



St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Disciple's Connection

July/August

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 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

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm

www.episcopainesville.org

office@episcopainesville.org

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

preschool@episcopainesville.org

www.stpaulspainesville.com



The Friendship Equation

I get the sense that a fair amount of normalcy is returning to life. More and more COVID vaccines are being administered. There is a growing sense of peace and security about being out and around others. The warmer summer weather is allowing people to gather outside. I'm taking a risk by opening the lead article of the Disciple's Connection in this manner, but I'm going to do it anyway: A math formula ... for friendship. Follow me here. Ample, unhurried time + closeness to a person + an activity [with food is a big plus] = conversation. Multiply conversation by time and the result is FREINDSHIP.

I've long been a believer in Evangelism through Relationships. It involves thinking about the people to whom I am connected and answering 3 questions about them: 1. Who is this person? 2. What is Jesus already doing in their life? 3. How can I join Jesus in what He is already doing? And this is not confined to just the street on which we live. It applies to any place you regularly spend time as well. Think about your own life for a second. When you talk to people, who are they usually? People you already know. With whom do you usually have meaningful conversations? Your friends. How did you become friends? You had ample, unhurried time together, you were in close proximity, and I'll bet there was some activity involved as well. And you didn't just do this once I'm assuming. You did this multiple times. Pretty soon, you had a friend.

We are much more likely to have meaningful, even spiritual, conversations with friends. I'm not saying we don't have them with strangers, because that does happen occasionally. What I am saying is we're more likely to have them with friends than with strangers. God has placed me among these people. Why? That is the \$64,000 question. What is He already doing in the lives of my friends? How have I been prepared to join in what He is doing in their lives?

I think that it's helpful to reflect for a minute. What has God done in my own life? Did He use others? And how did He use them? What am I thankful for today? If we can see God's work in our lives, if we have things we are thankful for each day, you see the reason that God can, and will, use us in the life of someone we know. He used others to draw us close to Himself. He will use you in the same way in the life of someone else. You don't know when or how. Just be around, be available. God will bring people into your path. Who are they? What has God done in their life so far? How can you join him? Always remember what a friend you have in Jesus.

Serving Christ Together,

Pastor Sundbom



How Does Faith Give Freedom?

By John T. Pless

Part 2 of a discussion on Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*. [Read part 1 here.](#)

In this next section of *The Freedom of a Christian*, Luther unpacks his assertion that faith alone justifies the sinner before God. Luther does not see faith as an inherent power of capacity; that makes faith into a human work. Rather, faith is the trust in Christ Jesus that God Himself works through His Word. This faith in Christ, exclusive of any and all works, saves:

Because this faith can only rule the inner person, as Rom. 10[:10] says ('one believes with the heart and so is justified'), and because this faith alone justifies, it is clear that the inner person cannot be justified, freed, or saved by any external work or activity at all and that no works whatever have anything to do with the inner person. (493)^[*]

Here, Luther follows the apostle Paul in excluding everything but faith in Christ from our justification before God. Good works, even the deeds commanded by God's Law, much less the human traditions imposed by the pope, do not provide reconciliation with God and liberation from divine condemnation. Only Christ apprehended exclusively by faith supplies righteousness in God's eyes.

Luther cannot cease extolling this faith. It is, he says, "an incomparable treasure," for it brings salvation without any need to be supplemented by works of human righteousness. In contrast to the Roman Catholic teaching that faith must be formed by works of love to be efficacious, Luther relies on the divine promise that the one who believes in Christ is justified.

Commands and promises

At this point, Luther anticipated the question that might well arise from those who read his tract both in his time and in ours. How can a person be justified by faith alone when the Bible prescribes numerous rules and regulations in both the Old and the New Testaments? Before Luther continues his discussion of faith, he instructs his readers in making a necessary distinction between God's Law and His Gospel, or His commands and His promises: "In the meantime it should be pointed out that the entire Scripture of God is divided into two parts: commands and promises" (494).

Commands teach us what we are to do and not do, but they lack the power to accomplish these good and



HOW DOES FAITH GIVE FREEDOM? *continued*

God-pleasing realities in our lives. Through them, Luther says, we see our inability to be righteous. In this way, the commands of God lead to despair. And if the Law is not satisfied, we remain under God's wrath and condemnation.

