

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

July Newsletter 2017

The Messenger

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FROM PASTOR PAUTZ

For in the Gospel is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

There is a particular Bible verse Martin Luther attributes to sparking the 16th century Reformation. If you attended the May screening of Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed The World you might recall some mention of Romans 1:16-17.

Martin Luther wanted to answer a basic question. “How can I be a good person?”

Martin read the Bible again and again and again. Unfortunately Martin only saw an angry God. He saw an all powerful God that hated sinners. Martin knew He was a sinner. No matter how much he tried to be a good person, he failed. His conclusion from reading the Bible and his many failures was that God did not think Martin was a good person.

It was at this low point that Martin Luther stumbled over Romans 1:16-17. It is written:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

There is no mention of sin or damnation in these verses. The Apostle Paul was “not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.” Martin was ashamed of the Gospel. What was Martin missing?

John 3:16 is the “Gospel In A Nutshell”. It is written: “For God loved the world like this: God sent His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). So, God loved Martin. God wasn’t being mean to His Son. God wanted to save Martin. God, in this Gospel, declares Martin good. This is the power of God.

Righteousness is good.

Righteousness is revealed through the Gospel.

Righteousness is received by faith.

Martin had one more problem. He tried to believe that God Himself was good, but Martin was unable. He could not trust God to be anything but a heavenly bully.

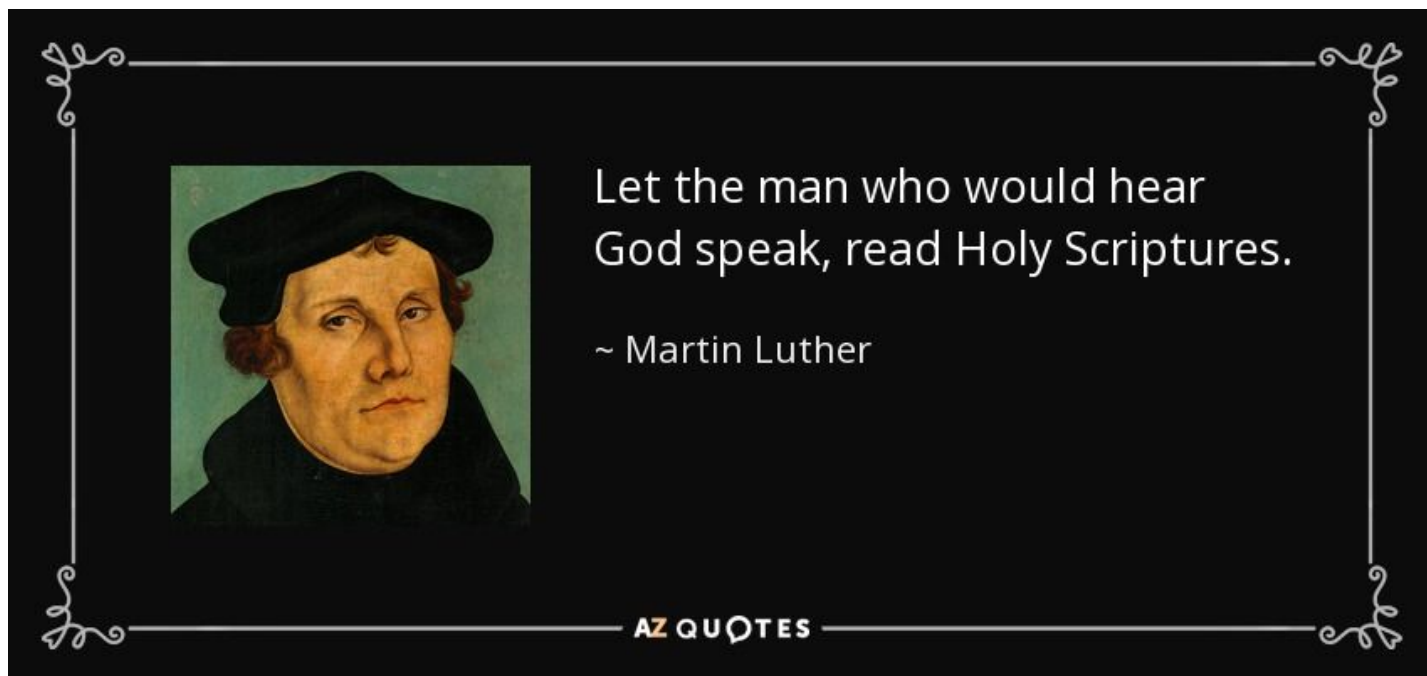
However, Martin kept reading the Bible and stumbled on another verse. What is written in Romans 1:17, that the “righteous shall live by faith” is a quote from the prophet Habakkuk.

