



“FROM THE PASTOR” September and October 2012

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.” Revelation 22:20-21. Jesus says that he is coming soon. And... we wait. We wait... and wait... and wait... and wait some more. Isn’t he coming?

Are we just impatient? Are we eager to rejoin loved ones who have since entered the presence of God with the saints’ triumphant? Are we fed up with the things of this world?

Martin Luther said, “Live as if Jesus died yesterday, rose from the dead this morning, and is coming back tomorrow.” Easter is now a long distant memory that is this year’s Easter celebration. Even the 1st Easter, that glorious day our savior rose, is now almost 2,000 years ago. And we still live in the reality of Easter. Easter means that after we die, we will rise too. Those whose hearts miss loved ones look forward toward the day of the glorious reunion.

Would you do anything differently if you knew a loved one would die tomorrow? Death is does mean that our mortal flesh will die, but as Christians we do live on. Death is not the end for us. Because Jesus rose, he defeated death and it has lost its sting. We will rise too.

Peace to you,
Pastor Ben

Stewardship Devotion

Scripture Reading:

“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

Saint and Sinner

In Psalm 51, David’s great psalm of repentance, confesses, “Against You, You only, have I sinned and what is evil in Your sight” (verse 4). So it is with us. daily. We sin egregiously. There is nothing else for us we are sinners. “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful time my mother conceived me” (verse 5), David declares.



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This is the state of all humankind since the Fall in the Garden of Eden.

Yet our gracious God chooses us to be His own! We cannot understand this. There is nothing we can do to be accepted by God and nothing we can do to receive His salvation. Jesus said, “. . . I told you that no one can come to Me unless the Father has enabled him” (John 6:65).

In spite of our sinfulness, we are called saints. Paul, writing to the Philippians and to the Ephesians as well, greets them, *“To all the saints . . .”* (Philippians 1:1). That’s you! That is I! This concept of saint and sinner is one that Luther grasped and explained. We are sinners in fact, but we are righteous at the same time because Christ has imputed His righteousness to us. By Christ’s blood we are declared righteous and by the work of His Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are daily being sanctified until in Heaven we no longer have this struggle with our sinful nature.

Discussion Thoughts:

1. Read Romans 7:14-20. Is Paul describing the saint or the sinner in this passage?
2. Read Romans 7:21-25. What is Paul’s answer to the question He brings up in this passage?
3. Read Ephesians 1:4. Is Paul writing about the saint or the sinner in this verse?
4. Read Philippians 1:6. Who is the *“He”* of this verse? What does *He* do for us?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 2:24. How does He do this work for us?

Voters Meeting Sun September 9th after church, *please* join us. The **Sunday School Rally** will also be on September 9th, in the church basement, after the voters meeting. Thrivent will provide the meal consisting of hot dogs with all the trimmings. Just come with smiles as we help the kids start a new year of learning more about Jesus.

Sunday School will be starting in Sept 16, if you know a child of Sun School age, that doesn’t have a church, please contact Jason Ling or Pastor Ben. **Sunday Morning Bible Study** will also start September 16th

The yearly **church cleaning** will be Thurs and Fri evening Sept 6 & 7 and finish up on Sat morning September 8th. The cleaning lists are already in the kitchen on a clipboard, if you feel like doing a project on your own.

MISSION SUNDAY is September. 16. We will watch the video courtesy of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, which was not viewed last time due to technical difficulties. We will collect a special door offering to go to Minnesota South District.

LWML Joyshop September. 29 at St. Matthew in Worthington. Registration 8:30am, Opening 9am and concludes at 1pm. The cost is \$12 and does include lunch.

HARVEST DINNER is October. 14, serving 11:00am until 1:00pm. The menu is a ham and meatball dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, raisin sauce, homemade dinner rolls, and assorted desserts. Adults are \$8 and children 5-10 are \$3. Come all!!!

LWML SUNDAY is October. 21. Thank the Lord for the wonderful service of the ladies at Bethel Lutheran Church. This year’s theme is *“Salted to Serve,”* with a message prepared by our Lutheran Church’s president Matthew Harrison.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

September 2 "A Labor of Love" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Christ's life, death, and resurrection were a labor of love for you so that you could love the labor you provide for others in His name. (Ephesians 6:10-13)

September 9 "Overcoming A Sinfully, Critical Heart" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus could have picked us off but instead He picks us up. That kind of love can change a critical heart. (James 2:1-10, 14-18)

September 16 "Revolutionized Relationships" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Lives transformed by Christ find ways to help those who need it. (James 3:16-18)

September 23 "With God, There Is Great, Even Greater Grace" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz God gives great and even greater grace because we need it and only God can provide it. (James 4:5-10)
September 30 "Jesus, I Don't Love You" Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus Jesus said those who are not against Him are for Him, but the opposite is also true: those who are not for Jesus are against Him. (Mark 9:38-40)

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION

June 14-16, 2012

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota

The 2012 district convention started off with an inspiring communion service on Thursday evening. The music and the message were wonderful. The business meeting started on Friday. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, Synod President brought greetings from St. Louis. The Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, President of the Minnesota North District, also brought greetings. Bible Studies were presented by Rev. Dennis Heiden, and Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy. Many elections were held, including the office of District President as Rev. Dr. Lance Seitz retired after serving 21 years. Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy from Woodbury was elected to serve as the new district president. Total voting delegates: 395 (Ordained pastors: 185, Lay Delegates: 210). Total attending the convention: 543

Many resolutions were brought before the floor, the following resolutions were passed.

To Hold a District-Wide Theological Conference on the Doctrine of the Call
"Calls vs. Contracts for Ministers of Religion"

To commend the Roman Catholic Church for its Stand on Religious Freedoms and Defense of the Rights of the Unborn

To Support Marriage Between a Man and a Woman

To Prepare for Clergy Shortage to Congregations

To Forward to Synod Mission and Ministry Emphases for the Next Triennium

To Encourage Study of the Lutheran Confessions in Celebration of the Reformation

To Assist and Encourage Members to Intentionally Speak of Jesus

To Encourage Church Multiplication as a Means of Making New Disciples

To Establish an Operation Barnabas District Counselor and Provide Funding

To Affirm the Goal of Revitalizing 50 Churches in the MNS District by 2017

To Affirm and Expand Campus Ministry in MNS District

To provide \$2 million from the proceeds of the sale toward relocation of University Lutheran Chapel for the sake of continuing its campus ministry

To reduce the purchase price of the Mankato Campus Chapel to \$500,000 for Hosanna Lutheran Church.

Secretary Report from July 8, 2012 Voters Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Jim Obermoller. Gayle Baumgard had the opening devotion. Roll Call was taken and Val Nickel was recognized as new voting member.

Reports

Secretary report was read and approved. Motion made by Brent Wintz and second by Mike Warner.

Treasurer's report was read and approved. Motion made by Marie Rust and second by Leann Warner. We have \$2,080.45 in our savings, Memorial Funds - \$661.07 and \$1,096.92 in our checking. Church insurance has gone up.

Trustees report was given. All work has been completed except the ceiling in the tower.

Elders report was given. The question was brought up if we should have an Estate Planning meeting with several churches to have more attending. Gifting to the church would be discussed. Sign up sheet in back of church.

Youth non given.

Mission Sunday will be September 16th. If you have any ideas let the pastor or elders know.

Church cleaning will be held in September. It was suggested to go with two half days or a couple of nights. Ladies Aid will set the date and we will discuss at the next voters meeting.

Gayle Baumgard and Randy Wilson gave a report on the Minnesota South District Convention. See the September October Bethel Light for complete report.

Vacation Bible School was held with Presbyterians and Indian Lake Baptist church this year. There were 77 children in attendance. Bethel had 6, Presbyterians 17 and Indian Lake 32. Our cost was \$132.00, last year it was around \$300.00. It was very much a success.

Jason Ling will be leading Sunday School again this year. He will work with the Pastor on getting material. We have \$145.00 in a Savings Account for the Sunday School on a motion by Jim Obermoller and second by Sandy Obermoller we will move the money to the church checking account.

Summer Retreat will be held on August 25th with a program and breakfast in the park.

Question was brought up if we should have Bruce Manzer back for the second session. It was recommended to keep it in mind and that there was no need to have him now.

Buddy and Sylvia Richter requested a transfer to Brewster Lutheran Church. Motion by Court and second by Sandy to approve the transfer.

Motion by Al Nickel and second by Mike Warner to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lords Prayer.

Janice Schuck, Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

2 – Lance Dean
5 – Clifford Huehn
6 – Richard Mielke
6 – Evelyn Froderman
7 – Jodi Lambert
7 – Trevor Wintz
11 – Nicholas Ober
15 – Leona Onken
16 – Mina Mohns
17 – Heather Bucholz
23 – Olga Jacobsen
25 – Mariah Feehan

OCTOBER

26 – Vicki Wending
28 – Wayne Ling
28 – Eric Ling
28 – Taylor Ahrenstorff
21 – Anthony Johnson
25 – Marlene Bucholz
10 – Chris Bah
14 – Calah Ling
17 – Char Wintz – Trisha Schieck
18 – Dale Koster

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

1 – Paul Soulek
11 – Kelsey Ling
12 – William Meyer
12 – Janice Schuck
20 – Thomas Cunningham
22 – Michael Bah
23 – Gladys Fricke
24 – Eulalia Manitz
30 – Courtland Baumgard
Cynthia Ahrenstorff

READERS & GREETERS

SEPTEMBER

1 – Don & Sharon Onken
9th – Glenn and Janice Schuck
16th – Brian and Carmen Johnson
September 23rd – Court and Gayle Baumgard
September 30th – Rev. Marv and Lynn Soulek

OCTOBER

7th – Brent and Charlene Wintz
14th – Mike and Amy Bah
21st – Mike and Leann Warner
28th – Glenn and Janice Schuck

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

SEPTEMBER – 2 Jim Obermoller-Jason Ling
16 Court Baumgard-Dennis Bucholz
30 Randy Wilson-Jim Obermoller

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

OCTOBER – 7 Jason Ling – Court Baumgard - 21 – Dennis Bucholz & Randy Wilson
28 – Reformation Sunday – Jim Obermoller and Jason Ling

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER

2 - Rev. Ben & Larissa Rucker
3 – Brian & Carmen Johnson
8 – Wayne and Tammy Ling
9 – Michael & Amy Bah
9 – Kevin & Jamie Buntjer
12 – Paul & Miriam Cunningham
17 – Brent & Charlene Wintz
25 – Larry & Connie Schieck
29 – Clifford & Lorriane Huehn

OCTOBER

4 – Randy & Mary Wilson

OCTOBER

Lance Dean
Shari Dean
5 – Glenn Schuck
10 – Mark Obermoller
13 – Jodi Schurr
16 – Ella Gulden
23 – Leona Onken
26 – Scott Arneson
27 – Mina Mohns
29 – Taylor Ahrenstorff

ACOLYTE

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

ELDER

SEPTEMBER – Dennis Bucholz

OCTOBER – Jason Ling

Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day,
we celebrate the work we do,
and we thank You for the blessing of our jobs.
We ask for those seeking employment that
You guide them in their search for work.

We ask for guidance when we are confused.
We ask for patience when working through conflicts.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.

We ask that You be with those whose faces
we might never see but who work tirelessly
each day for the good of us all. ~ Courtesy of mamarocks.com



DRIVE SAFELY