



FAITH

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2017
Newsletter

DEVOTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

This month's look at the Lord's Prayer brings us to the Fifth Petition: "*Forgive us our trespasses (sins), as we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us.*" This petition is, as Martin Luther put it, "concerned with our poor, miserable conduct. Although we have the Word of God, believe in Him, obey Him, and submit to His will, and though His gifts and blessing nourish our lives, yet we do not live without sinning." Oh, how true it is!

Therefore, when we pray this Petition we are asking God, for Jesus' sake, not to look upon our hideous and repulsive sins nor punish them as we daily deserve. Rather, we are appealing to him to deal with us according to his grace and forgive us as he promised.

Take note of that last word – as he "promised." So, what is it that God promised? He promised to punish our sins, but to not punish us who committed them! He promised that the penalty for sin had to be paid, but that another would pay that penalty for us! That's what Jesus did with his life, death and resurrection. Therefore, Jesus' work of redemption is nothing else than offering us the forgiveness of all our sins. Jesus died on the cross to pay for all of our sins against the perfect and holy God. With his death, he washed them all away.

Now, to maintain a healthy, Christian faith we want to daily confess that we have sinned; to daily confess that we have broken God's holy law in thought, word and deed. King David's confession of sins is an excellent model for us. In Psalm 51 he confessed, "Against you [God], you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight." After that, every Christian then looks to God alone for full forgiveness. God is the one we offended, so God is the only one who can forgive.

A tragic mistake that many make is that they will try to excuse their sins, saying, "I'm only human." Yes, you are only human; therefore you are a lost and condemned sinner. Being human is no license for sin.

Another error we must guard against is trying to conceal our sins from God. That is impossible. It is as foolish as trying to hide cavities from the dentist. God forgives all the sins we confess in repentant faith. Why hide them?

And there's a double reaction when we are assured that our sins are forgiven. First, we are profoundly grateful to the Lord for having done what is impossible for us to do for ourselves – to be cleansed of sin. Secondly, we show our gratitude by loving and forgiving all those around us who have sinned against us. Therefore, we are not asking for forgiveness because we have forgiven others. Rather, we are asking that God forgive our sins for Jesus' sake, and on account of that forgiveness lead us to forgive anyone who sins against us.

So, "we pray in this petition that our Father would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us" (Luther's Small Catechism).

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

JUNE 12, 2017

ELDER'S REPORT

Confirmation on 5/7/17 of Mackenzie Bedell, Chase Manske, Chase Severson, and Jeremiah Spaude. Moved, seconded and confirmed (MSC) to accept as members.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the months of April and May.

Pastor's Outreach Update

Koine concert on July 25, 2017.

Reformation road-trip on Oct. 29, 2017.

Faith Family Fun nights-Aug 14-16.

Miscellaneous Update

Pastor mentioned the vacancies in both the Pastoral and Teaching ministries throughout our Synod.

Pastor will look into different ministries carried out by our Synod and present the Council with a recommendation to have them come to preach.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$7,056.71 for the month of May. MSC to accept financial report for May, 2017.

SPECIAL REPORTS PROPERTY

Organ has been repaired. The three major components of the organ have been replaced so we believe the organ repair is complete.

The church sign in BRF is now working. The ballast needed to be replaced.

SPECIAL REPORT OUTREACH

Library: Outreach Committee recommends that the Church Librarian attend the WELS Librarians conference once a year. Cost to attend to be paid by the Church.

Library Budget: We set aside \$250 to purchase books each year. This will be added to the budget summary in the future.

Reformation 500: Committee is working on celebration activities. Recommendation by the committee that we hire a bus and provide dinner to anyone wanting to attend service held at Dane County Coliseum on October 29, 2017. MSC to approve 100% of the cost of members attending.

OLD BUSINESS

Constitution verbiage concerning weddings and funerals: Pastor recommended a change to the Church Constitution Bylaws to cover weddings and funerals held at the church. MSC to recommend the changes to the voter's at the next Congregational Meeting as Article X Church Weddings and Funerals Section 1. Weddings and Section 2. Funerals and to move the current Article X to Article XI Repeals and Amendments of the Bylaws.

Church Picnic: Cody, Jerry, Grady, Dale and Pastor will represent the Council. Food and drink is coordinated.

Joint Services: Discussion regarding attendance at Joint Services was held and continuing to encourage attendance at these events

NEW BUSINESS

Reformation 500 Financial Support: The Western Wisconsin District asked if District congregation would give an offering of \$100-\$300 to enable the offering from the service to go to the designated purpose. MSC to approve \$200 donation to the Reformation 500 event.

