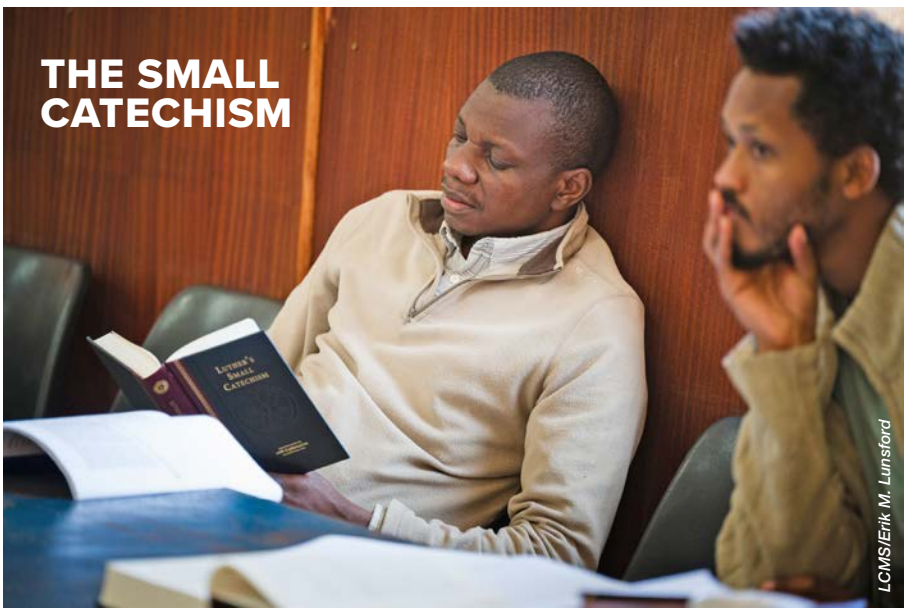
/ AUGUST 2026

DISTRICT NEWS

INDIANA



Leaning into our strengths

Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch
District President

As we consider the various challenges and difficulties confronting the church on earth, our flesh may be tempted to scramble about in search of some new strategy or scheme for the sake of survival or, what is worse, a measure of worldly "success." But the church has never been without the real treasures of the Kingdom of God, if only her children would look to and rely upon those gifts that her merciful Lord has never failed to provide.

Everything centers in and depends upon His Word, which He has caused to be written by His prophets and apostles and preserved for His people in the Holy Scriptures. And to this day, He calls, ordains and sends His ministers to preach and teach that same Word in His name. So do we in turn pray and confess the Word that God the Father has thus spoken to us by His incarnate Son.

From the beginning, along with sermons, hymns, prayers and letters, the church has echoed the Word of God in creedal formulas, trustworthy sayings and patterns of sound words, such as we find at various points in the Pauline epistles (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Timothy 1:15, 3:16, 4:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:13, 2:11-12; Titus 3:4-8), and as we have also received and handed over in the three ancient ecumenical creeds.

For Lutherans, in particular, the Small Catechism is a rich treasure house of such trustworthy sayings and patterns of sound words. Indeed, the entire *Book of Concord* serves in precisely this way; yet, the Small Catechism stands out in a special way among the Lutheran Confessions as a clear and succinct summary of the Christian faith, and as a sure and certain guide to the living of the Christian life in faith and love. It is that sort of gift and treasure because it flows directly from the Holy Scriptures and returns to them in every case, both by way of verbatim quotations and by way of sound and faithful explanations.

Martin Luther wrote his Small Catechism as an aid to fathers in teaching their families the Word of God — not only what to believe, but how to live by and confess such faith within their respective vocations. Beyond the Six Chief Parts, the Catechism also provides practical support and guidance for Christians of every age in the Daily Prayers, the Christian Questions and Answers, and the Table of Duties. All of this, not only for a temporary period of instruction, but as a pattern of prayer and confes-

See **MESSAGE**, page 8

WELCOME!

We praise God for those who will serve in the Indiana District following call and vicarage/deaconess intern assignment services at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), held April 28–29.

CTSFW

Pastors

Joshua Gerken (Rachel)
Associate Pastor
Concordia, Fort Wayne

James Gramzow (Jill)
Pastor
Emmaus, Indianapolis

David Grasch (Madeleine)
Pastor
Our Savior, Louisville, Ky..

Travis Hartman (Monica)
Pastor
Faith, Madison

David Gray (Brandy)
Pastor
St. Luke, Winamac, and St. Mark, Medaryville

Matthew Machemer
Associate Pastor
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

Adam Nieting (Emily)
Associate Pastor
Suburban Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

Vicars

Tanner Sawall (Elisa)
Associate Pastor
Calvary, Plymouth

Ross George (Jennifer)
Shepherd of the City, Fort Wayne

Matthew Sauer (Krista)
Redeemer, Highland

Brandon Streeks (Shaeli)
Zion, Decatur

Richard Crain (Corrine)
Zion, Woodburn

Erik Preus (Bethany)
Bethlehem, Ossian

Zachary Stuckwisch (Rebekah)
Trinity, Auburn

Jonathan Landry (Makenna)
Immanuel, Terre Haute

Joshua Hallock
Grace, Muncie

Wesly Williams (Elizabeth)
Faith, Churubusco

CSL

Pastor

Logan Davis
Associate Pastor
Cornerstone, Carmel

Vicars

Christopher Genszler
Immanuel, Seymour

Aaron Halboth
Cornerstone, Carmel

Stephen Peeler
Lutheran Church of our Redeemer, Kokomo

TLSP names Klenke Educator of the Year

On April 21, Becky Klenke was recognized as The Lutheran Schools Partnership Educator of the Year for 2026.

After nearly five decades of faithful service in Lutheran education, Klenke continues to shine as a humble servant leader, compassionate educator, and dedicated follower of Christ. For 49 years, including more than 40 years at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School, Decatur, Klenke has impacted countless students, families, colleagues and congregations through her teaching, encouragement, musical gifts and unwavering faith.

Whether serving as a classroom and resource teacher, leading students in music, playing organ for worship, supporting fellow staff members, or caring deeply for every child she encounters, Klenke reflects Christ's love in all she does. Her dedication, kindness and servant heart have left a lasting legacy that will continue to bless the Wyneken community for years to come.

Thank you, Ms. Klenke, for your dedication and service to Lutheran education!

Becky Klenke

2026 Junior High Rally

Camp Lakeview • Seymour
Sept. 11–12

Photos: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Camp Lutherhaven • Albion
Sept. 12–13

We are pleased to announce and invite your sixth- through eighth-grade youth to "Breathe" — the 2026 Junior High Rally. The theme is based on Job 33:4 – "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." Rev. Matt Wietfeldt, assistant vice-president of Admission at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, will be the keynote speaker.

The rally is offered at two sites: Camp Lakeview in Seymour (Sept. 11–12; event begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and ends at 4 p.m. on Saturday) and Camp Lutherhaven in Albion (Sept. 12–13; event begins on 10 a.m. on Saturday and ends at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday). These will be times of inspiration, education, recreation and association with other Lutheran youth from the Indiana District.

The rally will offer opportunities for Bible study, devotions, worship, outdoor activities, campfire songs and more.

Through a blend of fellowship, study, recreation and worship, we believe we have crafted an overnight event that you will not want your young people to miss.

Registration information can be found at **in.lcms.org** (go to "District Events"). The last day to register is Aug. 28.

‘An unshakeable inheritance to share’

> We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. **Psalm 78:4**

Nathan Wingfield
District Executive for Christian Education

In a world that constantly clamors for our children’s attention, the psalmist’s call in Psalm 78 cuts through the noise with absolute clarity. We have a sacred, joyful duty: to tell the next generation what God has done.

But what exactly are we telling them? For the Israelites of the psalmist’s day, the “glorious deeds” centered on the Exodus, the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The people were reminded of the parting of the Red Sea, the provision of manna, the conquering of Canaan and the time of the judges.

For us, the narrative is more profound. We tell our children of the ultimate deliverance from sin, death and the devil. We tell them of the Son of God who took on flesh, suffered on the cross, burst the cords of death and now sits at the right hand of the Father. We recount the wondrous deeds He continues to do for His bride, the church, leading her to the green pastures of His Word, cleansing her in the waters of Holy Baptism and feeding her with His very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Passing on the faith should be part of the daily heartbeat of the Christian home. It happens when we read the Scriptures, letting the living voice of the Gospel shape our hearts and minds. It happens when we sing the hymns and psalms of the church, joining angels and archangels in their praise of God Most High. It happens when we open the Small Catechism with our children and grandchildren, teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded. Thanks be to God for faithful pastors and teachers who assist fathers and mothers in this good work!

