

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

May Newsletter 2017

The Messenger

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Our Savior Lutheran Church – LCMS

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FROM PASTOR PAUTZ

*I AM the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
[John 10:11](#)*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I was a pleasure to confirm Krystol Martz, Alexander Stoltzfus, Alexander Pautz, Carl James Gibson and Crew Schliesman on April 30th. Yes, they worked hard. The most important part is they have received faith in Christ and continue to abide in Jesus Christ. This is the Great Commission from the Lord, 'Baptize them in My name and teach them everything I have given you.' Baptism and teaching go together. This is why we have Sunday School for all ages.

I began the confirmation sermon with some Gospel comfort. They know we strive to distinguish the Law from the Gospel of God's Word. So, I warned them that at first blush what I was about to say does not sound like comfort.

The Gospel comfort is this, "You are not the future of Christ's church. Like your parents and grandparents have also heard, Jesus Christ is the future of His Church."

This is a comfort that is easy to forget.

Christ Jesus brings sheep into the fold - you do not. If you teach the Gospel as it is, without watering it down or sugar-coating it, the elect sheep hear Jesus' voice and come to hear more. Why do people not come to hear Jesus? Because they hate Jesus. It is not more complicated than that.

But it is indeed ironic that we are drawn to secular voices to keep the church alive and growing. Secular voices tell us we need a relevant Youth Group, but Christ says His teenagers need the forgiveness of their sins. Secular voices tell us we need an easier worship service and familiar songs but Christ says His people need His good Law and His saving Gospel. And this works in some cases. An organization can grow without faith Christ, but it soon becomes anti-Gospel, abusive, and self-centered.

The Gospel is simply this: Jesus died for the sins of the world. Krystol, Xander, C.J. Alex and Crew – you are part of the world, therefore Jesus has made atonement for your sins. This solemn proclamation now plants and sustains faith in the hearts of those who listen attentively to it.

Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, is the future of His church!

Do I have to Tithe?

That is an interesting question: do we have to tithe under the New Testament? After all, tithing, that is, giving 10% of our income to God's work in the Church, is a regulation of the Old Testament. We live under Christ in the New Testament so does this apply to us today? We might approach our answer to this question by asking whether or not we have to keep the Third Commandment – which reads in full from Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. So do we have to keep this commandment? Should we cease from all labor on Saturday as the people of the Old Testament did? Of course not! That was one of the Old Testament prophecies of Christ – and since Christ has fulfilled the Sabbath rest by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday, we are free from the Old Testament Sabbath regulations. Thus St. Paul writes, “Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ” (Col. 2:16-17) . And yet, there the Third Commandment stands in our Small Catechism: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy! What's going on here? Well, look at Luther's explanation of the third commandment: “What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it.” So the form of the commandment, the letter of the law, has passed away as a shadow: but the spirit still remains. We are to honor God by our worship, by gladly receiving His Word and Sacraments in His Church.

So it is with tithing. The New Testament nowhere lists the precise regulations about giving this tithe and that tithe to the Levites and the Temple and so on. Those precise regulations were to point us to Christ: who represents the fullness of humanity though He is one Man, just as the tithe represented the fullness of the income of the people of Israel though it was only 10% thereof. We are in no way bound to these precise legal regulations of Old Testament Israel. And yet, just as the fulfilling of the Sabbath Day doesn't mean that going to the Lord's House for worship once a week is obsolete – so also the New Testament does not make faithful financial stewardship obsolete. Rather, the New Testament is full of admonitions on this point: “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper.” (1 Cor.16:2); “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.” (2 Cor. 8:7); “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 and may provide in abundance for every good work” (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

So just as the Old Testament's once a week worship became the benchmark for New Testament worship, so also the Old Testament's tithe becomes the benchmark for New Testament stewardship. Not in the way of inflexible, minute regulations – but in the way of pattern and fulfillment. If in the New Testament we are called to give proportionally (“as each one may prosper”), weekly (“on the first day”), and “generously” - then surely the Old Testament tithe is the floor level of Christian giving, not the ceiling. As our worship in the New Testament is a greater fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath, so also our New Testament stewardship is called to be an even greater sacrificial fulfillment of the Old Testament tithing regulations.

THIS MAY: 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 'Why should I tithe?' (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.

If you would like to read more of Rev. Curtis' book, [“Stewardship Under the Cross”](#) click [here](#) for a [free copy](#).

Our Savior LWML

NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our Savior LWML needs your help!

We need:

Ladies interested in attending and being part of our mission service for the Lord

Lately we have had 6-8 ladies in attendance at meetings. We would love to have more ladies come and share time with us at meetings for Bible study and fellowship.

We will need new officers (President and Secretary) for the next year. Prayerfully consider serving the Lord with gladness!

(This next part is for all members, men included!)

Are the members of Our Savior willing to help?

Our Savior LWML has made apple pies as our mission project for the year. This mission money that we raise goes far and wide to serve the Lord.

We need folks to help with this apple pie project on pie making days, picking up apples, delivery of pies, etc. We will need lots of hands to make light work.

Prayerfully consider how we as a church can continue to have our LWML an active part of our congregation.

If you have questions or wish to serve, please talk with:

Lisa Seaba, President

Wendi Ingram, Secretary

Mary Francis, Treasurer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO ALL CAMPERS AND WEEKEND TRAVELERS The Monday evening Divine Service will continue to be offered every Monday throughout the summer at 6:00 pm. If you miss the Sunday service for any reason but desire to worship in your home church, prayerfully consider attending this service.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY The Wednesday morning Bible study groups have decided to continue through the summer. The Men's Bible study will continue to meet at 6:30 am. The Woman's Bible study will continue to meet at 9:30 am. The topic will continue to be the Book of Isaiah.

WEDNESDAY MATINS will continue to be offered at 9:00 am throughout the summer.

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](#)

SECURE ONLINE OFFERINGS is an option for those who wish to give an offering to the ongoing mission and ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Offerings may be given in any of the the following ways:

1. A direct deposit may be offered by congregational members. This is the newest method for supporting the mission and ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church. Members may give a one time offering or a recurring offering at their convenience. To learn more contact the church office at 563-263-0347 or to start now, [click here](#).

2. A check, made out to: Our Savior Lutheran Church - Muscatine, may be sent by postal mail to:

Our Savior Lutheran Church
2611 Lucas Street
Muscatine, IA 52761
Attention: Board of Finance

3. The most common option is by placing cash or check into the Sunday offering plate. Again, thank you for supporting the Lord's mission and ministry in this place.

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.

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service	2	3	4	5	6
7 Easter 4 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 01:00 Pastoral Visits 06:00 Table Talk	8 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service	9 9-2:00 Circuit Meeting	10 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study	11	12	13
14 Easter 5 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School 01:00 Pastoral Visits	15 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service	16	17 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study	18 7pm LWML	19	20
21 Easter 6 06:30 Matins Service Easter Breakfast 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 No Sunday School	22 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service	23	24 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study	25	26	27
28 Easter 7 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Public Questioning 01:00 Pastoral Visits	29 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Divine Service	30	31 06:30 Men's Breakfast 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Bible Study			



Godly and believing persons know their sins; they bear all their punishment patiently, and are resigned to God's judgment without the least murmur; therefore, they are punished only bodily, and here in time, and their pain and suffering have an end.

Unbelievers, however, since they are not conscious of their sins and transgressions, cannot bear God's punishment patiently, but they resent it and wish their life and works to go unpunished, yea, uncensured.

Hence, their punishment and suffering are in body and soul, here in time, and last forever beyond this life.

Luther, Sermons, III, p 131