



St. Paul News

The Newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ida Grove, Iowa

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October

2022

WHAT IS A LUTHERAN?



You meet a new neighbor and to your surprise you discover she is a Lutheran. You are delighted to find you have this in common.

In the course of time, however, after several discussions you realize your neighbor does not believe God created the world in six days, as the Bible says. Then, come to find out, she doesn't really believe the account of Jesus' resurrection is to be taken literally. When it really comes down to it, she isn't even sure there is a literal heaven and is pretty sure there is no such thing as hell.

You finally ask, incredulously, "You call yourself a 'Lutheran'?"

Just what is a 'Lutheran'? Today it would seem that name doesn't stand for much. Many who call themselves Lutherans are among the most liberal 'Christians' around, denying key teachings of Scripture.

That gives us an opportunity to explain what it really means to be Lutheran. We are not honoring or following a man. It is not Luther's doctrine or teaching we follow but God's Word. We acknowledge and praise God that He used Martin Luther to bring His true Word back to the people. To be 'Lutheran' is to share Luther's devotion to the Word of God, making it the only norm for all teaching in the church. Perhaps the best way, therefore, to understand what it means to be a 'Lutheran' is to listen to what Martin Luther himself has to say about what is important and about the use of his name in this way. "I ask that men make no reference to my name and call themselves, not Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? After all, the doctrine is not mine, nor have I been crucified for anyone.... I neither am nor want to be any man's master. Christ alone is our Master. He teaches me and all believers one and the same doctrine (Matt. 23:8)" (*WHAT LUTHER SAYS, Vol. II, p. 856*).

Luther clearly considered the Word of God to be everything. The doctrine he taught was not his own, but God's as taught in the Scriptures. Yet when the enemies of the Gospel began calling those who believed as Luther believed 'Lutherans,' he realized that they cannot deny that name without denying Christ in whom Luther trusted. Luther said, "But if you believe that Luther's doctrine is evangelical and the pope's unevangelical, you must not flatly disown Luther, otherwise you also disown his doctrine, which you admittedly recognize as the doctrine of Christ. Rather you must say: Whether Luther personally is a scoundrel, or a saint means nothing to me. His doctrine, however, is not his but Christ's own" (*WLS, Vol. II, p. 857*).

So, you see, to be a 'Lutheran' is to stand firm on the Word of God. To believe every Word of God and to stand firm on that Word, proclaiming it against all that opposes God's Word. As Luther said one time, "Luther himself has no desire to be Lutheran except insofar as he teaches the Holy Scripture in purity" (*WLS, Vol. II, p. 858*). Also, the later confessors said, "The Word of God alone should be and remain the only standard and rule of doctrine" (*Formula of Concord, T.D., #9, p. 855*). This is especially true of the central teaching of Holy Scripture that our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ's substitutionary death. May we live up to that name in our life and confession to show the world that we rely on God's Word alone, and that we trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness and salvation. That is being truly 'Lutheran'!

(Adaptation of a blog by Rev. David Reim)

Reformation Day is October 31st. We will celebrate on Sunday, October 30th. Enjoy your Reformation Celebration!

Pastor Salcido

CHURCH NEWS

OFFICIAL ACTS Transfer out: Christine James to Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City
Transfer In: Gary and Susan Gierstorf from Hosanna Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO.
Peaceful Release: Ken & Connie Boger to U.C.C.; Schleswig; Gary & Linda Mildenstein

The Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation

This is a special a special ten-week congregational study. The Tree of Life includes a ten-week sermon series, Sunday School lessons, adult Bible class lessons, and special books for all ages to enjoy at home. The Tree of Life examines God's plan of salvation as it unfolds through the Old Testament and is fulfilled in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first five weeks (September & October) will focus on the Old Testament, while the last five weeks (January and February) will feature lessons in the New Testament. We will begin with creation and the fall into sin, which brought all the evils we experience into this world. Then we will look at the unfolding of God's promise to send His Son with lessons on Abraham, Moses, King David, and Daniel. Then, in the second half of The Tree of Life, which will begin after Christmas, we will focus on Jesus' coming as our Savior. We will look at His birth, Baptism, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and His promise to return on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. By the end of these ten weeks, you will be refreshed with the Bible's overarching theme and storyline, equipped with the tools for unlocking the full riches of each page of Holy Scripture.



USHERS NEEDED for our worship services, there are various ways helping as an usher are needed but we would like to start passing the plate again during the worship service and for that especially we need ushers. If you are interested, please indicate on the friendship register pad where you sign in – which service Saturday or Sunday you would be willing to help with or you can sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



“A Simple Explanation . . . check out our various booklets that are now available on the tract rack in the Narthex. New titles include booklets on the Bible, of Prayer, of Confession the Fellowship of the Lord's Supper. These titles and many more are available for you use as well a handy resource, to give to others who may have questions about these topics.

FROM THE ELDERS *Jeff Rasmussen, Jeff Gilbert, Brent Harm, Aaron Hoffman, Terry Lovett, Keith Krager*

St. Paul Lutheran Church Elders are here for you, and interested in your input or concerns.

Jeff Rasmussen 371-2600 jeffr@godbensen.com **Jeff Gilbert 371-2608** jeff.b.gilbert@hotmail.com

Aaron Hoffman 364-5166 aaronjen@netllc.net **Brent Harm 712-210-4135** harm1477@gmail.com

Terry Lovett 300-6062 tmlovett@frontiernet.net **Keith Krager 712-830-9008** keith.krager@gmail.com

FROM THE BOARD OF HUMAN CARE *David Petersen*

PARISH NURSE The following information is taken from the website: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/flu/in-depth/flu-shots/art-20048000>, Flu clinics will be held in Ida County in October. Most major pharmacies also offer the flu vaccine as well as your health care provider.



Flu shot: Your best bet for avoiding influenza: Getting a flu shot will often protect you from coming down with the flu. And although the flu shot doesn't always provide total protection, it's worth getting. Even when the vaccine doesn't completely prevent the flu, it may lessen the severity of your illness, and reduce the risk of serious complications and serious illness requiring hospitalization.

This year's annual flu shot will offer protection against four of the influenza viruses expected to be in circulation this flu season. Influenza is a respiratory infection that can cause serious complications, particularly in young children, older adults and people with certain medical conditions. Getting an influenza vaccine — though not 100% effective — is the best way to prevent the misery of the flu and its complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone age 6 months or older.

Why do I need to get vaccinated every year? Because flu viruses evolve so quickly, last year's vaccine may not protect you from this year's viruses. New flu vaccines are released every year to keep up with rapidly adapting flu viruses. When you get vaccinated, your immune system produces antibodies to protect you from the viruses included in the vaccine. But antibody levels may decline over time — another reason to get a flu shot every year.

Who should get the flu vaccine? The CDC recommends annual influenza vaccinations for everyone age 6 months or older. Vaccination is especially important for people at high risk of influenza complications, including: Pregnant women, Older adults, Young children, People with weakened immune systems

Can the vaccine give me the flu or other respiratory diseases? No. The flu vaccine can't give you the flu. It also does not increase your risk of COVID-19. But you might develop flu-like symptoms — despite getting a flu vaccine — for a variety of reasons, including: 1) Reaction to the vaccine. Some people experience muscle aches and a fever for a day or two after receiving a flu vaccine. 2) The two-week window. It takes about two weeks for the flu shot to take full effect. If you're exposed to the influenza virus shortly before or during that time period, you might catch the flu. 3) Mismatched flu viruses. In some years, the influenza viruses used for the vaccine don't match the viruses circulating during the flu season. If this occurs, your flu shot will be less effective, but may still offer some protection. 4) Other illnesses. Many other illnesses, such as the common cold, also produce flu-like symptoms. So, you may think you have the flu when you actually don't.

LIFE QUOTE “We may think our prayers are small in relation to the magnitude of the problem of abortion. Not so! ... Educate yourself, your children, and the people you know about Lutherans For Life ... Support leaders who embrace these words, ‘All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.’ ... We have the most hopeful message the world has ever heard. You know it. God does big things with small stuff. How can we be so sure? Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed, Miriam, and Moses ... and especially Jesus.” *Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



2022 LUTHERANS FOR LIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE – BLESSED FOR LIFE

- Blessed with the gift of life.
- Blessed by God for one’s entire life.
- Blessed to be a blessing to others.

Lutherans For Life national and regional conferences allow our team to come directly to you with the For Life Gospel message. These gatherings are wonderful times spent together where we can provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in.

SAVE THE DATE! 2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference

October 21-22 | All day Friday until Saturday at noon.

Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities) To register online go to <https://lutheransforlife.org>



COMMUNITY BASKET Donations for October: Pasta: macaroni, mac & cheese, spaghetti, and other related items. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex. All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. The mobile food pantry will be at **Holstein United Methodist Church** on October 20th, **from 4:30-5:30PM.**

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS

Brad Zobel & Deb Clausen

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034 PH: 712-882-1029

Gary.Thies@lcms.org

Be sure to check the bulletin board in the hallway by upstairs Conference Room for information on Missionaries visiting Mission Central this month.



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Clint Wellendorf, John Brinkman, Dennis Clausen, Dale Edsen

Project Updates: Education building heating and air-conditioning repair and replacement is underway.

FROM THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM / ASSIMILATION

Kathy Edsen & Kristy Gilbert

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY MORNING Coffee & Fellowship on Sunday mornings at 10:15AM is in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us! If you would like to help or provide, please let us know.

MAIN STREET LIVING IS A LUTHERAN TELEVISION PROGRAM

that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The program receives no funding from the District, but is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the KCAU Viewing area. The program is broadcast on **KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM.** The first 30 minutes are remastered episodes of the popular “This is the Life” series that was very popular in the 70’s and 80’s. The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the station’s broadcast area.



FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Tracy Johnson & Robyn Devitt
WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets at 7:00AM at Jimmy's



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 9:30-10:30AM on Wed mornings in the Conference Room in the lower level. The new Bible Study is Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, The Lord Delivers His Faithful.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS join us in the lower level Conference Room 10:30-11:15AM. The first five weeks (September & October) will focus on the Old Testament, while the last five weeks (January and February) will feature lessons in the New Testament.



MIDWEEK (grades 3rd - 6th and 7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION All grades will meet Fellowship Hall for a snack, announcements and a prayer from 5:30-5:45PM. Class will be from 5:45-6:45PM

SNACK DONATIONS there is a container in the narthex for you to donate prepackaged snacks, also string cheese. If you would like to sign up to provide homemade snacks for a certain Wednesday, see sign-up sheet. We also will accept monetary donations so we can do the shopping for you. **We also have a sign up sheet if you would like to provide snacks for a particular Wednesday (packaged or homemade) or if you would like to provide Pizza for a certain Wednesday.**

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY AT SUBWAY (formerly Theology at Subway) with Pastor Neil on Thursdays at 6:00PM

FROM THE BOARD OF YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE Jen Hoffman and Synda Jepsen

SUB SANDWICHES will be put together and pickup will be the weekend of October 15/16 watch for more details on time and date.

TRUNK OR TREAT will be Sunday, October 30 from 3:00-5:00PM come and decorate your trunk / or an area and bring your kids, grandkids, or just come and enjoy – watch for more details coming in the weekly bulletin / Facebook page

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY FOR OCTOBER

LWML SUNDAY WILL BE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 (we will also recognize LWML on Saturday evening Worship as well)

RUTH (2) will meet on October 6 meet at the church at 9:30AM decorate and have Bible study and go to lunch. Linda will be BSL. We had 9 members present for our September meeting.

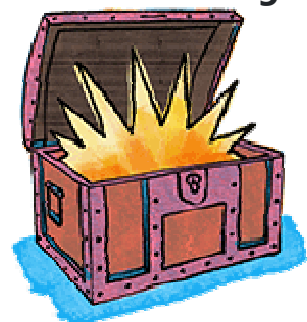
LOIS (3) will meet on September 1 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Nancy will be hostess and Janice will be BSL.

EUNICE (10) will meet on October 6 at the Bread Box in Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Clara will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We had 6 members and 1 guest present at our September meeting.

JOHANNA(12) will meet on October 4 at 6:30PM, in the Conference Room, Lorna will be hostess and Marge will be BSL leader. We had 6 members present at our September meeting.



Hidden blessings



Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.

—A.B. Simpson



Be-attitudes

- Be understanding of your enemies.
- Be loyal to your friends.
- Be strong enough to face the world each day.
- Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
- Be generous to those who need your help.
- Be frugal with what you need for yourself.
- Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.
- Be open enough to believe in miracles.
- Be willing to share your joys.
- Be eager to share the sorrows of others.
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
- Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.
- Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
- Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.
- Be loving to those who love you.
- Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.
- Be yourself, above all.

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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6	20	16	22	22																					
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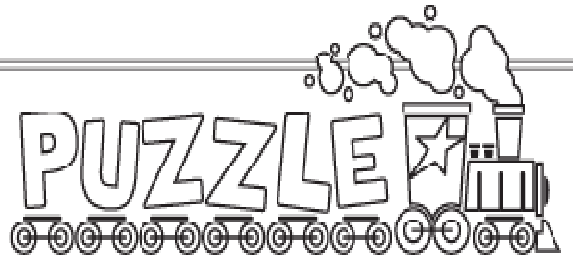
22	19	18	24	18																					
2	1	20	7	14	7	20																			

ISAAH 40:8






Forever: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV



SEEING CLEARLY



God's character is evident through what he made.

Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV.

FOR SINCE THE MOITAEBO OF THE WORLD

 GOD'S EBIJIVU QUALITIES — HIS IANRETE

 POWER AND DIVINE NATURE — HAVE BEEN

 YRAEJO SEEN. BEING OOTSRUDNIH NEES CLEARLY

 WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT PEOPLE ARE

 WITHOUT EXCUSE. 2IAMOR 1:20, NIV

Answer: creation, invisible, eternal, divine, clearly, understood, people, Romans