

The Disciple's Connection

September 2021

Worship Services Saturday 6:00pm Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study Adult 8:30am & 10:45am Children 10:45am

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

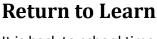
Church Office

250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077 (440)354-3000

office@splcpainesville.org

St. Paul's Preschool
Amy Marizek, Director

preschool@splcpainesville.org www.stpaulspainesville.com



It is back to school time. It still seems like we're stuck somewhere between what used to be "normal" and what a different "normal" might become. Many parents still have the same mixed bag of thoughts and emotions they had at this time last year. Worried about

the health and safety of their child, or ready for their child to return to something normal-like. Others are still not sure how to handle it all. All very real responses to current circumstances. Learning, it seems, will go on. Here at St. Paul's, we are planning for a Preschool year to begin on the 13th and 14th. We are also planning on resuming Sunday School on the 12th. If you are comfortable and ready to dig into God's Word with brothers & sister, then we will have opportunities for all ages. Erin Cardina and Eric West will be our primary Sunday School teachers, leading children & teens through the truths of the Bible. For adults, we are still working through the Gospel of Mark. Education is not found on Sunday only. Our Women will continue their look at Bible Studies out of the Lutheran Women's Quarterly on Wednesday the 22nd at 6:30 p.m. And our Thursday night Virtual Bible Study will resume on the 9th.

When things around us seem to be changing daily, it is good to have an anchor like God's Word. There is only good that comes out of opening God's Word and opening our heart & mind to a deeper understanding. Maybe I'm a bit naïve, but can anyone tell me something more important than teaching our children the love and will of God? Is there another class more valuable than a good Bible Study so adults, too, are taught the Word of God? Solomon had these wise words on Proverbs, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Paul writes in 2 Timothy, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." Parents, I hope you realize the importance of teaching your children God' Word. Adults of all ages, I hope you see the importance of regular study of God's Word. There's no more sure anchor for life than God's Word.



RETURN TO LEARN continued

Again, if you are comfortable and ready to engage with others in studying God's Word, then I invite you to come and study together. You will learn about Jesus, the value of a strong relationship with him. You will see how your faith is used in all situations of life. You will be strengthened by talking about these biblical truths with other believers of all walks of life. It's never too late to start. Let the beginning of this new school year be a new beginning for you as well. Stay for a while after worship service. Create a little time during the week. You might just find Sunday School and Bible study become an important part of life.

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16-17

Good Works in the Freedom of Faith



Listen to this article on *The Lutheran Witness* podcast.

Part 3 of a discussion of Martin Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian." [1] Read Part 1 and Part 2.

We have traced Luther's argument in "The Freedom of a Christian," that the inner person (the new creature in Christ) is <u>fully and completely justified through faith</u> without any works whatsoever. Works of the law do not contribute to righteousness before God. This was a radical teaching in the 16th century, and it remains so today. Luther's opponents were worried that this teaching would undercut morality. After all, if <u>people do not need to engage in good works to secure their salvation</u>, why bother with attempting to live an ethical life?

Luther recognizes the objection. While good works have no necessity for the inner person, they are necessary on account of the outer person (the old creature inherited from Adam). Good works are necessary for two reasons: First, they discipline the old Adam, not merely keeping him in check but mortifying him, putting him to death. Second, good works are needed by my neighbor who lives in a fallen creation marked by hunger, sickness and bodily deprivation.

Works provide discipline

Faith focuses the Christian and his works back to his neighbor. Just as Adam worked prior to the fall, so the



GOOD WORKS IN THE FREEDOM OF FAITH continued

account of Christ" (511). In Christ, the inner person recognizes that all good things are his without personal merit or worthiness. The inner person has the singular desire to "serve God joyfully, with boundless love and with no thought of earning anything" (511). At the same time, there is a contrary will at work in the flesh. This will seeks not Christ, but its own interest. This is the struggle described by the apostle Paul in Romans 7:22–23, "For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members." This puts the Christian who exists as both inner and outer person at the same time into a life of struggle against the impulses of sin. The outer person is continually crucified, put to death (see Gal. 5:24). Good works discipline the body, bringing it into conformity with the inner person who lives by faith alone.

