



OCTOBER 2022

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

#### **“What do you Lutherans Believe, Anyway?”**

A few days ago someone asked me, “So what is it that you Lutherans believe?” I only had a couple of minutes, and I knew I would probably never see this person again. A question like this cuts out all the extras and invites an often needed clarity. How, dear friends, would you answer a question? What would you say if a stranger gave you five minutes to teach them what we believe, teach and confess?

I'll tell you what I said, “Lutherans see two teachings from God in the Scriptures: the Law and the Gospel.” The law shows us what God requires, and because we do not and cannot keep the law, it ultimately shows us that we are sinners. The Gospel, on the other hand, shows us what God has done for us in Christ, especially in His suffering and death, to win for us the forgiveness of our sins.

This distinction between the Law and the Gospel stands at the heart of everything we believe, teach, preach, pray and do. Martin Luther instructed his students in Wittenberg that it is the foundation of our worship, our church, our lives and our hope. We must then, dear saints, continue to study and learn the difference between law and Gospel. When we read the Scriptures we ask, “Is this passage law or Gospel? Is it telling me what to do (or what I have not done), or is the text telling me what Jesus has done for my salvation?”

We should be asking the same question when we listen to sermons and Bible lessons: “Is this law or is this Gospel?” And even more, as we listen to our daily

conversations, “Am I being told the law or the Gospel?” When we ask this question we find that most of our days are filled with law, instruction, demands, criticisms, etc., and that each of us lives in a barren wilderness in which the Gospel is rarely heard, even among Christians! That which we need to hear the most is that which is least spoken: that Christ Jesus has died for us, has forgiven us, and because of Him we are the beloved of God the Father. This promise of forgiveness for the sake of Jesus is what gives us life, salvation, forgiveness and freedom.

This distinction between the law and the Gospel is the foundation of all that we believe, teach and confess as these excerpts from the Lutheran documents below emphatically express.

*This difference between the Law and the Gospel is the height of knowledge in Christendom. Every person and all persons who assume or glory in the name of Christian should know and be able to state this difference. If this ability is lacking, one cannot tell a Christian from a heathen or a Jew; of such supreme importance is this differentiation. This is why St. Paul so strongly insists on a clean-cut and proper differentiating of these two doctrines.*

[Martin Luther, Sermon On Galatians, 1532]

*As the distinction between the Law and the Gospel is a special brilliant light, which serves to the end that God's Word may be rightly divided, and the Scriptures of the holy prophets and apostles may be properly explained and understood, we must guard it with especial care, in order that these two doctrines may not be mingled with one another, or a law be made out of the Gospel, whereby the merit of Christ is obscured and troubled consciences are robbed of their comfort, which they otherwise have in the holy Gospel when it is preached genuinely and in its purity, and by which they can support themselves in their most grievous trials against the terrors of the Law.*

[The Formula of Concord V: On the Law and the Gospel]

(continued on next page)

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

I hope that the next time you are asked what Lutherans believe, you speak of the Lord's Law and the Gospel, and that you speak of these two teachings even when you're not asked! And even more, that in our own lives we are always sorting out

words of law and Gospel, and we continue to hold and cling to the life giving words of the forgiveness of sins which we hear in the holy and precious Gospel. Amen.



Jocelyn Einarson	October 4
Donna Hoehn	October 5
James Anderson	October 6
Brian Fitzwater	October 7
Evan Kruse	October 9
Harold Brunner	October 11
Allie Wagner	October 15
Dorene Oak	October 19
Ruth Lein	October 23
Laura Petrie	October 24
Blake Dobberstein	October 27
Thomas Lein	October 29
Ellie Sprouls	October 30

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Men's Tuesday morning bible study is every **Tuesday from 8-9am**. Please join us!

### Upcoming EVENTS

- October 2** LWML Sunday
- October 8** LWML Women's Event
- October 15** Fall Festival
- October 25** Bible Bookenders
- November 25** Santa Photos for church members and their families
- November 26** Santa Photos for the public (must pre-register)
- November** Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes
- December 4** CAP Agency Adopt a Senior

### PRESCHOOL OPENING

Holy Cross gave approval for reopening a preschool in 2023 at the voter's meeting. The plan will be for a full-day preschool and include a partnership with Poblo to provide subsidized preschool for immigrant families in our neighborhood. Please contact Michael Hentges for more information.



## MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30 minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

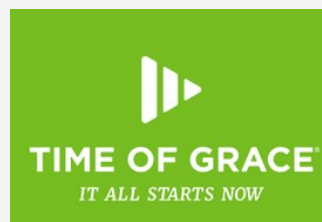
[www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities)

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



A reminder to keep Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child on your mind as you are shopping. That way it's not the last minute rush to pick up items. Who me?!!!! Deadline isn't until **November 14th** but...!

## TIME OF GRACE



Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

Subscribe to **Time of Grace** ([www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org)) resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

**Pastor Mike Novotny**  
The Core, Appleton, WI  
KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am  
[www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org)

## COFFEE TIME



There's nothing like coffee and a treat after worship; it's the Lutheran way!!! A signup is posted in the Commons, so please sign up to help out! Never provided goodies or

made coffee? Talk to Pam with any questions. We ALL enjoy the refreshments, please be a part of putting a smile on everyone's faces!!!

## PRAYER TIME

Join us for prayer at church every **Thursday evening from 7-8 pm**. What a great way to de-stress from your day/week or busy life. There is something special and sacred about praying.... and praying at church is the best. We have the most calming stained glass and the presence of the Holy Spirit is mighty. We can pray anywhere at ANY TIME... but there is something special about setting aside an hour a week to pray at church. May God bless you as you pray at home, at church and throughout your days and weeks. Come join us for all or part of the prayer hour from 7-8 pm every Thursday throughout the fall.



## A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE FOR AN ELECTION YEAR

The year 2022 is crucial for America. Even those who only casually follow politics can identify the high stakes and differing visions that exist for the future of our nation. But what should be the actions and approaches of believers in Jesus Christ during this election season and beyond? After all, aren't we all concerned that God's will be done? I would like us to consider an idea that may get lost in the noise of election-year ads, polls, debates and sound bites.

Certainly, prayer should be an indispensable activity for Christians at such a time as this. Isn't it important to wrestle with the content of our prayers for America to ensure they are Biblical? Are they motivated by the heart of God and His priorities? We do not want the prayer lives of followers of Christ in America to fall in the category of either failing to pray or praying with misguided motives.

Two New Testament prayers give us solid direction not only for what we should pray, but also what to do as a result of the prayer. The first prayer came as a result of local leaders in Jerusalem prohibiting Peter and John from preaching the gospel of Christ. When word reached the church, they responded with a remarkable request in **Acts 4:24b-30**

**“Lord, You are God, Who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.’ For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”**

The ones praying here acknowledge that their leaders and culture are persecuting them, just as they had done

with Jesus. But their request is not for policy change or comfortable treatment. Their priority was the gospel and an open door to be able to keep sharing it. No boycotts, no protests. Just child-like faith that believed God would continue to let them freely proclaim the message they had been called to spread.

The second prayer shows that we don't have to speculate on what Paul's goal was when praying for his government. In **1 Timothy 2:1-4** Paul plainly taught what should be the content of our prayers for leaders: **First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

This isn't just a call to pray for leaders without specificity. The motivation and results are clear. Pray for the salvation of our leaders. Pray for them to grow in knowing God and His will. How will that happen? It must be part of the Church's mission – we need to go to them, not with placards of protest but with spiritual care. Speak the truth of God's Word into their lives in emails, letters on the phone or if possible with face-to-face town-hall meetings. Pray for their hearts to be opened to the gospel. For believing lawmakers, encourage them in their walk not to compromise God's principles found in Scripture.

Do we know who our leaders are at all levels of government? How can we pray for them if we do not? In a representative republic, it's great that we can be a part of the process by voting and contacting leaders with our opinions, but how often do our words to them communicate our concern for their eternal destination? Prayers for leaders are required of God's people. But they must be underpinned with a motivation to see God glorified, not just save our land for our children. The goal must not be just a change in laws, but in the hearts of lawmakers.

## 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

If you or someone you know is in a crisis or emotional distress, call 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline! This free and confidential lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. It is comprised of a national network of more than 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.



## FREE WILL MONEY



**What does free will money buy?** We thank you for donating during Sunday coffee hour. Your giving provides the LWML with more buying power. Coffee, creamers, cups and napkins too. All these we are able to buy for you! Treats and juice our members supply, but for the coffee and stuff on your generosity we rely.

## CONTACT UPDATE

IS YOUR  
CONTACT  
INFORMATION  
CURRENT?



