

ST. PAUL'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

July 2021 (Trinity 5 to Feast of St. James the Elder)

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LITURGY NOTES: INVOCATION

This “Liturgy Notes” feature is the second of many parts which look in detail at our worship service. We continue with the first part of the liturgy: the invocation.

The invocation is part of what we call the “preparatory service.” This is the part of the service which also includes the public confession and absolution. It is seen as not part of the service of the Word or service of the Sacrament, but preparatory for those who gather as we approach the Lord’s altar in worship.

At the invocation, the pastor faces the congregation and makes the sign of the cross, saying “*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*” And the congregation responds with “*Amen.*” This is a short part of the service, but is full of meaning. When the pastor speaks the invocation, he is speaking the name of the Triune God Whom we worship. God has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the scriptures. In scripture, God’s name is always attached to who He is and what He is doing. When God’s name is invoked during the service, we are announcing that God in Jesus Christ is present among us as we worship.

More than that, and wonderfully for us, the name of the Triune God was also put upon us in baptism, with the sign of the cross marking us as redeemed by Jesus Christ, the One Who was Crucified. When we speak the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are not merely saying God is present with us, but remembering the promises of life and salvation He has given us in baptism. God is then present with our *for our good*, for He has promised to give us new life as we have been baptized into His name.

This is why, in the *Small Catechism*, Luther speaks of making the sign of the cross often to remember our baptism, that God’s name is upon us and we are under his care. We can make the sign of the cross when we wake up in the morning and thank God for a new day to serve Him or when we go to bed at night knowing that even if this is our last sleep we are in God’s hands. Luther even spoke of teaching children to make the sign of the cross when they see something terrible or scary, to remember they are in God’s care.

In the invocation, we know that God is here present with us as we worship, and as baptized Christians we can trust in His name for our good. Next month we will look at confession and absolution in the preparatory service.

HYMN STUDY: GOD'S OWN CHILD I GLADLY SAY IT (HYMN 594)

By Pastor Antonetti

This hymn is new to this hymnal, as it was only translated in 1991, but it was written in the early 1700s. Edward Neumeister, the author of the hymn, was a Lutheran poet and theologian who lived in the time of a movement called pietism. Pietism was a movement that saw theology and sometimes even the sacraments as cold and dead, and favored connecting to God by feelings of the heart and personal experience. Neumeister confronts this view directly with this hymn by pointing not to confidence in the heart or experience, but to the objective promises which God gives us in baptism.

We boldly declare in this hymn “I am baptized!” not focusing on the “I,” but on the work that Jesus does on us in baptism. As Luther explains in the *Large Catechism*:

In short, [baptism] is so transcendent that if timid nature could realize it, it might well doubt whether it could be true.

For consider, if there were somewhere a physician who understood the art of saving men from dying, or, even though they died, of restoring them speedily to life, so that they would thereafter live forever, how the world would pour in money like snow and rain, so that because of the throng of the rich no one could find access! But here in Baptism there is brought free to every one's door such a treasure and medicine as utterly destroys death and preserves all men alive.

Thus we must regard Baptism and make it profitable to ourselves, that when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say: Nevertheless I am baptized; but if I am baptized, it is promised me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body. (Large Catechism IV.42-44)

We declare in this hymn “I am baptized!” and rest in the promises God gives to us in our baptism. The hymn begins with declaring that we have been made God's child in baptism, not by anything we have gained, but by the work of Jesus for us. This is truly our greatest treasure over anything in heaven and earth. Why? Stanzas 2-4 explain that against sin, the devil, and death, we have victory, full comfort, and assurance in our baptism in Christ. No power of evil or the grave can take that away from a child of God. The final stanza confidently declares that even before the open grave we will do nothing but sleep secure – even though we die, we only sleep, and will be with Christ until His return (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

We will be singing this hymn twice this month, including at the end of the month when we will have a baptism – boldly declaring in song the promises God continues to give by water and the Word.

[the research for this hymn study came from the *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. Edited by Joseph Herl, et al. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2019.]



NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

New Administrative Assistant! – Please welcome Sena Scheel, our new administrative assistant. Sena is married to Bill and lives in Lockport. Her office hours are: Monday 1:30-5:30 pm, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Pastor on Vacation – Pastor Antonetti will be on vacation July 5-19. If you have a particular pastoral need, please contact one of the elders during this time. In case of pastoral emergency, Pastor David Totsky of St. Peter's in Joliet is available at (815) 722-3567.

Morning Prayer – This month there will be no morning prayer service while Pastor is on vacation (July 5-19) or at the Bugenhagen Conference (July 26-28).

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 the July Monthly Messenger is June 17.

MANNA – Due to the 4th of July holiday our manna orders will be delayed by one week. Order forms will be available July 11 with payment due by July 18. Pickup will be July 25.

Choir in the fall? – Because of the pandemic disruption this past year we have not had a choir participate in worship since Christmas of 2019. As things are returning to normal we are considering reinstating the choir this coming September. This can only happen if we have people committed to participate in this. We have heard from a number of former choir members and would like to hear from others as well. If you are interested in being a part of this choir please let Kantor Dennis Zimmer know via text (708.227.3112), e-mail (dzimmer7@gmail.com), or in person. 8th grade and older are encouraged to consider this.

Regular Services and Classes

Sunday

9:00 am Divine Service

10:15 am Adult Bible Class

St. Paul's History Corner (1871-2021)

Our fellowship hall, Bezold Hall, is named for Rev. Walter Bezold, who served St. Paul's congregation from 1920 to 1954.

His first baptism at St. Paul's was of Doris May Turnquist on December 29, 1920. His final baptism conducted at St. Paul's was of Lyle Keith Solley on September 12, 1954.

We give glory to God for the work He has done in St. Paul's 150 year history in baptizing many children of God into fellowship with His Son, and we look to God's continued work in Lockport in the future! To God be the Glory!

JULY MONTHLY MISSION OFFERING IS FOR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES



July 2021
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lockport

815.838.1832
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	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Fourth Sunday after Trinity 9 a.m. Divine Worship 10:15 a.m. Bible Class	28 8 am Morning Prayer 7pm Elders	29 8 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class	30 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 Prc Confession/ Absolution	July 1 8 am Morning Prayer	2	3	
4 Fifth Sunday after Trinity 9 a.m. Divine Worship 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class	5 Church office closed (Independence Day)	6	7	8	9	10	
PASTOR ANTONETTI ON VACATION JULY 5-19							
11 Sixth Sunday after Trinity 9 a.m. Divine Worship 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class	12 7 pm Council	13	14	15	16	17	
PASTOR ANTONETTI ON VACATION JULY 5-19							
18 Seventh Sunday after Trinity 9 a.m. Divine Worship 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class	19	20 8 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class	21 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 Prc Confession/ Absolution	22 8 am Morning Prayer	23 10 am Sunny Hill	24	
PASTOR ANTONETTI ON VACATION JULY 5-19							
25 Feast of St James 9 a.m. Divine Worship 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class	26	27	28	29 8 am Morning Prayer	30	31	
PASTOR AT BUGENHAGEN CONFERENCE IN WI							

SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

Our new guidelines as of June 13:

- All are encouraged to continue social distancing for now.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entry to the church
- We request that all people not vaccinated for COVID-19 continue to wear face masks when in the building. Face masks will be optional for those who have been vaccinated or children under 12 years old. Vaccination status will not be checked, but we ask all to freely submit to this out of Christian love.
- We continue to collect offering at the exit.
- We continue communion practices of increased sanitary measures including face masks and gloves for servers

ST. PAUL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Lockport

Pastor Christopher Antonetti

Erich Kittlaus, Congregation President

Dennis Zimmer, Kantor

Sena Scheel, Administrative Assistant



LCC's Mission

Share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need.

Originally headquartered in Addison, Illinois, and currently in Northbrook, Illinois, Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) was founded in 1947 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry to help support Christian human care ministries of the Church. LCC works throughout the United States and Internationally in bringing the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those Suffering and in Need. LCC works with and in partnership with our churches. LCC is an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We operate with a Dollar In – Dollar Out funding process where EVERY dollar given for a cause goes directly to that cause or need, with LCC acknowledging the gift and overseeing that the money is used as intended.