



# CHRIST THE KING Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.*

## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### FAITH

#### Martin Luther's Definition of Faith

An excerpt from "An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans," Luther's German Bible of 1522 by Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Translated by Rev. Robert E. Smith from DR. MARTIN LUTHER'S VERMISCHTE DEUTSCHE SCHRIFTEN. Johann K. Irmischer, ed. Vol. 63 Erlangen: Heyder and Zimmer, 1854), pp.124-125. [EA 63:124-125]

Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about faith. "Faith is not enough," they say, "You must do good works, you must be pious to be saved." They think that, when you hear the gospel, you start working, creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, "I believe." That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this 'faith,' either.

Instead, faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13). It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles

around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words.

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire! Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do.

#### IF

It is such a small word but it can be so devastating. It can take some perfectly good statements and destroy them . . . it breaks the heart when it turns "she loves me" into "if she loves me." And it destroys relationships when it corrupts "I will love you always" into "I will love you forever if . . ."

It can be equally disastrous when we introduce that word "if" when it comes to God. We can take a statement of fact and turn it into a question of doubt. "God loves you" becomes "If God loves you . . ." or worse yet, "God will love you if . . ."

A man that Jesus ran into had trouble with this one little word. He looked to Jesus for help, but he had to add a little "if." Jesus reminded him that faith isn't a big fan of "if," and that with God and His power and love there is no "if."

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit . . . I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

"Oh unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." (continued)



## News & Notes

(continued)

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion . . . Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire and water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"If you can?" said Jesus. **"EVERYTHING is possible for him who believes."** Mark 9:17-23



### REMINDER

QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE in the office by Wednesday, October 4, so that we may have them for our quarterly meetings (Church Council, 10/08; Congregational & Voters, 10/15).



The **2023 Trunk or Treat** will take place on Tuesday, October 31, from 4-6 p.m. The run time of the event is two hours. Sign up if you are interested in bringing a vehicle or donating candy. Thank you!

### THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Be thankful for today. You only see it once.

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

God wants full custody, not just weekend visits.

Seven days without prayers makes one weak.

I may not be perfect, but Jesus thinks I'm to die for.

Ketchup with Jesus and relish his love!

**SANCTUARY CLEANING DAY**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023,**  
**1:00 PM. SIGN-UP SHEET IN**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL**



### LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

*End Your Day  
With a  
Grateful Heart*



I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.

### ***WE'RE LIVE!***

Worship Services streamed live every week on our website!  
Visit us at [christthekinggb.org](http://christthekinggb.org) for more information!

## October Birthdays!

3 Jason Diestler  
13 Jeanette Diestler  
14 Fern Simon  
15 Max Greenwood  
17 Janet Klingbile  
17 Maribeth Uhlig  
19 Nicholas Kubitz  
20 John Greenwood  
20 Julie Larsen  
25 Sally Drewery  
30 Jon Kubitz  
31 Peter Tilkens





**Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

*Join us for worship!  
Sunday at 9:00 a.m.*