e., fulfilling the second table of the Law: *“Serve one another humbly in love.”* (Galatians 5:13) Christians may busy themselves in various tasks of service, yet endless performing, without love for our neighbor, is meaningless (1 Cor. 13:1-3). As we go about serving God and our neighbor, may we do so with a humble spirit and love for our fellow man (Phil. 2:1-4).

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**Church Office Hours for September**

All church offices will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 5th. The secretary’s office will be open the following day, Tuesday, September 6th (8:30-noon), Wednesday, September 7 (noon-4:30) and the remaining Mondays and Thursdays of the month from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Please call ahead if needing someone to let you in to the church in case the schedule changes.

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**Thank You for Serving in September:**

**Head Elder:** Jonathan Baisch

**Assisting Elder:** Barry Nelson

**Altarware:** (Before service) Diane Riefstahl & Marie Flaugher (09.25); (After service) Hank Holcroft & Ruth Meszaros

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 08.21.2022 $169,320 (84.66%)

Orange: Remaining

$30,680(15.34%)

**Total Contributions**

**as of 08.21.2022: $129,770**

**(64.89%)**

**Previous: $128,470 (64.24%)**

**New: $1,300 (0.65%)**

**Remaining: $71,530 (35.11%)**

**It’s not too late to submit a Capital Campaign pledge card!** Pledge cards are available on the table outside Pastor’s office. If circumstances have changed and you need to update your pledge card, please see Nancy Robertson. Updated pledges help our Trustees plan more effectively and efficiently.

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Submissions for the October issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter are due to the secretary’s office Monday, September 19th at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

**FOOD PANTRY DOUBLY BLESSED**

At the end of July, our Food Pantry was awarded a grant in the amount of $3,086.00 from the Community Action Partnership of Mercer County. A proposal for renovations of the Food Pantry facilities was submitted with the help of volunteer Jeff Sutton earlier in the summer and approved by the organization.

Mid-August, the old cupboards were torn out of the Food Pantry “kitchen” and will soon be replaced. The money received will also go towards the purchase of a new freezer and rolling cart as well as the replacement of the Food Pantry sink.

On August 22nd, Terry Day presented our Food Pantry with a $1000.00 donation on behalf of the employees at NLMK. NLMK employees have an opportunity to participate in a monthly 50/50 drawing with the profits donated to local non-profit organizations. Sts. Peter & Paul’s Food Pantry has been blessed to receive $8410.00 over the past few years.

The grant through the Community Action Partnership of Mercer County and the generous donation received from the employees of NLMK will go a long way to help our Food Pantry assist those in need. We have, indeed, been doubly blessed.

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**Monday, September 5, 2022**

***Church offices will be closed.***

**TRUSTEES’ UPDATE**

**By Mike Flaugher, Chairman**

The trustees have been busy crossing items off their “to do” list. Several projects have been completed and work is progressing towards the completion of others.

The following highlights some of the work undertaken:

* *Mold remediation in attic:*  The Pittsburgh company's quote is in. Another company will be quoting at the end of August.
* *Fellowship Hall floor*: Stripping and waxing of the floor is complete.
* *Parking lot*: The parking lot asphalt sealing and line painting is done.
* *Fellowship Hall Usage:* Penn-Ohio Singers will be using the Fellowship Hall Tuesday evenings.
* *Water pressure issues:* The water pressure issues seem to be corrected. The hot water circulating pump was replaced and that seemed to help with hot water moving through the pipes faster.
* *Landscaping quote:* The landscaping quote is in. Trustees reviewed the quote at their recent meeting and it was felt some work could be done in-house with only the north wall of the church needing done by an outside service.
* *Food Pantry kitchen:* The old kitchen has had the cabinets removed to make way for the new food pantry shelving.

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**ADDRESS UP-DATE:** Please update the following in your Membership Directory:

April M. Bosnjak, 2118 Paul St., Hermitage, PA 16148.

**REMINDER:** Please let the church office know of any changes to your address, phone, cell phone or your e-mail address!

