

ST. MATTHEW'S MESSENGER

3 *The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.*

4 *The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is majestic.*

10 *The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as King forever.*

11 *The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace.*

Psalm 29:3,4,10,11

Quite often, when reading God's Word, you'll find that a passage just hits you like it was chosen especially for you to read that day. These verses came up this week in my regular Bible reading, and if you can't tell why they struck me, (Where have you been?) read them through once more.

This week the awesome power of water has been on display. Seven inches of rain may not seem like an insurmountable force, but add that to these hills and fields around us and you've got a deluge that can move bridges, tumble boulders down the street, throw cars and tear apart buildings. Even the mighty railroad came to a grinding halt for a few days. It seems that nothing in our community was stronger than seven inches of rain.

Yet David wrote in Psalm 29 that our God sits enthroned over the mighty waters of the flood. He is always in control. Yes, he allows and even sends trials and tragedies into our lives and the lives of people around us to call us back to him for safety and salvation. Disasters like a flood or a hurricane also give us Christians opportunities to show our love for others by being selfless and assisting others who have sustained losses in these storms (and there may be more to come). These storms that leave us feeling small and helpless remind all of us how much we need our powerful God to come to our aid. Without him we are lost, physically and spiritually. With him at our side, we have nothing to fear.

God used the awesome power of water to destroy our entire planet in the days of Noah. He promised he would never send destruction by water on that scale ever again. But one day, when he returns to reign over his kingdom in glory, he promised to bring an end to our sinful world with even more destructive power of fire. Still, because of the peace we have through Jesus, there is nothing for us to fear. Our Lord reigns. His power is at work to deliver us in all our trials and to bring us safely to our home above where moth and rust will not destroy, nor will any floodwaters threaten us.

Join me in praying for those who have lost property and homes in these recent floods. God protect and comfort them and use this tragedy for their good. If you or someone you know is in need of help recovering from this flood, please let me know. As a community of believers, we will do all we can to demonstrate God's love and lend a hand to those in need.

Pastor Silas Schmitzer

PASTORAL SERVICES

If our members have need of Pastoral Services due to hospitalization or other needs, please contact Pastor Silas Schmitzer at 608-457-2711, cell 608-304-9265 or email pastor.schmitzer@gmail.com

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Luther High School

Luther high financial condition still about where it should be for this time of the year. Luther has a balanced budget. Building project on schedule. New front entrance being constructed now. Luther has raised 6.5 million for the building project. Still need to raise an additional 4.5 million. Projected fluctuating enrollment 240 currently. Still looking into STEM program. Luther foundation explored investor adviser options. Decided to stay with Kent Schmoker. Good Steward shop is doing very well. St Lukes from Pic Wick MN was accepted into the Luther High association. Elections held for board of control. All incumbents reelected. Pastor Werner, Mr Berg, Mr Horstman and Mr Schmekpepper.

St. Matthews Church Council Meeting

Aug. 13, 2018

Council members present: Pastor Schmitzer, Principal James Otto, Larry Soucheck, Ralph Stellick, Mike Alderman, Mike Everson, Perry Kilmer, and Doug Miller. Visitors; Kevin Decker from Midwest Family Radio Group, John Fandrich and Jill Noel from Wisconsin DOT.

Meeting called to order by Perry Kilmer at 6:40 pm.

Devotion read by Pastor Schmitzer based on Rev. 19:13 "Jesus is the Word".

Presentation by Kevin Decker proposals for advertising for church and school. Presentation from representatives of the Wisconsin DOT on construction on Highway 35 through Stoddard, and how it impacts the church property.

Secretary's report: attached; MSP.

Treasurer's report: attached: MSP. Looking for someone who could help manage the ACH. Offerings down a little.

Pastor's report: attached with highlights; 1) membership action; Transfer Mike and Dianne Tracy to St. Paul's New Ulm, receive into membership by profession of faith- Shari Pasch. MSP 2) VBS went well. 3) School of Outreach scheduled Oct. 6.

Elder's report: No report

Outreach Oversight Committee: Outdoor service planning, blood drive Aug. 28.

Principal's report: attached, highlights: discussed transferring unused from Good Steward to family in need. Discussed presentation of LaCrosse Radio Group. CEF target \$13,550. MSP discount for a pre-school family. Propose using portion of the Adult Education Room to establish a library for the school.

School board report: attached: highlight-discussed in the Principals report.

Luther High School: attached, highlights: Building project, new congregation accepted into the association.

Building and grounds: Discussed mowing and Mike had a conversation with Jan Protsman. Working on getting scaffold to change gym lights..

Cemetery Sextant report; no new report.

Planned Giving: no report

Old Business: nothing

New Business: nothing

Next meeting: Sept.10, 2018

Adjourned with prayer at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Miller, Secretary

WELS

Back to school: Tips for a smooth transition

Are you ready for school to start? Some parents love the freedom and fun of the summer schedule. Some are like my husband and have a countdown on the calendar with a smiley face on the first day of school. No matter how you feel about it, the school year is beginning. Here are some ideas to help the transition go more smoothly.

Routine

Set clear goals right from the start regarding home and school responsibilities. What does the morning routine look like? What gets done the night before to prepare for the next day? (Hint: as much as possible!) What chores does your child have and when do they need to be done? At our house, chores like unloading the dishwasher are done in the morning. Responsibilities like practicing piano can be done after school.

Establish with your children when they are going to do homework and where. Having a specific time and a comfortable place set aside prioritizes homework and provides a structure for study. If homework has been a struggle in the past, consider hiring an after-school helper to provide a different perspective and take the tension out of the parent/child relationship.

Along with setting clearly defined routines, it's important to practice them. Use the week before school starts to begin getting up at the right time, going through the morning routine, and sitting down to read during the scheduled study time.

Rest

Apparently fifth grade at our school is when every activity possible becomes available for students. Last year, our son decided he wanted to be in cross country, soccer, flag football, band, and chimes—all at the same time. It sounds so well-rounded, doesn't it? It turned out to be a recipe for anxiety for our son and led to significant physical and emotional issues for the first part of the school year. Kids need down time. (So do adults!) Choose with your child one or two activities to participate in during the school year, and limit everything else.

Along with rest from activities, children need physical rest. It is recommended that children ages 6 to 13 get 9 to 11 hours of sleep. Consistent lack of sleep can negatively impact learning, weaken the immune system, and result in behavioral issues. Encourage good sleep by limiting electronics before bed, keeping lighting low and the temperature cool in your child's bedroom, and having a healthy snack before bedtime. Routines such as a warm bath or cuddling also help.

Remember what's important

Finally, as the school year approaches, remember this important truth. Our children belong to God, and he has given us the responsibility of teaching them about his love. Maybe you set aside time for family Bible study. Maybe you sing Christian songs on your way to soccer. We have a devotion and share what we're thankful for before bed. What your children learn about Jesus and what he's done for them will be the most important lesson they learn all school year.

WELS

whataboutjesus.com

What is Hell Like?

in Heaven and Hell, Questioning God

Most people think they know what hell is like. Ask them on a blast furnace August day how hot it feels. Search Google for graphics featuring hell and flaming infernos will fill your screen. The terrors of war are compared to hell. As is terminal disease, divorce, and a dysfunctional workplace.

The Bible uses similar pictures to describe hell. Jesus predicts how on Judgment Day his angels will throw those who have rejected him “into the fiery furnace.” He goes on to say that those in that furnace will weep and gnash their teeth (Matthew 13:50). Hell, then, is a place of abject sorrow and staggering grief. It is a place where people’s fate is horrific and unstoppable. That’s why they gnash (grind) their teeth to display their frustration, rebellion, and anger.

There are additional ways the Bible helps us relate to hell. In Jesus’ story about a rich man suffering there, he has the man describe the place as a torture chamber (Luke 16:24). Hell is pictured as a place of blackest darkness (Matthew 8:12, Jude 13). The Old Testament prophet Isaiah uses a metaphor Steven King would enjoy. He says the people in hell are perpetually consumed by worms (Isaiah 66:24).

The essence of hell is separation from God and his kindness, love, generosity, and care. It was from the depths of that separation that the sin-suffering Jesus screamed from the cross, “My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?” Paul promises such separation awaits those who reject God’s grace. “They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Gruesome pictures. Distasteful descriptions. But even worse is being there. Words are inadequate to capture hell’s excruciation, its anguish, its dread. Little wonder that Jesus urges us to avoid hell’s torture, torment, and terror at all costs: “If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell” (Matthew 5:29-30).

Hell is what anyone deserves who has ever done anything wrong. “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law” (Galatians 3:10). Hell is the destination for all who believe they don’t need forgiveness or that they can earn their own forgiveness. That’s the price a lack of perfection exacts in the holy God’s court of justice.

How wonderful that God provides us a way to escape. He gives us a place to live for an eternity that is the polar opposite of hell. That is what Jesus is all about. The Bible assures us, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.... God made him who had no sin [that’s Jesus] to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:17,21). With Jesus’ righteousness, heaven is ours. .

Ten Fascinating Facts About Luther's Catechism

Many of us have handled a copy of Luther's Small Catechism before, but do you know how and why this crucial tool for Christian education came to be? Check out a list of ten fascinating facts about Luther's catechism below. You might learn something new!

