



The Mountain Top Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Labor Day Offices Closed	2	3 6:30pm Worship Service	4 National Eat an Extra Dessert Day	5	6 Fight Pro- crastination Day
7 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP 3:30pm Mellen Installation	8 10:00am Bible Study	9 1:00pm Sewing Circle	10 6:30pm Worship Service	11 9:30am LFOJ Chaple	12	13 National Day of Encour- agement
14 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	15 10:00am Bible Study 5:30 Council Mtg	16	17 1:00pm Hospice Group- Gathe5:30pm 6:30pm Worship Service	18 9:30am Winkle	19 Talk Like a Pirate Day	20
21 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	22 10:00am Bible Study SEASON OF FALL	23 1:00pm Sewing Circle	24 6:30pm Worship Service	25 1:30pm Northern Lights	26	27 National Chocolate Milk Day
28 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am Confirmation 10:15am Bible Study	29 10:00am Bible Study	30 Blasphemy Day National Love People Day	ELDERS - September [3 Darryl] [7 Scott] [10 Randy] [14 JohnS] [17 JohnP] [21 Doug] [24 Andy] [28 Scott] October [1 Darryl] [5 Scott] September Altar Guild Jule Jarvela 715-682-0385 Tami Thimm 715-682-4817 			

Welcome to September, rumor has it summer is over, and truthfully the last week has kind of felt like it, so, like it or not we move into fall. I have noticed trees beginning to change color already particularly over near Little Girls Point. It seems like summer flew by, I hope fall gives us a chance to unwind before going down hill too quickly.

In a few weeks we will be starting both Sunday School and confirmation and the Monday morning Bible Study resumes on Monday, September 8th. I am looking forward to resuming that, we are going to continue our study of the Augsburg Confession, come join us.

Start thinking about our Fall Harvest Dinner and Music Extravaganza. If memory serves me correctly it will be the 3rd Saturday in October. If you would like to participate in the musical portion it is not too early to talk to Tiffany Darling who will be heading up that portion of the program.

For four Sunday's, September 28th, through October 19th, we will be doing a serious call Malachi and Money, Using God's Gifts for God's Glory. There is a little more on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

So, now on to our study of the month, Commandment number Seven: "You are not to steal". Heck, what could be more simple than that? Right! Don't steal, well, as simple as that sounds, we have to look a little deeper, how do we define steal? As we dive into the Large Catechism we find that there is a whole lot more involved than just taking something that doesn't belong to us.

Dr. Luther puts it this way, *"stealing is not just robbing someone's safe or pocketbook but also taking advantage of someone in the market, in all stores, butcher shops, wine and beer cellars, workshops, and in short wherever business is transacted and money is exchanged for goods or services."* That kind of expands what we first believed or thought about stealing.

Now tell me if this sounds at all familiar as Luther continues; *"I say the same thing about artisans, workers, and day laborers who act highhandedly and never know enough ways to overcharge people and yet are careless and unreliable in their work."* And guess what, he's not quite done yet as he continues; *"One person openly cheats another with defective merchandise, false weights and measures, and counterfeit coins, and takes advantage of the other by deception and sharp practices and crafty dealings."*

So now as we look at this expanded definition of stealing are we, or have we ever been guilty? Luther in his wit and wisdom then adds this statement; *"If we look at the whole world in all its situations, it is nothing but a big, wide stable full of great thieves."*

As I look at the world, as I spend time online, watching television, and paging through magazines, I believe what was true in 1529 is just as true in 2025. It seems the world is doing its best to scam us out of what we have, they do it through the mail, through our phones, in our emails, and online. People are scammed out of life savings, led astray by un reputable contractors, and sold all kinds of questionable services. All of this then begs the question, what about me, am I guilty of any of those infractions? The answer to that question is even more involved than we might think. Maybe I haven't done any of those things that I know of, but here is the kicker, have I done my utmost to have helped my

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neighbor from having them happen to him? Yup, that's a part of it, not only am I not supposed to take anything from my neighbor, but I am to do my best to stop other people from taking from him too.

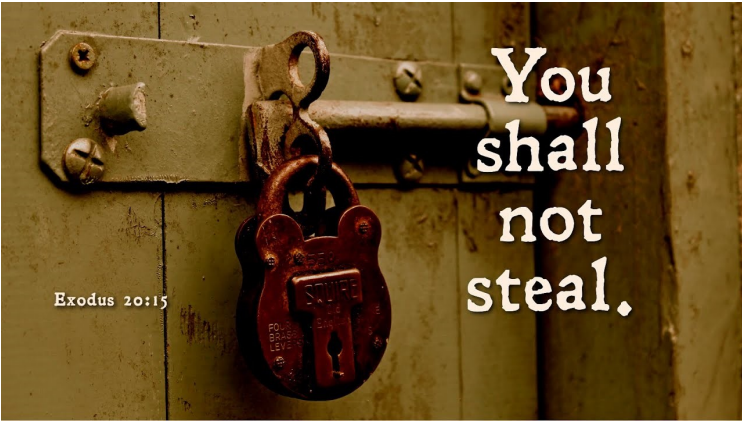
Here is the way Luther explains it; *“Let all people know, then that it is their duty, on pain of God’s displeasure, not to harm their neighbors, to take advantage of them, or to defraud them in any faithless or underhanded business transaction. Much more than that, they are (that’s you) also obligated to faithfully to protect their neighbors’ property and to promote and further their interests, especially when they get money, wages, and provisions for doing so.”* So, we see it is far more complicated than just simple stealing, it is part of the far bigger picture, and remembering to put our neighbor first in all things. How can we do this?

Well, one of the first steps is to be content, be content with what you have so that you do not have the desire to covet what isn’t yours and acquiring it with ill gotten means, but even more then that remembering the hierarchy of things, that be God, others, self. When we put God and our neighbors before ourselves we are fulfilling all of God’s commandments. After four full pages on stealing in the Large Catechism Luther closes in part with this statement; *“We have now given warning and exhortation enough. Those who do not heed or believe this may go their own way until they learn it by experience. But it needs to be impressed upon the young people so that they may be on their guard and not go along with the old, wayward crowd but instead keep their eyes on God’s commandment, lest God’s wrath and punishment overtake even them. Our responsibility is only to instruct and to reprove God’s Word.”* An interesting line that last one *“Our responsibility is only to instruct and to reprove God’s Word”*. As I consider that line I believe I understand, I see that as my task as your pastor. It goes along with what I have been trying to share with you these past seven months and will continue to share in the future. I will do my best to instruct and reprove, giving you the opportunity to live out that instruction. May God bless you as you live out His Word.

That’s enough for now, I pray you have a happy and safe Labor Day weekend and I look forward to seeing you in September.

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



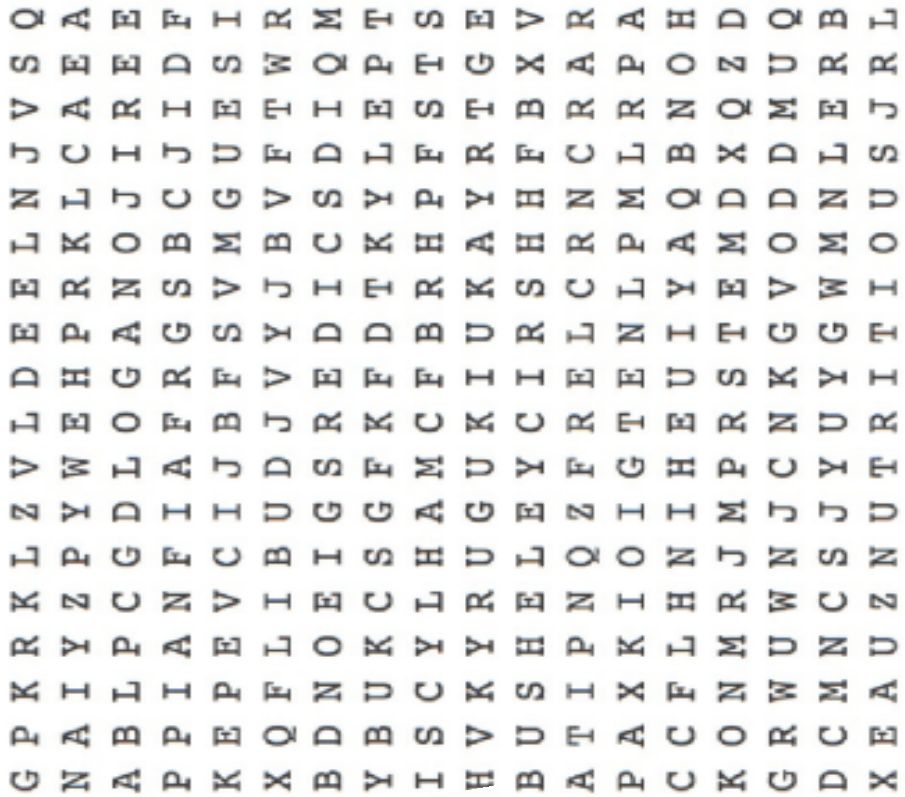
Helpers of Zion: Your dedication and effort have not gone unnoticed

Loren- Refinishing front door Nick, Jule Refurbishing the side entrance door.
Kathy, Ellie, Sandy, Jule, Chuck and subs for the weekly depositing of offerings.
All the ladies for Altar Duty - We value your diligence.
Trustees— Nick, Rick, Loren, Scott, Jim, mowing grass, shoveling snow, checking alarm systems, repairing, painting, etc. for the church and DayCare.
Elders— Darryl, Doug, Randy, JohnP, Scott, JohnS, Andy acting as an advocate of the pastor and the congregation., assisting with communion, filling in when necessary.
Evangelism - Wendy, June, John, Liisa, Matt - Preparing and implementing many events, Fall Harvest Dinner and Music, Summer Picnic, boxes to college students at finals, new members celebrations
Monthly missions - Joanne -Passing on needed assistance to those close and far away.

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All About Apples Word Search

Find and circle the 20 apple-related words running horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in this fun fall word puzzle.

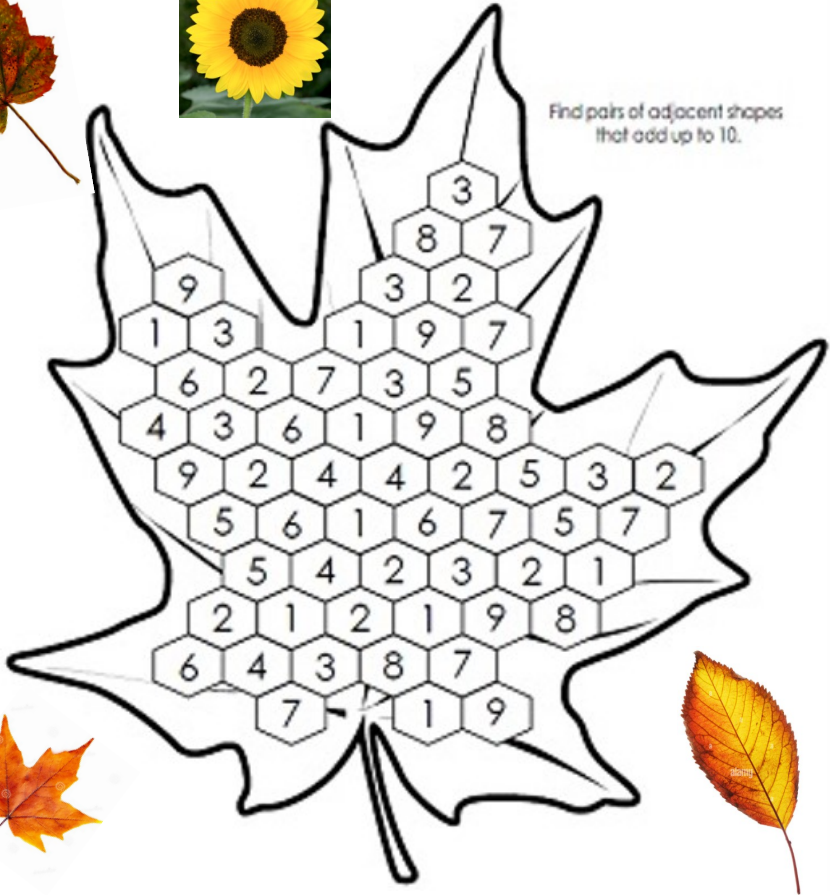


Applesauce	Delicious	Jonagold	Peel
Bushel	Firm	Juicy	Pie
Cider	Full	Ladder	Seeds
Core	Gala	Nutritious	Stem
Crunchy	Harvest	Orchard	Varieties

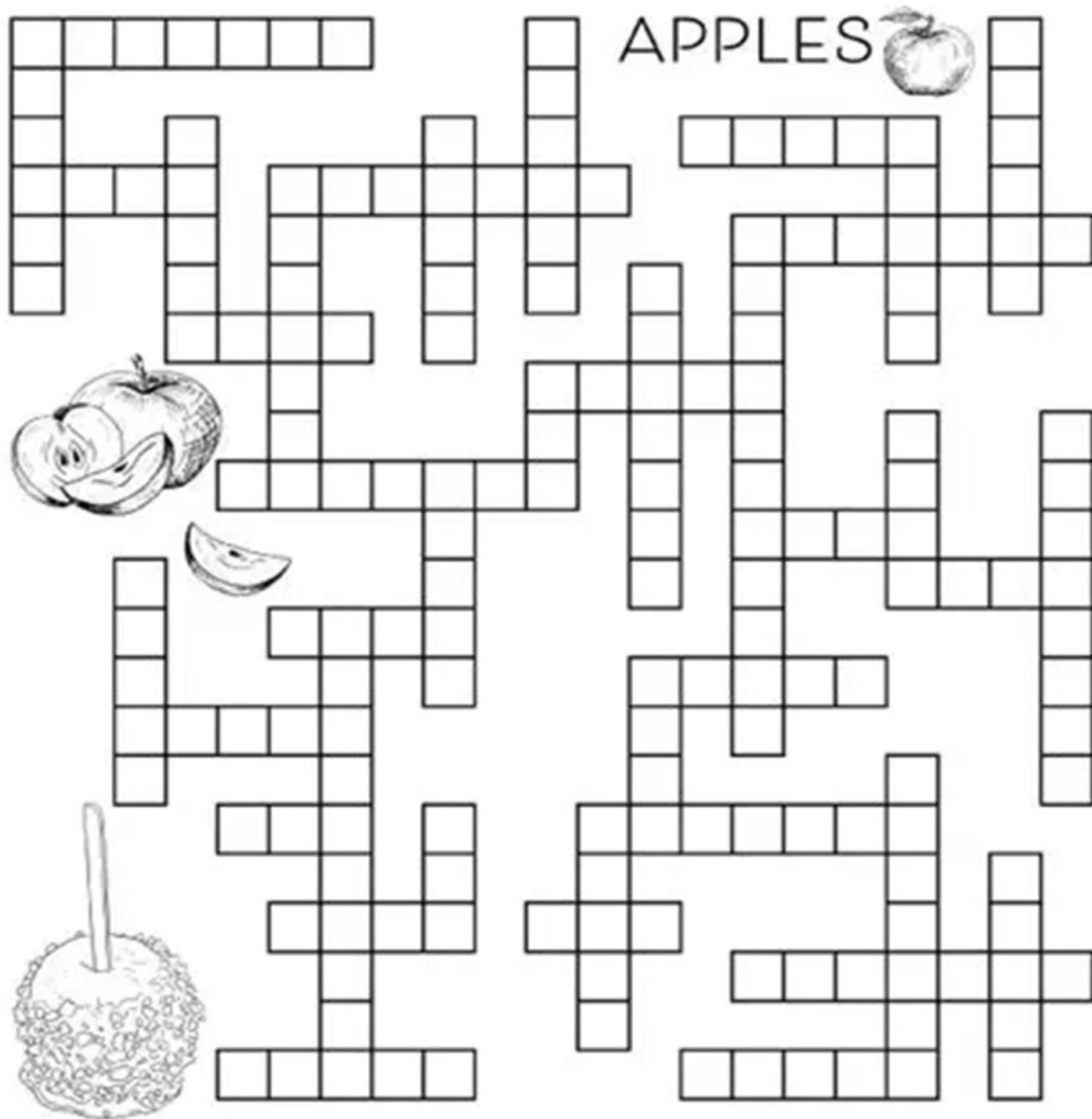


Fall Word Unscramble

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. daehiy | 1. _____ |
| 2. sruenwfol | 2. _____ |
| 3. rrqusile | 3. _____ |
| 4. seleva | 4. _____ |
| 5. kare | 5. _____ |
| 6. derci | 6. _____ |
| 7. nmutua | 7. _____ |
| 8. pape | 8. _____ |
| 9. rseebpmt | 9. _____ |
| 10. uipnkp | 10. _____ |
| 11. nroca | 11. _____ |
| 12. ycilhl | 12. _____ |



“In many ways, September feels like the busiest time of the year: The kids go back to school, work piles up after the summer’s dog days, and Thanksgiving is suddenly upon us.” – Brené Brown
(Did you see it? - There was someone’s name, who isn’t from our church and the name is mentioned in two different articles. Let me know if you found it.)



3 letters	4 letters	5 letters	6 letters	7 letters	8 letters
eat	core	skin	cider	peels	butter
pie	hard	sour	crisp	round	pectin
red	pips	stem	flesh	seeds	slices
yum	pulp	tart	fruit	snack	
		green	sweet		
		juice	trees		
		juicy			



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st – 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479
Office Hours: M /Th/F 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Tues.off
Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.
Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T/Wed 9:00-2:30
Days and times may change.
Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 **Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185
LFOJ Administrator: JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075
Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

**PRAYERS for Homebound,
Assisted Living, Nursing
Home**

Those who aren't able to at-
tend common worship that
they would find comfort
knowing that the Lord is
with them.

*Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina*

**PRAYERS FOR
PROTECTION**

For our full-time troops and
public servants, for travel,
missionaries, and for peace
and protection for families.

*David Wright
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss*

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and
comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addic-
tion, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace
for family we pray for:

Brad Prill	Vi Basina	James Fletcher
Harold Larson	Linda Stenroos	Steve Key
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski	Pam Ekholm
Don Pocernich	Jamie Klema	Keith Tveit
Riley Bretting	Rick Kallio	Karl Wellnitz
Mike Trimble	Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Mary Dahl	Cheryl Hildebrandt
Dwayne Lynch	Tom Anderson	Cindy Lazorik
Don Pocernich	Larry Hildebrandt	Octavia Pearce
Tracy Thompson	Clyde Sukanen	Kevin Heggie
Karen Wayne	Casey Chuck	Betsy

And those in our hearts

**Dear God, Life can be overwhelming at times, and we humbly
ask for your divine strength for those in need. Strengthen their
resolve, fortify their spirits, and help them overcome any chal-
lenges they face. Grant them the courage to persevere in the
face of adversity, for we know that through you, they can find
the strength they need. Thank you for being their unwavering
source of strength.**

“Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them danc-
ing on a windy day.” – Shira Tamir

Hydrangeas by Carl Sandburg

Dragoons, I tell you the white hydrangeas
turn rust and go soon.
Already mid September a line of brown runs
over them.
One sunset after another tracks the faces, the
petals.
Waiting, they look over the fence for what
way they go.



Samaritan’s Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, or stuffed animal becomes a tangible expression of God’s love to the child,



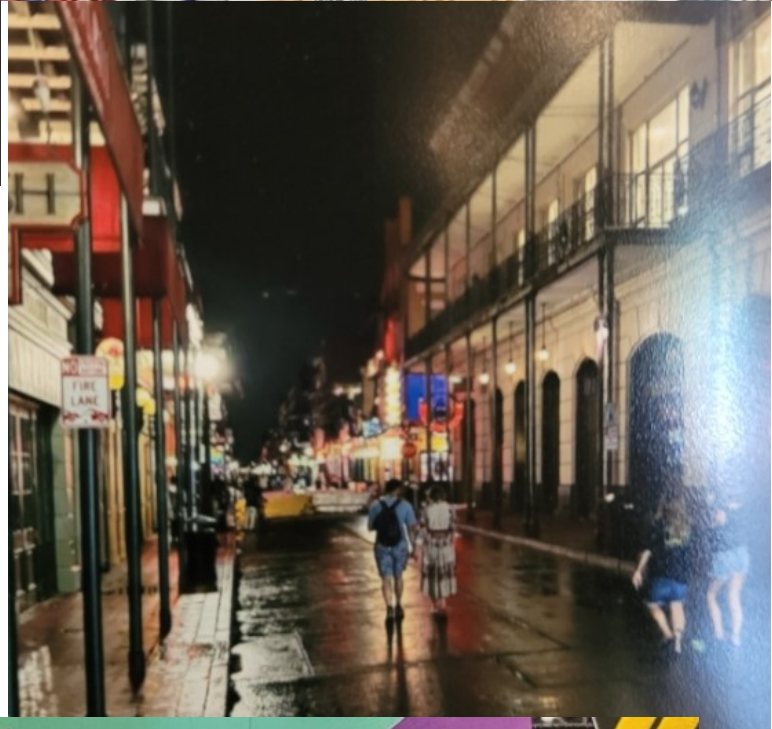
their family, and their community. Many shoebox recipients also participate in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*.

Tears ran down Pastor Ramon's face as he watched boys and girls open their Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during an outreach event at his church in Paraguay. “I felt the presence of God,” he said.

Reaching children with the Gospel is important to Pastor Ramon. Most families in his church are impoverished and live in communities with significant drug use. Like Ramon, all of our teams and church partners around the world are working hard in Jesus' Name to bring shoebox gifts to the most hard-to-reach communities, even to those that are extremely isolated. In Lesotho, we're using donkeys to transport gift boxes to children whose families are shepherds. Sometimes it takes several weeks to reach one group of

WE PRAISE GOD FOR
GOSPEL OUTREACH

shepherds because they live in outlying areas. Their nomadic lifestyle also makes them difficult to contact, as they move their flock to different mountainous areas as the seasons change.





“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin

which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)



LCMS National Youth Gathering—July 2025
New Orleans, LA



Eli Andre Grace Candence Tiffany Maria



Health benefits of apples

The combination of antioxidants and fiber makes apples a nutritional powerhouse. Here are some of the ways eating apples benefits your health:

1. Stabilizes blood sugar

“When you eat sugary, processed foods like doughnuts, the amount of glucose (sugar) in your blood spikes,” says Sommer. “But when you eat foods that are high in fiber and lower in sugar, like apples, it keeps your glucose levels steady.”

High glucose levels over time can lead to Type 2 diabetes, a chronic condition that affects more than 33 million Americans. Good news for apple fans, though: A study of more than 38,000 people found that those who ate more than one apple a day were 28% less likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than those who didn’t eat any apples.

The benefits likely come from both antioxidants and fiber in apples:

- Antioxidants may protect your pancreas from damage. Your pancreas produces insulin to remove glucose from your blood.

Fiber slows the absorption of glucose into your bloodstream.

2. Lowers cholesterol

Having high cholesterol is a major risk factor for heart disease because it clogs your arteries, restricting blood flow to your heart. But the antioxidants and fiber in apples are a winning combo to help lower that number. The type of fiber that stands out here is pectin, which binds to cholesterol in your digestive tract and flushes it out.

Multiple studies in people with high cholesterol show that consuming a few apples a day can reduce total cholesterol levels by about 5% to 8%. Can’t down that many apples in 24 hours? Try a daily serving of 3 ounces of dried apples (no sugar added). One study’s participants reduced their total cholesterol by 13% in six months after eating that much.

3. Reduces blood pressure

When you have high blood pressure, the force of blood flowing through your blood vessels can damage them. It’s a leading contributor to stroke and heart attacks. A healthy diet is one way to prevent and manage high blood pressure.

A small Australian study found eating apples helped lower blood pressure. Other research has had mixed results. But researchers agree that antioxidants in apple peels help your blood flow smoothly. The fiber in apples may also play a role.

4. Eases inflammation

Inflammation is one way our bodies fight infections and heal damaged tissue. But inflammation should only last a short time. Continual, longstanding (chronic) inflammation actually causes damage and can lead to disease.

Apples contain anti-inflammatory substances — mainly fiber and quercetin, an antioxidant that reduces inflammation, especially in your respiratory system. According to multiple studies, eating apples lowers c-reactive proteins in your blood, a sign that chronic inflammation is improving.

Additionally, a study of 1,600 young adults suggests that eating apples and pears may protect against developing asthma. Other research also points to improved lung function in people who eat apples.

5. Boosts your microbiome

Your body is a wonderland for many microorganisms that live in your gut and on your skin. Some are helpful, while some are harmful. Apples help with both types:

- Quercetin stops those harmful microbes from growing in your gut. Pectin acts as a prebiotic (food for beneficial microorganisms), promoting good gut health.



6. Satisfies hunger longer

“Because apples are high in water and fiber, they make a filling snack,” says Sommer. “The fiber helps slow digestion, so you feel full for longer.” And as apples are low in calories, choosing a healthy snack like apples over higher-calorie snacks such as cookies or candy, can help you maintain a healthy weight.

7. Helps you live longer

If you eat an apple a day, you might just live longer, says one study. Researchers discovered that participants who did this were 35% less likely to die when they followed up 15 years later.

Adding apples to your diet can reduce your risk of heart disease or cancer, the top two leading causes of death in the United States. In a study of nearly 40,000 people, those who ate apples were 13% to 22% less likely to develop heart disease than those who skipped the fruit.

Apples may also help prevent cancer. Research indicates that those who eat apples are less likely to get the disease. But how many apples do you need to eat to lower your risk? One big study of 77,000 people found that those who ate at least one apple a day had a lower risk of lung cancer.



Happenings in the District

From the District President

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

DJ, our district education executive, asked during my first week, "Pastor, what are you going to want us to do?" He was not searching for tasks. He expounded, something like, "President Shoup, you have been elected to serve and to lead. What do you hope to accomplish? What do you desire we do? Why are we here as a district? Could you be ready to chart a course for the Board of Directors at the August 4-5 meeting?"

As I write this article, the Texas flooding tragedy is unfolding. Today's death toll is 120, with 173 missing. My heart has been traveling back and forth from Wisconsin to Texas. My wife, Nancy, told me it is always on her mind. I watched a promotional video for Camp Mystic. Multiple scenes of girls full of joy with smiles, music, smores, red, yellow, and orange t-shirts, soccer balls, and all. I'm embarrassed for having momentarily wondered, "Couldn't some of these people swim, even as the tide rose?" This was no "lazy river." Video footage shows trees uprooted, tipped over, or busted off, houses mangled, and cars and boulders tossed around as if they were plastic toys and pebbles. Another video showed a massive, swiftly moving riptide as if alive, carving a path of destruction. It destroyed dwellings and people. Another clip recorded a troubled retiree telling how he will live the rest of his life hearing the screams of the girls he could not save.

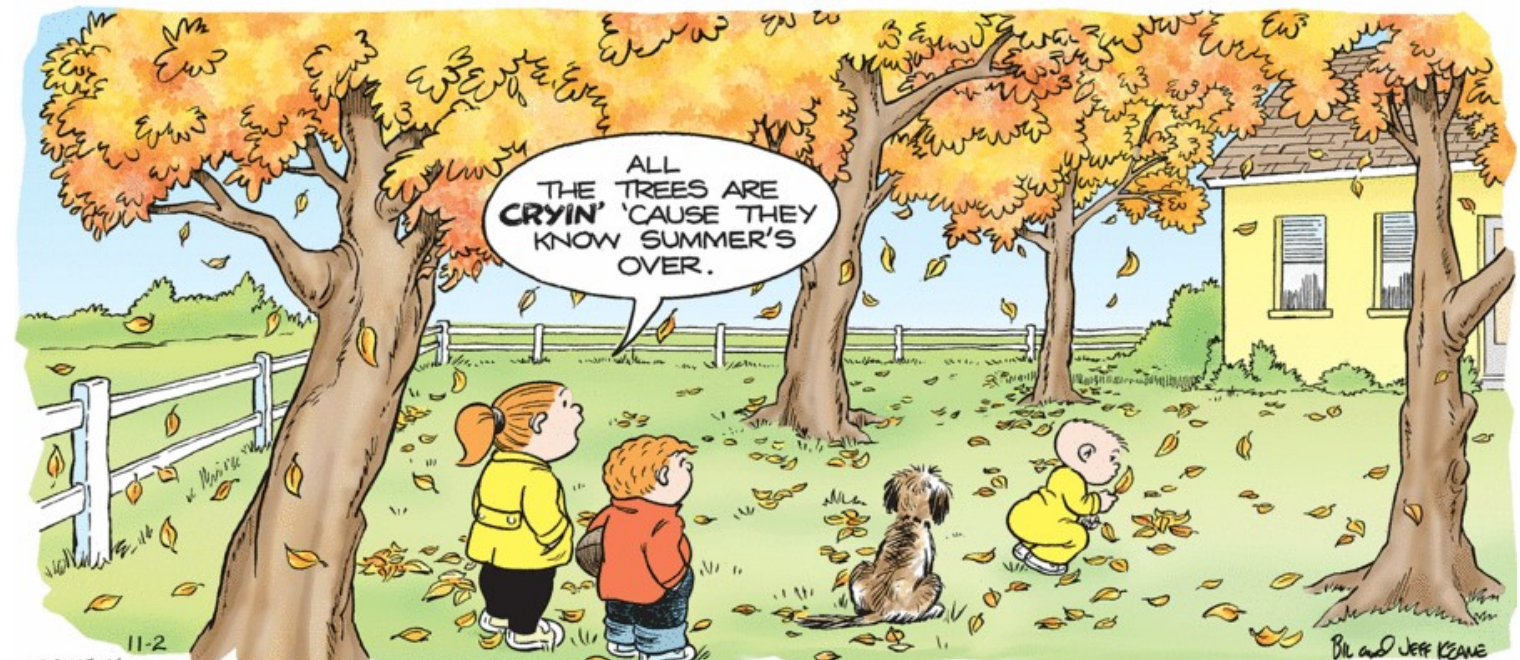
"Pastor, as district president, what do you desire we do?"

This much is Texas-clear. Every person needs Christ – His forgiveness for their sins, life, and salvation. Let's remember two things He did to earn it. First, He lived perfectly in our place, with purity and holiness – without caving in to temptation – so that, second, He could step in to suffer not for His own sins – He did not have any – but for ours. And He did so long before we committed them, even though He knew we would. His love is sacrificial and commitment unyielding, for us, for our salvation.

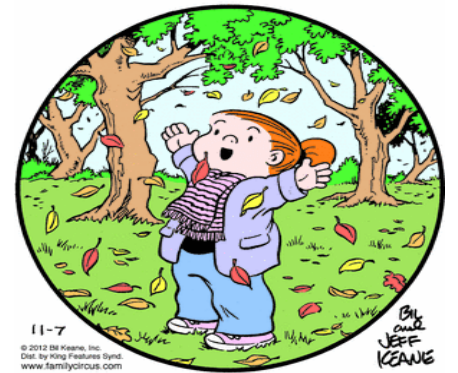
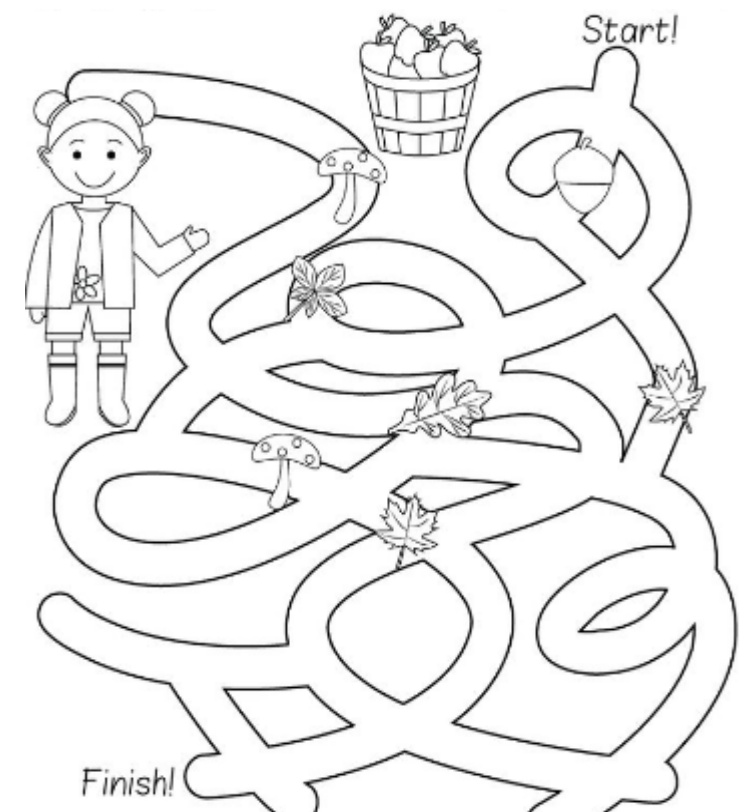
And what is Christ doing now? With episodes like Texas, why should we not think: He's risen from the dead, but He's very inactive, often sleeping, evidently. He seems to lack the "pop" and power displayed centuries ago when He restored sight to the blind, calmed storms, commanded demons, multiplied a few loaves for many thousands, and called forth three people – Lazarus, the ruler's daughter, and the widow's son – from death. Apparently, that was then. Now? Not much action.

Wait, what? You want to talk about "pop" and power? Jesus physically rose from the dead. He is alive today. He reigns over the entire universe and over your neighborhood. He does not sleep. He speaks! He acts! He controls all for us and for our salvation, come Texas high waters, or not. He converts us and keeps us in the faith. He promises, "I baptize you!" Through the voice of His called servants, He declares, "I forgive you all your sins!" He welcomes us with joy, and says, "Take and eat!" He insists, "I will never leave you or forsake you!"

(Continued on the next page.)



Color, count and write the numbers in the boxes below



JOEL 2:23-24 Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.



The book of Malachi announces the Gospel of God's covenant election and coming Messiah to empower believers to manage God's gifts for God's glory.

MALACHI

Using God's Gifts for God's Glory

What do you know about the book of Malachi? That it's the last book in the Old Testament? Anything after that? Probably not. And you're not alone. Few Christians have ever studied Malachi.

So why spend an entire month on such a little-known book of the Bible? Simple. The book of Malachi announces the Gospel of God's covenant election and coming Messiah to empower believers to manage God's gifts for God's glory.

How often does apathy get in the way of our walk with Jesus? Apathy? It's a compound of two Greek words that literally means, "No passion." We all know the feeling—the days when our get up and go got up and went. Then what? We don't manage God's gifts—especially his gifts of money and investments—for his glory and the spread of his Gospel.

His Gospel!

That's what the prophet Malachi announces to awake us out of spiritual slumber so that, with renewed zeal, we open wide our eyes to the goodness of our God. And there's only one way to live after a fresh encounter with the Gospel of God's forgiveness and renewing Spirit in Christ Jesus. For his glory!

Here are the sermon themes as we make our way through Malachi:

Week one: Looking in the right places makes faithful stewards

Week two: God gets our attention so we bring him righteous offerings

Week three: God calms our financial fears

Week four: Christ's return empowers joyful stewardship

I will also be leading a four-week Bible study on Malachi. All of this, and so much more, are coming your way. I invite you to participate in this year's stewardship emphasis joyfully and enthusiastically!

Pastor Rick

(continued from pg. 2)

Sewing Circle, Kathy, Sue, Sandy, Sheila, Bonita, Rita - sharing their talents and time to share their talent of quilts for those baptized, those who have lost their homes due to fire, people in desperate areas.

Tammi—keeping control of individuals' accounts, entering attendance.

Darryl - teaching the Sunday School and Confirmation to lead our youth down the right path.

Carol - Giving our entrance a welcome with flowers and winter décor.

Tiffany, Lynn—sharing their talents for service music.

Then there are many others - Pastor, Kevin, LFOJ staff, Lynn, Tiffany for their work for the church.

And then there is our congregation - for you devotion to our Lord.

If you every would have some time to help out with any of these people, contact them. There is always something to do. God Bless You All !

(continued from prior page.)

We will, by His grace and guidance, keep doing what His followers have done since He first commissioned them to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them. We will continue *bringing Christ and His Word to people*, to our pastors, church workers, and parishioners for the sake of:

- Fostering Lutheran education.
- Building families and children of faith and character.
- Freeing them to live in His image – to serve.
- Revitalizing our smaller congregations.

Helping them reach the lost.

Christ Jesus is our living Savior. That joyous Good News echoes in the classrooms and hallways of our Lutheran schools, fills the anniversary celebrations of our congregations, and anchors our ministry together throughout northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

By the way, I'm sure you've heard – our congregations and people gave offerings totaling over \$1,000,000 for the Labor of Love campaign to help our church workers cover their educational debt. We thank the Lord for all of you, and for your offerings. Let's encourage our young people to consider using their God-given abilities to serve us as pastors, teachers, and fulltime church workers.

It is my honor to bring Christ and His Word to you, and to help you do the same – bring Christ and His Word to others.

Pastor Shoup

Rev. Timothy J. Shoup

NWD Adult Gathering - October 14

Registration is now open for the 2025 Adult Gathering on Tuesday, October 14, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Rev. Dr. Dan Paavola, pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church, Saukville, and Professor Emeritus, Concordia University Wisconsin, will be our keynote speaker on the topic Our Way Home: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer. Morning devotions will be led by Rev. Timothy Shoup, District President. The registration fee includes 9:30 morning refreshments, 10:00 program, and a catered lunch at noon. Details and registration information are available under Events and Info on the

LCMS Youth Gathering

We give thanks for the fellowship and spiritual growth that were part of the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. May our youth, church, and communities be blessed by your participation.

Thank you for the dedication and commitment of so many adults to help make the event happen, both nationally and locally. Special thank you to Samantha Tracy for organizing the district event and booth. See you at the next youth Gathering in San Antonio in 2028!



(Cont. from previous pg.)

Intro: This article, from The Lutheran Witness is the first of a few more articles for the coming monthly newsletters.. A bit of a background about our current hymnal. Hope some will enjoy this interesting process taken for our hymnal.

Hymnal & Concrete

A hot and humid week in St. Louis is a wonderful time—thanks to a workshop on the new hymnal and a few trips to Ted Drewes.

Tom Openlander © Concordia Publishing House
LW September 2006 by Tim Shoup

Ted Drewes frozen custard—every seminarian (and pastor-alumnus) from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, can tell you about it. Most anyone in St. Louis can tell you it's near the corner of Chippewa and Jamieson. No, my family and I are not driving from northern Wisconsin into 100-degree St. Louis heat and humidity just to get to Ted's. But so long as we are coming down for nephew Matthew's wedding. ...

Sure enough, it's just as I remembered it. As we pull into Ted Drewes' parking lot, our kids see the lines going from the counter out to the street corner. The "concrete" is the specialty—smooth, creamy, filled with fresh strawberries or blueberries or your favorite flavor. As Ted Drewes says in his commercials:

"It really is good."

That was Friday. Now it's Wednesday.

Nancy and the kids are heading back to Wisconsin today. I'm remaining in sunny (read: muggy and hotter than I can possibly describe) St. Louis. I'm going to the LCMS International Center, where our Commission on Worship will introduce to pastors from around the country the Lutheran Service Book—LSB for short—our denomination's new hymnal. This three day workshop will equip us to lead three-hour LSB workshops in our respective districts.

The elegantly embossed cover is impressive. Now we'll see what is inside.

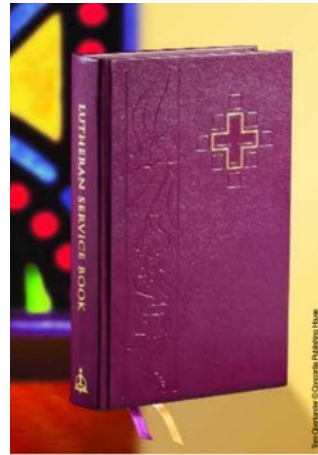
That was Wednesday. Now it's Friday.

I've learned that **LSB** and the many accompanying tools offer a lot. The electronic version is amazing. Called **Lutheran Service Builder**, it has the entire hymnal on computer, worship, planning software, and a blanket copyright license. The Pastoral Care Companion book is full of Scripture and helpful thoughts and prayers and psalms. It's small enough to fit in my pocket, but with print large enough to see. I look forward to using it.

After the liturgies, including the Lutheran Worship (LW) Divine Service II settings and the "Page 15" service from The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH), are the hymns—bundles of them—including many that we have sung all our lives, newer ones we have learned from the Hymnal Supplement, other well-liked hymns that, until now, were not easily accessible, and a sprinkling of new hymns—all in one hymnal. From "The Church's One Foundation," to "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus," to "My Hope Is Built," to "Lift High the Cross," to "Thine the Amen," to "The Lamb," to "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," to "Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven"—it is a wonderful collection.

Dr. Herman Stuempfle wrote the hymn "O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life." He is now in his 80s. He writes with an artistic but simple style for the little child in each of us to understand. The middle two stanzas of "O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life" (#552) paint a word picture of Jesus raising the Widow's Son (Luke 7:11–17). The Commission on Worship asked him to compose four more stanzas, two for the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter, and two for of the raising of Lazarus, thus providing us hymn stanzas for each of Christ's resurrection miracles in our three-year lectionary.

(continued on the next page.)



"I am intrigued by the invitation; however, I am busy with other deadlines to meet, and we have family functions to attend, ..." went the gracious, but noncommittal response from Stuempfle. Then just five days later came four new stanzas. Only three weeks ago we heard the story of the miracle of Jairus' daughter raised to life by Jesus (Mark 5:21–43). Next time, we will have Stuempfle's hymn ready to sing:



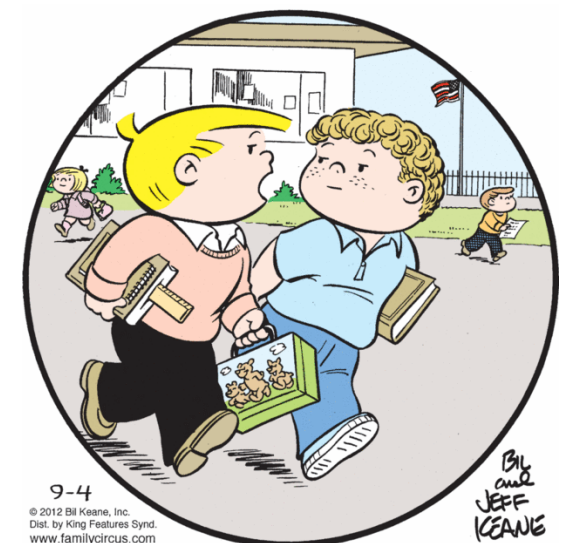
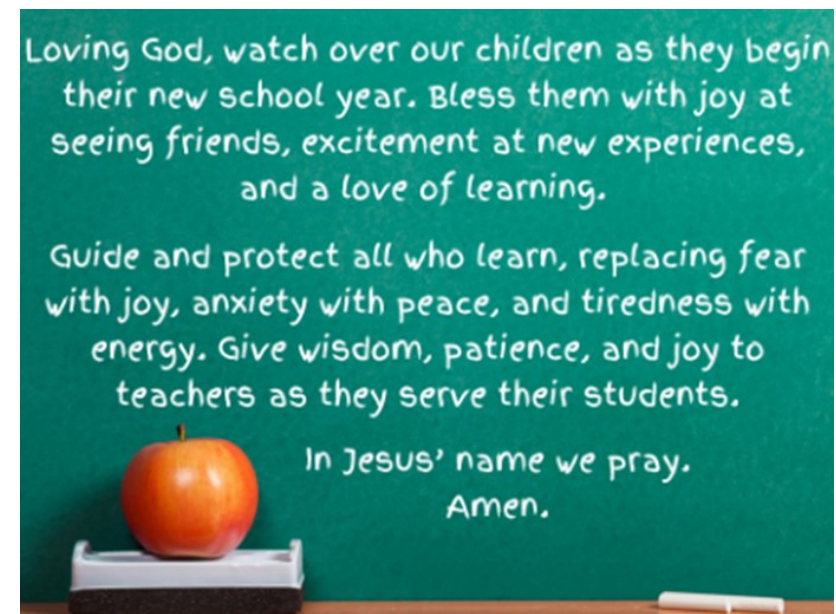
You pressed through crowds to reach the child
Whose limbs with death grew cold.
"She is not dead; she only sleeps!"
The weeping folk You told.
And then You took her hand and called,
"My child, I bid you rise!"
She rose! And all stood round You, Lord,
With awed and wond'ring eyes! ©

Words like this bring me Jesus. And that's the best thing about Lutheran Service Book. With Scripture woven into song, verse, canticle, and prayer, it brings Jesus into my heart and soul.

Unfortunately, it may be a while before we again taste Ted Drewes frozen custard, but for a little less than the price of one of our family stops for "concretes," we will have a copy of LSB in our own home to stay.

Rev. Timothy Shoup is pastor at St. Paul is pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel, Wis.

A ruler proud but bent by grief
Knelt down before Your feet:
"My precious daughter's gripped by death!
Come now and death defeat!"
A multitude had gathered round
To hear the truth You taught,
But, leaving them, You turned to help
A father sore distraught.



9-4
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"The hardest part about goin' back to school is getting my voice to whisper again."