

~~ SEPTEMBER 2022 ~~

The Messenger

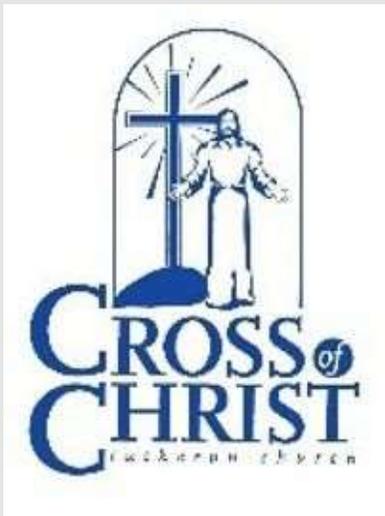
**Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church**
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Tuesday: 11:00 am, 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 1:30 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

Message from Pastor

A JAR THAT JUST WON'T OPEN

Way back in the pantry, Jan found a jar of pickles she had canned who-knows-how-long-ago. Those would really hit the spot, she thought. She tried to open them up. Not budging. A little warm water and tapping the jar. Uh-uh. Finding the rubber jar opener, she tried with all her might. Still nothing. After several more attempts of twisting and tapping, the lid still wouldn't budge. "Honey, can you open this for me?" she asked her teenage son. Eager to flex his muscles and be 'manly', Zeke grabs it like he's wrestling a python. After a few cave-man grunts, Zeke hears the 'pop' of the opening jar and hands it back to his mother.

Life is sometimes like that jar, isn't it? We find something we need or want. But often, we just don't have the strength we need to tackle what's in front of us. I'm not talking about the strength to move a piano or to change a flat tire, but the strength we need to raise our children or to stay married to someone who is so difficult to live with. I'm talking about the strength it takes to go to work and deal with people who are rude, inconsiderate and lazy, or to walk to the mailbox that contains bills we'll have difficulty paying.

I'm talking about the emotional might to stand up to whatever challenges are sticking their tongue out at us. I'm talking about the strength to do what is right in a world that swims in sin.

"Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God...He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak...Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

What should we do when we need more strength? Hand that jar over to the Lord. He has all the strength we need and so much more. After all, he is the One who created the earth and everything in it. More than that, this strong, wise, loving God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. The all-powerful God came in human weakness to rescue us from sin and death. He was condemned and crucified. Weakness, right? No, Strength! Jesus used his strength to remain on that cross until every last sin of ours had been paid for. His empty tomb proves it. ***"Jesus was declared with power to be the***

Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Death has been defeated! The guilt of sin before God has been removed! By trusting in Jesus, life in heaven is waiting for us.

Need more strength? The One who created the earth has it. The One who died and rose for you has it. Come to him on bended knees and confess your failures and ask for forgiveness. Ask Him to lift you up. Tell Him what your needs are (even though He already knows).

He is the One who gives us the strength to face each day with fresh confidence. Find that strength in his Word. And then be ready to soar. Be ready to soar on eagles' wings with renewed strength! Know that the Lord who knows the very number of hairs on our head, will get you through every challenge of life! Be ready to soar on eagles' wings to the home that Jesus has prepared for you in heaven!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT..... A Tale of Two Spouses

A woman marries a man who 'changed' after they were married. She tries to make him happy, but nothing is good enough. He criticizes her relentlessly; her clothes, housekeeping, cooking, you name it. He makes long lists for her to accomplish. He posts her 'chores' on the fridge. He checks off nothing until it meets his standard of satisfaction.

The wife is not 'liberated' enough to tell him to go jump in the lake. Each week she dutifully tries to measure up, to comply with his desires in the hopes that one day he'll show her proper love. He's never happy—nor is she. She is miserable.

Time passes and her cranky, demanding husband surprisingly develops ulcers which never heal and cause his slow demise. Some time later the woman remarries.

The second husband is everything the first one was not. He loves her genuinely and accepts her for who she is. His goal is to make her happy in every way. He praises her, finds delight in her, and makes her happy. He compliments her; talent, beauty, and character. Mistakes are forgiven. Patience is practiced. Love abounds. She is more than happy.

One day she is cleaning out the shed when she finds one of her first husband's old lists. She reads it and is stunned. Every single item on her first husband's list is something she has been doing for her second husband. The house is cleaner, the meals are better, the clothes look nicer. And she's happier than ever.

All the things #1 demanded from her, she's been doing out of respect and love for #2, who demands nothing at all. Up to this time she hadn't even noticed that.

The story is an allegory. Her first husband is the Law. Her second husband is Jesus. The wife is all believers.

Sadly, it's common and frustrating to see a battered spouse leave an abusive relationship. The same is true of the law. Those who try to merit eternity. It's a losing proposition. We'll never be good enough; it's not possible.

Unfortunately, we cannot escape by our own power. But, Jesus has released us from the law's slavery and warmed our hearts with his love and forgiveness so that we are eager to show our love for him by our actions. Freed from the law, joined in marriage to Christ, we now do exactly the same things that the law was trying force us to do. The law only succeeds in making us miserable. Often now we do those things without even noticing that we've done them. And we're happy than we've ever been.

Pastor Ken Cherney

BIBLE CLASSES

Thursday afternoons (1:30) and **Sunday mornings (9:00)** we'll be starting a new series titled "10 Lies People tell about God". It starts the first week of September.

Join us on **Tuesday mornings (11:00)** for a look at 'The 10 Commandments' using Luther's Large Catechism.

Roadmaps to Reading the Bible, a class where we scan every book of the Bible to see its purpose, author, timeframe, and main parts, is on **Tuesday evenings (7:00)**. Jump in any time.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH CLASS IS MORE THAN A BIBLE CLASS. IT'S A TIME OF SHARING, GROWTH, AND MOST OF ALL, DEVELOPMENT OF A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. YOU ARE GUARANTEED TO LEARN A GREAT DEAL AND TO BECOME BIBLICALLY LITERATE. CLASS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS AT 1:30.



