

Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church



The Crestview Lutheran

Newsletter
October, 2022



Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	2
LWML	5
Lectionary	7
Financial Secretary	7
From the President	8
From the Deaconess	10
Council Minutes	14

“Since your most serene majesty and your highnesses require of me a simple, clear, and direct answer, I will give one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the council, because it is clear that they have fallen into error and even into inconsistency with themselves. If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

- Dr. Martin Luther, Diet of Worms

From the Pastor

Welcome to the Table of the Lord

“What in heaven or on earth is more precious and excellent than this Divine Body, personally united with Your Son? Where is there a more certain testimony and pledge of Your grace than in the precious Blood of Your Son, poured out for my sins on the altar of the Cross? It ever blesses me with new gifts of grace. In this Body dwells life itself, from whence it restores me to eternal life and makes me alive. *(Rev. Paul Gerhard, Sacred Meditations XIII, Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper).*

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: ‘Take, eat; this is My + Body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.’

“In the same way also He took the Cup after supper, and when He

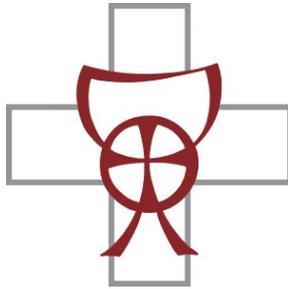
had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: ‘Drink of it all of you; this Cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”

Perhaps there are no more beautiful words in the English language, or any other language for that matter, than the Words our Lord spoke on the night in which He was betrayed. For here, in these Words of consecration, the real presence of our Lord and Savior, the real Body and Blood, are joined to earthly wine and earthly bread.

With these Words, two simple elements are made to be four—bread and wine, Body and Blood. But more, these simple elements now become the bodily presence of God on earth.

Here, in the Sacrament of the Altar, we find a Holy Gift that the Lord Jesus Himself extends to His Church. With this Holy Meal, comes the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation as Christ our Host,

Continued on page 3



Servant, and Feast, serves His people the same Body that was broken, and the same Blood that was poured out upon the Cross.

This understanding has been an important part of the Lutheran Church since the time of the Reformation. For Martin Luther “...the real presence meant that the Incarnation was more than a historical fact of the past. It was a reality. For here is the true Body and Blood of the Lamb of God, given for you, present with you. Here forgiveness of sins is a reality—and, with it, life and salvation.” (*This Is My Body, Herman Sasse [Adelaide, S.A.: Lutheran Publishing House, 1997], 328*).

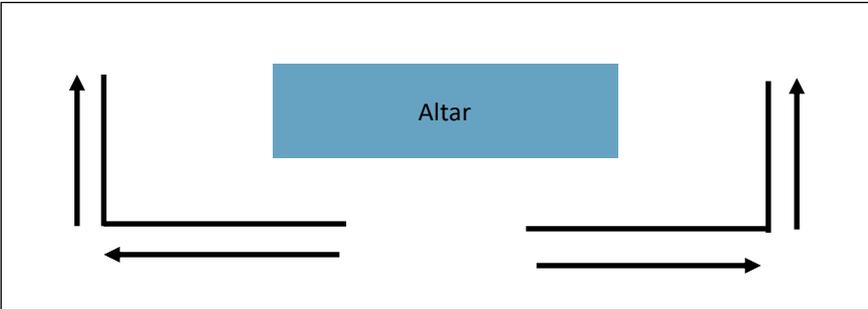
Please excuse my rather long introduction to a topic that may seem at first, rather obvious, but is, nevertheless, important to the conduct of the service, and therefore, bears repeating from time to

time.

As the ushers invite you to the altar rail to receive Jesus’ gift of forgiveness and salvation, we would ask that you would approach at the center of the altar and fill in from there to either the left or the right depending on which side of the nave you sit. (see the illustration below)

After you have received the Body and Blood of our Lord, you may return to your seat as there will only be one dismissal after all have partaken of Communion. This should make for less confusion at the rail, especially for visitors who have not communed with us before. Please return to your seats via the outside aisle.

When receiving the Body of the Lord (the Host), you may receive it either directly into your mouth or your hand. To indicate that you prefer to receive the Body of



our Lord directly into the mouth, simply leave your hands in a prayerful attitude and open your mouth as the Pastor comes to you. Sticking out your tongue slightly will assist the Pastor to place the host into your mouth. If you desire to have the host placed into your hand, cup your hands in an open gesture. Raise your hands slightly to about mouth level. This will help Pastor to place the host directly into your hand. Reaching out for the host, or leaving your open hand at the rail level, makes it difficult to serve and often results in a broken host and/or the Body of Christ falling to the floor.

When receiving the Blood of our Lord (the wine) from the Chalice, please do not grasp the Chalice and pull it toward you

which may result in the spilling of the Blood of Christ. Instead, please assist the Pastor by gently taking hold of the base of the Chalice and guiding it to your lips. You may help tip the Chalice when you drink and then release it when you are finished.

