

October 2026 Newsletter

Martin Luther Chapel

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wanted to share something that I found especially worth considering. October will end with Reformation Sunday, when we give thanks that the Gospel of Christ crucified for the forgiveness of our sins has been preserved and proclaimed among us. The Gospel does more than tell us what Christ has done for us in the past and what He will do when He raises us on the Last Day. Because we have been united with Christ in Holy Baptism, His resurrection has something to say about how we live right now. The following devotion by Pastor Ian Kinney puts that truth before us in a particularly helpful way: you have been raised with Christ. What does that mean for our homes, our vocations, our congregation, and the good works God has placed before us today? I thought this devotion, based on Luke 7:11-17, was worth sharing with you.

What is the point of resurrection? Just a neat trick, or is there more?

Obviously, all of the resurrections in Scripture point to Him who says, "I AM the Resurrection" (John 11). Of course, they also give a dog whistle to our resurrection on the Last Day. But between the resurrection of the Christ and the resurrection of the Christian, do they have anything more for us? I think they do.

Whether it is Elijah raising the widow's son, Elisha raising the Shunammite woman's son, Jairus's daughter, the son at Nain, or even Lazarus himself, resurrection calls to us. The valley of dry bones calls to us. The prodigal son—who once was dead but now is alive—calls to us. "He is not here, but He is risen" calls to us.

What does it call? What is the point?

The point is to illuminate the resurrection of Christ. The point is to elucidate the resurrection of the Christian. But between those resurrections, the point is to remind you that you are raised right now.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom.6:4). "Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead" (Col. 2:12). "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6).

What happens to Christ happens to us. Christ died, and in Baptism, we died. Christ was raised, and in Baptism, we were raised. Christ has been seated at the right hand of the Father, and now a Man sits on heaven's throne!



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Pastor Tony Mandile III
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**Sunday Worship
Schedule:
10:00 am Divine
Service
Coffee, refresh-
ments, Fellowship &
Bible Study
to follow**

You have been raised with Christ.

So, since Christ has been raised and until you are bodily raised on the Last Day, you are called to walk in newness of life. You were dead in your trespasses and sins, but now you have been made alive together with Christ. You have been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that you should walk in them.

Like the sinful woman whom Christ raised up out of the dirt to “go and sin no more” (John 8:11), like the paralytic to whom Jesus says, “Rise, pick up your bed and go” (Mark 2:11), like blind Bartimaeus whom Jesus called to “rise up” and follow Jesus (Mark 10:49, 52), and like this young man today whom Jesus raised from the dead so that he could go back and care for his widowed mother, so also have you been raised.

Lift up your heads and see that the fields are ripe for harvest. In the narrow sense of the preaching of the Gospel, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. But in your calling and vocation, the harvest is plentiful, and the worker is *you*.

You are the only one who can be father to your son, son to your father, husband to your wife, and grandfather to your grandkids. Attend to the things worthy of your attention, and put to death all the things that would keep you from being the resurrected man Christ has called you to be.

So, since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is at the right hand of God. Put to death what is earthly in you, and put on the love and good works which Christ has prepared for you.

Hands to the plow. Don’t look back.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen and you have been raised with Him.

Memento mori

Pastor Ian Kinney

As we move through this month and toward Reformation Sunday, may we remember that the Gospel we confess is not only the promise of life to come—it is the gift of new life in Christ today. You have died with Christ, and you have been raised with Christ. So take up the vocations God has given you, love and serve the people He has placed before you, and walk in the good works He has prepared for you. “Alleluia! Christ is risen—and you have been raised with Him!”

I hope this devotion spoke to you the way it did to me.

Peace be with you and your family

Rev. Anthony Mandile





Thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ:

- For our congregation leadership and those who volunteer their time.
- For all of our households. Blessings on our homes, that all who enter our homes enter into the presence of Jesus Christ.
- For answered prayers: Thanksgiving for the increase in the study of Scriptures in our Community.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you would

- Grant us the boldness to invite our family, friends and acquaintances into the Word and Sacramental ministry at Martin Luther Chapel.
- Grant us all with a stronger desire to read, study and learn about your holy Word.

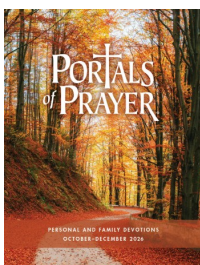
And Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into his harvest.

Let us pray:

For young men to enter the pastoral ministry. That young men and women would be drawn toward Jesus and worship him and honor the estate of Holy Matrimony. Let their homes be blessed and their children raised to be godly men and women.

Into your hands O Father, we commend all our prayers to Your holy will, trusting in Your mercies that are new every morning.

Join us for coffee and snacks after service on Sunday. There is a signup sheet if you would like to help out!