These works of outer discipline do not bring about justification before God:

Because the soul has been cleansed through faith and made to love God, at the same time it wants all things (in particular the body) to be cleansed, so that all things may love and praise God with it. As a result, the human creature cannot be idle because of the demands of its body, and, because of the body, it attempts to do many good things to bring it under control. Nevertheless, these works are not what justify someone before God. Instead, the person who does them in compliance to God out of spontaneous love, considering nothing else than the divine favor to which the person wishes to comply most dutifully in all things. (512)

Luther does not prescribe specific works. Rather, each person will know what is necessary "for suppressing the body's wantonness and desire" (512), and they will do so without believing that by these outward disciplines they are made righteous before God. Those who turn to these disciplines with justification in mind not only blaspheme God but injure themselves in body and mind:

They suppose that if they do so many great works, then they will fare well and be made righteous — sometimes even injuring their minds and destroying or at least rendering useless what makes them human. Wanting to be justified and saved through works without faith is simply monstrous foolishness and ignorance of the Christian life and faith! (512–13)

Works serve the neighbor

Faith focuses the Christian and his works back to his neighbor. Just as Adam worked prior to the fall, so the Christian has work to do on earth. Rather than drawing Christians out of creation, Luther's argument reinserted believers into the world where they do not remain idle. Their works do not make them holy, but because they are holy through faith in Christ, they do holy works for the benefit of the neighbor.

Before discussing more fully the Christian's good works in service of the neighbor, Luther clarifies once again the relationship of faith and works: "Good works do not make a person good, but a good person does good works" (514) and "Evil works do not make a person evil, but an evil person does evil works" (514). Quoting



GOOD WORKS IN THE FREEDOM OF FAITH continued

works" (514) and "Evil works do not make a person evil, but an evil person does evil works" (514). Quoting Jesus in Matthew 7:18, Luther asserts that a good tree bears good fruit. Luther presses this illustration reminding his readers that bad houses do not make bad carpenters but good carpenters build good houses. "For just as works do not make someone a believer, so also they do not make a person righteous. On the contrary, just as faith makes someone a believer and righteous, so also it produces good works" (515).

Because "works righteousness" is something of a natural heresy, Luther does not compromise the clarity of the Gospel: "A person is justified and saved not by works or laws but by the Word of God (that is, by the promise of God's grace) and by faith" (517). He preaches both Law and Gospel, but he emphasizes that only the Gospel bestows the forgiveness of sins and creates faith.

Now Luther addresses how the good works produced by faith benefit and serve the neighbor. Good works do not inflate our personal spirituality but are "ordered toward the advantage of others" (521). Citing Philippians 2, Luther points out that just as Christ humbled Himself taking on the form of a servant so also those who belong to Christ by faith submit in service to those in need. Such submission takes place only in the freedom of faith; it cannot be forced by the imposition of the law, much less by the pope and church authorities.

Luther then concludes:

Christian individuals do not live in themselves but in Christ and their neighbor, or else they are not Christian. They live in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love. Through faith they are caught up beyond themselves into God; likewise through love they fall down beneath themselves into the neighbor. (530)

This is Christian freedom. It stands in stark contrast to the fleshly freedom that enslaves and binds those who believe that their good works justify them before both God and the world. Luther's confession of Christian freedom liberates the conscience and enlivens us for a life of faith and love.

We have come to the end of our three-part overview of Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian." If you want to dig deeper, you may wish to read:

- Iwand, Hans Joachim. *The Righteousness of Faith According to Luther,* trans. Randi H. Lundell. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2008.
- Kolb, Robert. Luther's Treatise On Christian Freedom and its Legacy. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019.
- Muhlhan, Brett. Being Shaped by Freedom: An Examination of Luther's Development of Christian Liberty, 1520
 –1525. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2012.

[1] All citations are taken from "The Freedom of a Christian" translated by Timothy J. Wengert in *The Annotated Luther*, Vol. I: The Roots of the Reformation (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015), 467–538.





