

~~ AUGUST 2021 ~~

The Messenger

***Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church***
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Tuesday: 11:00 am

*Thursday: 10:30 am, 1:30 pm,
7:00 pm*

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

Message from the Pastor

What a Quadruple By-pass Teaches You

Having a minimum of six weeks to contemplate the meaning of life and everything else in between, led me to write a different kind of lead article. I hope I am not being too introspective or allegorical. If so, I apologize.

My heart is my life (literally). The blood that flows through my arteries is my every-day life. Most days I feel pretty good; but unknown to me plaque (sin) has been building up. It was blocking my Christian life. These unseen sins—unrepented and unforgiven—were steadily leading to (eternal) death. They didn't come overnight, but built up until they threatened a fatal problem. I didn't feel anything wrong, but... Like a sheep calmly grazing, unaware that a wolf is hiding in the bushes nearby, so many people don't realize the danger that sin poses.

So, how did I get rid of that grave threat to my health? I had surgery. Was it easy? No! Did I perform it on myself? Could I? Not a chance. I needed someone smarter, more skilled to take care of that problem.

That's just like getting to Heaven. Could I get there on my own? Not a chance; Kingman would stand a better chance at hosting the Olympics. In the same way, Jesus is the only one who can take away the blockages of sin. He didn't just 'by-pass' sin; he paid for it with his own blood. He gave himself up for me, to save me and you! His rescue was not a short-term stent. It was a permanent clearing of the arteries.

I would be remiss too if I didn't compare the nurses to angels. They were not the surgeon, but they did his bidding. They kept watch over me, making sure I had what I needed, encouraging me, and reminding me of what I should and shouldn't do. They carry out the wishes of the surgeon.

And, Jesus has given us a heart monitor to keep the situation from happening again. That monitor is called the Bible.



Each of us has two natures which are each trying to override the other. “You shall not covet” and “Take what you want” are in a constant battle. God’s 10 Commandments are a blood-pressure check for each of us. They tell us where we ought to be.

What do I want most – to enjoy being my Father’s child, loving, honoring and trusting Him – or do I want satisfaction in the things of this world. Striving for personal godliness or personal happiness – which elevates my pulse the most?

Will my vital signs indicate I am becoming more like Jesus in wanting above all to please my heavenly Father, willingly employing time and effort to meet the needs of others in my ‘recovery’? Or is what I covet to be served, to be recognized, still absorbed with myself? I’ll have to monitor my heart the rest of my life, just like my Christian lifestyle. By God’s grace, I will follow him all my days. Will you?

*Prayer is a practice that blesses.
Worship is a habit that refreshes.
Love is a gift that expresses.*

Something to Think About4 kinds of sins (and the 1 God prefers)

If you’re going to sin against God, make sure you sin against him in the right way.

Obviously, God doesn’t want you to sin at all. But, on this side of heaven, sinners will sin. When that happens, I urge you to sin in the one way that God prefers and not in the three ways he doesn’t.

#1—The Not-Sorry, Secret Sins

The first kind of sin is the one you’re not sorry for and that no one knows about, but not because you feel terribly guilty about your behavior. You’re having an affair and plan to reconnect secretly with her this upcoming weekend. You’re smiling to your sister-in-law’s face and talking behind her back (but, hey, she deserves it). You’re sharing bits of information that you promised not to repeat, but a good story is a good story, right?

God hates the not-sorry, secret sins. Not only do secrets make you sick, as our friends from AA often say, but the lack of sorrow pushes God out of your heart and slams the deadbolt before he can get back inside. “**Pride goes before destruction,**” the proverb says, and those who are proud of their sins destroy their connection to God (Proverbs 16:18).

#2—The Not-Sorry, Confessed Sins

The second kind of sin is the one that you don’t need to keep a secret because you’re not at all embarrassed about it. Are you arrogant with others, thinking you’re better than them? Do you skip church? Do you have any compassion for the widow on your block, the kids with absentee parents, or the impoverished member of your family? Oh, well. Not losing any sleep over it.

God hates this type of sin even more. It reveals a bold rejection of his will and a delusional belief that you will somehow survive the day when you have to stand before God and account for your actions. Isaiah described and warned, **“The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them!”** (Isaiah 3:9).

You might feel tough talking big to God, but one day you will feel incredibly small when you face his judgment. Don't let Isaiah's "woe!" apply to you.

#3—The Sorry, Secret Sins

The third kind of sin is the most common among Christian people. We feel sorrow in our hearts for the stuff we mess up. We really want to be more faithful to our vows to love and respect, more gracious and humble on social media, and more obedient to God's will for our lives. But we're also scared that other Christians will judge, gossip, and think less of us once they know the truth.

God weeps over this type of sin because it prevents the restorative power of "one another." While secret sins are absolutely forgivable (thank Jesus!), God has built into the fabric of the moral universe the healing power of community. Without "one another," habits rarely change and sin stays on repeat in the Christian's life. **“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper”** (Proverbs 28:13).

#4—The Sorry, Confessed Sins

The final kind of sin is the one God most prefers. We not only feel sorrow in our hearts, but we express that sorrow through public confession. Whether with a small group of trusted friends or around the family dinner table, we drag our embarrassing choices into the light, asking for grace and opening ourselves to the wisdom and help of others.

If it was possible for God to smile over sin, he would smile over this one. Honest confession brings the family of God into the ring so we don't have to fight the devil's excuses and accusations alone. It gives fellow, forgiven sinners the chance to grab our hands and lead us to the cross where Jesus paid for every sin, this one included. And it heals us. James promises, **“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed”** (James 5:16).



Reflect on the sins of your past week. What percentage of each of the four kinds did you commit? If many/most of them ended up in the final category, what led you to go public with the sinful parts of your personal life in a church culture where so many believers stay silent? We're all working toward embracing the power of public confession and stepping out into God's healing light.

Brothers and sisters, I pray you don't sin today. But if you do, make sure you commit God's favorite kind of sin.

Pastor Mike Novotny

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH BIBLE CLASS

What are the foundations of the Christian faith? Do you know them? This new class (which replaces the Bible Basics Class) begins with a study of what Faith is all about. We talk about God, His Holy Bible, His Savior from sin and a fancy word called redemption. That is the first 5-part set in the Foundations series. Three more 5-parters follow that. **THIS IS THE BEST CLASS FOR BOTH NEWCOMERS AND LONG-TIME BELIEVERS TO TAKE.**

We meet on Thursdays at 10:30 in the morning or at 7:00 in the evening. Talk to Pastor if you'd like to be part of the group. We start July 29th. (If you can't make a session, Pastor has make-up times too.)

HUMOR

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his pastor father if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him,

"I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said,

"Son, I'm real proud of you. You've brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair!", to which is father replied,

"Yes, you're right, and they also WALKED everywhere they went!"



THE LADIES CIRCLE

AUGUST NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

How time flies!!! The Ladies Circle is getting excited as the first monthly meeting is on Saturday, September 11th. This meeting will begin our new business year as we welcome your new executive board Trish Gename, President, Sasha Mangelsdorf, Secretary and Julie Mueller, Treasurer.

PARIS TEA PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

A board highlighting the tea party will be set up on the Ladies Circle table in the Narthex. Be sure to stop by and take a look - so much fun & fellowship.

BOTTLED WATER NEEDED

The kitchen can always use cases of bottled water to keep the inventory stocked up. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

SUNDAY MEAL HOSTS

The Kitchen Committee is still looking for volunteers to help out in the kitchen set up for the meal after Sunday service. If you are interested, please see Christine Hanson or Rhonda Hutchins for details.



AUGUST USHERS

**Zeke Jarcik
Dave Brock
Syd Huxtable
Leonard Rezac**



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1st Gel Brotsch
1st Brandon Moore
3rd Nessa Kerk
6th Syd Huxtable
11th Bette Bobzien
11th Leena Meza
12th Pamela Hottel
14th Dave Jenkins
15th Judy Leicht
15th Shawn Nelson
18th Leo Galvan
21st Rolland Hanks
26th Christine Hanson



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

7th Tim & Linda Mangelsdorf
9th Jeff & Pamela Hottel
29th Eldon & Deby Krei

August 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	2	3 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 12:15 pm Elders Meeting	4	5 10:30 am Foundations of Faith Class 1:30 pm Bible Class 7:00 pm Foundations of Faith Class	6	7
8 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	9 6:00 pm Council Mtg	10 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	11	12 10:30 am Foundations of Faith Class 1:30 pm Bible Class 7:00 pm Foundations of Faith Class	13	14 9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast
15 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	16	17 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	18	19 10:30 am Foundations of Faith Class 1:30 pm Bible Class 7:00 pm Foundations of Faith Class	20	21
22 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	23	24 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	25	26 10:30 am Foundations of Faith Class 1:30 pm Bible Class 7:00 pm Foundations of Faith Class	27	28
29 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	30	31 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class				