Then Luther makes an amazing turn. The Law is not fulfilled by our good works, which always miss the mark of perfection. The Law is fulfilled through faith alone. "If you want to fulfill the law, 'You shall not covet,' as the law demands, then look here! Believe in Christ, in whom grace, righteousness, peace, freedom, and all things are promised to you. If you believe, you will have these things; if you do not believe, you will lack them" (495). The person who has faith in Christ lacks nothing. What the Law demands but cannot accomplish, Christ gives. "God alone commands, and God alone fulfills" (496).

Three benefits

Faith, Luther says, has three benefits. First, through faith we are "swallowed up" by God's promises and are made His beloved children so that "this Christian freedom referred to above, namely our faith ... does not cause us to be lazy and lead evil lives but instead makes the law and works unnecessary for the righteousness and salvation of the Christian" (497).

Second, faith honors God by attributing to Him truthfulness and righteousness. Faith does not hold God in contempt but lets Him be the Lord that He is. Faith is the highest worship of God and only through faith are we obedient to God.

Third, faith unites the soul with Christ just as a bride is made one flesh with her bridegroom. Through faith, whatever belongs to Christ (righteousness) becomes the property of the believer even as in this blessed exchange the sin of the believer belongs to Christ:

Now let faith intervene and it will turn out that sins, death, and hell are Christ's, but grace, life, and salvation are the soul's. For if he is the groom, then he should simultaneously both accept the things belonging to the bride and impart to the bride those things that are his. For the one who gives his body and his very self to her, how does he not give his all? And the one who receives the body of the bride, how does he not take all that is hers? (500)

Delightful drama

Luther describes this marriage as "the most delightful drama" (500). He calls faith the wedding ring that joins the believer to Christ Jesus so that what is Christ's is now the believer's and what is the believer's is now Christ's. The believer's sin is Christ's as if He Himself had sinned. Christ's righteous life, His innocent death and His victorious resurrection are the believer's as if he had done these things himself. Even though in our



HOW DOES FAITH GIVE FREEDOM? continued

sin we are the “poor, disloyal little prostitute” (501), our sins cannot destroy us because Christ owns them.

By faith we receive all that belongs to Christ. In Him, we are the firstborn of God and heirs of all of the divine promises. In Christ we are priests and kings (1 Peter 2:9). As priests, we have access to God through our great High Priest, Jesus, and offer the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving.

As kings, we rule not as worldly political leaders in the secular realm, as secular heads of government. Instead, Luther says, “the more Christian a person is, the more he or she is subject to evils, suffering, and death, as we see in Christ, the firstborn himself, and in all his holy brothers [and sisters]” (505). Like Christ, we rule in the midst of our enemies (Psalm 110:2), for in Him, we have victory over the world, sin, death and the devil.

Hearing

Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ, so Luther highlights the necessity of good preaching (Rom. 10:14–17). Luther begins by telling his readers what is not good preaching. Good preaching does not merely retell the historical narrative of Jesus’ life and deeds as though He were merely an example that we must emulate to be saved. Good preaching does not play on emotions to arouse sympathy for the suffering of Jesus or incite anger against the Jews. “Preaching, however, ought to serve this goal: that faith in Christ is promoted. Then he is not simply ‘Christ’ but ‘Christ for you and me,’ and what we say about him and call him affects us” (508).

Faith cannot live without the preaching of Christ. Listen again to Luther:

This faith is born and preserved by preaching why Christ came, what he brought and gave, and what are the needs and fruit that his reception entail. This kind of preaching occurs where Christian freedom, which we gain from him and which makes us Christians all kings and priests, is rightly taught. In him we are lords of all, and we trust that whatever we might do is pleasing and acceptable in God’s sight, as we said above. (508)

Preaching draws the Christian outside of self and into Christ, in whom we have real freedom.

In the third and final part of this series, we will examine what Luther has to say about the good works done in the freedom of faith.

