



Lutheran
Church

September 2023 News



“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And [Jesus] said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’” (Matthew 23:37-40).

All that God requires of us can be summarized in the command to love God and to love our neighbor.

The one with perfect love for God trusts His Word, believing that all He says and commands and promises in the Bible is true. The one with perfect love for God obeys God’s commands no matter what anyone else says. The one with perfect love for God desires to be with the Triune God more than he desires to be with anyone else. The one with perfect love for God desires to please God even if it means that friends or family will not be pleased. The one with perfect love for God wants all his work and leisure, what he thinks and hears, what he says and does to be governed by the Word of God. The one with perfect love for God sees all of life as a gift of God which is to be managed in accordance with God’s Word. The one with perfect love for God wants to receive whatever gifts the Lord provides for him.

The one who perfectly loves God will also perfectly love his neighbor, seeing his neighbor as a gift of God to him. He will sacrifice for this neighbor, even if the neighbor hates him. He will seek to do good to the neighbor, attend to his needs, and even be willing to endure abuse and insult from the neighbor.

And this love for the neighbor does not contradict love for God. The one who loves his neighbor does not affirm and approve of sin. The one who loves his neighbor rightly loves God above all. This means that the person who loves God above all will want a neighbor to confess sin to God and be reconciled to God. The person who loves his neighbor will tell his neighbor when he is living in rebellion against God. The person who loves his neighbor will speak the “truth in love” (see Ephesians 4:15), desiring the neighbor’s repentance and salvation.

In other words, the person who loves his neighbor does not just give his neighbor whatever he wants but what he needs, just as a good parent knows that to love a child does not mean giving him all the candy he desires. The one who perfectly loves his neighbor loves God above all and wants his neighbor to have the ultimate good of being in perfect fellowship with the Triune God through the death of Jesus.

When we see this perfect standard of God’s Law, we poor sinners should see our great need for the Savior who perfectly loved God the Father throughout His life. He also perfectly loved us, His neighbors, even when we were His enemies (see Romans 5:10). He spoke the truth in love and in love went to the cross to pay for our sins and reconcile us to God the Father. Thanks be to God for Christ’s perfect love. Thanks be to God that this love is

poured out upon us in the Word of forgiveness, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. Having received this love and having been born again as new creatures, we desire, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to love God and our neighbor. May the Lord continue to increase in us such love for Him and love for our neighbor by the power of the Spirit working through His Word and Sacraments. – *Pastor Burfiend*

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED on Sunday mornings. Please sign up for specific Sundays on the sheet next to the serving window in the gym.

SEPT. 6 EVANGELISM TRAINING – Join us at 7 pm in preparation for Ossian Days. We will discuss some ways in which you can share the Gospel at our Ossian Days booth.

SEPT. 10 - RALLY SUNDAY – Please invite your friends to church! We will have Bible games for adults and children at 8:45 am. **September 10 is the first Sunday that we return to a 10 am service time.**

SEPT. 14-16 - OSSIAN DAYS – We need your baked goods to sell at the Ossian Days booth. Contact Diana Buuck for more information.

SEPT. 24 MERCY AND MISSION IN TANZANIA – Join us during Bible study and for lunch after church to hear from Rev. Peter Brock on efforts to rescue albino children and preach the Gospel in Tanzania.

From the Finance Board:

August Income: \$11,576

August Expenses: \$11,701

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 10 – Please note the service time change. September 24 – Mission festival on Tanzania with Rev. Peter Brock October 11 – Good News Class begins October 29 – Reformation Festival Divine Service followed by a carry-in meal.</p>						
<p>3 Trinity 13 2 Chron. 28:8-15 Gal. 3:15-22 Luke 10:23-37 9 am Divine Service 10:45 am Bible Study 12 pm Mitholland/Schell Wedding</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Preschool Begins</p>	<p>6 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells Co. Courthouse 8:15 am Adult Catechesis 9:20 am Pre-k chapel Bible Study, 7pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10 am Mary Martha</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Trinity 14 Prov. 4:10-23 Gal. 5:16-24 Luke 17:11-19 2 pm Kids' Baking</p>	<p>11 Labor Day</p>	<p>12 Decatur Circuit Meeting Concordia Theo. Sem. 9:45am – 3:30pm</p>	<p>13 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells Co. Courthouse 8:15 am Adult Catechesis 9 am Pie Baking 9:20 am Pre-k chapel Bible Study, 7pm</p>	<p>14 Ossian Days Noon – Set up 3-9 pm New Hope Booth Open</p>	<p>15 Ossian Days 3-10 pm New Hope Booth Open</p>	<p>16 Ossian Days 10 am-10 pm New Hope Booth Open 9-10 pm Booth Teardown</p>
<p>17 Trinity 15 1 Kings 17:8-16 Gal. 5:25-6:10 Matt 6:24-34 8:45 Bible study/S. Sch. 10 am Divine Service 11: 30 am Catechesis</p>	<p>18 Fieldworker Placement, Concordia Theo. Seminary 11 am</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells Co. Courthouse 8:15 am Adult Catechesis 9:20 am Pre-k chapel 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>21 <i>St. Matthew's Day</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Trinity 16 1 Kings 17:17-24 Eph. 3:13-21 Luke 7:11-17 8:45 Mission Festival 10 am Divine Service 11: 30 am Lunch and Tanzania presentation</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells Co. Courthouse 8:15 am Adult Catechesis 9:20 am Pre-k chapel 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>29 <i>St. Michael and All Angels Day</i></p>	<p>30</p>	