



News From the Pews

The Newsletter of
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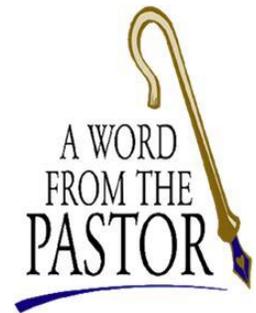
“We Serve Because Jesus Loves You”

Summer 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, the temperature is a hot and humid 93 degrees. Trust me, this is good Baltimore weather!

My Dad told the story of going to church one summer Sunday as a kid. The Roman Catholic priest that day had a really short sermon. As Dad related the tale, the priest entered the pulpit and said, “If you think it’s hot here, it’s hotter in hell.” That was it. The whole sermon. Now if it gets pretty unbearable in our sanctuary, I’m all for shortening the service, but not quite that short. Just so you know!



As I think about that one-sentence message it makes me realize that even with all the vary significant difference that the LCMS has with the Roman Church, we still teach the Biblical doctrine of hell. As Christians, we receive God’s Word that tell us that hell is a place of suffering and torment where the devil and his demons were cast. Hell is the place where the souls of non-believers in Jesus Christ spend the time until His Second Coming when they, too, will be raised from the dead in body and soul, to spend eternity, not in the new creation, but in everlasting destruction—hell—the place where God is not. As the Christian Church confesses in the Athanasian Creed, “At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.”

If you don’t like the heat, then hell probably isn’t the place for you! Boy, is that an understatement. Who can fathom a place where God is not? We confess that God is omnipresent, present everywhere. But not in the place we call hell. It is a God-less place, reserved for the devil and his followers, that is, for those who do not believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I know, I know. These words sting and hurt. But I cannot sweeten them. I cannot change what the Lord has revealed in His Word. For example, Jesus said in Matthew 13, “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:49–50 ESV). Jesus in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins concludes, “And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you’ (Matt. 25:10–12 ESV).

In our Lutheran distinctions, this is indeed the word of God’s Law. It reveals that apart from the saving mercies of God in Jesus Christ, I am a lost and condemned creature. But God has given to the whole world the Redeemer from sin, death, and hell. Jesus Christ was born, lived, suffered, died, and rose again to purchase and to give forgiveness of sins. It is the forgiveness of sins won by Christ on the cross and give to people

through Baptism and the Gospel Word that snatches us from the jaws of death and hell. Jesus saves us! He makes us children of God, covered in His saving blood, people who need not fear the condemnation and judgment of God in hell.

Dear friends, that's why we are here. We = Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. This congregation is the place for us to be filled with the Word of Christ, the power of God unto salvation. It is the place where we receive His Body and Blood with the bread and wine for forgiveness, life, salvation, and the strengthening of our Baptismal faith. And this congregation gathered around Christ's Word and Sacrament is here to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9 ESV). This congregation exists not just for us, but to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching the Word of Christ. We're a rescue station.

On November 25, 1888, one of the most ferocious storms of the nineteenth century battered the New England coast. In the seas off Hull, MA, "Storm Warriors," as the men of the United States Life-Saving Service were known, saved 29 lives. One crew rowed 6 ½ miles out to a wrecked vessel and rescued seven sailors. For almost a century, Massachusetts Humane Society volunteers had been helping to rescue mariners in distress. The record of human lives they saved was impressive: 99% of the people they tried to rescue survived.¹

The Church and her local congregations are lifesaving, rescue stations for people who need the forgiveness, mercy, and salvation of Jesus Christ, the Savior. Our community needs the Lord Jesus. The people need His love and mercy, His forgiveness and peace. The people need to know they are much loved by a very real God who gave them His everything—His Son—so that they might not remain lost in the drowning ocean of unbelief. It is time to look out at the storm-filled world and to see the people and to bring to the people the Good News of Jesus Christ. God grant that we become filled with His passion for the lost.

In HIS Service,

Pastor Coons



¹ <https://www.massmoments.org/moment-details/storm-warriors-rescue-29-sailors-off-hull.html>

Congratulations and God's Blessings to our 2022 Graduates



Enfield High School June 16



Shane Currier
With Honors
Presidential Award for Academic Excellence

Attending Asnuntuck Community College
Electro-Mechanical Technology Maintenance

Somers High School June 15



Douglas Suter
National Honors Society, Beta Club (Vice
President), FBLA State finalist, Gettysburg College
book award, High Honor Roll

Attending Sacred Heart University
Running track and Studying Finance



Howell Cheney Technical High School June 16

Jenna Thorpe
Graduated for HVAC

Cleaning Volunteers are always needed
Please sign up to clean on Saturdays. Refresh your
memories by taking a look at the cleaning routine
posted. Thank you for serving.

*If you are unable to serve, please contact Tom Savage,
Worship Chair.*

August: Linda Yoreo
September: Renee Cowan

Sunday Readers

*If you would like to volunteer, please see Tom Savage or
Pastor.*

8:00 a.m.

August 7 Mark Parlapiano
August 14 Doug Suter
August 21 George Arendt
August 28 Gayle Pueschel

Sept. 4 Marcos Iglesias
Sept. 11 Ron Smith
Sept. 18 Tom Savage
Sept. 25 Rich Suter

10:30 a.m.

August 7 Darlene Johnson
August 14 Linda Stevens
August 21 Tina Currier
August 28 Margaret Scully

Sept. 4 Darlene Johnson
Sept. 11 Linda Stevens
Sept. 18 Tina Currier
Sept. 25 Margaret Scully

Ushers' Schedule

Aug. 8:00 a.m. Rich Plumb / Dave McCollum
10:30 a.m. Dave Herzig / Aaron Coons

Sept: 8:00 a.m. Bill Reis / Rich Suter
10:30 a.m. Aaron Coons / Linda Stevens

Vacation Bible School 2022



August 1-5, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We are still in need of a few more volunteers!

Continue to check the board for supply tickets as we get closer to the big day!

Register students and volunteers at
<https://vbsmate.com/events/788CB6A8/24785>

ERfC's Annual Backpack & School Supply Drive

The Backpack & School Supply Drive is a collaborative community effort to make school supplies available to Enfield children in grades K-12, so they are ready to succeed on the first day of school! **Please leave supplies in Classroom 3 on the table. Due here at LCOR by July 31.**

Backpacks	Two Pocket Folders
Crayons	Pencil Box or Zippered Pouch
Spiral Notebooks	Colored Pencils
#2 Pencils	Composition Notebooks
Markers	Mechanical Pencils
3-ring Binder (1 inch – 2 inch)	
Blunt-tip Scissors	
Blue, Black, and Red Ink Pens	
Loose Leaf Paper	Rulers
Large Pink Erasers	Highlighters
Liquid School Glue	Eraser Caps
Pencil Sharpener	Glue Sticks

From New England District—LCMS President, Rev. Robert Beinke

Dear Lutheran Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On June 24 the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision in the case Dobbs v. Jackson. With this decision it overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which allowed abortion in all 50 states of

the U.S. Although the Dobbs decision does not, as many mistakenly say, proclaim abortion to be illegal and end it, it does allow each state to now consider through their legislature laws to end it or restrict it within their state. We should be glad for this, for the lives of innocent and helpless babies in the womb will be saved.

The day after the decision was released, I was asked if I rejoiced in the decision. I am very glad that the Court overturned Roe V. Wade, for that decision not only resulted in millions of babies being killed; it also contributed greatly to the devaluing of human life in our culture. Our Church has always stood for the value of, and so protection of, every person, from the beginning of life at conception to natural death. We do so because God tells us clearly in His Word that He is the Creator of every single person and in Christ the redeemer of every single person. Psalm 139 says of the Lord: *“You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.”* (vss. 13-14) This was true of Jesus as well. In His incarnation in the womb of Mary, He brought redemption to the world, beginning in the womb. By His death on the cross He purchased redemption – the forgiveness of every sin and deliverance from its rule and judgment to God’s rule – for every person. And so, I am glad that more babies will have the opportunity to be born and be able to receive the gift of eternal life in Christ.

But, do I rejoice in the Dobbs decision? With Pastor Harrison, the President of our Synod (see his response on our Synod’s website), I say, Lord, have mercy on us. That such a case even needed to be contemplated by our highest court and such a decision made – to allow states to restrict, or even outlaw, the killing of babies in the womb... the killing of babies in the womb! – is a sad, sad commentary on our society. How evil are our hearts! May God not deal with us according to our sins but have mercy upon us! May He lead us to faithfulness in Christ!

I close with two encouragements. First, I encourage you to read the Dobbs decision. You can find it on

the Supreme Court's website. It is not filled with legal jargon and so impossible to understand. Read it, that you might be better prepared to discuss it. Secondly, I encourage you to look up Dr. Anthony Levatino on the internet. I heard an interview with him recently which was quite eye-opening. He is a retired Ob-Gyn who early in his career performed abortions. He has testified twice before Congress – in 2015 and 2018 – about abortion. He is now an opponent of abortion. He knows what this issue is about.

May God lead us ever more to Christ, and in Him lead us to true righteousness in our desires, our thoughts, our words and our deeds! I ask that this be printed in bulletins and/or newsletters and so distributed to the people of the District.

Pastor Robert Beinke
President, the New England District, LCMS



What Luther Says: A Word that Never Ends

In these New Testament times there is always a lack of Christians; there never are enough of them. Therefore we must not stop inviting guests to partake of this Paschal Lamb. But we must keep on preaching. We must also go to those to whom Christ has [thus far] not been proclaimed. We must teach the people who have not known Christ, so that they, too, may be brought to the spiritual kingdom of Christ.