



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 69 No. 5

SEPT/OCT 2023

**REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 29TH**

## NALC CONVOCAATION 2023 OKLAHOMA CITY

More than 600 delegates and visitors gathered for the convocation Aug. 9-11 in Oklahoma City, OK around the theme, "Missio Dei: The Work and Mission of God." The convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC's biennial Lutheran Week.

The Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo was reelected as bishop of the North American Lutheran Church. Bishop Selbo received 77 percent of the votes for bishop. The Rev. Dr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry and ecumenism, was the other nominee for bishop.

"On Fire for Mission" sessions made the convocation a Mission- Driven gathering. Two-hour blocks of time each day focused on domestic mission, international mission and mission related to congregational life. Dr. David Luy of the North American Lutheran Seminary opened the sessions with a reflection on Scripture, and NALC staff members provided presentations on each day's theme. Delegates then talked about the presentations and discussed ways to "take it home" to their congregations.

Six new NALC Global Workers were commissioned for ministries in Tanzania, Cambodia, Laos, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Kenya. The ministry of the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, assistant to the bishop for international mission, was celebrated. He will now be serving the NALC part time from Ethiopia and will expand his teaching and leadership ministries around the world. Randy Stubbs, a new NALC global worker in Tanzania, and his daughters delighted delegates with their music throughout the convocation. His ministry training church musicians and pastors in Tanzania was highlighted at the convocation banquet.

The Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa, president of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, was the preacher for the closing service of Holy Communion.

A large increase in the number of candidates for ministry preparing to become NALC pastors was celebrated by the convocation.

A \$3.8 million budget was approved for the NALC for 2024. The budget anticipates spending some of the church's reserve funds. Congregations are encouraged to support the NALC with at least 5-8 percent of their regular offerings.

Pastor John Thompson attended the convocation as our pastoral delegate and Al Yoder was our lay delegate.

### Happy Birthday

09/02 Maritta Szillat

09/03 Kristi Bradosky

09/09 Richard Schneider

09/16 Rudolf Szillat

09/16 Greg Dembishack

09/20 Bob DePugh

09/27 Cindy Abbott

09/30 Debbie Woodell

10/04 Cathy Quarles

10/13 Gwen Rigby

10/21 Corey Rolla

10/22 Ramona Cruz

10/31 Don Eelman

### Happy Anniversary

09/14 Greg & Sharon Centanne

09/23 Rob & Lisa Scopel

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## LABOR DAY—A SHORT HISTORY

Labor Day is always observed on the first Monday in September. Labor Day 2023 take place on Monday, September 4. Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters.

In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities, and breaks. As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view. On June 26, 1894 the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the Pullman strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers. In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified. Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

Labor Day is still celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings, especially over the long Labor Day weekend. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
REV. JOHN THOMPSON, PASTOR  
WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION 10 AM SUNDAY

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

On the first weekend in October, thousands of Christian churches — Catholic and Protestant alike — around the world will celebrate the feast day (October 4) of Saint Francis of Assisi by holding the Blessing of the Animals. This ceremony generally takes place outdoors in the church's parking lot where parishioners and visitors have gathered, accompanied by their dogs, cats, and other pets. Its purpose? To give a special blessing to each individual animal similar to the following:

*Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.*

The blessing of animals dates back 800 years to the life of Saint Francis of Assisi (1181–1226). Born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in Assisi, Italy, his early life was one of luxury since his father was a rich merchant. But when war broke out between Assisi and Perugia in 1202, young Giovanni joined his countrymen's cavalry. He was wounded and captured by the enemy in one of the battles and held in prison for over a year until his father paid the heavy ransom required to release him.

Giovanni returned home a changed man. No longer interested in his former lifestyle, he instead began focusing on God, spending much time in an old Byzantine church and a remote mountain hideaway praying and looking for answers to life's profound questions. Ultimately, he believed he heard the voice of God telling him to live a life of extreme poverty and rebuild the church.

Giovanni headed the call, exchanging his elegant clothing for a dark rough tunic and assembling a group of 12 local followers so as to go out and preach the Gospel. He also took Francis as his new name. His extreme form of Christ-like poverty was a radical idea at the time.

However, his charismatic personality and preaching soon resulted in hundreds of people coming to hear him wherever he went.

Saint Francis first blessed animals early in his ministry sometime between 1210–1215. The story goes that he was wandering around outdoors one warm afternoon, full of self-doubt, when he noticed a flock of birds in his path. He immediately felt the need to first talk to them as though they were his equals and then preach to them about God's glories and the reasons why men and animals should be grateful for these blessings. One might say that this was also the beginning of the environmental movement since Francis recognized that human beings are intrinsically connected to all of creation.

At the age of only 44, Francis died in Assisi on October 4, 1226. Pope Gregory IX canonized him as a saint less than two years later. He was later designated as the patron saint of animals due to his great love for them during his lifetime.

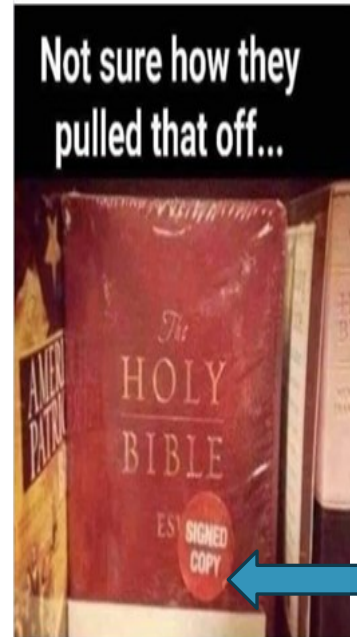


**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**  
**CHURCH COURTYARD**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

## LAUGH A LITTLE

Laughter is an amazing ability that God gave us all. Laughter helps us cope with sadness and life. Here are a few questions from CLC's resident Jokester, Barbara Davy, to make you laugh, chuckle, or smile.

1. What does a buffalo say to his kids when he drops them off at school: "Bi son"
2. What does NASA call its program to forgive the aliens: "Opolo g"
3. What is Darth Vader's mom's name: "El a vator"
4. What do you call a slow potato: "A hesitator"
5. What do you call a young potato: "A tater tot"
6. What is a cop's favorite sweater: "A pullover"
7. What do you call of flock of young sheep that fell down the side of a mountain: "Lambslide"
8. What do you get from a nervous cow: "A Milk Shake"
9. What do you get from a confused cow: "Milk of magnesia"
10. I went to the paint store to get thinner: "It didn't work"



## Cooks Corner

### SAUSAGES & SAUERKRAUT

Some things go perfectly together. Peanut butter and jelly. Bacon and eggs. Sausages and sauerkraut. (Seriously!) In this cozy one-pot dinner, you'll nestle beer-braised bratwurst and tender baby potatoes into sauerkraut and finish the dish with fresh herbs and spicy mustard. (If you've never beer-braised anything before, you're sure to love it.)

#### Ingredients

- **2 tbsp.** extra-virgin olive oil
- **1 1/4 lb.** bratwurst (about 5 links)
- **1** large yellow onion, halved and thinly sliced.
- **1 1/2 lb.** baby gold potatoes, halved if large.
- **1 tbsp.** caraway seeds
- **1/2 tsp.** ground nutmeg
- **12 oz.** lager or pilsner beer
- **1** dried bay leaf
- **2 1/2 c.** drained sauerkraut (from a 24-oz. jar)
- **1/2 c.** apple juice



#### Directions

1. Cook sausage in tbsp oil until browned on all sides, about 5 minutes. (Remove to plate)
2. Add the onion, potatoes, caraway, and nutmeg to the skillet and season generously with salt and pepper. Cook about 5 minutes. Add the beer and the bay leaf and bring to a simmer. Cover the skillet, reduce heat to medium, and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Uncover the skillet and add the sauerkraut and apple juice. Nestle the sausages among the potatoes and sauerkraut and return skillet to a simmer. Cover and cook until potatoes are tender when pierced with a knife and sausages are just cooked through, about 5 minutes more.
4. Garnish with chives and serve with brown bread and mustard.



## BACK TO CHURCH MONTH

**September**—back to school; back home from vacation; back to sports! Let's also make September "**BACK TO CHURCH MONTH**". Come back and worship with us, pray with us, study with us, and give thanks with us! Come back and know the fellowship of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Take a look at the work our property committee has done to repair and restore our crumbling front arches. Visit the CLC website [www.christstpete.org](http://www.christstpete.org). Join the CLC Facebook Group and get the latest church news and happening. There are many opportunities to serve, learn, and experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Here are just a few:

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM—VOLUNTEER TO SERVE (ALTAR COMMITTEE, READER, GREETER, WORSHIP ASSISTANT, CRUCIFER, ACOLYTE)**

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY—10:30 AM TUESDAY**

**WOMEN OF SPIRIT—MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER SEPT 11 & OCT 2**

**SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES—SATURDAY OCT 7—BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**SUNDAY OCT 22—FAMILY FUNDAY**

**SUNDAY OCT 29—FESTIVAL OF REFORMATION**

## SAVE THE NEW DATE! "FOOD TRUCK" THEMED



**2023 VBS**

**SUNDAY FUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 22, 2023!**



**Begins after our 10AM service**

**11:30AM-3:30PM**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN AS WE STUDY**

## **THE BOOK OF DANIEL**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR POTLUCK AND FOR ACTIVITIES. PLEASE  
SEE MARGE STONE OR SHARON CENTANNE TO VOLUNTEER.**

**SIGNUP SHEET AVAILABLE AFTER LABOR DAY.**

## COME AND HEAR AND STUDY GOD'S WORD

- Bible Study Tuesday morning 10:30am. Everyone is welcome. Come study the O.T, N.T and Gospel lessons for each upcoming Sunday.
- Women of Spirit: Women's Bible Study first Monday of each month 5:00 PM. Currently studying the book of Revelation. (Sep 11 because of holiday; Oct 2)  
Bible study groups meet in the conference room in Luther Hall

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be held **Saturday, October 7, 2023** at 10:30 am in the Christ Lutheran Church Courtyard. Invite all the pet lovers you know! All are welcome. All animals must be on a leash or in a carrier. The service will include readings, hymns, prayers, and an individual blessing of each animal. The service usually lasts about 30 minutes. A free-will offering will be collected and donated to Pet Pals (no kill, non-profit) Animal Shelter.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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