SONDAY IN THE PARK



**SUNDAY
SEPT 18**

We'll have our annual Sunday in the Park on Hualapai Mtn. We'll have our regular 10:00 service at church that day; then, we'll gather at Picnic Area 3 at 11:00 for our outdoor service. That will be followed by a picnic & games. **ALL ARE INVITED!**

Our next rummage sale will be on Friday and Saturday, September 23 & 24. Donations are welcome.



HUMOR

The congregation's wealthiest member decided to share a portion of his faith story at the church council meeting.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "I attribute it to the blessings of God in my life. I can still remember my faith turning point, like it was yesterday:

I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a youth meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So, at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

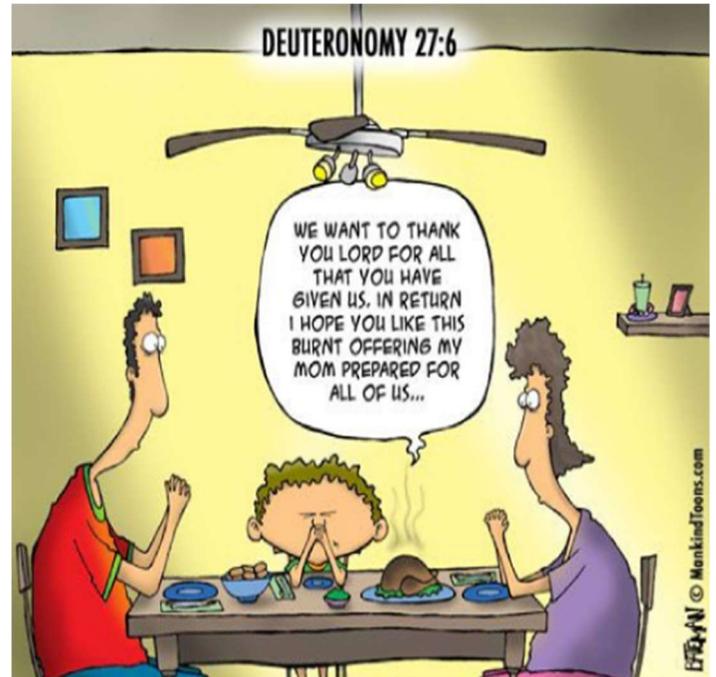
When he finished and sat down, the chair of the stewardship committee leaned over and said: "Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!"



The frugal Lutheran walked into the house panting and almost completely exhausted. "What happened, honey?" inquired his wife.

"It's a great new idea I have to be a better steward of our resources," he gasped. "I ran all the way home from the stewardship committee meeting behind the bus and saved \$1.50.

"That wasn't very bright," replied his flustered wife. "Why didn't you run behind a taxi and save \$10?"



Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some creative reasoning with him.

"You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horrified, the little boy obeyed.

After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."



THE LADIES CIRCLE

SEPTEMBER NEWS

CHRISTMAS COSTUMES – SEWING VOLUNTEERS MEETING

A meeting has been scheduled for September 3rd at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Trish Gename or Bill Neal if you will be attending or with any questions.

LADIES CIRCLE MEETING (1st meeting of the 2022/2023 business year)

When: Saturday, September 17th (rescheduled from the 10th)

Time: 9:30 am

Place: Education Building

(Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each month from September thru May.

Committee call leaders will contact you prior to each monthly meeting).

The **Devotion series** for this year is:

God is in the Laundry Room (8 sessions about seeking God)

All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend and join in the fellowship, devotion topics, planning future activities, and the WELS Missions we support as a Ladies Circle group. By getting involved your time, talent and treasures will help continue God's work.

Executive board: Trish Gename, President,
Sasha Mangelsdorf, Secretary
Julie Mueller, Treasurer.

COMMITTEE - FLOWERS

If you would like to provide fresh flowers for a Sunday service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Trish Gename.

KITCHEN

The Sunday fellowship menu schedule is available in the Fellowship Hall. *If you would like to help out in the kitchen, contact Christine Hanson or Trish Gename.*

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 Trish Gename for details.

| SEPT FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| DAY | MAIN DISH |
| 4 th | Breakfast |
| 11 th | Crock Pot Meals |
| 18 th | Sunday in the Park |
| 25 th | Meat Loaf |



SEPT BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 3 rd | E. Jane Galvan |
| 3 rd | Betty Henning |
| 8 th | Zeke Jarcik |
| 9 th | Sharon Hanks |
| 14 th | Julie Mueller |
| 17 th | Luke Mangelsdorf |
| 19 th | Ken Henry |
| 22 nd | LaNore Printup |
| 24 th | Jack Brotsch |
| 30 th | Harold Coleman |



SEPT ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 5 th | Joey & Ashley Kyzer |
| 7 th | Ron & Susan McMillin |
| 20 th | Syd & Marie Huxtable |
| 20 th | Kris & Merissa Wood |



SEPT USHERS

Mike Coffin
Gene Bishop
Leo Galvan
Mark McCoy

September 2022



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | 1:30 pm Bible Class | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal | | 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 4:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | | 9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast 10:30 am Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Olson / Gename Wedding |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal | 6:00 pm Council Mtg | 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 4:00 pm Chori 7:00 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | | 9:30 am Ladies Circle Meeting |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 10:00 am Worship Service SONDAY IN THE PARK | | 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 4:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship Meal | | 8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 4:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | 1:30 pm Bible Class | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | SEPT USHERS Mike Coffin Gene Bishop Leo Galvan Mark McCoy | |