

# Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 27

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Issue 6

## What is Confirmation?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

What is Confirmation? Our synodical explanation is this: *Confirmation is a public rite of the church preceded by a period in which baptized Christians lean about the confession, life, and mission of the Christian Church. Prior to the admission to the Lord's Supper, it is necessary to be instructed in the Christian faith, as 1 Corinthians 11:28-29 teaches, "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." The Rite of Confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in Holy Baptism to make a personal public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.*

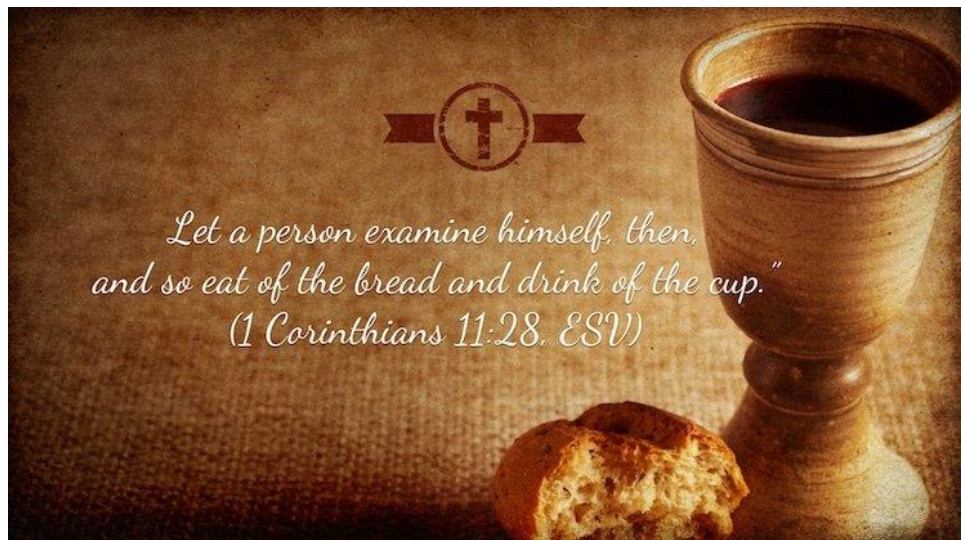
So, how successful has Confirmation been in the Christian Church? For many, the typical experience of Confirmation has been this:

- The text of *Luther's Small Catechism* was never seen or heard of prior to "Confirmation Class."
- *Luther's Small Catechism* is only seen as a textbook.
- The text of *Luther's Small Catechism* is often never seen or hear of again after Confirmation Day.

Last month, I attended the LCMS South Wisconsin Spring Pastor's Conference held in La Crosse. The primary topic was on Confirmation, Catechesis, and First Communion. The plenary speaker on this topic was Rev. Mark Surburg, who serves as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Marion, Illinois. He spoke on the history, or lack thereof, of Confirmation in the Christian Church.

In fact, the defining text on the importance of Confirmation was supposedly written by "Pope Melchades," a pope who never existed. And Martin Luther was never in favor of a particular rite for Confirmation. But somehow, Confirmation became a very important rite in the Christian Church. How?

Well, there was certainly a need for catechesis (or teaching), just as there is a need for Christian catechesis today. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Confirmation became a ritual in some places in Christendom. The idea was for "strength for the fight" of faith. In fact, for this



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rite of Confirmation, this would be said after being confirmed: “And then he gives him a light blow on the cheek saying, ‘Peace be with you.’” The slap imitated the ceremony of knighthood. Yes, it was much like the slaps on *Monty Python and The Holy Grail*.

Over the next few months, I will go into the history of Confirmation in the Christian Church. And oddly enough, “*there is nothing new under the sun*” (Ecclesiastes 1:9) when it comes to the Church’s trials with Confirmation. When I say nothing new, I mean nothing new. In fact, various kingdoms and states in what is today’s modern Germany made it law that Confirmation must be complete in order to get a job and to go to college. This was done because so many parents did not make the effort to get their children confirmed. Obviously, today we don’t have those laws.

