

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 25

September 2023

Issue 9

Why Should I Come to Church?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Third Commandment states: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Martin Luther says this about the Third Commandment: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

In the Third Commandment, God invites us to rest in Him, reflect on His Word, and receive His forgiveness in order to strengthen our faith in Him.

Remembering the Sabbath day is vital for Christians. We sometimes believe that we can worship God by ourselves. We can do that to an extent. We can see God's creation all around us. But like skipping church, what is missing? His Word and Sacraments.

Gathering for worship in the Divine Service is a time of encouragement with fellow Christians. We share our blessings, our burdens, and joys in petitions and hymns of praise with those present, remembering the Church throughout the world and the saints and angels in heaven.

Each weekend, we all make choices. There is so much we can do. As Jesus says in the Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:12-24), it is only natural that we make excuses when we are all invited to church. It's natural, because of our inherited sinful nature. We naturally think of ourselves. Sinful man is great at making excuses. "Sunday Funday" has become engrained in today's culture. Really, Sunday Funday is nothing new. That is the same excuse that those who declined the invitation to the Great Banquet. We plead necessity: "I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused." We plead inconvenience: "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them." We plead pleasure: "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." We are great at making excuses.

But, really, what's so important about attending church services? Why can't I just sleep in? Why can't I sit home and watch tv? Why can't I just relax, stay home, watch sports, or just have a day of recreation? Well, they are nothing bad on their own. There is nothing inherently evil about those things. But what is missing? God's Word. Instead of resting in God's Word and Sacraments, those other things that replace church have become false idols of false worship.

So, gathering together with fellow Christians in public worship is vital. It's vital because God is present as His unchanging Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are administered. Through these Means of Grace, He freely gives His gifts and blessings, chiefly the forgiveness of sins. In the Divine Service, our Shepherd, Jesus, speaks through the mouth of the shepherd (the pastor) whom He has called to care for the souls of the congregation. The Word of God is not simply information, but the Word actually delivers what it says.

Gathering in public worship is also a public testimony to our faith in Christ to the world. Remember, we live in a fallen world. Satan has his grips on the culture around us. It is his culture. Satan uses sinful men to preach tolerance of vice (sin) and intolerance of virtue. Satan uses his culture to convince people to tolerate worldly sins, but to be intolerant of God's unchanging truth. So, by attending the Divine Service, you are testifying that Jesus is your redeemer from sin, eternal death, and the devil.

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Lastly, we gather in church in the sure and certain hope that Christ is coming. He is coming at an hour that we do not expect. So, the way to be ready for His coming is receive His free gift of His medicine of immortality in His Word and Sacrament. By receiving His gifts, we know that we have nothing to fear on the day of His coming.

So, come, but not only come! Invite others, since God's gifts are for everyone! Everything is ready!

In Christ,
Pastor Adelsen

Staying Connected

(From *Portals of Prayer*: Wednesday, August 2023)

Read: Ephesians 6:10-20 and Psalm 6.

“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18)

How is your church doing? Really – how are you doing?

At the time of this writing, we're just now coming out of the fog. The long plague that has gripped this planet has had a devastating effect on Christ's Church on earth. So many have died or drifted from the faith. Others have completely disconnected themselves from Christ's gifts or still worship at a distance. No judgment here! Just an ache and a longing for Christ's people to come home.

This was the prayer of Paul as well. He most likely wrote these words from prison just weeks before his death. The Church of God was scattered and harassed. With plagues and persecutions on the rise, Paul sought to embolden and encourage the saints. His weapon? Perseverance through prayer. Continually. Transcending the walls of his cell, holding firm and fast to the promises of God.

I am praying for you today, as well as for your pastor and congregation. It's what the Church has always done in times of distress. Yes, prayer is faith breathing in the Lord's gracious promises and breathing out our cares and concerns. Be encouraged. Yes, even rejoice! You are prayed for, as I am. Along with God's Word, prayer is yet one more gift to help us stay connected to Jesus and to one another.

Father, thank You for receiving my prayers this day for myself and Your Church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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Catechism Class Resumes in September

For all sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, catechism will resume on Wednesday, September 6. This year's subject is on Bible History. Orientation is September 6 at 5:30 p.m. Classes start the following week (September 13) at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Pastor Adelsen.

Christian Denominations Adult Bible Study

It is easy to think that all Christians believe the same teachings, but the differences are astounding. Baptism, Communion, and free will are all examples of some of the major differences among Christian denominations.

Beginning on Sunday, September 10, the Sunday Adult Bible Study will dive into these differences from a Lutheran perspective. We will look at the similarities and differences that exist between Christian denominations, as well as the similarities and differences of church bodies within each denomination.

According to the survey taken during the summer Adult Bible Study, we will be going through the following Christian denominations (in order of votes):

- Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Methodist Church
- Reformed Church
- Baptist Church
- Restoration Church
- Nondenominational Church

Please join us!

The Book of Revelation – Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Many early Christians endured unimaginable pain simply because they refused to give up their faith in Jesus. They were thrown to the lions and other wild beasts while onlookers cheered. They were set on fire, hurled down cliffs, skinned alive, and even boiled in oil. The cruelty was off the charts!

It would have been easy to deny their faith in such circumstances. Then steps in the Book of Revelation. The Holy Spirit inspired John to write to God's people so they would stand firm despite the storms that roared around them. The Book of Revelation has one focused message: Jesus is victorious, and He is coming soon!

We may not face the same persecution and cruelty that the Early Church faced, but persecution has not slowed, and it appears to be increasing. Satan has not suddenly stopped hating Christ's Church. Despite all that Christians have faced and continue to face, God's people have endured for the name of Jesus, since the victory is His and has been won for all who trust in Him. Christ gives us the victory. We are His forgiven, dearly loved sisters and brothers.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study will begin a study on the Book of Revelation. Please join us as we will study together the unveiling and revealing pictures that the Book of Revelation reveals in Jesus Christ!

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Congregational President's Comments September 2023

Summer vacation is nearing an end and a new school year is beginning. It seems we are busy year around these days. Let's not forget, no matter how busy we may be, to set aside time for the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ! I encourage everyone to prioritize our walk with God.

I'll repeat the observation I made last month that it appears summer vacations and recreational activities have significantly reduced church attendance throughout the past several months. In fact, the lasting effects of the "covid" closures has continued to cause reduced attendance at all church bodies, including Prince of Peace, whether by change in habits, reduced commitment, or simply convenient neglect. Let's do our best to encourage each other to diligently attend our church services in person. Every Sunday. Invite friends, neighbors and relatives. Everyone is welcome. It is such a joyful gathering when God's house is filled for worship!

The LCMS school feasibility discussion continues among the four area congregations. The number of on-line survey responses have been disappointingly low. You are reminded that an informational pamphlet has been prepared to answer questions about the school initiative tailored to congregation members and another edition specifically prepared for distribution to the general public. The pamphlets are available through Pastor if you are interested. Paper survey forms are available. All congregation members are requested and encouraged to complete the survey.

The financial conditions here at Prince of Peace continue to be challenging. It is tragically typical that general contributions are reduced through the summer months just like attendance. The church mission, however, continues every day. 365 days a year. God is here for us every day. Please pray for an improvement in our finances. Search your hearts and let's support Prince of Peace, whether it be time, talent or tithes.

I am reminded that we are hoping to fill additional Elder positions. Please give thought to serving our Lord and the church in that capacity. I'm sure, as well, that the Trustees and other committees would welcome volunteers.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President, Appointed

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LWML News:

Ladies, we will have a meeting September 2 at the church at 9 a.m. After the meeting and Bible study, you are invited to stay and crochet or knit the preemie hats.

Remember your secret sister!

