

Can God Help Me Find More Happiness?

First let's ask a different question: "What do we mean by happiness?" For a child, happiness might mean getting Christmas presents every morning and cake and ice cream for every meal. After a few days, though, it would stop being fun. Many adults think that money will make them happy. But we have seen many rich people who are unhappy and even depressed. Others might think that drugs and alcohol make them happy. But the "high" soon wears off. Finding happiness in the things and people of this world is an exercise in frustration.

The Bible uses the word "blessed" to describe happiness. The blessings of God give us true happiness. The most important of God's blessings is Jesus, whom he sent into this world. Jesus took the blame for everything we ever did wrong.



That's why he died on the cross—not because he did anything wrong, but because we did. Jesus has paid for our sins, and that means we are saved from God's judgment of eternal death by believing in him. That makes us happy. Jesus blesses us with salvation.

No matter how long we live, we are all destined to die. But when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning, he broke the hold of death. Even though we will one day die, by trusting in Jesus, we have the sure hope that we will also come back to life and live forever in heaven. That makes us happy. Jesus blesses us with eternal life.

God even uses the tough times in life for our good—to teach us more about his love and strengthen our trust in him. No matter how tough life is for us, no matter how much pain we endure, and no matter how poor we

are, no one and nothing can take away what Jesus did for us. Our sins are forgiven by God, and through faith in Jesus, eternal life in heaven is waiting for us. That makes us happy. Sometimes we smile through tears, but we can still smile.

Can God help us find happiness? He has already given it to us through Jesus.

-adapted from WELS Outreach newsletter

Congregational News



Annual Meeting Highlights The Semi-annual meeting was held on July 16th at 10:15 a.m. in the church proper. Some of the items discussed or reported on include the following:

- Membership changes approved
- Semi-annual ministry reports
- New organ update
- Audio-visual upgrade update
- Establishment of a Good Samaritan fund
- News regarding having to drill a new well

You'll be hearing more about all these things in the months ahead. A few copies of the agenda / reports are still available on the cabinets in the entryway.

VBS is Back! Only one week before Vacation Bible School kicks off next Monday morning (August 7th – 10th from 9 a.m. – noon each day). There is still time to sign up officially by going to www.zionallenton.org and clicking on the VBS link. We could still use a number of donated items as well (food and snack items as well as craft and story items). Contact Mallory Lindert

New Organ After a long wait, the new Allen organ has been installed and hooked up. Because the organ company suggested that the speakers be

placed in back of the church, you will soon see the removal of the large white speakers on the front wall of the church proper. The organ still needs to be voiced and

Kickoff Sunday Sunday, September 10th is shaping up to be a big day at Zion next month. **Sunday School** begins that day at 8:30 a.m., followed by our **outdoor (weather-permitting) worship service** led by the local contemporary worship band *Unworthy* (9:45 a.m.). After church will be our **church picnic** with food and drink, fellowship and games for all. Details will be coming in the next month. Mark the date on your calendar and join us!



Sunday School As noted above, our Sunday School is scheduled to begin again on September 10th at 8:30 a.m. Children from Pre-K through 8th grade are encouraged to attend to begin preparing for confirmation class later in their elementary school years. More important, in Sunday School your child(ren) will get to know Jesus and grow their relationship with him as their Savior. Of course, that job is the responsibility of parents first and foremost, but our church assists with Sunday School, confirmation class, bible studies, etc... Join us on September 10th!

Worship Focus In the month of August we'll finish a brief series on how one defines a Christian, and then move into a new focus entitled "The Church that God Wants." If you want to know what kind of church God wants for us here at Zion, we'll open up our bibles to find out. Below are the specific focus points of each of the Sundays in August.

- *August 6* *A Christian Trusts God to Provide*
- *August 13* *A Christian Answers Doubt with Faith*
- *August 20* *A Church That's for All People*
- *August 27* *A Church That Really Knows Jesus*

Fellowship Hall Use When using the fellowship hall for an event, please

remember that it's your responsibility to clean up before you leave. We've had some issues with ants in the kitchen and fellowship hall recently. The better everything is cleaned, the less issues we'll have. Thank you!

WELS News

Synod Convention The 2023 WELS Synod Convention will take place this week (July 31 through August 3) at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan. You can find out what's happening, stay up to date, watch a livestream of the proceedings, and learn more about the way a convention works at www.welsconvention.net.

Prayers answered in Vietnam On July 15 and 16, two events in Hanoi, Vietnam, were striking examples of how God answers the fervent prayers of his people...

On Saturday, WELS representatives as well as representatives of the Hmong Fellowship Church gathered to dedicate a new building that will



house the theological education of pastors of the Hmong Fellowship Church. Until now, more than 50 Hmong pastors received theological training either online or in temporary locations. But now, after six years of planning, the building is complete and ready to be the permanent site for the

training of the next group of pastors—60 now and another 60 next year. The new building has space for instruction and worship as well as residential facilities for the students.

On Sunday, we celebrated the graduation of 55 Hmong pastors from the theological training program. This seminary-level education has been carried out for more than six years, with the result that these men have now been thoroughly trained as Lutheran pastors who will help to shepherd congregations in a church body consisting of more than 140,000

members in more than 350 congregations. A dozen of these pastors were also commissioned to return to their home villages to instruct other Hmong pastors in biblical, Lutheran doctrine.

