

The Crestview Lutheran

Newsletter

September, 2022

Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church



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“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world.”

-John 11: 25-27

For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

-M. Luther, SC

From the Pastor

Explanation and Guide to the Lutheran Liturgy¹

Why do we dress well for Worship?

Sometimes it is said that people dress up for church only to show off. This is both improper to think (for we are required by the Eighth Commandment to think well and not evil of our neighbors) and very likely to be wrong. The Christian's desire to dress appropriately for worship comes from a knowledge of the fact that we come to stand in the presence of God

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when in Church. That is, Christ is present in the Gospel and in the Sacrament. The preaching of the Gospel and the Holy Liturgy contain Christ Himself, and this can be even more profoundly seen in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar, which is the Body and Blood of Christ. One way to express our faith in this truth is to dress ourselves well, as people who know and live

according to this truth. We dress up our building, we dress up our pastor, we dress up our altar and other church furnishings. Is it not fitting, then, that we also dress up ourselves according to our ability?

There is a custom in many churches to dress up a bit more for Sunday than when one attends on another day of the week. This custom has the effect of dressing up our Sunday worship a little more in recognition of our Lord's resurrection on a Sunday.

It is fitting to talk in general terms about the appropriateness of certain clothing at the altar since we regard it as sacred space.

But is this a law? Certainly not! It is, rather, by a recognition of the Gospel that we learn to dress well for worship. Christians are freed from the demands of the Law in Christ. We live by faith in Him, and our faith has the opportunity to express itself according to the freedom of the Gospel.

The law of

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love does have bearing on this matter, however, in two ways.

First, in that we ought not to become our neighbors' judges, ready to condemn someone for dressing a certain way; we Christians ought to bear with one another's weaknesses, and so fulfill the Law of Christ, as the Apostle says. Further, what a poor man might call dressing well ought never to be looked upon with scorn by someone who has more than he. For to dishonor the poor is to dishonor Christ.

Second, we ought to seek not to give offense by the clothing we

wear to the altar, for love of the family of faith ought to be evident especially as we commune together. The liberty of a Christian must always be weighed against the Christian's mindfulness of his neighbor.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Raymond Parent

¹Much of this series on the Liturgy of the Church is found in *Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy*, by Rev. Burnell F. Eckardt Jr., Repristination Press, (Malone, TX.), and first published in *Gottesdienst, The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy*, in a series by the same name between the years 1985-2005. Used by permission.

From the Deaconess

Wholly Living: Spirit-Mind-Body

This is the first of a series of articles I am working on in my journey to understand the spirit-mind-body connection the way God intended.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will do it." 1Thess 5:23-24

The focus of this pericope is the very subject of sanctification. To understand sanctification completely and utterly is like unto trying to understand the mind of God. So, let's resign to at least understating sanctification to the extent that our Confessions and theologians have given us. Here, I am citing the Augsburg Confession and also an article from Dr. David Scaer, professor at CTSFW, "Sanctification

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in Lutheran Theology”.¹

Our confessions explain sanctification to us in light of justification. The two are inextricably connected. We are justified through Christ’s works and sanctification then organically

follows. The Augsburg Confession in the article on original sin says this, “Rejected are . . . others who deny that original sin is sin for they hold that natural man is made righteous by his own powers, thus disparaging the sufferings and merit of Christ.”² Dr. Scaer explains it this way, “The first reference to good works in the Augustana is made in the article on original sin where the Pelagian opinion is condemned that good works in some way contribute to the justification of sinners before God., Letting good works play any part in justification is said to be an affront to Christ as it detracts from and extinguishes the glory of His merits and benefits.”³

Letting good works play any part in justification is said to be an affront to Christ as it detracts from and extinguishes the glory of His merits and benefits.”³

We continue to the third article on the Son of God where we read, “[Christ] sits on the right hand of God, that he may eternally rule and have dominion over all creatures, that through the Holy Spirit he may sanctify, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, that he may be-

“. . .through the Holy Spirit he may sanctify, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, that he may bestow on them life and every grace and blessing, and that he may protect and defend them against the devil and against sin.”

stow on them life and every grace and blessing, and that he may protect and defend them against the devil and against sin.”⁴ Dr. Scaer expounds, “It is clear that good works or sanctification here in the Augsburg Confession is defined not as the work of men,

but as the total work of the Spirit upon Christians. It is the Holy Spirit and not Christians who confronts and fights against sin. . . The Spirit belongs to Christ and the Spirit’s working is Christ’s.”⁵ Keep in mind, this sanctification is for spirit and mind and body.

So, we in no way contribute to our sanctifying of our spirit, soul, and body but are acted upon by the good work of the Holy Spirit. I put forth, however, that we can hinder or even reject that good work

just as we cannot attain salvation of our own accord, but we can reject it.

Pax Christi, Dcs. Heather

¹ Scaer, David, “Sanctification in Lutheran Theology,” *Concordia Theological Quarterly* (April-July 1985), no. 2-3: pp. 181-195

²The Book of Concord, trans and ed. Theodore G. Tappert (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959), p. 29, CA II

³ Scaer, p. 181.

⁴Tappert, pp. 29-3, CA III.