**CELEBRATING IN SEPTEMBER!**

**Birthdays**

Christine Hamilton 9- 4

Michael A. Petro 9- 5

Max Jelinek 9- 7

Linda Tomko 9- 8

Susan Daris 9- 9

Ruth Meszaros 9- 9

Dolores Fee 9-14

Austin Hamilton 9-20

Cathy Smith 9-20

Matt Berent 9-22

Karen Psznick 9-24

**Anniversaries**

Ernest & Ruth Meszaros 9-3

Shawn & Staci Taylor 9-28

\*If birthdays or anniversaries have been omitted, please let the church office know. Thank You!

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**Homebound Members & Friends**

***Please keep the following in your prayers:***

Rudy & Jean Tomko

2629 Romar Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-979-4360

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Betty Ann Wolf

7777 Arthur St., SC

Masury, OH 44438

330-448-1080

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Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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**Word of Hope: 1-888-217-8679**

The only 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL Hotline that is distinctly Lutheran, bringing healing found in Christ, to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.

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**Opportunity for Growth**

Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN, is hosting its annual Luther Hostel for all interested in growing in their faith and understanding of God’s Word and our Worship.

This year’s theme is “Christian Worship: The Faithful Reception of God’s Gifts and is being held on campus from Nov. 2-4, 2022.  Pastor and Evelyn Baisch would enjoy sharing more information about this event, will be attending again this year, and welcome others to join us. Stop us at church or call us: Pastor - #501/253-8292 or Evelyn - #501/253-8393. More info is available at <https://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/event-luther-hostel-2022/>

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**LIKE & FOLLOW our Church’s Facebook page (Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church)!**

Remember to like, comment, and share to help us reach as many people as possible.

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**Mission Outreach Project…**

**International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc.** focuses on getting the Bible and study materials to learn the Bible into the hands of Christian leaders in the least-fortunate places of the world. They supply churches and schools of Bible learning throughout the English-speaking world. Copies of old Portals of Prayer are greatly appreciated *(Please note that weekly service bulletins and Advent / Lenten devotions are not accepted).* **Please recycle items by dropping them in the basket in the hallway by the offices. Thank you!**

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**ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF)**

At a previous Voters’ Assembly, voters agreed to continue our membership with the Alliance Defending Freedom Church Alliance (ADF). As part of this alliance, we have access to their lawyers in matters of religious liberty, procedures, and guidelines.

The following case is one in which the ADF was involved. It is cited simply as an educational tool and to let you know the type of work the ADF does.

**Holston United Methodist**

**Home for Children vs US HHS**

Holston United Methodist Home for Children wants to provide hope and healing for hurting kids. Such assistance could be reuniting them with their families, finding a foster or adoptive family for them, or helping them become successful adults.

Because of the ministry’s Christian beliefs about marriage, human sexuality, and the family, the Biden administration is threatening to cut off critical funding Holston Home receives.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides reimbursement to adoption and foster-care providers through a federal program. This reimbursement helps families shoulder the additional costs of meeting a child’s basic needs.

An Obama administration rule, however, required faith-based agencies to violate their religious beliefs in order to receive the funding. The rule forced ministries to place children in homes that don't align with their faith, such as with non-Christian or same-sex couples, or unmarried couples who live together.

During the Trump administration, HHS issued much-needed religious exemptions to this rule so faith-based agencies could operate according to their religious beliefs. Under the Biden administration, HHS rescinded the religious exemptions. Now, ministries like Holston Home are left to choose between three horrible options:

* Violate their religious beliefs and continue to receive funding
* Stand by their religious beliefs and lose funding under the reimbursement program
* Exit the adoption and foster care programs, violating their religious beliefs in tension with its more than 100-year-old mission

At any moment, the administration could enforce the rule and exclude Holston Home from the foster care and adoption program.

Alliance Defending Freedom is representing Holston Home in lawsuit against the US HHS.

SOURCE: <https://adflegal.org/holston-united-methodist-home>

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**We were chosen!** By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible Thrivent members choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating Lutheran nonprofit organizations and congregations.

**Many thanks** to Thrivent Financial member **Rudy Tomko** who recently directed Choice dollars to our church!

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**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, September 4th. Checks should be made out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s and are to be given to Matt Berent or placed in the offering plate. You should receive your gift cards the following week.

If you should be absent the Sunday on which cards are ready, please see either Jonathan Baisch or Delores Fee after church the following week to get your cards from the church safe

Forms for ordering gift cards are available in both the narthex and on the parking lot entrance sign-in table.