Don't forget to pick up a copy of Portals of Prayer Devotional from the back of the Chapel!



We wish all of our Seasonal Worshipers who will soon be heading back to the Keys a safe journey and a peaceful trip:

- Doug & Marcy Smith
- Mark & Margie Pfister
- Jack & Gary Meyers
- Pat & Penny Parsons
- Teri & Craig Griewahn
- Paul & Sharon Most
- Karen & Greg Carl
- Janelle Biffel
- Allyn & Eileen Anderson
- Jan Wolfe & Jim Bennett
- Susan & Stan Hammond
- Susan Posik
- Cindy & Walter Uher
- Jon & Debra Grill
- Deb Schmidt
- The O'Malley Family

If we have missed anyone who is traveling to the Keys, please let us know! mlcmarathon@gmail.com

Heavenly Father, according to your steadfast love and mercy, please watch over and guide all those who are preparing to return to Martin Luther Chapel in the next few months. Grant them good health and protect them from any calamity as they travel. In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



- October 16 & 17—Ladies Retreat
- October 31—LWML Bible Study
- November 1—All Saints Day
- November 8—N'Oktoberfest
- November 21—Advent Set Up
- December 5—Tree Decorating

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICES—10:00 am



Reformation Sunday, October 25th

Celebration of the historical preservation of the Gospel :

Christ crucified for the forgiveness of our sins.

Sunday, November 1st

Celebration of the Church Triumphant and
the Church Militant



- 10-4 Amanda Taylor
- 10-8 Ruth Schnake
- 10-19 Sarah Mandile
- 10-19 Jeff Miller
- 10-25 Angela Gruetzmänn

If we have missed a birthday, anniversary
or special occasion please let us know so we
can be sure to add it to our next newsletter!

Birthday cake for our September birthday girls!

May the Lord bless you through the upcoming
year!



On September 11th, Amanda Taylor, Pastor, and Lori Mandile joined numerous members of our community to work alongside Champions of Change in placing flags around the entire football stadium at Marathon High School in remembrance of the 2,977 lives lost on September 11, 2001.

A remembrance ceremony was held during halftime, providing an opportunity for our community to pause, reflect, and honor those whose lives were lost.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring and compassionate community.



N'OKTOBERFEST

Pastor Tony, Mike Harring, and Ken LaRose have been busy brewing up something special for N'Oktoberfest! They're almost ready to bottle their very own IPA beer, just in time for the festivities.

Get ready to raise a glass!

Details for **N'Oktoberfest 2026** are included in this newsletter. We hope you'll join us for a fun-filled celebration!





2025–2027 MISSION GRANTS

<https://www.lwml.org/assets/attachments/543899>

On the first Sunday of each month we will have an LWML mite box collection. These LWML Mite Boxes are closely tied to mission grants. The mite offerings are freewill gifts given above and beyond a congregation's regular support, and that nationwide, these offerings "amount to millions of dollars" used to fund district and national mission grants and carry out the LWML program. Local groups gather these offerings, districts retain 75% of mites for district mission work, and national mites help fund more than \$1 million in grants that support Gospel outreach.

St. Paul speaks of the spirit of Christian generosity: "their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity" and "excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:1–7). Through your mites, even small gifts become mission grants for Christ's work.

What follows is a description of two of the mission grants LWML has pledged to support over the 2025-2026- 2027 three year period. Each month we will focus on two different mission grants supported through LWML mite offerings.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Vision Statement

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 17

MOBILIZING AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR TEENS

OUR PLACE AFTER SCHOOL CARE INC., HASTINGS, NE | \$69,500



Handicapped Accessible Van for Teens with Special Needs

"Our Place After School Care" is a caring, Christian program for teenagers with special needs. This program was started in a church basement as there was a need for after-school care for teens between the ages of thirteen and twenty who had aged out of the area daycares. Programming designed to promote academic, social and life skills is provided, as are opportunities to grow spiritually through community service and enrichment activities.

Teenagers attend public and private schools during the school day, but often their school day is over before their parents have completed their own workdays. After school options for families were few. Parents often had to adjust their own work hours.

Our Place is open for these teenagers until their parents can get them after work. It provides a safe and enjoyable environment, education, and fellowship, but there is a problem regarding how to get them from their school to Our Place. Many of the teenagers are in wheelchairs and require a wheelchair lift for transportation.

This mission grant will enable Our Place to purchase a vehicle equipped with a wheelchair lift to transport them from school. It will also extend educational and recreational opportunities within the community. There are activities, events, and even volunteer opportunities that will be available for the students when the transportation issue is solved.

This vehicle will be a blessing to the teenagers and to the staff at Our Place. It will enhance their quality of life and spread God's mercy to the community. Our prayer is that God will bless the students and staff by the addition of this vehicle with a wheelchair lift and that it will be an asset for years to come.