⁵Scaer, p. 181

From the President

A man minding his own business was walking along a Florida street when he saw a small sinkhole where the sidewalk used to be. Its intersection with an underground sewer made it super smelly and was all the more shocking when he noticed someone at the bottom of it. A woman up to her hips in the refuse pleaded for his help, but there was no rope to throw down to her to pull her out. So, he offered an apology and kept on walking along. A short time later, another man chanced upon the scene and heard the woman's plea. She was absolutely stunned when he jumped in with her, sewage and all! "That wasn't too smart," she said, "Now we're both stuck in this horrible pit." He replied, "It might seem that way to you, but I'm completely familiar with this pit and I AM the Way out." Obviously, I've taken some license with the parable of the Good Samaritan, but think

"...although we are Christians, we are still imperfect and the corrupted nature is still firmly entrenched in us. But thanks be to God that He has had mercy on us through the All-atoning sacrifice of His Son, Our Lord..."

about everything the Christ endured to take us out of the pit of our sin. Like the one in the sink hole, we at times doubt the method of our rescue, those means of Grace (Isn't that just some bread and wine? Just some regular water? Just someone preaching from the Bible? Just the pastor pronouncing forgiveness?). Isn't there a better way? This shows that although we are Christians, we are still imperfect and the corrupted nature is still firmly entrenched in us. But thanks be to God that He has had mercy on us through the All-atoning sacrifice of His Son, Our Lord, even while we may sometimes whine about how He applies that mercy, in essence nipping at the very Hand that feeds us. For that too, we repent and receive His forgiveness. What an awesome God He is! See you Sunday! Blessings, Alex

From LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Psalm 100:2

MITES: August mites totaled \$8.59.

Mite Box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month and are sent to our District to pay for District and National mission grants.

LWML FALL RALLY:

Ladies, you are all invited to our LWML Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally on Saturday, September 17, 2022

First Lutheran Church, 24512 Fifth Avenue, Florala, AL 36442

Time: 9:00 am Registration Fee: \$10.00.

Breakfast- Juice, Coffee, Fruit, Bagels, Danish Rolls

Lunch- Sandwiches, Fruit, Salad, & Desserts

Ingathering For:

1) Hope Lutheran Services Shelter Needs: For all ages of teen boys and girls: underwear; board games; card games, "Uno, Phase 10"; Money of

Gift Cards to purchase these items.

2) Florala Christian Service Center Needs: Canned goods: Nonperishable food; Money or Gift Cards to purchase these items.

Collection boxes will be in the Narthex.

RSVP to Linda Urda by September 8 if you are going to attend.

We can meet at our church at 8:30 am and carpool. Dcs Heather Bien will be leading our Bible Study: Living in the Days of Noah-Today. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your Lutheran sisters in Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LWML Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, Saturday, September 17, 2022, First Lutheran Church, Florala, AL

LWML Christian Growth Workshop, Spring 2023, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pensacola

LWML National Convention, June 22-25, 2023, Milwaukee, WI

LWML Gulf States District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Prattville, AL

-Linda Urda



From the Board of Christian Life

One of my favorite things about being a member of the Body of Christ at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church is our unity in fellowship. Together, in Word and Sacrament, we receive God's mercy in abundance, which then naturally flows to each other and our community.

Over the summer, I have seen you freely and joyfully serving out of this abundance:

- Relandscaping the church grounds
- Unloading and sorting donations from the Food Truck
- Cooking and serving in the Soup Kitchen
- Donating items and working at our yard sale
- Providing refreshments for Sunday fellowship time
- Sending cards and calling your church family
- Felling massive trees
- Weeding flower beds

Christ is at work in His people here unifying us one to another and to Him. I love being in church with you to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament – life together.

- Jennifer Currid

Sunday's Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Sep. 4	Is. 29:17-24	Rom. 10:9-17	Mark 7:31-37
Sept. 11	2 Chron 28:8-15	Gal 3:15-22	Luke 10:23-37
Sept. 18	Prov. 4:10-23	Gal 5:16-24	Luke 17:11-19
Sept. 25	1 Kings 17:8-16	Gal 5:25-6:10	Matt 6:24-34
Oct. 2	1 Kings 17:17-24	Eph 3:13-21	Luke 7:11-17



Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

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We're on the Web
www.Oselc.net

OSELC Staff, Officers, and Volunteers

Pastor Raymond Parent

Deaconess Heather Bien

Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Council Secretary: Trish Hull

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Jeannie Harrison

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Jennifer Currid

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education/Youth: Gervase Anthony

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Becky Williams

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Soup Kitchen Director: Becky Williams

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Coffee with Pastor



Coffee with Pastor

begins with

Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to know him and for him to get to know his flock!

Men's Group

September 20

7:00pm

Pastor Parent's house

All men of the church are invited for a great time of study and fellowship.

6481 Wallanee Way

Laurel Hill

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00

Study of

Psalms

Come join us for a good time of learning and fellowship!

Birthdays

Dawn Heller 9/12

Jennifer Currid 9/24

Brian Hull 9/24



LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO

Sacred Music for the World

Picture Time!

After Divine Service, Emily Bien will be in the sanctuary to take your picture. Feel free to enjoy refreshments in the Parish Hall and then return to the sanctuary to have your picture taken. Thank you for helping us update our membership picture board. It will not be complete without you!



Saturday, September 10 & 24

8 a.m.

See Brian Hull

for details

Getting Around OSELC

Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the fellowship hall

Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Directories—on the back counter in the nave (where Service is held)

LWML mite boxes—on the back counter shelf in the nave

Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco

Serve on a board—See that board's chairman (list is on the back of the newsletter)

Make Offerings Electronically—See Brian Hull

Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull

Websites:

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org

Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org

From the Board of Security

As many of you know we passed a new church policy at the August 14 Voters' Assembly, "Safety Policy for Occupied Buildings: Locking Doors". If you need a copy or have any questions, please see me. In addition, please see me if you need access to the church building and/or fellowship (parish) hall other than at the usual times the buildings are open. I'll need the following information from you: your preferred 6-digit code, days of the week and hours of the day you want access, your cell phone number, and a brief reason why you want an access code. Thank you!

Julie Blaylock, OSELC security director