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** An **Audit of Deposits** will take place following worship, Sunday, September 18th in the library. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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**Our Third Quarter Local Mission: Rev. James May and his Mission Work with Lutherans in Africa (LIA).**

At the August 14th Voters’ Assembly, voters selected Rev. James May and his mission work as our 3rd Quarter 2022 Mission.

***The Problem:***

There is a severe shortage of trained pastors in Africa. In America, the Lutheran Church has 1 pastor for every 376 members. In Tanzania, for instance, there is 1 pastor for every 3,500 members. By training Africans to be teachers of the faith, Lutherans In Africa (LIA) is able to help fill the need for pastors and further spread the Gospel, allowing God to work through His external Word. The current large project for LIA is to build a new seminary.

***What They Do:***

**Teaching**: The Lutheran Church in Tanzania alone has over 5 million members, but many struggle to understand what Lutherans believe and why. The average pastor serves 12 parishes but only visits one each Sunday. The other eleven are served by evangelists who have had little or no training. Even those who are trained have few books and limited opportunity for further formal study in the Living Word and doctrinal theology.

**Translating:** To provide doctrinal resources in African languages we translate various key texts such as Luther’s Small Catechism, the Book of Concord, and God’s No and God’s Yes into regional languages. Since most pastors have never heard of the books, LIA then offers workshops on Lutheran doctrine so clergy can better understand how our Confessions are the pure exposition of the Living Word.

**Training:** Currently working in 23 countries, LIA not only teaches confessional Lutheran doctrine, but also trains African pastors to be teachers in their own communities.

More Information can be found at **https://lutheransinafrica.com/**

*Let’s help spread the Good News!*

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**Best wishes for a safe and productive school year are extended to our congregation’s students and teachers!**

**AUGUST BIBLE MEMORY VERSES**

**FOR ADULTS**

**August 7:**For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

**August 14:**He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

**August 21:** All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12

**August 28:** Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

**FOR CHILDREN**

**August 7:**Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true. Ephesians 5:8-9

**August 14:**Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.

Ephesians 5:15

**August 21:** Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 13:44

**August 28:** God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. 1 Peter 5:5

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**REMINDER:** If you would like someone’s name to be added to or deleted from our prayer list, please put a written note in the secretary’s mail slot by the office door.

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Remember the

following in prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Gerald Arthur, Ellen BaronCA, Lois BortnerCA, Richard Brandes, John Burdette, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Kathleen Coughenour, Kim, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Joseph Fleet, Eddy Furey, Tim Haenftling, Dale HesseCA, Neil Huston, Barbara Kreske, Michelle KellyCA, Donna Kennedy, Gerald Krivosh, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Ernie Meszaros, David Nelson, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Viola Sakony, Marty Scott, Fred Tonty, and Angela WeserCA.*

**~The Homebound:**  *Rudy & Jean Tomko, Betty Wolf, and Ed & Millie Zachar.*

**~Serving in the Military:**  *Curtis Sinewe and Joshua Solyan.*

**~Community & World Needs:**  *Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; those suffering due to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia; those suffering from loss and dislocation because weather disasters; those suffering from addiction and their families; Local, State, and National Government Leaders; safety for all Police Officers, Firefighters, & First Responders; the unemployed; our Third Quarter Local Mission: Support of a Missionary.*

*CA indicates cancer*

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If you do not have an email account or do not receive emails from the church but wish to be notified of significant information concerning your fellow church members (such as births or deaths), please put a note in the Secretary’s mail slot asking to receive a phone call. Every attempt will be made to phone you within 24 hours of an email being sent out.

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**Coffee Fellowship is September 11th**

Join us following worship, Sunday, September 11th for **Coffee Fellowship**! This month’s sponsor is Traudi Sulek.

Fellowship sponsorship for November is still open! To sponsor, bring 2-3 dozen “treats” along with a quart of juice to the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to worship. Everything else, including the making of coffee, set-up, and clean-up will be done for you! If interested, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the narthex.

If you have questions, please speak with Diane.

