

The Crestview Lutheran

Newsletter

August, 2022

Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church



“For You are my lamp, LORD;
And the LORD illuminates my darkness.
“For by You I can run at
a troop of warriors;
By my God I can leap over a wall.
“As for God, His way is blameless;
The word of the LORD is refined;
He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.
“For who is God, except the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?
“God is my strong fortress;
And He sets the blameless on His way.
“He makes my feet like deer’s feet,
And sets me on my high places.”

2 Sam 22: 29-34

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

-M. Luther, SC

From the President

Several years ago, after taking seriously ill, Terry Marzen asked if I would be willing to replace him as the president of this congregation. It was out of the blue and caught me by surprise. With his deteriorating condition requiring ever higher levels of constant medical attention, how could I refuse him? I had never been a congregation president, so I asked him what the position was about. His reply was something like, "You run the business of the church." Today, I know exactly what he meant, but it got me to thinking (a dangerous pastime, I know), "What really is the business of the Church?"

Being hampered with the mind of a fighter pilot, it took me a little while to understand (ok, more than a little while). Jesus did not die for His bride (the Church) so that we could hold council and voters' meetings, campus workdays, budget discussions, district conferences, and the like (but we do these things for the sake of temporal good order). No, He died to save her by forgiving her many sins! So, the business of the Church is forgiveness. We receive it every Sunday morning, even tasting it in the Body and Blood of our Lord. And yet, because of the old Adam still resident in each of us,

even as Christians, how hard it is for us to be quick to forgive others and to avoid judging them (or "laying down the law"). Sanctification is not for sissies!

Jesus never promised us an easy time here below in the Church militant. The cruciform life of a Christian is marked by daily combat with sin, death, and the devil. Think about St. Paul during his ministry

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and his personal challenges with inner struggles "...what I don't want to do, this I keep on doing." And then there was the issue of the thorn in his side. Think about this: since these things happened to one of the greatest apostles, it certainly happens to us. But when we confront our sins, repent of them, and confess them,

we draw strength when He tells us through the audible Word of our pastor, "I forgive you all your sins." Not just a few of them, not only the ones we remember - all of them! There is no greater gift on this side of heaven than the forgiveness of sin in Christ. We can't buy it or "do our part" for it; we must receive it for free in certain faith that it will do what the Lord has promised: it reconciles us to the Father and saves us! That is the business of the Church here on Earth.

-Alex

From the Board of Christian Life

Each church service we have the blessing of hearing the elders read the Word of God and the pastor preach the Word of God. The scriptures below are suggestions for us to continue attending to God's Word as we go through our week. We have so many things competing for space in our lives, but none are more important than enjoying the gift of God's Holy Word every day. -Jennifer Currid

August 7 – Trinity 8

Matthew 7:17 – “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit.” As fruit follows from a good tree, so our good works flow from the cleansing the Lord has given us in Holy Baptism. In Baptism we have a new identity – we are the “new man in Christ” as St. Paul says. Of course, on this side of glory we still have the world, the devil, and the flesh to wrestle with. That means that our growth in sanctification is a struggle. So if it's sometimes a struggle for you to be generous – don't give up! Keep fighting the good fight of faith, trusting in your Lord and His provision.

August 14 – Trinity 9

Luke 16:8 – “For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.” The sons of this world know that they should use their wealth wisely to provide for their future. Shouldn't we “sons of light” know that the wealth God has allowed us to manage should be managed for God's purposes in the roles He has given us to play in Church, home, and society? Don't we have more to live for, more to work for, and more to give toward?

August 21 – Trinity 10

Luke 19:46 – “It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers.” The Lord's House is not a house of merchandise or profit – it is a House of Prayer where people freely offer up their petitions to the Lord and their produce for His purposes. Not compulsion or sharp dealing, but generosity and joy characterize the House of the Lord. “Freely you have received; freely give.” That's pretty much the opposite of the world's marketplace!

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August 28 – Trinity 11

Luke 18:14 – “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Our works never impress God, they are always lacking in some way. They always fall short of perfection. So there is no point in taking pride in them. But a broken and contrite heart the Lord will not despise – and the works that flow from a broken and contrite heart are indeed pleasing to the Lord in and through Christ. And these works will be used by the Lord for His purposes and to His glory! <https://resources.lcms.org/>

From the Board of Social Ministry

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, It is time to start our Social Get Togethers. I am willing to do once a month. I have some ideas such as: Movie Night, Game night, Bingo Night, Dining In, Dining Out. Dining Outs would be in Crestview, unless we come up with a carpool system so that us old folks that are not crazy about driving at night could attend. This is just thoughts in my head, so any suggestions are Welcome.

Richard, our prayers are with you for a full recovery. You will be missed.

I hope everyone enjoyed a great summer and that God will continue to Bless you throughout the year.

From the Board of Security

Reminder!

There has been a recent rash of doors being left unlocked. If you are the last to leave the premises, ***please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.***

Thank you!
Julie Blaylock



**LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO**
Sacred Music for the World

From LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

July mites totaled \$16.00.

Mite Box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month.

Mites are sent to our District and used to pay for District and National mission grants.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 21 at 4:00 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gulf Breeze will be inviting us to attend a free will offering benefit supper for CSF. There will be a musician playing music by Chopin, an educational video on CSF, and a Supper with Firehouse subs, side salads, desserts and drinks. All are invited.

Ladies, you are all invited to join the Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally on Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a. at First Lutheran Church, Florala, AL. There will be more to follow.

Upcoming Events:

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

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

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

Linda Urda

LWML President

Sunday's Readings

(Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Aug. 7	Jer 23:16-29	Acts 20:27-38	Matt. 7:15-23
Aug. 14	2 Sam 22:26-34	1 Cor 10:6-13	Luke 16:1-13
Aug. 21	Jer 7:1-11	Rom 9:30-10:4	Luke 19:41-48
Aug. 28	Gen 4:1-15	Eph 2:1-10	Luke 18:9-14
Sept. 4	Is 29:17-24	Rom 10:9-17	Mark 7:31-37

From the Deaconess

Some of you know my fervent interest in how God fearfully and wonderfully made us: spirit, mind, and body. The vocations of Physician Assistant and Deaconess have provided me an unique vantage point in observing this connection. In all my studies, in reading and research, it is evident to me that the awareness of this connection in Christianity has been lost, skewed, or not fully understood. During my recent visit to the Seminary in Fort Wayne, I was fortunate to spend time with my dear friend and mentor, Dcs. Amy Rast, director of the Deaconess program there. I shared with her my thoughts and he supported me in my theorizing stating she, too, agrees with the anemic approach to this subject in our LCMS community. She along with a few others, have encouraged me to research and write about this. So, my friends if you are willing, I will take you with me on this journey. It will be a slow road but an exciting and interesting one. Right now, I have more questions than answers, but I suppose that is a good place to be.

My premise was launched by 1 Thesalonians 5:23, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." What seems to be a simple benedic-

tion was captured in Paul's letter on purpose. The Holy Spirit does not waste words and so each one contains meaning. He reveals to us here that our sanctification is for us entirely, "wholly." Our entire being, spirit, mind, and body, is being sanctified. When we ponder sanctification, our spirit is usually what we are concentrating on and rightly so. However, here we learn it is not just the spirit, but our mind and body also are being sanctified!

Here enters my deluge of questions. What does this sanctification look like? How is the knowledge and/or understanding of this sanctification helpful to us this side of heaven? How and why is it accomplished? Where does suffering fit it? Is suffering and sanctification two sides of the same coin? Does what we do or don't do help or hinder this sanctification? Where does piety fit in? How does one part of us affect the others? Questions, questions, and more questions!

My goal over the foreseeable future is to briefly write each month in the newsletter what I've studied, read, and discovered in response to these questions. It's a start!

Pax Christi,

Dcs. Heather Bien

From Grace Cafe

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the first thing I would like to give a Big Thank You to all of the volunteers at Grace Cafe for the last two months and a special Thank you to those volunteers that allowed to go see my brother in Fort Wayne, knowing I didn't have to worry about Grace Cafe was really a big help.

Just because summer vacation is over, I still need strong backs on

Monday for the Food Truck. Frank if feel up to it I would love to have you back, you can help unload or be the "Boss" well maybe "Straw Boss".

In case you are wondering Grace Cafe is doing well. We have been managing to serve about 25 to 30 people, eating at the Cafe; when we add the take outs and seconds we come in at about 45.

-Becky

Getting Around OSELC

Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the fellowship hall

Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

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

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

Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco

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

Make Offerings Electronically—See Brian Hull

Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull

Websites:

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org

Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org



Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

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We're on the Web

www.Oselc.net

Sunday Mornings:

8:00-8:45—Private Confession

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Divine Service

OSELC Staff, Officers, and Volunteers

Pastor Raymond Parent

Deaconess Heather Bien

Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Council Secretary: Trish Hull

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Jeannie Harrison

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Jennifer Currid

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education/Youth: Gervase Anthony

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Becky Williams

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Soup Kitchen Director: Becky Williams

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Coffee with Pastor



Coffee with Pastor

begins with

Matins at 9:00 a.m.

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

Men's Group

August 16

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

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00

Study of

Psalms

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

Birthdays

Michelle Grimes	8/5
Bobbie Parent	8/10
Velma "Bit" Schmoldt	8/12
Deb Haunschild	8/18
Olivia Widener	8/18
Luke Danie	8/21
Ellis Quarrier	8/21
Matthew Parent	8/23

Picture Time!

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



Saturday, August 13 & 27

8 a.m.

See Brian Hull

for details

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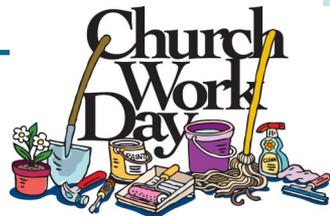
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