



St. Paul's Epistle

October 2021

Church Council Minutes ~ September 9, 2021

Those in attendance—Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, George Aitchison, Leonard Morrison, Leanna Hasbargen and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. The opening devotion was led by Pastor Quast on the topic, "Hate: A Crippling Disease". There were no additions to the agenda.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed.

Briefs: 1) The Elder's studied the Fourth Commandment. 2) There was some water found in the basement; it was vacuumed up and the dehumidifier was started. 3) Pastor discussed upcoming events with Adult Instruction, Bible Study and Youth Catechism. 4) Handouts of Roof Options with new rafters were distributed and discussed. One of the plans was picked and an estimate will be gotten on Option B. Once this estimate is received, all options will be presented to the congregation. 5) The church garage sale was a success due to many volunteers. 6) An art print of Rainy Lake and a Menards gift card were presented to Steve Koenig in appreciation for his work on the baptismal font. 7) It was decided to donate \$200.00 to Northern Options for Women for their Annual Walk for Life. 8) Sunday School was discussed and it's hoped that it can start in October. Volunteers will be needed. 9. Next Quarterly Meeting will take place on October 17th with a potluck meal to follow. A sign up sheet will be posted. 10. A Memorial Service will be held on October 31 coinciding with All Saints Day. There will be a potluck meal following. 11) Pastor Quast is looking into having someone from the District talk to the congregation regarding planned giving. 12) Pastor Lutz would like to visit the congregation sometime in October for a Lutheran Heritage fundraiser. He is planning to travel to South Sudan in November.

There were no membership changes.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary

Quarterly Meeting, Potluck and Pastor Appreciation Sunday

October 17, 2021

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to sign up for food and how you can help with serving and cleaning up after!

All Saint Memorial Service—October 31, 2021

A potluck will follow, watch for sign up sheets!



Sunday School

We'd like to start up our Sunday School by the end of October, but people are needed to make this happen. The classes would run for 45 minutes on Sunday mornings starting at 10 a.m. and consist of an Opening, a Bible Lesson, then either a craft, a science experiment, or maybe a puppet show, etc., and a snack. The classes are fun for the students and teachers! Please contact Pastor Quast or the church office if you can spare a Sunday morning once every month or so. We'll be studying well known stories from the New Testament. The classes are open to children ages 4 and up.

Reformation History

Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 theses on the church door is often noted as the pivotal point in the Reformation. The timing and place of Luther's post was significant—Halloween, October 31st, 1517, on the Castle Church in Wittenburg. Like the Pantheon centuries earlier, the Castle Church held a large collection of supposed relics (the largest outside Rome). Pieces of bone from saints, locks of hair from martyrs, a piece of true cross, a twig from Moses' burning bush, bread from the Last Supper, a veil sprinkled with Christ's blood—all were venerated and held in holy awe. The relics were kept in special reliquaries, ornamented with gold, silver, and precious stones. They were exhibited on All Saints Day. By 1518, 17, 443 pieces were on display in twelve aisles! The church taught that paying a special fee and viewing the relics would shorten a soul's stay in purgatory by 1,902,202 years and 270 days!



This was one teaching Luther challenged in his 95 theses. On Halloween, the day before All Saints Day when the relics would be specially exhibited, Luther nailed his theses on the church door, challenging scholars to debate the virtue of indulgences, the church's teaching that by certain works a person could hasten his entrance to heaven. Luther publicly professed the free and gratuitous remission of sin, not by relics, papal pardons, or indulgences, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

LWML and LUTHERAN HERITAGE SUNDAY

October 2, 2021

We will be recognizing the important role the LWML makes in our congregation and around the world. Pastor Bernie Lutz will be in attendance to give an update on the work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, and there will be a special offering for the LHF.

October Birthdays

Happy birthday to these members celebrating in October!

October 3: Dana Bacon

21st: Erlene Gorder

5th: Heather Kuryla

24th: Alice Morrison

6th: Dan Johnson

13th: Nikki Lucek

19th: Ryan Christie

20th: Mary Bacon and Leonard Morrison



A Letter From Pastor Quast



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

Beloved, the author of Ecclesiastes writes these famous words (3:1), "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." As Summer fades into Fall, we can visibly see the changing of the earthly seasons: tree foliage changes to brilliant colors, the temperatures begin to cool, and the sun doesn't seem to hang in the sky for quite as long, etc. We were blessed with a beautiful Summer this past year, and I pray that most of you were able to take advantage of it, and enjoy God's good gift of creation.

However, even with all the changes that have taken place in our lives in recent months (especially the past year with COVID), one thing ought not ever change: the time that we take to worship. Perhaps this is true for us even more so in this constantly changing world in which we live. It is comforting to have a place to worship—to have a God who does not change. As Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Indeed, His love for you never changes. His devotion to you never wavers. His promises never falter. His Word of Truth remains unchanged—and unchanging—throughout all generations.

And Christ's Word to you is one of peace and comfort. One that declares you to be forgiven by His shed blood on the cross. One that bespeaks you righteous, no matter what the devil whispers in your ear, or how your broken conscience pains you. You are redeemed by the Great Redeemer! You are washed in His healing water of Holy Baptism! You are fed and nourished by His own body and blood in the Holy Supper! What joy! What grace and mercy!

How, then, can we not gather to worship our Lord Jesus and receive His gifts? Let us use this time of seasonal change to get back into the regular season of worshiping in the Lord's House—of partaking of His Word and Sacraments with joy and thanksgiving—of enjoying great fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Beloved, there is nothing to fear for those who are in Christ. For we have the promised assurance of everlasting life and salvation, which has been signed, sealed, and delivered to us in the blood of Jesus Himself.

I know that we have suffered this past year and a half with the loss of many of our congregational family. The Lord has called them home, but for so many of us, it has seemed to be surreal, as we were often unable to gather together as the whole congregation to say our farewells and to lay our loved ones to rest. Therefore, the last Sunday in October—October 31—will NOT be celebrated as Reformation Day this year, but rather as November 1—All Saints' Day.

Our worship that Sunday morning will be focused on all those whom we have lost throughout the long months of COVID. We will sing, we will remember, we will rejoice in God's gift of faith given to each and every one of them. And then we will gather after worship for a potluck meal to share a time of fellowship with one another. Let this be a time of weeping, crying, and laughing, as we share our memories with one another of those whom we have lost. I encourage each of you to come to this service—to remember—to mourn—and to rejoice.

For, dear friends in Christ, we can do no better than what the Psalmist teaches us (Psalm 95:1-7):

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

It is my hope and prayer that I will see all of you soon in worship, so that we may lift up our voices together in songs of praise to our great God and King. 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

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, International Falls, Minnesota

Pastor, The Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances, Ontario



A letter from MN North District President Donald Fondow ~

As some of you know, the soul of my mother was taken to be with the Lord on August 24th at the age of 100, to await the Day of the Lord. Thank you for the cards, emails, and kind words of comfort. For the past ten years my mother has been in a nursing home. In the last few years, she has said that she was wearing out and she didn't think she would be here the next time I came to visit. She longed to go home to heaven. Home is not only where your heart is, but also where your head is, and your hope. Heaven is now her home!

Every person in a sense, is born to die, everyone alive today must one day die unless the Lord returns first. He alone was the only one ever who was born for the purpose of dying. Jesus was born into the world to do the Father's will. It was the Father's will that Jesus should die in mankind's place and bear the guilt and punishment of all people. He came because God did not want to see people die.

As created by the Father, human beings were born to live. They were born to live in oneness of heart and mind with God, to live eternally in whatever place or manner God determined. Death was not a natural part of life. Death accompanied sin into the world. The reality of death does not contradict the fact that God created people to live. It does bear witness that people sinned against God and need the salvation God has provided in Christ Jesus.

By the revelation of God through faith in Christ we know that our physical lives are God's gifts to us. The Father creates us, and we are fearfully and wonderfully made. In Him we live and move and have our being. He gives life and breath to every creature on the face of the earth. Through faith in Christ, we know we will live eternally. We know God's unfailing promise that whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life. By faith we know that when God ends our time of grace here, He will take us to be with Him in glory. When we die, we do not cease to exist, nor are we destined for some unknown fate, nor will we suddenly find ourselves in the confines of hell. When Jesus said to the penitent and believing thief, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise," (Luke 23:43), He was telling him the truth. By faith we, too, trust that truth and say with the Apostle Paul, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54). By faith we know that we are alive forever with Christ.

To know that we are alive forever through Christ is not a fanciful dream or psychological crutch we Christians use to deal with death. It is a Spirit-wrought certainty that leads us to live for Him. We want all we do to praise His name. We don't want anything we do to reflect poorly on Jesus. We want our earthly lives to be a continuing testimony that we have the gift of eternal life. This was the faith my mother lived out and died with, a life and faith that now says: "Surely goodness and mercy followed me all the days of my and I now dwell in the house of the Lord forever. She trusted in Jesus' promise: "In My Father's house are many mansions...I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you home with Me so that you will be where I am" (John 14:2-3).



May the Lord give us a steadfast faith that persistently clings to His words of promise, so that we may, at the end, live forever with Him in heaven.

~ President Don Fondow