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**Saturday, September 10th!**

**Women’s Bible Study at 11 am**

**Altar Guild Business Meeting**

**at 11:45 am.**

*All women are invited!*

*Please use Clover St. entrance.*

***“REFLECTIONS”*** *by Marie Flaugher*

*The basis for the following article on the use of candles in our church comes from The Altar Guild Manual, Chapter 9, "Liturgical Appointments".  Several guild members own copies of the manual and I invite anyone interested to borrow a copy to read the entire chapter.*

**USE of CANDLES in Our Church**

The use of candles in the early Church was for their creation of light.  After the invention of electricity, candle usage became mostly symbolic as noted in the Old Testament, Genesis 1:3 (*And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.)*, but the most basic use of candles comes from John 8:12-where Jesus states *"I am the light of the world".*

Why do we use candles with an open flame in our Church?  Well, they are natural and follow the ancient practice of burning oil lamps.   In general, you will not see the use of artificial or battery-operated light near the altar.

The two candles placed on the altar are called Eucharistic lights.  They are always lit during Communion services but can also be lit during non-Communion services to symbolize God and Jesus as the light of the world.   Additional use of candles in a candelabra indicates the importance of the celebration, and Holy Communion should always be viewed as a very important celebration!

Finally, the large candle placed near the front of the Chancel is called the Paschal candle.  It is introduced and lit during the Easter Vigil.  This candle can be used any time of year, and is commonly used during Baptisms and funeral services to signify Christ's triumph over death.

The choice to use candles and other items in the chancel should follow four basic guidelines: 1~They should not conflict with the Theology of Scripture or Lutheran Confessions, 2~They should serve a liturgical purpose, 3~Their symbolism should be clear, and 4~ Clutter, sensationalism and sentimentalism should be avoided.



**Community Day 2022**

**is September 17th!**

Crunch time is upon us for our Community Day 2022 celebration Saturday, September 17th from 2 – 6:30 pm. This year’s Community Day looks to be even bigger and better than in the past! Plans include setting up a large tent in our parking lot area where attendees will be able to sit and watch children play games while adults will challenge one another at Bingo and all will enjoy the delicious aroma of chickens roasting on a spit.

Food will be served between 4:30 and 6 pm and will include roasted chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, parslied potatoes, and chips.

A big “thank you” goes out to all those who have committed to help with this event. We are especially grateful to those who have donated raffle baskets along with other prizes for our guests. If you have items yet to donate, *please* be sure to bring them in no later than Sunday, September 11th and place them in the library.

We can always use more volunteers! If interested in helping, please speak with Jesse, Diane, or Pastor Deal.

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Highlights from the

August Voters’ Assembly

The following were among the items discussed at the August 14th Voters’ Assembly:

* President Baisch noted that, between pledged and unpledged donations to our Capital Campaign, we are on target to reach our goal of $200,000 over the three-year designated period.
* Alex Carr and Elizabeth Haentfling volunteered to serve as lay delegates to PALM (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries). In the past, PALM has generously offered financial support to our Community Day activities along with our now-closed preschool. Thank you, Alex and Elizabeth!
* The Memorandum of Understanding allowing Pastor Deal to serve as a vacancy pastor at All Saints Lutheran Church in Slippery Rock was approved. Pastor Curtis Stephens was in attendance to help clarify what the role of a vacancy pastor is and is not. The MoU will be reviewed annually until there is no longer a vacancy at All Saints or one of the parties involved no longer wishes to continue it.

Copies of the minutes from the Voters’ Assembly along with the approved Memorandum of Understanding can be picked up from the table in the narthex.

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**Sunday Service Time**

**to Remain at 9 AM**

As agreed upon in the passage of Memorandum of Understanding at the recent Voters’ Assembly, Sunday morning Divine Services will continue to be held at 9 am.

Bible study opportunities will be announced soon.

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**To listen to Pastor Deal’s sermons, phone 724-347-3620 and press Opt. 6.**

