



The Messenger

Our Savior Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Paradise, California

June/July 2017

Church is not a Four-Letter Word



A while ago I was talking to someone who, after hearing that I was a pastor said, "I am a Christian too, but I would never go to a church." Now, I have heard this several times in the last ten years or so of being a pastor because for some reason, people feel the need to tell me whether or not they go to church and in most cases, why. What struck me about this particular conversation was that this person appeared to have a sense of pride because they didn't go to church.

My reaction to this was not anger, but sadness. In my last 25 years of being a Christian I too have struggled with the organized church and my faith. I totally understand why people are apprehensive about attending their local church. Trust me on this one, there are some bad Christian churches out there and not one congregation can claim that they are the perfect representation and embodiment of Christ on earth and His love for all people. But to try and separate God from the Church that He builds, gathers, forgives and feeds is absolute foolishness. What is left for people then is to turn inward looking for God where there is no objective assurance or true forgiveness for their sins. Inwards are only feelings and emotions based on a subjective truth that the individual can tailor to suit their needs.

"And he (God) put all things under his (Jesus) feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." Eph. 1:22,23

If we want to know about God and His nature, i.e. whether He is a good, loving God or a vengeful, wrathful God then there is really only one place to go. Yes, we can observe His creative hands in nature and appreciate the majesty of His works as the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:20. But there is only one way to know God so well that we can call Him, "Dad." When the disciple Phillip asks Jesus to see God so that all of the disciples might have some assurance that everything Jesus is saying is true, Jesus replies, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work." John 14:9b,10

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We know what God is like because we know what Jesus is like. Jesus is God's creative Word come to dwell with man as a man. Jesus and God are one in the same. Jesus was once comforting His disciples with a reassurance that He is not only from God, but "the words I say to you," the message and work that Jesus brings, is God's as well. If you want to know God, then you need to hear the Word and receive the works of Jesus (baptism and communion) so that faith may be planted and grown within your hearts and minds. Jesus turns these gifts over to His church which is the gathering of God's people by the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of receiving God's Word, His gifts and to recognize and praise Him for all He has done for us.

It is this faith which relies and trusts in the promises of God and through it we become His beloved children by the life, death of Jesus Christ which pays the penalty for our sin and His resurrection which delivers us to God the Father.

Only those who have the Holy Spirit active in their hearts and minds can know the truth of what Jesus' presence here in the world means for the sick and broken. Jesus came for the people who have been broken by the trials and tribulations of a sinful world. If you think there is nothing wrong with you or the world we live in, then Jesus (and God) are not for you. But for those who need the assurance of God's presence in their lives, who need to hear the actual spoken words of God's forgiveness, who need to learn more about what Jesus has done for their sake, who need to be with others who believe the same, who need to physically see God's word working through simple water, bread and wine to breathe life into our lives, than our church is for you.

Pastor Brandon

rightnow MEDIA

This month I am recommending a lecture from wonderful New Testament scholar D.A. Carson. Dr. Carson takes a hard look at the tendency of our culture to be intolerant in the name of tolerance. Tolerance, he says, has become the premiere virtue of our society, and yet we present a gospel that is most intolerant. This lecture is a must see for anyone interested in the clash of our pluralistic modern day culture with an exclusive call from God to enter into eternity.



A letter from our Seminarian

Dear Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Christ is risen!! We hope you are having a blessed Easter season as we continue to celebrate the hope that we have in Jesus, our triumphant Lord of life.

In light of this hope we have in Christ, Krista and I are very excited to announce that I will be serving my vicarage year at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan! This central Michigan congregation worships around five hundred on a Sunday, and operates a variety of ministries including a school for children in preschool through eighth grade, a Hmong ministry, and a ministry for international students from the local colleges. From everything we've learned so far, it seems like a very welcoming congregation in a vibrant community, with a great supervising pastor, Rev. Will Wangelin. We think it will be a good fit and a wonderful year of learning and serving. The installation will be at the church on Sunday, July 30th, and my first full day will be July 31st. We are already thinking about the packing and moving process, and we're planning to move out of the Seminary in late July.

It's hard to believe that two years have already gone by and we're almost headed out on vicarage! We're very excited to be beginning this next step as we continue in partnership with you toward the ultimate goal of entering the pastoral ministry. None of this would have been possible without all your prayers and support, and so we would like to give our heartfelt thanks for getting us this far. Thank you for all you do, and we pray God's abundant blessings on you this Easter season!

In Christ,

Kyle and Krista Weeks





Greetings From the Phebians:

Someone mentioned to me that we should let people know what the Phebians actually do.

Phebians is part of a national organization which is Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).

The main purpose of the group is to collect mites (spare change) for different projects that have been submitted. These projects may include scholarships for high school parents, or a project to Save America's Youth (S.A.Y.) with homework assistants, nutritious snacks etc., or a vacation Bible school in the park. We gather once a month to possibly have a speaker or a picnic or making crafts for our annual bake and craft sale, etc.

Another thing to be noted is that some of the Phebians participate in setting up receptions for memorials. Some will help with the annual rummage sale (a big operation that needs a lot of volunteers). Once every year or so, we have a rally at Our Savior where members of our Zone 12 gather to be inspired. We also have the SMILES Luncheon in October. Sometimes we gather to tie blankets for those in need. Whenever the church has a picnic or potluck, we pitch in. We are worker bees. I don't want to sell short of course our other church members who pitch in. Thanks to all of you.



At our May 1 Phebian meeting we had Jennifer Anderson from Feather Canyon as our speaker. It was a delight when Jennifer brought Dottie Deffner to our meeting. Unfortunately, our speaker from the Conservation Corps had to cancel at the last minute and Jennifer filled in nicely. Jennifer spoke of her Grandmother living to 108 years and that kind of directed her toward her work at Feather Canyon.

On Monday, June 5, we are having Laura Cootsona from the Jesus Center as our speaker. There is a list of items for the ingathering in the kitchen as well as in the office.

Blessings,

Judy Klaves

Would you like your very own mite box? There are some available in the office and the Phebians welcome donations even if you are not an "official" Phebian.



Rummage Sale

Our rummage sale is planned for the first week in August. Sale dates will be August 4 and 5. Our rummage sale sheds are actually getting quite full, so it looks like there should be lots of fun and interesting things available. Thank you to Patti Diefenderfer and the ladies and men who spend so much time and effort on this project. The proceeds from this sale are used by the Phebians. They generally use these funds to assist 2 or 3 seminary students with families at Christmas as well as help local ministries.



Greetings from the Daycare:

The end of school is June 9th and all the Busy Beavers are looking forward to being moved into the school age room. The greatest thing happening to them is "NO MORE NAPS!". The summer program begins on June 12th and our program is full. We do still have some room in our pre-school program however.

We are awaiting clearance for our two new teachers. One will be a closing teacher in the school age room and the other will be in our pre-school room. We will then be fully staffed again. We will be planning some summer field trips as we now have the two vans to transport children more easily. Some of the activities will be Billie Park, possibly the swimming pool with the older children, maybe even our new van driver, K.K.'s farm in Magalia. She has numerous animals which would be fun for the children to see and learn about.

The teachers will be planning many activities here at the day care as well. We look forward to a fun and active summer.

Love in Christ,

Miss Cheryl

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our Savior Lutheran Church 6404 Pentz Road Paradise, CA 95969 530-877-7321				1	2	3
				10:00 In Home Bible Study		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		5:00 Small Group- Parsonage 6:00 Church Council	9:30 Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Holy Communion	9:30 Large Print Workshop	9:30 Large Print Workshop 5:00 Small Group - Parsonage	9:30 Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Holy Communion	Pastor Brandon Vacation	No Small Group	No Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Pastor Brandon Vacation	No Large Print	No Large Print No Small Group	No Bible Study	10:00 In Home Bible Study 4:00 Bd-Outreach		

June 2017



Happy June Birthday to:

Cal Richardson	6/3
Jacob Abel	6/6
Barbara Donham	6/6
Peter Hall	6/8
Katelyn Merrick	6/9
Travis Bess	6/11
Emily Hall	6/14
Don Long	6/15
Christopher Hall	6/22
Bobbi Kemp	6/24
Sarah Orsborn	6/26
Nina McKenna	6/29
Allie Bess	6/30

If your name has been inadvertently left off of the list, please let the office know. Thank You.

Elders:	6/11:	John Hantelman and Dan Hall
	6/18:	Lee Bess and Carl Johnson
Ushers:		
June 4:	8:00	Lee Bess and Mike Kemp
	10:30	Curt & Ryan Eiler
June 11:	8:00	Mike Diefenderfer and Ernie Weber
	10:30	Larry and Jacque Bonesio
June 18:	8:00	Ken Scott
	10:30	Jason Berg, Carl Johnson and Karen Mueller
June 25:	8:00	John Diefenderfer and Don Long
	10:30	Dan & Kerry Hall
Altar Guild:		Ethel Hobe & Kathy Richardson

Happy June Anniversary to:

Michael♥Barbara Donham	6/14	Glenn♥Cheryl Mock	6/21
58 years together		37 years together	
Jerry♥Barbara Kahovec	6/18	Steve♥Karen Mueller	6/26
62 years together		35 years together	
Brian♥Susan Ewing	6/20	Brandon♥Wendy Merrick	6/29
36 years together		15 years together	

