

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

April Newsletter 2017

The Messenger

Contents

From the Pastor – Stewardship Encore

Congregational Announcements

District Parish Nurse: Risks of Heavy Drinking

April Calendar

Our Savior Lutheran Church – LCMS

2261 Lucas Street Muscatine Iowa 52761

www.oursaviormuscatine.org

Church Phone

563-263-0347

Church Email

oslcp@machink.com

Pastor Pautz's Cell Phone & Text Number

563-554-4488

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I published a series of newsletter articles on stewardship last year, written by Rev. Heath Curtis. Beginning this month, I will publish them again but with a slight twist. The newsletter article will also be the Bible study topic for the first Sunday of each month. I will go over the material with you and receive your feedback. Rev. Curtis researched this material while his dual parish was in debt and struggling to keep their doors open. They did keep their doors open and are doing ok today. We are not in financial trouble so we have the luxury of taking our time to know the topic well. The point God's Word makes about stewardship needs to distinguish between His good and holy Law and His good and holy Gospel. Rev. Curtis distinguishes them nicely in his articles. My goal is that we do the same in our Bible studies. Our first Bible study on stewardship will be Sunday, April 2nd. The rest of the month we will study the Gospel of John.

Also notice it is a good time to jump back into the Wednesday morning Bible study which just began the studying the Book of Isaiah.

Finally, Holy Week is fast approaching. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 7pm that week. The Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday of Holy Week at 7pm. If you have not experienced an Easter Vigil, I encourage you to do so this year. We will begin with the lighting of the Christ candle outside on the front lawn and process into the church by candlelight. And now, onto Rev. Curtis' introductory article:

What is Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is the faithful management of our financial resources and all we have. It begins with the understanding that all we have is God's (Ps. 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it") and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1Tim 6:7). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have. So, for example, a father and mother use their income to feed, clothe, and protect their children.

Besides the vocations that each of us have in our family life and in society, we are also all Christians and members of this parish. How do we use our income faithfully in regard to this vocation? To learn this we must look to God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your

forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 16:13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other; or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6-8 But just as you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.. . .The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything.

What does this mean?

Your heart always goes where you put God's money. Stewardship is not an optional subcategory of the Christian life; it is the living out of a Christian's dependence on God. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives you His Life in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. The things of this world are temporarily given to us by God to see and we will be called to account for how we manage the Owner's things (Rom.14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

THIS APRIL: Prayerfully Consider Your Giving

In this month of Easter, prayerfully consider your giving to God's work in His Church. Are you faithfully giving a first-fruits tithe (10%) of your income to the work of God? Are you, as St. Paul says, "excelling in this grace of giving"? If not, why not? In next month's newsletter we'll consider more of what God says about Stewardship – specifically more about tithing (the Biblical practice of giving a tenth of our income to God's work in the Church) – and provide steps for planning your giving for next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY NOTES are now being posted on Our Savior's website at: www.oursaviormuscatine.org/sermons You will also find service video, sermon audio, and a printed sermon for most of the services. Also, a church calendar may be found [here](#)

MCSA MEAL to the homeless is Saturday, April 1. Information posted in the narthex

OUTSIDE CLEANUP is scheduled for Saturday, April 8th starting at 8:00am

TAKE DOWN EASTER LILIES The Altar Guild requests your assistance to take down the Easter Lilies after the 9:00 am Sunday Easter service. If you purchased a lily, you may take it home immediately after that service. If you would like to take home an unclaimed lily, patiently wait and you may have your pick. All lilies will be removed that afternoon.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 9th at 9:00 am & again on Monday, April 10th at 6:00 pm
No Service on Holy Wednesday

The Triduum is one service experienced over three days:

Maundy Thursday is Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday is Friday, April 14th at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil is Saturday, April 15th at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service is Sunday, April 16th at 6:30 am
(Easter Breakfast between services)

Easter Day Service is Sunday, April 16th at 9:00 am

Adult Bible study to follow but no Sunday School

PUBLIC QUESTIONING FOR CONFIRMATION is Sunday, April 23rd during the Sunday School Hour. Carl James Gibson, Krystol Martz, Alexander Pautz, Crew Schliesman, and Alexander Stoltfus are preparing for confirmation. "We do not abolish the Divine Service but religiously maintain and defend it. For among us, the Divine Service is celebrated every Lord's Day and on other festivals in which the Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other like things. (Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXIV). I ask the Sunday School teachers and Adult Bible study participants, join us in the Sanctuary for a review of the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism and an absolution.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is Sunday, April 30th during the regularly scheduled 9:00 am Divine Service. Please come and give thanks to God for the blessing these young men and this young woman are to us as new communicant members of His Church. And let us give thanks to God that Jesus Christ is the future of His Church as well.

CONFIRMATION CAMP

August 1-4, 2017

It's time to give those catechisms some summer attention!

With the busyness of summer, many confirmands go months without picking up their catechism, let alone even thinking on the content they learned in confirmation and catechesis class the year before. Before confirmands know it, they'll be thrust right back into the swing of their confirmation studies in the fall, scrambling to recover and remember what they already went through last year.

Higher Things Confirmation Camp is here to give confirmands a refresher and new insight into their Lutheran catechesis life. Over the course of a 4-day camp at Camp Io-Dis -E-Ca in Solon, IA, Rev. David Kind (University Lutheran Chapel – Minneapolis, MN) will lead confirmands in their catechism study and Rev. Sam Beltz (St. John Lutheran – Oskaloosa, IA) will preside over our worship times for the week. It'll be a week filled with edifying catechesis, distinctively Lutheran worship, and tons of outdoor fun!

At Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, campers will enjoy numerous outdoor activities along with their worship and learning! Participants will spend time in activities such as archery, canoeing, horseback riding, rock climbing, zipping (zip line), disc golf, swimming, large-group games, campfire and s'mores, and many more! R

Registration is open to both groups and individuals, meaning confirmands can come with their classmates and a chaperone or register individually and be chaperoned by one of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's camp counselors.

This event is open to all youth grades 5th-8th, or ages 10-14.

Registration for each camper is \$275. The registration fee includes all meals throughout the duration of camp as well as all activities, classes, and lodging at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.

Go to www.higherthings.org/camp to register, and find additional information or contact Daniel Sanchez, Camp Director of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca at (319) 848-4187 or director@iodiseca.org to email you a information packet.

The Camper Profile, Health Form, and Release of Liability must be completed for each camper. These forms can be found in the information packet.

Groups and individuals should register online by July 28th.

PARISH NURSE

from District Nurse Representative Ronda Anderson RN

Drinking alcohol in excess is a risky behavior that can have lasting effects on your health.

Every 2 minutes someone dies because of alcohol. In fact, excessive drinking is the third-leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the U.S. Drinking alcohol is linked to more than 60 health issues.

When you drink in excess, the effects of alcohol aren't limited to just you. Your drinking can also hurt someone else. Half of all alcohol-related deaths are due to unintentional injuries, such as from car accidents, for example.

Excessive drinking defined Heavy drinking and binge drinking fall under the category of "excessive drinking."

- Heavy drinking:
 - More than one drink per day on average for women.
 - More than two drinks each day on average for men.
- Binge drinking:
 - More than four drinks during, generally, a two-hour period for women.
 - More than five drinks during one occasion for men.

One drink is considered:

- 12 oz. of beer or a wine cooler
- 5 oz. of wine
- 1.5 oz. of distilled liquor (for example, vodka, rum or whiskey)

A personal problem: how alcohol misuse hurts you.

When you drink alcohol, it's quickly absorbed from the stomach and small intestine and into the bloodstream. The liver can only break down (metabolize) a small amount of alcohol at a time. The rest of the alcohol lingers in the bloodstream and causes you to "feel drunk." This harms the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord), which is dangerous because the central nervous system controls all functions of the body. The more alcohol you drink at once, the greater the damage.

The immediate effects of alcohol may include:

- Impaired judgment and inability to measure risks
- Lowered inhibitions
- Slower reaction time and reflexes
- Loss of coordination and balance

- Distorted vision
- Lapses in memory

Drinking too much alcohol over time can cause a slew of lasting health problems, such as:

- Chronic liver disease
- Cancer
- Heart disease and stroke
- Mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety
- Alcohol addiction
- Medical problems in unborn babies if alcohol is consumed during pregnancy.
- Alcohol poisoning, which can be deadly when you drink too much at once

Alcohol misuse can also impact other areas of your life. It's linked with:

- Domestic abuse and other violent behaviors
- Relationship issues
- Risky sexual behaviors
- Financial problems
- Being unproductive at work
- Accidents

A public health problem: how alcohol misuse hurts others. Excessive alcohol use hurts us all. It reaches into every aspect of society and has an economic impact as well. Look at the facts:

- One-fifth to one half of all car accident deaths are due to alcohol.
- Of people admitted to hospitals (not counting those in maternity or intensive care units), 25 percent to 40 percent are being treated for alcohol-related issues.
- Alcohol problems cost the U.S. about 185 billion dollars per year. Health care expenses for alcohol-related illness and injury cost 22.5 billion dollars each year.
- Underage drinking is a huge public health problem:
 - Alcohol is a leading cause of death and injury in teens from car accidents, fires, drownings, homicides and suicides.
 - When teens drink, nine out of 10 times they are binge drinking.
 - One in four teens admits to binge drinking.
 - Three in 10 teens admit to riding in a vehicle with a driver who has been drinking.

Be responsible: If you are 21 years of age or older and choose to drink, do so in moderation. Women should only have one drink per day, and men should limit alcohol to two drinks a day. It is not safe to drink any amount of alcohol during pregnancy. Never drink alcohol before or while driving, or when participating in any other activities that require skill or concentration

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 01:00 Pastoral Visits 06:00 Table Talk	3 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service 07:00 Board of Elders	4	5 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study 04:00 Office Hours 05:30 Lenten Meal 06:00 Jr. Catechism 07:00 Lenten Service	6	7	8
9 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 01:00 Pastoral Visits	10 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service 07:00 Church Council	11	12 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	13 <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 7pm Service	14 <u>Good Friday</u> 7pm Service	15 <u>Easter Vigil</u> 7pm Service
16 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 06:30 Matins Service Easter Breakfast 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 No Sunday School	17 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service	18 9-2:00 Circuit Meeting	19 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	20 7pm LWML	21	22
23 1 st Sunday a. Easter 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Public Questioning 01:00 Pastoral Visits	24 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service 07:00 Voters Meeting	25	26 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	27	28	29
30 <u>Confirmation Sunday</u> 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 01:00 Pastoral Visits						