



JULY 2016

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"God and Country"

Psalm 146:3 says, *"Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation."* The Church's track record of remembering this advice is pretty poor, however. As the state's treatment of Christianity moved from persecution to toleration to official sanction, many Christians have attempted to make government an arm of the Church.

While much good may have been affected at times, many who claim to be Christians have used the state to oppress those with whom they disagreed. Factions and feuds often led to exile and slaughter as some in the Church attempted to control dissent and enforce moral codes that often had little to do with the words of Scripture.

Of course, Christians aren't the only ones ready to use government to their advantage. Islam's control of various governments has led to civil wars and state-sponsored terrorism as it attempts to bring the entire world to submit to the will of Allah. India has seen government oppression based in Hinduism. Similar problems exist elsewhere but I chose to focus on Christianity, particularly in America.

History shows that evil is often disguised as good, promoted by some Christians, and carried out by various governments. Even though America was largely founded by those who came wanting freedom to worship, these same emigrants often extended "freedom" only to those who agreed with them on every point of faith and practice. Their political authorities were often extensions of the churches. Remember that when alleged "witches" faced the accusations of supposedly "good" Christians, it was civil government that held the trials and meted out the punishments.

However, there's an even more basic problem with putting your confidence "in princes" — or in presidents, prime ministers, potentates and grand poobahs: Emphasizing political solutions de-emphasizes the person and work of Christ. The Church too easily forgets that while it is called to be "salt" and "light" in this world (see Matthew 5:13–16), it isn't called to legislate or impose morality on the world. Instead, we are called collectively and individually to believe in salvation through Christ Jesus, trust God, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

This by no means precludes Christians being active in government any more than it does our being teachers, doctors, or tradespeople. People of integrity, conviction, and faith are a precious commodity in all areas of human endeavor.

We are no longer "of the world," as Jesus says in John 15:19, but are still in the world. As such, God doesn't call us to isolate ourselves, to form exclusive colonies and communes. Instead, He continues to give us family, neighbors, even enemies who may be unchurched or anti-Church.



There is only one “*city set on a hill*” (Matthew 5:14), the sum total of all believers in Jesus — in other words, His Church. Built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, anchored by Christ our cornerstone, this city cannot fall. It needs neither the support nor the permission of government in order to abide, for even “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)”

If government commands us to sin, “*we must obey God rather than men.* (Acts 5:29)” Otherwise we obey those in authority, as Paul writes in Romans 13 and we pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1–2), even if they are misguided or flagrantly sinful in their words and deeds. When given opportunity to do or to effect good, we seize it, not to advance the Church nor to impose morality, but simply because it is what Christians do.

When the Church avoids conflicting and messy entanglements with the state, it leaves us free to proclaim “nothing” except “*Christ and him crucified* (1 Corinthians 2:2)” to hurting people in a fallen world. God hasn’t appointed us to change the world. Instead, He sent Jesus to save sinners and entrusted His Church with the “*message of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:19)” in Christ.

No government, no moral code, no ethical standard can bring God to man or man to faith. That comes through the power of the Holy Spirit in the proclamation of the Gospel by the people of Christ’s Church.

Pastor Peck

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A HUGE thank you to all our Vacation Bible School teachers,
volunteers, and helpers.

Pastor Peck	Sheila Fornall	Dan Robinson	Megan Harper
Emily Peck	Mayu Bickner	Judy Brazell	Matt Gorgen
Chris Gorgen	Kai Bickner	Seth Schneider	Samantha Schneider
Samantha Broscheit	Martha Broscheit	Pat Proell	Carol Harper
Shirley Vincent	Jolene Weddingfeld	Sherry DuValle	Matthew Maag
Steve Morsch	Kevin Fornall	Martha Schwartz	Rhonda Broscheit

Lutheran Women In Mission

Welcome to all women of the congregation!



“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

Lutheran Women in Mission is for all women. We focus on our mission to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God.

This month’s Mission Grant – Helping Hands Initiative - \$100,000 - PAID

These funds provide construction materials, tools, and home repair allotment, Laborers for Christ fees and financial literacy training for ten home projects for low-income, disabled, and/or elderly residents near LCMS congregations. It provides a way for congregations to reach out to their local communities through housing repair services.

Your Mite Offerings Make a Difference! – Next Mite Sunday – July 17 – Thank you for your donations! Bring your filled Mite Box to empty into the BIG Mite Box!



LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION “JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL”

Philippians 2:9

Let’s celebrate! A diamond anniversary! 75 years of LWML in 2017. 500th

Anniversary of the Reformation! Special things are planned for the Albuquerque convention, June 22-25, 2017. There was a Call for Workers as the Montana, Rocky Mountain, Utah-Idaho, and Wyoming Districts prepare for the 2017 LWML Convention to be held in our own Rocky Mountain District. Thousands of “Worker Bees”—helpers—are needed to make this convention a success. Make plans NOW to volunteer!

Wheat Ridge LWML – Women in Mission Meeting will be held Saturday, July 9th at 9:00 am at the church to make plans for the upcoming year. All ladies are invited to attend, and help take part in “Serving the Lord with Gladness!”



LWML RMD Convention

June 10-12, 2016

Colorado Springs, CO

The Rocky Mountain District LWML met in convention June 10-June 12, 2016 under the theme, “God – Our Fortress and Refuge” from Psalm 91:2. Over 240 men and women, 9 Young Women Representatives and 6 Teen Representatives joined together in Colorado Springs, as President Sylvia Bean led delegates in adopting a mission goal of \$95,050 and chose 13 mission grants for the new biennium. Two of those grants chosen are familiar to us, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society for \$10,000 and also the University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder for \$8,000. Rev. Allen Anderson, LCMS RMD President served as the Bible study leader.

Over 600 quilts were donated and will be given to VA hospitals/clinics across the Rocky Mt. District. And over 100 boxes are being shipped to our deployed military soldiers. Generous LWML-ers!

Patti Ross, National LWML President, thanked the attendees for supporting the plans and programs of the LWML, especially the mission grants recipients with our mite offerings. “These missions and ministries all over the world spread the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and caring ministries.”

This is the mission of the LWML: to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. Patti states, “As we live out that mission we do all to the Glory of God. With His help, rejoicing in the assurance of His love and His redemption, we Enjoy our work as we Engage, Encourage, and Equip our Lutheran Women in Mission.”

CHEROKEE LEGEND

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage?

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man!

Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

We are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.

Moral of the story: Just because you can't see God doesn't mean He is not there. ***"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*** Submitted by Noni Cessa – from Prairie Dog



When the Crisis Never Ends

Many people face a tough time every day of their lives. Whether they are caring for a sick family member, going through a long period of unemployment, or experiencing incurable pain, they and their families may benefit from the support and care of a Stephen Minister. Our congregation is committed to providing care to those who need it. To find out about Stephen Ministry or to receive a Stephen Minister's care, contact a Stephen Leader: Judy Kugler, Eady Broscheit or Joe Broscheit.

My District

The Rocky Mountain District's new electronic publication, *My District*, is now available to anyone to read. To receive this weekly publication, please go to www.rm.lcms.org and on the homepage is a sign-up link for this. Be sure to check this out.



This is the workings of the church's pipe organ before the metal and wooden pipes and sound boxes were removed the first part of June to take to Morel Organ Works to be repaired, cleaned, rewired, and returned.

Please welcome your New Officers for 2106 to 2018

Officers serve a two-year term beginning in July.

Executive Director - Brian Echtenkamp

Assistant Executive Director - Larry Mathews

Treasurers - Rhonda Broscheit and Shirley Nelson

In addition, the following have agreed to serve on the representative boards. Board members can always be added so if the spirit moves you, please visit with Brian and discuss.

Lay Ministry

Joe Broscheit

Dan Maag

Charles DuValle

A.C.T.S.

Danielle Robinson

Andy Olson

Erica Olson

Joyce Wonnacott

Christian Education

Sheila Fornall

Rhonda Broscheit

Sherry DuValle

Martha Schwartz

Church Relations

Carol Harper

Shirley Vincent

Jolene Weddingfeld

Judy Brazell

Eady Broscheit

Pat Proell

Properties

Don Kugler

Roger Osterberg

James Broscheit

Jon Hendricks

Fred Thorgeirson

Bob Brazell

Stewardship

Dennis Nelson

Megan Harper

Mel Ferguson

Youth

Steve Morsch

Ali Peck

Cassandra Schneider

Several boards will now be combined as the Church Relations Board.

Voter's Meeting Minutes November 22, 2015

MSC – Motion, Second, Carry

Welcome by James Broscheit

Opening Prayer: Pastor Peck

Roll Call: 38 in attendance; new members - Mel Furgeson

- Review of Minutes from June 28 and July 12, 2015

MSC: to approve minutes as submitted – Shirley Nelson & Joe Broscheit

- Treasurer's Report – Eady Broscheit
 - We are doing better since expenses are down and giving is up.
- Parish Report by Pastor Peck
 - Full of Thanksgiving – new home and thank you to the Congregation for all of the assistance in finding this home.
 - Planning has started for the upcoming Holiday season including the Thanksgiving evening service at 6:30 on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
 - Pastor will be representing our district at the district in Milwaukee in the Summer 2016

- Board Reports
 - Written reports provided by – Lay Ministry
 - James Broscheit - We have requested the boards have written minutes at each meeting.
 - C – Stewardship – Brian Echtenkamp – reminder to use the King Soopers and Safeway gift card program. The Church receives a rebate based on our use of these cards. We encourage you to use these cards.
 - C – Ruth Kersall – The program works great!
 - C - Danielle Robinson – You can reload the card at the cash register too prior to your purchase.
 - C – Dennis Nelson – You may not use the card to buy gift cards at King Soopers.
- Old Business
 - Constitution Update
 - It has been submitted to the District. It may take some time and the Congregation will be informed of any updates.
 - Capital Improvements Update
 - Both parking lots are completely resurfaced.
 - New HVAC on the old side of the building is in place and the boiler is no longer in use. The State is requiring proof of the decommissioning of the boiler so this process is started.
 - Organ repair is slated to happen in the first quarter of 2016 and we are waiting on the service company to have time to schedule the job.
 - C – Carol Braun noted that she resigned from the Endowment board after 25 years of service.
 - James Broscheit - We thank Carol for her dedicated service and presented Carol with a card. (Applause!)
- New Business
 - 2016 Budget – James Broscheit
 - In the past our congregation has worked to stay lean as expenses were met from month to month and the Church is in a unique position of being able to meet our monthly expenses.
 - We realized that Boards may not have use for a line item budget and just be given a flat budget for each board. This would give the boards the flexibility to spend it as needed. This is the direction we are heading for next year.
 - Brian Echtenkamp
 - We like to thank the Boards for being so frugal in the past. We are trying allow for flexibility now, while maintain our frugality as the Boards spend money.
 - Each Board now has a budgeted amount for the next year and not a specific line item budget.
 - Each Board will still have a line by line financial accounting from the Treasurer.
 - Q – Don Kugler – How is our borrowing being paid back? C- James Broscheit - We are paying this back \$6,000 annually. We also must continue to maintain our Church property, so we will have annual maintenance in the Properties budget. MSC – Neil Bisping & Judy Kugler
 - **Adjournment** MSC – Neil Bisping & Eady Broscheit

Voter's Meeting Minutes April 17, 2016

MSC – Motion, Second, Carry

Welcome by James Broscheit

Opening Prayer: Pastor Peck

Roll Call: 21 in attendance; new members - Ollie Koeltzow

- Review of Minutes from November 22, 2016
 - MSC: Corrected Ruth Kersell's name to approve minutes as submitted – Brian Delaet & Dennis Nelson
- Treasurer's Report – Joe Broscheit
 - Spending is up and not bringing as much as we spent, but it is the beginning of the year. No usual expenses have been incurred to cause this increase.
 - Q- Shirley Nelson – Are our investments included in the report? C – Joe No – it is a separate accounting. MSC – Lori Maag & Neil Bisping
- Parish Report by Pastor Peck
 - Similar to Lay Ministry written report provided.
 - Festival seasons are finishing up.
 - The fourth Easter Service on Saturday was well received and will continue next year.
 - Pastor will be on vacation for two weeks in May, so contact Lay ministers for any issues that arise.
 - Pastor will represent the Circuit in July, not June as the written report states.
- Board Reports
 - Written reports provided by – Lay Ministry
 - Q - James Broscheit - Do other boards need to make a comment? None
 - Capital improvement project updates will be discussed at the June voter's meeting.
- Old Business
 - Constitution Update
 - The District asked for some changes and those are complete. The Constitution has been re-submitted to the District last week. Some of the suggestions were edited and others were not accepted and we asked for clarification and will wait for a response. Hopefully more information will be discussed at our June meeting.
 - Capital Improvements Update
 - We are still waiting for an appointment to repair the organ. It should be scheduled soon.
- New Business
 - Nomination Committee – James Broscheit
 - Officers will be replaced or renewed in June.
 - Nomination Committee will be based on the new Constitution structure since we have been operating based on it already.
 - Pastor, Sherry Duvalle, Joyce Wonnacott and Brian Delaet will compose our committee this year. MSC – Brian Echtenkamp & Shirley Nelson
- **Adjournment**
 - MSC – Judy Kugler & Neil Bisping

Diane Echtenkamp, Secretary