Life Quotes for September

September 5 "The people you tell today are the ones who get to tell the next group of people yet to be born. Someday our children will be telling their children about their Savior, knowing God's Word and His story of grace, because you model it and share it every day. Because you put your trust in God." *Linda Buxa, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • *lutheransforlife.org*

September 12 "God has taken away your sins. He has changed your heart. He gives you the ability to put yourself last so that you can humbly serve others. That's greatness and a great life in God's eyes. That humble serving attitude values and serves every life whether that life is a few cells old or a gene short of worldly greatness." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

September 19 "God has put us in our roles as life-affirming Lutherans in this place at this time. We must continue despite the world's resistance. We must lean on God because He will support us. We must remember He has the words of eternal life!" Virginia Flo, Regional Director of Minnesota and National Conference Director, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • <u>lutheransforlife.orq</u>

September 26 "Gospel-motivated means we tell how Almighty God creates every human life as special, and that we treat them with that sanctity. It means we declare how He redeems every human life as precious, and that we demonstrate it to them. It means we proclaim how He calls every human life His own priceless treasure from fertilization to forever, and that we put it into practice." Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • <u>lutheransfor-life.org</u>



Announcements

Two New Outreach Opportunities



Hearts of Mercy & Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer.

Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

The heart itself is universal and conveys love. The color blue is the color of hope and the fish a symbol of God's saving grace.



Toys for God's Kids is a Christian charitable organization that provides stur-Toys for God's Kids dy, attractive, handmade wooden cars and trucks FREE to God's children around the world. Why make and give these toys? First of all, it's fun and easy to do. More importantly, many needy children have never had a toy like this that can help them develop socially and creatively. If this small gift puts a smile on the face of a child, it makes all our efforts worthwhile for us.

St. Paul's Outreach Committee is sponsoring a small group of our congregants who are building for and supplying these two organizations. If you know of someone who would benefit from either of these missions or if you would like more information, contact Kristi McConnell or any of the outreach committee members.

Sunday School Returns - Join Us For Rally Day!!

Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 12th. The session will run from 10:30am-11:30am. Masks are recommended for those who are not vaccinated. We will also maintain safe distancing during class time.

Our theme this year is Jesus comes for us from Luke 1:68: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them."

Classes available:

- ·High School Class lead by Eric West meets in classroom 2.
- ·Middle and Early Childhood Class lead by Erin Cardina meets in classroom 8.

We are in need of a substitute teacher for the High School Class to lead the three classes in September, and as needed throughout the year. If you are willing to step into this role, please see Erin Cardina, or call/text (440)231-5613.





"Carpenter Hands...Christ's Hands...Our Hands"



This is the theme of the 27th LWML Northeast Zone Retreat. All ladies are invited to join us at Zion Lutheran Church in Painesville on September 25. (Please note this a change of venue for this year only). Check the Friendship Circle bulletin board for the retreat poster and registration packets. Plan on attending this fun-filled, Christ-centered event. Cost is 25.00/person. Registration deadline is September 15. Questions? Please contact Billie Lelle – 440.867.2747 or blelle@roadrunner.com

Women's Bible Study Resumes

Mark your calendar!! The Women's Bible study will resume September 22nd. All confirmed women of St. Paul's are invited (and guests are always welcome) to be in the Word. The group meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from **6:30pm-8:00pm** at the church. (We do not meet during Advent or Lent) We use the LWML Quarterly Bible studies which are available on the Friendship Circle table. To be included on the "Bible Study Group" email list or if you have questions please contact Billie Lelle at



blelle@roadrunner.com. The full Bible Study schedule is located on the Friendship Circle board.



LWML Ohio District News Letters

The most recent editions of the LWML Lutheran Women's Quarterly ODE and the Nor'easter can be found on the Ohio District website at lwmsohio.org

LWML Mite Weekend

It's Coming! LWML weekend will be celebrated on October 2nd & 3rd. The theme is "Our Hearts in His Hand". A noisy mites collection will be taken to help reach our district 2020-2022 mission goal of \$200,000. Please note that at this time, the district has only collected \$84,921.01, so prayerfully given mites are needed.







YOU'RE INVITED to MOVIE NIGHT ON THE LAWN DART 2

Now playing—Despicable Me 2

Join us September 10, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. on St. Paul's Lawn. Admission is free. There will be a concession stand serving snacks and drinks at minimal prices. All proceeds go to support our Preschool.

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and family & friends for a fun movie night on the church lawn!!!

Calling All St. Paul's Youth!!!

The Outreach Committee needs the help of the youth group for an upcoming event. We are planning on holding a free hotdog lunch for the neighborhood and anyone passing by the church in their vehicles. We need enthusiastic youth to make signs and wave in passing cars. Please let Kristi McConnell know if you can help on Saturday, September 18^{th} from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Lunch is included!





Backpacks for Kids

The Outreach Committee is going to start a program of supplying back-packs filled with non-perishable food items, toiletries, and toys to needy children in the local area. We could use your help in getting the supplies. Any donation would be appreciated. This program will last as long as we have the funds to keep it going. If you know of a needy family that could

use this kind of help, please let one of the Outreach Committee members know.

Puppet Skits for Preschool

The Outreach Committee would like to put on small puppet skits for the preschool children during special events and holidays. We have researched the material needed and have enough treasury to cover the expenses. However, we need dramatists to create the skits and run the puppet shows. If you are interested in filling this position, please reach out to one of the outreach committee members. Thanks!







Altar Flowers

Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. Altar flowers are a great way to do that. Simply sigh up next to the appropriate weekend on the Altar Flower Chart located on the wall in between the set of double doors. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend making sure to print clearly the occasion and who is giving the flowers. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Placed the money/check in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" along with the

weekend date and place the envelope in the collection plate.

Financial Secretary Needed

The church is in need of a Financial Secretary to help count offering for one month 4 times a year. If you are interested please contact either Jenn Drake or Terry Wakelee.





OSLS Job Opportunity

Our Shepherd Lutheran School has an opening for a staff member in both their Before Care Program and After Care Program.

- Paid position
- •Morning hours 7-8am
- •Afternoons hours 2:40pm-6pm (depending upon last child pick-up time).

Please send an email to Principal Barb Riley (briley@oslpainesville.org) with questions or to apply.

This & That Garage Sale

You are invited to join the Women's League of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Chesterland, Ohio for their annual Garage Sale the weekend after Labor Day. Dates and times are Thursday, Sep 9 from 12pm-7pm; Friday, Sep 10 9:00am-4:00pm and Saturday, Sep 11 9:00am-12:00pm. Come and see what's there.



If you would like to sell your wares the cost is \$25.00 for an 8 x 10 area. The registration form is located on the bulletin board. Mail it and the fee to Edie Fetheroff at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 11900 Chillicothe Rd.; Chesterland, OH 44026.

February 2021



August Meeting Notes

- 1. Pastor's Report: Pastor made 23 calls and performed 2 baptisms and 4 funerals. He also said there will be 1 returning for confirmation class and that youth group hasn't met yet. Also, District Pastors' Conference will be in-person in Columbus, Oct. 11-13.
- 2. President's Report: Eric reported that Elders will discuss whether to update safety protocols (masks, seating, and communion) as COVID cases rise.
- 3. Vice President's Report: Aaron talked about carpet cleaning before Preschool starts.
- 4. Treasurer's Report: Finances continue to be fair and expenses are in line.
- 5. Education Report: Erin working with Star to have Sunday school ready for classes.
- 6. Preschool Report: Amy reported board will meet to chairperson. She said the Preschool has 48 students enrolled with 2 3yr. olds on a waiting list, 2 assistants are still needed. Preschool classes will begin Sept. 13, orientation on 9/3. A donation board will be posted on back wall in Sept. for items needed.
- 7. Elder's Report: Dale reported the Elders will meet to continue looking at member-ship list, discuss any possible updates on service protocols, and review of duties.
- Stewardship Report: Matt is pleased with response to Adopt-a-Flower bed, and that \$5,050 has been
 raised for the AC fundraiser enough to replace AC in choir loft. He will continue to work to improve our
 social media presence and update website.
- 9. Financial Secty: Jenn reported still looking for a 3rd person to help count and deposit weekly contributions, will post in bulletin.
- 10. Outreach Report: Kristi reported that Despicable Me movie night went well, the door tag/garbage pick-up didn't go well as the hot weather drew few; another try in Sept/Oct. A Love-thy-Neighbor hot dog lunch planned for 9/18 is planned. Wooden Toy and Hearts & Crosses projects getting underway.
- 11. Building & Grounds Report: Craig reported several repairs or replacements have been made; several sections of the fence at the parsonage need to be repaired or replaced; bids for replacing AC in choir loft being reviewed.
- 12. Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reported that contributions are down \$5,992 (-6.3%) YTD but a few large donations from non-members have greatly helped.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Constant Contact our social media provider and template is set up and will soon notify congregation and others of upcoming events and activities.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Church Picnic will be at Townline Park, Sunday Aug. 15 @ 1-5pm.
- 2.
- 3. Carpet Cleaning: Aaron will contact Ultimate Carpet to clean carpet, pews, and Chairs (previous cost was



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Church Picnic will be at Townline Park, Sunday Aug. 15 @ 1-5pm.
- 2.
- 3. Carpet Cleaning: Aaron will contact Ultimate Carpet to clean carpet, pews, and Chairs (previous cost was around \$1,100).

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 1 @ 6:30pm.



From the Preschool



We Are Looking for s'more Help!

St. Paul's Preschool would like to thank the congregation for their continuous support of our program. We have again created a donation board for this year. Depending on the envelope you choose you may purchase that item and bring it to the church or make monetary donations for the items we need. If there is no money amount listed you may select that item for purchase. You will find items on each envelope with the amount for that

item if the preschool will purchase the item. Please select the item or items you would like to donate and place the money or a check made out to St. Paul's Preschool in the envelope. The donations can then be placed in the collection plate or turned into the Preschool Tuition Box in the Church Office. If you have any questions please contact our Preschool Director, Amy Marizek or ask Pastor Sundbom for assistance. Again we thank you for your support!





From the Preschool



2021-2022 Preschool Class Added!!

St. Paul's Preschool has added an additional class for 3 and 4 year olds. For this added class the child will need to be 4 years old by December 31.

Registration forms are located in the magazine rack at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-3000.

Preschool Teacher or Assistants Needed

St. Paul's Preschool is currently looking for a teacher or Assistant to work part-time mornings. For additional information please contact Preschool Director, Amy Marizek at 440-354-3000





Preschool Popcorn Fundraiser

The preschool will again be selling bags of popcorn. The fundraiser dates this year will be October 4th-18th. Look for more information in next months newsletter.







September Anniversaries



Jerry & Judy Ladany Rich & Michelle Szoradi James & Carol Canonie Don & Diane Wayner 65 years on September 4th 27 years on September 10th 56 years on September 11th 38 years on September 17th



Those Who Serve September 2021

ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Rich Szoradi

LECTORS:

09-04-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
09-05-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
09-11-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
09-12-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
09-18-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
09-19-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
09-19-21 09-25-21	9:30 A 6:00 P	Sunday Saturday	Craig McConnell Frank McVan
		,	J

COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Roxanne Walton

GREETERS:

6:00 P Saturday

9:30 A Sunday

SIGN UP IN FEBRUARY TO WAVE YOUR GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located an the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
COMMUNION SERVICE	Sunda	ORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am by School - 10:45am -8:30am & 10:45am	1 6:30pm Council Meeting National School Success Month	2 Preschool Parent Orientation	3	4
5	Church Office	7 7pm Choir Practice	8	9 Preschool Orientation 7pm Virtual Bible Study	1 O 8pm Movie Night "Despicable Me 2"	11
Rally Sunday Sunday School Resumes	13 First Day of Preschool Pre-K	1 4 First Day of Preschool Early Learning & Preschool 7pm Choir Practice	15 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	16 7pm Outreach Meeting 7pm Virtual Bible Study	October Newsletter Articled Due	18 11pm Outreach Hot Dog Lunch Start of Oktoberfest
19	20 National Pepperoni Pizza Day	21 7pm Choir Practice	6:30 pm Woman's Bible Study	23 7pm Virtual Bible Study	24	25 LWML Northeast Zone Retreat
26 **	27	28 7pm Choir Practice	29 National Coffee Day	30	Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm Sep Birthstone: Sapphire	Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays Sep Flower: Aster & Forget-me-not