

# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

## October Newsletter 2017

### The GOOD NEWS

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## FROM PASTOR PAUTZ

### It's Still All About Jesus

*“[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease...The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him” (John 3:30, 35-36 ESV).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, lets us know very clearly that when it comes to salvation, it's all about Jesus. “Jesus must increase, and I must decrease,” John said. And pointing to Jesus he proclaimed for all to hear, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

This month we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We celebrate the Reformation like John the Baptist, it was all about Jesus for Martin Luther, too. It's still all about Jesus in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and at Our Savior Lutheran. We believe, teach, and confess that Jesus is Lord. Our pastor is called and ordained (given orders) to say what Jesus says through His Word, the Scriptures (Old and New Testament), nothing more and nothing less. He wears a robe as a reminder that the Divine Service is all about Jesus, not him. He wears the stole received at ordination as a reminder that he is there to do the Lord's bidding, not what he or anyone else wants. Like John the Baptist, your pastor has a motto, “Jesus must increase, we must decrease.” In addition, our liturgy and hymnody are simply proclamations of the Word of God as received from Scripture alone. We say back to God what He has said to us through His Word.

Unfortunately, however, it's not always all about Jesus with us, is it? It's all about you. It's all about me. There are times when we seek to make a name for ourselves by doing what we want instead of fixing our eyes on “Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2 ESV). Instead of “delighting in His will and walking in His ways to the glory of His holy name” (LSB p. 151), we delight in what we want, and do our own thing to the glory of me, myself, and I. There is not just an “I” in things like an iPhone or an iPad. There is also an “I” in the word idolatry. Idolatry is the worship of self instead of God.

It turns out that we are in need of reformation every day. Hence, the Lord through His Word brings us to repentance for our sin and to faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sin. The Word of God through John the Baptist still applies, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2 ESV). “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.” It's still all about Jesus. A blessed Reformation to you all!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Pautz', written in a cursive style.

## CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION** - Individual Confession & Absolution is available Sundays from 8:00 - 8:20 a.m. and Mondays from 5:30 - 5:45 p.m. There is no need to make an announcement beforehand. Pastor Pautz will be ready to vest and receive your confession. We will follow the Rite printed on pages 292 and 293 in the Lutheran Service Book. When we are ready, we will go into the Sanctuary to the altar rail.

Individual Absolution is also available throughout the week and during home visits. We agree with the first thesis of Martin Luther's 95 Theses written in 1517 that "When I ask you to confess your sin, I am only asking you to be a Christian." Also, the Book of Concord, defining Absolution as the third sacrament of the Lutheran church, says "We do not abolish the Divine Service but religiously maintain and defend it. For among us, services are 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)"

**LWML APPLE PIE MAKING** - We Need Your Help! Saturday September 30th and **October 7th**. Whether it is for 1 hour or both days, the women of LWML would like you to assist them in making apple pies for its annual mission fundraising project. We need men and women alike! We start at 8 a.m. and are usually cleaned up by 1:00 p.m. Don't miss out in the fun.

**BIBLE STUDY & MATINS** begin on **Wednesday, September 13th**. 6:30am Men's Breakfast and Bible study. 9:00am Matins Service. 9:30am Women's Bible study. We will continue our studies in the Book of Isaiah.

**INSIDE FALL CLEAN UP** has been set for Saturday, October 28th beginning at 8 a.m.

The **October LWML meeting** will be held on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. "Stand Forever" is the theme commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Pastor Pautz will lead our Bible study titled "From Fear to Faith – The Reformation Story".

### **SERVING THIS OCTOBER**

Katie Ball - hostess;

Karen Denison – Altar;

Mary Francis – communion set up and communion removal – Angie Banko.

## CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS...continued

**REMEMBER YOUR MITES!!!** For those unable to attend our regular meeting and would like to contribute to our mites the mite box will be placed at the exit of the sanctuary on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The LWML Mt. Pleasant Zone Fall Rally** will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairfield on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. We will leave the church at 7 a.m. please sign up on the easel if you plan to attend.

**LWML SUNDAY** on October 1st! Two handouts will be given to the ladies of the congregation! Please come join us as we serve the LORD with gladness!



You must always have the Word of God in your heart, on your lips, and in your ears. Where the heart is idle and the Word does not ring out, the devil breaks in and has done damage before we are aware of it. On the other hand, such is the power of the Word if it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used that it is never without fruit. It always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devotion and purifies the heart and thoughts. For these are not inert or dead but active and living words.

What Luther Says, An Anthology, 3 vols., ed. Ewald Plass, 1959, III, p. 1467. Book of Concord, Large Catechism, Third Commandment. Exodus 20:8.

## STEWARDSHIP UNDER THE CROSS: *Stewardship for the Confessional Lutheran Parish*

**Putting It All Together** by Rev. H. R. Curtis

[This Article draws together much information from the previous five newsletter by way of summary.]

Over the past several months we have set out as a congregation to learn what God's Word has to say about stewardship. One thing we learned is that faithful stewardship is a lifestyle. So here is a review of God's Word for you to study with the year ahead in mind. No matter where you are at in your stewardship – tithing, going beyond a tithe, or still considering the concept of tithing – let this study lead you to think about and pray about stewardship based on the Word.