One final request—I know that we are a friendly congregation and for that I am grateful but out of consideration for your fellow worshippers, I respectfully request your silence before the service. I invite you to join with those around you as they meditate and pray in preparation for worship. Please feel free to join with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ following the service for fellowship in our parish hall.

Pax Christi,
Pastor Parent

Reformation

From LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

September mites totaled \$9.84. Mite Box Sunday is always the first Sunday of the month and are sent to the LWML Gulf States District to pay for District and National mission grants. Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!!

As Lutheran Women in Mission, delegates of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) voted to support an LWML Mission Goal of \$2,150,000 for the 2021–2023 biennium. As of August 31, 2022, we have been blessed with donations of \$1,740,500 towards that goal. We thank and praise God for the faithful and generous women and men who prayerfully support the LWML with their donations.

Thirty-six women attended the Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally on September 17 at First Lutheran Church Florida, AL. This was the first time in three years we were able to get to-

gether for some much needed fellowship and a Bible Study: Living in the Days of Noah-Today presented by Dcs Heather Bien. Churches in attendance were Grace Lutheran, Destin; Good Shepherd Lutheran, Shalimar; Our Savior Lutheran, Crestview; Good Shepherd Lutheran, Gulf Breeze; Trinity Lutheran, Cantonment; Redeemer Lutheran, Pensacola; Resurrection Lutheran, Pensacola and First Lutheran, Florida. We had a dedication for Gifts

from the Heart for Hope Lutheran Services Shelter and Florida Christian Service Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LWML Emerald Coast Zone 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 Treasurer

Thanks to the leadership of our Pastor and the generosity of you, the OSELC membership, our church continues to remain financially healthy.

We just spent \$20,000 on new HVAC units for the Fellowship Hall and church offices, and we still have over \$55,000 remaining in savings. We also have multiple Designated Funds, for which donations may be made for a very specific purpose. (You can find a list of these Designated Funds in the bulletin each week.) And, of course, we have our Operations Fund for the day-to-day finances of the church.

From our Financial Secretary, I have a request regarding contributions to any of the Designated Funds: Please make any contribution to a Designated Fund on a separate check (or cash). The reason is: the designated contributions are deposited in a separate account, and it requires a little 'accounting gymnastics' if the two types of contributions are combined on one check.

And just to clarify: money given to pay for flowers on the altar is NOT a designated contribution. That money can be on the same check as a General contribution – but not on the same check as a Designated contribution.

As always: it is my fervent desire that OSELC's financial operations and situation be as transparent as possible to each and every member. If you have any question, concern, or suggestion about our church finances, please do not hesitate to bring it to me. I will gladly speak with you about it.

God Bless,

Brian



LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO

Sacred Music for the World

From the Financial Secretary

A friendly reminder from your financial secretary, Jeannie Harrison:

When contributing regular offerings and designated fund donations, please use separate checks as the designated funds are in a separate account. Also, since the air conditioners have been (mostly) paid for from our savings account, all further donations to the a/c fund will be deposited into the savings account to recoup some of the outlaid funds. Thank you! Jeannie Harrison

From the Board of Security

Reminder!

Remember to lock the door as you enter one of our buildings if the door is not actively being used. 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. If you are the last to leave the premises, please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.

Thank you! Julie Blaylok, OSELC security Director

Sunday's Readings

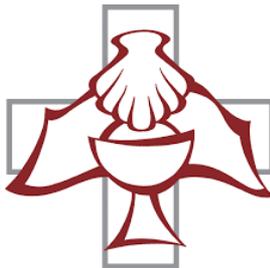
(Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Oct. 2	Gen 28:10-17	Eph 6:10-17	Matt 9:1-8
Oct. 9	Is 55:1-9	Eph 5:15-21	Matt 22:1-14
Oct. 16	Gen 1:1-2:3	Eph 6:10-17	John 4:46-54
Oct. 23	Micah 6:6-8	Phil 1:3-11	Matt 18:21-35
Oct. 30	Rev 14:6-7	Rom 3:19-28	John 8:31-36
Nov. 6	Is 51: 9-16	Col 1: 9-14	Matt 9: 18-26

From the President

A long time ago, at an air base far, far away...one of our allies offered to “help” us by supplying our air strike package with a 2-ship of their country’s prized jet fighters. As it turned out, they were a bit incompatible with our equipment and would actually cause us problems by forcing us to make dubious workarounds to our flight operations in the combat zone. We couldn’t object to their offer, because we wanted them to feel like they were contributing and not give them offense by rejection their gracious offer. They were our allies after all, but it was totally unnecessary and it caused more problems than it fixed - they just should’ve trusted that we would fulfill the air tasking order “as fraggged”.

