

Salem Lutheran  
Church and School

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# August 2023 Newsletter

## Insight from God's Word: Intolerance and Following Christ



Christians have been persecuted for the last 2,000 years, ever since the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Christ, the only Savior and Lord, and are being persecuted in many parts of the world, today, even to the point of being executed for being faithful believers in Christ. In the United States, it has become very unpopular to proclaim Jesus as the only Savior from sin. When Christians do so, they are called intolerant.

But true Christianity has always been intolerant in the sense of proclaiming that there is only one true God, not many gods. The only true God is the Trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, three divine Persons, yet only one God! And Jesus is the only Savior! All other religions are false and worship idols!

True Christianity has always been intolerant in insisting that there is only one revealed Word of God and that is the Bible. There are not many truths—just one truth. The Bible is God's one and only written revelation of Himself and the center and standard for all truth.

True Christianity has always been intolerant in condemning what the Bible condemns as sin, as summarized in the Ten Commandments. But it is now considered intolerant, judgmental, and unloving in our society to say that homosexuality is condemned by God as sin, and that same sex marriage is contrary to the Word of God.

So, when the inevitable backlash of persecution comes from the world against faithful Christians, as they condemn sin and proclaim Christ as the only Savior from sin, it is easy for us to hunker down and shut up and avoid controversy and the attacks of the world. But what did Jesus say to us about this? "Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow

me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

Jesus here calls on us to follow Him every day, moment by moment, in the ordinary times and also in the special times. Following the Lord Jesus involves an accompanying cost. It means we change in our relationship to Him and to one another. It does not mean we are involved in a one-time combat with sin. This is a daily fight against sin and evil. It requires us to leave our former sinful habits and relationships behind!

By God's grace in following Christ, we will win in that struggle against sin. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you!" "Submitting" means that the Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Christ and keeps us in the faith. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who works through the Word, we then can resist the devil's temptations, to fight the good fight of faith, as St. Paul says, against evil. Only with Christ's power—and the believer certainly does have Christ's power, because Christ lives in us through baptism—only with Christ's power are we able to win in that struggle against temptation and sin and follow Christ, knowing that God will eventually give us the victory! Pastor Brechbuhl

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry –  
lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article –  
August 2023

Define Your Life by How You Give  
Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away. Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset

begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:  
[lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

### Greetings in Christ

I would like to give you an update on Swaddling Clothes. It is hard to believe that we have been open for six months. We did have a slow start with only two clients through April. But throughout May, June, and July we were able to serve a total of 30 families. We attended a Community Baby Shower at Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville where we were able to assist eleven families. The remainder have come into Swaddling Clothes.

In addition to being able to serve these families, we were notified in May that we had been accepted for the LCMS Million Dollar Life Matching Grant for \$20,000. We did receive the matching donations for that grant from the community and the congregation. Thank you for your monetary support!

We hope to start some of the projects that were included in the grant soon. One project is to finish replacing the windows in the Swaddling Clothes building that were not previously replaced, and to finish trimming the windows that were replaced to protect them from the weather.

We also hope to start adding clothing racks and hanging some of the clothing items.

Currently, the clothes are displayed on tables. We would also like to add additional shelving space to display some of the items.

We have had interest in Swaddling Clothes from local LCMS congregations who may be

willing to assist. We have been invited to a back-to-school event in August. We are handing out flyers at the church booth during the Morgan County Fair. Please continue to help us spread the word about Swaddling Clothes.

I especially want to thank Lauretta Scheller, Donna Moody, Arnie and Sharon Delong, Karen Tomhave, Sherri Tomhave, Randy and Rita Tendick, Jim Turley, Michelle Moeller, Kevin Eckhoff, and Danny Magelitz for help with washing and folding donated clothing items, packaging diapers, working at the shopping days, advertising, and planning repairs and improvements. I also want to thank everyone who has supported Swaddling Clothes through donations and kept us in their prayers. I believe we can continue to make a difference to those in the community who need this service. If you wish to donate or volunteer, you may contact me through the church office. Thank you,

Deaconess Linda Strubbe

## AUGUST BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

LAKAMP, David P. (David)	1-Aug
LITTLE, Janette L.	1-Aug
WATKINS, Jordan A.	1-Aug
WEST, Melvin	1-Aug
QUIGG, Don B.	2-Aug
WILEY, Morgan E.	2-Aug
DIMMICK, Samuel C.	3-Aug
WARD, Daniel J.	3-Aug
MAGELITZ, Carleen D.	4-Aug
DOYLE, Karen L.	5-Aug
TROWBRIDGE, Michael E.	5-Aug
GOODWIN, Gary	6-Aug
KORDING, Gabriel B.	6-Aug
ECKHOFF, Kevin R.	7-Aug
FRAZIER, CARSYN R.	7-Aug
Frazier, Carsyn R.	7-Aug
MCCLELLAN, Tyler J.	8-Aug
POWELL, Melanie A.	9-Aug
SANDOVAL, Bernice E.	9-Aug
DEVLIN, Karole L.	10-Aug
GARRETT, Jason A.	10-Aug
HANNANT, Marcia	10-Aug
VORTMAN, Gary J.	10-Aug
WHEELER, Joni K.	11-Aug

