



The Messenger

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 2, 2022

The 'Goal' of the Catechism: Jesus, the Way

A new Adult Instruction Class has just begun—each Sunday after the Divine Service, 10:50 am in the Founder's Room. Attending are new faces to St. Paul's, some joining us from other churches or new to the area; others are longtime members glad to review the basics of Christian Doctrine. As we teach the Faith—with Bible, Hymnal and Small Catechism in hand—we introduce the simple, familiar order of the **Six Chief Parts** that you know from Luther's little book: from **The Ten Commandments**, to **The Creed**, **The Lord's Prayer**, **Baptism**, **Office of the Keys** to the culmination to which the other five teachings bring us: the 6th Chief Part: the Body and Blood of Jesus in **The Sacrament of the Altar**.

I don't know a single pastor who doesn't love to teach this class and rejoice to see hearts and minds opened to God's Promises and gracious gifts. Over the years, I have *also* come to appreciate teaching these same Six Chief Parts in the way (and *order*) in which we actually find them in the Divine Service each week: **Baptism**, **Office of the Keys**, **Ten Commandments**, **Creed**, **Lord's Prayer** ... to the Altar for **the Sacrament**.

Think of it this way: St. John's *Revelation* (22:14) announces, "Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and that they may enter the City by the gates." In one verse—the last chapter of the Bible!—John describes the entire catechism as well as the very structure of the Divine Service and how we worship. He declares that the purpose of Baptism (i.e. "washing" your robes in the Blood of the Lamb, cf. 7:14) is to bring you through heaven's gate into heaven's city so that you may eat from the Tree of Life. But what is the Tree of Life?

The Cross! St. Paul connects Jesus' death-cross to a "tree" in Gal 3:13 (by quoting Deut. 21:23, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"), saying that, by hanging there in our place, Jesus "became a curse [before God] for us." St. John in his Gospel shows us that the "fruit" of *that* "tree" is the Body and Blood of Jesus: "Whoever feeds on My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. For My Flesh is true food, and My Blood is true drink" (John 6:54-55). The *Cross* is the real Tree of *Life*, that which brings Life to you.

God wants to bring as many people as possible into His city to eat from this Tree (notice those who are staying outside the "city," Rev 22:15). His goal is to make mortal, sinful man *immortal* and holy. But how can this be done ... for anyone ... when the moment anything *unholy* comes into the *holy* presence of God ... it is destroyed (e.g. As the prophet Isaiah feared: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, ... [and] my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!," Is. 6:5)?

God had to devise a way that would cleanse man from sin so that he could pass through the gate and eat from the Tree, face to face with God. That "Way" is Christ. That "Way" is laid out in the Catechism. That "Way" is carried out in the Divine Service.

Enough for now! Next month we'll look at each of the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine as we come to them each Sunday in the Divine Service—the Christian life experienced as we gather each week in Christ Jesus.

~Part 2 continued in November~

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, October 2, 9:30 am
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 pm
Seventeenth Week after Pentecost

Bible Study Opportunities

Early Bible Study—Sunday 8:30 a.m.

You've heard Jesus' familiar parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. If you read further, you realize there is yet one more: the lost sons! Dr. Paul Grime concludes our study of these parables.

Join Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki as he begins his Bible Study next week, October 9.

Sunday School & Youth Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

Youth, ages 2 through high school, will meet in the Nerger Room for Sunday School opening before heading off to their classrooms.

Adult Bible Class—10:45 a.m.

Join Pastor Hoem as he unpacks the pressures we all face and how Christians can cope with these struggles by God's Grace.

Adult Instruction Class—Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Cage continues this class on the chief teachings of the Christian Faith from the Holy Scriptures as presented in the *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther, and prayed each week in the liturgy. Everyone is invited to attend, even if you are already a member. Meet in the church library (new location).

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Robinson leads our morning Bible study on the book of Psalms. Join us every Wednesday at 7 am at the Indiana District Office across the street.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

Meet in the Nerger Room on Wednesday at 2 p.m. as Pastor Cage leads the study on "Joseph in Genesis".

