



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Making peace by the blood of his cross -Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we close out October and move into November, we celebrate Reformation and look forward to Thanksgiving and the hopeful season of Advent. We are also going to be taking up a Bible study that I think is important for all Christians. To introduce all of this, there are two stories I want to tell you.

There was a young pastor of a nondenominational megachurch who recently announced that he has left the Christian faith. His marriage has fallen apart. He is stepping away from his career, even pulling one of his bestselling books from any further publication and sale. He first started teaching other Christians when he was still a teenager. He believed then that he knew God's will for his life. He thought he was following God's plan. When he resigned as a pastor, he said, "This is what I'm realizing. I need to hear clearly from Jesus about His purpose for me." There was such pain in his voice; it was heartbreaking.

On the other hand, there is another story from a Baptist preacher. He relates how he was being courted by a larger church for a larger job. (The way Baptists hire church workers is significantly different from how Lutheran churches use the call process.) As he prayed about the job he was in and the job that he wanted, he grew more excited to leave and more unhappy where he was. But while all the signs were positive, there kept being delays in the job being offered. He prayed one day, "If I am supposed to go to this other church, have their church leader call me today." After making that prayer, he got a slip of paper from a church secretary – he had missed a phone call from that other church. Again, all signs were positive, but there was no update on when the job might be offered. But surely, he thought, it was a sign from God! Two weeks later, he got one more phone call. The church leader apologized. There was so much conflict in the church, not only would they not be hiring anyone new, that very church leader would himself be leaving to go to another church. That Baptist pastor never went where he thought he was supposed to go.

In some ways, these stories are foreign to many Lutherans and our experience of God. We know Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah" (Mt 16:4). ("The sign of Jonah" is Christ Jesus emerging from the tomb on the third day.) We tend to look to the Bible, where the "sign of Jonah" was given. Where the Bible does not show us a path clearly, we trust that God has given us freedom. "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Gal 5:13).

Those teachers' experience is similar to Martin Luther's when he was still a monk. He first became a monk because he believed that St. Anne had saved him from a lightning strike. He was desperate to find a sign that his sins were forgiven. The more he put his spiritual weight on traditions around him, the more they seemed to crumble, incapable of carrying his soul's weight. Eventually, Luther found the

trustworthy foundation was God's Word. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Mt 7:24).

When we celebrate Reformation, we celebrate finding that rock that is higher than us. We celebrate finding freedom in the security of knowing God's will for us. The Lord gave us the sign of Jonah fulfilled, Christ crucified then risen from the dead, proving our sins are forgiven.

We need to keep checking that the houses we are building are still squarely on the rock. Those teachers from the examples I gave let their lives move off what God said He clearly revealed. We're all tempted away from humble service of the neighbor. We're all tempted towards the seeking after signs outside of God's Word. "Did God really say?" was the very first temptation in the Garden. It's a play the devil keeps running time after time. When we run to the Bible, we can see it – yes! God really did say my sins are forgiven!

In our upcoming Bible class, "No More No Man's Land," starting on Sunday, November 7 at 9:45 AM, we will be going through the Bible to see where God reveals Himself, where we find that solid ground, and how Christians can make big decisions in life humbly, without fearing they are outside God's will. We will see how God's Word strengthens faith while also giving us peace and hope.

Brothers and sisters, help rebuild our faith, our churches, our hope, and our families, securing ourselves on the rock of Jesus, who overcame death, sin, and the devil for us. All praise to Him, our servant Lord. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti

HCLC HIKE TIOGA FALLS OCTOBER 2021





Celebrations in November

BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Sam Adams
- 5- Flo Penfold
- 6- Nathaniel Guagenti
- 7- Austin Yaroma
- 9- Kevin McKinley
- 11- Isaiah Bell
- 11- Matthew Jager
- 13- Michael Rutledge
- 14- Hannah Guagenti
- 14- Roxana Pontius
- 15- Margaret Riddle
- 18- John Skellie
- 25- John Feole
- 27- Alex VanPelt
- 29- Carol Spreitzer
- 30- Lindsey Runner

LUTHERANISM 101, SATURDAYS 10 AM

November 6 - Wisdom and Prayer

How do we read the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament? How does Jesus teach us to pray both in the Psalms and the Lord's Prayer?

November 13 - Jesus Christ

How do we read the Gospels in the New Testament? How do we understand the Sermon on the Mount? How does the church calendar focus on the life and ministry of Jesus?

November 20 - Prophets and Apostles

How do we read the Book of Acts and the Epistles of the New Testament? How do we understand the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the authority of the Bible? How does the Holy Spirit impact our lives as baptized Christians?

VICTORIOUS IN THE LORD

Jack Bink, member of Holy Cross, passed away on October 18, 2021. May our risen Lord comfort those who mourn.



"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

John 11:25

NEW BIBLE STUDIES TO PUT ON THE CALENDAR

Wednesdays, beginning October 27, 7:30 PM Zoom, *Job and Leviathan*. We will run a four-week Bible study on the book of Job, focusing on the opening and closing chapters, particularly how Job prophesies the defeat of Satan. We will also talk about how Christians answer the "problem of evil" and how atheists ought to grapple with the "problem of good."

