

THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



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“Who is the one who overcomes the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. If we receive the testimony of people, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” 1 John 5:5-12

FROM THE PASTOR

My offering for this month. Enjoy!

Pax Christi,

Pastor Parent

What About...

**The Sacrament of
the Altar**



the

On the journey through our earthly life to heaven, our good and gracious God provides a holy and precious meal to sustain and strengthen us on our pilgrimage—the Lord’s Supper. What a privilege it is for us to receive this powerfully comforting gift! Thanks and praise forever be to God for the Sacrament of the Altar.

*Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land. I
am weak, but you are mighty; Hold
me with your powerful hand. Bread
of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed
me now and evermore. ¹*

Why do we need the Lord’s Supper?

As we examine our lives in the bright light of God’s holiness, we realize how much we have sinned and how much we need His forgiveness. Our sinfulness and the troubles, sorrows, difficulties and stresses of our life in this fallen world are all reasons

we need the Lord’s Supper. As we examine our lives in the bright light of God’s holiness, we realize how much we have sinned and how much we need His forgiveness. Our sinfulness and the troubles, sorrows, difficulties and stresses of our life in this fallen world are all reasons we need the Lord’s Supper.

As great as is our need, even greater is the lifegiving Meal He has provided! It is a very personal way God works in our life to save us, to strengthen us and to keep us close to Him. Jesus promised to be with us always, to the very close of the age (St. Matthew 28:20). Through His precious Word and Sacraments, our Lord continues to fulfill His promise.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Altar with these words: “This is My body, given for you. This cup is My blood of the new testament, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins” (St. Matthew 26:26-29; St. Mark 14:22-25; St. Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). The Lord’s Supper “is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine,

instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink”(Small Catechism).

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy your praises render. Bless the One whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded. He, though heavenly, high, and holy; deigns to dwell with you most lowly. ²

What is Jesus giving us in the Lord's Supper?

In the Sacrament of the Altar our Lord and Savior is continually distributing to us the body and blood of the sacrifice He made for us, the sacrifice by which He paid for the sins of the entire world. Thus, receiving His body and blood, we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. Flowing from these tremendous treasures of God's mercy are the love, peace and hope that He gives us in His Supper, and the ability and desire to do God's will, living in love and harmony with others.

It is often observed how there is a foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper in the Old Testament discussion of how the sacrifices were eaten by those for whom they were offered (1 Corinthians 10:18). The Scriptures

indicate that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7; St. Matthew 26:28; Acts 20:28; Romans 5:9; Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 12:24; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 7:14). And it is this very blood He gives in His Supper.

Draw near and take the body of the Lord, and drink the holy blood for you outpoured; Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest. ³

How is Jesus present in His Supper?

We do not try to explain how Jesus is present under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, rather we believe, teach, confess and rejoice that He is present. We Lutherans let the words of Jesus stand without arguing about their possibility, or trying to explain how they are true. As Luther put it so clearly, "We maintain that the bread and the wine in the Supper are the true body and blood of Christ"(SA III.6). Everyone who communes receives into their mouths the body and blood of Jesus Christ, whether they believe it or not, be they worthy or unworthy.

Jesus' Word is sure and certain.

The Holy Spirit gives us faith to trust in and believe Jesus' words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Faith in Christ's promise is what makes us worthy to receive His Supper. Christ's words of institution retain their validity and efficacious power and thus, by virtue of these words, the body and blood of Christ are truly present, distributed and received.

Your body and your blood, once slain and shed for me, are taken at your table, Lord, in blest reality. Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery; God can accomplish vastly more than what we think could be. ⁴

Why do we receive the Lord's Supper often?

We receive the Lord's Supper often because of how much we need what the Lord gives in His Supper. We dare never make a law about how often an individual "should" or "must" receive the Lord's Supper. But this is a separate question from how frequently Holy Communion is offered in our congregations. Our Lutheran Confessions make it clear that the Lord's Supper is offered every Lord's Day and on other days when there are communicants pre-

sent (Augsburg Confession XXIV.34 and Apology XXIV.1).

In saying this, our Confessions are merely reflecting the truth of the Sacred Scriptures, which place the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20, 33), not as an appendage or an occasional extra. It is for this reason that our Synod has repeatedly encouraged our congregations to provide the opportunity for communicants who so desire to receive the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day.

My Lord, You here have led me with in Your holiest place. And here Yourself have fed me with treasures of Your grace; for You have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die. ⁵

What should we do if we do not feel a need to receive the Lord's Supper?

Because of our sinful human nature, we are tempted at times to think, "I don't need to take Communion. I just don't feel like it." But when we feel this way, we need to realize that in the Lord's Supper, the holy God of God, and Light of Light, very God of very God, is coming among us, under the bread and wine, to be with us, to join Himself to us, to forgive, renew

and strengthen us.