We do not hide these truths because they are the very words of eternal life. The world will offer our youth fleeting distractions, but we have an unshakeable inheritance to share. Let us speak joyfully of Christ’s cross and empty tomb, of His ongoing care for His church through Word and Sacrament, that the coming generation may set their hope in God, remember His works and rest securely in His promises.

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Rev. Raymond Holman (left) **was certified by the LCMS Office of National Mission for specialized care ministry** in 2025, and he was installed as chaplain at Parkview Health in Fort Wayne on May 8.

Rev. Dr. D Richard Stuckwisch, district president, conducted the installation.

Blessings to Rev. Holman on his ministry!

Anniversaries *(50 and over)*

Bethlehem, Ossian
Dennis and Maxine Narhwold, 59, Aug. 12
Rev. Donald Lutz, 98, July 6

Calvary, Indianapolis
Bob and Rosie Blazek, 62, Aug. 1
Bill and Mary Rebber, 56, Aug. 1
Steve and Barbara Sorgius, 52, Aug. 3
Rev. Art and Joy Wehrmeister, 54, Aug. 5
Dennis and Doris Sherfy, 57, Aug. 9
Rev. Howard and Bev Fabricius, 62, Aug. 15
Charlie and Betty Bardonner, 58, Aug. 17
Dale and Judy Onken, 58, Aug. 17
George and Sherry Ritchotte, 62, Aug. 17
Steve and Dianne Noe, 54, Aug. 19

Calvary, Plymouth
Marilyn and Fred Knizer, 68, Aug. 16
Ray and Kathy Girres, 56, Aug. 22
Tom and Susan McGee, 52, Aug. 24

Christ, Woodburn
Steve and Gwen Kammeyer, 58, Aug. 3
Dan and Deborah Coomer, 55, Aug. 14
Paul and Esther Goeglein, 71, Aug. 21
Roger and Pamela Hoeppner, 55, Aug. 21
Vernon and Jeanine Lengacher, 55, Aug. 27
Thomas and Martha Bains, 51, Aug. 30

Concordia, Louisville
Charlie and Karen Bobb, 60, Aug. 6
Mark and Karen Robinson, 55, Aug. 14
Jim and BecKy. Fahy, 54, Aug. 19
Tim and Kathy Moody, 54, Aug. 19
Martin and Cynthia Brieschke, 56, July 25
Bob and Barb Allison, 50, July 17
Rev. Curt and Pam Peters, 61, July 11
Charlie and Carol Gemeinhardt, 57, June 28
Mark and Sharon Helmkamp, 59, June 18

Cornerstone, Carmel
Carolyn and Michael Shaffer, 57, Aug. 2
Dave and Lou Robisch, 55, Aug. 6
Dan and Barbara Specksgoor, 55, Aug. 7
Barb and Harold Osborne, 67 Aug. 8
Russ and Jan Reichert, 59, Aug. 12
Dwight and Janice Schmidt, 59, Aug. 12
Mark and Cheryl Westphal, 54, Aug. 12
Russ and Lois VanDyke, 50, Aug. 13
Rev. Stephen and Fredrica Skov, 61, Aug. 15
Larry and Sharon Streit, 51, Aug. 15
Mike and Vicki Thomas, 55, Aug. 15
John and Judy Tomke, 57, Aug. 15
Fritz and Kathy Weinrich, 64, Aug. 18
Jerry and Sandy Thompson, 70, Aug. 18
Charlie and Judy Wolf, 55, Aug. 21
Bob and Carolyn Brittsan, 62, Aug. 23
Chuck and Judy Mihalik, 57, Aug. 23
Robert and Joan Hoch, 58, Aug. 24
Hoby and Drevvi Lowry, 59, Aug. 26
Janice and Joe Heimann, 55, Aug. 27
Earl and Sharon Rapp, 59, Aug. 28
Steve and Karen Boll, 51, Aug. 30
Robert and Lana Pancoast, 57, Aug. 30
Jim and Edna Boerger, 63, Aug. 31

Emanuel, Dudleytown
Melvin and Marjorie, 57, Aug. 16
Ronald and Shannon Wehrkamp, 60, Aug. 20
Ronald and Dian Krumme, 55, Aug. 22

Emanuel, Fort Wayne
Roger and Peggy McFadden, 57, Aug. 2
David and Teresa Robertson, 57, Aug. 2
Ron and Cheryl Daseler, 54, Aug. 4
Jim and JoAnn Wudy, 55, Aug. 7
David and Sharon Bieberich, 58, Aug. 10
David and Joni Scheppele, 54, Aug. 12
Rev. Arthur and Susie Klausmeier, 59, Aug. 13
Doug and Colleen Walker, 53, Aug. 18
Rev. Jim and Donna Cotter, 57, Aug. 23
Dexter and Connie Hoyer, 58, Aug. 30

