

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS, PASTOR JOSHUA HAYES
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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION

Share the Joy of His News by growing inward through God's Word, Sacraments and fellowship and by growing outward through words, actions, and mission outreach.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2015

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD: REPENTANCE

We hear them telling in our own tongues the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).

The countdown is on. October 2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation which we usually say began October 31, 1517 when Luther posted "95 Theses" for debate on the issue of indulgences. The very first thesis read: "When our Lord and Teacher Jesus Christ said, 'Repent!', He wanted the entire Christian life to be one of ongoing repentance."

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:1-2)...From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17)...And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)...[Jesus said:] "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent" (Rev. 3:19).

The preaching of repentance is the essential preaching of the kingdom of God. To preach something other than repentance for sins and forgiveness for those sins is to preach something other than Christ. In

fact, repentance is what distinguishes the demons from the saints, believers from unbelievers. The Devil knows the Gospel. He knows all the facts. He was there when they crucified my Lord. Even unbelievers may believe that God exists, that Jesus died on the cross, maybe even that Jesus rose from the dead. But without repentance and faith in Christ this is only historical knowledge of important facts. It remains in their heads but far from their hearts.

Therefore Luther picks up on the preaching of John, Christ, and the apostles when he says that the entire Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. Such repentance has two parts: that we confess our sins and need for a Savior, and that we believe the absolution, that is, that we believe that our sins are forgiven us for Christ sake whom we receive through faith. There is never day when I don't need a Savior. We sin daily and much. We need forgiveness daily and much. Repentance and faith, this is the ongoing lifecycle of the Christian in this life. It is a matter of the head and the heart.

We should also remember that repentance and faith bear fruits: *Bear fruit in keeping with repentance (Matt. 3:8)*. We are not saved on account of the fruit, or the response, of our faith. We are saved by faith alone.

The gift is enough. Nothing needs to be added to it. But repentance and faith should bear fruits as a response. The fruits of repentance and faith include sorrow over sin, amending our sinful ways, wanting to do better, striving to do good works according the Word of God, thanksgiving, patiently suffering evil, and so forth.

Many people hear that little word "Repent!" and think it is a joke. Others think it sounds too harsh. To the Christian, however, nothing could be more joyful than to turn from sin and death to the grace and life that are in Christ Jesus. We even have a prayer in the liturgy of the Sacrament that speaks of "repentant joy." Only in the Gospel could confessing sin become a joyful thing! To be a penitent is to be a receiver, to come before God being owed nothing and yet expecting everything for Christ's sake. It is to know how far off the kingdom of heaven should be from us and yet believe that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, even for the likes of me. Repent!

Peace to you,



LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by: Rhonda Beethe

The Preschool students at Lambs of Christ will be observing the changes in the World that God has given them to live in. As fall comes we will notice such things as temperature changes, the leaves changing colors, and how animals change. On Friday October 9th both preschool classes will be going to the Nature Center at Pioneers Park in Lincoln. We will see creatures in their natural environment and making observation of plants. I will be meeting with the Parents of the children in our preschool classes on October 15th and 16th to discuss each child's progress in preschool.

The Preschool Board would like to invite you to join us for pancakes on Sunday, October 25th 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The children will sing at the Service that morning and at pancake fund raiser.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Ken Kastanek
2 Bruce Miller, Gary Renner
4 Barry Doiel, Mindie Hughes, Nathan Patak
6 Jarod Mundt
9 Amber Johnson, Kylie Meinke
10 Hannah Ochs, Dale Wohl
12 Bryce Kalkwarf
15 Maynard Hessheimer, Dianne Kouba
16 Joe Kalkwarf, Jaclyn Ourada
19 Scott Brunelle, Jerad Reetz, Abigail Scott, James Walker
21 Sean Murphy
22 Michelle Kvasnicka
23 Donna Brunelle, Chloe Davis, Levi Mehl, Bruce Tiedeman
24 Gwen Kalkwarf
25 Raelyn Morava, Alexandra Tremblay
26 Jerry Ferguson Jr., Slane Kvasnicka
27 Ellen Miller, Addison Slama
28 Jeff Tremblay
29 Fran Sieck
30 Kourtney Tarnick
31 Lynnette Holle

