

FROM THE VACANCY PASTOR**This Warning Keep in Mind**

Imagine that the chancel of our church is outfitted like a railroad crossing, with flashing lights, loud bells, and descending barriers to prohibit you from proceeding any farther. This mental exercise reminds us that receiving the Lord's body and blood is more than an empty, symbolic ritual. While faithful Lutherans approach the Lord's Table with eager anticipation, we should also have a serious consideration of what happens there.

In order to avoid partaking of the Sacrament unworthily, we're directed by Holy Scripture to examine ourselves by repenting of our sins and recognizing the real, physical presence of our Lord in this Holy Meal. The Small Catechism's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" help us to rightly prepare our hearts and minds to receive this great mystery and meal from God. Then those crossing lights are switched off, the bells are silenced, and the long, restrictive barriers are replaced by the outstretched, loving arms of our Savior. Then we hear Him say, "My body and blood strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace."

I pray that you find the following Q&As to be both a helpful refresher and something you can meaningfully incorporate into your devotional life – for a Christian can- and should- meditate upon these things for a lifetime, never fully mining their depths. Below are the Q&As found in your Small Catechism, hymnal (LSB 329-330), or Book of Concord:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.

2. How do you know this?

From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

3. Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Rom. 6:21, 23.

5. Do you hope to be saved?

Yes, that is my hope.

6. In whom then do you trust?

In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Who is Christ?

The Son of God, true God and man.

8. How many Gods are there?

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. Did the Father also die for you?

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

11. How do you know this?

From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

12. What are the words of institution?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

13. Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Yes, I believe it.

14. What convinces you to believe this?

The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

15. What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7.

Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

Note: These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

POINTS TO PONDER:

Baptism, Repentance, Catechesis, Sanctification are not a point in time but a life process.

A faithful Christian is active, not inactive; searching, not hiding, ready not waiting, vocal and visible, not hidden under a basket.

We may or may not be required to *die* for Christ, but we must certainly *live* for Him.

Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

It's the greatest blessing of God when love continues to flower in marriage. Luther

Life narrows down and crisis comes and suddenly only one thing matters - and there in the narrow place stands Jesus.

~ Rev. Ronald Rather

Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura, Sola Christus.

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***A Special Worship Service observing Ascension Day will be held on
Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 pm***

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PRAISE BE TO GOD WHO HAS PROVIDED A NEW SHEPHERD FOR OUR FLOCK

By God's abundant blessing, Fort Wayne Theological Seminary pastoral candidate Luke Konkell has received our call! His hometown is Romulus, Michigan and his home church is Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dearborn, MI. He served his vicarage at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora, Iowa (2024-2025). He and his wife Jennifer (from Shebygan, WI) have 2 little children.

We greatly look forward to connecting with the Konkells, and learning about their needs and projected timelines of ordination and move to Clinton, as we prepare for their future arrival.

We will share more details as they are given to the church council. Please keep the Konkells in your prayers as we await their coming and for future-Pastor Konkell's leadership of our congregation.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO WORK ON THE PARSONAGE

Would you be willing to help with some repairs or "refreshing work" needed at the parsonage? Volunteers will be meeting at the parsonage, 8:00 – Noon on Saturdays May 2, May 9, and May 16. Additional dates may be added as necessary. We want to help prepare the home to be ready for our new pastor and his family! Please call David Hahn (608-751-6567) with any questions, or to let him know if you are able to help.

CELC MEN'S GROUP

Next meeting is Saturday, June 6

Men's Group usually meets at 9:00 am on the first and third Saturday of each month. However, CELC Men's Group will not meet in May. This will free up members' time to assist in the parsonage work days. The CELC Men's Group will meet again on June 6 and June 20, 9:00 am to 10:00 am. If you have questions, please contact Dan Ludeman (608-931-8304).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2026 SCOOPIE NIGHT FUNDRAISERS

Sponsored by CELC Men's Group

Thank you to all who supported our April 21 Scoopie Night! Your support earned us \$ _____. We will be holding 2 more of these fund raising events. These are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, May 19 4:00 – 8:00 pm

**At Janesville Culvers
645 Midland Rd., Janesville
and**

Monday, June 15 4:00 – 8:00 pm

**at Beloit Culvers
2676 Cranston Rd, Beloit**

Please mark your calendars and take your family and friends out to Culvers for supper.

The three nights' earnings will be equally divided between:

- purchases to assemble Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train
- Housing4OurVets
- CELC Bell Tower Fund

"They will know we are Christians by our Love."

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

Over the coming months, Bryce Kitzman will be working to refresh the church website. If you have any ideas, feedback on changes, or improvements you would like to see, he would be glad to hear from you.

FAMILY NIGHT
THURSDAY, MAY 7 at 6:00 pm

Honorees:

*Donna (Mrs. Leon) Hahn, 65 years
membership in Women's Society*

&

*Judy Kutz, 50 years membership
in Women's Society*

*Special recognition will also given for
Elaine Rather (30 years), Debbie Brittich (15
years), Danielle Christensen (15 years), Jessica
Roehl (15 years), and Tana Uffenbeck (5 years).*

Join us for potluck, cake, a silent auction and a few games of bingo. All are welcome (males and females, young and old)!! If you are able, please bring a potluck dish to share. Women's Society will provide ham, rolls, drinks and cake. Along with a great meal and Bingo fun, we will be holding a Silent Auction as a fundraiser to raise money for parsonage repairs. Please consider donating items for the auction such as handcrafted items, baked goods, small potted plants, fresh asparagus, rhubarb, or other early garden produce. Other items that others may desire to bid on are also very welcome.

