

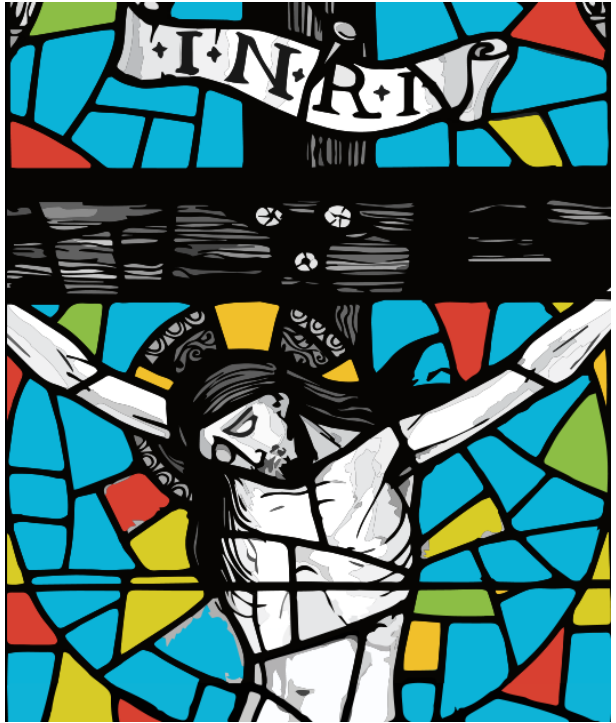


THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

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WE PREACH
CHRIST
CRUCIFIED

LCMS NATIONAL
CONVENTION 2023

July 29- August 3, 2023

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

“...we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than mankind, and the weakness of God is stronger than mankind.”

1 Corinthians 1:23-25

FROM THE PASTOR

My offering for this month. Enjoy!

Pax Christi,

Pastor Parent

What About...

The Small Catechism



What is the Small Catechism?

The Small Catechism, written by Martin Luther in 1529, is a collection of questions and answers on six topics: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father (the Lord's Prayer), the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar. Luther wanted the Catechism to be used by the head of the household to teach the family the Christian faith and life.

Also included with the Small Catechism are daily prayers, a table of duties for Christians in their various callings in life, and a guide for Christians to use as they prepare to receive Holy Communion. Most editions of Luther's Small Catechism also come with an explanation of the Catechism, which is a longer collection of questions and answers with extensive quotations from the Bible. These explanations have a long history and were added during Luther's lifetime.

Why did Luther write the Small Cate-

chism?

Luther answers that question in the preface to the Small Catechism:

"The deplorable, miserable conditions which I recently observed when visiting the parishes have constrained and pressed me to put this Catechism of Christian doctrine into this brief, plain, and simple form. How pitiable, so help me God, were the things I saw: the common man, especially in the villages, knows practically nothing of Christian doctrine, and many of the pastors are almost entirely incompetent and unable to teach. Yet all the people are supposed to be Christians, have been baptized, and receive the Holy Sacrament even though they do not know the Our Father, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments and live like poor animals of the barnyard and pigpen. What these people have mastered, however, is the fine art of tearing all Christian liberty to shreds."

You can tell how strongly Luther felt about the need for a clear explanation of the Christian faith and life!

Luther also wrote what is known as the Large Catechism. The Large Catechism is yet another excellent resource that most adults find very helpful after studying the Small Catechism. Your pastor

can help you obtain a copy of the Large Catechism.

What is the benefit of the Small Catechism?

The Small Catechism is an excellent summary of what the Bible, God's Word, teaches us. The shape of the Catechism is the shape of the Christian life: Repentance (Ten Commandments), Faith (Creed), Prayer (Our Father), Forgiveness of Sins (Baptism, Absolution, Lord's Supper), then daily prayer and our daily work. It is very important for us to learn by heart the truths of God's Word as summarized and beautifully explained in the Small Catechism.

God uses the precious truths of His Word to keep us strong and growing in our faith in Jesus Christ. The Catechism helps us understand God's Law, which shows us our sin, and how we are to live as His people. The Catechism beautifully articulates the Gospel, the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection for our salvation.

Luther realized that the truths of God's Word, as summarized by the Small Catechism, were matters of eternal life and death. They are the most important truths we can ever know. It is genuinely unfortunate when people think they no longer need the Small Catechism and say to themselves, "That's enough of that; now I can move on to more important things."

How can the Small Catechism be used in the life of the individual Christian?