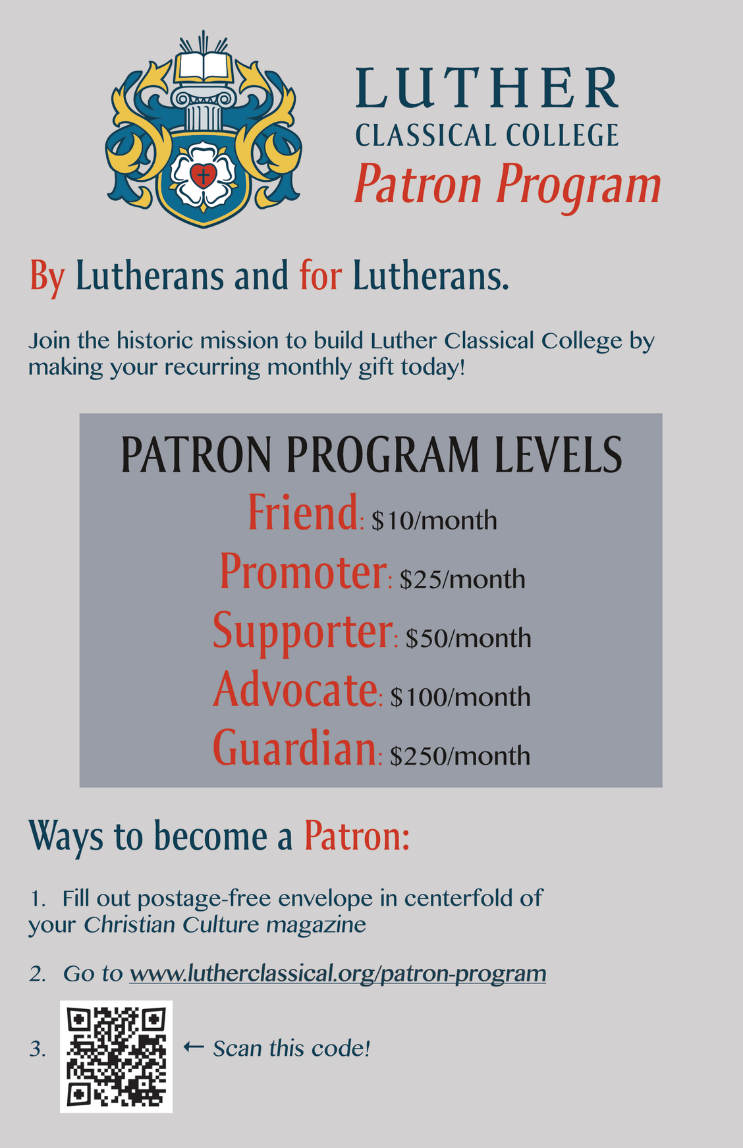
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# Why Support

Luther Classical College?

Supporting Lutheran Classical College is a very personal thing for many Lutherans, because this mission will provide a quality education for young Lutheran students that is unapologetically Lutheran in both its confession and practice.

Students will learn the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions in the classroom. They will all sing Lutheran hymns together. They will learn the importance of the Christian home and daily devotion, because they will do it together at college. And that means they will go back to Lutheran congregations with the zeal to participate and raise families in the Church.Most importantly, they will learn that the gospel of our Lord Jesus must always be placed at the front and center of their lives.

[](https://lutherclassical.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0c5850dc65d0df7fcec4bfa51&id=77932dbeb9&e=323639b5b3)Learn more at [***www.lutherclassical.org/patron-program***](https://lutherclassical.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0c5850dc65d0df7fcec4bfa51&id=8ed00b24ef&e=323639b5b3) or contact our Head of Development, Samuel Preus, at [*s.preus@lutherclassical.org*](mailto:s.preus@lutherclassical.org) or [*307-314-5882*](tel:3073145882)

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[](https://ilcouncil.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=425fb87c4443576a9003c9cbc&id=29b9d3b331&e=c25d854c4f)

**World Conference of Lutheran Church Leaders**

Over seventy presidents, bishops, and other leaders from worldwide confessional Lutheran churches will meet in Kisumu, Kenya for the triennial INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL WORLD CONFERENCE, September 13-16. Please pray for safe travel and a blessed conference.  
For more information about the World Conference and about the International Lutheran Council visit [www.ILCouncil.org](https://ILCouncil.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=425fb87c4443576a9003c9cbc&id=5bbd5ba98f&e=c25d854c4f).

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| |  | | --- | | The International Lutheran Council shares with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod an unconditional commitment to the inspired and infallible Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord as the true exposition of the Holy Scriptures. The LCMS was the founding member and continues to provide major financial and theological support for the work of the ILC | |

Contributions may be mailed to

**International Lutheran Council  
PO Box 10149  
Fort Wayne, IN 46850**

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