



St. Paul's Epistle

F e b r u a r y 2 0 2 4

Church Council Minutes—January 11, 2024

Those in attendance– Pastor Quast, Tim Anderon, Leonard Morrison, Neil Manninen, Richard Christie, Leanna Hasbargen and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order.

The opening devotion was given by Pastor Quast on the topic, “ Celebrating the Saints”.

The Minutes and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved. It was noted that funds were used for soffit and fascia supplies for the roof.

Briefs: 1) Roof update was discussed. 2) Joint Parish Council met on January 9, 2024. 3) Election of Officers for 2024 was held on December 17, 2023 and Installation took place on January 7, 2024. 4) Annual Meeting will be held on January 28, 2024. 5) A discussion was held on opening a CD with Border Bank with favorable interest rates, but we will need to pay our bill for roof labor before this is pursued. 6) Pastor Quast will inquire if there is interest in holding soup suppers prior to our Wednesday Lent services.

Membership changes: Baptism of Hannah Lucek, daughter of Brett and Nikki Lucek on December 17, 2023.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary



Ash Wednesday—February 14, 2024: 5 p.m. Worship at St. Paul Lutheran

7 p.m. Worship at Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances

Wednesday, February 21, 2024: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship at Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances

Wednesday, February 28, 2024: 7 p.m. Lenten Worship at St. Paul Lutheran, International Falls

If Soup Suppers will be held at 6:15 p.m. prior to the Lenten services, it will be posted in Sunday bulletins.

Valentine Bake Sale

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Sponsored by our LWML group

Freewill offering

Donations of bake goods toward the sale are gladly accepted!

St. Paul's Epistle



Sunday School News

Our Sunday School is back in full swing after Christmas break and we are starting a new unit with the emphasis on God creating the world and the major prophets of the Old Testament. We have a new Memory Work sheet available for all kids.

There is NO Sunday School on Sunday, February 18th.

We will be singing at the Easter worship service. The email with Pastor leading the song is available for the kids to watch at home and practice. Please submit your email to the church office and the link will be forwarded to you.

Lenten Hygiene Kit Collection

We will once again be collecting items for the Lutheran World Relief Hygiene kits!

Our schedule is as follows-

Week 1—February 18: Bars of soap

Week 2– February 25: Toothbrushes

Week 3– March 3: Sturdy Combs

Week 4—March 10: Nail Clippers

Week 5– March 18: Dark colored, lightweight towels

Week 6– March 25: Bars of soap

We will be packing the kits after Easter, watch your bulletin for more details!



A special happy birthday is wished to these members celebrating in February!

4th: Arlo Lucek

8th: Ken Leerssen

9th: Stephanie Morrison

11th: Michelle Hopkins

19th: Kathy Gorden, Bev Moorhead, Louie Swenson

20th: Marc Gorden and Dave Wright

21st: Jean Houska

22nd: George Aitchison & Paige Wold

23rd: Amy Morrison

25th: Rita Anderson

26th: Roberta Christie

From the Pastor.....

Greetings, People Loved by God, in the name of our Saviour, Jesus!

Beloved, last year we began an examination of Luther's Small Catechism. We have delved deeply into the Lord's Word concerning the Ten Commandments. This great summary of God's holy Law by which He teaches us how to rightly love Him and our neighbor. This year we will continue our examination of the Catechism with a look at the Apostles' Creed. That wonderful, yet simple, confession of faith shared by the church throughout time and in all places. A creed that can guide us in our conversations with people about what it is that we believe as Christians.

So let's begin by first asking the question, "What is a creed?" The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" meaning "I believe." Simply stated, a creed is a statement of what we believe, teach, and confess. As Paul writes to the Romans (10:10), "It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." We Christians, who read and listen to God's Word—say back to Him what He has told us in His Word. We confess what He says as true and right before the world. For as His Word is truth we are bound to uphold it and believe it *AND* confess it—publicly! The Creeds help us do that.

There are three ecumenical or universal creeds held by the western church: Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian. We regularly confess the Apostles' and Nicene creeds in our daily devotions and weekly divine services. The Athanasian, which is longer and less well-known, we normally reserve for confessing on the celebration of Holy Trinity Sunday. ALL of these creeds are worthy of in-depth study as they teach us Scriptural truths. They clearly confess the plain teachings of God as found in Scripture. They are also Trinitarian in nature: confess that there is but One God in three divine persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But as Luther's Small Catechism focuses upon the Apostles' Creed, then that is where our focus will be in the coming months.

How does the Apostles' Creed begin? "I believe in God..." So, there is a profound statement of belief in God and trusting in His Word and promises right from the outset. As the Psalmist declares (31:14), "I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.'" This trust and faith is personal - "I believe" - not "We believe." For everyone must believe, individually, as the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) teaches us so clearly.

Before we dive in too deeply, let us first consider how our triune God has made Himself known to us. First, God reveals Himself through the very existence of the world (the natural knowledge of God). We can see by the very design of everything in existence around us that there *MUST* be a powerful, intelligent, orderly Designer behind everything. Again, as the Psalmist declares (19:1), "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies declare the work of His hands."

Continued on next page....

...Continued from previous page

Secondly, God reveals Himself to individual human beings through the conscience (another aspect of the natural knowledge of God). We know that human beings largely have an innate sense of right/wrong—we are moral beings. The fact that there are moral laws that people instinctively know and are urged to obey, lest they wound their own conscience, is indicative of a supreme Moral Law Giver—God. St. Paul in Romans 2:15 says, “They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.” Of course, you know that due to our inherited sinful nature from Adam, the law written on our hearts—and even our consciences—often fall short. For we are good at ignoring these things to our detriment—so that we can pursue what WE want to do.

This is why God has fully revealed Himself to us through the Holy Scriptures—which is the ONLY place that we hear of Christ and His salvation (revealed knowledge of God—the third and final place God reveals Himself to us). St. John concludes his Gospel with these words (20:31), “These [acts of Jesus] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

Therefore, beloved, since we begin the Creeds with a confession of what we believe about God, then it behooves us to ask the question, “Who is God?” We learn a lot about God from the Scriptures. Some of the more important characteristics of God include that He is: spirit (a personal being without a body); eternal (without beginning and without end); unchangeable (immutable); almighty (omnipotent); present everywhere (omnipresent); holy (sinless and hating sin); just (fair and impartial); faithful (keeping His promises); good (kind, desiring our welfare); merciful (full of pity); gracious (showing undeserved kindness and forgiveness); and finally, God is love. Of course, since God is God, He is each of these, all of these, and more than these.

The Scriptures teach us that there is but one God—the triune God of the Holy Trinity. That He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct persons in one divine being. What a wondrous and profound mystery! The Father has begotten the Son from eternity; the Son is begotten of the Father from eternity; and the Holy Spirit from eternity proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Father is especially ascribed the work of creation; the Son, the work of redemption; and the Holy Spirit, the work of sanctification. There is much here for our consideration. Next time we will explore the first article of the Creed concerning God the Father.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me (cell – 218.324.1948). I pray for you all, daily. May God's grace be upon you, now and always.

Yours In Christ,
Rev. J. Quast