Luther offers us good advice when he writes in the Large Catechism, "Every morning and evening, and whenever I have time, I read and say word-for-word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I gladly do it." The Small Catechism is intended to be a prayer book for individuals and families. As we meditate on the various portions of the Catechism, we look for instruction from God, then look for what we can thank God for, then for what we need to confess to God and, finally, we finish our prayerful meditation by asking God for His blessing and mercy so we may live according to His Word. It is in this way that daily use of the Catechism is a powerful tool for the Christian life.

How can the Small Catechism be used in the home?

The Small Catechism was designed to be the family's Christian handbook. In fact, some have referred to the Small Catechism as the "layman's Bible" because it provides such an excellent, brief, clear summary of God's Word on the essentials of the Christian faith.

Families can use the Catechism in their daily devotions. Luther provided suggested prayers for the family to say at the beginning and end of meals, and for each member of the family to pray when they go to sleep and when they wake up.

Families that use the Catechism find it helpful to pray the Lord's Prayer together and then to say the Apostles' Creed together. Then they continue to work on the explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession and Holy Communion. Gradually, over the months and years, the entire family will be able to recite the Catechism from memory and discuss together its meaning.

How can the Catechism be used in congregations?

The Catechism is a key resource in confirmation instruction for both children and adults. The Catechism can be used in so many other ways as well. It is an important resource for Bible classes and other groups that meet at the church. Wouldn't it be good for every group that meets regularly in a Lutheran congregation to begin their meeting by reviewing a part of the Catechism and then concluding that review with prayer?



Many congregations make it a practice to print out a portion of the Catechism and recite it during the Sunday worship service. Other congregations devote the seasons of Advent and Lent to a careful review of the Catechism's six chief parts during their mid-week services. Still other congregations will spend time during the non-festival half of the church year devoting special attention to reviewing the Catechism. There are pastors who use the Catechism as the subject of children's talks during the worship service. That is certainly a fine practice.

Other congregations have been richly blessed by using the Catechism and its explanation in adult Bible classes, or other study groups. Study groups have found much to discuss and learn by working their way carefully through the Catechism.

Many people have discovered that the Catechism is also a very helpful resource for witnessing to others about Jesus Christ and all that He means for us. Being able to repeat the explanation to the Creed is a good way to tell others what Jesus is all about and how one receives salvation in Christ.

What is the benefit of learning the Catechism by heart?

There is a great deal of benefit! The

Catechism is learned by regular and repeated reading, discussion and prayer. The head of the house should lead the rest of the family in speaking the various parts of the Catechism and so, slowly but surely, learning the Catechism by heart. One week, for instance, the family can work on the First Commandment and its meaning, or the First Article of the Creed and its meaning, and so forth.

Learning the Catechism by heart is vital for teaching the Catechism. Perhaps every word will not make sense at first. That is not a problem. Just keep working on learning them. Understanding will come in time, but learning the words must begin right away. We are making a serious mistake if we wait to have children memorize the Catechism until they can understand every word. We need to learn to speak the language of our

faith before we can understand it. Families might be surprised at how quickly children can memorize the words of the Catechism and then learn to understand them.

Martin Luther was very concerned that this be done. He wrote in his Preface to the Small Catechism, "So adopt whatever form you wish, and then stick with it at all times. . . keep to a single, fixed and permanent form and wording, and teach them first of all the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, etc., according to the text, word for word, so that they can repeat it after you and commit it to memory."

—Dr. A. L. Barry President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Sunday's Readings (Lectionary)

| Date | Old Testament | Epistle | Gospel |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Aug. 13 | Jeremiah 8:4-12 | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | Luke 19:41-48 |
| Aug. 20 | Genesis 4:1-15 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 | Luke 18:9-14 |
| Aug. 27 | Isaiah 29:17-24 | 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 | Mark 7:31-37 |
| Sept. 3 | 2 Chronicles 28:8-15 | Galatians 3:15-22 | Luke 10:23-27 |

FROM THE PRESIDENT

About the time you read this, some members of the nominating committee may be “fixin’ to” encourage you to run for a church council position: chairing a board or becoming a church officer. Please take their suggestions to heart and prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you do in this capacity for the benefit of this little flock. The council is essentially the secular arm of the congregation and keeps us compliant with public laws so we can support the mission of the Church: to preach the Gospel in truth and purity and to administer the sacraments according to Christ’s commands. Everything the council does indirectly supports that mission whether it be by providing economic means of supply to our pastor, executing responsible stewardship of

the campus, ensuring the safety and security of our facilities, teaching our children, tracking our income and expenses to remain solvent, or even something as esoteric as ensuring we render to Cesar (the State of Florida) what belongs to Cesar (our corporation fees). There really are no small roles here. Also, the work is not a time sink; most of our monthly meetings are even held remotely for convenience (and they’re so easy to do, even a retired fighter pilot can do it!). The elections will be held in the Nov Voter’s meeting, so if you’re interested in running for a council position, please let Alex or Brad know by 1 Nov and we’ll get you on the slate. Thank you so much for your consideration!