Faith, Bloomington
John and Martha Harrell, 57, Aug. 2
Jim and Judy VanOsdol, 65, Aug. 27
Al and Bonnie Tinsley, 68, Aug. 31

Grace, Muncie
Roger and Carol Doctor, 62, Aug. 1
Dave and Reta Heinkel, 61, Aug. 7

Grace, New Albany
Dean and Cheri Holien, 53, Aug. 4

Richard and Rita Baker, 59, Aug. 14
Larry and Sandy Young, 55, Aug. 14
Augie and Carol Hinz, 57, Aug. 23
Dale and Connie Beickman, 66, Aug. 26
Michael and Bonnie Nale, 52, Aug. 30

Immanuel, Seymour
John and Margie Emily, 52, Aug. 3
Robert and Patricia Nicholson, 60, Aug. 7
Wendell and Carol Borcherding, 61, Aug. 8
Allen and Janis Mundt, 57, Aug. 10
Grant and Cathy Schneider, 50, Aug. 15
Jerry and Penny Emily, 50, Aug. 20
Marshall and Brenda Isaacs, 55, Aug. 22
Brad and BecKy. Boas, 52, Aug. 24
James and Ann Kloote, 58, Aug. 24
Max and Connie Roeder, 58, Aug. 24
Carl and Cathy VonDielingen, 57, Aug. 24
Donavon and Deanna Kieser, 66, Aug. 28
Loren and Elizabeth Wischmeier, 50, Aug. 28

Redeemer, Seymour
John and Kay Beatty, 54, Aug. 5
Joe and BecKy. Joiner, 56, Aug. 8
Rolland and Delores Rebber, 73, Aug. 9
Stanley and Teresa Stradley, 54, Aug. 11
Irvin and Carolyn Acton, 68, Aug. 16
George and Jodi Mellencamp, 54, Aug. 19
Allan and Deloris Wessel, 64, Aug. 19

Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown
Charles and Susie Stark, 51, Aug. 15

St. James, Lafayette
Thomas and Joann Dietel, 58, Aug. 3
Bob and Judith Nixon, 59, Aug. 20

St. John–Bingen, Decatur
Lester and Jan Zelt, 65, Aug. 5
Mike and Gina Raymond, 51, Aug. 16
Ron and Bessie Fuhrmann, 54, Aug. 19

St. John's–Farmers Retreat, Dillsboro
Gerald and Barbara Grace, 51, Aug. 17

St. John, Vincennes
Robert and Millie Akers, 57, Aug. 23

St. Michael, Fort Wayne
Mike and Julianne Rohrbach, 57, Aug. 2
John and Linda Saurer, 53, Aug. 4
Arthur and Linda Chapman, 52, Aug. 11
Jim and Janet Maxson, 59, Aug. 12
Jerry and Mary Nichols, 66, Aug. 13
Tom and Michelle Blomenberg, 50, Aug. 14
David and Judy Bauer, 56, Aug. 15
Phil and Cheryl Wiehe, 58, Aug. 17
Mike and Jean Bristol, 60, Aug. 20
Wayne and Jean Panning, 60, Aug. 27
Paul and Heidi Dancy, 50, Aug. 28
John and Belva Patterson, 62, Aug. 29

St. Paul–Denham, Winamac
Franklin and Delores Furr, 66, June 5

St. Paul–Preble, Decatur
Steven and Connie Keigh, 53, Aug. 11
Leroy and Marilyn Werling, 68, Aug. 23
Lester and Pam Smith, 65, Aug. 26

St. Peter's, Brownstown
William and Mary Stuckwisch, 54, Aug. 22

St. Peter, North Judson
Keith and Donna Henry, 51, Aug. 2
Rev. Garry and Margie Wickert, 53, Aug. 11
Kevin and Mary Brown, 51, Aug. 16
Roger and Shirley Sutton, 57, Aug. 16

Trinity–Decatur Road, Fort Wayne
Bo and Carol Knueppel, 59, Aug. 13
Ken and Michelle Frisby, 53, Aug. 17
Fred and Sue Snyder, 57, July 27
Dewayne and Carole Knipstein, 54, July 22