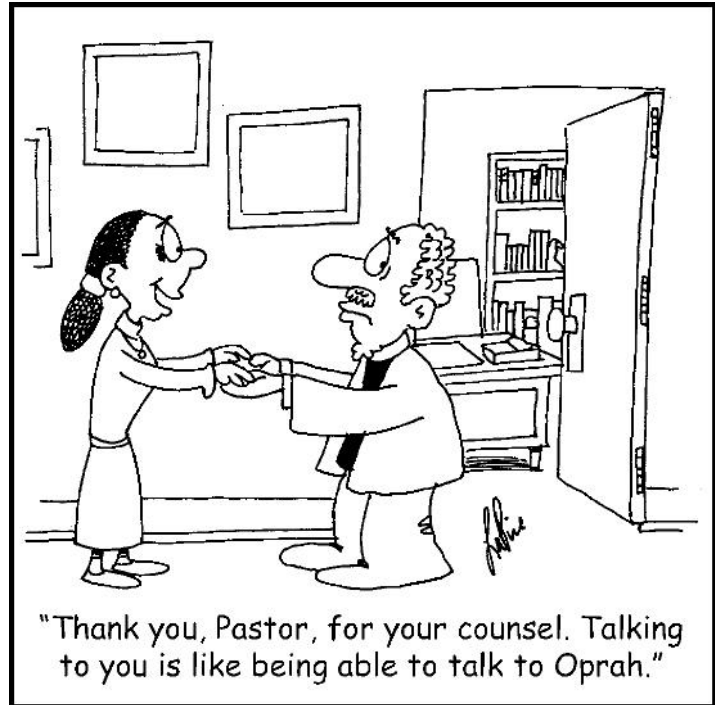
1. The word catechism is derived from the ancient Greek word katekheo which means “to teach by word of mouth.” One of the root words, ekheo, means “to sound or resound,” and this is also where English derives the word echo.
2. In 1520, nine years before the catechism was published, Luther published a work called The Confessional Mirror of the Common People. It studied the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed—the first three topics of his catechism.
3. Altogether, Luther preached on the chief parts of the catechism for 12 years before the book itself was created.
4. Luther had recognized the need for a comprehensive book for religious instruction, but he did not personally take on the work at first. He commissioned others to compile the work before ultimately tackling it himself.
5. Luther was finally compelled to write his catechism after seeing the poor spiritual conditions of the congregations in Saxony, Germany.
6. Because of its directness and clarity, Luther's Small Catechism was sometimes called the "children's Bible."
7. In addition to being printed as a book, parts of the Small Catechism were printed on posters or charts for use in the home.
8. The fifth main section of the catechism—the section detailing the Ministry of the Keys and Confession—was not included in the original catechism. It was added later and encourages both pastors and parishioners to share God’s Word with others.
9. It is believed that the first English catechism printed in America was produced in 1749 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
10. Though it is often used in a classroom setting today, the catechism was originally meant for household use. You may notice that chief parts of the catechism begin with the phrase “As the head of the family should teach . . .”, referring to this intended purpose.

To learn more about Luther's Catechism and related resources, visit www.nph.net or call us at 800-662-6022.

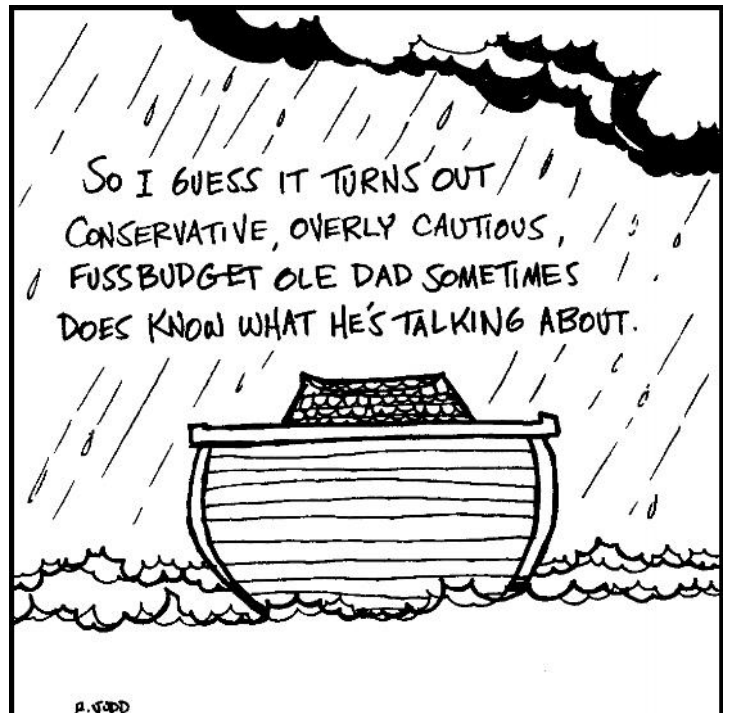
September



"Carb or non-carb section?"



"Thank you, Pastor, for your counsel. Talking to you is like being able to talk to Oprah."



Bible Quiz

What word can be placed in all four blanks to complete this Bible passage?

“But just as he who called you is _____, so be _____ in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be _____, because I am _____.’”

- A. righteous
- B. holy
- C. loving
- D. merciful



Answer: B (See 1 Peter 1:15-16, NIV.)

Bible Quiz

How did Jesus heal the blind man at the pool of Siloam?

- A. Put mud on his eyes and told him to go wash in the pool.
- B. Laid his hands on the man's head and prayed.
- C. Touched his eyes, but at first the man said people looked like trees walking, so Jesus had to do it again.
- D. Told him to go to the priests; as the man went, he was healed.



Answer: A (See John 9:6-7.)

Bible Quiz

Who was Moses' father-in-law, and what was his occupation?

- A. Joshua; shepherd
- B. Miriam; tentmaker
- C. Aaron; farmer
- D. Jethro; priest



Answer: D (See Exodus 3:1.)