Blessings,

Alex

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSEL C

Serve as Chairman of a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.

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

Serve on the Care Committee—See Dcs. Heather Bien or Jennifer Currid

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 followed by Women’s Bible Study—9:00 a.m. Thursday

FROM LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

July mites totaled \$5.70. Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Mites are sent to the Gulf States District LWML to fund District mission grants and travel expenses and to fund the 31 mission grants for the LWML 2023-2025 Biennium.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, September 30, 2023, 9:00 am-2:00 pm, Good Shepherd, Shalimar, FL

Gulf States District LWML Fall Retreat, October 13-15, 2023, Stone Bridge Farms, Cullman, AL. Registration form and details are in the Glad Tidings Summer Issue (pages 17-18).

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

“Return to Your Rest”

Rest once more, my soul, for the LORD has vindicated you. Psalm 116:4

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Urda

LWML President



FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

In the Fall, the OSEL C women will be sharing the autobiography of Jeanette Walls, The Glass Castle. I hope you will join us at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall or 6:00 at my house (126 Creve Core Dr) on Sept. 21, Oct. 19, and Nov. 16.

Even though this book relates Wall's life in all its grittiness, it is not sad or depressing. During our one-hour sessions, we will explore the themes of judgment, acceptance, love and forgiveness.

Join us as we open our discussion with this this topic:

Though The Glass Castle is brimming with unforgettable stories, which scenes are the most memorable for you? Which were the most shocking, the most inspiring, the funniest?

Contact me at 850-803-1196 or see me in church if you have questions.

Blessings, Jennifer

Getting Around OSEL C

- 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
- Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco
- Serve on a board—See that board's chairman
(find the list of board members 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

LCMS 2023 68TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Below are some of the adopted Resolutions from this year's convention. For more information go to *Convention Resolution Statuses - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (lcms.org)*

- To Stimulate Training for Witness – Districts are encouraged to assist congregations as they train members to share the Good News about Jesus.
- To Aid Small Congregations and Multi-Congregation Pastors and Parishes – The Office of National Mission is directed to work through districts to share any resources that aid small congregations.
- To Continue to Address Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues – The ad hoc Created Male and Female task force formed in 2019 will be continued.
- To Direct Districts and Council of Presidents to Provide Strategic Plan for Addressing Wellness of Church Workers – District presidents and District Boards of Directors are to establish plans for the care of church workers and their families utilizing resources made available by the Office of National Mission and Concordia Plans.
- To Address Mental Health among Pastors and Other Professional Church Workers – Mental health among church workers is a significant issue that is being supported by our Districts and congregations. This encourages additional support in this area. An amendment was offered to this resolution requiring the Synod to provide funding to assist with this effort, which failed.
- To Give Priority and Advocacy for Office of International Mission – Congregations and entities looking to support international mission activity are encouraged to work through the Office of International Mission.
- To Commend Synod Seminaries for Work in International Witness – Congregations are encouraged to support our seminaries for pastoral formation on a worldwide level.
- To Commend Use and Attendance of FORO's – A FORO (Spanish for forum) is a model the Office of International Mission uses to plant Lutheran mission churches in foreign mission areas.
- To Strengthen Nonvoting Advisory

Delegate Participation at Conventions – The Synod and its Districts are encouraged to include more representation of its advisory delegates, especially commissioned ministers, on floor committees of their conventions.

- To Recognize that the Synod is Not in Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Japan Lutheran Church – This is only the second time in the history of the Synod that a resolution has passed withdrawing altar and pulpit fellowship with a fellow church body.

To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan.

- To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland.

- To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Uganda.

- To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine.

- To Recognize the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka as a Self-Governing Partner Church.

- To Call Concordia University Texas Leadership to Repentance – The leadership of Concordia University

Texas has been called to repentance and required to submit to Synod Bylaws.

- To Produce Uniform Set of Lutheran Academic Standards for Our Schools – The LCMS School Ministry is to coordinate the systematic preparation and production of biblically faithful Lutheran academic standards across all areas for our schools.

- To Revise Bylaws to Revisit and Renew Relationship of Colleges and Universities with the Synod – A significant overhaul and reworking of the Concordia University System will take place. A major part of this is the increase of Synod oversight of the universities.

- To Bring Accountability to Concordia Boards of Regents and to Improve Doctrinal Fidelity and Amenability to Ecclesiastical Supervision – Appointed regents to Concordia University Boards of Regents will not be allowed to vote on appointing other regents for the Board. In addition, this increases the role of Synod in vetting regents who are appointed to the various Boards of Regents.

- To Support Colleges and Universities of the Concordia University System – Congregations and dis-

tricts are encouraged to encourage enrollment in as well as provide spiritual and financial support for the Concordias.

- To Encourage Appropriate Use of Social Media – Church workers and leaders are expected to exercise caution in their use of social media and lead by example. In addition, Christians are encouraged to exercise charity and patience in considering what their neighbor shares on social media, interpreting everything in the kindest way.

- To Address Abortion and Use of Fetal Tissue in Vaccines – The Commission on Theology and Church Relations will address the changing nature of abortion, specifically the use of fetal tissue in vaccines.

- To Affirm In-Person Communion – Congregations are encouraged to reject and condemn the practice of virtual (online) Communion.

- To Review Guidance on Admission to the Lord’s Supper – Recognizing the doctrine and practice of close(d) communion and asking the seminary faculties to evaluate what “extraordinary circumstanc-

es” are for the distribution of the Sacrament.

- To Uphold Proper Elements and Reverential Administration of the Lord’s Supper – Concerns have been raised about pre-filled communion cups and wafers in worship. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is instructed to take up these concerns.

- To Articulate Theology and Philosophy of Lutheran Education – The Commission on Theology and Church Relations will develop principles of Lutheran education rooted in Lutheran doctrine.

- To Affirm and Strengthen the Synod’s Commitment to Well-Formed Clergy for the Sake of the Gospel – The residential seminary route to ordination is the strongly preferred route to ordination.





Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes (TEAMS)



July 11, 2023

President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien

Attendance: Pastor Parent, Brad Bien, Dcs. Heather Bien, Jeannie Harrison, Julie Blaylock, Brian Hull, Linda Urda, Jennifer Currid

Opening Prayer – Pastor Parent opened the meeting at 6:36 in prayer.

Approve previous council minutes.- Minutes were read and approved (Julie/ Jeannie).

Reports:

Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) – Pastor says he is getting better. He will resume Mat-ins and Coffee with Pastor this Thursday, July 13. Cindy will be on vacation for 10 days beginning July 19th. During that time he will be working from home. Pastor's grandson, Sean, is preparing to take Holy Communion.

Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) – See attached.

Treasurer (Brian) - See attached.

Financial Report (Jeannie) – See attached.

Board of Security (Julie)- No recent security issues.

LWML (Linda) – See attached. A planning meeting for the Emerald Coast Zone fall rally will be held at OSELG at 10:00 on Saturday, July 29, in the Fellowship Hall.

Board of Christian Life (Jennifer) – The Sunday morning Bible study attendance has grown to at least 18. We still have seats for those who want to join!

Board of Education/ Youth (Gervase) – See attached.

Board of Elders (Alan)- No report.

Board of Trustees (Brian) – On the last workday, Brian, Alex, Jennifer, Deb, and Mahlon picked up sticks, weeded, and trimmed. Brian is looking forward to using his bushhog on his new tractor to clear out under brush on the side lot.

Board of Social Ministry (Becky)- Plans for the Fifth Sunday Feast are in place with Brad cooking and the rest of the congregation bringing sides.

Board of Evangelism (Alex)- No report.

Unfinished Business:

The nominating committee consists thus far of Julie Blaylock, Jeannie Harrison, Trish Hull, Dawn Heller, and Jennifer Currid. Tentative plans are to contact each church member individually concerning council positions.

New Business: None

Closing - A motion was made to adjourn (Jeannie/Julie). Pastor Parent closed the meeting at 7:06 with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid



Coffee with Pastor
Thursday mornings
begins with
Matins at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
We will begin a study of
Proverbs
August 10th

Birthdays:

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Sean Schoonover | 8/2 |
| Machelle Grimes | 8/5 |
| Bobbie Parent | 8/10 |
| Bit Schmoltd | 8/12 |
| Deb Haunschild | 8/18 |
| Olivia Widener | 8/18 |
| Ellis Quarrier | 8/21 |
| Matt Parent | 8/23 |

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
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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: Jeannie Harrison

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Jennifer Currid

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Newsletter Editor: Dcs. Bien

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

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien