



The *GOOD NEWS*

To provide hope by Reaching out and Connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Encouraging them to share the same Good News.

January 2019



From the desk of Pastor Brewer

The beginning of a new year has an interesting effect upon most people. Despite the often copious amounts of alcohol that people imbibe in to celebrate the new year, the changing of the year has a sobering effect upon people. People step back from the everyday rat race to reflect upon the year that is gone, all that happened in that time, and to think ahead to the new year, what they would like to change. To that end I would like to take some time to reflect with you on the Christian faith that Christ has called us together into, and especially on a critical element of that faith that is so misunderstood, the concept of grace.

The apostle Paul sums up the core of the Christian faith so eloquently in Ephesians 2:8-9, "8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast." These two short verses which comprise a single sentence describe the most basic but yet most profound teaching of our faith. Our salvation, our being made eternally right with God is a gift. It is a gift that is given 100% out of the grace of God and based solely on the grace of God. But do we really understand what this means?

I don't believe that we do. Sure we pay lip service to this central teaching by saying that our salvation is dependent upon Him. But how often do we add something to it, even something small. I hear people all the time say Christ saved me by His death on the cross and now I need to do good works, or change my life, or read the Bible more. We can see if grace is understood properly when the thing that is added on doesn't happen in the way we expect it to. When a person comes to faith, but doesn't stop a certain addiction, still struggles with a certain sin or sins, and either they themselves or others start to question are they really saved.

As soon as that question is asked by anyone, we can see that the grace of Christ is not understood. Don't take my word for it. Get out your Bible and open it to Galatians 3. In the first 14 verses Paul directly challenges attaching any part of our salvation to something we have done.

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Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Monday at 7:30 p.m.

L.I.F.E. Hour

Sunday at 9:15 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion is served the
1st & 3rd weekend of each month.

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? 4 Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? 5 So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? 6 So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. 8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” 9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” 11 Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:1-14

Paul goes so far as to say that even belief in Christ is not something we do, but what Christ does in us by His grace. If belief is something we do then it is an act of the Law, but if it is a gift then it is something Christ does in us. Now you know why I don't talk about people deciding for Christ, because Christ decides for them. I know I'm probably really messing with the minds of some of you right now, but that's what I'm trying to do to explain God's radical grace. Anytime we add something we do, no matter how small, we make justification about the Law, about us. Faith is all about Christ, about His righteousness that continually is

imparted to us as He forgives our sins and only sees the righteousness that He lived in our place and gives us by His grace. We read on.

*5 Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. 16 **The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed.** Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. 17 **What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. 18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.***

19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. 20 A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

*21 Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. 22 **But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.***

Here Paul attaches grace to the promise of God. He uses the example that a covenant, promise, cannot be set aside or added to, the promise exists as it was given. God promised that through Christ the world would be saved. We hear of this same promise in the Words of Institution when Christ said to His disciples and us today, here is the blood that fulfills My promise to you to save you from sin, death and the devil. God's grace is all about His promise and His actions to fulfill that promise.

Now you know why I speak of Baptism in the way that I do, as the very visible sign of the promise of God given to each individual. The promise is not based on the individual, so therefore not their decision to make, but God's promise to them. That's why I point to the cross in every sermon instead of pointing at all of you.

We continue. *23 Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.*

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you

belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Who determines if we belong to Christ. The temptation is to think that we somehow do. The reality of what Christ is saying here and throughout the scriptures is that it is up to Him alone by His grace. Now let me mess with your mind a little more here. Do you believe this?

In Christ,
Pastor Brewer

NEWS & EVENTS

All Sunday sermons are available online. If you would prefer a copy of the service DVD please let the church office know via email at: stjohnlux@centurylink.net or (920) 845-5250. DVD copies will not be available unless requested.

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Voters Assembly: Please mark your calendars for the next Voters Assembly Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 26th. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting as we elect our 2020 Church Council members and are updated on projects for the coming year.

Gentle + Exercise class: Open to anyone 50+. Donations accepted. Call Diane with questions 920-609-2765

- Luxemburg: Monday's at 9am at St John / January 6, 13, 20, (no class the 27th), February 10, 17, 24; No class in March. You can sign up for the AMP (Aging Mastery Program instead)
- Rankin: Tuesday's at 9am at St John's - Rankin / January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 11, 18, 25, and March 3, 10, 17, 24

Lutherans for Life Life Sunday January 19, 2020

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 19. There will be a baby crib in the entrance for collections of diapers (all sizes), and new or gently used baby clothes up to age 2. The donations will be given to mothers in need in Kewaunee County, and or domestic violence shelters, distributed by Lakeshore Lutherans for Life, which our parish is a part of. Collections begin on January 13 and will run through the end of the month. A Collection for coins or dollars in honor of life will be on January 20th and January 27th. The funds are used for education regarding the sanctity of life and offered to mothers in need. Questions: Jean Loberger at 920-536-1226.

Porkie/ Pancake Breakfast

When: **Sunday, January 26, 2020**

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church, N4118 County Road AB, Luxemburg (Montpelier)

Serving 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Fee: \$6.00 (12+ years), \$3.00 (4-12years), children 3 and under are free

Sponsored by Lakeshore Lutherans for Life

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elder Minutes

December 4, 2019

Open with Prayer

Elders Present:

Marv Perleberg, Mike Lambert, Larry Jorgenson, Paul Derenne, Eric Nelson, Pastor Brewer,
Vicar VanPay

Transfers In/ New Members:

Raquel White / Affirmation of Faith

Trevor Kinnard / Affirmation of Faith

Dennis & Beverly Dalebroux / Affirmation of Faith

Transfer Out

Shane & Kelsey Sampo transfer to Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Green Bay

Released from Membership:

Susan Beirl / Granted peaceful release for inactivity

Joel Warren / Granted peaceful release for inactivity

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Closed with Prayer

Submitted by: Marvin Perleberg

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020

Board of Education Minutes

December 4, 2019

*Members present: Jodi Reinhard, Kathy Nelson, Loren Vandenberg, Wendy Havel, and Shelly Piesler

- Christmas gift bags for Life Hour kids were assembled and plan to be given out during Life Hour on December 8. If kids were not in attendance on December 8, teachers will hand out the remaining gift bags on December 15.
- 4K-2nd grade Christmas Concert will be on December 15 during the 10:30 service.
- We are still in the process of finding 2 new board of education members to replace the members that completed their term.
- Next meeting: TBD

Trustee Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:25 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Members present: Jeff Dart, Lloyd Loberger. Pastor Brewer also attended.

Items covered included:

- 1) Disposal of the old folding chairs- the Trustees will seek input from the Council about how to properly dispose of the folding chairs that are no longer needed.
- 2) Discussion took place about finding someone to fill the remainder of Mr. Krueger's term on the Board of Trustees.
- 3) Disposal of the baby grand piano is still in process.
- 4) Also discussed was some painting of the east wall of the fellowship hall.

Meeting adjourned 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lloyd Loberger

Church Council Meeting

December 18, 2019

Members present: Pastor Brewer, Craig VanPay, Edward Treml, Rob Funk, Norene Giese, Mike Lambert, Larry Jorgenson, Marv Perleberg, Wendy Havel, Lloyd Loberger, Sue Raduenz

Pastor Brewer opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the November 20 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike Lambert. Seconded by Rob Funk. Motion carried.

Pastor reported the following changes in membership for the past month:

- ✓ Transfers In/New Members: Raquel White/Affirmation of Faith, Trevor Kinnard/Affirmation of Faith, Dennis and Beverly Dalebroux/Affirmation of Faith
- ✓ Transfer Out: Shane and Kelsey Sampo transfer to Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Green Bay
- ✓ Released From Membership: Susan Beirl/Granted peaceful release for inactivity, Joel Warren/Granted peaceful release for inactivity.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through November 30, 2019:

- Church Revenue - \$276,719
- Total Expenses - \$254,468
- Total Assets - \$261,351
- Difference minus Operating Expenses = positive \$22,738
- Ruby's Pantry: Savings - \$6,711 & Checking - \$2,867
- Apron Gang: Savings - \$25 & Checking - \$3,804

Elders –

- John Hanmann will finish Chris denHejer's term until January, 2021.

