

First Lutheran Church - Wiota

September- October



70139 MEMPHIS RD
WIOTA, IA 50274

The voice of one crying in the wilderness.

Jesus Loves the Family of:

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God's Workmanship for Good Works

The relationship among faith, grace, and good works is often summarized by the phrase **“We are saved by grace, through faith, for good works.”** However, too often, we fall into the trap of putting good works first. Through faith, we understand that the same grace that saves us also motivates and enables us to do good works. Scripture is very clear that we are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. **“For by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Just as the morning follows night, our good works follow our salvation by grace. Good works are an important part of our lives as Christian stewards. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). As we ask the Lord to enable us to submit to His will, He will put those good works He has prepared for us to do before us. God may not tell us in advance what good works He wants us to do, but this verse tells us that they exist and that He has equipped us to do them. Paul states that we are “God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus.” God does not create junk. We are His masterpieces filled with the Holy Spirit. With the same power that God used in the beginning to create man from dust and later to resurrect Jesus from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20), He raises us out of spiritual death and makes us new people—His workmanship, transformed stewards—whose works give evidence that we are new creatures. By the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are brought into God’s kingdom. We are no longer part of or in union with the world. As new people living under the power of the Gospel, we desire to honor God and obediently do the good works He has planned for us to do. Because Christ has redeemed us from all wickedness and purified for “Himself a people for His own possession,” we are zealous good works (Titus 2:14). Jesus lived the perfect life in our place, and He makes our impoverished good works acceptable to our Heavenly Father. The prophet Isaiah wrote that all “our [good works] are like a polluted garment” (Isaiah 64:6). Only those acts done in Christ’s name and for Him through faith are Godhonorific (Hebrews 11:6). Jesus said, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Our good works, made acceptable through Jesus, give glory to our Heavenly Father. Each and every day we are given opportunities to do good works. Some may be as small as opening the door for others, or they may be as big as spending the entire day or several days helping someone in need. Through faith, we can be ready and willing to do the works God has prepared in advance for us to do. May God’s blessings be with you as you strive to please Him and give glory to Him through your good works.

In His service

Pastor Mike

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Do you have a question you would like Pastor Mike to answer in his "Ask the Pastor" section of an upcoming monthly newsletter or on the website? If so, contact him directly (pastormike@q.com) or 515-238-5446

Question: I am a "new" Christian and I have a question that concerns me. I do not have a church home and to be perfectly honest, I have not found one that makes me comfortable. There seems to be too much politics involved, so to speak. I pray, I believe that Jesus died for me, I study my Bible and I listen to various services on TV and have received much knowledge by doing so. My life is dedicated to serving my Lord but I do not want to displease Him. Is it necessary to have a church home?

Answer: Yes, I believe it is necessary to have a church home. I know that there are unpleasant interactions in any body of people gathered for a common purpose. Politics, the practice or study of the art and science of forming, directing,

and administrating states and other political units, is an inevitable part of any collective body. But the politics of the church should be about implementing the will of our Leader, Jesus Christ.

Although God is present and operates everywhere throughout all creation and the whole earth is therefore full of the temporal bounties and blessings of God, Col. 1:17; Acts 17:28; 14:17, still we hold with Scripture that God offers and communicates to men the spiritual blessings purchased by Christ, namely, the forgiveness of sins and the treasures and gifts connected therewith, only through the external means of grace ordained by Him. These means of grace are the Word of the Gospel, in every form in which it is brought to man, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and of the Lord's Supper. The Word of the gospel promises and applies the grace of God, works faith and thus regenerates man, and gives the Holy Ghost, Acts 20:24; Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Gal. 3:2. Baptism, too, is applied for the remission of sins and is therefore a washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:38; 22:16; Titus 3:5. Likewise the object of the Lord's Supper, that is, of the ministration of the body and blood of Christ, is none other than the communication and sealing of the forgiveness of sins, as the words declare: "Given for you," and: "Shed for you for the remission of sins," Luke 22:19, 20; Matt. 26:28, and "This cup is the New Testament in My blood," 1 Cor. 11:23; Jer. 31:31-34 ("New Covenant").

Since it is only through the external means ordained by Him that God has promised to communicate the grace and salvation purchased by Christ, the Christian Church must not remain at home with the means of grace entrusted to it, but go into the whole world with the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments, Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16. For the same reason also the churches at home should never forget that there is no other way of winning souls for the Church and keeping them with it than the faithful and diligent use of the divinely ordained means of grace. Whatever activities do not either directly apply the Word of God or sub serve such application we condemn as "new methods," unchurchly activities, which do not build, but harm the Church.

This is why it says:

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV).

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LWML Adair zone Fall Rally

Pre-Rally board meeting September 7th
at St John Lutheran Church in Casey IA from 9:00 to 10:00 am

The LWML Adair Zone Fall Rally will be held Saturday,
September 28, 2019 at Zion Lutheran Church, Atlantic IA
This year's bible study topic will be "Blessed to be a Blessing"

LWML National Convention Report at September 8th meeting:

Everyone is invited to hear Adair Zone LWML President Carol Hansen report on the National LWML Convention at the September 8th LWML meeting. The meeting will be right after church with a light lunch. Other items of business will be Election of Officers, LWML Sunday plans and November night out plans.

"Saved by Grace."

Sunday School Rally Day

This Year's Sunday School Rally Day service focused on our salvation and relationship with God. The words of Christ in the Gospel contains a paradox, the first shall be last and the last first. It reminds us that we should avoid the presumption that we are "saved," and that, in effect, we are among the "first." We can hope for that, and pray for that, but most of all we must see "being saved" as the beginning of a lifelong process in which we face the challenges to love God on a day to day basis. Sunday School is the best place to start that journey, learning the basics and growing a strong steady relationship with our Lord. As Christ said "many who say Lord, Lord will not enter the kingdom but only those who do the will of my Father." We should remember that many others, by the attitude of their hearts and the actions of their lives, may be living closer to Christ than we ever imagined.

We will also focus on this theme in our adult bible class at 9:00 am with a nine-part video-based series on Lutheran Spirituality

"Saved by Grace" (Now What)

Starting on September 1st

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What About Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel?

This is a very important question that many people think about, and it is a great question to help understand the Reformation which we celebrate this month! The question is often posed by unbelievers to excuse their unbelief, and it can be used to draw believers away from the faith. The implication of the question is that the God of the Bible is not true because He is unjust. For others the question muddies the clear water of God's salvation by faith in Christ alone and tempts them to think of other ways of salvation. The Bible says, "There is no other name under heaven, given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4.12); and, "Faith comes by hearing the word of God" (Romans 10.17). God wants us to seek Him as Paul said the philosophers at Athens (Acts 17.11). Yet, men do not seek God: "There is none who seeks after God" (Romans 3.11). Nevertheless, God seeks men. When Adam and Eve sinned, God came to them in the garden and restored them through His words. God seeks men through the proclaimed truth of Creation, but, as Paul tells us, men are constantly suppressing that truth. God seeks men through the proclamation of the Gospel, and yet many resists it and persecute it.

So, there is the picture of this world: Men are running away from God, and God is seeking to save them. Somehow in this divine chase some of us get caught. The truth overcomes the lies in us. We repent. We are turned back toward God in order to fear, love and trust in Him above all things. God doesn't explain to us how this happens. He doesn't explain how some are caught but others keep on running. But it clearly happens. So, throughout the whole world and throughout all time, men have been running from God, and God has been pursuing them. The only question that matters for each one of us is: Am I running with the truth or from it? Do I have peace with God or not? It is not for us to figure out how we are caught by the truth. But it is for us to believe it, to live it and become one of God's chasers after the lost souls who are running in the wrong direction. What about those who have never heard the Gospel? I will respond with another question: What about all who have heard and continue to hear the truth of God in Creation? Why do they run from that? Why do they not honor God and give thanks (Romans 1.22-30)? I have no idea. But I know that God loves them, and He is running after them, and He will catch some of them. In the end I will let God decide what is just and right for each and every person. As Moses said, "His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice" (Deuteronomy 32.4).

Five hundred years ago a Catholic monk by the name of Luther rose up to say that the church must trust in the Gospel alone for salvation. There is no other way of salvation. That is a great comfort to all believers. It is also a great impetus to us to preach the Gospel message to all and to be a part of God's effort to call the lost world back to Him.

In Jesus name

Pastor Mike

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If you have prayer request you may go to our website and use our prayer request forms.

Prayer Requests for
Missionary Rev, Carl Hansen
Missionary Rev. Michael Paul

Those who have asked
for our Prayers
shut-ins

Darlene Hockenberry
Rosemary Davidson
Millie Miller
Robert Miller
Ricky Taylor
Helen Schoenbohm
Joan Hahn
Kenneth Karstens
Mike Lechner

Marlen Miller
Dianna Casteel
Pat Nilan
Keira Reed
Shloe Flanagan
Joanne Lienemann
Collin Evans
Alice Anstey
Jeff Krause
Kathy Dorsey
Lynette Steele
Sharon Steffens
Gary Steffens
Jo Morgan
Darlene Jones
Davin Euken
Pastor Schmidt
Kurt Borgelt
Ernest Thomsen

Prayers for those
servicing in the
Armed Forces:

Trent Burg
Christopher Hines
Jayney Hoegh
Ryan Johnson
Brianne Munsey
Theo Sager
Josh Reed

Prayers for the
College Students

Haley Becker
Eric Plagman
Nicole Eilts
Jessica Aupperle
Lindsey Dinkla
Mackenzie Cross
Casey Ihnen
Tyler McAfee

Pastor Mike Bodkins
Cell# 515-238-5446
Email: pastormike@q.com
Website: flcwia.com



“Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing”

Give thanks in all circumstances!