Trinity Evangelical, Fort Wayne
Joseph and Karen Miller, 62, July 16

Trinity–St. Mary's Ave., Fort Wayne
Dwight and Karen Wagner, 51, Aug. 9
Robert and Theresa Klemke, 52, Aug. 24

Zion–Friedheim, Decatur
Leonard and Christine Bultemeier, 56, Aug. 5

Birthdays *(90 and over)*

Calvary, Indianapolis
Mel Wessler, 94, Aug. 2
Glory Van Arsdel, 96, Aug. 3
Carol Lange, 96, Aug. 25
Art Messer, 95, Aug. 30

Calvary, Plymouth
Bob Schiefelbein, 90, Aug. 4

Christ, Woodburn
Harold Wierauch, 95, Aug. 9

Concordia, Louisville
Sandra Harroff, 90, July 22
Charmon George, 94, July 7

Cornerstone, Carmel
Delma Morey, 92, Aug. 13
Bob Adams, 93, Aug. 16
George Rieke, 91, Aug. 22
Bob Christopher, 91, Aug. 31

Emmanuel, Tell City
Doris Schauberger, 93, Aug. 28

Grace, Muncie
Carol Koss, 90, July 31

Grace, New Albany
Mary Wiser, 99, Aug. 7
Bob Fischer, 93, Aug. 27

Immanuel, Seymour
Lawrence Monroe, 97, Aug. 4
Bonnie Raabe, 91, Aug. 13
Chester Rust, 93, Aug. 21

Redeemer, Seymour
Doris Copple, 92, Aug. 31

St. James, Lafayette
Mary Kurz, 94, Aug. 12

St. John–Bingen, Decatur
Evelyn Aumann, 93, Aug. 14

St. John's, Lanesville
Norbert Walther, 96, Aug. 22

St. Michael, Fort Wayne
Jerry Nichols, 91, Aug. 1
Elizabeth Dressler, 97, Aug. 8
Dick Fox, 98, Aug. 26

St. Peter's, Brownstown
Earl Pottschmidt, 91, Aug. 7

Share your news with the district!

SEND TO: LWeditor@in.lcms.org; or
Lutheran Witness Editor
LCMS Indiana District
1145 South Barr St.; Fort Wayne, IN 46802

DEADLINES
October issue: Aug. 7
November issue: Sept. 7

In May, the **pastors of the north region (pictured above)** gathered on the campus of Purdue University for their spring conference, led by Rev. Dr. Larry Rast, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, president emeritus, and Rev. Chris Bodley, Michigan District missionary at large to Detroit.

University Lutheran Church (ULu) hosted the pastors for prayer offices and Divine Service. The conference attendees were blessed to be able to worship alongside a number of ULu students and families. Conference organizers extend their thanks for the service of this congregation and the preaching of Rev. Jared DeBlieck, ULu senior pastor.

The Indiana District **pastors of the south region** meet annually at Lakeview Ministries in Seymour. During this two-day conference, we are blessed to engage with other pastors as we hear presentations and reflect on ministry in an ever changing cultural landscape. This year we heard a presentation from Rev. Jacob Hercamp, who reflected on the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, and the garment motif in the Pentateuch, psalter and prophets, with a special emphasis on Zechariah. Rev. Hercamp serves as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Noblesville. The second presenter was Rev. Will Fredstrom, who serves as associate pastor or Immanuel, Seymour. Pastor Fredstrom spoke on artificial intelligence and how it is impacting the church and world.

While both presentations were thoughtful and inciteful, we also were led in the Divine Service at St. Peter's, Waymansville, by its pastor, Rev. Erik Sorenson, and Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwich, district president, who preached.

A special thank you to LCEF for providing fellowship with the pastors in attendance. As the conference chairperson, I argue that it is the best conference in the LCMS.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Nathan Janssen
Prince of Peace, Martinsville

Prayer List

WEEK OF AUG. 2
Circuit 22 – Louisville West
- Concordia, Louisville
- Epiphany, New Salisbury
- Gloria Dei, Elizabethtown
- Grace, New Albany
- Holy Trinity, Leitchfield
- Redeemer, Louisville
- Resurrection, Louisville
- Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown
- St. John, Lanesville

RSO: Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., Seymour
LCMS DISTRICT: Northwest

WEEK OF AUG. 9
Circuit 23 – Louisville East
- Divine Savior, Shepherdsville, Ky.
- Faith, Louisville
- Good Shepherd, Bardstown, Ky.
- Holy Cross, Shelbyville, Ky.

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

- Holy Trinity, LaGrange, Ky.
- Our Savior, Louisville
- Peace, Louisville
- Risen Lord, Taylorsville, Ky.

