



July/August 2022

DISCIPLERGRAM



Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST IN
THESE COMMUNITIES AND WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

In this Update

- ◆ Pastoral Epistle: Low-Res & High-Res Mercy
- ◆ Church Extension Fund
- ◆ Featured Ministry: Comfort Dogs
- ◆ Meet Our New Members
- ◆ Choir Room Artwork
- ◆ When In Our Music God is Glorified
- ◆ Helping the Hurting: Aid to Ukraine
- ◆ Memorials and Gifts
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ The Lighter Side
- ◆ Food for Thought
- ◆ Champions for Liberty Seminar

Low-Res & High-Res Mercy

Have you seen the incredible high-resolution images that just started being released within the last few weeks from NASA and the James Webb Space Telescope? They are incredibly beautiful representations of what is mostly invisible to the naked eye since the cameras used to capture this data are actually capturing mostly infrared light, light that has a shorter wavelength than what our eyes can see. If we were able to travel 7,600 light years (~44.68 quadrillion miles) to the Carina Nebula (pictured), our eyes would not see most of what is colorized in the released images; in other words; it wouldn't look anything like this.

As beautiful and captivating as these images are, though, they are actually very low-resolution images considering what is being photographed. The original full-resolution image posted online, for example is 14,575 pixels by 11,227 pixels. That is certainly a lot of pixels! Compared to 8K TVs that you see in the store, these images contain more

than four times as many pixels. However, this image of the Carina Nebula captures only a portion of the nebula that is roughly—(are you ready?)—16 light years across (94 trillion miles wide)! That means that every single pixel (every dot in the image that the camera can “see”) represents an area of the nebula that is ~6.45 billion miles wide. The earth has a circumference of merely 24,901 miles, which means that each pixel in these images of the Carina Nebula depicts a portion of space that could hold ~259,222 earths lined up side by side. 259,222 earths—with all their incredible intricacy of colors, water, land, clouds, snow, trees, desserts, and humans—end up being seen by us as a single dot of red, yellow, cyan, etc. In ways, that’s terribly sad. In ways, that’s incredibly low-res.

This is what our acts of mercy are like compared to God’s acts of mercy for us. Ours are incredibly low-res compared to what he has done for us, yet they are images of and still represent his great work. When we feed the poor, mow our neighbor’s lawn, drive someone to church, sit for hours in silence with the grieving, or forgive someone, we are truly doing God’s work in this

world, but it’s a single pixel of a massive image that has more depth and detail behind it than we even realize. Jesus Christ created the Carina Nebula and gave us the abilities to view it with advanced space telescopes, but he also gives us the ability and the opportunity to show his mercy to a world that holds onto hate, loves vengeance, and pushes God away. Jesus draws us near through his blood that was shed on the cross. No high-res image can capture the complete grandeur and beauty of that place and time in history, but we get to show the world, one pixel at a time, a small piece of that image every day of our lives. Our low-res mercy is one tiny bit of his high-res mercy for all mankind and creation.



Pastor Joel Eden



Church Extension Fund

STAFF

Rev. Dean M. Davenport
Senior Pastor

Rev. Joel S. Eden, *Associate Pastor of
Education, Youth & Families*

Tom Schroeder
Director of Music Ministry

Linda Hollman
*Director of Assimilation, Outreach &
Women’s Ministry*

Karla Schettenhelm
Director of Children’s Ministry

Laura Myers, *Director of the Early
Childhood Program*

Noreen Lenardon
Business Manager

Laurie Riegel
Administrative Assistant

Alyssa Anders
Communications Coordinator

Missionaries

Rev. David Erber—*Nigeria*

Rev. Charles Ferry—*Indonesia*

Rev. Steven Mahlburg—*Macau*

**Rev. James and Deaconess Christel
Neuendorf**—*Puerto Rico*

Our church body has a long history of supporting each other and growing together through giving and investing. The Church Extension Fund (CEF) was founded in 1901 (over 120 years ago!) as a way to provide affordable loans to Lutheran congregations for church buildings, schools, and other ministry needs. Through the financial products of CEF, Lutherans are able to help other Lutherans across the state of Michigan and build up (quite literally!) the Body of Christ. CEF provides loans throughout the Michigan District at a rate less than what most banks charge their commercial borrowers. They also provide investors with competitive interest rates on their savings dollars. CEF is designed to allow you to see your savings dollars build and expand the mission and ministry of sister congregations. Christ Our Savior has also been able to take advantage of their financial products over the years. Just recently, we qualified for the Equip grant, which enabled us to buy a new camera for the sanctuary and seven wi-fi hotspots for the church.

