

September 2024

*We are transformed in Christ
to share the hope of eternal life.*



CROSS-WORD



**Worship Service
& Church Picnic
September 29, 2024**

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One Way Road

Over the last couple months, there's been construction at Highway 61 and Industrial River Road to help improve the intersection's safety. Because of this, traffic in the morning hours is a bit slower than usual. Why? Because Highway 61 is shut down to one way during the time construction is taking place. Most mornings when I'm heading to church, I end up waiting a few minutes while traffic heading north is allowed to pass. Then the one-way shifts to the south bound traffic, and on we go. A couple weeks ago, I even had to stop twice as I not only had to stop on 61, but also some additional construction was happening by my house on highway O. As you can imagine, I was "thrilled" that I had to stop twice for one-way roads.

The experience that morning reminded me of a couple Bible passages. The first I thought of was my confirmation verse... Jesus said, "I am **the Way** and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Another passage was from the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus says, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and **the way** is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and **the way** is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7:13-14). I also thought of the passage we had this past Sunday as we've continued through the book of Acts: "But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem." I also thought

of the contrast between **the way** of the righteous and **the way** of the wicked in Psalm 1, where the Psalmist tells us: “for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.” The idea of “**the way**” is spoken of many times in Scripture.

Like me becoming impatient when I need to wait on one-way physical roads, the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh fight against the one-way spiritual road for all of us as well. After all, saying that Jesus is the only one way to God sounds off-putting to our culture. That the broad road leads to destruction seems overly harsh. That God knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish screams discrimination. It all seems very divisive. To which we honestly need to say: It is! Jesus is! For He Himself said, “He has not come to bring peace but the sword.” Families, friends, and the whole world will be (and is) divided over what to make of Jesus. Not only that, but all this division or the idea of creating division with others (including fellow Christians who are erring in some way) over our following Jesus and His Word can make us uneasy. We say to ourselves, well, I don’t want to offend them by... encouraging them to come to church... reminding them to not use God’s name in vain... discouraging gossip... or you name it. We hear about the fruit of the spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... and say to one or more of those, “Maybe I’ll do that later.”

The Hebrew word for walk or way is “derek,” meaning “trodden path” and is used for “a pattern of behavior or custom.” (See TLSB, pg. 844.) We know that we are incapable of walking the way of the Lord on our own. As Christians, we see clearly the meaning of the passages above. The trodden path and the custom is not first what we do, but rather who we follow. Jesus is the only way to the Father. Jesus is the narrow gate and the hard way that leads to life. The way of His crucifixion and resurrection for our forgiveness and life seem like foolishness to the way of the world. Jesus’ followers are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

for HIS sake, as Saul himself found out after his conversion how much he would suffer for Jesus' name! The Lord knows the way of the righteous, those who are known by Jesus by grace through faith in Him, baptized into His name, followers of "The Way." The way of the wicked will perish; they are the ones to whom Jesus says, "I never knew you."

As we follow the One who is the Way, we strive for His ways to be our ways. Forgiven and restored in Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit within us, it is our aim to delight in His law and walk in His ways to the glory of His holy name. Trusting that Jesus has saved us and resting in the peace that we are now good with God, we ask, "What does my neighbor need? In my home? In my church? In my community?" Then we do our best to love and serve. As we do so, we may have a general thought over what life may hold for us in the time ahead of us, but then again, we are never completely sure. For that, this prayer serves as a wonderful reminder for every day, week, and season of our lives:

O God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless you as you continue to follow the one-way road, our Lord Jesus.

Pastor Craig



Plan to attend our
**WORSHIP SERVICE &
CHURCH PICNIC**

on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

The service begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by the church picnic lunch.

The church will provide hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs. Please bring a side dish to share! Sign-up sheets will be posted in the narthex.





Watering the Flowers

We have openings in September for volunteers to water the flowers.

Sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Many openings are available for flowers for the altar. Please sign up on the flower chart by the narthex above the water fountain. Put \$25 in an envelope; mark it: "Flower Fund"; and place it in the offering plate.

- September 1
- September 15
- September 22
- September 29
- All of November



SEARCH-A-WORD PUZZLE

GOD'S CREATION

D S Z R S J O C T X S C O
P M H R K R C W H R L Y E
S N S V W W E J Y O A L Z
J J O C O Y A W U K P N T
R D H I K G N D O O I O S
G S I I T V S A E L S O S
P U N E Q A S P F A F M E
E N P L A N E T S N H J R
O F T S C H O R F I F Z U
Q S E E R T X B C M A Q T
H B N N V B F U M A I M A
V C A N E V A E H L K W N
A X D S V E Q E P S S Z C

CREATION

PEOPLE

NATURE

TREES

FLOWERS

OCEANS

SUN

MOON

PLANETS

CLOUDS

ANIMALS

HEAVEN

LCMS STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered
care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship



The Center for Life Perryville/Ste. Genevieve

is looking to hire a new executive director as our current director prepares for retirement.

Are you a self-starter with a servant heart who enjoys bringing families together? Does it bring satisfaction when you can help those who are most vulnerable among us: the unborn? If so, the Center for Life may be your answer!

Check out our website: centerforlifemo.org/careers for more information or see our Indeed listing to apply!





The Walk for Life 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, at the TG Trail in Perryville, Missouri. Come join us at the TG Trail in Perryville to walk or run to show your support for life. Registration/Check-in begins at 8:15, and the Walk will begin at 9 a.m.

When you register to walk or run, set up your own fundraising page, and invite your friends and family to join in by sponsoring you. All proceeds go to support our life-affirming work. Women experiencing unexpected pregnancies still come to our doors.

Everyone Deserves a Future!


