



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

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September 2021

Time to Grow

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

With these words St. Peter concludes his second letter. These words also serve as a good exhortation for "new beginnings," for times to set out and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Now that summer is winding down and the fall season is fast approaching, September is a good time to focus on growing in God's grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus. In other words, it's a perfect time to make a commitment to:

- return to a regular habit of attending the Divine Service in order to receive the forgiveness, life, and salvation freely given by our Lord Jesus Christ;
- renew our efforts to study and learn the Scriptures and grow as they strengthen our faith and shape our lives; and

- re-devote ourselves to regular prayer and meditation on God's wonderful deeds of salvation, both at church and at home.

The liturgical color for this time of year is green, suggesting this is the time for growing in God's mercy and forgiveness given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Since God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is infinite and His grace and mercy are boundless, we can always stand to grow.

September brings us a grand opportunity to grow in hearing and learning God's Word.

Martin Luther said in his *Small Catechism*, "We should fear and love God so that we ... hold [preaching and His Word] sacred and gladly hear and learn it." And just so we don't feel cajoled or coerced, take a look at these great words from Luther in his *Large Catechism*:

"[T]he Word is so effective that whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and

used, it is bound never to be without fruit. It always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18



are not lazy or dead, but are creative, living words. And even though no other interest or necessity moves us, this truth ought to urge everyone to the Word, because thereby the devil is put to flight and driven away.” (LC I:101-102)

That’s an amazing list of benefits for hearing and learning God’s Word! It also applies to growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ by growing in His Word.

If you have fallen out of the habit of regularly attending the Divine Service, on Sundays, now is a good time to return. You won’t be shamed or blacklisted. We promise! In fact, you’ll be welcomed with open arms.

If you have fallen out of the habit of attending Bible Class or Sunday School, now is the perfect time to return. Again, no blacklisting or shame – we’ll be glad you’re back!

If you have attended Bible Class or Sunday School only sporadically, every now and again, then why not use this time to improve and be more frequent and faithful in attending? Yes, you’ll be welcomed with open arms, but also you

may find it an excellent way to grow in God’s grace and be strengthened for faith and life.

If you have never before attended Bible Class or Sunday School, now is also a great time to begin. While it may be a bit daunting to do something you haven’t done before, please know that we here at Hope want to welcome you with open arms and help you get into a new and healthy habit.

If you have been attending Bible Class or Sunday School – for however many years – well done. But also remember you still get to grow in our Lord Jesus Christ. That never stops. So, let’s also welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ with open arms.

It’s a great time to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior who has died and risen to give us new life – life with Him, now and into eternity!

✠ Pastor Randy Asburry

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Reviving RE:VITALITY

LUTHERAN REVITALIZATION

A long time ago, in a congregation far, far away – at least in “COVID-time” – we at Hope began the process of “Re:Vitality” with the goal of doing some strategic planning. In early 2020 we participated in a self-assessment survey called “Congregational Assessment of Development/ Decline Status” (CADDs). Now that we are returning to normal life and activities, this month – **beginning September**

12 – we will redo the CADDs self-assessment. With God’s blessing, we will also move forward with our strategic planning. Let’s see if the past year and a half has changed anything, and if so, how so. This will be a great time to discern why God has put us here in this place at this time to proclaim His wonderful works of salvation. More details are soon to come.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – September 2021

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in

this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.



Notes from the Kantor

Just when I think I have a strong grasp on strong Lutheran hymnody, I am introduced to something “new”. Now, I put new in quotes because the hymn I’ve most recently taken on as a favorite is only sort of new. Hymn writer, Lutheran pastor, and endurer of many trials Paul Gerhardt wrote the text to *Entrust Your Days and Burdens* (LSB 754) in the mid 17th century. The hymn is apparently well known in modern day Germany, albeit sung to its original tune. In *Lutheran Service Book* the text is paired with a tune composed in this century by Stephen R. Johnson.

In the *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*, vol. 1 we read,

“Stories have been put forward to explain the writing of the hymn. One story is that Gerhardt wrote it to comfort his family after his expulsion from Berlin in 1668. Since the hymn had already been published in 1653, though, that hardly seems likely. Another story is that Gerhardt’s wife once pleaded with her husband for money to buy food, but there was no money to be had. So Gerhardt promised his wife eternal food and drink from God’s Word. After a few hours’ work, the result was this hymn. Once again, though, the story has no basis in fact. In truth, we do not know why Gerhardt wrote the hymn.”

Clearly there is no reference known as to the specific inspiration for the text. However, these stories clearly convey the life the Gerhardt family lived. Thus, giving poignancy to each stanza, especially stanza two.

*Rely on God your Savior
and find your life secure.
Make his work your foundation
that your work may endure.
No anxious thought, no worry,
no self-tormenting care
Can win your Father’s favor;
His heart is moved by prayer.*

I am reminded of Matthew 12:22-26:

...“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider

the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?”

Matthew’s text and this hymn serve as comfort and a strong reminder that God is in control. Stanza one is one we should all commit to memory.

*Entrust your days and burdens
to God’s most loving hand;
He cares for your while ruling
the sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests
along their thundr’ous ways
Will find for you a pathway
and guide you all your days.*

The hymn text finds its roots in Psalm 37:5, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.” An additional, clear Biblical reference is 1 Peter 5:6-7, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

So, please do not be surprised when this “new” hymn is introduced in the coming months. Its powerful text and musically interesting tune is a marriage of old and new for the continued comfort of God’s people throughout the generation.

Together in Christ,
Kantor Janssen

Ensemble rehearsals resume soon!

Kantorei – Wednesdays | 5:00-6:00 pm
resumes September 8

Schola Cantorum - Sundays | 11:30-12:30 resumes
September 12

Handbells Wednesday | 6:00-7:00 pm
resumes TBD – We are still looking for more
ringers!

“Therefore everything in this Christian community is so ordered that everyone may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and [Sacraments] appointed to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live on earth” (Large Catechism, II:55).). In September we continue to hear about the Holy Life of Christian faith and love. The Blessed Trinity constantly teaches us to trust in His mercy and to love our neighbors by serving them.

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
September 5	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 17:11-19	The Thankful Samaritan – We like it when someone does a good deed for us, but too often we ignore the good deeds that God does for us. The thankful Samaritan shows us how to receive God’s gifts in faith and give Him thanks and praise.
September 12	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 6:24-34	Earthly Goods – Why get bogged down in the sin of worrying? After all, worry only betrays your lack of trust in God! God provides all of your earthly needs even before you know that you need them. Therefore, you can seek His kingdom first, and all other needed things will be given you.
September 19	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 7:11-17	Great Comfort – Christ raises the young man of Nain. Death’s procession is brought to a halt by the procession of life led by Jesus who brings life and immortality to light. Only Jesus can say to the mother and to us: “Do not weep!” Only Jesus can say to the son and to us: “I say to you, arise.”
September 26	St. Michael & All Angels	Matthew 18:1-10	God’s Holy Angels – Conflict is part of the Christian faith and life—that is, the conflict between God’s kingdom and the kingdom of darkness. But God sends His holy angels fight the forces of Satan on our behalf. On this day we hear the accurate Scriptural teaching of angels (a teaching that is not always present in popular ideas about angels).

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Thrive is a pro-life pregnancy resource center that helps expectant mothers and their families.

One of their services is called Parent University. Expectant mothers attend to hear a parenting lesson and then earn points (“baby bucks”) to “buy” supplies in the Thrive “store.” Lessons cover many topics, such as nutrition, discipline, budgeting, etc. There is also a Bible study they can attend before the parenting lesson. It really is a wonderful program! Hope has been a part of this program for many years. Hope has

hosted Parent University at our church for several years. Pastor Asburry taught the Bible lesson each week, and Hope members provided dinner and childcare 1-2 times per month.

Due to covid, we have not had this program since March 2020. They are preparing to begin again with a few modifications and asking if Hope would host again.

If anyone would be available to help on the one night per month that Hope hosts the snack and childcare, please contact Judy Maichel.

Phone: 314-352-0014

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
5 <u>Trinity 14</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 NO adult Bible Class/ Summer Sunday School	6 Labor Day Church office Closed	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
12 <u>Trinity 15</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/SSchool 11:30 Schola Cantorum 11:45 Catechism Class	13 7:00 Board of Finance	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
19 <u>Trinity 16</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/SSchool 11:30 Schola Cantorum 11:45 Catechism Class	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
26 <u>St. Michael & All Angels</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/SSchool 11:30 Schola Cantorum 11:45 Catechism Class	27	28	29	30	Elder: 5 – Jim Frost 12 – Scot Kinnaman 19 – Scot Kinnaman 26 – Kevin Robson	Altar Guild: 5 Spyers/Truebe 12 Asburry/Bergdolt 19 Brown/Patton 26 Keller/Janssen