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"
(Matthew 19:13-14).

2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 27

TEACHING CHRIST TO THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS | \$12,000



Meeting Special Needs of High School Students

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans (LHS) is proud to reach students who are often left behind — spiritually, academically, socially, and culturally. LHS provides a Christian education that is focused on teaching students how to live their lives as disciples of Christ. In addition to their traditional academics, students have the opportunity to pray during the day, memorize Bible verses, and learn about opportunities for potential careers in church work.

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans exists by God's grace, as an extension of Lutheran congregations providing a quality body, mind, and spirit education to its students, enabling them to go to college, to be exemplary citizens and to be equipped to "make disciples" for Christ throughout their lives. It is the only Lutheran high school in the entire Southern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In 2021, Hurricane Ida caused extensive damage to the school's building. A prolonged and expensive reconstruction took three years and the faculty and students were finally able to re-enter their building in 2024. While the renovation was done with handicapped students in mind, there are renovations that still need to be completed to make the building accessible for all students. This mission grant will allow the school to purchase five handicapped student desks, two lunchroom tables, install two automatic door openers, and contribute toward paving a pathway from the school to First English Lutheran Church.

There is one handicapped student who currently attends Lutheran High School. There are more in the community that need a Lutheran education. Having these handicapped accessibility factors in place allows families with handicapped students to feel confident that their students will have what they need if they attend LHS.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO KAIR.

Food Bank items for KAIR will be collected throughout the month of October. Please leave your donations in the bin located in the Fellowship Hall.

UNITED WAY
Collier and the Keys
Feed the Keys
FOOD DRIVE

Continuing the Legacy of "Mangrove Mike" Forster

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2026**

**FOOD DRIVE CAMPAIGN:
SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 9**



MOST-NEEDED ITEMS:

Mac & Cheese, Canned fruits and vegetables, Beans, Canned meats, Soup, Rice, Cereal/oatmeal, Pasta & sauce, Peanut butter, and individually packaged snacks

**Gift cards to local grocery stores are also accepted.*

DROP OFF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 BETWEEN 2-6PM:

Burton Memorial United

Methodist Church

93001 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier

KAIR (Keys Area

Interdenominational Resources)

3010 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

SOS Callahan

Community Kitchen

1020 United St, Key West

Keys Community

Church

30572 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key

Find a collection site, become a sponsor, learn more, or donate:

UWCOLLIERKEYS.ORG/FEEDTHEKEYS



Share your photos on social media using:

#FEEDTHEKEYS

Pause.
Breathe.
Love.

Women's RETREAT

✦ LADIES, THIS WEEKEND IS FOR YOU. ✦

When was the last time you stopped long enough to simply...

PAUSE. | BREATHE. | LOVE.

Step away from the schedules, responsibilities, and noise of everyday life and join us for a special Women's Retreat designed to refresh your heart, strengthen your faith, and remind you just how deeply you are loved by your Heavenly Father. ♥



Meaningful
conversations



Laughter &
connection



Journaling &
reflection



Creative
experiences



Practical ways
to slow down
and breathe



Time with God
and other
women



Friday, October 16
6:00-8:00 PM



Saturday, October 17
8:30 AM-2:30 PM



Featuring special guest

Amy Meyer

speaker, ministry leader, and author of
Snapshots and Stories.

Come with a friend. Come by yourself. *Come exactly as you are.*

✦ COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE RENEWED. ✦

Pause. Breathe. Love.



October

MLC LADIES LINK

Come join us!

- Saturday, October 31
9:30 am, MLC Fellowship
Hall
- Coffee, tea, snack
- Come on your own or with a friend!
- Bible Study - **Restored!**

I hope to see you there!

Your Sister in Christ,

Lori Mandile



N'OKTOBERFEST

*Sunday, November 8th
at 4:00 pm*

Martin Luther Chapel
325 122nd Street, Gulf, Marathon
305.289.0700



**Bring a dish to pass
& beer, wine or soft drinks to share**

MLC will provide the paper products & utensils



Please join us!
Bring a friend,
all are welcome!



October 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			30 Presidents Equip Conference Orlando	1 Presidents Equip Conference Orlando	2 Presidents Equip Conference Orlando	3
4 Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am <i>Divine Service</i> 10:00 am LWML Mite Collection	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am <i>Divine Service</i> 10:00 am	12	13 Church Cleaning	14	15	16 Women's Retreat Weston, FL 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	17 Women's Retreat Weston, FL 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
18 Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am <i>Divine Service</i> 10:00 am	19	20	21	22 Council Meeting 4:00 pm	23	24
25 Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am <i>Divine Service</i> 10:00 am	26	27 Church Cleaning	28	29	30	31 LWML Bible Study 9:30 am