

St. Peter Lutheran

August 2023 Newsletter

Aug. 2nd – Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 6th – Communion Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

~ Free Will offering during fellowship for Rodney and Malinda Hinrichs' "Reaching the Unreached"

~ Deadline for Donations to Sandy Lau for School Back Packs for Armour and Corsica students.

Aug. 8th – Quilting Workday, 1:00 p.m.

Aug. 9th - WMF Bible Study and Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Lesson 4, "A Little Family of Bethany...We Shall Rise Again". Bible Studay leader is Jean Fink and Hostess is Sandy Lau. All Ladies are welcome.

Please join us in studying God's Word.

Aug. 13th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

~ Erv & Dee Fink and family are serving rolls following the service, in Thanksgiving for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

~ Church Picnic, 5:00 p.m. Come and join in games, Bouncy House and fellowship together.

The meat and drinks will be provided for the meal, congregation is asked to bring salads and desserts.

Aug. 16th – FLY Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Aug. 20th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

~ Muffin Sunday, ladies K - V are asked to bring the muffins

Aug. 27th – Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.

Usher's List: Aug. 6 – Jeremy Fink & John Engelland

Communion Lay Assistant – Scott Olson

13 – Justin Wright & Keith Sprecher

20 – Larry Klumb & Louis Bamberg

27 – Nick Hoffman & Richard Luebke

Cleaning List: July 31 – Aug. 6 Connie Goldammer & Donnelle Hoffman

Aug. 7 – 13 Donna Picek & Jean Fink

14 – 20 Hannah Lau & Joanne Hartmann

21 – 27 Joyce Sprecher & Kathy Lau

Aug. 28 – Sept 3 Kendra Thies & Pat Kreth



Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery

Exodus 20:14 / Deuteronomy 5:18 “*You shall not commit adultery*”

From the Luther’s Small Catechism: “*We should so fear and love God, as to be chaste and pure in our words and deeds, each one also loving and honoring his wife or her husband.*”

When we consider adultery our minds likely go directly to the imagery of sexual relations. The word chaste in the catechism references the purity of the sexual union between one man and one woman designed by God as the perfect, or righteous, form of a marriage relationship. (A marriage relationship is one that brings two different things together and one, new and greater, thing is the result) However, committing adultery is not merely a sexual thought, word, or deed, rather, it applies to any relationship. God directly applies adultery, the act and consequences, to the marriage of a man and a woman (Proverbs 6:23–24, Proverbs 6:32, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 6:18). God also applies adultery to thought in addition to deed (Matthew 5:27-32). God applies adultery to the context of relationship between God and man, specifically the relationship between Himself and His people (Hosea, Ezekiel 16:38, 23:37). The end goal of Christianity is the marriage between Jesus Christ and all who submit to God (Isaiah 62:5, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 19:7-9, 21:9).

So what is the point of this commandment? It entirely hinges upon the word, adultery. The etymology, the origin of this word in application, is “voluntary violation of the marriage bed.” The roots of the word are the combination of “to” and “alter”. And the Latin word from which we get the idea behind adultery is *adulterare* which means to “commit adultery; corrupt”. The point being, this is less about sexual union and instead is about the corruption or alteration of an original pure thing. We see this more clearly in the related words, adulterate and adulteration which carry the idea to "debase by mixing with foreign or inferior material, make corrupt," and "to falsify or make impure". To commit adultery, by definition as well as in practice, is to take something which is ideal, pure, righteous and alter it by adding or corrupting that which was the design or model to follow and instead making it less or worse than it was meant to be. In Biblical application this applies mostly to relationships, both the love God and love your neighbor relationships. It can also be said to apply to the corruption or adulteration of anything that God establishes as Good, Right, and Holy (Deuteronomy 12:28, Romans 7:12)

God applies this commandment, as He does with others, both to the internal self as well as to the external (Matthew 15:19), hence why we confess before Him that we are by nature sinful and unclean in thought, word, and deed rather than just deeds alone. God warns strongly against adultery in many places but the warning in Revelation 2:18-29 to the church in Thyatira is strongly worded to God’s people. The reminder that it is not merely the physical sexual act but applies to those who hold to teachings other than those of their Creator. In other words, idolatry and adultery are equally destructive and lead to the severing of the divine pattern of relationship both physically and spiritually, with God and with mankind.

Another point of consideration is whether we are on the defensive or the offensive side of adultery. Are we actively participating in the act of adulterating anything that God has created Good? Are we using our thoughts, words, and deeds to encourage, build, and multiply that which is good, right, and holy? Or are we corrupting others with evil ideas and actions? Are we the means through which are children are being made in the image of God, or are we corrupting them into the image and pattern of this world? Do not adulterate your home. Do not adulterate your workplace. Do not adulterate your church. Do not adulterate the created order of things as God designed them, and when in doubt, run to God and His Word for clarification and trust not yourself.

Arm yourself with the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20), that you may be protected from being corrupted by the world. Do not let your arrogance and pride lead you into a battle you cannot win but trust in the Lord and lean on His understanding for the sake of maintaining your purity (Proverbs 3:5, Isaiah 10:20).