



St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

May, 2022

Pastor's Notes:

Singing with Gusto

What is the point of singing in the church? We know that some of us like to sing, some tolerate it, and some would rather do without. Yet singing is not something that God has left us as only a decoration or preference, but a gift of great benefit in our spiritual lives.

St. Paul writes in Colossians 3:16, *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."* This verse should clarify our motives for singing in church. St. Paul is speaking about singing alongside many other actions and attributes which are found among Christians. Here in this verse, "teaching and admonishing each other in all wisdom" is found in the same category. Both teaching and singing are ways in which the "Word of Christ" dwells in us "richly."

To have the "Word of Christ dwell in you richly" is the center of the Christian life. We live *"not by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4). We know as Lutherans that we *"cannot by our own reason or strength"* come to Jesus, but we are saved by faith (Small Catechism, Creed, Third Article). Faith is a trust in the promises of God, which we can only know by hearing His Word. Our very salvation comes by the Word of God, in preaching and in the sacraments, given for us. So too, our life in Christ proceeds from this salvation, as we bear fruit in good works. Therefore, if "singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" is a way in which the Word of Christ dwells in us, it is a gift we should embrace.

Compare it with "teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom." We understand more readily that teaching is essential to our faith. We need to be taught the Word regularly. We need to teach the Word to our children. For *"how can they believe who have not heard?"* (Romans 10:14). St. Paul applies singing in the same way. Just as teaching is essential to the Word of Christ dwelling in us, so is singing those psalms and hymns. Why else would God give us an entire large book of songs (the Psalms!) in the middle of our Bible? Like teaching, singing is an essential part of the life of the Church, likewise done for our spiritual fulfillment and strengthening of faith.

One reason many people do not like singing is because they never do it outside of church. The radio and all its children have taken over our ears. It seems like only those who are professionals and perfectly mixed in studios have the right to sing. Compare this to teaching - do we teach our children the faith because we want to be known as teacher of the year? Do we admonish one another to godliness for recognition? In the same way, our singing is not done as a performance, or because we sound great. It is a sacrifice of praise to God and a way for the Word of God to dwell in us. God is much more pleased when the tone-deaf person sings "A mighty fortress is our God" and trusts in God to be his fortress than when the Mormon Tabernacle Choir gives a stunning world-class rendition as only a performance.

So, this Sunday, sing out with gusto! Whether you love to sing or not, Christ has many more gifts to give than you realize. He wishes for his Word to dwell in you richly through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs which boldly profess his saving work.



40 Days for Life Recap

On April 5, Pastor and members of St. Paul's went to Flossmoor for the 40 Days for Life Event outside of the Planned Parenthood, where we were joined by members of Zion Lutheran in Grant Park, Illinois, as well as other Christians throughout the morning. 40 Days for Life is an event where people sign up to spend time in front of abortion facilities in peaceful prayer to end abortion. We were able to be there for four hours that morning, holding signs, praying Matins and noon prayer, and singing many Lutheran hymns.

There will be another 40 Days for Life event in the fall. I hope others in the congregation will be able to attend as well!

Our Mission Offering for May is Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry. From their website: "Motivated by God's grace, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries seeks to reach out with the love of Christ to support single expectant and postpartum mothers. We do this by providing a safe and stable home. The women have opportunities for growth in their relationship with their Savior, as well as career, parenting, and life skills education. We are a pro-life ministry. We support our mothers whether they choose to place their baby for adoption or to parent. Either way, we walk alongside them in their journey. Every woman who calls Redeeming Life home will find help, love, and support."

Redeeming Life Ministry is partnering with the Northern Illinois District while planning to open a maternity home in East Dundee to serve women in the Chicago area and help them choose life. You can learn more about them at rlom.org.



Pastor's Picnic

All are invited to Pastor's backyard (south of the church) on Sunday, May 29, at 11 am (Memorial Day weekend) for food and fellowship. Pastor and Karin will be providing chicken and will have a sign-up available in the narthex for anyone who would like to bring a side dish, drinks, napkins/plates, or dessert. Rain location will be at Bezold Hall. We hope to see many of you there!



Congratulations to the young men and women in our congregation who will graduate from
Junior or Senior High this spring:

Junior High—*Aliviah Popadowski and Natalie Rada*

Senior High—*Alyssa Rada, Skylar Rahn, and Ben Staley*

Liturgy Notes – The Sermon

Everyone knows what a sermon is, but what is the point of the sermon in the liturgy of the Divine Service? We have already mentioned the Gospel reading as a high point of the Service of the Word which supplies the theme for the day. This is followed by the Creed, which confesses the belief of the church as drawn from the scriptures in a general way. The sermon takes both, the Word of God in the gospel reading and the confession of the church's faith, so that what is heard and confessed is applied to the people in the life of the congregation.

Sermons have been central to the worship life of the church back to the apostles and even into the Old Testament. Yet by the time of the Reformation, most services had no sermon at all! Luther and the Reformers returned the sermon to its central place in the service, so that the gospel of repentance and the forgiveness of sins can be expressed. Other reformers outside of the Lutheran Church went further and removed much of the liturgy, leaving the sermon almost bare. This was rejected by our Lutheran fathers who saw the wisdom of keeping the rhythm of the liturgy around the sermon.