Trustees –

- Lloyd Loberger directed members to review the minutes from December 8 for their discussion of selling of folding chairs, a replacement to finish Mr. Krueger's term as Trustee, disposal of grand piano and painting of east wall in the Fellowship Hall.
- Lloyd shared that it is recommended to sell the folding chairs for \$5 each with members having the option to purchase before allowing anyone else as there has been an inquiry. A maximum of ten chairs would be allowed per family/residence and after a time if chairs remain, a member can purchase more chairs. The chair racks will also be sold. All funds received will be placed in the Building Improvements account. One cart of 50 chairs will be kept for use in the school wing. A notice will be placed in the weekly bulletin and sold on a first come basis. Anyone interested in purchasing folding chairs should contact Lloyd.
- The church is looking for anyone interested in the grand piano donated to the church. The L-C School District was contacted but have no room for it. Other area churches/schools will be contacted.

Stewardship Committee –

- Carolyn Jorgenson will be on the January ballot to replace Lisa Lemens whose term will be finished.

Board of Education –

- Both children's Christmas programs went very good.
- Ryann VanErem and Heather Vande Vyver have agreed to be on the January ballot to replace Wendy Havel and Char Ledvina whose terms will be finished.

Evangelism Committee –

- Sue Raduenz reported a SHAPES class will take place once new Council members are elected. Linking the previous SHAPES class with how to use their identified gifts in church needs to take place before the scheduling of the next class.

Old Business –

- Future Needs Committee – Plan to meet the fourth week of January and every fourth week thereafter.
- Land Purchase/Tractor/Loan Update – Luxemburg Motors has informed the church that the tractor has arrived but not the pusher and there are set up things to take place before delivery can be made. They are flexible on the delivery date and payment. Payment for both will take place around the beginning of 2020. Rob will be working with the Bank of Luxemburg, Dennis Abts and Jerome Jadin to set the land closing date.
- Election Nominations – Stewardship: Carolyn Jorgenson; Trustee: Dan DeGrave and someone to be appointed to finish Mr. Krueger's remaining two years; Evangelism: no names reported; Elders: Jeff Van Den Berg and Kevin Lampe; Board of Education: Ryann VanErem and Heather Vande Vyver; Council Secretary: Norene Giese.
- Cemetery Association Discussion – Marv Perleberg reported that the annual meeting has taken place. A committee will be put together to look at Association By-Laws. Starting January 1, the cost of a single plot will be \$300 and the cost for a nonchurch member will be \$600. An increase to \$800 in the budget will be allowed for cemetery grass cutting. Anyone earning over \$600 for this is required to file a 1099 form on their income taxes. Rob reported a \$500 memorial was given for the cemetery. The Association is going to attempt to have more meetings each year.

New Business –

- Marv Perleberg moved to appoint John Hanmann for one year to replace Chris denHejer as Elder. Lloyd Loberger seconded. Motion carried.

- Sue Raduenz asked if the church would consider loaning money to Ruby's Pantry to assist with the purchase of a fork lift. Luxemburg Motors has provided a fork lift in the past and due to insurance concerns are unable to continue. Lemen's Hardware provided a fork lift but it broke down and another had to be obtained. Lloyd Loberger moved to loan Ruby's Pantry \$5,000 per discretion of the Church Treasurer. Mike Lambert seconded. Motion carried.
- Lloyd reported that a question was expressed about purchasing a snowblower for the plow tractor as there were not enough funds to include the purchase of one. Could the members be asked to make donations or a special collection take place? It was suggested to wait and see if there would be a need and if so, discuss possible purchase in the future.
- A letter was received by Morgan Stanley stating that we need to designate a contact person to be the recipient of funds when someone donates stocks to the church. As a social security number is required, an EIN number would need to be used instead. Rob Funk moved to authorize Financial Secretary Jenny DeGrave to be the designated Morgan Stanley agent to receive funds. Marv Perleberg seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Next Voters' Meeting Date: Sunday, January 26, 2020

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Larry Jorgenson. Motion carried.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Giese, Council Secretary

Ruby's PANTRY

January 11, 2020

Online Pre-Registration: \$20 Share Donation + \$1 Processing Fee

Use Your Debit or Credit Card On-line at www.rubyspantry.org

Select a Time Slot / Arrive 15 Minutes Before Your Time

Minimal Waiting on the Day of the Pantry

Pre-Registration is Available Until 3:00 pm Day Before Pantry

(Re-opens Next Day for New Month)

In Person: Registration: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Food Distribution: Begins at 9:00 a.m.

\$20 donation for an abundance of food.

Bring 2 laundry baskets or large totes.