Our Giving For September 25

Budget Envelopes	\$14,877.00
CLHS	\$127.12
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$38.98
Plate Offerings	\$230.64
School Income	\$9,232.78
Total Income	\$24,506.52
Gathering In Christ	\$161.69
Total of all Donations	\$24,668.21

Attendance For September 25

Sunday, September 25 ~ 9:30 am	272
Wednesday, September 28 ~ 6:30 pm	19

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, October 2 ~

Altar Guild: *Carla Kleinschmidt and Megan Koenemann*

Elder: *Craig Behnfeldt*

Ushers: *Dave Evans, Dan Ernst, Ethan Ernst, John Mader, Cindy Irie, Davis Dean, Tyler Germann, Adrianna Germann, Austin Germann*

Sunday, October 9 ~

Altar Guild: *Sue Keck and Michelle Kuehnert*

Elder: *Tim Mannigel*

Ushers: *Craig Linnemeier, Tony Lardyell, Dale Doerffler, Dean Doerffler, Larry Ashbaugh, Kurt Gutman, Dave Hawk, Mike Hawk, Chris Hawk*

Altar & Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers have been given to the glory of God by Heidi Swiss, in memory of Carl Linnemeier.

To Order Altar/Chancel Flowers

Flowers are available for ordering October 16, 23, and 30 and November 23 and 27. Instructions are on the Altar Guild book located on the counter in the hallway near the elevator. Call Lynn Wehrenberg at 260-755-8532 with any questions.

October 2 – Pentecost XVII

Abortion, assisted suicide, and other deals with death bless with their mouths – as Psalm 62 warns us – by promising freedom and control. But inwardly these measures curse by delivering guilt and grief. Power over life and death belongs to God alone (Psalm 62:11), and His steadfast love provides salvation even amid surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis. The Gospel of Jesus Christ always brings life and immortality to light (2 Timothy 1:10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday Morning Prayer Group

Join us by the school office at 8:30 to pray for our church and school. If you are unable to join us in person contact Jill Clem at 260-403-0273 or veitclem@hotmail.com to receive the weekly prayer guide. The group will follow the school schedule for holidays and cancelations.

Golden Heirs—October Event

Join us October 14 at 10:15 a.m. at Worship Anew, 5 Martin Luther Drive (on the CTSFW campus). Lunch will be at the Seminary dining hall after the event. The cost for lunch is \$9. RSVP to Carole Radtke at 260-483-0650 or radcar1969@comcast.net by October 3rd if you are attending the presentation and/or lunch.

NELSON'S CHICKEN TO HELP 8th GRADE

Dear church members... it is that time of year again! The 8th graders are selling **NELSON'S CHICKEN!** The pre-sale price is \$9 per chicken half and \$4 for Pit-tatoes. You can buy a ticket for either one or both in the school office or from any 8th grader starting October 2. The cost day-of will be \$10 and \$5. You can pick up your pre-sale chicken from 10am-3pm on Friday, October 28. Or, you can purchase the day-of until we sell out. Thank you for supporting our Washington, D.C. trip!

DONATE TO D.C. ...or COME WITH US?

Your 8th grade class would still like to go to D.C. this year...and Mr. Whirrett plans to make it happen! The difficulty is not only inflation and high fuel prices, but we have a small class of only 14 students...meaning higher costs spread over fewer students. We have a goal to raise an additional \$10,000 (that's about how short we will be without your help...the bus alone is \$12,000). You can donate toward our trip with any amount you are able...OR you can inquire about going on the trip with us! If you are willing to have early mornings, late nights, and are able to be pretty mobile, we'd love to have you. It is an all-inclusive trip (Transportation, Lodging, Tickets, Food) and is a week in D.C. We go from May 7-13. The cost is about \$1400, a little less if you have a roommate! If you go along, it helps us by bringing our cost down.