Has your address, phone, or email changed? Have your adult children moved away from home? Check with Megan in the church office and see what we have on file for you and your family, or you can pick up a form to fill out in the commons area. Help us have accurate information in case we or other church members need to contact you.

## THE MASTER GREETER

### Actions that Build a Friendlier Church

Tell people you appreciate them. Compliment often. People like compliments. It makes them feel good about themselves. It makes them feel good about you. Tell them one sincere thing you like about them. Avoid compliments that are superficial or just external. Try to say something about their character. For example: "You are always so friendly," "I appreciate your faithfulness," "I like talking to you," "You are such a good listener". People remember compliments. It makes them want to be in your company again. When people compliment me, I compliment them back by saying, "You're wonderful!" The compliment benefits both of us. It makes both of us feel good.



## THE WRINKLE FREE WOMAN



Save the date for the LWML Fall Women's Event "The Wrinkle Free Woman" on **Saturday, October 8 from 9:30am-1:00pm** at Holy Cross. Rotate through three stations: Be Pampered, Be Spiritually Fed, Be the Hands & Feet of Jesus. Gifts from the Heart will be assembling Laundry kits. Please bring a roll of quarters (\$10) to be included in the kits. Lunch will be served with time for fellowship. Tickets are available to purchase from Pat Harvey.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study series in the back of the sanctuary after worship as we continue the series on the Hard Sayings of Paul. If you have any you are struggling with, come join the bible Study! Feel free to get a cup of coffee first and snack before we start at 10:15 am.

## 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



***A weekday 2-minute devotion that helps you see Jesus at work in your world.***

**Place**

We're helping my son and daughter-in-law set up and beautify their new place this weekend. I'm bringing the tools. My wife's bringing the beauty.

You and I are place people. We can't experience reality outside of place. Body-constrained is our destiny.

Even in the new creation promised when Jesus returns. We'll still be spirit inside of body. Soul encompassed by flesh.

Which is why place is so important to us. Why land is refreshing. Cathedrals are inspiring. Houses become homes.

It's why working remotely and worshipping virtually create existential angst. They unsettle our natural way of knowing reality and experiencing life.

Partly why the author of Hebrews reminds us Jesus is our land. Jesus is our place.

He's the comfy chair in the quiet study by the picture window overlooking rolling hills exploding in shades of green.

Jesus doesn't replace the apartment you live in or the country home you built. He's not calling you to be homeless or get over your desire for a roof over your head.

He's reminding you He anchors all of the places in your life. He secures them when high winds hit.

He makes great places better. He turns suffering places glorious.

Enjoy the place where Jesus has placed you. Enjoy how He's made that place - and you - His.

**Rev. Bill Woolsey**  
President and Founder  
FiveTwo Network

**Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! [www.fivetwo.com/2mm](http://www.fivetwo.com/2mm)**

## SANTA IS COMING!

On **November 25th** we will be holding a free event for church members and their families to visit with Santa and have your picture taken. On November 26th we will have paid sessions with Santa for the general public as well. The real Reason for the Season will be shared with the children. Watch for more information to come!



## FALL BAZAAR



Mt. Hope Lutheran is hosting a fall bazaar on **Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. There will be crafts, vendors, pies, and other baked goods. Proceeds benefit missions here and abroad.

Mt. Hope is located at 3601 W. Old Shakopee Rd. Bloomington.

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, OCTOBER 2022

### “We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn’t it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we’re uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven’t gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don’t like being in someone’s debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we’re not just anyone’s beggars. We’re God’s beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here’s the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn’t because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ’s

death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn’t because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn’t pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ’s sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God’s grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>October 2</b>	<b>LWML SUNDAY</b>	<b>“For Us and With Us”</b>	<i>Romans 8:31-39</i>
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Gideon Sunday</b>	<b>Gideon Ministry Update</b>	
<b>October 16</b>	<b>19th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>“The Cross..the Bedrock of Faith”</b>	<i>Luke:18:1-8</i>
<b>October 23</b>	<b>20th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>“An Honest Self-Evaluation”</b>	<i>Luke 18:9-17</i>
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Reformation Sunday</b>	<b>“Pointing to Jesus”</b>	<i>Matthew 11:12-19</i>

