

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

April 2017

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)228-4773

From the Pastor...

(Following is a Wednesday evening Lenten sermon) Matthew 26:30-35

They sing a hymn to conclude their Passover meal - one of the Psalms. Then they go to the Mt. of Olives. And here Jesus point blank tells them: "You will all fall away because of Me this night...for so it is written: 'Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.'" Now here is what the disciples did not say in response: "How awful, Lord! This is hard for me to accept. But if it is so written in Scripture, then so it will be, for the Scriptures do not lie. But have mercy, Lord! After I fall away, do not forsake me, but forgive me and restore me once again."

No, nothing like this is spoken. Instead, we hear the voice of Simon Peter: "Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away!" In other words, "I can see them denying You, Jesus...these other ten disciples here; but I'm not like them, and they're not like me. I have more fortitude. My faith is stronger. I will never, ever fall away from You, Jesus!"

"Instead of saying, 'I will never fall away from Jesus,' how much better for us to say, 'Jesus will never fall away from me!'"

Yet when we remember that night, two disciples especially come to mind. Judas, who betrayed Jesus. And Simon Peter who turned chicken and denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

What we see here is a blatant case of over-confidence and misplaced trust. As soon as Peter said the words, "I will never fall away," he was doomed. Satan gladly accepted the challenge. Peter could not win, for already he had fallen away. Simon Peter actually denied his Lord four times. Three were yet to come, but here is his first denial. He denies that Jesus speaks the truth. "You're wrong, Jesus!" he says, "I will never fall away from You! I will never deny You!" Peter had more confidence in his own faith than he had in the words of Jesus. "I don't care what Jesus says! I know what I believe. I will never fall away!"

Peter's trust is misplaced. He trusted in his faith and not in Jesus. Had he trusted in Jesus, he would have believed Him. He would have accepted what He said. But Peter doubted Jesus' words. More than that, he denied them. He called the words of Jesus false and a complete lie. "You may say I will never fall away, but I say I won't! I speak the truth here; not You, Jesus!"

I shudder, and so should you, whenever we hear someone say: "I will never lose my faith. I will never fall away from Jesus." For the falling has already begun. How can any of us be so sure of ourselves when we see all of Jesus' disciples falling away quickly and easily? Are we stronger than they? Is our faith of a different substance? There is nothing the devil loves more than an over-confident disciple of Christ. The Christian who has such strong trust in his own faith is an easy target for Satan. But how very different it is to trust in Jesus and not in my faith. Had Simon Peter done this, he would have believed the words Jesus spoke and begged for mercy.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Followed by Bible study
each Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

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"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



Attendance

March 5 - 55

March 12 - 70

March 19 - 44

March 26 - 53

Lent Services average. - 22

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Church Directory

The 2017 church directory will be available for distribution starting Sunday, April 9. Please pick up your copy in the Adult Education Room and be sure to check off your name on the distribution list when you do. If you have family members who attend services infrequently please feel free to pick up their directories as well. The Altar Guild schedule, which has been distributed to all Altar Guild members, will not be included this year so if you have any questions about the Altar Guild or need additional copies, please see Jill Landes. Thank you!

Door Collection

A door collection will be taken on Sunday, April 9, for the granddaughters of Darrell Nadler, Ava and Sophia Kappelman. They are dealing with genetic conditions that result in severe health issues. Additional information is on the bulletin board.

Calling All Graduates!

If you or someone you know will be graduating this spring, let Pastor or Julie know so they can include you in an upcoming newsletter.



From the Pastor cont.

Instead of saying, "I will never fall away from Jesus," how much better for us to say, "Jesus will never fall away from me! Jesus will never disown me. He will never separate Himself from me." Speaking of what it means to be baptized into Christ, St. Paul says: *"I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come...nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* That's what Peter should have said. "Even though I fall away and deny You, Jesus, it will not separate You from me. For You love me with a great love, and You are a forgiving God."

Friend, you should have complete confidence; but not in yourself. In Jesus. You and I are as weak and pathetic as Simon Peter. No one, not him, not the other disciples, not any of us, has the strength and ability to not fall away from Jesus. Every day we lean in that direction.

But Jesus leans toward you. He was leaned up against a cross and nailed onto it to embrace you with so great a love. He will not walk away from you because He gave Himself completely up for you in death. He poured out His blood for you. He made you His beloved in your Baptism. He gives Himself to you in the Holy Supper. He pleads continually for you before His heavenly Father. *"Father, forgive them"* He prays.

Falling away is something we have all done more times than we even know. Don't trust in your faith. Don't trust in your conviction and promise. Trust Jesus. Believe His words that He forgives you even for falling away from Him. Believe what the Scriptures say, for they do not lie, that nothing can separate you from His love. You and I are weak sinners, but Jesus is our strong Savior. Amen.

Easter Breakfast

Our annual Easter Breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 16, immediately following the 7:00 a.m. sunrise Easter service. There is a sign up sheet in the Education Wing for donations of breakfast casseroles, pastries, and fruit. If you would like to donate money toward the purchase of fruit or baked goods please place either cash or check made payable to Christ Lutheran Church in a plain envelope marked "Easter Breakfast Donation" in the offering plate. Please note your offering envelope number on the outside of the envelope. Thanks in advance for your support!

Ladies Bible Study Dates

Our ladies Bible study will be held at 7pm on the following Fridays in April and May; April 7 and 28 and May 12 and 19. All ladies are invited to join us for sharing, fun and fellowship as we study God's word together at the Menke home. Thanks!

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January & February 2017 Financial Update

Loose Plate and white envelope only	\$12,960.00
Operating Expenses	<u>\$15,687.15</u>
Operating Loss	(\$2,727.15)

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday mornings 9-12	Prayer Service: Wednesday mornings 11-11:30					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Brianna Overschmidt	7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast 7:00 Lent Service		7 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	Elaine Rutherford
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Palm Sunday & Adult Confirmation	7:00 Council	Brenda Ford	Helena Ballmann (no office hours or prayer service)	7:00 Maundy Thursday	7:00 Good Friday	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7 a.m. Easter Service Breakfast and Egg Hunt following	Justin Ballmann Julie Kurtz Austin Pieper		Vernon & Ollie Borgmann 7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast	David Warnecke		Tim & Sharon Beumer
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Ashley Hunter Voters Meeting			(no office hours or prayer service)		Dayton Sullivan 7 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	
30						
Emma Hilsabeck						