July Congregation Meeting Time

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

The next Church Council meeting will be 6:00pm on July 24th, 2017 in BRF.

The next Congregational meeting will be July 30th, 11:15 am in BRF.

Recorded by Brad Rahmlow



July Anniversaries

Dale + Linda Jessie	7/12
Pastor Joel + Rachel Neumann	7/16
Ray + Judy Sommers	7/21

July Birthdays

Denis Janke	7/1	Ken Diener	7/15
Mikah Huggett	7/3	Garrett Jessie	7/17
Luke Spaude	7/3	Noah Neumann	7/23
Wendy Mlsna	7/9	Karen Yahnke	7/24
Brad Rahmlow	7/10	Ralph Jandt	7/26
Nancy Templeton	7/11	Jeff Nicolai	7/28



FIRESIDE BIBLE STUDY

The Fireside Bible Studies continue in July. We will continue to meet outside (weather permitting) around a campfire at our BRF location at 6:30 p.m. Following the study, people are welcome to bring their own favorite roasting treats to enjoy around the fire.



Wednesday, July 5 – What Luther Says About...Angels

Monday, July 10 – What Luther Says About...Anger

Thursday, July 20 – What Luther Says About...Antichrist

Wednesday, July 26 – What Luther Says About...Apostasy/Faithfulness

Please note that each class in this study will be independent of the others! If you have to miss a class, you won't be left behind at the next class! Consider this opportunity to grow in your faith and share in the fellowship! Children are welcome too!

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information to include in the monthly newsletters, please send it to janeen.folgersx@gmail.com by the second to the last Sunday of the month.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

The next children's sermon will be Sunday, July 9. These short messages are directed to the children of the congregation ages 3 – 6th grade. On this Sunday, the children will be invited to the front of church for a short message that connects to the service that day. The prayer is that not only will this help the children in understanding the truths of worship that day, but that it will also help parents see how they might be able to incorporate the truths of Sunday's sermons into devotions throughout the week.

KOINÉ

Don't miss the band that was awarded the 2013 & 2016 Wisconsin Christian/Gospel Artist of the Year! Koiné is made up of WELS members who take century-old hymns and combine them with modern accompaniment such as drums, electric bass and guitar.

Your congregation is hosting this band July 25 at Lunda Park as part of the community concert series. Come join us. Come listen to them. Here is the information again:

When: Tuesday, July 25 @ 7 p.m.

Where: Lunda Park, Black River Falls

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet on Sunday, July 9 from 2-3:30 p.m. in Black River Falls.

PILLOWCASE CREATING

The Ladies of Faith will meet – and they invite all the ladies of the congregation – for their second of two dates set aside for pillowcase making. It will be on Monday, July 10 at 6 p.m. in Black River Falls.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Motivated by the gospel, the purpose of our Outreach Committee is to help our church members live the mission of our congregation – to be "Rooted in Christ & Reaching Out with the Word." Agenda items this month include preparations for the Koine Concert. Our meeting will take place Sunday, July 23, at 11:30 a.m. in the BRF church building.

Have you considered teaching Sunday School?

"... Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15) If you would like to serve by teaching Sunday School this year, please let Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt know by Sunday, July 30. This is a wonderful opportunity to nourish our children's faith with the precious truths of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will continue using our synod's Christ-Light® materials, which provide teachers with easy to follow, step-by-step lessons.



Western Wisconsin District Reformation 500 Celebration

We are Lutherans who treasure God's grace, our faith, and our Bibles. Our heritage goes back to the church at the time of the apostles and traces its history through Martin Luther. It was Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church on October 31, 1517 that is often pointed to as the start of the Reformation. God blessed his efforts and restored the church to its apostolic roots in the Bible.

It's been 500 years since that Reformation and we want to celebrate. Special plans are being made to have a district wide celebration in Madison, Wisconsin on October 29, 2017.

The celebration will be at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison and begin with a worship service at 4:00 pm and will include adult and children's choirs and special speakers. A special hymn sing will follow the service featuring the musical group Koine. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. ***Your congregation will be renting a coach bus in order to make it possible for you to attend at no cost.***

To sign-up to attend, see the details on the sign-up sheet in the gathering area in both locations. More information will follow in the months ahead.

Musicians Needed

They are looking for good WELS trumpet, horn, or trombone (or baritone) players. Contact Pastor Richard Lehmann at rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net if able and interested.

Information for Choirs

Those interested in singing with the Adult Choir, Teen Choir, or Children's Choir can contact also Pastor Richard Lehman (rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net). He will let you know what music you need to purchase. It is available through Northwestern Publishing House. You can also get rehearsal information from him.

Join their Facebook page for more information: Reformation 500, Madison, Wisconsin October 29, 2017.