REEVES, Debra D. (Debbie)	12-Aug
SCHUMACHER, Bennett W.	12-Aug
HACKETT, Rachel N.	13-Aug
JARMAN, Stephanie L.	13-Aug
WHITE, Andrea	13-Aug
WHITE, Rachel D.	13-Aug
WILEY, Mary	13-Aug
SHOEMAKER, Serenity M.	14-Aug
MCCOMBS, Kerry G.	16-Aug
WIEGAND, Jason T. (JT)	16-Aug
LOVEKAMP, Mark E.	17-Aug
SALCIDO, William H.	17-Aug
WERRIES, John R.	17-Aug
STEINACHER, Amelia I.	18-Aug
VALENTINE, Kelsey M.	18-Aug
WANKEL, Lori L.	18-Aug
MILLER, Taylor	19-Aug
BROWN, Carver	21-Aug
BRUNE, Sherri L.	21-Aug
STEINACHER, Deborah M.	21-Aug
STOCK, RODNEY L.	21-Aug
BUTCHER, Sarah N.	22-Aug
LOCKEY, Vickie J.	22-Aug
PAHLMANN, Phyllicia S.	22-Aug
WALKER, Connie L.	22-Aug
WARE, Cheryl L.	23-Aug
BUTCHER, Nicholas W. (Nick)	24-Aug
CRIM, Louella M.	24-Aug
NEWMAN, Grace E.	24-Aug
NEWMAN, Keegan W.	24-Aug
THRASHER, Evan S.	24-Aug
THRASHER, Owen J.	24-Aug
THRASHER, Timothy W.	24-Aug
TROYER, Amy L.	24-Aug
ZIMMER, Gary J.	24-Aug
GOODING, Kash L.	25-Aug
HUTCHISON, Joy A.	25-Aug
JACHINO, Corey A.	25-Aug
LEISCHNER, William L. (Luke)	25-Aug
RUYLE, Alexia F.	26-Aug
STUCKER, Kalie E.	26-Aug
LIETZ, HEIDI	28-Aug
STRUBBE, Linda G.	28-Aug
EVANS, Jennifer M.	30-Aug
LUKEMAN, John C. (Christopher)	31-Aug
PETERSON, Brittany N.	31-Aug

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

**IN SYMPATHY:** John Wm. "Bill" Davidsmeyer of Springfield passed away on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at his residence. Bill married Correne Kraemer on July 1, 1950, and she preceded him in death on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Bill is survived by two daughters, Diann Davidsmeyer of Columbus, IN and Darcy (Ray Morin) Davidsmeyer, of Naples, FL; two grandsons, Ryan (Barbara) Davidsmeyer and Michael (Kelsey) Davidsmeyer, both of Jacksonville; and four grandchildren, Colton, Emrick, Teddy, and Margaret. He was preceded in death by two sons, Richard William Davidsmeyer and John Paul Davidsmeyer, and his adoptive mother, Norma Perbix Davidsmeyer. May the Lord Bless all those who mourn the loss of this loved one!

**CONGREGATION VOTER'S MEETING:** On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Voter's Assembly issued a divine call to Rev. Phillip Rigdon of Kendallville, IN. Pray that the Lord would give him His wisdom as he considers this call from the Holy Spirit through our congregation.

**REMINDERS:** DON'T ASSUME that Pastor knows when you are hospitalized. Please call the Church Office 243-3419 to let us know when you enter the hospital.

**DOORBELL DINNER VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for volunteers for the upcoming doorbell dinners deliveries. Salem's next assigned week is September 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please contact Rita Tendick (217)473-5017.

**JAYDEN UPTON UPDATE:** Jayden enjoys receiving cards, so if you would like to send him a card, his address is: Jayden Upton 8615 Ridge Wood Road, Rock Island, IL 61201 Thank you.

**RADIO OPENING:** Salem Lutheran is in search of volunteers that would like to learn how to broadcast our services. If you would be interested in the opportunity to do that or would just like to see if you would enjoy doing this, please see Kevin Eckhoff. He would be willing to let you sit in and check it out. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. An opportunity to learn something new and help Salem out. Thank you.

**DEACONS:** Listed below are the names of the Deacons for Salem Lutheran 2022. Please feel free to give your Deacon a call.  
 Group 1: "AA-GARM" Wade Mathis                      217-690-2693

Group 2: "GARR-MAN" Austin Tomhave 217-883-3461

Group 3: "MASS-SHE"

Group 4: "SHIR-ZIM" Dwayne Middendorf 217-248-2091

Two Elders assisting Deacons: Larry Baker (217)370-1480, Gerald Warcup (217)243-2620.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**ADOPT A STUDENT:** The Adopt a Student Fund is receiving requests for assistance from some of our students for the upcoming school year. We would like to assist these families, but we need the help from the Congregation. If you would you like to help, please mark your envelope "Family In Need". The money you donate will go directly to these family's account. If you would like to sponsor a student for a month, 3 months, 6 months, or a full year, please call the office. We would love to have such donors. Thank you.

### **OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP WORK PROGRAM**

**Fiscal Year 8/31/2022 – 07/31/2023**  
(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

#### **CURRENT FINANCIAL INDEBTEDNESS**

<b>7/31/22</b>	<b>5/31/23</b>
Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$122,900.20	\$0.00
Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00	\$0.00
	LEAP
\$677,802.80	\$627,012.10

#### **Financial Status Report for May 2023**

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 51,874.82
Our operating receipts May 2023:	\$ 36,137.47
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$519,638.54
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$519,623.51
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$ 15.03