It is written in Habakkuk 2:4b that “The righteous shall live by his faith.” Martin read this in the original Hebrew language. The “his” is referring to “the Lord’s” faith. “The righteous will live by the Lord’s faith” That was it for Martin.

Faith itself is a gift from God. Faith is not knowledge about God. Faith is trust that receives what God gives. What does God give? Righteousness. God’s very righteousness is given in the Gospel to sinners.

Martin received this faith because of the power of the Gospel. He lived by the Lord’s faith that trusted the Father’s promise.

This Gospel turned Martin upside down. It turned Western Europe upside down. And this Gospel turns our world upside down as well. It is my joy to live by the Lord’s faith with you in this congregation of His people.



The Lord bless you and
keep you and yours
in this Gospel,

Pastor Pautz

Stewardship Under the Cross - by Rev. Heath Curtis

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF TITHING

Your heart will always go where you put God's money.

Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. As the hymn verse has it: We give Thee but Thine own. God is the ultimate giver of our incomes: all these gifts come from him. To acknowledge this gift and our dependence on the Lord, God calls us to give a portion of our income back to Him for the maintenance of His Church. Indeed, the Scriptures are very clear: God calls His people to give generously to the work of the Church. As we have seen, God commanded Israel to support the Word and Sacrament ministry of the Levites in the Temple with a tithe (10%) of their income. Can we call ourselves generous by doing less?

This calls for faith. Do we trust God's Word? Do we trust that what He says is for our benefit, not our harm? **If you have never tithed before, it can be a scary proposition.** Give 10% of my income away!? You've got to be kidding. But God doesn't ever kid us in His Word. Instead, He tells us how to live holy and blessed lives full of peace and contentment. Consider these Scriptures:

Jesus said, *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 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* (Matthew 6:19-21).

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. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it (Malachi 3:8-10).

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 Corinthians 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*

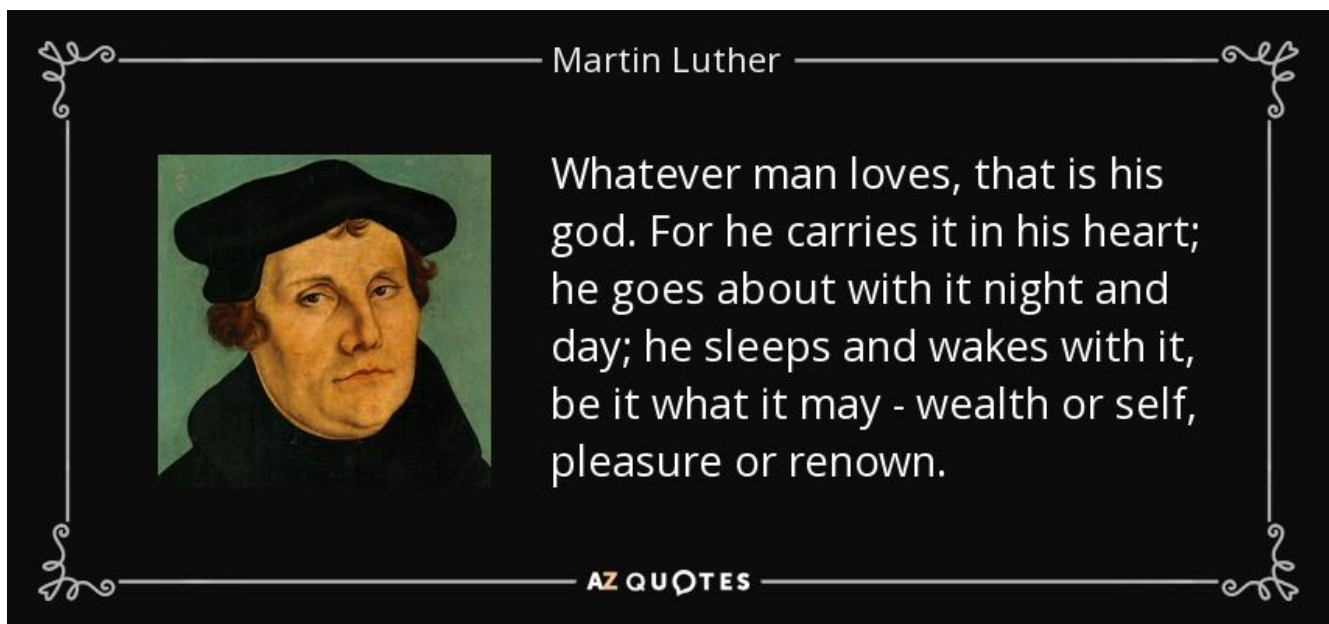
under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we do make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

