

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Angels

"Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me."

Thus writes Martin Luther in both his morning and evening prayers in the *Small Catechism*. Sept. 29 is the day of St. Michael and All Angels. It is good, right and salutary that the Church should have a day to remember the angels and take comfort in them.

The root meaning of angel is "messenger" and the angels serve God by bringing the message of Christ to the world. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive the Christ. An angel convinced Joseph not to divorce Mary. Angels announced Jesus' birth. An angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt for safety with his family. Angels ministered to Jesus in the wilderness after His temptation. An angel rolled the stone away from the tomb. Angels announced the resurrection. They attended to Jesus at the Ascension and proclaimed His return to earth.

(Hint: If someone thinks he or she has seen an angel and that angel isn't talking about Jesus, it likely wasn't an angel. More likely it was a demon. The angels of Scripture are all about Jesus.)

The idea of guardian angels comes from Matt. 18:10, when Jesus says:

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."

Jesus says "their" angels, indicating that in some way the angels are assigned to watch the little ones. Jesus also indicates that the angels are looking to the Father. The angels do not receive their directions from us, but from His Father because His Father knows best.

Your guardian angel is not a loved one who now looks over you. Humans are not — and do not become — angels. Angels are not humans (although some have momentarily taken human form). Rather, as Luther teaches us in his prayers and according to God's Word, the angels are military messengers. They fight against the forces of the evil one so that the message of Jesus can be heard and we can be kept by faith in Jesus until He comes again with the angels.

The angels are another gift of God for your faith and life. Don't forget to celebrate St. Michael and All Angels on Sept. 29.

Rev. Bruce Timm
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor

LWML Sunday 2018

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

Need a break from this busy life and always wondering what might happen next? Then take a look at the 2018 LWML Sunday materials, authored by Rev. Ken Hennings, who just retired as LCMS Texas District president. The theme, "Our Rest in a Changing World," from Psalm 62 will take you through worship to the sermon titled "The Rest We Share," giving pause and insight in seeking that rest.

A full worship service and additional materials are available for download at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.



New leaders

At the 2018 LWML District Convention, the following officers were elected to serve on the Board of Directors: from left, **Peggy Pasche**, financial secretary; **Rev. Matthew Vrudny**, Park Region pastoral counselor; **Glenice Hall**, Park II Regional VP/Human Care; **Esther Schlicker**, recording secretary and **Valerie Johnson**, Arrowhead II Regional VP/Scholarships. Not pictured is Corles Rainer, executive VP/Christian Life.



Spring rally at Grace

The Wadena Zone Spring Rally was held in Sebeka on April 28. The theme was "Hospitality," based on Gen. 18:1-3. The ingathering was for Orphan Grain Train. Items collected were 65 hygiene kits, 20 quilts, 63 pairs of socks, 36 pairs of underwear and 34 Bibles. "Shoes for the Mission" for Lutheran Island Camp and food items for the Sebeka Food Shelf were also collected. Before the rally, 32 hygiene kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief.



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