BAPTISMS

2 Chris Reetz, Shane Renner
3 Brady Hestermann
4 Linda Lee, Dewayne & Henry Slama
7 Marilyn Weidner
8 Joshua Wohl
9 Genie Dittmer, Brianna Williams
12 Garrett Mehl
14 Kirk Miller, Theodore Muff
16 Jim Ellingson
17 Randy Adams
18 Austin Weber
19 Jarod Mundt
20 Travis Eggert, Diane Hayes
21 Lynn Meinke, Gary Renner, Bernadean Strufing
24 Mindie Hughes
25 Cinder Johnson, Kirk Johnson
29 Colton Homolka
30 Wayne Eggert
31 Dianne Kouba

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on September 30, 2015, with JoAnn Renner filling in for President Olga Weidner. The meeting opened by singing the hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and continued the bible study on Galatians.

Roll call was taken with ten members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given with a checking account balance of \$824.38. The balance of the Church Extension Fund is \$963.59.

The nominating committee will be Darleen Dittmer, Barb Meinke and Donna Hillgren. The election of

officers will be held in November.

The old altar cloth cannot be used on the altar any more, but pieces of it are still useable. The altar committee will decide how to use it.

The birthday in September is Linda Pomajzl on the 5th. Anniversaries celebrated in September are: Ray and Bonnie Bleich, Freddie and Olga Weidner on the 5th, Dale and Dianne Kouba on the 7th, Wally and Noreen Wild on the 12th, Del and Irene Reiss on the 16th and Elmer and Darleen Dittmer on the 17th.

LaVonne Nitzel provided refreshments for today. Next months' hostess will be Shirley Reetz. The meeting closed with the Lords' Prayer and the table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

EVANGELISM REPORT

By now all of you have received your pictures from Life Touch. Thank you all for your participation in this project.

The church pictorial directory is in final stages. We are now proof reading the directory and then it will take a month to receive it. We expect them to be here by the end of October.

The Evangelism Committee wants to thank all of the volunteers for their help. We will not name them all because we will miss someone and that would not be fair. Because you volunteered the project went smoothly. Thank you!

The Evangelism Committee

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Communion Service (Wednesdays)	5:45 p.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (October 20)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (October 20)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (October 28)	1:30 p.m.

THE ALL HALLOW'S EVE PARTY will be Saturday, October 31st, starting at 10:00 a.m. and the Trunk or Treat following at 11:00 a.m.

Contact information for Pastor Hayes
 Church Office: 826-3883
 Cell: 418-4980
 Email: Joshua.hayes@gmail.com

2016 CALENDARS are starting to arrive at our homes. Once again we'll be giving our extras to the religious coordinator at the Lincoln Penitentiary. Please leave them in the box under the table in the narthex. Reminder: no metal coils.

FROM THE ELDER'S

The pastoral office is a gift that God has given to the church, as Paul says in Eph. 4:8, 11-12, "When he ascended on high he gave gifts to men". In these verses Paul enumerates pastors and teachers among the gifts belonging to the church, and he adds that they are given for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ.

Each LCMS Pastor models their ministry on the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ who did not come to be served, but to serve. The pastoral office is an office of loving, caring service to the people of God, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. They serve us with Christ's Word and Sacraments, through which the Holy Spirit

gives us forgiveness, life and salvation.

Pastors also accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage and join in our Christian walk through life's challenges, family dynamics, and both physical & spiritual assessments. The path God ultimately chooses for us, and for pastors, is often unknown. We can each look at our own travels and suggest that God didn't always provide a clearly defined trail. We often don't know where best we can serve God. We simply know that God will take care of us and guide us with His Spirit through His Word. God is a good and gracious Lord, always abounding in love & mercy.

The most important way we support our

Pastor – and all pastors for that matter, is through our prayers. We ask the Lord of the Church to give him wisdom, strength, courage and peace, asking Him to bless our Pastors' ministry among us and to work powerfully through the proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments in whatever path God places before him. We should together ask that God will fulfill His Word to and for our Pastor.

What a blessing pastors have been to God's people down through the ages! May God continue to bless all the churches of our Synod mightily through His gift of pastors.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

DUTY	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Organist	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	Tim McDermott	John Reitz	Jeff Meinke	Brent Wohl
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Troy Henning	Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hoyer	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koch	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Langfeldt
Acolytes	Morgan & Maggie Wohl	Elliott Reitz & Ashlyn Adam	Mara Hoyer & Aaron Meinke	Devon Reitz, Mara & Skye Hoyer