God will never tell us to do something that will be to our harm – He loves us too much for that. Jesus gave His life on the cross for me. He loves me and knows what is best for me – so I can know that what He says about stewardship is meant for my benefit. He wants my heart to be with Him – and my heart will always follow where I put God's money. **Tithing is not easy: it is Godly. It will change your life.** Stepping out in faith always does. You may have to change your lifestyle to accommodate following God's Word in this matter. But tithing will change your life in other ways too: it will give you a peace and contentment that can only come from actually putting yourself in the hands of the Lord.

So read through those Scriptures again. Pray through the questions on the next page. And step out in faith this year with giving that is in accord with God's Word. And just see if you are not blessed in it.

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



OUR SAVIOR - LWML

Needs Your Help

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.

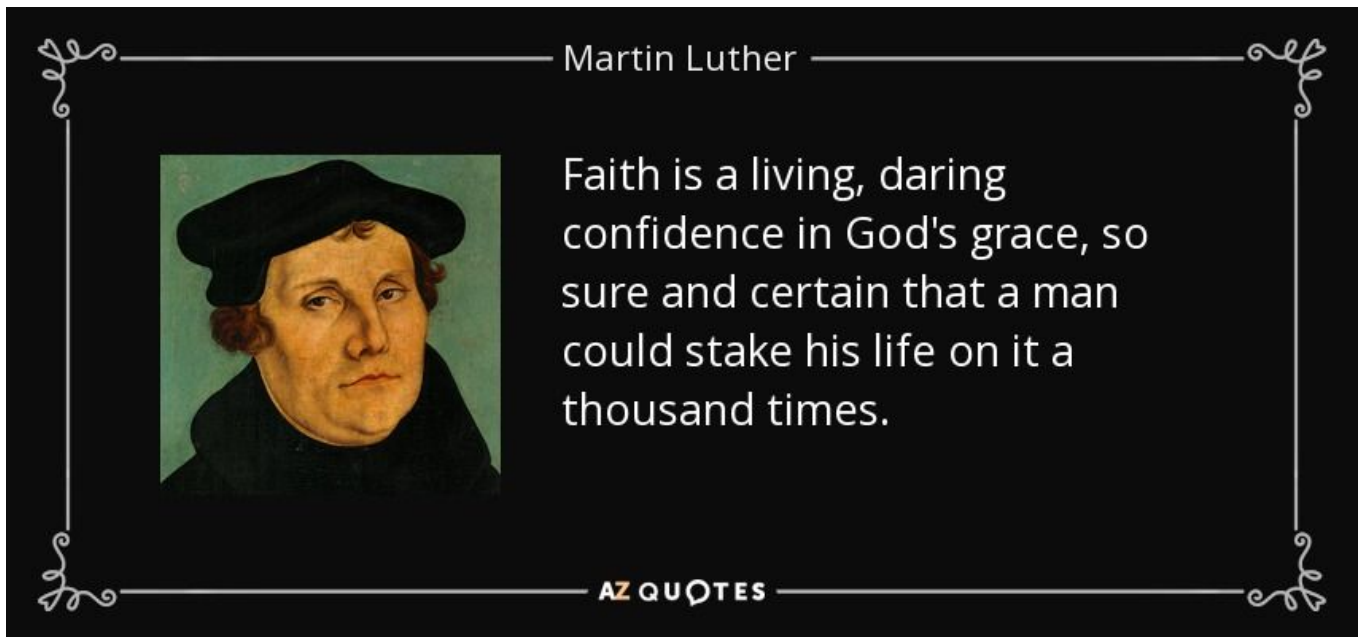
We will need new officers (President and Secretary) for the next year. Prayerfully consider serving the Lord with gladness!

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, or Wendi Ingram, Secretary or Mary Francis, Treasurer



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - VBS will be the week of July 17th from 9-11 a.m. On Friday, please pack a sack lunch and we will have a picnic at the park after VBS. Please contact Betsy Hirschfeld at 563-210-7356 or betsyandjoel@yahoo.com to let her know if you will have kids, grandkids, neighbors, etc. coming. We would like to have a head count by the 4th of July. Thanks!