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



Life Quotes for June

July 4 "The creation of the world and its government is the work of the Lord, and it is not in His declared plan that man will destroy it. The fright peddlers are giving too much power to man. It is God's power they need to recognize, not man's. If man is the basic power, then the answers must come from man, but if God is the sovereign power, then the answers must come from God, and none other. God has provided the answers, and they are in His Word. Our problem is that men pay no attention to them." *R. J. Rushdoony, author and theologian – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 11 "In this current darkness of confusion, fear, isolation, sickness, and death, the Gospel shines even more brightly ... Eternity tells you that you aren't cursed with less but guaranteed gloriously more than you could imagine. No matter what the next day brings, your future is bright because a victory has been won for you." *Paul David Tripp, pastor, author, and conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 18 "You, too, are one of the people Jesus came to rescue. You are one that He loves enough to suffer and even die for. His intention is to give you life—everlasting life—just as He has risen from the dead and will never die again. He is your king, and He wants you in God's kingdom." *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 25 "We need to keep fueled up through Christian fellowship in worship and in the sacraments. We need to pray without ceasing and receive the peace in that special relationship with God. And then, we need to stand strong and boldly declare God's plan for life. We can't be timid, afraid to speak up or be noticed. If we don't share the truth, who will?" *Virginia Flo, Regional Director of Minnesota and National Conference Director, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



Life Quotes for August

August 1 "Your Heavenly Father loves you in spite of your many failings. The Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is now interceding on your behalf at the throne of God every time you stumble and fall. The Holy Spirit of the blessed Trinity is at your side convicting you of your sin but then also assuring you that every last one of your sins has been totally forgiven. He, the Spirit, then also plants deep into your heart God's gift of faith and hope." *Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

lutheransforlife.org

August 8 "Let us recognize that the patterns of the past point not only to our need for a Savior, but also to the work Christ has accomplished for us. Let us live as For Life people, confident that our future is founded on promises that will be kept. And let us rejoice in the opportunities we have to share the message of LIFE with others!" *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life for Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

lutheransforlife.org

August 15 "God shows us what it is to love every single day. Even the grace He gives us to change people's hearts toward Him is an outpouring of His love. Let us love like Christ and sacrifice our time to save His unborn children. Let us show mothers who have had or are thinking of having an abortion the love that has been so beautifully bestowed upon us from our Father." *Christina Hogan, Southampton Students for Life (UK) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

lutheransforlife.org

August 22 "Our youth are a gift of God—our future voice and our For Life voice, now! Take a moment and read Titus 2 and ponder Paul's teaching in light of Proverbs 1:5: 'Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.' Then invite, encourage, and mentor youth in your circle today." *Rev. Jeff Duncan, Mission and Ministry Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

lutheransforlife.org



Announcements

OSLS 21st Annual Golf Classic

Please join
Our Shepherd Lutheran School
for a day of golf, great food,
Prizes and fun at
Painesville Country Club

Deadline for entries:
Monday, July 5, 2021

Register a Foursome
(If you do not have a foursome
we will place you in a group)

Enjoy 18 holes of golf,
Riding Cart, Lunch
Dinner and Prizes

Check-in & Lunch at 11:00am

Tee off at 12:00 noon

SHOTGUN Start

(Lunch sponsored by
St. Paul's Lutheran Church)

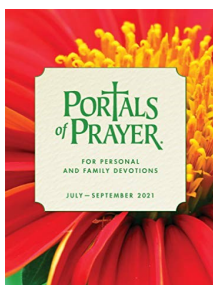
Eric Drake, Chairman: 440-669-6109

Sue Tagg: 440-382-6258

Email: golfclassic@oslpainesville.org

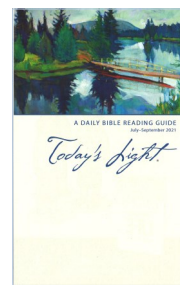
To register go to:

<http://www.oslpainesville.org/news/golf-outing.cfm>.



July—September 2021 **Portals of Prayer Now Available**

The July—September 2021 Portals of Prayer daily devotions are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors, or on the resource area table. Also available is the Today's Light daily reading guide.