We are grateful to the government of Vietnam for granting WELS permission to carry out this training and to erect a building in which to do it. We are thankful to the Hmong Fellowship Church for inviting us to train its pastors. We thank the members of our synod for their generous gifts of love and faith to make this possible. Above all, we are thankful to our gracious God for giving us this amazing opportunity to share the gospel in Vietnam.

KML Korner

Annual Kettle Klomp 5K Race and 2 Mile Walk Join us on Saturday, August 12, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *the Klomp*, the 25th



anniversary of cross country and Coach Kuehl at KML, and the 50th anniversary of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School!

The race and walk take place at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School (KML) on the cross country course. The course winds through the paths of

KML's beautiful outdoor environmental classroom. This is the same course used for high school and grade school cross country meets.

Area runners and walkers of all ages, KML alumni, parents, and students; as well as area high school and grade school cross country runners are invited to participate. Especially this year, we encourage all KML alumni, past Klomp runners, and KML CC alumni to join us for the festivities!

The 5k run and 2 mile walk begin at 9:00 AM. Register at www.kmlhs.org.

KML Job Openings Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School is looking for individuals to fill the following positions:

Van Driver: A responsible person with a good driving record to drive a passenger van and pick up students in Hustisford and Hartford. Schedule is flexible ... work a couple of days each week, mornings only, afternoons only, or both. Pay is \$31 each trip for about 1.5 hours of work.

Part-Time Morning Janitor: 5-9 AM on school days. Basic janitorial duties: sweeping, mopping, cleaning bathrooms. Starting wage is \$16/hour.

Part-Time Janitor: Start at 3 PM (flexible), 4-5 hours a day, 2-5 days a week. Basic cleaning of classrooms and bathrooms including sweeping, mopping, and picking up trash. Occasional weekend work for special events. Starting wage is \$16/hour.

First Day of School: August 17, 2023. Interested? Questions? Want additional info? Contact Mr. Jody Hansen, Director of Operations at (262.677.4051 x4004 or e-mail jody.hansen@kmlhs.org).

Installation Service Join us on Friday, August 25, at 9:07 a.m. as we offer our praise to God for allowing KML to begin the 50th year of instructing our youth in the truth of God's Word. New faculty members will be installed during the service:

Mrs. Amanda Cvikel – Foods, Sewing

Mr. Ryan Gurgel – Word of God (part-time 1 year call)

Mrs. Rebecca Jahns – English

Mr. Joshua Schroeder – Word of God (part-time 1 year call)

Area News and Invitations

Time of Grace Change If you are a regular watcher of the *Time of Grace* Ministry, please note the following change. Starting in August, Time of Grace will no longer air on CBS Channel 58 out of Milwaukee. Instead, find it on Channel 4 (WTMJ) at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. You can also find it on channel 41 (MeTV) and channel 58.2, both at 7:00 a.m. Find uplifting, encouraging Christian messages through the *Time of Grace* TV program.



Installation of New Pastor Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, West Bend, welcomes Pastor Peter Schlicht, his wife Rachel, and their children Solomon, Willow, Simeon, and Sparrow. Pastor Schlicht will be installed at Good Shepherd as the associate pastor **Sunday, August 13, at 1:30 PM** with a luncheon to follow. All are welcome!

Earliest Lutheran Congregations History Presentation This presentation will explore the fascinating history of Milwaukee's earliest Lutheran congregations. German and Scandinavian Lutheran immigrants in the 1870s and 1880s made Lutheranism the largest Protestant group. These early Lutheran families formed many congregations and erected church buildings in communities that stand to this day as a reflection of their devotion to the Lord. Come and hear the story of some of the most historic congregations in Milwaukee – from their early formation to their present-day focus in the community.

The presenter is Pastor Mark Jeske. Pastor Jeske served as a charter member of the board of directors for the WELS Historical Institute. He served on the faculty at Luther Prep in Watertown and for 42 years as senior pastor at St. Marcus in Milwaukee. He was also the host of Time of Grace ministry. Pastor Jeske has a great love for Lutheran history in the Milwaukee area where he not only grew up but also served for most of his ministry. Pastor Jeske is now retired and continues to serve the Lord and assist various ministry efforts.

OWLS Meeting The next meeting of the Dodge-Washington OWLS will take place **August 28th at 10 am** in the fellowship hall of Peace, Hartford. Pastor Paul will speak on the mission outreach to the Hindus and Pakistani. Everyone is invited to attend our gathering. A potluck meal will follow our business meeting. Please bring a dish to share. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Ash at richardash46@gmail.com or (262-457-300).

WELS Bargain Center This resale shop at 8401W. Lisbon Avenue is making a difference for three charities in the greater Milwaukee area (The

Point of Grace Campus Ministry, Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries, and Lighthouse Youth Center)! Each of our three charity recipients received \$14,000 so far this year. We need your help to continue this mission. In addition to prayers, volunteering anytime Tuesday through Saturday between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. would help. Also gently used, clean donations are appreciated. The same items you would give Goodwill is what we also sell. All sales are cash only. If you're in Milwaukee, come SHOP and see for yourself.