**Your heart will always go where you put God's money.** Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also and as we sing each Sunday morning at the Offering: 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 at least a tithe of their income (10% of whatever “comes in”) back to Him at their place of worship.

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 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. 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. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you -- because you are robbing me. 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 (1Corinthians 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 Corinthians 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 following questions 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.

*Y or N The Lord loves me and gave Himself for me on the cross.*

*Y or N All that I have comes from the Lord.*

*Y or N The Lord blessed me to live in the richest land in the world.*

*Y or N If I had to start living on 90% of my current income tomorrow, I or someone in my family would starve.*

*Y or N I / We have been making first - fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart.*

*Y or N If “Yes”, the Lord gets all the glory for that.*

*Y or N If “No”, the Lord wants me to change the way I make money offerings to him. If the Lord wants me to change, I should change now, not later. It is the power of the Holy Spirit and the love*

*Y or N If the Lord wants me to change, I should change now, not later.*

*Y or N It is the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ that changes me for the better*

# IDE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

For students in grades 6-8  
October 6-7 / Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

## Believe and Confess: The Trinity & Me

*Pastor Anthony Dodgers (Immanuel Lutheran, Charlotte IA)*

Backwards, forwards, sideways: no matter how you come at it, the Creed is telling us who God is and what He does for us. First, we'll find out how we get to know the Holy Trinity. Then, we'll look more closely at what each divine Person does. Finally, we'll answer some objections and lies from the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. So, who is the Creator of the Universe? How do I know the Son of God is my Redeemer? When and where did the Holy Spirit call me? The Creed tells us all about our God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And is the Creed really for me? Yes, the Creed tells me I am a called, redeemed creature of God.



El Greco

We will now return to the Gospel, which not merely in one way gives us counsel and aid against sin; for God is superabundantly rich and liberal in His grace and goodness.

First, through the spoken Word by which the forgiveness of sins is preached [He commands to be preached] in the whole world; which is the peculiar office of the Gospel. Secondly, through Baptism. Thirdly, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar. Fourthly, through the power of the keys, and also through the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren, Matthew 18:20: Where two or three are gathered together, etc.

Martin Luther,  
The Smalcald Articles,  
The Book of Concord,  
Part III, Article IV.  
Of the Gospel.

TO: **CONGREGATIONS OF IOWA DISTRICT EAST**

RE: **2018 District Convention**

Dear Congregation of Iowa District East, **The 40th District Convention of the Iowa District East** will be held June 29- 30, 2018 at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. Life Together: Laity and Clergy is the theme for the convention.

In preparation for next summer's convention, your congregation will participate in a circuit forum to select your circuit visitor. The circuit forum will meet at the call of the Circuit Visitor.

**Each congregation must designate their representatives to attend the Circuit Forum.** One pastor and one layperson from each congregation is to be selected in a manner of the congregation's choosing.

**Congregations may nominate candidates for Circuit Visitor.** Any pastor in the circuit may serve as the Circuit Visitor. Nominations must be received by the current Circuit Visitor before the day of the Circuit Forum.

**Congregations may participate in the triennial process of determining Synod priorities.** Congregations are encouraged to send ideas and suggestions with their representatives to the circuit forum. The forum may, in the form of an overture, submit "triennial mission and ministry emphases" for consideration at the district convention.

The official convention mailing will be sent in late September. This mailing will include more information including deadlines, delegate forms, nomination forms and information on overtures.

In Christ, Rev. Mark H. Brase, District Secretary





Martin Luther, Sermons, Ascension Day, Mark 16:14-20.

The preaching of this message may be likened to a stone thrown into the water, producing ripples which circle outward from it, the waves rolling always on and on, one driving the other, till they come to the shore. Although the center becomes quiet, the waves do not rest, but move forward. So it is with the preaching of the Word. It was begun by the apostles, and it constantly goes forward, is pushed on farther and farther by the preachers, driven hither and thither into the world, yet always being made known to those who never heard it before, although it be arrested in the midst of its course and is condemned as heresy.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**

# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Sunday School	2 10:30 Sunnybrook 01:00 Homebound 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service 07:00 Elders	3 District Fall Conference	4 06:30 Men 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	5	6	7 08:00 Apple Pie Making
8 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Sunday School	9 10:30 Sunnybrook 01:00 Homebound 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service 07:00 Council	10 09:00 Circuit	11 06:30 Men 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	12	13	14
15 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Sunday School	16 10:30 Sunnybrook 01:00 Homebound 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service	17	18 06:30 Men 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	19 07:00 LWML	20	21
22 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Sunday School	23 10:30 Sunnybrook 01:00 Homebound 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service 07:00 Voter Meeting	24	25 06:30 Men 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women 04:00 Office Hours 06:15 Jr. Catechism	26	27	28 8am Fall Inside Cleanup 2:00 Fairfield Reformation Walk
29 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Sunday School 04:00 Circuit Forum at Faith in Mt. Pleasant	30 10:30 Sunnybrook 01:00 Homebound 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service	31 06:00 Circuit Reformation Service at Faith, Mt. Pleasant				