On the third Sunday of every month our CEF representatives, Bob & Barb Moldenhauer, will be available in the narthex to answer your questions. You can also visit their website (www.mi-cef.org) to learn more about their history and all of the financial products they offer.

Bringing Comfort to the Mourning *Comfort Dog Ministry*



In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus shared this beatitude: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4). As his hands and feet, one of the purposes of the church is to reach out to those who need the mercy, compassion, and comfort of Christ. The Comfort Dog Ministry, run by Lutheran Church Charities, aims at doing just that. Lutheran Church Charities is the organization that provided us with the Hearts of Compassion and Mercy last year, which we used to bless the first responders in our area. Their Comfort Dog Ministry is another way they care for the broken-hearted. Their website gives an overview of the ministry:

Launched in August 2008, the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are working animals, trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need....Dogs are permanently placed with churches, schools and other ministries involved in Christian human care by LCC. Permanent placement includes full training for handlers and caregivers along with ongoing support, coaching and training. LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs live in the homes of assigned caregivers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serve every day in the community in which they are placed and are dispatched in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those

affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them....Lutheran Church Charities currently has over 130 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serving in more than 27 states.

Lutheran churches across the US participate in the Comfort Dog program. Nearest to us are Trinity in Toledo and St. Peters in Three Rivers, Michigan. The Comfort Dog placed in Toledo visited Lutheran High West to comfort students following the tragedy in Oxford.

There are so many opportunities for a comfort dog to be present, from when a family loses their house to fire to when police see a horrible accident or shooting. Comfort dogs are also used to cheer patients in the hospital, senior living centers and nursing homes. Recently, Comfort Dogs traveled to Oxford, MI, Uvalde, TX, and Highland Park, IL to comfort the mourning following the tragedies in each of those places.

Our congregation has been aware of this program for years, and we even held an informational meeting in 2018 with several families. Although the interest was there, timing has been off and we have not yet taken an active role in the comfort dog ministry. It remained a discussion point, however, and the Community Needs team brought it up again in 2021 and 2022 for consideration. The more we discuss this program the more we are aware of opportunities to serve—we are excited about looking into everything that it would take for our church to participate in this loving ministry in the future. We pray that God will direct our congregation in regards to this program.

If you'd like to learn more about this ministry, like their facebook page, LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs, where they share stories and pictures regularly of the work the dogs and their handlers are doing. You can also visit their website, comfortdogs.com.

Meet Our New Members

Welcomed on June 5, 2022

We are excited to introduce our new members to you! On June 5, we welcomed eleven new households into our congregation. Here are short biographies from each new member to help you get acquainted. If you see any of these faces in the hallway or around church, make sure to say hello and introduce yourself!



Ross and Emma Garner live in Grosse Pointe with their daughter **Nora**, who is five. Ross works in marketing and Emma is currently a stay-at-home mom and homeschool teacher for Nora. The Garners have been attending Christ Our Savior with their extended family since the winter of 2020. Both Ross and Emma grew up in the church but are newer to the Lutheran tradition. As a family, the Garners enjoy spending time outdoors as well as a good cup of coffee.



Karl and Hadley Heusinkveld live in Grosse Pointe Park and have been attending Christ Our Savior since late 2020. They both attended Hope College where they met in the economics program. Karl is now an IT project manager and Hadley works in user experience analytics. In their free time, Karl and Hadley enjoy playing board games and visiting zoos, aquariums, gardens, and museums all over the country. Karl is also an avid artist and Hadley enjoys knitting, baking, and yoga.



Rex & Tammy Roy: We're high school sweethearts who have been married forty years. We're so thankful to be members of Christ Our Savior and attend with our daughters and their families and with Tammy's mom as well. After years of attending law focused churches we find so much joy in the teaching at COS. We enjoy all things outdoors in all seasons—hiking, kayaking, and swimming. We also enjoy cooking together and Rex is a serious coffee snob!