Altar Flower Price Increase

Due to the high increase in the cost of flowers over the past year, the florist St. Paul's uses must increase the price of altar flower arrangements from \$30 to \$40 starting with the July 3 & 4 weekend. If you have added your name to the Flower Calendar and would like to remove it please let the Church Office know.





July/August 2021

Church Picnic

August 15, 2021

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Provided...

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Buns,
Beverage, Plates, Napkins,
Cups, Plastic Ware

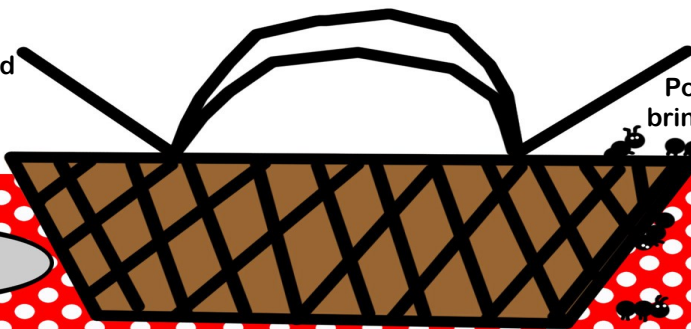
Bring...

Side Dish or Dessert
Outdoor Games, Cornhole

**Townline Park
2121 Townline Rd.
Perry, Ohio 44081**

Sign-up
sheet located
at the back
of the
Sanctuary

Pool will be open so
bring your bathing suit
and towel



Altar Flowers



Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$40.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.



June Meeting Notes

1. Pastor's Report: Pastor made 13 calls and 1 shut-in visit. He thanked those council members whose terms are complete, and welcomed those new members.
2. President's Report: Aaron also thanked those members for their service and all who have served the church this past year and hoped that we can continue to get back to a more normal worship setting.
3. Vice President's Report: Eric and the nominating committee thanked those who have agreed to serve or continue to serve.
4. Treasurer's Report: Finances continue to be fair and expenses are in line.
5. Education Report: Star reported she is working with Erin Cardina to transition duties. Adult Bible classes will continue during the summer; Sunday school to resume in Sept.
6. Preschool Report: Kathy reported that 38 have enrolled so far and that the Preschool finished the year with a reasonable cash balance. Work continues on updating the staff manual and salaries, 2 new teachers and 1 assistant are needed, and the 4th classroom will be used. Peggy will fill in as needed.
7. Elder's Report: Dale reported the Elders continue to work with Pastor on his communication skills and are reviewing worship protocols as COVID cases drop. They also will review and update the membership list.
8. Stewardship Report: Matt has posted sign-up sheet for Adopt-a-flower bed, and will put up the fundraiser board for replacing old conditioners, starting with the choir loft. He is also like to enlist youth with growing our social media presence.
9. Outreach Report: Kristi reported that June 27th will be door tag and clean-up walk thru neighborhoods. Also, movie night will return in July/August, and wooden toy project still in the works. Committee is considering having a hotdog outreach lunch.
10. Building & Grounds Report: Joe thanked everyone who came out for the spring clean-up and mulching. He also reported a section of fence at the parsonage needs to be replaced and has quotes for choir loft AC.
11. Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reported that contributions are up \$633 YTD (0.9%) and that attendance is slowly getting closer to pre-COVID levels.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. OSLS Golf Outing: July 10. St. Paul's will sponsor the lunch; a sign-up sheet for items sought (hot dogs, bun, chips, napkins, drinks) will be posted. May be Auction Baskets.

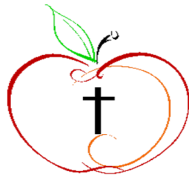


CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jenn made a motion to have church continue to pay Preschool's portion of Peggy's salary. Kathy 2nd. Motion passed.
2. Constant Contact: Peggy was asked to present proposal to have Constant Contact be our social media program and template. System will update and improve our messaging outreach to members and community, cost \$45/month. Eric made motion to accept the proposal. Kristi 2nd. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: August 11 @ 6:30pm.



From the Preschool

PRESCHOOL



Registration

2021-2022 Preschool Registration 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.

Classes are almost full. Currently there is 1 opening in the Pre-K class, 1 opening in the T/TH Early Learning class and 6 openings in the T/TH Preschool class. 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 Teachers Needed

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





July Birthdays



Jim Franz	2nd	Jacob Shutic	25th
Christopher Franz	2nd	Joshua Shutic	25th
Matt Greig	4th	Frank Vosicky III	27th
Rosemary Galayda	8th	Marian Sweetapple	28th
Aaron Lindrose	11th	Margaret Hiller	30th
Deborah Lawlor	12th	Ed Hines	30th
Stephanie Javins	12th	Craig McConnell	31st
Scott Javins	24th	Marie Rusnak	31st



August Birthdays

Roy Greig	1st	Molly Doeing	15th
Helen Carver	2nd	Susan Geyer	15th
Karen Tuttle	3rd	Molly Lindrose	22nd
Jaclyn Sweetapple	3rd	Joshua Sundbom	22nd
Amelia Greig	3rd	Kurt West	25th
Ed Kujala	3rd	Eric Greig	27th
Dominic Madda	3rd	Johanna Sistek	28th
Joe Doeing	6th	Sam Doeing	28th
Ellie Cardina	11th	Donna Salminen	29th
Meaghan Sundbom	12th	Wendy Somerville	30th





July Anniversaries



Jim and Becky Franz	43 years on July 1st
Lea McLean-Brandt and Bill Brandt	15 years on July 4th
Wendy Somerville and Keith	24 years on July 4th
Don and Debbie Bennington	40 years on July 11th
Jack and Billie Lelle	51 years on July 11th
Cheryl and Barry Dewit	35 years on July 19th
Scott and Stephanie Javins	17 years on July 24th



August Anniversaries

Ken and Hasnah Chaffe	28 years on August 7th
Harold and Margie Dennison	58 years on August 10th
Aaron and Michelle Lindrose	25 years on August 10th
Kathy and Peter Emrich	44 years on August 13th
Roy and Julie Greig	40 years on August 29th
Joe and Star Graziadei	13 years on August 29th





Those Who Serve: July 2021

ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Jeff Troutman

LECTORS:

07-03-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
07-04-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
07-10-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
07-11-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Kathleen Pennell
07-17-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
07-18-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
07-24-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
07-25-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee

COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Connie Concoby, Dennis Concoby

GREETERS:

None

Those Who Serve: August 2021

ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell

LECTORS:

07-31-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
08-01-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
08-07-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
08-08-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Sandy Heckler
08-14-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
08-15-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
08-21-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
08-22-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
08-14-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
08-15-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Kathleen Pennell

COUNTERS:

Ken Chaffe, Craig McConnell, Kristi McConnell

GREETERS:

None



GREETERS NEEDED!!

SIGN UP IN JULY OR AUGUST TO WAVE
GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO YOUR FELLOW
DISCIPLES.

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

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  COMMUNION SERVICE </div> <div> WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am </div>			<div> Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays </div> <div> Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm </div>	1 National Parks and Picnic Month	2	3
July Birthstones: Ruby & Onyx	July Flower: Larkspur & Water Lily					
4 	5	6	7 World Chocolate Day	8	9	10  OSLS 21st Annual Golf Classic
11 	12	13 National French Fry Day	14	15 World Youth Skills Day	16	17
18	19 7pm Outreach Meeting	20	21 National Hot Day Day	22	23	24 
25  Parents' Day	26	27	28	29	30 International Day of Friendship	31



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 National Immunization Awareness Month	2	3	4	5	6 National Root Beer Day	7 
8 	9 Book Lovers Day	10	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12	13 International Left-Handers Day	14
15  Church Picnic	16	17	18 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	19	20 <div>September Newsletter Articles Due</div>	21 
22 	23 7pm Outreach Meeting	24	25 First Day of School OSLS	26 National Dog Day First Day of School Riverside Local School District Grades 1-12	27	28
29	30 First Day of School Riverside Local School District Kindergarten & Preschool	31	<div>  COMMUNION SERVICE </div> <div> WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am </div> <div> August Birthstone: Peridot </div> <div> August Flower: Poppy & Glad </div>			<div> Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays </div> <div> Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm </div>