GENTLE REMINDER: There is an etiquette to entering and leaving the sanctuary during a church service. If you need to leave or enter during a service, please do so while the congregation is standing rather than sitting, preferably during a hymn. Also, use the outside aisles and cry room rather than walking through the center of the congregation to the main doors. Finally, please limit bathroom breaks to before or after the service. Thank you. Pastor Pautz.

REX KREUGER, who volunteered and recently completed the staining/painting of the soffit around the outside of the church, thank you!

JERRY HART and DARIN OSLAND, who volunteered and completed our beautiful new sanctuary lighting, thank you!

SCOTT NATVIG, REX KRUEGER and DAVID LORD, for faithfully keeping our lawn mowed and manicured, thank you!

CARL EGGER, who faithfully sets up, prepares and serves the breakfast for the men's bible study each week, thank you!

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 July. 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.

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](#).

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!

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.

From Martin Luther's Sermon for: The Great Banquet, Luke 14:16-24

12. This man who prepared this supper is our Lord God Himself. He is a great and rich Lord, Who also once prepared a feast according to His glorious majesty and honor, and it was such a supper which is called great and glorious, not only on account of the host, who is God Himself, for it would be a glorious supper if He had only given a vegetable broth or a dry crust; yet the food is beyond all measure great and costly, namely, the Holy Gospel, yea, Christ our Lord Himself. He is Himself the food, and is offered unto us through the Gospel, how He has made satisfaction by His death for our sins, and has redeemed us from all the misery of eternal death, of hell, of the wrath of God, sin and eternal condemnation.

13. This preaching of Christ is the great and glorious supper with which He feeds His guests and sanctifies them through His Holy Baptism, and comforts and strengthens them through the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, that nothing may be wanting and a great plenty may be at hand and all become satisfied. . . . For it is an inexhaustible food and an everlasting drink, as our Gospel says: He who believeth on this Lord Jesus Christ, that He was born for us of the Virgin Mary and crucified for our sins under Pontius Pilate, died, descended into hell, and rose again from the dead and sitteth at the right hand of God, etc.; he who believes this, eats and drinks truly from this supper. For to believe in Christ the Lord means to eat and to drink, from which the people become satisfied, fat and stout and strong, so that they are joyful forever.

From Martin Luther's Sermon for: Fear not; you shall catch men, Luke 5:1-11

19. Therefore, if I feel my sins and become like St. Peter, and would run away from God; then I must first turn and approach nearer and nearer to Him. For if God had fled and had not desired to take away your sins, He would not have come to you and run after you. Therefore the more you feel that you are a sinful man and the more you wish to flee from God, the more you should press forward to Him. Mark that well. For as St. Peter does here, so do all consciences, that are terrified before their sins, they wish to flee from God and seek another idol. Then do not desist, but approach God with fresh confidence and hold to Him. On the other hand, if we flee from Him and seek work righteousness and obtain help from another God, and afterwards come to the true God; then we will find Him just like the foolish virgins, to whom, while they went to buy oil, the door was closed. Mat. 25:10.

20. But what did Christ do, when Peter humbled himself and in the face of great fear and terror he asked the Lord to depart from him? Did He let him stick in his despair? No, but He came to him, comforted him and said: *Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.*

JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am Divine Service	4pm Office Hours		6:30am Men's Group			
10:30am Bible Study	6pm Divine Service		9am Matins Service			
1pm Visits	7pm Bd of Elders		9:30 Women's Group			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am Divine Service			6:30am Men's Group			
10:30am Bible Study	4pm Office Hours		9am Matins Service			
1pm Visits	6pm Divine Service		9:30 Women's Group			
	7pm Church Council					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am Divine Service	9-11am VBS	9-11 VBS	6:30am Men's Group	9-11 VBS	9-11 VBS	
10:30am Bible Study	4pm Office Hours		9am Matins Service			
1pm Visits	6pm Divine Service		9-11 VBS			
			9:30 Women's Group			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am Divine Service			6:30am Men's Group			
10:30am Bible Study	4pm Office Hours		9am Matins Service			
1pm Visits	6pm Divine Service		9:30 Women's Group			
	7pm Voters' Meeting					
30	31	Notes:				
9am Divine Service						
10:30am Bible Study	4pm Office Hours					
1pm Visits	6pm Divine Service					

What is Justification? It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight, as St. Paul says in Romans 3:21–26 and 4:5.