Our Christ Lutheran Quilters will also provide a quilt for the auction, and display the quilts they have made this year for donation to Clinton Care Facilities.

Come Join the Fun and Fellowship!

ALTAR GUILD



Special thanks to those who have offered to help with altar guild. More volunteers are still welcome. If you are interested in helping, please speak with Rev. Rather or Debbie Brittich.

MERCY PENNIES

Thank you to all who have donated toward Pennies for Mercy Meals in recent months. This project is sponsored by Christ Ev. Lutheran Men's Group. Every 3 cents ships a meal. Remember to save your pennies when you get change back. Pennies are collected at the back of the sanctuary the first Sunday of each month.

**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
COLLECTION**

**Friday, June 12
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
in the church parking lot**

Donated clothing must be clean and either very gently used ("like new" condition) or new. All price tags must be removed.

In addition to the standard donations, Dan is also collecting bicycles of all sizes. If you have bicycles that you no longer use, including those in disrepair, Orphan Grain Train will gladly accept them. The broken bikes are used for parts to repair other bikes. Dan has a trailer to load them in at June 12 collection. Not able to bring your bikes then? You may also leave them at our house (9956 E. Rachel.) Please place them under the basketball hoop.

If you have non-clothing items to donate, or want to volunteer at St. Paul's on June 13, please contact Dan Ludeman at 608-931-8304 for details.

KEEP YOUR CANS COMING!

Do you have aluminum beverage cans to recycle? We are collecting aluminum (beverage only) cans to raise money for the Bell Tower fund. **These should be rinsed out and dry.** The collection bin is located in the kitchen next to the utility sink. So far, about \$70 per month has been raised from can collection.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Our students continue to learn more about Jesus Christ and His love and grace.

May Birthday

Brody Funke.....May 31

May Baptism Anniversary

Rylee Nelson May 28

May the Holy Spirit ever keep our students in His baptismal grace and faith unto life everlasting.

A GRADUATION INVITATION

All are warmly invited to celebrate the graduation of Rachel Burno from UW Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. The ceremony for UW Doctoral and Medical Professional graduates will be on Friday, May 8, 2026, from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Kohl Center (601 W. Dayton St., Madison). Rachel and her family would like to thank everyone at Christ Lutheran for their prayers and support throughout the years. God's blessings upon "Dr. Burno" as she begins her career as a veterinarian.

MARRIAGE IS LIKE DANCING

In June, an informal study group will begin using the book, Marriage Is Like Dancing by Richard Eyer. In this book, the author states that knowing how to lead and how to follow is essential in ballroom dancing. The same is true in marriage. Using the metaphor of ballroom dancing to describe marriage, he then uses biblical themes of the image of God and the mystery of the one flesh union of marriage to assert that marriage is not whatever we choose to make of it, but it is what God has made it to be. Learn how marriage thrives when spiritual love as well as human love is present between a husband and wife. If interested, contact the office or Pastor Rather by May 15.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

THANK YOU!

We greatly appreciate all who contributed to our project to make May Baskets for our shut-ins. Our homebound members (plus a few others to whom we shared encouragement) were delighted to receive baskets goodies, flowers, and encouraging cards.

LWML SPRING RALLY RECAP

Twenty six ladies from four area LCMS congregations plus 3 pastors met at Christ Ev. Lutheran on April 22 for a morning of Christian learning and fellowship. Rev. Rather led our opening devotion, Rev. Eddy (Messiah Lutheran) led a Bible study on Jesus and the Samaritan woman, and Rev. Allen Strawn (UW-Madison Campus Ministry at Calvary Lutheran Chapel) was our program speaker, telling about the ministry and the students who use it. Many boxes of items were collected for the students use at the chapel and ministry student center. A short business meeting was held, followed by a light lunch.



Pastor Ron will be at a Pastor's Conference in Milwaukee from Monday, May 18 until Wednesday, May 20.

<i>May</i>	<i>CHRIST LUTHERAN</i>					<i>2026</i>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00-Noon Parsonage Work <i>Volunteers needed</i> (no Men's Group)
3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School	4	5	6 6:00 Choir Practice	7 6:00 Family Night (all members and their guests are welcome)	8	9 8:00-Noon Parsonage Work <i>Volunteers needed</i>
10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School	11	12 7:00 Church Council	13	14 6:30 Ascension Worship	15	16 8:00-Noon Parsonage Work <i>Volunteers needed</i> (no Men's Group)
17 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School 11:30 Handbell Practice	18 -----Pastor Conference: Milwaukee May 18 to May20----- 8:30 Food Pantry Prep	19 9:00 Food Pantry Distribution	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School 11:30 Handbell Practice	25 Memorial Day -----	26 -- Office re-opens	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 Worship 10:30 Bible Class & Sunday School 11:30 Handbell Practice						