This reminds me of something our church seems to do to the Holy Spirit these days. Sometimes, the church offers its help (as if the Holy Spirit needs help) by dreaming up



worldly gimmicks, business-styled programs, and metrics to verify its effectiveness for growing the Church catholic. What has happened to trusting the Holy Spirit? When speaking about nuclear disarmament in the 1980’s, President Reagan once quipped that the US would “trust, but verify (an old Russian saying) that the Soviets would comply with the approved treaties”. Really, that meant we didn’t trust them at all! Aren’t we somewhat doing

that in divine matters – “trust, but verify”? I note that Jesus did not say, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, by crafting up cool church growth

programs that you think might be pleasing to Me.”

This comes down to the 1st Commandment (yes, the Law): “You shall have no other gods before me”. In the Small Catechism, Luther writes, “What does this mean? We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.” If we really trust God to grow His church, then why do some Lutheran churches go beyond Jesus’

Cont. from pg.8

words of “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” ? Have we forgotten that “I [St. Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Cor 3:6)? I suspect we try to “help” God because on this side of Heaven, none of us yet have perfect trust in God, all the time, and above all things...we sin and are in need of

forgiveness. Thanks be to God that He has had mercy on us through the all-atoning sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus. Our sins, even this blatant lack of trust, are forgiven when we repent and confess. Jesus suffered shame and death so His church would be shameless and have eternal Life! This great exchange is beyond all human reason, thanks be to God!

Blessings,
Alex

From the Board Trustees

Thank you to everyone for your work around the church: cleaning floors, tending the flower beds, mowing the yard, replacing HVAC filters, repairing the security cameras, and so much more. You all are doing a great job!

We'll continue trying to hold work days twice per month – on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. However, my father just received word that his cancer has spread to the point that he'll likely pass away by the end of this year. So, I'll be taking more frequent weekend trips to see him. That may cause me to

miss some of the workdays.

We're trying to drop more trees in the park, but it's getting pretty cluttered with branches. On our next workday, we'll concentrate on cleaning up the park to clear the way for removing other trees.



The privacy fence between the park and the neighbor's house is old and rotting and leaning, and wood for repairing it is VERY expensive right now. So, the plan is to replace it with vegetation – big azaleas, and such. More info will be coming out as the weather cools.

God Bless, Brian

From the Deaconess

Justification and Sanctification are intertwined as two chains hopelessly entangled. So where does good works enter the scene? The Augsburg Confession Article XX, *Faith and Good Works*, addresses this in light of the Ten Commandments.

Lutheran confessions reject the Calvinistic belief which demands the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed as a means to perform good works in order for the believer to find favor with God and man. This self-centered approach to justification *and* sanctification eliminates Christ and the Holy Spirit from the equation thereby negating the Gospel.

To explain the Lutheran view, I submit to you from Dr. David Scaer's article, "Sanctification in Lutheran Theology", the following:

"But let it be immediately said that the Christian is never completely Christian. As sinner-and he never escapes his sin-he is subject to the civil and accusatory functions of the

law, since the old man does not believe, has never believed, and will never believe. He is finally destroyed only in death. The unregenerate part, the Old Adam, is an enemy of God and must be threatened by the law to conform to outward standards. He must be re-

"Sanctification means that the Spirit permeates everything the Christian thinks, says and does. The Christian's personal holiness is as much a monergistic activity of the Holy Spirit as is his justification and conversion. The Spirit who alone creates faith is no less active after conversion than He was before." -Scaer

minded that he has offended God continually. Such outward conformity to the law by unbelievers or by the unbelieving part of Christians has nothing to do with sanctification. Fear of penalty or the fear of God's wrath can never be a motivation for performing works which are pleasing to God as signs of faith and flowing from the Holy Spirit. Works performed in the civil sphere are called good works because they contribute to the well-being

and outward serenity of society. Their quality of being good comes from what they accomplish in the world and not from their motivation. These works should, however, not be confused with those flowing from faith and belonging to sanctification.

Sanctification for Luther in the Small Catechism certainly includes the overcoming of sin in Christian life, but this hardly encompasses its full dimensions. The positive requirements placed on the Christian are clearly Christlike qualities. The Christian fears, loves, and trusts God. He calls upon

Him in every need. He gladly hears the preaching of God's Word. He holds his parents in highest esteem. He helps the neighbor in his physical distress. He loves his spouse. He works to improve the financial condition of his neighbor and refuses to believe evil of him. What Luther is describing is not life lived under the law, but the life of Christ Himself. Luther is frequently cited as saying that every Christian is a Christ to his neighbor. I am not so sure that all those

who speak in this way fully understand what this means. Frequently it may be an excuse for an existential Christianity to treat the historical Jesus without any real significance. It is, however, a valuable distinction if it means that the life flowing from faith is, in fact, a practicing Christology in the world."