Sundays, beginning November 7, 9:45 AM In-person, *No More No Man's Land*. You may have noticed Lutherans and Roman Catholics number the Ten Commandments differently than Baptists and Presbyterians. At first, you may think it's a rabbit hole to look at why we list the Commandments the way we do. But as we dig deeper into Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 (the two chapters that contain the Ten Commandments), we find how Jesus' teaching on the Commandments affects many practical issues of how we live our faith. How do I know God's will for my life today? How do I root out idolatry from my heart? Where do I find God speaking directly to me? "No Man's Land" was the decimated land between trenches, coverless and death to cross. Moses' Law set a No Man's Land around God, making any approach to the Divine perilous. But in Christ Jesus, springs burst forth in the wasteland, and we are invited to run free, knowing God is with us. Pastor has been excited about a lot of the recent Bible classes, but none more than this one. This is the class not to miss.

Topic: Wednesday Zoom Bible Studies

Time: Wednesday 7:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75331419006?pwd=aDVhL3pIT3B6eXJjeTVWLU0U2TjRSQT09>

Meeting ID: 753 3141 9006

Passcode: Ps110

BAPTISM

On Sunday, October 10, 2021, Margaret Riddle was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We wish Margaret God's continued blessings.



UPCOMING COUNCIL AND VOTERS' MEETINGS

Council meeting (final FY 2021 budget) following Divine service November 14, 2021. Voters' meeting following Divine service December 5, 2021 Major agenda items will include FY 2022 budget and council office elections. Please note the date and plan on attending the meeting. Thank you.

KFUO.ORG RADIO

Listen to Worldwide KFuo.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFuo.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUORadio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>)

AMAZONSMILE

We are now signed up to participate in AmazonSmile, which enables .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to be given to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. To do this, start at smile.amazon.com.

Shepherd of the Hills Anniversary Celebration: November 14

You are invited! Please come and help us celebrate 50 years of God's grace and the continuing ministry at Shepherd of the Hills. On November 14th 2021 at 2:00 PM Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church at 5231 State Road 62 Georgetown IN will gather together in worship and praise giving thanks for the 50 years that God has given us the privilege of proclaiming His Gospel. A luncheon and program will follow. We hope to see you there. Andrew Becker Shepherd of the Hills



Issues, Etc.

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Thanks to Zachary J. Schertz

11-25-2013

YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- You consider lottery tickets a serious investment.
- You think that an ELCA Lutheran bride and an LCMS groom make for a "mixed marriage"

HANGING OF THE GREENS: NOVEMBER 21

We will have hanging of the greens on Sunday 11-21 after the Divine service. Please plan to stay and help us decorate our church for the holidays.

ADVENT WEDNESDAY SERVICE: DECEMBER 2,9,16

Advent Wednesday Services will be held on Wednesdays at 7pm on December 1, 8, and 15.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held Friday, December 24, at 7:00pm. Christmas Day service with communion will be at 10:00am Saturday, December 25th.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Eden and Hannah Guagenti's American Heritage Girls troop is packing and collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Through this program, shoeboxes filled with gifts are sent to children overseas by the Christian ministry Samaritan's Purse, which also provides materials sharing the Gospel with the children who receive the shoeboxes. If anyone is interested in packing a shoebox this year, the Guagenti girls would be glad to get the shoebox to the drop off location for you. Empty shoeboxes and program information are available on the table across from the church kitchen. Please leave any packed shoeboxes on the same table no later than Sunday, November 14, and we will get them to the collection center. Please contact Alena Guagenti with any questions or for more information.

HELLO FRIENDS OF LAKEVIEW

We are planning another great year for Bethlehem Boulevard, taking place on the evenings of December 4th and 5th, but we can't do it without your help! We are most in need of individuals and families who are willing to dress up and (not speak lines) pantomime various parts of the Christmas story for people to view as they drive by in their cars. We also need people to help with traffic, carolers, people to bake treats, and some seamstresses willing to sew some simple costumes. We can't advertise until we get our volunteers lined up, so if you have any interest in helping, or any questions, please email Jose at jose@lakeviewministries.camp or call 910-803-1098. Jose Beaton

CELEBRATE BIRTH INGATHERING

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I propose we also celebrate the birth of other babies, specifically those helped by Shelbyville's ALC (A Loving Choice) Pregnancy Support Center and the mothers who choose to have their babies rather than abort. I will provide an in-gathering box where we can collect baby items for ALC to give the mothers as needed. Ideas would include, but are not limited to: receiving blankets, onesies, bath items, board books, baby toys, pacifiers, crib sheets, sleepers, wipes, outfits, etc. They are in particular need of larger size diapers (size 4,5,6) as they do not stop support at the newborn stage. I think it will be fun to shop for a baby as we remember that Jesus came to us as a babe in Bethlehem. She will soon have the table and drop box set up. The last date for donations will be Sunday, December 19. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kathy Adams