## THE LUTHERAN HOUR



The **Lutheran Hour** can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

### **OCTOBER 2**

#### **"You've Got It in You"**

**Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes**

Faith in Christ is something that's in you, but you didn't put it there. (2 Timothy 1:13-14)

### **OCTOBER 9**

#### **"Thankfulness, Eh?"**

**Guest Speaker: Rev. Cody Cooper**

It's only right to be thankful for what we have and what we are. The question is, to whom are we thankful? (Luke 17:11-19)

### **OCTOBER 16**

#### **"Look at Me"**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

God hears our cry for justice, not as an indifferent judge, but as our merciful heavenly Father. (Luke 18:1-8)

### **OCTOBER 23**

#### **"He Gets Me"**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

It might sound strange to regard God as a friend, and the more fear, awe, and respect you have for God, the stranger it gets. (Luke 18:9-14)

### **OCTOBER 30**

#### **"Give Your Brother a Call"**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

God cares that we relate to Him with childlike faith and relate to others with Christlike love. (Luke 19:1-10)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

SEND  
US YOUR  
PRAYER  
REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request on Sunday, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

## FALL MISSION FESTIVAL



Mark your calendar! Our Fall Mission Festival will be held on **Saturday, October 15th from 5:00-8:00 pm**. The plan is to have international offerings for the meal. If you have an ethnic meal you grew up with that you still make today, talk to Buffy Mobroten. A silent auction will be held and money raised will help support Josie's House of Love and Hope Orphanage/Haiti, Pastor Thomas Bernard's church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School/Haiti and the Holy Cross future Preschool. Tickets will be available at the end of September. As always, they are FREE! More details will be coming!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

We have kicked off Sunday School this year with the oldest class meeting in the Youth Room and studying martyrs for their Christian faith. We started with the definition of a Martyr, with Stephen in the Book of Acts and are now using materials and scripture from Voice of the Martyrs. We have learned about how Christians are treated in other parts of the world and their very lives are in danger for being a Christian and distributing Bibles. We are watching video clips from Voice of the Martyrs on Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand, and their story.

We would like the congregation to join us in praying for the Martyrs around the World. Take a peek in the Youth Room and see the banner and materials we are using. We also have a very beautiful liturgical calendar on the wall available from Concordia Publishing House.

In our opening prayers in our class we use the names of God on one of the posters on the wall, then we look up the Bible verses to see the meaning/context of the name.

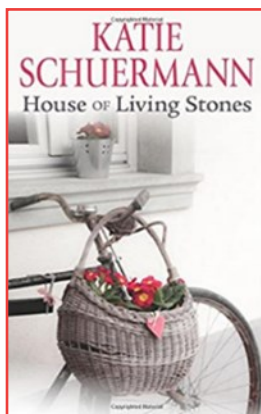
Thank you to parents for your faithfulness in bringing your students to Sunday School. It is truly a blessing to teach the next generation for Christ and The Gospel.

National Day of Prayer for Martyrs worldwide is November 6. We will be taking a freewill offering that day and we'll send the money to Voice of the Martyrs to buy Bibles for restricted and hostile areas of the world.

Thank you for your support for Voice of the Martyrs and for your prayers for our entire Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes, Board of Education and Sunday School teachers and substitute teachers at Holy Cross.

## BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Bible Bookenders will now be meeting on Tuesday evenings instead of Monday evenings. Join us on **Tuesday, October 25th from 7:00-8:30 pm**. We will be discussing Book 2 (and maybe Book 3) of Kathie Schuermann's Series we started last April, House of Living Stones. Book 2 is The Choir Immortal. Book 3 is The Harvest Raise. Books are available through Concordia Publishing, Amazon and the Public Library. Feel free to check with other Bible Bookenders Members if they might have a copy to share.



Our January book is an old classic, Two From Galilee by Marjorie Holmes. Join us at church from 7:00-8:30 pm on Tuesday January 31st. Blessings on your reading of first and foremost God's Word, and the fun books we read and share for Bible Bookenders.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Nowak, Pat Harvey or Michele Lein.

# October 2022

# Holy Cross

A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>2</b> <b>LWML Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	<b>5</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>LWML Women's Event</b>
<b>9</b> <b>18th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion and Gideon's are here 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School Starts	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Fall Festival</b> 12:00 pm Newsletter Article Due
<b>16</b> <b>19th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>19</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>20th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Voter's Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>26</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Reformation Day</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School						
<b>31</b>						