This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

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Church Business

The First Lutheran Church quarterly voter's meeting was held on Sunday, July 14, 2019 right after church service. Chairman Mike Plagman called the meeting to order and Pastor Mike open with a prayer.

The Chair announced the Minutes from the April meeting had been sent in the May/June newsletter for all to read. The Treasurer's report was passed out today for all in attendance to review.

Pastor's Report – 3 youth were confirmed in May. One will be for Next Year and another joining her. Sunday School Rally Sunday will be SUNDAY, August 25. Everyone is encouraged to invite, invite, and invite, neighbors, friends anyone to join our Sunday School. Hoping to start a Senior Confirmation class soon. BIBLE STUDY IS HELD EVERY SUNDY AT 9:00 am. The Jr. High Youth Gathering will be October 19 and 20. Tristan and Peyton is able to attend this year. The Sr. High is sometime in November before Thanksgiving.

Deacon's Report: Zak-- nothing other than NEED Ushers from now till----.

Cemetery Report: Financial report was available for all to review. New trees have been planted and so far, doing well with being watered.

Board of Education: More Information on Rally Sunday August 25!!

Was pleased with attendance when Missionary Michael Paul and Rabbi for Jesus visited here.

Old Business: Questions about the Handicap accessibility brought up to just keep the discussion going and was informed the people and businesses that have been asked at this time, seems to be continually hitting a brick wall but discussion and possibly form a committee to look into more options, possibility of a bathroom upstairs, just wanting to keep discussion open: Tabled till next meeting.

Ice Cream Social—Sunday August 4, serving from 5-7 PM. Workers, ice cream and Pies are still needed and signup sheets are in the back of the church.

New Business: Judy and Jan explained they are working on the landscaping around the church and would like any Thrivent members to apply for the Grants available through Thrivent for monies needed. Is wanting and needing more rock in places around the church where some had to be taken out.

Next meeting will be on Sunday, October 13, right after Church Service. We will be having reports from those attending the National Youth Convention in Minnesota now. Rex will be giving a report at that time about the National Convention he will be attending in the coming week.

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary- Jacque Wickey

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CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation class registration will be August 25, at 9:00am.
First class will be September 8, 2019 from 8:00 to 9:00 am.

Please join us for a great day of fun, food and fellowship at the First Lutheran Annual Harvest Celebration on Sunday, October 27th from 2-5 p.m. At the 3 Bee Farms This is open for all! For more information contact Jess Barber

2019 JUNIOR YOUTH GATHERING



COME to the TABLE
2019 IDW JR YOUTH GATHERING

When: October 19-20, 2019

Location: [Sheraton, West Des Moines](#)

Theme: "Come to the Table"

Topic: Holy Communion

Bible Verse: [1 Corinthians 11:26](#)

2019 SENIOR YOUTH GATHERING

When: November 15-17, 2019

Location: [Embassy Suites, Des Moines](#)

Theme: "Foundations Prepared"

Bible Verse: [1 Corinthians 3:10-11](#)



Newsletter Article – September 2019

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf. We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him: "For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. This is not only because He created all things; He is also the redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him. We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed. But what a responsibility! "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said, "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13).

So, let's dive into God's Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.

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◀ Aug 2019		September 2019					Oct 2019 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7 LWML pre-rally board meeting 9am- 10am St John's in Casey	
8 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am	9 Pastor's conference Ft. Dodge	10 Pastor's conference Ft. Dodge	11	12	13	14	
15 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am Church clean-up day. Light lunch after worship the cleaning will commence	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am	23	24	25	26 Vesper service 3:30 pm Heritage House	27	28 LWML zone rally Zion Lutheran Church 8:30 am- 10:00	
29 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am	30						

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October 2019						
◀ Sep 2019						Nov 2019 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Pastor is gone this week	7 Pastor is gone this week	8 Pastor is gone this week	9 Pastor is gone this week	10 Pastor is gone this week	11 Pastor is gone this week	12
13 Sunday School 9am Deacons meet 9:00 am Worship 10am LWML SUNDAY Congregation meeting after service	14	15	16 Board of Ed meeting 6-7 pm	17	18	19 Junior High Youth Gathering 9 am Sheraton Hotel West Des Moines
20 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am	21	22	23	24 Vesper service 3:30 pm Heritage House	25	26
27 Sunday School 9am Bible study 9am Worship 10am Harvest Celebration 2:00 to 5:00 pm At the 3 Bee Farms	28	29	30	31 Halloween		