In preparing to receive the Lord's Supper, it is good for us to review, what we learned in Luther's Small Catechism concerning the Lord's Supper. But what about those times when we just may not "feel" like receiving the Lord's Supper? Luther writes, "To such a person no better advice can be given than that, in the first place, he put his hand into his shirt and feel whether he still has flesh and blood, and that he by all means believe what the Scriptures say about it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

"Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world, and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

"Thirdly, he will certainly have the devil also about him, who with his lying and murdering, day and night, will let him have no peace within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in St. John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; 2 Timothy 2."

O Jesus, blessed Lord, my praise, my heartfelt thanks to You I raise. You have so lovingly bestowed on me Your body and Your blood.

Break forth, my soul, in joy and say; what wealth has come me today, what health of body, mind, and soul! Christ dwells within me, makes me whole. ⁶

Conclusion

Here is how one Lutheran theologian beautifully describes the precious treasure of the Lord's Supper:

"The Israelites were fed with manna in the wilderness as with bread from heaven (Exodus 16:15). In this Holy Supper we have the true manna which came down from heaven to give life to the world. Here is that bread of heaven, that angel's food, of which if any man eat he shall never be hungry (St. John 6:35, 51).

"The children of Israel had the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat, where they could hear the Lord speaking with them face to face (Exodus 25:21, 22). Here we have the true ark of the covenant, the most holy body of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3). Here we have the true mercy seat in the precious blood of Christ (Romans 3:25), through which God has made us

accepted in the Beloved
(Ephesians 1:6).

“Nor does Christ simply speak the word of comfort to our souls, He also takes up His abode in us. He feeds our souls not with heavenly manna, but, what is far better, with His own blessed self. Here is the true gate of heaven for our souls, and the ladder reaching from earth to heaven on which the angels of God ascend and descend (Genesis 28:12).

“Christ holds us dear because He has bought us at so dear a price. He holds us dear because He feeds our souls with so dear and precious a food. He holds us dear because we are members of His body, of His flesh (Ephesians 5:30).

“The holy flesh of God, which the angelic hosts adore in the unity of the divine nature, before which archangels bow in lowly reverence, and before which the principalities and powers of heaven tremble and stand in awe, has become the nourishment for our souls. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad (Psalm 96:11), but still more let the be-

lieving soul exult and sing for joy, to whom God gives such an unspeakable gift!”⁷

*O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you, in thanks-giving bow before you. Here with your body and your blood you nourish our weak souls that they may flourish. O Lord, have mercy!*⁸

1 Hymn220,LW.

2 Hymn239,LW.

3 Hymn240,LW.

4 Hymn249,LW.

5 Hymn244,LW.

6 Hymn245,LW.

7 John Gerhard, Sacred Meditations, pg.103 ff.

8 Hymn 238,LW.

—Dr. A. L. Barry

President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri
Synod



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you read this, we'll be in the season of Epiphany. In the country of my birth, the day of Epiphany was when we exchanged gifts with one another, in commemoration of the Eastern wise men bearing gifts to the Lord. Imagine my confusion upon arriving to the USA as a 4 year-old and having a gift exchange on December 25th instead of January 6th! What was *that* all about? Have you ever seen a Christmas manger set without the wise men? At some unknown point, it seems that Christ-

mas and the day of Epiphany have somehow merged into a single celebration (at least commercially). Fortunately for me, I was blessed with very loving and sacrificial parents that made sure I got gifts on both days (What a country!). Eventually, we transitioned to the American custom for gift exchanges, but I still cringe at seeing the wise men show up on Christmas morning. Anyway, I hope you all enjoy a blessed Epiphany season. See you at church!
Blessings, Alex

Sunday's Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Jan. 7	Ecclesiastes 12:1-7	Romans 12:1-5	Luke 2:41-52
Jan. 14	Exodus 33:12-23	Romans 12:6-16	John 2:1-11
Jan. 21	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Jan. 28	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5	Matthew 20:1-16
Feb. 4	Isaiah 55:10-13	2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9	Luke 8:4-15

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSELC

- 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 Projects on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee
- Serve as an Usher—See Julie Blaylock
- Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall
- Coffee with Pastor and Women's Study—10:00 a.m. Thursday

FROM LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

December mites totaled \$21.21. Annual total was \$181.77. Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Mites are sent to the Gulf States District LWML to fund mission grants and district expenses and national mission grants. Your mite donations are making a difference. Four of the 31 mission grants are paid in full and one is partially paid.

Thank-you to all who purchased a poinsettia fir the Christmas Eve service. We had a total of 7 purchased.

The new Gulf States District LWML Glad Tidings issue is published. The Registration form and hotel information for the 2024 District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Prattville, AL is in this issue. Copies are available in the Narthex and I can send a copy electronically to anyone who wants one.

Jehovah Lutheran Church, Pensacola agreed to host the 2024 Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LWML Gulf States District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Prattville, AL

Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, Saturday, September 21, 2024, Jehovah Lutheran Church, Pensacola, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

LWML 41st Biennial LWML Convention, June 26-30, 2025, Omaha, NE

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Urda



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us in the study of Proverbs



Coffee with Pastor

Thursday mornings

Begins with

Matins at 9:00 a.m.

