

### Ash Wednesday

March 2nd 7:00-8:00 PM

—

### Lenten Worship

Wednesday Evenings

Supper 6:00 PM

Vespers 7:00 PM

—

### Divine Service

Sunday Mornings 8:30-9:30 AM

—

### Fellowship Time

Sunday Mornings 9:30-10:00 AM

—

### Sunday School

at Kirche Mittendrin 10:00-11:00 AM

—

### Catechesis

St. Michael's Basement

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

## Rev. Ferdinand Sievers and the Mission of the Church

—By Pastor Jensen

In the introduction to our congregational newsletter, which we began back in December, I outlined the "reason, purpose, and contents of our newsletter" based on the first periodical of the Missouri Synod, *Der Lutheraner*. That introduction has morphed into a series on the history of missions in the Missouri Synod. In the first issue I wrote about C. F. W. Walther, the Saxon emigration, and how *Der Lutheraner* brought German Lutherans in America together. In the second issue, I wrote about the work of Wilhelm Loehe, a Bavarian pastor who organized missionaries and Lutheran colonies in North America. After the break with the Missouri Synod, Loehe turned his gaze towards the mission field in the Ukraine, Brazil, New Guinea, and Australia. Meanwhile, the missionaries and colonists Loehe had sent to North America continued their work within the Missouri Synod. One of Loehe's missionaries, also called *Nothelfer* ["emergency helpers"], was Pastor Ferdinand Sievers, who almost single-handedly convinced the Missouri Synod to begin focusing on international missions in addition to national mission work.

-Continued on page 2-



### Interested in Choir??

There will be a quick meeting after the Ash Wednesday service.



### Holy Baptism

Agatha  
Christiana  
Jensen

### March Birthdays

1st Cedric Kumar

19th Shanley Allen



### Next Fellowship Lunch



Sunday  
March 20th

### LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK & MESSENGER

### Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC)

For news, worship sign-ups and  
fellowship events.

-Continued from the Cover-

Ferdinand Sievers was born in 1816 in Lüneburg, Germany. By the age of seven both of his parents had died, so he went to live with his uncle, a Rationalistic pastor in Hannover. Sievers then studied theology in Göttingen, Berlin, and Halle. Some of his professors and pastors were "awakened" theologians, who emphasized Scripture and a life of faith in reaction to the prevailing rationalistic theology, which had developed out of the Enlightenment. Sievers became a believer as well. He served as a tutor, then as a pastor.

In 1843, Sievers read Wyneken's "Emergency Call" [*Nothruf*], requesting young pastors, especially those without a call to serve in a parish, to serve as missionaries among German immigrants in North America. Sievers' congregation sent delegates to the King of Hanover, who normally received any and every visitor on his birthday. The congregation wanted to keep Sievers as their pastor rather than go to America, so they requested Sievers be made their full-time pastor. The king, however, spent so much time visiting the Duke of Braunschweig that he was not able to meet the delegation. It appeared as though God had selected Sievers to go to America.

In 1847, Sievers was ordained to take a call in North America. He made a trip to Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, to meet with Pastor Loehe and discuss where he should go. Because Sievers was already ordained, Loehe put him in charge of a group of colonists to be sent to Michigan. After nine weeks on the open sea, sleeping in a cabin filled with barrels of herring and flour, Sievers and the colonists arrived in New York and made their way towards Michigan. Many of the colonists stayed in Frankenmuth, which had been founded two years earlier by another of Loehe's missionaries, August Craemer. Eventually Sievers made his way north to seek out a suitable tract of land for other colonists. The colony of Frankenlust was established in 1848. Daughter colonies soon followed, including the tiny community of Amelith. Amelith is of special significance to my family because it is where Emma served as organist and where we were married.

From his new home in Frankenlust, Michigan, Pastor Sievers helped with mission work among the Native Americans, not only in Michigan, but in Minnesota as well. Sievers spent many days arduously traveling through the ancient, trackless forests of Michigan. On several occasions he lost his way and nearly died, only finding scattered settlements just in time.



### Reverend Ferdinand Sievers

Sievers was a member of the Mission Board of the Missouri Synod from 1851 until his death in 1893. The 1868 convention of the Missouri Synod all but closed mission work among native Americans in Michigan and Minnesota. With no organized mission work occurring in the United States anymore, the Mission Board began supporting German mission agencies and a missionary in India. At the close of his convention report, Sievers prayed: "Give us, O faithful God, praying hearts, capable missionaries, diligent hands, and a devoted spirit, to also advance Your Kingdom into the world of the heathen. Amen." Sievers continued voicing his support for mission work among Native Americans, but nothing more came of it. Circumstances had changed the emphasis of the Missouri Synod. Instead, more focus was being placed on the constant stream of German immigrants. Sievers, however, recognized that mission work must focus on both those who are near and those who are far off.

As a member of the Missouri Synod's Mission Board, Sievers was in constant correspondence with missionaries in Asia, Africa, and Australia. He tirelessly urged the Missouri Synod to begin work in the foreign mission field by speaking at district and Synod conventions and writing appeals in synodical publications. Sievers reminded our church body that giving does not lead to bankruptcy, but to wealth. We simply trust in the Lord and He provides the necessary means, financial or otherwise. At long last, the 1893 convention of the Missouri Synod resolved to begin planning for mission work in Japan. The country had just opened up to trade, 9/10 of the population were not Christian, they sought a certain "Europeanization," and among all the missionaries in Japan there were few Lutherans. Sievers was so pleased with this development that in the few months remaining before his death, he wrote 36 letters related to the newly established foreign mission. Even from his deathbed, Sievers chatted with fellow clergy about ideas for mission work. His dying prayer included a petition for international mission work: "Have mercy upon the dear heathen and be with them, that they might recognize you as their Savior and be saved along with us."



Sievers died a few months after the 1893 convention that finally settled on mission work in Japan. Before that plan could be carried out, however, a different door opened in India, leading to the Missouri Synod's first foreign mission work beginning there rather than in Japan. The Missouri Synod's mission work in India will be the subject of the next article in this series.

## Lenten Reading Challenge:

# LAW & GOSPEL

*Thesis VI: You are not rightly distinguishing Law and Gospel in the Word of God if you do not preach the Law in its full sternness and the Gospel in its full sweetness. Similarly, do not mingle Gospel elements with the Law or Law elements with the Gospel.*

*"For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear'" (Heb. 12:18-21). In Thesis VI of Law and Gospel, C. F. W. Walther describes the terrifying spectacle of the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai in dramatic terms similar to those used by the writer to the Hebrews. Nowhere in Scripture is it recorded that Moses said "I tremble with fear." However, that even Moses, "whom the LORD knew face to face" (Dt. 34:10), was so affected by the severity of God's Law can be seen in the one Psalm attributed to him, Psalm 90, in verses such as, "For we are brought to an end by your anger;*

*by your wrath we are dismayed" (v. 7). This reaction on the part of one confronted with the "full sternness" of God's righteous Law might be foreign to modern, comfortable ears accustomed to feeling good about themselves. However, it is a necessary - though "alien" (Is. 28:21) - work of God to produce such a reaction with His Law, not only in unbelievers, but even in believers as seemingly strong in faith as Moses, so that He can then come and console them with His forgiveness. Without the Law in its full sternness, there can be no Gospel in its full sweetness. This truth must continue to be confessed as long as the Christian is still living in this world as both saint and sinner.*

## Law & Gospel

How to Read and  
Apply the Bible



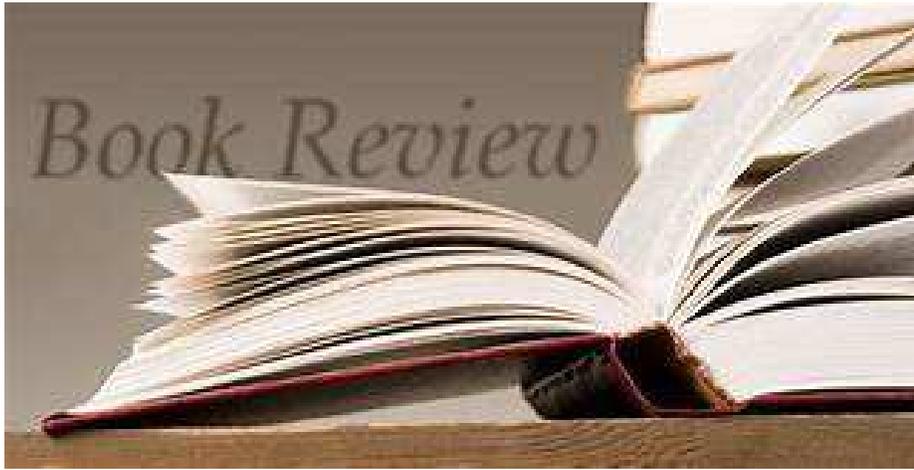
C. F. W. Walther

A Reader's Edition

The above words are taken from a paper originally written for the theology course "Law and Gospel," taught by Rev. Dr. Jason Lane at Concordia University Wisconsin. This Lent, the Jensen family would like to joyfully challenge the saints at KELC to join them in a 40-day reading plan of C. F. W. Walther's *Law and Gospel*. This work by the first president of the Missouri Synod, originally a series of lectures given to seminary students in the 1880s, and now available in a modern English translation by our own Pastor Christian Tiews, is a fundamental primer in the very core teachings of the Christian faith. This makes it the perfect choice for anyone interested in using the tradition of Lenten discipline to both enrich their devotional life, as well as to refresh and deepen their understanding of the basics of Christian doctrine.

*After describing in full sternness the terrors of the Law at which even Moses trembled, the writer to the Hebrews continues by saying that Christians have come to something much better, the Gospel in full sweetness: "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel" (Heb. 12:22-24).*

By Emma Jensen



***Urchin at War: The Tale of a Leipzig Rascal and his Lutheran Granny under Bombs in Nazi Germany.***

By Uwe Siemon-Netto and Barbara Bradford. San Clemente, CA: New Reformation Publications, 2021. 310 pages.

Perhaps you are familiar with Uwe Siemon-Netto from his book, *The Fabricated Luther* (2007), published by Concordia Publishing House. There, Siemon-Netto, one of the premiere lay theologians of the Missouri Synod, tackles an all too common accusation against Lutherans: that Luther's teachings led to the rise of Adolf Hitler. Siemon-Netto presents models of Lutheran resistance against the Nazi regime, particularly from his native Leipzig. Examples include men such as the mayor of Leipzig, Carl Friedrich Goerdeler, who actually drew on their Lutheran faith to resist tyranny. Martin Luther and his teachings cannot be blamed for political events of the 20th century.

As a journalist, Siemon-Netto went on to report the unfolding of the Vietnam war. He tells about his experiences in *Triumph of the Absurd: A Reporter's Love for the Abandoned People of Vietnam* (2014). Siemon-Netto gives his first-hand perspective on communist atrocities in Vietnam and misreporting from U.S. media, and also shows how modern democracies have become incapable of fighting totalitarian regimes, such as in Afghanistan.

In his latest book, Siemon-Netto takes us back to his childhood in Leipzig where he directly experienced the ravages of Nazism and the Second World War, experiences that in some sense prepared him for the rest of his life's work. Siemon-Netto is a proud Leipziger and Saxon. Many Americans mistakenly see Germans as a homogenous group and miss distinctive regional differences. Some might be aware that a place like Bavaria is regionally distinct, or the Pfalz. In Siemon-Netto's case, we have the privilege of spending time with a proud Saxon! The greatest influence in Siemon-Netto's life was his grandmother, who in many ways raised Uwe with 19th century Saxon sensibilities. Siemon-Netto's attachment to J. S. Bach, the Saxon monarchy, and his traditional Lutheranism all find their start in his childhood. It was the Lutheran faith passed on by his grandmother that carried Uwe through the air raids of World War II and through the rest of his life.

Siemon-Netto's father, a blind veteran of the First World War, was also an Anglophile who secretly listened to BBC broadcasts during the Second World War, a crime that could result in decapitation. He knew from the British the other side of the story. He also learned from prominent Leipzig families with connections on the eastern front about the SS mass slaughter of Jews, including at Auschwitz. At a young age, Uwe learned from his father the true atrocities taking place under the guise of

wartime measures. Uwe also learned from a young age what he could or could not say in public, lest he and his family become political enemies of the state.

Throughout the book, Siemon-Netto describes his shenanigans as a youngster, a street urchin (in the Saxon dialect, a "Griewatsch") playing pranks throughout the city of Leipzig, including hijacking a trolley. Siemon-Netto captures how fickle people can be, especially in East Germany where ardent Nazis became ardent Communists overnight. His Lutheran grandmother helped him see through the charade. After the war, Uwe was smuggled into West Germany, but at the high price of never seeing his beloved "Omi" (grandmother) again. Yet her 19th-century Saxon character continues to influence Siemon-Netto to this day. The reminiscences of his younger days, and adult reflection on the time period, with its joys and tragedies, are woven together masterfully in a book I never wanted to put down. There is consolation in the fact that Siemon-Netto is planning on two more volumes in his "Urchin Trilogy." He says: "I hope they will show that, in assessing one's own vita, patience, linked with hope and faith, proves a healthy virtue."

-Pastor Jensen



# Elder's Corner

Insights, thoughts, and inspirational messages

## Spotlight Verse

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13

## How to strengthen your Christian faith walk?

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body."  
Eph 4:25*

*Pursue the truth.* We must comprehend through diligent study and earnest prayer what God has graciously revealed in Scripture. Too many people give false testimony against God himself through ignorance of the Bible. We must fill our minds with the truth of Scripture. We live in a culture that adheres to relativism, subjectivism, and pragmatism. As we study and meditate on the riches of God's revealed truth, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance we will know truth from error.

*Speak the truth.* I encourage you to make the following commitment: "From this day forward, with God's help, I will speak only the truth, always and in every situation." Such a commitment will inevitably improve our relationships both with God and with everyone else.

*Practice the truth.* If we are to proclaim truth, we must live truthfully; otherwise, we are merely pretending. One of the marks of Christ's followers ought to be their honesty, which means both the presence of truth and the absence of deception. It means living our lives in the light, out in the open.

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1Th 5:16-18*

- By Jeff Peterson

# Meet the Church Council



## Jeff Peterson

Head Elder

Hello, my name is Jeff Peterson and I am the Head Elder here at KELC. I am originally from the hills of Tennessee, and then eventually made my way to Florida where I have spent the majority of my adult life.

I am married to my wonderful and beautiful bride Christina of 30 years; we are blessed with two children.

I love sports and the outdoors, I love to travel and see new things, especially historically and biblically. So far Israel is one of my favorite places that I have visited.

My favorite bible verse thus far is:

Make me to know your ways,  
O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and  
teach me,  
for you are the God of my  
salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

Psalms 25:4-5



# LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

*A Ministry of Presence*



In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*"Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine!"*

(LSB #537, Stanza 4)

Lord Jesus Christ we come to You this day as the Lord of all nations, eternal ruler of all, and redeemer of humanity. Our hearts are heavy, burdened by the instability of the world. All eyes are on the nation of Ukraine, its people, and the nation of Russia and its people. We know war rests purely in the realm of fallen humanity, further evidence of our need for You as our Savior. We know war brings about death, destruction, horror of combat, economic devastation, widows and orphans. We know wars do not resolve their causation, but only deepen hatred and hostility, brutally passing this abscess of hatred to the next generation.

We come Lord to You with a penitent, distressed, and anxious heart. We know with confidence and trust in You as You tell us in Your word:



**A Prayer for  
Stability and  
Peace in an  
Unstable and  
Hostile World**

*"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.*

*they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.*

*Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.*

*But you remain the same, and your years will never end."*

—Psalm 102:25-27 NIV

You are eternal and yet became man. You are eternal and rule over nations and make all empires as dust before Your span of time. Lord Jesus, it is to Your steadfastness, benevolence, and love that we look to You this day. Gracious Lord Jesus, as we pray for stability in an unstable world, and the cessation of warring madness, we lift our concerns also for the United States of America, its leaders, and those in uniform. Pour out Your wisdom on those called to lead. Grant them that special wisdom that comes only from You. So, in the midst of conflict and war we ask You to bless our military forces, those deployed in the area of operation and their families who anxiously await their return. Look with favor on those who protect the freedoms we enjoy and often take for granted.

Soon will come the season of Lent. We thank You for the gift of life You give us through Your journey to the cross as Grant us penitent hearts to see You and walk daily with You as our Lord and King. To You be all honor and glory, now and forever more.

Amen.

## Meet the Church Council



### Stephen Guzik President

I was born and raised on Long Island, New York. I lived my entire life there until moving here two years ago to join my beloved wife, Stephanie. A HUGE move, and leap of faith for sure, but it's proved to be one of the biggest blessings in my life.

I raised my two children, Kirk and Stephanie, on the Island, and they've since settled in the Carolinas with their spouses and have blessed us with five grandchildren to love and dote on.

I've enjoyed a Swiss Army knife kind of life. I've been a photographer, fireman, New York City Paramedic. I've done side/volunteer work in several trades. Throughout most of my adult life though, I've worked in management, administration, and marketing.

Living on the Island allowed me the opportunity to fish, spend a lot of time at the beach, on boats, and even learned to sail. In my spare time, I love to read, enjoy music, cook, and play backgammon with Stephanie. Growing closer to and serving our Lord here in Kaiserslautern has been an incredible blessing to me and our family.

# Read, Study and Sing!

There's something special about having a book to call your very own! At our annual Voter's Assembly last month, I held up two of the Story Bibles from our home – one was in immaculate condition, virtually untouched, while the other was well-loved by a preschooler, worn and held together with clear tape on the spine. While I often tend too far to the side of "protecting" my books, I know that they are meant to be read! Held. Re-read. And owned. If God's Word never returns void, I can be sure that the Holy Spirit can use a Story Bible I am willing to take down off the shelf and put in the hands of my child to draw her heart. Hopefully now our last remaining unread Story Bible is on its way to being "well-loved" along with many of the other Bibles and books in our home! We also ordered a hymnal during our winter of Covid-lockdown last year so that we could follow along with the online services. Since then I have also been so blessed to hear my daughter sit down to the piano to sight-read hymns just for the joy of it, and to share our new hymnal (now hymnals!) with our on-post small group for times of worship in our living room. For Christmas, my husband and I ordered our first Lutheran Study Bibles, and my Scripture reading and understanding of the Psalms and Galatians has been greatly enhanced through the copious, relevant study notes on every page.

With the generous help of our deaconess Carolyn Brinkley and the Military Project, we are happy to announce that every family member in our KELC congregation has been equipped with a home library set including a Lutheran Study Bible, Luther's Small Catechism and a Lutheran Service Book. Thank you to the generous donors! Story

Bibles are also on their way for the children. This will make it possible for every family to follow along with the Congregation at Prayer family devotional outline each week, as well as participate in worship virtually when necessary due to illness or restrictions.

We pray that God will use these new resources in many ways to draw your hearts closer to Him. So open up the hymnal to sing a favorite hymn after dinner! Take a highlighter to your catechism if you have the boldness! Jot notes in the margin of your Bible, and ask your children to read some passages out loud before bed. Bring your own books to church on Sunday in your favorite shoulder bag and mark Sunday's readings and hymns with a post-it tab to come back to later in the week. Help your children look up Scripture passages in the physical Bible rather than just reading off the bulletin insert. Take a few sermon notes and stuff them in the front cover. Make these your very own rather than dust collectors or coffee-table decorations. And if you happen to know a friend that needs a Bible, give it away! (We'll order you a new one) As always, I encourage you to "hide God's Word in your heart" by memorizing Scripture (Ps. 119:11) to protect and comfort you. If that seems daunting, that's okay! Tackle the challenge anyway. If you pray for God to help you, I'm quite certain that's a prayer He won't leave unanswered. And if you recite it for us during Sunday School, there will likely also be chocolate involved! Enjoy digging into your new books, everyone! Read, study, and sing! May God speak sweetly to your soul.

-Emily Young

Board of Education Chair

## Meet the Church Council



### Mason Westphal Financial Secretary

Mason Westphal was born in Dallas, Texas to Kelly and Tammy Westphal. He has one sister and one brother.

He moved to Arkansas in the third grade. Mason was involved in Boy Scouts of American and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2015. He graduated from the University of Arkansas with his Master's Degree in Accountancy in 2021. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force at the same time.

His home Church is Messiah Lutheran Church in Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He has been a part of KELC since October 2021.



### Easter Sunday

Sunday,  
April 17th