

LIVING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Philip D. Sievers, Pastor

Living Christ Connection

SEPTEMBER 2021

Pastor's Corner

During this past month I spent a fair amount of time reading about the subject of atonement. It is a word that implies reconciliation, that two parties have somehow overcome what stands between them and are now no longer in opposition. One of the main elements within this idea of reconciliation is forgiveness, for to overcome what stands between requires forgiveness. Hebrews Chapter 9 outlines the issue of forgiveness in this way, "According to the LAW, one may say that almost all things are cleansed by blood (except where other means are provided in the case of the impoverished), and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." The point is that there is a substitution going on in the shedding of blood. The animal that dies give its life so that its blood may expiate, that is, may extinguish the guilt incurred by sin. Of course, in the Old Testament system, this expiation required daily sacrifices, morning and evening, and in the case of sin offerings, a special sacrifice. Furthermore, once per year, on the Day of Atonement, a bull would be slaughtered whose blood was shed for the high priest and the priesthood, allowing the high priest to enter the HOLY OF HOLIES using the BLOOD to make atonement for the priest. Another animal, a lamb or goat would be slaughtered whose blood would cover the sins of the people as it was sprinkled upon the mercy seat. Finally, upon the second goat, the one designated as the scapegoat, the sins of all the people would be placed, and the animal would be

cast out into the wilderness to take away the sin.

The positive effect of these sacrifices did not last, however, and were repeated every single day. The Day of

Atonement, Yom Kippur, was celebrated annually and was considered the most important day on the calendar. Our high priest, JESUS, in contrast, enters the heavenly HOLY OF HOLIES, once and for all, not

through the blood of earthly animals, but rather through HIS OWN BLOOD, obtaining eternal redemption for all who are brought to believe.

Redemption is another word of the vocabulary of atonement, a word that implies the idea of buy back, to free from

enslavement or captivity, to free from the consequence of sin. JESUS accomplishes this through HIS self-sacrifice upon the CROSS, pouring out HIS BLOOD to cover all of the sins of men.

Paul writes in Romans 3, "But now apart from the LAW, the righteousness of GOD has been manifested, being witnessed to by the LAW and the prophets, that is, the righteousness of GOD through faith in JESUS CHRIST for all who believe, for there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of GOD, being justified freely by HIS grace through the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS, whom GOD set forth publicly as a propitiation through faith in HIS BLOOD." We encounter another word in the atonement vocabulary, "propitiation", an atoning sacrifice. Sacrifice, ransom, expiation, propitiation, redemption are all words which communicate that something is needed to produce a reconciliation, to overcome what stands between the parties. In our case, what stands between we sinners, and GOD. In these words we find the constant reference to vicarious atonement, that is substitutionary atonement, that CHRIST is the means by which GOD is reconciled to us poor sinners. CHRIST, in effect, makes satisfaction for our sinfulness.

Across the centuries of the church's existence, there have been several models of atonement. One model is called the "dramatic" model where CHRIST is the VICTOR, defeating the cosmic foe, through HIS death upon the CROSS, freeing us from captivity to sin. During the Middle



God shows his love
for us, because while
we were still sinners
Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

@UpperRoom

Ages, Anselm Bishop of Canterbury, came up with another model, the satisfaction model, that CHRIST became man in order to die and make satisfaction for man’s sinfulness. Around the same time of Anselm, Peter of Abelard through his writings on the letter to the Romans, developed another model of atonement which emphasized the human subject over what is accomplished through CHRIST’s death and resurrection relative to GOD. This is called the “moral influence” model, the idea that we by following CHRIST’s example are moved to love GOD and reconcile ourselves to GOD. Clearly the emphasis of Abelard’s model discounts man’s problem with sin, leaning toward the idea that man wills himself to love GOD responding to GOD’s LOVE and thereby overcomes sin. Certainly, this emphasis upon the subject, upon man, over GOD is inconsistent with the picture of atonement portrayed in Scripture. Atonement cannot happen without GOD’s action, for as we have already noted, forgiveness requires the shedding of blood not simply a change in heart, a change that is not possible without the HOLY SPIRIT.

There can be no doubt that if GOD is to be both just and justifier a price must be paid for the guilt of sin, and the Scriptures tell us that this guilt was placed squarely on CHRIST. “HE who knew no sin was made sin for our sake, so that we might become the righteousness of GOD through HIM.” (2 Cor. 5:21). By being reckoned as a sinner, HE dies for our sake, taking the full punishment that we deserve, making satisfaction for our sin, satisfying the requirement of justice. Just as the animal sacrifices of old allowed GOD to be in a gracious relation with the Israelites, to the point of HIS being in their midst, so also JESUS’ once and for all sacrifice covers our sins in GOD’s sight, allowing HIM to declare us righteous by faith in CHRIST, a gift of HIS grace.

Our July Financial Picture

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings for the mission and ministry at LCLC and LCK.



July 2021	LCLC	LCK		Year to Date	LCLC	LCK
Income				Income		
Envelope	\$ 7,599	-		Envelope	\$ 73,287	-
LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 7,500	-		LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 52,500	-
Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 975			Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 9,538	
		-			-	-
Total Income	\$ 16,074	\$ 49,439		Income	\$ 135,325	\$ 371,873
Expenses	\$ 16,020	\$ 53,665		Expenses	\$ 116,769	\$ 364,516
Difference	\$ 54	\$ (4,226)		Difference	\$ 18,556	\$ 7,358
Reserve Withdrawal				Reserve Withdrawal	-	-
				Difference	\$ 18,556	\$ 7,358

Remaining Balance on Reserve Funds \$23,781 as of July 31, 2021
LCK Saving Account Balance \$10,146 as of July 31, 2021

Yet, all understanding of atonement rests upon our understanding of the horrors of sin. As humans we certainly are not aware of the gravity of our sins. Day in and day out we continue to fall short of GOD’s will for us, falling short by what we do and by what we fail to do, revealing the rebelliousness of our heart. In fact, we are so tone deaf to sin we must be told that we are sinners. We must be told that we are transgressors of GOD’s LAW, and we must be told to look at ourselves in the mirror and let the LAW tell us what we see, a LAWBREAKER, a criminal who is deserving of judgment and punishment. Such would be our fate for the whole of eternity were it not for what CHRIST has done for us, giving HIMSELF up to the CROSS, to atone for our sins, restoring the FATHER’s relationship to us so that we may be justified by HIS grace.

This month we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of this congregation. We will celebrate the blessings which GOD has seen fit to bestow upon us in this place. Yet, foremost among us is that atonement which CHRIST has won for us upon the CROSS, by which we are reckoned to be righteous in the sight of GOD, declared to be saints even while we are still sinners. Atonement is GOD acting for our benefit, not that we might somehow reconcile ourselves to GOD, but that through the sacrifice of JESUS, GOD’s own SON, GOD acts to reconcile HIMSELF to us so that we might have the sure hope of salvation. This empowers us to share this message of triumph with those whom we are given the opportunity in this place, where GOD has put us. May you all celebrate the work of atonement which Christ has won for us, as GOD is reconciled to us through the BLOOD of HIS SON, so that HE graciously extends to us the promise of eternal life. May you have a safe September.

Pastor Sievers

Parking Lot Repair Fund:

Goal		\$50,000	
Receipts		\$ (21,010.60)	
Pledges		\$ (6,350.00)	
Savings-Huntington			\$ 10,000.00
Savings - LCEF			\$ 23,781.00
Total Funds Needed without Savings or LCEF		\$22,639	

This information is based on the \$50,000 approved by the Voters. Gifts and pledges received are over and above the money we have in LCLC Savings or Steward accounts. Responses are being received each week. Plans are to have the repair project completed this fall. Pray for the Lord to direct your giving for this urgent need.

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25th Anniversary Reunion Sunday - September 12
(1996-2021)
Living Christ Lutheran Church - L.C.M.S.

Rev. Dr. Geoff Robinson, Indiana District LCMS Outreach Executive, will be our guest preacher for our Worship Service in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. We will also welcome Jim & Ann Crawford, Dick Kirchner, David & Doris Motter as members of our congregation. Join us in celebration to give honor and glory to our Lord for the mission and ministry at Living Christ Lutheran Church, Plainfield, IN
Worship: 10:30 am Celebration Dinner: 12:30 pm
Please R.S.V.P for dinner (call or text) 317-292-3195 Evelyn Benning

As we share the day with each other in celebration of God’s many blessings to Living Christ, we also have invited others who have also been part of Living Christ over the past 25 years. Bring your friends and neighbor to be a part of this event.



The removal of the crabapple trees in front of the church will allow us to plant our two Autumn Blaze Maple Trees in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. These trees will serve as reminders of

- God’s Blessings to us in the Past and
- His Blessings for the Future

Thank you to our donor.



Financial Choice Dollars

Members of Thrivent have the option of donating their Thrivent Choice dollars (a benefit given by Thrivent) to Living Christ. This valuable asset has been used by our Trustees for various improvement projects here at the church such as the parking lot repair project.
When our Thrivent members have made their “choice” for Living Christ, these funds come regularly. We are asking our Thrivent members to **check with Thrivent to see if they have “Choice Dollars” waiting to be directed** to benefit others and then consider having them directed to Living Christ. (800-847-4836) **If you have done this online before and are having difficulty, call THRIVENT and ask them to help you get that access again.**

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September Birthdays

September 10 Lynda Funk
September 10 Kim Hoffman
September 14 Molly McMullen
September 18 Delvin Schlomer
September 20 Lenice Bailey

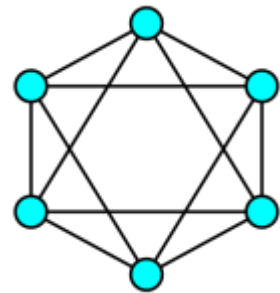


September Anniversaries

September 17, 1989 Jerry & Shelley Feuquay

Join our Discussions on Sunday mornings.

Be Connected to Christ



Broken people share the Good News of Christ to other broken people.

Sunday morning Bible Study has resumed since COVID shutdown. The topic being reviewed is a book written by Dr. Mark Wood, LCMS Director of Witness & Outreach Ministry and also the LCMS Revitalization Ministry Initiative, who shares the joy of being Christ’s witnesses and offers insights into being a disciple of Jesus who finds joy in witnessing and becomes active in sharing the Good News. Our world of “broken people” are counting on it.

God Is Good - All The Time!

Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in
him.
Psalms 34:8



August 31, 2021

The psalmist said, *‘Examine and see how good the Lord is.’* Pay particular attention to the words *‘examine’* and *‘good’*. What you believe about God manifests itself in the way you live. What does it mean to be *‘good’*? It means living up to the best you know. And since God is omniscient (all-knowing), He knows what your best is! His goodness is beyond all question. Because God is good – not just pious, but really, practically, consistently good – your cup of well-being, security, peace, confidence, and joy can be overflowing! A good God cannot break His promise, abandon His children, or fail to love and bless them. You can be sure that in every circumstance He will treat you in the best possible way. When your life seems to be falling apart, sometimes it’s difficult to see God’s goodness or feel that things will get better. That’s when you must use the faith God has already given you, and by an act of your will, trust Him (see [Romans 12:3](#)). A wise pastor was asked by a troubled parishioner, ‘Pastor, does the world look like a wreck to you too?’ He replied, ‘Yes, like the wreck of a bursting seed!’ Without undergoing the ‘wreck’ stage, during which its world literally falls apart, the acorn could never give life to an oak tree. So embrace God’s will in this trial because it’s *‘good, acceptable and perfect’*, regardless of how it feels to you right now (see [Romans 12:2](#)). Ultimately, you’ll *‘see how good the Lord is. Happy is the person who trusts in him!’*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your goodness amazes me and I pray You rub off on me this day!
In Jesus’ Name, Amen



Sunday, September 5
Tuesday, September 7
Sunday, September 12

Sunday, September 18
Tuesday, September 21
Sunday, September 26

Bible Study-9:15 am
Labor Day
No Bible Study

25th Anniversary Reunion
Bible Study-9:15 am
Church Council -6:00 pm
Bible Study-9:15 am

Worship with Holy Communion-10:30 am

Sunday with Celebration Dinner following
Worship with Holy Communion-10:30 am

Worship -10:30 am



Living Christ Trail (Path/Pond) Project

Have you seen the change of landscape? The Living Christ Trail is nearing completion!

Tons of dirt have been moved, the pond in the front has been filled and is now in the back with the liability and maintenance with the Parks Department with the Town of Plainfield, trees have been removed, the “hill” from the construction of the church is gone, the trail will soon be asphalted. A concept discussed and developed to help the community projects of the Town of Plainfield will soon be enjoyed and used by many people.

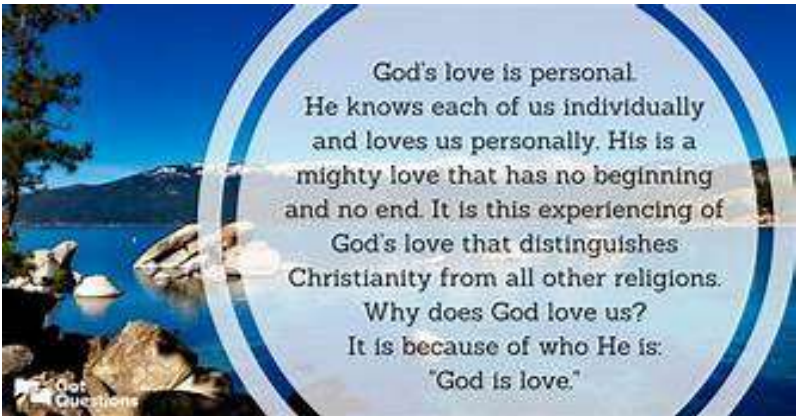
Have You Ever Wondered?

In an article in the August 2021 Lutheran Witness, Dr. Mark Bender, a retired LCMS teacher and minister at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Missouri (and formerly from Trinity Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN) says “Collaboration is key.....” He is talking about the process of planning worship in the Lutheran tradition. A common theme, beginning with the Scripture readings for the day as appointed in the lectionary (A, B, or C) suggests the common theme that is the center focus for the preaching, the prayers, and the hymns. These are part of the structure of the Divine Service (we use Setting 3 on Communion Sundays or Setting 4 on non-Communion Sundays). The Church Year ,is reflected in the Propers (Collect Prayer, etc.) and the liturgical colors for the Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost seasons.

The hymns in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) or generally referred to as “our hymnal” provide an indispensable and rich treasury through which our faith is nurtured and we are united with other believers. The hymns in LSB are biblically, liturgically, sacramentally, and theologically sound. These hymns complement God’s Word and our confessions as Lutheran Christians.

We, God’s people, gather around Word and Sacrament, the central activity in the life of the congregation. This then brings the importance to the careful planning of the hymns and music for the day and then our response to God’s good gifts with united heart and voice.

Excerpts from “How do Pastors and Musicians Choose Hymns for the Divine Service” by Dr. Mark Bender. LW August 2021



Not at Stewards but as Sons

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18)

but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20). The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).



We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His

Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

LCMS Stewardship



Where Do I Look?
BIBLE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Upset	John 14
Weak	Psalms 18:1-29
Lonely	Psalms 23, Psalm 139
Sinner	Psalm 51
Lost/Afraid	Psalm 23
Love	I Corinthians 13
To Focus on God	Psalm 90
Bible in Nutshell	John 3:16
Starting New Task	Joshua 1
Worried	Matthew 6: 25-34
Anxious	Philippians 4:4-9
Unhappy	Colossians 3: 12-17
In Danger	Psalm 91
Depressed	Psalm 27
Lack of Faith	Exodus 14
When Others Are Unkind	John 15

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