



CHRIST THE KING Evangelical Lutheran Church

Green Bay, Wisconsin

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OUR MISSION: *Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God for His grace received through Word and Sacrament by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ with the people of this community and the world.*

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Racism and the Fifth Commandment by Pastor Van Kampen

"You shall not kill."

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need.

—Luther's Small Catechism, ELS Catechism and Explanation, 2001 ed.

The deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police officers have sparked a national outcry. It's a reminder that the sin of racism is still with us. In the Fifth Commandment we find some answers about issues of race—for the problems we see around us, and for ourselves too.

"You shall not kill," the commandment says. And yet there's more to keeping this command than just going through life without committing murder. "We should fear and love God that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor." In Noah's day, one of the reasons God sent the flood to destroy the earth was because the earth was "filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11). Simply put, violence against anyone is not to be tolerated or excused. When He established the governing authorities, God gave them the power of the "the sword" (Ro 13), but that authority is meant to punish wrongdoing and to protect innocent people from harm. When police use violence indiscriminately, *and* when protesters become rioters who threaten people's safety, both are sinning against God.

Yet God's command isn't just about our outward behavior; it has to do with the attitude of the heart: "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15). To harbor hatred in our hearts toward any person or group of people, on account of their skin color or any other reason, is wrong.



The opposite of hatred is love. Time and again the Lord tells us in His Word to "love one another." Yet love isn't just the absence of hate; love chooses to get involved. When the Good Samaritan picked up the broken, beat-up body of his neighbor, carried him to safety, dressed his wounds, and provided for his care and healing, he was showing true love—especially since the wounded man was his enemy. That's why Luther's

explanation says that keeping the Fifth Commandment means to "help and befriend" your neighbor "in every need."

When it comes to our black neighbors, can we really say that we have helped and befriended them in *every* need? In a recent *Forward in Christ* article in February (the official publication of WELS), Rev. Snowden Sims addresses one of the greatest needs in the African American community. He writes about his experience growing up in inner-city Milwaukee. "I played with neighborhood children who were fatherless as the result of their mother's one-night stand, their parents' divorce, or the death of their father." Fatherlessness was a reality for many—himself included. "As a child, that was just the way it was."

We don't always think about the impact fatherlessness has on the lives of the children who endure it. The American Enterprise Institute recently published a study that found that being married and regularly attending church were important factors in helping black men become successful in life. Yet how is a young man supposed to learn how to be a good husband if he has no father to teach him and there's no healthy marriage for him to model his own marriage

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News & Notes

after? It's not impossible—but it's a lot harder. How is a young man supposed to learn about the importance of hearing the Word of God, if there's no father to set an example for him? More importantly, how can children learn to trust their heavenly Father to love them and provide for them when they can't even count on their earthly fathers to be there for them? It's not impossible—but it's a lot harder.

So, have we helped and befriended our black neighbors in every need? Have we done something about fatherlessness—in our own society or in the black community? Or have we simply not thought too much about it? Have we insulated ourselves in our own homes and lives to the point that we just don't see how great the need is? Failing to help our neighbor when we have the means and ability to do so is also a sin.

Yet these times are not without hope. We have an opportunity for repentance—for confessing our apathy and cold-heartedness, recognizing our failures to keep God's command to love and befriend our neighbors. We still have time to fall down at God's feet and ask His forgiveness, clinging to the cross of His Son, letting the blood of Jesus cleanse us of our guilt as we hide our lives in His righteousness and holiness, trusting in the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father.

We can be thankful for the Savior who, being totally sinless was different from us in every way, yet He befriended us in our need. He gave everything so that He could save our lives for all eternity.

And in His love, He moves us to more fully love our neighbor as ourselves. He enables us to take a personal interest in the life of someone without a father—maybe in our own church family, or in our kids' or grandkids' school, or even in our own neighborhood. To pray for them... to talk with them... to mentor them... and, ultimately, to share Jesus with them.

—Pastor Van Kampen

CONFIRMATIONS

Having been examined in the presence of the Board of Elders, Alex Kirchner and Joslyn Saliger were confirmed in the faith of their baptisms on Sunday, June 7, during the worship service. We welcome them to the Lord's table to receive their Savior's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins and the strengthening of their faith. God bless Alex and Joslyn and graciously keep them in the true faith throughout their earthly lives!

MONDAY NIGHT CHURCH

Monday night worship services are held each week at 6:30 p.m. If you are seeking a worship opportunity that is less crowded/more socially distanced, with less singing, Monday night would be an ideal choice. In the month of June, attendance has been between 10 and 15 for the evening service.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Quarterly reports are due in the office by Saturday, July 11, for distribution to the council and congregation in preparation for our quarterly meeting.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Sunday, July 12, after the worship service.

QUARTERLY CONG. AND VOTERS MEETINGS

Our Second Quarter meetings will take place Sunday, July 19, at 10:30 a.m. We will meet in person, but you will also have the option of attending virtually via Zoom. The information on how to attend the meeting virtually will come in an email in coming days. You do not have to have a computer with a camera to attend virtually; you can also attend via telephone. All Zoom conference rooms are passcode protected now for security purposes, so watch for that email.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Evangelism Board, at their June meeting, voted to cancel Vacation Bible School for this year. Concerns were raised about not being able to field enough volunteers, and about whether or not parents from the community would feel comfortable sending their children. The event, which was originally going to be held the first week of August, will simply be postponed until next year. The board reserved the possibility for some kind of special youth/outreach event later in the fall.

July Birthdays!

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Hannah Kirchner | 15 Thyra Hinkens |
| 8 Alexis Smith | 21 Tessa Cerny |
| 9 Beth Kubitz | 31 Philip Heuser |
| 13 James Saliger | |



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ALTAR GUILD FOR JULY:

Barbara Hartwig & Sue Wallenfang

YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 7/19 - Second Quarter Cong./Voters Meeting
- 9/13 - Rally for Christian Ed./Sun. School begins
- 10/17-9 - ELS General Pastoral Conference
- 10/11 - Third Quarter Cong./Voters Meetings
- 10/17 - ELS Womens Missionary Society Rally
- 10/31 - Reformation Day/Trunk or Treat
- 11/25 - **Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.**
- 11/29 - Advent Begins
- 12/6 - WOM - Advent by Candlelight
- 12/24 - **Christmas Eve, 5:30 p.m.**
- 12/25 - **Christmas Day, 9:00 a.m.**
- 12/31 - **New Year's Eve, 5:30 p.m.**

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. USHERS: Group 1	6 6:30 Divine Service w/Holy Comm.	7	8 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	9	10	11
			ERC Meeting, Pastor Gone			
12 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Church Council Meeting USHERS: Group 2	13 6:30 Divine Service	14	15 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	16	17	18
19 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:30 2 nd Quarter Congregational & Voters Meetings USHERS: Group 3	20 6:30 Divine Service w/Holy Comm.	21	22 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	23	24	25
26 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Evangelism/Outreach Board USHERS: Group 4	27 6:30 Divine Service	28	29 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	30	31	



Happy Independence Day!