Birthdays:

Frank Sedmera	1/2
Evelynn Schmoltd	1/4
Alan Widener	1/4
Steve Kamradt	1/10
Trish Hull	1/16
Alex Franco	1/22
Sean Widener	1/22

Private Confession

Every Sunday

8:00-8:45 a.m.

Or

By Appointment

Please see Pastor Parent .

Thank you for the huge outpouring of donations for the Concordia Theological Seminary-Ft.Wayne Co-Op. This generous donation will go to support our pastors and deaconesses and their families as they focus on their studies.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matt 5:14-16

Looking Ahead**Lenten Mid-Week Services**

StaAsh Wednesday, Feb. 14th

(How wonderful to spend St. Valentine’s Day with
the Lover of your soul)

Wednesday, Feb 21st—Mar 20th

6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich

7:00 pm Service

March 27th—30th

Holy Week Services

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



Council Meeting Minutes (In-Person)

November 14, 2023



1. Attendance – Father Parent, Dcs Heather Bien, Brad Bien, Alex Franco, Brian Hull, Jeannie Harrison, Alan Widner, and Jennifer Currid
2. Opening Prayer at 6:30 by Pastor Parent.
3. The previous council minutes were approved.
4. Reports:
 - a) Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) - Becky Williams has moved to an assisted living facility in Daphne, Alabama, close to where her son lives. Pastor's sister, who Bobbie has been visiting for the past month, has Covid. Bobbie is in quarantine for a few days to assure she is well. Pastor and Cindy will also be on the watch for symptoms. Advent is going smoothly. There will be a 10:00 a.m. and a 7:00 p.m. services on Sunday, Christmas Eve day. Private confession and Bible study will continue on Dec. 24 as usual. The men's group will not meet on Dec. 19th. No Matins on Dec. 21.
 - b) Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) - Praise be to God for the phenomenal offering of \$2,870 for the Fort Wayne seminary Co-Op. No children's Sunday School on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31. Parents have been notified. No women's Bible study on Dec. 21, 28, and Jan. 4. Starting in 2024 the children will begin service projects to serve their neighbors in the congregation and the community..
 - c) Treasurer (Brian) – See attached. Additional comments: Our supplier of altar flowers, Floral Design, has closed. Trish Hull is looking into having Friendly Florist for our weekly altar flowers.
 - d) Financial Report (Jeannie) - See attached. Alex and the council expressed their gratitude to Jeannie for her four years of dedicated service as financial secretary. Kudos to you Jeannie!
 - e) Board of Security (Julie) - No security issues to report.
 - f) LWML (Linda) – See attached.
 - g) Board of Christian Life (Jennifer) – Since the City of Crestview and the area churches are sponsoring an abundance of children services in the month of December, I suggest that we do not buy toys this year to give to the police department's toy drive. In the spring, traditionally the elementary school teachers' supplies will have dwindled considerably. I propose that we help fill that gap for the Northwood Elementary School teachers. I will be glad to visit the school to ascertain their needs. Dcs Bien said the children will participate in this project.

- h) Board of Education/ Youth (Gervase) - See Dcs Bien's comments above.
- i) Board of Elders (Alan) - Alan will divide up among the elders the list of non-attending members. The process of contacting those members will be completed by April.
- j) Board of Trustees (Brian) - See attached. Additional comments: Brian is planning to add a closet in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. Jennifer asked that the installation of the grab bar in the women's bathroom in the Fellowship Hall be moved to the top of the list as we have numerous women who use walkers and need the bar for their safety.
- k) Board of Social Ministry (Becky in absentia) – No Fifth Sunday Feast on Dec. 31 since we have been feasting quite a bit lately. Also, no after service refreshments on Dec. 24 and 25.
- l) Board of Evangelism (Alex) – No report.

5. Unfinished Business:

- a. Church Street Signs will be installed after others projects are complete.
- b. New Storage Building (tabled)

6. New Business:

- a. Council members who received an email from Alex concerning the end-of-the-year report are requested to send those reports to Alex by the end of December.
- b. The new council members will be installed on January 7th. Their first meeting as council members will be on Tuesday, January 9th, via Microsoft Teams.

7. Motion to adjourn at 7:07 (Brad/Jennifer).

8. Pastor Parent closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Currid, Council Secretary

Getting Around OSELC

- Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the Fellowship Hall
- Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall
- Directories—In the brochure rack in the Narthex
- Members' mailboxes—In the Narthex
- LWML mite boxes—On the back counter shelf in the Nave
- (find the list of board members on the back of the Newsletter)
- Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull
- Websites:
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org
 - Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

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We are on the Web!

www.Oselc.net



Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Secretary: Jennifer Currid

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Mahlon Haunschild

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life:

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Youth: Gervase Anthony

Board of Education: Cindy Parent

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Clare Jones

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Altar Guild Head: Dcs. Bien

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Newsletter Editor: Dcs. Bien

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien