



**THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER**

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“Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity,
neither blending their persons
nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is a distinct person,
the person of the Son is another,
and that of the Holy Spirit still another.

But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one,
their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.”

-Athanasian Creed (1-6)

FROM THE PASTOR

As promised last month we will continue with the sainted former synodical president, the Rev. Dr. Barry's series, "What About?" Enjoy!

Pax Christi,

Pastor Parent



What About...

The Gospel

Why do we need the Gospel?

We cannot really understand how good the message of the Gospel is until we understand how bad our situation is without it. We are poor miserable sinners. We sin daily and deserve nothing but God's wrath and punishment.

Without Jesus Christ, our situation would be totally hopeless. The Scriptures describe human beings as dead in trespasses and sin.

Without the mercy and cleansing of God through the blood of Jesus Christ, there awaits for us only everlasting punishment in hell.

Thus, we need the Gospel— desperately!

What is the Gospel?

The word "gospel" is a translation of a Greek word that means, "an announcement of good news."

The Gospel is the good news that God, the Holy Trinity, decided not to abandon humanity when Adam and Eve first fell into sin. God decided then and there that sin and death would not have the last word. He promised to send a Savior.

When the time was right, God sent His Son into our world to be born of the Virgin Mary. Our Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for us. On the cross, He received the penalty and punishment for the sins of the whole world, offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus rose from the dead, victorious over our ancient enemies: sin, death and the devil.

Therefore, each Christian is able with great joy and confidence to declare before the whole world: "My Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death,

and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”

What glorious, good news! The one, true eternal and all-powerful God came into our world to live, suffer, die and rise again for us. We, who are unholy and unrighteous, receive the forgiveness of all our sins and thus receive the perfect holiness and righteousness of Christ our Savior—as a free gift—purely because of His love for us. That is good news! That is the Gospel!

How do we personally receive the forgiveness Christ won for the entire world? How does what happened on the cross nearly 2,000 years ago flow into our lives today?

Here too there is very good news. God, through His Gospel, offers us forgiveness and help against sin in more than one way. God is surpassingly rich in His grace. He gives His Gospel to us through His Word, through Baptism, through the Sacrament of the Altar, and through confession and absolution. These are the ways God enters our lives today to apply to us personally the great salvation Christ won for the world.

The Holy Spirit works through the Word of the Gospel to create and sustain faith in our heart that Christ is the Savior of the world, and thus, our Savior too. The Bible is the Word of God, written down for our learning and edification. The Scriptures are filled with the good news of Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us. Through the almighty, Spirit-filled Word, God gathers us into His church, which is truly the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is present, effective and active through the Word when it is proclaimed, heard and meditated upon.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is water included in God’s command and combined with God’s Word; or as St. Paul says in Holy Scripture, “The washing of water with the word.” Through Baptism, we are made partakers of Christ’s death and resurrection. Therefore, we know that Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal life to all who believe. Since Baptism is connected to the

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Word and promise of God, it is truly a life-giving water, rich in grace—a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.

Christ has provided a special application of the Gospel through confession and absolution. Confession is admitting our sins to God and receiving His forgiveness from our pastor, as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. Thus, by divine ordinance, Christ Himself has entrusted absolution to his Christian church and commanded us to absolve one another from sins.

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. In the Lord's Supper, Christ's body and blood are given to us as our treasure and gift which sustains our faith and life in Him. If you are heavy-laden and feel your weakness, go joyfully to the Sacrament and receive refreshment, comfort and

strength.

Those who want to be forgiven by God and who want to enjoy His presence in their lives, hunger and thirst for the Word and Sacraments. With the Psalmist we say, "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" God has provided the means to receive Him. So, Christians hunger and thirst for God's Word, absolution, the Sacrament, etc. We have the certainty that God meets us and gives us what we need in His means of grace. The forgiveness Christ won for the world on the cross is applied to us personally by God through His Word and Sacraments. What a joy for us to know that where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Thus, we believe that we cannot, by our own reason or strength, believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. In the same way, He calls, gathers, enlightens and sancti-

fies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all of our sins, and the sins of all believers.

How does God cause us to respond to His Gospel?

We love God because He first loved us. Our Lord is at work in us both to will and to do what is pleasing to Him. Christians look to the Ten Commandments to know what is pleasing to God and wish to serve Him in gratitude for the great salvation that is theirs in Christ.

From the Word of God we learn that God wants us to put Him first, above any other person or thing, to respect His name and not misuse it, to hear and obey His Word. Children are to honor and obey their parents and others in authority. We are to look out for the welfare of others, doing nothing to hurt or harm our neighbor. We are to live sexually pure and decent lives, with husbands and wives loving and honoring each other. In looking out for our neighbor's welfare and

helping him to improve and protect his property and business, we are also to take care not to lie about our neighbor, but to help, support and defend him in every need, and, finally, we are to be content with what we have been given, and not want what is not ours.

What a joyful privilege we have to serve God and others! He gives us the opportunity to bear witness to our faith through both our words and our deeds.

How is the Gospel obscured?

The Gospel is obscured by well-intentioned people who want to encourage a life of good works, and end up making Christians think that it is by their works that they are saved. This is a great danger. Through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus is constantly working in our lives to forgive our sins and strengthen our relationship with God. God always receives the credit for our salvation. He is the one working in us. This is not something we can do. Our good works are the result of God's love in our hearts and lives. Our good works in this life

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do not save us, only Christ saves us. Works serve our neighbor and show to the world that we are grateful for God's mercy in our lives.

Another way the Gospel can be obscured is when too much emphasis is put on an emotional response to the Gospel. Some Christians believe that unless they have some sort of ecstatic, charismatic experience, or feel some sort of "spiritual high," they are not really Christians. It is truly sad that some people look into their own hearts for the security that they are children of God, instead of putting their hope and trust in the objective work of Christ for

them, and in the means God uses to come to them—His Word and Sacraments.

If we find ourselves beginning to ask, "Am I doing enough?" or thinking, "It doesn't matter what I do, for God will forgive me anyway," then we are at risk of losing Christ and His forgiveness. We look always to Jesus and put our hope and trust in Him. He is our Savior. And, that's good news!

All blessing, honor, thanks and praise to Father, Son and Spirit, the God who saved us by His grace. All glory to His merit! O Triune God in heaven above, You have revealed Your saving love. Your blessed name we hallow.

—Dr. A. L. Barry President The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Sunday's Readings

(Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
June 11	Gen 15:1-6	1 John 4:16-21	Luke 16:19-31
June 18	Prov 9:1-10	1 John 3:13-18	Luke 14:16-24
June 25	Is 12:1-6	1 Pet 5:6-11	Luke 15:1-10
July 2	Gen 50: 15-21	Rom 8:18-23	Luke 6:36-42

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

Did you know that you, as a member of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, serve on the Board of Christian Life? I may represent you at council meetings, but all of you are valuable members of the board. You know you are a member of the Board of Christian Life if you have ever...

- Fed the hungry
- Visited the sick and homebound
- Helped your neighbor
- Gathered in fellowship with each other
- Visited our seniors in a nursing home or assisted living facility
- Shown someone mercy out of the love and mercy God has shown you
- Forgiven someone who never offered an apology
- Given to the church out of the resources God entrusted to you
- Etc, etc, etc

“Our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.” (lcms.org)

Welcome to the Board of Christian Life!

With love, Jennifer Currid

June Birthdays:

Pastor Ballard 6/23

Reminder! If you are the last to leave the premises, please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.

Thank you!

FROM THE LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

May mites totaled \$5.17.



46 women and 2 pastors attended the Emerald Coast Zone LWML Spring Christian Growth Workshop April 29, 2023, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pensacola, FL. 9:30 am-1:30 pm in Redeemer Activity Hall. Redeemer’s Pastor Cole gave the welcome and opening prayer. Dcs Bien gave the opening devotion and Pastor Ballard led the Bible Study “Divine Muscle.” For the servant event we made beaded bracelets for the Redeemer Lutheran School’s annual Christmas event. Gifts from the Heart were donations of nonperishable goods for the Warrington Emergency Aid Center.

Due to family medical issues the LWML Meeting that was scheduled for June 3 is cancelled. We might have a meeting later in the month after the women’s Thursday morning Bible Study.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Emerald Coast Zone LWML Fall Rally, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Shalimar, tentative date September 30, 2023.

Gulf States District LWML Fall Retreat, October 13-15, 2023, Stone Bridge Farms, Cullman, AL. *NOTE: Registration information is in the Glad Tidings Summer issue.*

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

- Linda Urda

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!

Women’s Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Study of Psalms

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

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes (In-person)

May 9, 2023

President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien

Opening Prayer- Meeting opened at 6:33 with prayer by Pastor Parent.

Attendance: Pastor Parent, Heather Bien, Brad Bien, Alex Franco, Julie Blaylock, Jeannie Harrison, Linda Urda, Trish Hull, Brian Hull.

Approve previous council minutes-April 11 council meeting minutes were approved (Linda/Jeannie).

Reports:

Pastor's Report (Fr Parent)-Visited Becky Williams who is in the Crestview hospital. Troy and Machel Grimes' grandson Sean is now receiving communion and serving as an acolyte.

Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) – See attached. The extra chasubles and paraments will be given to Pastor Sean Ballard. The \$332.50 raised during the April 22 Sale for the Sem has been sent to the Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for their greatest needs.

Treasurer (Brian)- See attached. The housing allowance adjustment discussed at the April 11th meeting has been implemented as of May 1.

Financial Report (Jeannie)-See attached.

Board of Security (Julie)- No issues to report. Julie asks that those who use the candle lighters not replace the spent wicks until she has had a chance to clean that candle lighter.

LWML (Linda)- See attached.

Board of Christian Life (Jennifer)- Trish and Jennifer fertilized the trees along the property line. The Care Committee visited Kitty Trexler during her stay at Silvercrest Rehab and Becky Williams during her stay at North Okaloosa Medical Center.

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

Board of Elders (Alan)- No report.

Board of Trustees (Brian)- Brian has added to the list of church maintenance projects the painting of the Fellowship Hall/Parish Hall. He has scheduled a workday for Saturday, May 20, to tackle the several indoor projects. Brian will also check on the capacity of the Fellowship Hall for Linda Urda's future LWML area meetings.

Board of Social Ministry (Becky)-She is pleased with the first Feast Day lunch. The next one is on the fifth Sunday in July. A congregational dine-out will be scheduled for September.

Board of Evangelism (Alex)- No report.

Unfinished Business:

CPR class will be held June 10.

June 29th will mark Pastor's 20th ordination anniversary which calls for a salary review. Brian will review

the Synod's policy and present it to the congregation at the May 21st Voters' Meeting.

New Business:

4.1.4 section of our constitution contains ambiguous language concerning the reception of new members. Pastor will revise the paragraph and present at next council meeting.

Julie will compose job descriptions for those council positions that will be open for 2024.

Trish Hull submitted her resignation as secretary of the council. A motion was made to accept her resignation (Brian/Brad). Jennifer Currid agreed to fill the council position of secretary until the next election. A motion for Jennifer to fill the position passed (Brian/Brad).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 and closed with Compline led by Pastor Parent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Voters' Assembly Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2023

President – Alex Franco

Vice-president- Brad Bien

Opening Prayer-The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Parent at 11:40 a.am.

Minutes of the February 19th Voters' Assembly Meeting were unanimously approved with no corrections.

Reports:

Pastor's Report (Fr Parent)—Pastor thanked everyone for their prayers, cards and calls in his recent illness.

Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien)—No report.

Treasurer (Brian)- Our projected expenses are accurate, but our projected contributions have exceeded our projections by \$9,000. Brian was also pleased to report that the Freedom Tax Service's fees which were projected at \$1,500 a year are actually \$100 per quarter.

Financial Secretary (Jeannie) – See attached.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Reception of new members by transfer or catechesis – A motion was made (Brian/Rich) to accept Sue Cadenhead, a transfer from a fellow LCMS church into the OSELC's family. He motion passed with thankfulness to have Sue as a member of OSELC..

Special election to fill Secretary – A motion was made (Rich/Julie) to approved Jennifer Currid as the interim secretary for the council. Trish Hull resigned as secretary at the last council meeting, but still maintains her position as church administrative assistant. Alex clarified that secretary for the council and secretary/administrative assistant are two separate, distinct positions.

OSELC Election Nominating Committee—Our constitution calls for a nominating committee to present names for yearly council position elections. Group A, President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Chairman Board of Christian Life and Chairman of the Board of Social Ministry, are up for election this year at the November Voters' Assembly. Julie gave each person at the Voters' Assembly a copy of the description of the officers and board chairmen. A call was then made for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. At least one of more volunteers should not be current officers or board chairs. Julie volunteered. The nominating committee should be in place by the August 13th voters' assembly.

A motion to adjourn (Brad/Rich) was made at 11:58. The Pastor led us in the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Currid

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 Project 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

ELECTIONS AT OSELC

Elections at OSELC – An Opportunity to Serve

The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle: “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4: 10-11 (New American Standard Bible translation).

Each January during a Divine Service our Pastor installs the congregation’s newly elected officers and board chairmen. The Pastor first addresses the newly elected officials, “In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the offices entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.”

Next the Pastor addresses the congregation, “Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.”

OSELC holds elections each November, and those newly elected are installed to serve a 2 year term. All are voting members of the Church Council. In 2023 the positions up for election are President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, and the chairmen of the Boards of Christian Education, Christian Life, and Social Ministry. A handout describing these positions was provided to the voting members at the May 21 Voters’ Assembly meeting. If you did not receive a copy Julie, Jennifer, or Alex will be happy to give you one.

In 2024 the positions up for election are Vice President, Treasurer, and the chairmen of the Boards of Elders, Evangelism, Trustees, Security, and Youth Ministry.

Many of the individuals presently holding these elected positions have served our church as good stewards for several consecutive terms. They may be weary, but may still be willing if no one else wants to serve. They are very hopeful that others will choose to serve.

You may ask yourself, "What if I'm elected and find I have difficulty performing the duties?" No worries! The previous holder of the office or board will be happy to help you successfully transition into the position. We also have a continuity of operations procedural document to cover task details for the various positions; many of your questions are likely already answered there. Lastly, if insurmountable difficulties arise, you can resign your position, and a volunteer will be sought to serve the remainder of your term until the next election.

What about Church Council meetings? You do not need to leave home to attend most of the Church

Council meetings! The council meets once a month, presently on the second Tuesday at 6:30pm. Of the 12 monthly meetings during the year, 8 of these are remote using Microsoft Teams. This app can be accessed by simply clicking on the link in the email invitation sent out before each council meeting. Video feed during the meetings is strictly optional (so yes, you can wear your pajamas to the council meeting). The council meets in person one time per quarter in the fellowship (parish) hall. Council meetings typically last from 30 to 75 minutes.

As required by OSELIC's Constitution and Bylaws, a Nominating Committee will be established to collect the names of those who want to run for election and to generally administer the election process. The Nominating Committee will be put in place at the next Voters' Assembly meeting in August. If you want to volunteer for this committee, please let Alex know. In the meantime, feel free to speak to the incumbents of any of the positions you are interested in, they will be happy to answer your questions.

**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: 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

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien