

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

School's out for summer! In the words of my grandkids, "we're free!" Their school responsibilities are gone. Most kids look forward to hours of play and being able to sleep in as long as they like.

When I was young there was a Sunday School and confirmation curriculum that was called, "Free to Be". The curriculum was based on Martin Luther's writing called, "Freedom of a Christian". As Americans, we like all this talk about freedom. Being free sounds good to us and is our "right" as people who live in our country.

Martin Luther would ask us, what are we free *from* and what are we free *for*. In his writing, Luther would emphasize that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are made free from the shackles of sin. We are forgiven and made new each day by our Savior. We are made free! But... we are not made free just for our own selfish wants. We are made free for a purpose.

Luther liked to teach that we are claimed by a loving God, forgiven and set free from our sins and then we are sent into God's world with a purpose. Being free in Christ is not about having the ability to do anything we want. Luther says, Christ sets us free so that we can *willingly* serve God and our neighbors. The burden of sin is taken from our backs so we can help our neighbors bear what they carry.

To quote Martin Luther's *Freedom of a Christian*, "A Christian person is the most free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian person is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."

Ask yourself today, "what am I *free to be*"? How will I honor my freedom and the sacrifice it took to give it to me? Who am I called to help? What can my gifts, my time and my presence do for my church and my neighbors?

It's time for summer! In the name of Jesus, we are set free....now what?

Have a Blessed Day!

Pastor Janet Miller

HOPES HAPPENINGS



Congratulations to Hope Lutheran's graduating seniors who received their quilts during worship on May 12. L-R, Kylie Nelson, Maddie Hinkleman, and Jackson Wohlleber. God's blessing to all on your futures!

Reformation Festival Sponsorship

Each year, St. Dymus hosts a special 2-day event on Reformation Weekend. We invite special speakers, preachers, and musicians to take part in celebrating our Lutheran heritage.

The men at Mike Durfree State Prison get the chance to invite their families to attend, and they get to share a meal together. The men of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls do not get the same blessing.

So this year, we thought we would do something special for the Sioux Falls event. We have invited Pr. Paul Oman to come and do his "Drawn to the Word" project as a special treat. The finished painting will be hung in Hope Chapel as an enduring reminder of God's gift given in his Son, Jesus Christ!

We are needing to raise \$5000 to make this happen. Please consider a special donation in addition to your general offering to make this event possible. Thank you!

* A "Paint and Pour" fundraiser for the Youth will be held on Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30 at the firehall. Cost is \$35. If you are interested in attending this fun event, contact Pastor Janet to get signed up! 😊 A picture of the painting is below.



Lutherans Continue Recovery Efforts from Spring Storms

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), continues to organize relief efforts after 412 tornadoes and more than 2,000 storms struck the Midwest this spring.

The tornadoes and storms "brought havoc and devastation to people in the mid- and lower United States," said the Rev. Gilbert B. Furst, director, Lutheran Disaster Response. Floods produced by the storms are affecting Alabama, Arkansas and Illinois, he said.

"At least 50 counties in Missouri have been declared federal disaster sites," said Larry Gustafson, information resource manager, Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS). LFCS is managing recovery efforts on behalf of Lutheran Disaster Response, and Gustafson is serving as the coordinator for disaster response.

In Kansas City nearly 800 homes were damaged or destroyed. In southwest Missouri the count of damaged homes may reach 3,000. These figures do not include businesses, farm buildings, schools, and churches or numbers from the eastern side of the state, Gustafson reported.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross and Salvation Army have been active in disaster recovery in Missouri, Gustafson said. Many other state, community and faith-based organizations have been active in the primary phase of recovery, he said.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been communicating the need for

volunteers, bottled water, food, cleaning supplies and other items. It will also commit to the long-term relief phase, said Gustafson.

"The long-term phase of recovery can take as long as one to three years," he said.

Lutheran Disaster Response is a major provider of the resources needed during the phase of recovery, such as recruiting volunteers for repair and construction projects, cleaning crews and final debris cleanup, monetary funds to purchase construction materials, medical and other services, and in-kind donations of furniture, beds, appliances and more, said Gustafson.

The Rev. Christine E. Iverson, disaster consultant, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, said the "southeast and southwest corners of Kansas have been hit hard by tornadoes." Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is managing Lutheran Disaster Response's recovery efforts in Kansas.

Major areas of concern are in Kansas City, southeast and southwest Kansas around Kismet and Liberal, said Iverson. So far the Red Cross has indicated more than 1,250 houses have been affected by storms, she said.

The list of homes affected "have shown to be low compared to actual damage, especially in rural areas," according to Iverson. In Crawford County, for example, 38 houses were listed as destroyed or having incurred "major" damage. She said some homes in that area were affected but identified as incurring "minor" damage.

"The small village of Ringo had 38 of its 40 homes destroyed. The town of Franklin was about 80 percent destroyed with well over 100 houses gone, and the small town of Mulberry

was similarly affected.

These are the areas where most of the storm-related deaths occurred in Kansas," Iverson said.

"Counties in southwest Kansas hit by a May 15 tornado have also been added to the federal disaster declaration," she said.

"Concern has surfaced for the many undocumented families brought into the area by the meat packing industry. It is estimated that 200 to 300 families have been affected. Many of them live in mobile homes and received the most damage and loss. Language and cultural barriers and fear of Immigration and Naturalization Service involvement are impairing efforts to help those affected. It is important for people to know that they can register and receive disaster help without the INS being notified," she said.

"Long-term recovery for the area will need Lutheran and interfaith efforts to reach all members of the communities affected by disaster. No one deserves a disaster, and everyone needs help to recover," Iverson said.

She said the number of counties and the areas involved and storms that continue to hit the same areas have complicated efforts for disaster response. But the church is involved for the long haul.

"Into the midst of death and disaster the church brings the message of hope as we work together towards recovery."

DOMESTIC DISASTERS:

Editors: When listing organizations receiving funds to aid survivors of major disasters inside the United States, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, please include: ELCA Domestic Disaster Response P.O. Box 71764

Chicago, Illinois 60694-1764

Credit card gift line: 1-800-638-3522

Credit card gifts via

Internet: <http://www.elca.org/disaster>

For information contact:

John Brooks, Director (773) 380-2958

or NEWS@ELCA.ORG

<http://listserv.elca.org/archives/elcanews.html>

Hello June

J oy finds you when you
U nderstand your value and
N ourish your need
E ven when it feels hard



OurMindfulLife.com

Happy
Father's
Day



June 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 Synod Assembly
2-green	3	4	5 7:00- Council	6 9:00-noon- Quilting Conference Dean Zoom	7	8
9 green	10	11	12 6:30-"Paint & Pour" fundraiser for the youth at the firehall	13	14	15
16 green Happy Father's Day!!	17	18 Cederview Worship	19	20 9:00-noon- Quilting Conference Dean Zoom	21 Newsletter items due	22
23 green	24	25	26 Memory Care Worship	27	28	29
30 green						

"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things."
-St. Mother Teresa

Notes

WORSHIP TIMES: (unless otherwise noted)-10:30 Worship.
No Worship helpers for June as of printing.