While the sermon is the highest part of the Service of the Word and gives the application, it does not work alone. A sermon is not just the feelings of the pastor or what the people might want to hear. In the Divine Service, it is derived and gets its power from the Word of God which has been read, confessed, and sung in the service leading up to it. All the elements, centered in the gospel, which derive the theme for the day work together to form and support the message of the sermon. This would be greatly decreased if the liturgy around the sermon was not there.

The sermon also serves to lead into the next major part of the Divine Service, the Service of the Sacrament. As law and gospel is preached in the sermon to convict of sins and preach the forgiveness in the atonement of Jesus, it is sealed and confirmed as the faithful respond by receiving the forgiveness in the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper. In both the gospel preached and eaten and drank, we believers can "Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed are those who take refuge in Him!" (Psalm 34:8).



Ascension Service

**The Ascension service will be held
on Thursday, May 26th**

at 6:30 pm.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT LUNCH WITH PASTOR

Thanks to everyone who came out on April 18th. Lunch with Pastor is a monthly fellowship event every second Monday where all are invited to come enjoy food and fellowship, as well as speak to Pastor about whatever is on your mind in a casual setting. Our next lunch is scheduled at **11 a.m., May 9th** at George's Restaurant.



NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Lunch with Pastor: Lunch with Pastor will meet at George's this month on Monday, May 9th at 11 a.m. *Please let Pastor know if you plan to come by May 8th as the restaurant needs to know the size of the party.*

Manna: Order forms are available today, orders with payment are due on May 8th and orders can be picked up on May 15th.

Church directory pictures are needed: Please bring or send in a photo for inclusion in the church directory if you were unable to have one taken at church. We would also love to scan historical pictures of the church/church organizations. Please see Laura Wetherbee for more information.

MISSION OFFERING FOR MAY IS REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Submissions to the Monthly Messenger: Any church board, group or member is welcome to submit news to the Monthly Messenger. Content appropriate to the weekly Messenger would also be appropriate here. Submissions must be in by the deadline for that month. The deadline to submit for June Monthly Messenger is May 23rd..





Marlene Schiefelbein	May 1
Ashley Miller	May 2
Nicholas Born	May 5
Ashley Kantelberg	May 5
Heike Kittlaus	May 5
Kyle Mueller	May 8
Donald Rada	May 10
Patricia Schoenbeck	May 11
Lucille Colegrove	May 12
Delores Meyers	May 13
Lois Velemir	May 13
Marcella Richmond	May 20
Brandon Polinski	May 22
Dana Stasiak	May 23
Rachel Saxon	May 24
Kristina Wojciechowski	May 26
Gerald Hinkelman	May 27
Sena Scheel	May 31

Happy Baptismal Birthday

Ashley (Richmond) Bee	May 26
Christel Audzijonis	May 1
Marlene Barmann	May 1
Donald Chaney Jr.	May 12
Dawn Chaney	May 12
Shirley Dymek	May 1
Ruth Gerk	May 11
Rebeckah Gray	May 10
Heike Kittlaus	May 6
Julie Novak	May 6
Denise Pilz	May 3
Aliviah Popadowski	May 18
Jeremy Rahn	May 18
William Rohder, Jr.	May 9
Marlene Schiefelbein	May 29
Kristina Wojciechowski	May 26



Gregory & Elizabeth Miller	May 1, 1992
David & Kristina Wojciechowski	May 9, 2009
Matthew & Heather Collier	May 11, 2004
George & Geri Robinson	May 11, 1968
Christopher & Ashley Kantelberg	May 19, 2012
Michael & Christina Saxon	May 19, 2007

We will be printing out the birthdays, anniversaries and baptismal birthdays every month in the newsletter. If we have missed anyone, please let the church office know. Thanks.



May, 2022 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lockport

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 3rd Sunday of Easter 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class/ Sunday School	2 Pastor at Conference in Fort Wayne	3 	4 5 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Jr. Confirmation	5 6 pm Trustee meeting	6 	7
8 4th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class/ Sunday School	9 8 am Morning Prayer 11 am Lunch with Pastor 7 pm Church Council meeting	10 8 am Morning Prayer	11 8 am Morning Prayer 5 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Jr. Confirmation	12 8 am Morning Prayer	13 	14
15 5th Sunday of Easter 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class/ Sunday School	16 8 am Morning Prayer	17 NID General Pastoral Conference	18 5 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Jr. Confirmation	19 8 am Morning Prayer	20 	21 9 am Church Cleanup
22 6th Sunday of Easter 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class/Last day of Sunday School	23 8 am Morning Prayer	24 8 am Morning Prayer	25 11 am NICL 6:30 pm Jr. Confirmation	26 8 am Morning Prayer 5 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Ascension Service	27 	28
29 7th Sunday of Easter 9 am Divine Worship 11 am Pastor's Picnic	30 8 am Morning Prayer CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	31 8 am Morning Prayer				



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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