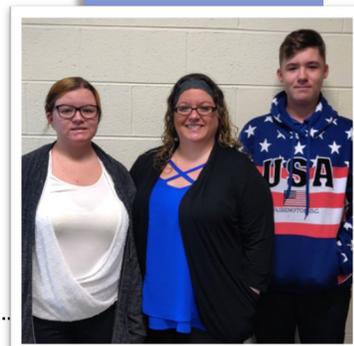
Carl & Sara Schafer: We have lived in Plymouth since 1968, have two sons and two granddaughters. Sara's mother has lived with us since moving from Florida four years ago. She recently celebrated her 97th birthday. We grew up in the Lutheran church; Carl at Calvary in Lincoln Park and Sara at Peace (Wisconsin Synod) in Livonia. We are both grandchildren of farmers and now Carl farms forty acres of corn and soybeans plus has a large vegetable garden. Sara has been involved in a variety of church activities and volunteers with Plymouth Friends of the Library. What a joy and blessing to worship at COS, especially hearing the organ and singing songs from the hymnal.



Jennifer Reschke, recently married to Dan Reschke, and her daughter Ella are very excited to become members of Christ Our Savior. Jen loves being Ella's mom and working as an ultrasound tech. Ella is a second (almost third) grader in Walled Lake who loves gymnastics and her cats.



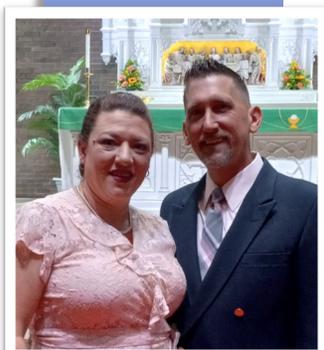
I am **Tami Ruelle**. I am a frontline worker at a Family Practice medical facility in Farmington. I was recently promoted from a Certified Medical Assistant to Office Manager. I love spending time with my kids hiking, camping, exploring new places and jumping waves in Lake Michigan or Superior. I love reading, concerts, and Karaoke. I was born in the Upper Peninsula but have lived on Lower Michigan most of my life. **Hannah** is going to be a Junior at Lutheran High Westland this year. She loves reading, music, movies, camping, and traveling to amazing places



like Hawaii and California. **Aidan (AJ)** is going to be a freshman at Lutheran High Westland this year. He graduated 8th grade from Concordia Lutheran as the class Valedictorian. He is excited to start high school but had a busy summer going to camp at Michigan Tech in the UP, doing soccer camp, basketball camp, also took a course for strength and agility. He loves playing sports, watching hockey and anything outdoors. He is also very talented at drawing and painting. He plans to go to Michigan Tech for college.



We are the **Lantrip family, Juston, Erin, Callum (15), Isla (13), and Freya (10)**. Juston and I (Erin) have been Christians since college, but we are new to the Lutheran church. Juston works for GM, but in the past has served as a Bible translator in the Solomon Islands and in church ministry in Alaska. Erin homeschools their children. Callum has recently been learning to fence. Isla is learning to play the bagpipes and loves to read. Freya is learning to play the Scottish drums, and she also loves to read and to write stories. Erin enjoys knitting and reading. Juston enjoys playing bagpipes, grilling and smoking meat, and running.



Karen (Koch) Rogers is married to COS member Dan Rogers. She has been attending Christ Our Savior for a while with Dan and his mother, Frankie Rogers. She has also been an eager volunteer with the past several CHRISTmas Blessings projects.

Hello, my name is **Mike Wells**. I grew up in Farmington and graduated from Farmington High School. My parents, grandparents, sister, brother-in-law, niece and nephew all live up north. My previous church membership was at North Ridge Church in Plymouth, MI. I then attended a few other churches over the last eleven years. I came to realize my need for God in my life in 2005, when I first gave church a chance. I enjoy spending



time with my beautiful fiancée Heather Reschke, who is a longtime member of Christ Our Savior. She has been very supportive and helpful of me and of my working on becoming a member at COS. I really enjoy every moment we spend together. I also enjoy trips up north, practicing guitar, and learning disc golf. I've also studied various aspects of the I.T. field. I'm looking forward to being a member at Christ Our Savior Lutheran and seeing what the future holds.

We, **Robert (Bob) & Susan (Sue) Siegert** were each confirmed Lutherans long before we were married in 1966. We have been members of several synods since then. We are most comfortable with the teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and look forward to becoming part of the COS membership.