LWML Milestone

Today is LWML Sunday (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). The nationwide organization is celebrating 80 Years of God's Grace 1942-2022. Its theme: *"For Us and With Us"* is based on Romans 8:31-39. St. Paul's is one of ten congregations forming the Ft. Wayne North Zone. In celebration, zones are encouraged to conduct an event to celebrate. St. Paul's will be collecting *"80 Cans of Soup for Sem"* this month for its Food Pantry. A special drop-off box is located by the first floor elevator.

Fort Wayne North Zone LWML Fall Rally

On Saturday, October 15, join speaker Donna Wray (retired Holy Cross teacher and a member of "The Mom of an Addict" who lost her daughter to Substance Use Disorder in January of 2019) as she presents "Ending Stigma, A Personal Journey". Registration is \$6.00 with breakfast from 8:30-9:00 and the program from 9-11:30 a.m. at Our Hope Lutheran Church, 1826 Trinity Drive, Huntertown, IN 46748. Register with Judy Helmchen at 260-417-0591. Registration deadline is Sunday, October 9.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

On October 20th, meet in the Nerger Room at 1:00pm for a short meeting and then join us to visit a unique gift shop, "Friends of the Third World", 611 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne. Carpool arrangements can be made at the meeting. Register with Donna Goodwin at 260-210-3124 by October 18th.

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil

Would you be willing to give one hour to pray for the sanctity of life? Members of St. Paul's are needed who will commit one hour or more of their time for peaceful, quiet prayer. The 40 Days for Life fall campaign runs from Sept. 27 - Nov. 6. We have reserved St. Paul's Lutheran to pray in our sanctuary and at Planned Parenthood on Oct. 6. We have posted a sign-up sheet for praying at the church between 8:30am-4:30pm. At the Planned Parenthood site, we will be praying from 9:00am-8:00pm. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Life Team section of the Heritage Hall bulletin board. There will also be a map of the new parking arrangement for the Planned Parenthood site. You may also sign up through Dawn Pasche at (260)255-9802.

A Campaign to Engage Faith Communities in Suicide Prevention

Let's be honest: life can sometimes feel overwhelming. The loss of a job or a relationship, trouble in school, a serious mental or physical illness, a divorce, or the death of a loved one can happen to anyone. Life events like these can leave us feeling unworthy, abandoned, or isolated. The last two years of living through a global pandemic has only increased such feelings for many of us.

Saint Paul's seeks to be a caring community focused on helping one another and loving our neighbors, especially in difficult times. Through connections within our own community, we find strength for each day. Each of us is here for a reason and has a God-given role in life, regardless of our current circumstances. Moment by moment, it is important to remember there is help, hope, and reasons to live.

Whoever you are, whatever you are facing, God loves you. God knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valleys of the shadows, God is with you. In the times when it feels like God is far away or doesn't hear our prayers, God gives us people who can help—friends, loved ones, co-workers, others in your faith community, your pastors, and clinical professionals, such as counselors, therapists, and doctors. These people can be God's heart and God's listening ear when we feel most troubled or alone. If you, or someone you know has lost hope, is feeling completely alone, or that life doesn't matter, *reach out* for help. Let others help. This is especially important if someone is experiencing thoughts of suicide.

Mental Health Advocates Announcement

Our congregation is participating in The Lutheran Foundation's Mental Health Advocate initiative to promote mental wellness within our congregation that reduces the stigma of mental illness, supports overall well-being, and provides encouragement and hope for those with mental health concerns and their families. A couple volunteers have kindly agreed to serve as our congregation's Mental Health Advocates for the coming year. They will be a connector between The Lutheran Foundation and our congregation to help equip our congregation with information, resources, educational events, and grant opportunities related to mental wellness. If you would like to join them in being part of this important endeavor here at St. Paul's, please contact Dawn Pasche at dawnpasche@hotmail.com.

