



The

TRUMPET

*July - August
2013*

A Monthly Newsletter of **Our Savior** Lutheran Church

GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
AND FROM OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

First Concern is reaching out with truth and love in Clinton and wherever they'll let us, and it's in large part a ministry of Our Savior, Westminster.

And Threshold Ministry at Autumn Village is lifting souls up and then lifting them up into Heaven and it's entirely a ministry of Our Savior, Westminster.

And there's our Synod's missions and our District's missions and there's our own missions to North America, Europe, and Africa.

And there's our own missions right here through your own outreach to thousands every year through Living Nativity, and there's the salvation of souls, over and over, through your own witnessing to the love of Jesus, *and* there's sweet Christians coming here and coming into the full Gospel of Grace Alone – no, *really*, Grace ALONE – through God's word and your testimony.

And there's learning the Word: Monday night, Thursday night *and* Thursday night again, and on Sunday morning, too, in well attended and awfully joyful Bible Hour. And there's a wonderful staff and superintendent for teaching our children and youth the "Word with the power to save their souls." Do, please

do force your kids if you have to (they're just kids; what do they know?), but don't let this slip by. You won't find it in a lot places.

And there's Pineshore, through the mercy of Messiah congregation, waiting every summer with the Spirit of the Lord like wind in the pines, and the mountain and the lake, and Newcomb on the volley ball court, and Galilean Service all through the summer, and Bible Camp almost here again for our kids from 4th grade all the way up to college.

And there's you giving and giving thousands of dollars to take care of each other through Benevolence and giving thousands to God's altar and giving to needs elsewhere with thousands more. You are the church of the shocking door collection.

And there's the worship: beautiful and liturgical and grown up and LOUD and all about Calvary and the empty Tomb. And the music and the Choir (holy smoke!) which you really won't find in a lot of places, either.

And there's Ladies' Crash Nights for the women and Men's Cigar Nights for their brothers and Merry Mysteries for all the grammas and grandpas, and the laughing and the teasing and all the huggy-kissy in the narthex and the sanctuary and downstairs and upstairs and in the parking lot

for Pete's sake. And the mercy. And the compassion. And the forgiveness. Which means the Gospel of our Lord alive in you.

And there's the glorious Elders and Deaconesses, who work and work and carry us on their hearts, and there's the glorious Trustees and Officers who work and work and carry us on their backs: and there's Kristen and Frank. How many people have they taught the Scriptures to? And how many walls has Kristen painted? And how many mikes has Frank wired? How many souls have they witnessed to? How many have they visited and cared for? How many have they loved and guided and supported with their very quick hearts and very quick minds and very quick wallets? And the music and the media thanks to them. And how many times have they made us laugh? Oh, they have been pretty in our eyes and lovely in the eyes of their Father.

And there's the Council meetings that are quick work and quick love and quick laughter – every time. And Congregational meetings that are quick work – sometimes – and are quick love and quick laughter every time. I brag about you. Other pastors tell me, “Enough, Mike, we get it. And, no, we don't want to see your pictures.”

And whoever heard of a parish administrator like Marj? Compassion and competence and wisdom and a glad heart: I don't know *any* other office where you find all that together. Which reminds me: and the *gardens*, and have you seen the Prayer Garden?

And there's so many ways yet to grow. There's so many things yet to get right. There's so many things that we'll do yet. But here and now, the place is charged with the love of Jesus. And all thanks to You, Lord Holy Spirit, and to Your Sacraments and Your Word, that's the state of this church in 2013.

In His love,

Pastor