Some dates to remember:

September 29-30: SWD Fall Retreat (talk to Debbie for details)

October 7: Prayer meeting

October 8: LWML Sunday

October 24: Deliver a meal to the West Salem Fire Station

December 2: Advent Tea & Cookie Exchange

Everyone is invited.

Evangelism Report for September

By Sharie Brunk, Evangelism Board

The Evangelism Committee is looking forward to another year of events and activities. Some of our activities from the past church year included: Trunk N Treat, June Dairy Day Parade, Feed the Children Summer Program, National Night Out, handing out bookmarks to visitors, "POP Rock" activity, and Friendship Sundays. If you are interested in joining our committee to help plan any of these events and/or come up with new evangelism ideas, please speak with Sharie Brunk. We would love to have you join our group!

Trustees Report

By Roger Emmons, Trustee

The dish washer is operable, needs a 'shut off' or 'end of cycle' switch.

Projects:

1. Purchase, install replacement furnace-estimated cost: \$4000
2. Replace remaining Fluorescent T8s with Led T8s (about 32 fixtures)-estimated cost: \$640.
3. Replace lights behind outdoor cross with LED's-estimated cost: \$1200

The following are potential "Thursday Projects"

4. Redirect down spout, SE corner of porte cochere
5. Clean, repaint scuffed areas on walls, ceilings
6. Repair or replace damaged siding
7. Clean and repaint storage building
8. Install closure for kitchen

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IT'S MARLENE WILHELM'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!

Come and help celebrate her birthday on

Sunday, September 17th. We'll have a potluck and birthday cake. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex.

Thanks in advance for helping to make this a very special occasion.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF MISSION QUILTS

A new outreach project has started at Prince of Peace. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world full of suffering.

Can't sew? Don't worry there are many ways that you can help out. We are not out buying new materials to make these quilts. Ask a neighbor or friend if they have old cotton top sheets or light blankets they want to get rid of. Garage sales, Goodwill, Good Samaritan or any second-hand store is also a good resource to find these items. Sheets cannot be stained; they will be used for backing and light blankets will be quilt filling. There are also many small ways you can help construct quilts. All materials need to be washed, after washing the material needs to be ironed to make it easier to cut into squares. After squares are cut, they are sewed together to make a 60 x 80 quilt top. When we have some quilt tops together, we will have an ingathering. At the ingathering we will put the quilts on a frame to be tied. Quilts are gathered once a year and shipped out. This will be done with other churches in the area that are also quilting. This is not just for LWML ladies, anyone can join. Have a friend that would like to get together with some ladies for fellowship and a good cause? Invite them to join.

Hope you all can be a part of this worthy project that will be ongoing from year to year if possible.

Ten quilts are finished! The next day to get together is September 18.

There will be a special "blessing of the quilts" during a worship service in October.

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September Schedules

Ushers

September 3: Roger & Ginny Emmons

September 10: Russ & Sharie Brunk

September 17: Randy & DeAnne Otto

September 24: Danielson's

Greeters

September 3: POP Family

September 10: Hinds & Leis

September 17: POP Family

September 24: Otto's

Money counters

September 3: Alsobrooks & Dunnum

September 10: Childs & Peters

September 17: Hinds & Leis

September 24: Schmidt & Dunnum

Song Leaders

September 3: Brooklynn Scholze

September 10: Sarah Kolander

September 17: Holly Ford

September 24: Sarah Kolander

Altar Guild

Cassie Grube

Lori Schmidt

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Our September birthdays:

Virginia Emmons	4 th
Amy Ruffi	4 th
Aliah Kuehn	12 th
Bill Peters	13 th
Marlene Wilhelm	17 th
Daniel Bruemmer	20 th
Philip Durnin	20 th
Faith Leyh	21 st
Dave Schmidt	22 nd



Tim & Dee Pralle	5 th
Brian & Patricia Horstmann	26

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