All my life, I have heard the conversations about “losing youth” after being Confirmed. So, what can be done? What can we do?

Over the next few months, I will make the case for early communion. Yes, this is different than what we are all used to, but when we look at the history of the Confirmation, in the coming months, I hope that you will get on board with what even Martin Luther encouraged.

Afterall, Sunday after Sunday or Monday after Monday, I preach the importance of the Medicine of Immortality, the Sacrament of the Altar, so why do we have so much of a delay between infant Baptism and Confirmation? If the Lord’s Supper is so important as it forgives our sins and strengthens our weak faith, why do we wait so long? And what are we teaching by this delay?

God’s richest blessings to you this June!

In Christ,

Pastor Adelsen

## Our Church Needs Your Help and Support

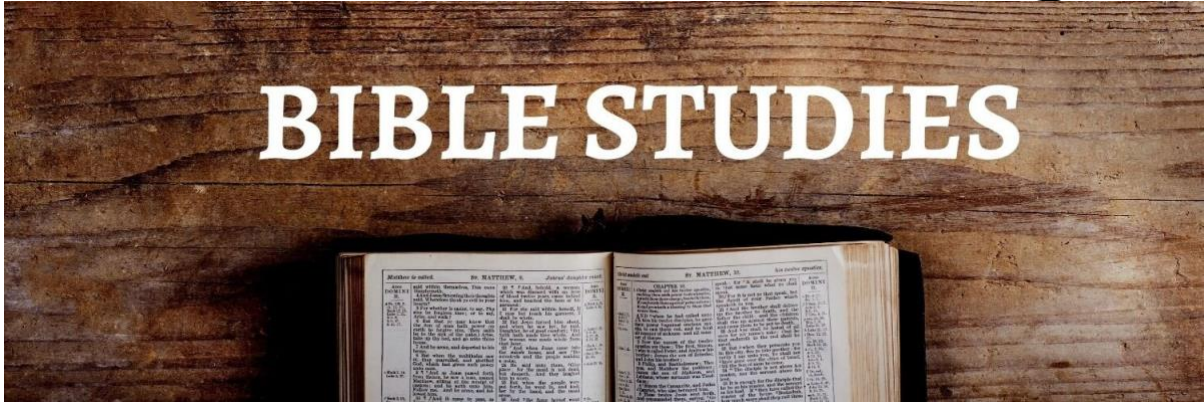
Continuing the battle to balance our expenses and contributions, Council has discontinued our commercial janitor and trash removal services.

Since May 1, we have depended on volunteers for our janitor services. We are now asking for volunteers to sign up for one month periods to provide those services. A sign-up sheet and instructions are posted in the narthex.

Hilltopper will be picking up their dumpster later this month, after which we will need volunteers to take care of the recyclable materials and the trash.

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***Sunday Adult Bible Study (10:30 a.m. Sundays)***

## **THE TREATISE ON THE POWER AND PRIMACY OF THE POPE**

As the news media is focused on a new pope, what does the papacy mean for us Lutherans? Join us as we study “The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope,” which is one of the documents on the Book of Concord, our Lutheran confessions. One completed, we will return to our study on the Book of Proverbs.

## **THE BOOK OF PROVERBS**

The central theme of Proverbs is wisdom: *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction”* (Proverbs 1:7).

The word **proverbs** comes from the content of this Bible book. For the most part, it contains short, two-line sentences that describe how God’s people can live positive, productive lives.

***Wednesday Morning Bible Study (9:30 a.m. Wednesdays)***

## **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

John’s Gospel focuses beautifully on both the promise of everlasting life and the bodily resurrection of those who trust in Jesus. Throughout the study, we will take comfort in Christ’s many great and precious promises to His flock. His words are spirit, and they are life!

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*Men's Bible Study (5 p.m., Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>)*

## **1 & 2 TIMOTHY and TITUS**

St. Paul's two letters to Timothy are vivid reminders that the early Christians faced trouble and even the threat of death for their faith. And yet, the joy that stirred and encouraged their hearts is unmistakable! As we study the letters to Timothy, we will see how God blesses His Church through the Office of the Holy Ministry through which Jesus brings salvation to the whole world. St. Paul's letter to Titus also makes it clear that holy living and pure teaching are two sides of the same coin. What we believe affects what we do, and what we do grows out of what we believe. Paul begins his letter to Titus by referring to this truth writing,

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and *their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness ...*” (Titus 1:1; emphasis added).

*Women's Bible Study (9 a.m. Saturdays)*

## **CHOSEN**

We meet mostly using Facebook messenger and are currently studying “Chosen” by Donna Snow, which is a study based on the Book of Esther. Interested in joining? Talk to Carrie Horstman, Sarah Kolander, Ginny Emmons or Debbie Dunnum!

### **LWML Notes**

Our next meeting will be June 7 at 9 a.m.

Check out the quilts and crafts in the fellowship hall! All the items are for sale, and the proceeds will go to support our LWML. Quilts are being sold for \$25 minimum, and for the other crafts, buyers can determine the price.

Mark your calendars for July 20! We're having a potluck all-church picnic!

### **Quilting News**

Monday, June 23, is our final quilting session.

Thank you to all the ladies that helped with this worthy mission!

The quilts will be sent out later this summer.

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## **Life Newsbytes**

**Research Confirms 95.9% of Abortions Are Killing Babies as Birth Control, Just .4% for Rape** – After the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, states across the country have enacted laws that limit abortion. Frequently, these state laws make exceptions for abortions for certain reasons, such as rape and incest, risk to the mother’s life or health, or a fetal abnormality ... To develop an estimate of the percent of abortions performed for a given reason, data was combined from each state reporting that particular reason. Overall, common exceptions to abortion limits are estimated to account for less than 5% of all abortions. Rape and incest: 0.4%. Risk to the woman’s life or a major bodily function: 0.3%. Other physical health concerns: 2.2%. Abnormality in the unborn baby: 1.2%. Elective and unspecified reasons: 95.9% ... The CDC does not request information on reasons for abortion from the states, and so this data is not included in the national reports. As the *Dobbs* decision has resulted in a shift in where and why abortions are performed and the complications that are associated with them, the CDC should strengthen reporting requirements and request additional data from the states. Read the complete story at [www.lifenews.com/2025/04/18/research-confirms-95-9-of-abortions-are-killing-babies-as-birth-control-just-4-for-rape-2](http://www.lifenews.com/2025/04/18/research-confirms-95-9-of-abortions-are-killing-babies-as-birth-control-just-4-for-rape-2).

## **Speaking Up For Life**

“The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ’s goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven.” *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

“Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let’s partake in the blessing of proclaiming God’s truth and putting Christ’s love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!” *Pastor Michael Salemink*

“May God send an army of angels to protect the babies in the womb from the laws being enacted in some states that are taking away protections for God’s smallest, most vulnerable humans. May hearts be changed with the truths found in Scripture. And may

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the influence the devil has on our society, with his culture of death, be deposed.” *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life*

## Moving On

by Pastor Michael Salemink



At the end of this month (May), I'll be moving on from my vocation with Lutherans For Life. A delightful decade is drawing to an end. It makes me somewhat sentimental to reflect on what the time together with you has taught me. No doubt I have learned far more than I have delivered and gained well beyond what I've given. As I consider how I can best orient and prepare the incoming successor, I want to share with you a few of the priceless insights and experiences our Gospel-motivated Christian fellowship has brought me. (And there are more!)

**People are gifts and privileges.** Every human life and person embodies a treasure to Almighty God and a blessing from the Heavenly Father. The best dimension of my undertakings and experiences in this ministry has come from interacting with neighbors, acquaintances, brothers, and sisters across the country. I've had no greater enjoyment than sharing life—celebrations and sorrows—in an abundance of capacities with such a multitude of individuals. And I take the greatest pride in the Gospel-motivated servants we have assembled as the staff and leadership of Lutherans For Life.