Dr. Scaer describes it this way in his article, "Sanctification, By Grace Alone": "Sanctification means that the Spirit permeates everything the Christian thinks, says and does. The Christian's personal holiness is as much a monergistic activity of the Holy Spirit [exclusively the work of the Holy Spirit] as is his justification and conversion. The Spirit who alone creates faith is no less active after conversion than He was before."

Pax Christi, Dcs. Heather

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

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00

Study of

Psalms

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

Birthdays

Linda Coombs	10/2
Crystal Ballard	10/5
Nancy Novy	10/5
Maggie Widener	10/20
Dcs. Heather Bien	10/23

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

October 18

7:00pm

Pastor Parent's house

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

6481 Wallannee Way

Laurel Hill

Sunday Mornings

8:00-8:45—Private Confession

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Divine Service

Save the Date!

Joint Reformation Service

October 30, 2022

4:00pm

Grace Lutheran , Destin

125 Main Street



Opportunities to Get Involved at OSEL

Serve on a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.

Sign up for Flowers—See sign up list in the Parish Hall

Sign up for Refreshments—See sign up list in Parish Hall

Serve on the Altar Guild—See Dcs. Heather Bien

Ongoing Project on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee

Soup Kitchen—See Becky Williams, Director

Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall

Coffee with Pastor and Women’s Study—10:00 a.m. Thursday

Look our for:

Youth outing at the Zoo (congregation invited) —November

Senior Day—December

Youth Picnic (congregation invited) —Spring

Yard Sale—Spring

*Dates TBA



Sola Gratia

SAVED BY GRACE ALONE

Sola Fide

THROUGH FAITH ALONE

Solus Christus

IN CHRIST ALONE

Sola Scriptura

ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE ALONE

Soli Deo Gloria

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE



Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien

The meeting via Zoom was called to order at 6:35pm by Alex Franco, opening prayer by Alex Franco.

Attendance (Zoom): Alex Franco, Brad Bien, Heather Bien, Brian Hull, Alan Widener, Julie Harrison, Linda Urda, Becky Williams, Pastor Parent, Jennifer Currid, Jeannie Harrison, and Trish Hull

The previous minutes from the August Voters Assembly were read and approved by motion. (Brad/Becky)

Reports: (“attached” can be found on the white board in the Parish Hall)

Pastor – Pastor stated that he will not be having Coffee with Pastor this Thursday, and that he will be working from home while Cindy is out of town for 10 days, beginning this Thursday.

Deaconess Report – see attached.

Treasurer – see attached.

Financial Report– see attached. Jeannie asked that a notice be put in the News Notes requesting that people make out separate checks for designated offerings and regular offerings. This will be done. She also asked if the designated fund for A/C units should be closed as it is currently empty. Brian thought we should leave it open for a couple of months as we are still receiving donations. A notice will be put in the News Notes that all further donations to the A/C fund will be deposited into savings to recoup some of the funds used to purchase the A/C units.

Board of Elders – no report. Trish asked for the status of the membership roll purge. Alan responded that it is still ongoing, but that he has not received many responses to the letters sent out. Alex stated that ample time has been given to respond and those persons should be removed from the roll.

Board of Trustees – see attached. Jennifer stated that she would like to begin clearing the beds on the south and east sides of the sanctuary on the appointed workdays.

Board of Education/ Youth – covered under Deaconess report.

Board of Evangelism – no report.

Board of Christian Life – see attached. Jennifer mentioned that the Church Library is being used, and that there are several boxes of old hymnals that need to be disposed of. Pastor stated that these hymnals should be burned.

Board of Social Ministry – Becky stated that she is pleased with how the Soup Kitchen is going, although they are down to two cooks and still need volunteers. Forty meals were served yesterday and 6 take outs given. Last week there were 25 meals served and 25 take outs given. Becky will try to contact Destin Harvest to discuss the declining amount of food donations. She has not made any plans for our next eating outing.

LWML – Linda stated that August mites were \$9.84, and that the LWML Fall Rally is this Saturday in Floral, AL. So far 8 ladies from OSELC are attending.

Board of Security – see attached. Julie mentioned that the ushers have spoken with Jeannie Arveson about remaining in the pew to receive communion since there are few folks who can assist her to and from the altar rail. She has declined to do this. Alex stated that he would see that the subdeacons were made aware of this issue and stand ready to assist. Becky said that she would speak with Jeannie in hopes of changing her mind.

Old Business: Church Signs – the church information road signs still need to be posted.

New Business: Board inputs to CY 2023 Budget – Alex stated that inputs for the 2023 Church Budget need to be submitted to Brian ASAP to be ready for the November Voters Assembly.

The meeting adjourned by motion at 7:40pm with the recital of the Lord's Prayer. (Linda/Julie)

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Hull, Council Secretary



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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