2021 STOCKING STUFFER PROJECT



STUFFING STOCKINGS-Please Join Us

Tuesday December 07, 10:00-Noon
Grace Lutheran Church
1787 Klerner Ln, New Albany
Lunch will be provided

PLEASE HELP COLLECT THESE ITEMS

Small toys (includes McDonalds), Coloring Books, Christian items, Small Stuffed Animals, Mittens/Gloves, Hats, Socks, Children's personal care items, Hair decorations, Card games, Baseball Cards, Crafts/Art, Games, Stickers, Small cars/trucks, Small school supplies, Dolls, Jewelry, Playdough, Small Books. Anything that will fit in a Christmas stocking. Please no gum, play guns, or anything that would encourage violence. Stockings will be given to children with an incarcerated parent, children in youth shelters and other children needing help and support.

ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BETWEEN 8:30 & 4 Weekdays (tel 812-944-1267)

Or Call Dolly Jenkins 812-989-3093

Note to Thrivent Members: If your church has a collection for this, it could be a Thrivent Project.

LIFE QUOTES

"Abortion isn't somebody else's issue. It's your business, it's my business, and it's our business. It's our issue as Christians, it's our issue as citizens, and it's our issue as human beings. Abortion and the sanctity of every human life matter very much for elections—more so than anything else. And it matters for much more than elections. It's a whole life issue!"

Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Cloth Merchant

What woman of the New Testament was known as a "seller of purple"?

Look for the answer in the December's Newsletter
October's answer: Jonah (see Jon. 1:1-2)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
November 7	Masyn Botkins	Charlie Moody	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Sandy Runner	Merrie Feole	Jennifer Harrod Karen Hite
November 14	Eden Guagenti	David Themer	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Don Williams Bob Myers	Anita Themer	No communion
November 21	Brenyn Botkins	David Franke	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Theresa Tippet Jennifer Harrod	Suzanne Rutledge	Rita Whitehouse Karen Hite
November 28	Gabriel Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Roxanne Pontius Guagenti Family	Danielle Themer	No communion
December 5	Nathaniel Guagenti	Jeff Wilson	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Dave Pontius Don Saltzman	Merrie Feole	Brenda Moody Nancy Guagenti
December 12	Zoe Shreve	David Franke	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Charlie Adams	Brenda Moody	No communion

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON THE APPOINTED DAY, PLEASE CALL SOMEONE TO SERVE IN YOUR PLACE.

Drive Through Turkey Supper

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1787 KLERNER LANE, NEW ALBANY, INDIANA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

4:00 – 7:00 PM

We apologize to anyone who came last year and was not able to get a dinner.
We have improved things this year; come back and give us another try!

MENU

Turkey (white or dark), dressing, dumplings, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, slaw, carrot salad, roll, dessert (pumpkin, apple, or pecan pie).



COST: \$10 PER DINNER

Pre-ordering online is available until noon on Nov. 6th at www.glcna.org to guarantee your order.

If you do not wish to pre-order online, you may also order dinners as you drive-thru that day from 4:00-7:00 p.m. while supplies last.

(Payment options online, and you can also pay in person the day of with credit card, cash, or check)

Pre-orders are optional,
but highly recommended



Shelby County Project Graduation



Class of 2022

Hello! My name is Anne Lawrence and I am President for 2022 Project Graduation.

Our community has been having Project Graduation for our graduating high school seniors for over 30 years. Project Graduation is held on the night of graduation. This is a joint venture between Shelby County High School and Martha Layne Collins High School. All activities this year will be held at Martha Layne Collins High School. This event allows our graduates celebrate their big day with their friends, and provides a safe, fun environment that is alcohol and chemical free. The night is similar to a "lock in" and is filled with games, food, activities and loads of prizes.

None of this would be possible without donations or grant opportunities from companies, corporations, and individuals around our community. Our children are our future and hope of tomorrow and by providing this event for them we feel we are not only keeping them safe but also showing our pride for their accomplishments. If you are a repeat donor we appreciate your past donation and look forward to another.

This year, our goal is to raise \$30,000. The money will be used to provide decorations, prizes, entertainment, activities, and food to make this event a huge success. All donations in any amount would be greatly appreciated

by the committee and the graduating high school seniors attending this event. No donation will go unused.

We appreciate your time and consideration for this request. Please feel free to let me know if additional information is needed. I can be reached via email at scprojectgraduation@gmail.com.

Donations can be in the form of cash, prize, or check (checks made payable to Shelby County Project Graduation). I can make arrangements to pick up your donation or you can mail it to the address listed at the top of this letter.

Let's Make this a Drug Free Night to Remember!

Anne Lawrence

Please mail donations to:

Shelby County Project Graduation

Class of 2022

P. O. Box 1003

Shelbyville, KY

40066

Tax ID#043758702

**Project Graduation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code so your monetary donation will be tax deductible*

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – November 2021

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