**Lutherans are hurting.** Life issues like surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, infertility, abortion grief and guilt, living with disability, and so many more confront the sisters and brothers of our congregations. I continue to hear their stories within every imaginable demographic. Church membership doesn't make anybody immune. Often they're suffering silently and secretly.

**We cannot neglect listening and affirming.** Everyone has a story that informs their convictions and their complaints. The sanctity of life means relationship, not just argument, and so we welcome opportunities to enter another's world and inhabit their space, standing alongside instead of staring down at. No matter how different our conclusions, each conversation offers some common ground to which we can agree.

**We don't have to leave out the Gospel and doctrine.** Of course, nations ought not legislate the faith or forcefully impose Baptism and belief upon the population. Our persuasive case has to incorporate science, logic, history, and the common good. But the Lord's own words about sin and salvation give us the most convincing reasons for what we proclaim and practice. Why would we ever disregard it?

**Government doesn't have the answer.** Elections and legislation comprise only a component of our mission. Controlling behavior may prove quicker and easier, but it pales in comparison to the lasting effects of converting hearts. Civic action serves neighbors in necessary ways, as a partial means to a superior end. A safe, free, and fair land allows for declaring God's truth and demonstrating Christ's love.

**We have company.** A noble and untold host across countries and centuries stands with us. Humble but steadfast, they echo and amplify the same testimony as we do in every age and location. They know our hurts and our hopes and bear them beside us. The Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus abides, guides, and energizes the sanctity of life, and very soon every tongue will acknowledge it. We belong not only to an army but to a family. The kingdom of Almighty God is already prevailing.

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## **Our June birthdays**

Joan Abbott	June 1
Russ Brunk	June 6
Leatta Danielson	June 6
Brian Shockey	June 7
Emma Schran	June 17
Adam Hausner	June 22
Karl Horstman	June 29
Kim Shockey	June 30

## **Happy Anniversary!**

Peter and Melissa Adelsen	June 1
Kurt and Ona Childs	June 18
Paul and Dena Zezulka	June 21

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## June Schedules

### Ushers

June 1-Roger & Ginny Emmons  
June 8-Mike & Carolyn Dosland  
June 15-Elaine Schmidt & Barb Hinds  
June 22-Russ & Sharie Brunk  
June 29-Dan & Kari Moen

### Greeters

June 1-POP Family  
June 8- POP Family  
June 15-POP Family  
June 22-POP Family  
June 29-POP Family

### Money counters

June 1-Chris Leis & Elaine Schmidt  
June 8-Barb Hinds & Ona Childs  
June 15-Lori Peters & Debbie Dunnum  
June 22-Barb Alsobrooks & Chris Leis  
June 29-Barb Hinds & Ona Childs

### Song Leaders

June 1-Sarah Kolander  
June 8-Brooklynn Scholze  
June 15-Sarah Kolander  
June 22-Holly Ford  
June 29-Brooklynn Scholze

### Altar Guild

Leatta Danielson  
Chris Leis

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# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Pastor @ Doxology	2 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	3 Men's Bible Study: 5 p.m.	4 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	5	6 Pastor's day off First Friday Fellowship: 5:30 p.m.	7 LWML: 9 a.m.
8 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study: 10:30 Council: 11:30 a.m.	9 Divine Service: 7 p.m. District Convention: June 8-10	10	11 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	12	13 Pastor's day off	14 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
<b>Father's Day</b> 15 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Voters' Assembly	16 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	17 Men's Bible Study: 5 p.m.	18 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	19	20 Pastor's day off	21 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
22 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study: 10:30	23 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	24	25 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	26	27 Pastor's day off	28 Women's Bible Study: 9a.m.
29 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Adult Bible study: 10:30	30 Divine Service: 7 p.m.					

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