MINISTRY: Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis
LCMS DISTRICT: Ohio

WEEK OF AUG. 16
Circuit 1 – Hammond
- Faith, DeMotte
- Good Shepherd, Gary
- Grace, Dyer
- Redeemer, Highland
- St. John, Gary
- St. Paul's, Munster
- Trinity, Crown Point
- Trinity, Hammond
- Trinity, Lowell
- Trinity Memorial, Merrillville

MINISTRY: Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
LCMS DISTRICT: Oklahoma

WEEK OF AUG. 23
Circuit 2 – Valparaiso
- Faith Memorial, Valparaiso
- Heritage, Valparaiso
- Immanuel, Michigan City
- Immanuel, Valparaiso
- Prince of Peace, Valparaiso
- St. Paul, Chesterton
- St. Paul, Kouts
- St. Peter, Portage
- Trinity, Hobart

MINISTRY: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
LCMS DISTRICT: Pacific Southwest

WEEK OF AUG. 30
Circuit 3 – LaPorte
- Emmanuel, Wheatfield
- First, Hanna
- Immanuel–Tracy, Hamlet
- Our Redeemer, Knox
- St. John, LaCrosse
- St. John, Wanatah
- St. John's, LaPorte
- St. Luke, Winamac
- St. Mark, Medaryville
- St. Matthew, Hamlet
- St. Paul-Denham, Winamac
- St. Peter, North Judson

MINISTRY: Cranach Institute, Fort Wayne
LCMS DISTRICT: Rocky Mountain

Stewardship

Ken Schilf
Emmanuel,
Fort Wayne

Wow, time really flies by! You probably have used that expression. But that's not always the case. When I played in little league, school seemed like it would never end if there was a game later that day. Finally, it was time to play the game, but it seemed like it was over too quickly.

Time is a precious commodity. In stewardship, there are three Ts — Time, Talent and Treasure. Once time has passed by, it cannot be recovered. The apostle Paul cautions us on the use of time in Ephesians 5:15-16:

> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

As an adult, the use of time has not changed significantly, except for the activities involved. How much time do you spend on your computer or cell phone? Do you have the willpower to turn them off? Do we find ourselves making vacation more of a working vacation?

What about the never-ending emails or text messages? My wife has over 700 emails on her phone! So how are we managing our time? Put some margin into your day.

Start your day with the Lord in prayer. Follow it with a devotion, a Christ-centered podcast, or by reading the Bible. If it's necessary, get up 30 minutes sooner and let God speak to you. You will find this early God-given time so valuable that you will reap the benefits for the rest of the day.

(This devotion was inspired by an article from *Sports Spectrum*.)

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

sion for the entirety of the Christian's life. As I like to say, catechesis is not a terminal degree program! We never outgrow it in our earthly sojourn, but are called and taught to persist in the hearing, confessing and praying of God's Word to us through all our days. That is what strengthens and sustains us for battle against the devil, the world and our flesh.

To that end, the Small Catechism remains a most excellent tool for rehearsing and reinforcing the Word upon which our entire Christian faith and life depend. Dr. Luther himself indicated, in the Preface to the Small Catechism, that he got down on his knees to pray the Catechism like a little child every day.

As the foremost duty of fathers is to bring their children up in the faith, especially by teaching them the Word of God, there could hardly be a better aid and benefit to their labors in the Lord than the Small Catechism. For decades I have maintained that the Small Catechism has been the saving grace and Godsend of the Lutheran Church, because it has instilled in the hearts and minds of countless people the Word of God in its straightforward truth and purity.

For those who were taught the faith from the Small Catechism and learned to know it by heart, it has provided what I like to call a "Lutheran gut instinct," a compass by which to chart their path — and to send up flares of caution when something doesn't square right with God's Word and the preaching of it.

Certainly the Small Catechism is one of our real strengths as Lutherans, and we ought to lean into it all the more in these gray and latter days. It ought to be at the forefront of our efforts within our homes and families, and no less so in all our Lutheran schools. Nothing will better equip our children and our children's children for the challenges they will undoubtedly face in this body and life on earth. Nor can anything better equip the members of our congregations for confessing the faith to their neighbors in the world.

Time and again I have witnessed what a blessing and a benefit it is to the people of God, as a sword of the Spirit (which is the Word of God) and as armor against the devil and his wiles. Let us give thanks for this precious gift, and let us not neglect to use it well for ourselves and for our families.