



September 2020



St. Paul's Epistle

From Pastor Quast.....

Greetings, beloved of the Lord, in Jesus' name! The year 2020 marches on (some of us may be praying wholeheartedly for it to end sooner rather than later!) and we continue to struggle with the hardships that this life can bring. As a nation we are struggling to find our way in the midst of a pandemic to care for our neighbor, as well as worrying about what might happen in the November elections. We worry about sickness, finances, politics, etc., etc. Indeed, the list could go on.

At such times in our lives, we are exhorted in Scripture to turn to the Lord in prayer. St. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "pray without ceasing..." Sometimes, however, we find ourselves in such distress that we find praying difficult. What do we say? Words often escape us. In these situations, our Lutheran Service Book hymnal can be a tremendous resource. Not only are there many prayers that have been written down for us, serving a variety of circumstances and needs (p.305-318), but many of the psalms are found inside, as well as our many hymns, which are simply prayers set to music.

One such hymn that is particularly helpful to our current time in dealing with turbulent situations is Martin Luther's beautiful hymn *In the Very Midst of Life* (LSB 755 St.1):

In the very midst of life Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife Lest the foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
We mourn that we have greatly erred, That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
Holy and righteous God! Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

This stanza serves to strengthen us when we are assaulted by the devil, our own sin, and even the prospect of death. From whom do we seek help and aid? **Thou only, Lord, Thou only!** We look to Christ Jesus and trust in Him who is holy and mighty—the merciful God who has saved us from the bitter pangs of death with His own death and resurrection. This brings to mind the comforting words of 2 Corinthians 1:9-10, "Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will deliver us again."

The second stanza of this great hymn continues this theme of rescue from death:

In the very midst of death's dark vale Pow'rs of hell o'ertake us.
Who will help when they assail, Who secure will make us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
Thy heart is moved with tenderness, Pities us in our distress.
Holy and righteous God! Holy and Mighty God!
Holy and all merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God!
Save us from the terror Of the fiery pit of hell.
Have mercy, O Lord!

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Again, when faced with all the might of the old satanic foe in this valley of death—when we are assailed on every side by sin, death, and the devil be it from pandemics, our own sins, or anything else, to whom do we look? **Thou only, Lord, Thou only!** As St. Paul wrote in Romans 14:7-8, "For none of lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." You belong to the Lord! The devil cannot take you! You have been baptized into the holy name of God, washed in the water with the Word, and now the devil has no claim on you—nor does death. For your sins have been washed away. In pity, the Lord has looked upon you and sent His Son to suffer and die for you. So, now, heaven is your home.

In his third and final stanza of this hymn, Luther writes:

In the midst of utter woe When our sins oppress us,
Where shall we for refuge go, Where for grace to bless us?
To Thee, Lord Jesus, only!
Thy precious blood was shed to win Full atonement for our sin.
Holy and righteous God! Holy and Mighty God!
Holy and all merciful Savior! Eternal Lord God!
Lord, preserve and keep us In the peace that faith can give.
Have mercy, O Lord!

When we find ourselves in the midst of deepest woe and despair—when our sins grieve our hearts and burn our consciences—where do we go? To whom do we flee for grace—for peace—for mercy? **To Thee, Lord Jesus, only!** Jesus has won your salvation and forgiveness for all of your sins. Your sins need not alarm you for they have been paid in full with the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. You have been set free! His precious blood has made complete atonement for your sin—no matter how big or how small—Jesus' blood covers it all. And He promises to give you His Spirit of grace and truth to point you to His Word and keep you strong in the one true faith unto life everlasting. For we confess along with St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:53-54, "For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"

Indeed, death has been swallowed up in victory by the Lord of Life. So, what have you to fear, dear Christian? None can harm you. None can take your salvation from you. For you look to Christ Jesus alone for your every good and comfort. And He does not disappoint. Therefore, be of good cheer, and be encouraged in your faith through the use of our hymnal. Take it up in prayer—and be comforted through the blessed Word of Jesus that drives off the devil, and grants comfort and peace to sinners in desperate need. For truly, Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

September Birthdays

A happy birthday is wished to these members of our church family!

