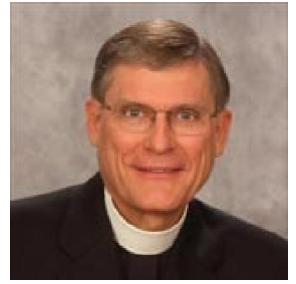


August 14, 2009



This could be a pivotal month for the progress of health-care reform in our nation—an important time for LCMS members to be informed and to demonstrate responsible citizenship.

Congress is in recess now, leaving the health-care reform issue on the table until lawmakers return to the capital next month. As evidenced by record attendance at recent public forums, this subject is stirring much debate. With the American public split over the issue, and in view of the demonstrated anxiety toward President Obama's ideas, we can expect to see escalated advertising campaigns and other efforts from all sides aimed at winning our confidence and support. Legislators will return to Washington next month prepared to take up the issue again, if not actually to vote, armed with the sentiments of their constituents—the American people.

As LCMS members and citizens of this land, we have an obligation, and a privilege, to be attuned to the debate and the process. We also are called to pray for our elected leaders and for all those in authority.

Many contend that the nation's health-care system needs improving, and that our leaders should be giving it immediate attention. The question comes down to what degree and to what extent changes are needed. Can our current system be adjusted to provide for those with inadequate care, or must the whole system be massively overhauled?

The process is complicated and still evolving. There is much we don't know. Legislation is still being drafted, refined, and negotiated in multiple committees (just yesterday, Aug. 13, key senators moved to exclude the so-called end-of-life provision from the Senate version of the bill). We don't even fully know how some of the proposals would affect us personally. There are likely to be many changes before a final bill reaches a vote.

And there are so many questions still unanswered. Should there be a government-sponsored plan? Should current government programs be expanded? Should everybody be required to have health insurance, even younger adults who don't want it (and don't want to pay the premiums)? Should the government regulate private insurance? How will we pay for everything? In the end, will the Obama plan be more about health-care reform or health-*insurance* reform?

What we *do* know is that regardless of the outcome of this current debate, God's Word will continue to guide us as we offer Christian care and compassion to our neighbors in time of need. Our "health-care" plan is exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan, who, "as he journeyed, came to where [the beaten man] was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him" (Luke 10:33-34).

Compassionate care and prayer will remain foundational in our life as the church as we respond to the health care and spiritual needs of those around us. Long before health insurance and government-related health-care programs began, the Christian Church understood her responsibility to care for one another. "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). We care for others out of our love for Christ and for His people. "I was sick and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36).

God's Word will lead us also in some of the crucial issues in the current health-care debate.

One of those issues is abortion.

The LCMS supports the protection and nurture of human life from conception through death. We would not endorse any component of a plan that includes funding for abortion. Currently, federal money cannot fund abortions (Hyde Amendment, 1976), and there appears to be nothing in the health-care reform plan at this time that would change that. However, some versions do propose a sliding scale of health-care premiums based on income, with government money making up for the lower premiums of poorer people. As pro-life advocates, we would want to prohibit any government money from being used, even indirectly, for insurance that covers abortion.

We have been called to be disciples of Christ and witnesses for Christ. Searching for an effective means of ministering to the sick and vulnerable is one way to respond to that calling. May the Lord grant us, our leaders, and our nation wisdom in this process.

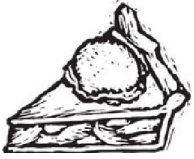
*Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*



**CASH WISE FOOD STAND**

We need many volunteers to help with the Cash Wise Food Stand which will support the Roof Fund. The dates are Thurs., September 10 – Sat., September 12. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the offices if you can help.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



The Stewardship committee is planning an Ice Cream Social on Thursday, September 24, from 4:30- 7:00 pm. The menu will include Bar-B-Cues, potato chips, beans, egg salad sandwiches, milk, juice, coffee, pie and ice cream. We will be applying for matching funds from Thrivent and the proceeds will go to furnish more chairs for the fellowship hall. Bring your appetites!!

**OFFICER AND BOARD REPLACEMENTS**

We are currently in the process of looking for candidates for some board and officer positions for the 2010 Church year.

