

St. Peter Lutheran

September 2022 Newsletter

- Sept. 4th – Communion Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday school, 10:00 a.m.
~ Free Will offering during fellowship for Rodney and Malinda Hinrichs’ “Reaching the Unreached”
- Sept. 7th – Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 10th – Men’s Breakfast Bible Study, 8:00 a.m. Study leader is Pastor Czymbor, Continuation of Biblical Manhood. Breakfast server is
- Sept. 11th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Begins, 10:00 a.m.
- Sept. 14th – WMF Bible Study and Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Lesson 6, “Behold the Rock of Our Salvation” Study Leader and Hostess is Pat Klumb.
- Sept. 17 – WMF District Fall Rally at Amazing Grace in Mt. Vernon.
- Sept. 18th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
- Sept. 20th – Quilting Workday, 1:00 p.m.
- Sept. 21st – FLY Bible Study and Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 18th – Mission Festival Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – 9:00 a.m. The speaker this year is Colleen Hoffman of Safe Place, formerly Mitchell Safe House. Mission Festival Offering – Designated to Safe Place. Undesignated to Home Missions. A meal will follow the service. Please invite friends and neighbors to attend.
- Sept. 25th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
~ Muffin Sunday – Ladies A -J are asked to bring the Muffins

Usher’s List: Sept. 4 – Keith Sprecher & Larry Klumb
Communion Lay Assistant – Travis Fink
11 – Louis Bamberg & Nick Hoffman
18 – Richard Luebke & Robert Thies
25 – Scott Olson & Tim Engelland

Cleaning List: Aug. 29 – Sept. 4 Hannah Lau & Jean Fink
Sept. 5 – 11 Joanne Hartmann & Kathy Lau
12 – 18 Kendra Thies & Shelby Punt
19 - 25 Nicole Whitney & Pat Klumb
Sept. 26 – Oct. 2 Pat Kreth & Renee Engelland



Forgiveness

Upon the birth of his son, John the Baptist, Zechariah proclaims a prophecy from God, here is the latter part of that proclamation from Luke 1:76-79

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

John would prepare the hearts and minds of God’s people to receive the Promised One of God, Jesus Christ. Through Zechariah and John God would proclaim that He was bringing salvation to His people. The form and substance of that salvation is Forgiveness.

People throughout all time have cried out to God for salvation. People are seeking salvation from problems of many types, things attacking them in body, in mind, or in soul. As Christians we know that our enemies are sin, death, and the devil and these Evil things are the cause of all our ills in one way or another. And all things Good in our life are blessings and mercies from our Creator. And the ultimate blessing is that God has defeated all of those enemies for us. The conquering Hero and Righter of all wrongs. And in the end, when Jesus returns in glory that will be completely and finally realized for all time. In the meanwhile, the hero the Jews were waiting for from God came, but not with the salvation they desired and had in mind. Their hope was in a hero King to rule them and drive out by force and power all other worldly rulers, such as the Romans.

Their idea of freedom was wrong. Our idea of freedom is often wrong as well. Indeed, Jesus did come and provide complete and full salvation which is available for all people, but few are able to accept it. The freedom and salvation that Jesus provides is found only through forgiveness. First and foremost, God’s people are set free from the wrath of God upon their sin because He has taken upon Himself our sins and their punishment. The separation between us and God caused by our warring with Him in thought, word, and deed is removed by Jesus and we are brought into peace with our Maker. The forgiveness of God transforms us from objects of wrath and into the most valuable of treasures. Once we were enemies, lost and banished from relationship with Him and now we are children and beloved members of His family. God has every right to hate us and treat us poorly because of our sinfulness and yet His love and forgiveness keeps Him from becoming corrupted. And in His holiness, in His righteousness, He waits patiently for all who will lay down their hatred of Him and submit to His love and forgiveness and receive salvation.

If this is not clear consider the following. I recently read the book, “Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust” that Don Fink had loaned to me. The book is not for the faint of heart and is full of the tragic reality of genocidal acts. However, the message of Godly forgiveness is presented in a way that is clear and necessary for us to understand. The author was wrestling with forgiving those who had been actively seeking to kill her, the ones who had also killed most of her family and friends. The realization came to her that in desiring revenge or retribution she would become just like her enemies, her hatred of them would be no different than their hatred of her. She would become just as evil as they were. The bullied would become the bully. Later when she confronts the killers she gives them her forgiveness. That forgiveness was salvation for her, in mind, body, and soul. In contrast, the killers were tormented and haunted in their sinfulness, disheveled and suffering in many ways. They were enslaved in the sinfulness of their deeds and in their evil hearts. But she was free in mind, body, and soul. She could have become like them, being consumed in hate and sin but she instead chose forgiveness, leaning upon God for His understanding and strength to do so. She has suffered much more than many of us can ever understand and yet now she is living life more fully than many can ever understand, unless they too have been forgiven by God. *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. – 1 John 3:14*

Questions or comments can be directed to Pastor Kevin Czymbor - kevin@czymbor.net