



November 2020



St. Paul's Epistle

Church Council Minutes ~ October 1, 2020

Those in attendance: Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, Kyle Morrison, Ken Leerssen, Leanna Hasbargen, Leonard Morrison and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Quast on the topic: "Abortion— God's View".

The minutes and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) Discussion on how service's have been going since reopening church. It was noted that attendance has slowly been increasing. 2) Tops All Roofing will be inspecting the church roof to see if it needs minor repairs before winter. 3) Thank you to Richard and Roberta Christie for scraping and painting outside church windows. 4) The church service will be pre recorded for October 11th. 5) 41 Hygiene kits were packed for Lutheran World Relief. They need to be transported to the warehouse in St. Paul. 6) Pastor Appreciation Sunday will be observed October 25th. 7) Operation Christmas Child will begin late October. Boxes need to be returned to the church by November 15th for shipping. 8) The LWML will be recognized during worship on October 4th. 9) Snowshoveling and plowing services will be set up for this winter. 10) Church council will meet in November to discuss officer positions for 2021. 11) An update from the security committee was presented by Kyle Morrison. 12) Pastor Quast gave an update from Steve Koenig who is building the new baptismal font.

Membership changes:

Released by own request: Sharon Sandstrom to Good Samaritan Lutheran, Las Vegas, NV.

Baptisms: 1. Arlo Lucek, son of Brett and Nikki Lucek, on July 7, 2020.

2. Orville Larson on August 13, 2020.

Leanna Hasbargen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kyle Morrison. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary



Don't forget to set your clock BACK one hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st and check the batteries in your smoke detector!

For the most current information on whether worship services are being held on Sunday mornings, please call the church at 283-8642 and listen for the message, check our website at www.stpaulifalls.com or check our Facebook page: st paul lutheran church/the church of the lutheran hour.



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We are once again participating in **Operation Christmas Child**. The shoeboxes are available in the narthex. Please take a brochure which lists gift ideas and an envelope for your \$9 shipping donation. Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 15th for distribution. Thank you for your generosity toward children in need throughout the world!

The joy of weeping at All Saints

All Saints Day has become an increasingly popular observance in the Missouri Synod. In our circles it is not a day to remember martyrs and heroes of the faith, since they already have their special days. Rather, it is a day to remember instead all of those who have passed on with the sign of faith whose lives and deaths were mostly ordinary, but who are nonetheless important to us. In my congregation, people bring Kleenex. They expect to cry. Their expectations seem always to be met.

The hymns we sing on that day always get to people. Who could not be moved by the soaring music and profound texts of “For All the Saints” (*Lutheran Service Book* 677), “Behold a Host” (*LSB* 676) and “Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart” (*LSB* 708)?

Those great hymns do more, though, than lift our spirits. They boldly confess the reason for the hope that is in us (1 Pet. 3:15): the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, delivered to His people in Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. The people in the pews do not cry simply because they miss their loved ones. They cry also for joy that they will see them again, that they are already united to them in Christ and that what He has done for them He will do also for those who now grieve for them. The Church Triumphant certainly contains many great and famous men and women who lived extraordinary lives and died with honor rather than deny Christ, but the Church Triumphant is also filled with quiet saints, some even known, loved and missed by us. Simply because they are not noticed much here does not mean that they are not noticed much in heaven or that we should go along with the crowd that does not know them. The fact that they matter to us, that there are specific persons in that number that we remember and are eager to see again, also matters to God. Thus we rejoice that, while we weep, every tear has been removed from their eyes. And we weep in joy as well that soon the tears will also be removed from our eyes.

The Rev. David H. Petersen is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

In our congregation, we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who have passed away during the last year: Fred Anderson, Marlo Mellum, Al Baquist and Norma Blake.



November Birthdays

2nd: Holly Wold
3rd: Liam Quast
11th: Sue Frank
19th: Shirley Schmidt
21st: Steve Rutkowsky & Karl Spilde
25th: Jed Swenson
26th: Brent Bacon
27th: Cindy Story



A MIGHTY FORTRESS

Dear Friends in Christ;

A Mighty Fortress has been called the Battle Hymn of the Reformation. Martin Luther, inspired by the words of Psalm 46 penned the words of this hymn.

1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling....

For over 300 years, Europe had dealt with the recurrences of the bubonic plague. In the 14th century, it is believed to have taken the lives of 60% of the European population. In the summer of 1527, this plague came to Wittenberg. Most of the professors of the University fled with their families to escape this horrible plague. Martin Luther remained in Wittenberg because he felt that God had called him to such a time and place to minister to those who were suffering from the plague. Two of Luther's brothers died in the pandemic. Even though Martin Luther's wife was pregnant, he turned their home into a hospital to care for the sick and the dying. Luther, writing to others said, "If you truly love your neighbor, you would self-quarantine to stop the spread of the disease." Living in this "devil filled world" Martin Luther struggled with depression all of his life. He found great comfort in these words from Psalm 46. He had learned that he could not lift himself out of this pit of despair. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."

We have been dealing with COVID-19 now for several months in the United States. Recently, the president of the United States was hospitalized for COVID-19. In an address to the public after his release from the Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, he told the American public to not be afraid. He had found confidence in the treatment of the virus and his recovery. But families have been devastated at the loss of life from this virus too. People with co-morbidities are fearful of getting this virus. Our hope is not in this world, but in the One who created heaven and earth. God is our refuge and strength. He tells us – do not be afraid. Even though everything around us seems to be falling apart. As Martin Luther wrote –

“Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us, We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us. This worlds prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

That little word, is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus, the Son of God. Fear Not! God is our refuge and strength.

In His Service, ***Rev. Jeffrey A. Lee***

Mission and Ministry Facilitator Missions and Congregational Outreach

LCEF District Vice President

LWML News

Our next LWML meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the church conference room. At our October meeting, it was decided we will NOT be holding our annual Cookie Walk and Luncheon in December.





The Minnesota North Branch of Orphan Grain Train has sent one semi-load of potatoes from a supplier/donor near Long Prairie. The load of 46200 lbs of potatoes have been shipped to Ysleta Mission at El Paso, TX. Distribution is done at the Mission for those in need through churches in Texas and Mexico. Ysleta

Mission helps feed the hungry, nurtures their ministries, and educated the leaders in 11 affiliated mission sites in El Paso and northern Mexico. During the pandemic, the need is greater than ever. The cost for this load of potatoes was \$2,310. and shipping costs will be about \$3,450.00. Please prayerfully consider a donation for these costs. Your gift is greatly appreciated and can be sent to: Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 61, Morris, MN 56267. Make check payable to Orphan Grain Train and indicate shipping on memo line.

Thanksgiving Day Litany and Grace

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time; You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. For the gift of this day and the opportunity to give You praise: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

For the love and warmth of family and friends, both those gathered here and those gathered elsewhere, and most of all for those gathered to the Eternal Home: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

For the good gift of children and grandchildren to nurture in Your love and fear; for the blessing of hearth and home: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

For the joyful noise of infants cooing and children at play and for the honor of serving them, knowing they are beloved by You: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

For the food You so graciously provide us and for the joy of feasting and playing together: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

For the sufferings You are pleased to send us, for they purify us from selfishness and remind us of the one thing needful, Your eternal kingdom: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

And finally for those things for which we are most thankful: the sweet comfort of Your Gospel, the forgiveness of all our sins by the blood of our Lord Jesus, the promise of our resurrection to eternal life; for the joyful companionship afforded by the Church; for Your Word that is a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for the gifts of Baptism and the Eucharist; for our pastors and everyone who faithfully serve to us Your best and highest gifts: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices.

Who from our mother's arms

Hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love

And still is ours today.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held if enough interest is shown.
Please sign up at church or call the church office if interested.**



A Message from Pastor Quast.....

Greetings, beloved of the Lord, in Jesus' name!

November is upon us at last—and with it comes much uncertainty: ongoing pandemic around the world, a country ravaged by natural disasters (hurricanes, fires, etc.), continuing civil unrest, as well as the Presidential election in our country. How are we, as Christians, supposed to cope with these very stressful situations? In whom do we trust when all things grow dark? "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock" (Isaiah 26:4). Furthermore, St. Paul encourages us in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As one of our great Lutheran hymns puts it so beautifully (LSB 713—From God Can Nothing Move Me) in stanza 1, "From God can nothing move me; He will not step aside but gently will reprove me and be my constant guide. He stretches out His hand in evening and in morning, my life with grace adorning wherever I may stand." Dear friends, no matter the result of the election—no matter how long the pandemic rages on—no matter the disasters that come upon us—or even the civil distress in our country—ONE thing IS certain—God's love for you in Christ Jesus. God will not let anything remove you from His grasp. His grace for you in Jesus is steadfast and immovable—you belong to Him—and He will never forsake you.

As Stanza 2 continues, "When those whom I regarded as trustworthy and sure have long from me departed, God's grace shall still endure. He rescues me from sin and breaks the chains that bind me. I leave death's fear behind me; His peace I have within." What incredible good news! Though all those we trust in may depart—may even turn out to be false—or to give bad advice: be they politicians, health care professionals, friends, family, or anyone else—God remains true. He has rescued you from sin through the blood of His Son, Jesus. Therefore, none of these other things have any lasting consequences for those who are in Christ. What is the worst that can happen? You may lose your goods, house, family—even your health and life—yet you have peace within. For the God who triumphed over your sin and the grave promises you His life and salvation for all eternity.

Stanza 4 ends with a note of our response to God's good gifts, "Each day at His good pleasure God's gracious will is done. He sent His greatest treasure in Jesus Christ, His Son. He ev'ry gift imparts. The bread of earth and heaven are by His kindness given. Praise Him with thankful hearts!" Indeed, for all that the Lord so graciously lavishes upon us in Christ Jesus, it is our great joy and privilege to praise the One, True God with thankful hearts. No matter what happens in this life and world, God promises to care for us. His ultimate will is to break and hinder every evil plan of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. Jesus has come and forever destroyed the power of sin, death, and hell by His own suffering, death, and resurrection! God's will is done! You are saved—by His grace—through faith in His beloved Son! What joy! What peace! What a treasure we have been freely given.

Though there are yet more stanzas to this hymn (and I encourage you to open up your hymnal and pray through this entire hymn whenever you are fearful or in distress), stanza 6 exhorts us to extreme confidence in God's good provision and care. "Yet even though I suffer the world's unpleasantness, and though the days grow rougher and bring me great distress, that day of bliss divine, which knows no end or measure, and Christ who is my pleasure, forever shall be mine." Because the Lord God has promised to be your Savior and Lord, no matter the terrible days you may endure here in this broken, sin-filled world, yet by grace you fix your eyes on Jesus—you keep your eyes on the prize—remembering that the day of bliss in heavenly glory already belongs to you. It is yours through faith in Christ Jesus alone. His blood has purchased your entry into heaven—and no distress—no upheaval of any kind—can ever remove you from His hand. As Jesus says so simply (John 10:27-28), "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." Therefore we, along with St. Paul (Romans 8:18), "consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us." For that glory is the glory of Jesus—the glory of joy, peace, and everlasting life. And it is already yours! Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

God's peace be with you all.