The officer positions open for election are:

President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer (all one year terms)

The board positions open for election are:

3 Elder positions, 1 Trustee position, 1 Stewardship position, 1 Education position, 2 Evangelism positions, 1 Finance position (all 3 year terms) and 3-4 Youth positions (2 year term)

Please prayerfully consider involvement as an officer or board member.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO DAY OF CARING –  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009-2010**

Join us for our third annual countywide Day of Caring organized by the United Way of the Brown County Area and Volunteers for Seniors of Brown County. The Day of Caring is an annual celebration of community and volunteers giving "One Day to Help One Another". Volunteers provide "helping hands" for services that people, for diverse reasons, cannot do. Projects needed: Do you, or someone you know, need an extra hand with a difficult task? Projects can range from writing letters, reading, housework, yard work, painting, washing windows, cleaning gutters, small repairs and much, much more. Volunteers needed: Gather a team together! Recruit family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to make a team. Teams can range in size and ability. To receive more information, call the United Way at 354-6512.

**FOOD SHELF RECORD NUMBERS AND CURRENT NEEDS**

The New Ulm Food Shelf continues to serve a record number of families this summer. In July, there were 26 first-time families and 129 total families served. Some of the shelves are looking bare. Items currently in need: saltine crackers, pancake syrup, muffin mixes, small packages of pancake mix, cream of chicken soup, tomato soup, chicken noodle soup and pudding.



**MEMORIALS**

Memorials will be listed in October's newsletter.

**THANK YOU**

- Thanks to all who offered words of condolence and prayer, came to the visitation or funeral, sent a card, or made a memorial in my father, Arnie Berdan's memory. After his short and difficult battle with cancer, we know he is no longer suffering and in a much better place with our Lord. ~ Cheryl Meyer and family
- Thank you for your continued prayers for Tracy. She now goes to physical therapy 5 times a week in New Ulm and it getting stronger each day. Also, thank you to Pastor Bode for his hospital visit to HCMC and his prayers on her behalf. God is at work in Tracy's life granting his gifts of health, healing and wellness. We are so grateful for your thoughts and prayers. ~Ken, Tammy, Paul, Dustin, Tracy and Mike

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Adults are needed for teaching Sunday School beginning this fall. You do not need to commit to a year or even 1/2 a year... a 3-week commitment to teach a specific Bible lesson is all that is required. We use the Growing in Christ materials which are very teacher friendly. The students love the format, and you will be blessed to serve in this very important mission of sharing the Gospel of Christ with our children. Please let Tammy know if you can help.

**THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE–  
LIFE BY HIS WORD**



Concordia Publishing House wants to make the *Lutheran Study Bible* available to every church member. That is why they are offering pre-publication, special pricing, only available before the Bible releases. We are looking at purchasing some of these Bibles by the case (10 Bibles per case) and wanted to know if anyone is interested in purchasing one of these study bibles. The hardback price is \$34.99 (special price) the regular price will be \$54.99. They also have large print hardback bibles. The price is \$44.99 (special price) the regular price will be \$64.99. If you purchase a case of bibles they give you free shipping. Orders will be shipped in October. Please contact the office before October 18th if you are interested in purchasing one of these bibles. I have received a sampler book that you can take a peek at as well. It is not the whole book, but it kind of shows you what the book will be like.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	LAYREADER	FINANCE	USHERS	FELLOWSHIP
September 6 (Labor Day Weekend)	Nick Gutknecht	Dave and Laura Keene	Duane Laffrenzen	Kevin Kolstad Lauren and Ardith Longworth	Gary Moll Group	Board of Evangelism
September 13	Kiersten Koehler	Emery and Betty Haus	Ernie Schauland	Carol Hoffmann Sarah and Jim Schwarz	Dale Grund Group	Koehler and Schwarz Families
September 20	Devin Gulden	Larry and JoAnn Norton	Wayne Luepke	Marie Ristau Rita Schugel and Tom Wheeler	Chuck Kiecker Group	Stewardship Sunday Potluck
September 27	Rachel Kehren	Dylan and Kristi Kapolczynski	Connie Moll	Mark Schneider Dick and Elaine Poulsen	Roger Schultz Group	Emery and Betty Haus and Myron and Audrey Kassen

USHERS FOR MONDAY NIGHT SERVICES ~ September 7 – No Monday Worship

September 21 – Chuck and Ruth Kiecker