Pastor's Letter November, 2010



"Proper Preparation For The Lord's Supper"

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the

cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." 1 Corinthians 11:27-29.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Who would think of going on a dinner date without spending some time getting ready for it? Who would sit down to a family dinner without first preparing the food, setting the table and washing hands and then praying? St. Paul warns us, that due to the holy nature of the Lord's Supper, we dare not come to this meal unprepared. Here, our Lord invites us to come to a meal that He Himself has prepared, and at which He Himself is the host, and the food. To come to this meal is to encounter the living God who sits as ruler and judge over all heaven and earth and who comes in peace to meet us at the railing with gracious gifts to give to us. A meeting like this one is never to be taken casually or done irreverently. It deserves proper preparation.

Proper preparation for this meal requires examination - self examination. Here are three questions that are helpful to properly prepare yourself for receiving the Lord's Supper.

Question #1 - Am I sorry for my sins?

This is not an easy question because it assumes that we believe that we have sin that we should be sorry for. Men like Moses and Isaiah and Peter had no trouble with this question because they knew their sinful condition. When Moses encountered God in the burning bush, he tried to bury his face in the dirt because He knew he was a sinner in the presence of a holy God. When Isaiah encountered the Lord in His temple he pronounced the divine curse upon himself. "Woe is me - I am ruined." When Peter realized he was in the presence of the Lord God at the great catch of fish, he too fell to his face and asked Jesus to "depart from me, for I am a sinful man." These men approached God as a guilty person approaches the judge.

But modern man has reversed all of this. He thinks he is the judge and it is God who is on trial. C.S. Lewis says that we may be a kind judge and if God should have a reasonable defense for being the God who permits war, poverty and disease, we will listen. The trial may even end in God's acquittal but the important thing is that it is man who is on the bench and God who is in on trial.

To pass the exam in this way is to fail it altogether. We must hear our Creator's assessment of our condition for He knows us better than we know ourselves. "If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we say we have not sinned we make God out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives." (1Jn.1:10,12).

Question #2. Do I believe the words of Jesus about this meal?

Jesus' words about this meal are these, "This is my body, this is my blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Our eating and drinking of His body and blood here connects us to His body and blood given and shed for us outside Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. This is not a symbolic body and blood. It is the body and blood of the Lamb of God who was "slain from the foundation of the world" according to Revelation. It is not our faith that makes it what it is. It is what Jesus says it is. It is by faith that we receive what Jesus says "this is."

Furthermore, we must listen carefully to <u>all</u> that Jesus says here. He says, "given and shed FOR YOU." Listen to Luther here. "What is the use or fruit of this sacrament? Listen to this: "given for you" "shed for you." I go to the sacrament in order to take and use Christ's body and blood given and shed for me. When the minister intones, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood," to whom is it spoken? Not to my dog, but to those who are gathered to take the sacrament. These words must be apprehended by faith. Therefore I use the sacrament for the forgiveness of my sins; I say: I will go and take the body and blood; it is a sure sign that it was instituted for me against my death. "Which is given for you." There is the benefit."

Question #3 - Do I plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life?

The "real presence" of Christ's body and blood in this sacrament produces "real repentance" in those who receive it. It is not enough to say, "I am sorry for my sin and I believe that by this gift, Jesus is giving me the full and complete forgiveness for all of my sins, but I have no intention of amending my life or changing my mind in the sinful matter that I am currently engaged in." To come to the Lord's Supper without a sincere desire and intention to change the sinful behavior is nothing less than abuse of the body and blood of Jesus.

Listen to Luther once again here. "They, however, receive it unworthily who knowingly and intentionally persist in their sins, such as revengeful wrath, murder, fornication, adultery and similar manifest sins and crimes. Christ instituted the Holy Sacrament unto the forgiveness of our sins, that we should forsake them and not continue in them... He declares it to be damnable, if persons deliberately sin, and then go to the Sacrament as though nothing had happened. They who act thus, eat and drink the sacrament unworthily, and God punishes them with sickness and other afflictions... The best thing we could do, under such circumstances, would be to put a stop to such wickedness, to repent, to trust faithfully in the promises and mercy of God, and to unite again with Christians in the participation of the Holy Sacrament."

"Therefore, a man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." Yours in Christ.

Pastor Nielsen

<u>Men's Network Breakfast</u> - <u>Saturday, November 20th - 8:00am</u>. *"The Challenge of Islam" - Part 5*

Muhammad, 70 Virgins and Paradise, Predestination and the Pillars of Islam."

What does the Koran teach and what do Muslims believe about these topics? Come and learn and join the discussion on how we can witness to our Muslim friends and associates about the truth of the Bible and Jesus Christ. Breakfast Burritos served at 8:00am.

Sunday School In November

Adults and children are studying the same topics on Sunday mornings. This should help parents talk with children about what they learned in Sunday School. This month's themes are:

- 11/7 The sacrifice of Isaac. Genesis 21:1–7; 22:1–19.
- 11/14 The marriage of Issac. Genesis 24.
- 11/21 The rivalry between Jacob and Esau. Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40.
- 11/28 Jacob's dream. Genesis 27:41–28:22.

Thank you Eric Stout

We appreciate the hard work that Eric Holt has done in maintaining the building and grounds of the Church. In addition to keeping the lawn nice and trim through the summer, he has treated the handicap ramp and steps with water repellant stain. Thanks Eric!

Thank you Brad and Sasha Fitzpatrick for the donation of carpeting for the balcony and room #201.

The Monthly Newsletter Now Available On-Line

Now you can read, download and print the monthly newsletter from our website. Go to www.lcrwtvl.org. On the right side of the page you'll see a page called "Monthly Newsletter." It'll take you right to it. Please let us know if you would prefer using the web-site as your primary means for receiving the Newsletter in the future.

Acolyte Recognition Sunday - November 28th

On Sunday, November 28th, we will recognize our dedicated group of Acolytes during the worship service. A reorientation meeting will take place after worship, followed by a special treat. Our current crew of Acolytes are: Sarah Kohl, Emily Larsen, Taylan Thomas, Brendan Melton, Danny Morren, Emily Monteleone. If anyone is interested in serving as an Acolyte, please see pastor Nielsen.

Marriage Enrichment Group - Next Meeting - Friday, November 26th. 7:00pm.

Our topic for discussion will be: "Friends and Lovers – What Is Real Intimacy?" You don't have to have attended previous meetings to join in.

<u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> – Saturday, November 6th.

Remember to turn your clock BACK an hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

New Books at the "Good Book Sale" in the Narthex.

- "Lutheranism 101" A brand new look at the Christian faith. \$15.00. (reg. \$25 plus s/h)
- "Lutheran Service Book" Use the hymnal at home. \$20.00. (reg. \$25 plus s/h)

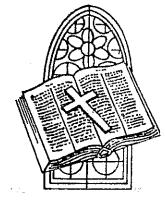
Children and Teenage Books in our Library. Check it out.

Three complete series of fantastic books are available for ages 4 through 16.

- Parables In Action: is recommended for ages 4-7. Each of these eight books is based on a parable from the Gospels and illustrates how it applies to life today.
- The Misadventures of Willie Plummet: is a 20 book series recommended for ages 8 12. These books apply the Gospel and Christ values to the messes that Willie gets himself into.
- Horsefeathers: is for teens 12 16 years old. This eight book series touches on the difficulties teens can face and how God can help them with their problems in engaging stories.

The Power of Music

"I firmly believe, nor am I ashamed to assert, that next to theology no art is equal to music; for it is the only one, except theology, which is able to give a quiet and happy mind. This is manifestly proved by the fact that the devil, the author of depressing care and distressing disturbances, almost flees from the sound of music as he does from the word of theology. This is the reason why the prophets practiced music more than any art and did not put their theology into geometry, into arithmetic, or into astronomy, but into music, intimately uniting theology and music, telling the truth in psalms and songs. (Martin Luther, "Letter of 1528-1530" LW vol. 49 p. 428).



Monthly Worship

November 7, 2010

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

Holy Gospel: Luke 20:27-40

November 14, 2010

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Malachi:4:1-6

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3:(1-5) 6-13 **Holy Gospel:** Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)

November 21, 2010

Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost

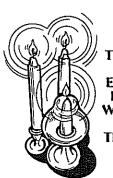
First Reading: Malachi:13-18 Epistle: Colossians 1:13-20 Holy Gospel: Luke 23:27-43

November 28, 2010

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 Epistle: Romans 13:8-14

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11



THE
TRUE LIGHT,
WHICH
ENLIGHTENS
EVERYONE,
WAS COMING
INTO
THE WORLD.
— JOHN 1:9



- 1. Who was the prophet sent by the Lord to confront David about his sins of adultery and murder?
- A) Elijah B) Ezekiel C) Nathan
- 2. According to the Apostle Paul, which of these abiding traits is greatest?
- A) Faith B) Hope C) Love
- 3. Which disciple wrote the fourth gospel, three epistles and the book of Revelation?
- A) Matthew B) John C) Peter
- 4. This son was born to Adam and Eve following Abel's murder:
- A) Seth B) Cain C) Enosh
- 5. True or False: Jesus told the Sadducees that people will be able to marry in heaven.
- 6. According to Paul, God's righteousness is given to men and women through their:A) Worship B) Observance of God's commands C) Faith in Jesus Christ

Answers on "Birthday page."

INTERESTING

Respect for the Word

On November 4, 1646, Massachusetts enacted a severe heresy law making death the punishment for any person who persisted in denying that Holy Scriptures were the word of God or that hey not be attended to by illuminated Christians.

-The Encyclopedia if American Facts and Dates. 7th Edition



STEWARDSHIP

NOVEMBER @	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
Acolyte Comm. Assistant	Taylon Thomas No Communion	Dan Morren No Communion	Brenden Melton . Jared Goldsmith	Sarah Kohl Eric Stout
<u>Ushers</u>	John Gould & Glenn Carlson, Jr.	Jon Morren & Bill Jahnke	Chris Batson & Mark Larsen	George Kohl & John Ayotte
<u>Greeters</u>	Christine & Tiana Thomas	Jon & Karen Morren	Tom & Katie Huesers	George & Julie Kohl
Altar Guild	No Communion	No Communion	Darryll Zahner	Amanda Goldsmith
<u>Flowers</u>	Jim & Avis Grant	Jim & Avis Grant	Peter & Lois Doran	Peter & Lois Doran
<u>Fellowship</u>	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson	Lisa Monteleone	Karen Markham

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		2 7:00pm. Inquirers	3 Pastor Nielsen leaves for South East Asia	4	ភ	6 Daylight Savings Time Ends at midnight. Turn clocks back one hour
	6:00 pm Elders	7:00pm. Inquirers Class	East Asia			clocks back one hour.
7 Pentecost 24 8:45 am Sunday School	&	9	10	9:00 am LWML	12 10:00am. Playgroup	13
10:00 am Worship (Daylight Savings Time Begins.				Mtg.		
Tum clocks back one hour)	6:00 pm Bd. For Youth					
14 Pentecost 25 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	15	16	17	18	19 Pastor Nielsen retums from South East Asia	20 8:00 am Men's Network Breakfast Meeting
	7:00 pm Church Council					
21 Last Sunday of Church Year 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26 7:00 pm Enriching	27
6:00 pm Catechumenate	December Newsletter Deadline	7:00pm. Inquirers Class			(
28 1st Sunday in Advent 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	29	30	77717			
6:00 pm Catechumenate		7:00pm. Inquirers Class				



- 11/2 Jonathan Morren
- 11/6 Avis Grant
- 11/9 Burleigh Witham
- 11/10 Sherman Hill
- Fernando Gouvea 11/13
- 11/15 Robin Hill Jason Long
- 11/23 Peter Doran



Anniversaries

- 11/7 David & Kay Gideon
- Jim & Avis Grant 11/8
- 11/18 Peter & Evelyn Gaug



- 11/17 Cody Therrien
- 11/27 Corina Batson Tom Mueller
- 11/?? Krista Carlson Sarah Kohl



ANNIVERSARIES

- Sharon Conover 11/13
- 11/14 Michael Hein Jason Long

EVER WONDER?

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- ---What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- --- What if we flipped through it several times a
- --- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- ---What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- ---What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- --- What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?
- ---What if we used it when we traveled?
- ---What if we used it in case of emergency?

Unlike your cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

JUST A REMINDER:

It would be greatly appreciated, if when hosting the Sunday Fellowship, you would take the used towels and dish cloths home and launder them (as the church has no laundry facilities). This way they will be fresh and clean every week. Also, if you notice any supplies that are running low, please let Sharon Klipp know. Thanks!

Bible Quiz Answers: 1) C; II Samuel 12:7-14 2) C; I Corinthians 13:13 3) B 4)A; Genesis 4:25 5) False; Luke 20:34-38 6) C; Romans 3:22