**Please check out our new “Mental Health Advocates” section
on the bulletin board in the hallway entrance.**

October 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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2 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	3 3-3:50pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4-4:50pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room	4	5 7am - Bible Study IN District Office NO CHAPEL 9-10am - SCRIP Sales 2pm - Bible Study in Nerger Rm 6:30pm - Divine Service 7:30pm - Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	10 3-3:50pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4-4:50pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room	11	12 7am - Bible Study IN District Office 8:45am - School Chapel 9-10am - SCRIP Sales 2pm - Bible Study in Nerger Rm 6:30pm - Divine Service 7:30pm - Choir Practice	13 5:30pm - Elders Mtg 7pm - Council Mtg	14 10am—Golden Heirs	15 IN District LWML North Zone Fall Rally
16 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	17 3-3:50pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4-4:50pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room	18 St. Luke, Evangelist	19 7am - Bible Study IN District Office 8:45am - School Chapel 9-10am - SCRIP Sales 2pm - Bible Study in Nerger Rm 6:30pm - Divine Service 7:30pm - Choir Practice	20 1:00pm - Ladies Aid Mtg/ Tour of "Friends of the Third World" Gift Shop 7pm - BOEE	21	22
23 St. James of Jerusalem Brother of Jesus & Martyr 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	24 3-3:50pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4-4:50pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room	25	26 7am - Bible Study IN District Office 8:45am - School Chapel 9-10am - SCRIP Sales 2pm - Bible Study in Nerger Rm 6:30pm - Divine Service 7:30pm - Choir Practice	27	28 St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles	29
30 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	31 Reformation Day 3-3:50pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4-4:50pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room					

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Thanksgiving:

- † *For Andrew Koelper and Amy Poynter who were joined in marriage.*
- † *For the installation of our fieldworkers:*
Jason von der Lage, Seminarian
Melissa Harnden, Deaconess Fieldworker

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

- † *Eric Berning*
- † *Amy Hamer*
- † *Juanita Jefferson*
- † *Jennifer Nash*
- † *Olivia Roberts*
- † *Wanda Schweyer*
- † *Timothy Wheaton*

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

- † *Chris Barnekov*
- † *Harris Beck*
- † *Benjamin Bush*
- † *Ann Crippin*
- † *Doug Doehrmann*
- † *Carolyn Falkenstern*
- † *Rev. John Hamer*
- † *Dennis Harmeyer*
- † *Lonni Helmchen*
- † *Thomas Hoem*
- † *John Huitt*
- † *Karen Johnson*
- † *Dennis Jordan*
- † *Marie Kelley*
- † *Jodi Kreiger*
- † *Linda Leimer*
- † *Sandy Macon*
- † *Rev. Warren & Joan Messmann*
- † *Louela Murphy*
- † *Barbara Nelson*
- † *Stephen Pollock*
- † *Ron Rastl*
- † *Janice Schmidt*
- † *Andrew Scholes*
- † *Fred Scott*
- † *Sam Suarez*
- † *Gladys Teekaram*
- † *Tom & Joan West*
- † *Sharon Williams*

Our Homebound Members:

- † *Neva Aldridge*
- † *Joan Badders*
- † *Marilyn Berning*
- † *Myra Carrier*
- † *Mary Ann Cordes*
- † *Buzz Doerffler*
- † *Betty Elliott*
- † *Phoebe Fett*
- † *Rodney Hall*
- † *Ruth Herb*
- † *Leah Maier*
- † *Beverly Maxfield*
- † *Lois Meyer*
- † *Leona Puff*
- † *Carolyn Reincke*
- † *Judith Rekeweg*
- † *Walter Schroeder*
- † *Ralph Sielaff*
- † *Dorothy Taylor*
- † *Eileen Weber*
- † *Mary Weick*
- † *Anna Witte*

Serving in the Armed Forces:

- † *Abigail Dunno*
- † *KiVuan Edwards*
- † *Cierra Germann*
- † *Brian Hamer*
- † *Zachary Harmeyer*
- † *Jarrell Harris*
- † *Jasmine Jackson*
- † *Austin Kerr*
- † *Courtney Linnemeier*
- † *Sharia Macon*
- † *Jamara Moore*
- † *Brandon Screeton*
- † *John Sheaffer Jr.*
- † *Ryan Sheaffer*
- † *Brandon Skalicky*

* Pray for these saints throughout the week.

Please submit prayer requests by calling the church office at 260.423.2496 ext. 310