September 2: Wren Swenson

13th: Cortney Christie

3rd: Karen Hedtke

15th: Dolores Boquist

6th: John Hopkins

16th: Rick Leerssen

8th: Kristen Wold

20th: Linda Bacon

9th: Sue Hewitt and Kyle Morrison

21st: Garrett Koenig





MY SAVIOR LIVES NORTHLAND
(formerly Main Street Living Northland)
LCMS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

for the Duluth region televised by KBJR Channel 6 every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

My Savior Lives Northland is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. It is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC, and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations, along with a 30-minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran Hour Ministries (beginning at 10:00 a.m.).

August 30, 2020

Rev. Brad Felix
Trinity Lutheran Church - Virginia, MN

September 6, 2020

Rev. John Bonk
Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church - Two Harbors, MN

September 13, 2020

Rev. Tom Brinkley
St. Matthews Lutheran Church - Esko, MN

September 20, 2020

Rev. Kevin Richter
Peace in Christ Lutheran Church - Hermantown, MN

September 27, 2020

Rev. Matt Kohl
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church - Cloquet, MN

Those Serving Our Church—September 2020

Altar: RaNae Whitbeck

Elder: Kyle Morrison

Lawn Care:

Aug. 30– September 5: Dave, Jed & Jordan Swenson, Bruce Schmidt

September 6-12: Richard, Ralph, Ryan and Joe Christie

September 13– 19: Tony and Brett Lucek, Dave Wright

September 20– 26: Randy, Rick and Ken Leerssen, Dave Crawford

September 27: Leonard & Kyle Morrison, Roger Hasbargen and Marc Gorden





PLEASE NOTE:

WORSHIP TIME CHANGES TO 11 a.m. ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th.

Dear LCMS Minnesota North District,

I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I wanted to again thank you for your constant, steady, supply of prayers and financial gifts to ensure that we can continue to work together to be a great witness of our Lord Jesus to these men and women who selflessly serve our Nation. Just like us, they are enduring these days of challenging events. Every day it seems that something changes. We just want some stability to begin to be able to plan our day, our week, our year. We see frustration and anxiety in ourselves and in our neighbors. We don't like uncertainty and not having stability in our lives, so also for our troops and their families I was able to watch the new movie by Apple TV entitled "Greyhound". I was intrigued by the fact that the trailers to the movie had the lead actor, Tom Hanks, praying a portion of the Luther's Evening Prayer. I watched the movie with my 84-yearold Dad and we truly enjoyed it. It was a movie that was constantly moving from one event to the other, no time to sleep, no time to eat as they confronted the enemy U-boats during WWII. The reason I mention this is at the beginning and end of the movie, the cameras zoom in on a card that Ship's Captain, CDR Ernest Krause, had stuck in his mirror. It was the passage from Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Wow! What a comfort that Word from the Lord is for us as well during this constant changing time. It was a comfort for Captain Krause during rough seas and enemy combat. So, it is also comforting to you as you go through the rough seas of this year. Cling to this promise that our Lord Jesus Christ has not changed. His love and mercy, His compassion and grace are the same today as it was in 2019 and will be the same in 2021, 2025, or 2040. The same Jesus who lived, suffered and died on the cross to pay for your sins is risen from the dead. He lives and reigns to all eternity. You are His redeemed child. By the grace of God, for Christ's sake, through faith, you have forgiveness, life, and salvation. No matter what comes your way, you know Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Thank you for being in this ministry with us. Thank you for your prayers and financial support to enable us to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are military connected. Thank you!

In Christ's Service,

Chaplain Craig G. Muehler CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret) Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces



Sunday School Update:

Plans are being discussed for how Sunday School will be taking place this fall. We will mail out information to all school aged children when plans are finalized. If you'd like to help with the program, or know a child who would like to be included, please call the church office at 283-8642.