Chuck Wendt: I was born in the thumb of Michigan on a farm owned by my German immigrant grandparents. I was raised in Detroit and graduated from Mackenzie Highschool. I then went to Michigan Sate University. I left there in my sophomore year when I was signed to play for the Cincinnati Reds. After an automobile accident ended my baseball career, I was hired by the Yellow Pages in Detroit to work in their Art Department drawing the illustrations in the directories. I attended additional classes at Henry Ford Community College and was promoted to the National Yellow Pages Organization, where I ran their office operation for the State of Michigan. I was married to my wife Geraldine (Gerry) for 59 years before she passed away 2013. We had three sons, Gary, Charles Jr., and David. Only David is still alive—he lives in California. I have three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, who also live in California. I enjoy people, I play golf and like to dance when my legs allow it. I'm looking forward to becoming part of COS and joining the strong Christian enthusiasm that I have felt since attending this church.





When we gather for worship, the musicians who accompany our congregational singing are usually in the balcony. At the back of the balcony is a door that opens to a catwalk. The catwalk leads to the music room. The music room is the headquarters of the music program at Christ Our Savior. In this room is stored the printed music used by singers and instrumentalists. The choir regularly rehearses in this room. And on big days in our church year, all the various musicians meet up in this room before the service for last-minute guidance from our music director and a prayer.

Over the past couple of years, our music director, Tom Schroeder, has overseen and—often with his own hands—worked on updates to the music room. The plan was to refresh the paint and improve the storage spaces. The color scheme shifted from bold red and cool grays to softer, warmer colors inspired by the historic stained-glass windows that line the wall between the music room and the narthex.

These stained-glass windows tell of the first and last comings of Christ in two sets of three windows each. One set tells of Christ's first coming as the promised Messiah, whose birth in Bethlehem caused the angels to sing, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all the earth." The other set tells of Christ's last coming at the end of time, when at the sound of the trumpet all the dead are raised and the faithful go to live with God, celebrating the victory of the Lamb, forever.

The music room has a vaulted ceiling, a feature left-over from when the space was part of the

Choir Room Artwork *Glory to Our God*

original nave. The high ceiling leaves a large expanse over the stained-glass windows. That expanse was previously home to a banner and a small mural, which included the words, "Sing to the Lord a new song!" As Tom thought about how to update this part of the room, he liked the idea of continuing to include art that reflects the room's purpose.

Through a connection with an organ builder, Tom obtained a dozen retired pipes. He refinished them, built and stained boxes for them to stand on, and affixed the boxes and the pipes to the wall. Then, he thought about adding words, perhaps from Scripture or a hymn that would embrace the diversity of our music program. "Because this room is not just a choir room, I wanted something inclusive of all music," he said.

While visiting relatives in Indiana this spring, he shared his vision with his brother's family, including Tom's niece who is a wood sign maker, a craft also known as board-and-brush. Emma Schroeder is a college student, studying American Sign Language, preparing to teach kids with special needs. In the family discussion, fresh off Easter, minds went to the passage in Revelation where St. John describes his vision of God's throne, before which many thousands of angels are exclaiming:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" John goes on that he "heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'" And this is followed by "Amen!"

This text is familiar to us as the canticle that begins "This is the Feast," which we often sing as the hymn of praise in our liturgy. And in the Easter season, those who serve in the music program add their instruments and voices to festive arrangements of this song, reflecting the

celebratory accent of Easter.

Having settled on the text, Tom said to Emma, “If I supply the board, could you add the words?” Emma agreed, so Tom bought a couple of eight-foot poplar boards, cut them to 7½ feet and used a router to make a chamfer. In the meantime, Emma considered the color scheme, drawing inspiration from the stained-glass windows. Tom delivered the prepared boards to Emma. And Emma, using a paraphrase of the canticle, painted the words. Before Emma headed off to her summer job at a Lutheran camp, Tom hauled the now-painted boards back to Michigan and installed them in

the music room.

“My goal was to have a focal point,” Tom says. Indeed, that’s what this installation provides. Situated beneath the pipes—which represent music—and above the stained glass—which tell the story of God’s love—it’s not only a focal point for the room, but also for the entire music program at Christ Our Savior. Rendered in paint and wood, this art reminds musicians that when leading the congregation’s song in worship, we are all part of the song going on now and forever before the throne of God.

--Matt Fremder



When in Our Music God is Glorified

2021-2022 Music Program

“How often, making music we have found, a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!” (LSB 796 verse 2)

We have much reason to give thanks for the faithful, talented musicians at church who give their time and effort each week as part of the COS music ministry. Over the last months, from September to June, approximately 50 individuals faithfully attended Tuesday and Thursday evening rehearsals to learn and prepare music for our worship services. It is indeed an honor, joy, and blessing to work with these people week after week. They are quite a humble group in their service. However, I take the opportunity to publish their names here to recognize and thank them for their dedication and service.

Tom Schroeder – Music Director

“Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia! (LSB 796 verse 5)

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Soprano

Mary Courvisier
Kirsten Galka
Helena Hatten
Linda Hollman
Hannah MacAfee
Sylvia Mckernan
Barbara Pewitt
Megan Wolf

Alto

Michele Cison
Joanne Demers
Debbie Desantis
Ruth Germeroth
Mary McGrath
Elizabeth Williams
Cynthia Windecker

Tenor

Matthew Fremder
Carol Jones
Bill Reynolds
David Thomas

Bass

Mark Anders
Jim Edwards
Kyle Hollman
John Hookana
Andrew MacAfee
Stephen Milz

(continued on next page)

*Continuation of
music group
participants for the
2021-2022 year*

**PRE-SERVICE
MUSICIANS**

Jennifer Kirk
Tim Hofmeister
Michele Cison
Matthew Fremder
Lindsay Miller
Frankie Rogers
David Crittenden

**JUBELLATION
HANDBELL CHOIR**

Ava Brunner
Liesel Brunner
Becky Brunner
Andrew MacAfee
Linda Marzinski
Elenn' Parish
Laurie Riegel
Suzette Krone
Christopher Trapp
Jen Zaske
David Hoffmeister
Susan Hoffmeister
Gunther Ruck

**VICTORY BRASS
ENSEMBLE**

Trumpet
Noah Eden
Samantha Kuszynski
Tom Oberman
Eb Horn
Erik Kuszynski
French Horn
Laurie Candela
Euphonium
David Crittenden
Keith Miller

Trombone

Megan Riegel
Gunther Ruck
Tuba
Nathan Troike
Timpani/Percussion
Elenn' Parish



Helping the Hurting

Aid to Ukraine



Ukrainian refugees staying in a *pensione* in Romania gather for a communal meal hosted by Pastor Sorin Trifa's congregation.

We were all shocked by the news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24. Soon all of our media outlets were filled with news stories of war, destruction and aggression, and we were faced with the temptation to let fear and uncertainty take over in our minds and hearts. Instead, our congregation immediately chose to respond with generosity and compassion. You asked, "what can we do to help?" Even though we are separated from the Ukrainian people by thousands of miles, culture and language, your desire was to bring hope and relief to the suffering.

In March/April a special offering was collected, and from that door offering and other mission funds we had available, we were able to donate a total of \$16,652 to Ukrainian relief efforts from members and friends of COS. Our staff investigated Lutheran organizations that were directly helping the Ukrainian refugees. We first sent \$536 to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in order to have that money count toward their limited matching gift campaign. Another gift was later sent to LWR of \$409. LWR has experience working in all parts of the world, and over our years of working with them, their mission to end poverty, injustice and human suffering has been clear. The remaining \$15,707 was sent to Mission Central (affiliated with the LCMS and located in Mapleton, IA). Mission Central disburses funds directly to LCMS missionaries and mission projects. They have direct communication with boots on the ground in Europe to know where money is needed and how it is being spent.

Situation in Europe

According to The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on June 3, 2022, there were 6.8 million+ people fleeing to other countries. Of that number, 3.6 million+ were headed to Poland, 989,357 were going to Romania, 479,513 to Moldova, 461,164 to Slovakia and 682,594 to Hungary. Additionally, there were 7.1 million+ internally displaced

persons. These numbers reflect the humanitarian crisis that is the new reality in Eastern Europe right now.

Not everyone is able to flee the war zones. Men under the age of 60 are prohibited from leaving Ukraine unless they are fathers with more than four children. Thus the bulk of people displaced by the war are children, mothers and the elderly. Displaced persons can be categorized into two distinct groups: those who hope to go back to Ukraine when the hostilities end (A), and those who have given up and are seeking permanent residence in a new home country (B). The closer a displaced person is to the Ukraine border, the more likely it is that they are in Group A, while those traveling through countries like Romania, the Czech Republic and Poland to reach other nations such as Germany, Norway, the Netherlands are more likely to be Group B.

Those who are able to get away from the conflict still face numerous obstacles. Once in another country, they face the reality of racism and living in transitional housing or camps while they sort out long-term options. There is the strain of separation from loved ones, all while dealing with the constant uncertainty about the situation in Ukraine.

Lutheran World Relief—How Your Love is Reaching Ukrainians

Lutheran World Relief has been sending out reports to keep us updated on their work. They share: "Since the conflict began in late February, millions of people have fled Ukraine, with millions more in dire need within their own country. Your love and support greeted them, providing both short and long-term needs during some of their darkest days.

Here's what your help looks like:

- Emergency funds for Ukrainian refugee families in Poland, distributed through a combined program with Lutheran World Federation. Cash and vouchers allow refugees to make the best decisions for themselves based on their families' individual needs.
- Food, shelter and emergency supplies. Your love is supporting our Ukrainian neighbors with the critical short-term relief they need to meet basic needs while deciding their next move.
- Ongoing support for St. Martin Lutheran

Church in Krakow, Poland, which has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children. Your generosity has provided residents with essential supplies including milk, energy biscuits, personal hygiene products and room partition panels.

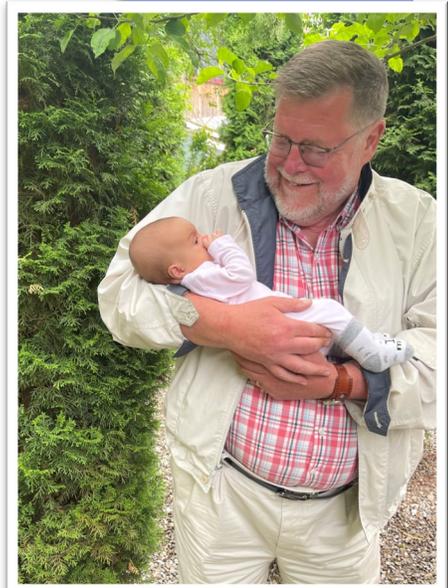


- Shipping and distribution of mission quilts and personal care kits. Thanks to Lutheran quilters and kit-makers in the United States, 7,400 quilts and 8,000 kits prepositioned in Lutheran World Relief's Dubai warehouse were rushed to Poland...
- Support of critical health needs through the provision of medical supplies and support for emergency medical services. Once refugees have reached safety, they often need medical attention and care. Your gifts provide that critical help. Additionally, your love is getting medical supplies and equipment delivered to a hospital in Ukraine...."

This information was taken from God's Love in Action, a publication from Lutheran World Relief, Spring 2022. For more personal stories and information, check out the bulletin board by the coat room. There are articles and magazines you can take, read and return later!

Mission Central Report—Report from the Field

Through Mission Central, we received a report from Blake Warren (Director of Business Services for the Office of International Mission of the LCMS), who had returned from a trip to Europe where he saw first hand the assistance and programs that are reaching out to displaced Ukrainians. LCMS missionaries and partner churches are actively working to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those affected by this war.



Rev. James Krikava, LCMS regional director for Eurasia, holds a four-day old Ukrainian child in Romania who had been baptized that day.



Displaced Ukrainians staying at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany, gather in the chapel to worship, led by a Ukrainian-speaking Lutheran pastor.

In Germany, refugee work is heavily subsidized by the federal government. Our German church partner, called the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), together with the LCMS, looks for gaps in that subsidy, trying to find where church support can have a meaningful and true impact.

The SELK tends to focus on those living in refugee camps. Near Wittenberg, Germany, there is a refugee camp with over 1,000 families. The partnership of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and the LCMS are running the Old Latin School in the center of

Wittenburg, and they are taking this opportunity to house several families in pension-house type rooms on the top two floors of that building. In addition to living there, the refugees are able to worship together as a congregation in the chapel of the Old Latin School's, being served by a Ukrainian Lutheran pastor. This pastor is traveling to six other cities to check on families living in those areas. Similar to our work with Farsi-speaking Iranian refugees in Leipzig and Frankfurt, there is a huge opportunity to plant new churches around these displaced people from Ukraine.

In Romania, our partnership with Pastor Sorin Trifa has secured a *pensione*, or pension house,

in the city of Brasov to provide two years worth of rent-free lodging for seven Ukrainian families. An LCMS grant will also fund the purchase of a vehicle to transport the refugees to and from education opportunities and worship services.

Donations are being used to help Ukrainians get registered in Romania, teach English (ESL) classes and assist them in finding work to create some sense of normalcy. LCMS missionaries are teaching the ESL classes and assisting with other humanitarian care as they are able.

Blake also shared about the situation in Slovakia. In that country, Rev. Dr. David Urich is serving refugees through a local Lutheran School. There is a heavy emphasis on assisting refugee children who need education, because they can be put into the school right away. The LCMS is granting funds to Pastor Urich to evaluate immediate needs as well as develop a longer-range strategy that includes both mercy work and church planting.

There is Still Work Ahead

The situation is still unstable, still constantly moving. It is likely that we will see many changes before the crisis is over. Throughout the turmoil, however, we praise God for sending faithful workers to help the hurting and for giving us the opportunity to support them financially. While we pray for an end to this conflict, we are confident that our God is the Victor and in all of this he will send His peace, comfort and justice.

If you would like to read more stories about the humanitarian efforts going on in Europe, check out the articles on the bulletin board by the coat room. More information can also be found in the LCMS website (lcms.org) and the LWR website (lwr.org).

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of:	Intended for:	Given by:
Charles Main	Kitchen Supplies	Stuart & Elisabeth Schluckebier
Harold Wagner on Father's Day	Lutheran High Schools	Barbara Karowich
Charles Main	Kitchen Supplies	Katharine Stasevich



Vacation Bible School

June 20-24, 2022

Our VBS this year was an awesome week at COS of being together, having fun and praising God! In the final count, one hundred and thirty-five children, ages 3-11, registered for our VBS. With the help of more than sixty-five volunteers, each day the children rotated through stations and participated in learning the Bible story and the memory verse, making crafts, eating yummy snacks, playing active games, joining together in action songs, and exploring science with The Nutty Scientist. We were so excited to have Kevin Schlosser and the Nutty Scientists of Southeast Michigan back this year! They added such an awesome science station to our VBS! (To learn more about this organization, visit nuttyscientists.com/southeast-

Michigan.) Through all of the fun we discovered that Jesus does the impossible giving us eternal life with Him!

We couldn't have done it without all of our volunteers—a big thanks to everyone who helped to make our God's Wonder Lab VBS a success! It was a great week, and we couldn't have done it without each of you!



The Lighter Side

The innocence of children can create some interestingly honest prayers!



"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

"Dear God, thank You for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy."

"Dear God, my Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go?"

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some E-mail."

"Dear God, when my mom makes leftovers, do I have to pray for the food again?"

"Dear God, my Mom tells me that you have a reason for everything on Earth, I guess broccoli is one of your mysteries."

Food For Thought

"WE PLEASE HIM MOST, NOT BY FRANTICALLY TRYING TO MAKE OURSELVES GOOD, BUT BY THROWING OURSELVES INTO HIS ARMS WITH ALL OUR IMPERFECTIONS, AND BELIEVING THAT HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING AND LOVES US STILL."

A.W. Tozer
excerpt from *The Root of the Righteous*

Let us know how you'd like to receive the Disciplegram

If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, email

Alyssa Anders at alyssaa@christoursavior.org.

Include your preferred email address and the current mailing address where you receive the Disciplegram newsletter.

Champions for Liberty
Live Seminar

Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director

LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Lunch provided with RSVP

Saturday, September 17
9 am-3 pm

Champions for Liberty

Join Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for a LIVE seminar entitled "Champions for Liberty".

This seminary will set forth the foundational, constitutional protections provided for Christians in the Bill of Rights and how the Christian lives in the Public Square.

The seminar will be held at Christ Our Savior on September 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a FREE event, with lunch provided when you RSVP. You can RSVP by scanning the QR code above or going online to bit.ly/championslibertycos. We hope to see you there!