

OCTOBER 2022

THE CROSS & CROWN

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PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD TODAY, PART 1: CHURCH ATTENDANCE

PASTOR HANS FIENE

In Ephesians 6, St. Paul urges us, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." It's a section of the Scriptures that is beautiful but rather vague. What exactly is Paul telling us to do in these words? When he urges us to put on "the belt of truth" and "the breastplate of righteousness," what is he asking of us?

The answers depend largely on our context. All Christians will have to endure some form of spiritual warfare. All Christians will endure the attacks of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh in this life. But how those attacks manifest themselves changes from individual to individual, generation to generation, and culture to culture. This is why we should always be mindful about clinging to our faith in an ever changing world.

With that in mind, my newsletter series for the next few months will focus on how we 21st century suburban Americans should prepare to endure the attacks of Satan. In particular, I'll be addressing ways we can better position ourselves to face the scorn of the evil foe. This month, we'll begin with church attendance.

A pastor friend of mine once made the following observation: People generally skip church about twice as often as their parents did when they were growing up. So, for example, if your parents never skipped, you probably attend every week. If your parents went every other week, you probably attend about once a month. If your parents went once a month, you might show up 3 or 4 times a year. And if your parents went to church 3 to 4 times a year, you won't go at all.

This isn't a universal rule, of course, but in my experience, it's an overwhelmingly common trend. Why does this happen? There are surely several reasons, but one of them is that Christians have a dangerous habit of overestimating how much time we spend receiving God's gifts, just as we have a dangerous habit of underestimating how much we need them.

Think of it this way: If you attend the divine service about once a month, that doesn't sound terribly infrequent. It sounds almost regular. You won't be gone often enough for people to worry that something is wrong. You'll be hitting all the major seasons of the church year. But, at the same time, if you attend the divine service once a month, you'll only spend about 12 hours a year receiving the gifts of Christ with your fellow Christians—12 hours out of 8,760. Likewise, that's a mere 12 hours a year in a world that has become increasingly hostile to Christ and His Church, a world that seeks to devour your faith in countless ways. (CONT. on pg 2)

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

OCT 3:

ELDERS' MTNG.

OCT 10:

COUNCIL MTNG.

OCT 12:

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER (5:30)
CHARCUTERIE BOARDS**

OCT 15:

CRESTWOOD PARADE (NOON)

OCT 27-30:

**LUTHERAN SOUTH MUSICAL:
"BACK TO THE EIGHTIES"**

OCT 31:

**MONDAY SERVICE MOVES TO
TUES 11/1 (ALL SAINT'S DAY)**



"...catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God's Word, to speak it, and meditate on it, just as the first Psalm declares people blessed who meditate on God's Law day and night."

Luther, Preface to The Large Catechism

JESUS IS LORD!

VICAR MATT DOEBLER

In the last few weeks our readings in Luke's gospel have come from a section known as the "travel narrative." Here, Luke records Jesus' journey from the northern region of Israel—the area right around the Sea of Galilee—southward toward the city of Jerusalem. Jesus' reason for making the journey is clear: he is going to Jerusalem so that "everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished." (Lk. 18:31) Jesus knows what awaits him there. He knows that in Jerusalem he will be rejected, mocked, scourged, and killed. But he also knows that, on the third day, he will rise.

Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem so that he might accomplish our redemption—so that he might conquer the power of sin, death, and the devil—and free us from our bondage to their captivity. As Luther rightly notes in the Large Catechism, this is what it means to confess that **Jesus Christ is my Lord:**

"...the little word "Lord" simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and keeps us there."

By his obedience to God's divine plan—through his dying and rising—Jesus Christ has won the right to be your Lord. This is a right that no other person can claim. Christ has no equal.

When we make this exclusive confession—when we say "Jesus is Lord!"—we inevitably offend many of those who are still held captive under the power of the devil. The world hates this confession and will often try to stop the mouths of those who speak it. That's why, as Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem, he tells us those who want to be his disciples should be prepared to take up their cross daily. You can't find eternal life by holding on to your earthly life at all costs. You can't call Jesus your Lord and have the world love you for it.

May God strengthen all of us who have been called out of darkness and into the marvelous light of Christ's kingdom so that we hold fast to the good confession that "Jesus is Lord!"

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Our modern American culture is a world dedicated to seducing us into all forms of idolatry. It's a world where television programs for preschoolers seek to indoctrinate them with a perverse understanding of human identity and sexuality. It's a world where social media is designed to reward the bitter and thoughtless and to isolate the kind and the wise. Our world is one where educational systems are, in many ways, designed to make people despise the Scriptures and where political entities deliberately develop their political philosophy in opposition to Christian doctrine. Ours is a world where friends and family members will throw you out of their lives for clinging to your Savior instead of blessing their sins. It's a world that tries to sell you political saviors to replace the Savior of your body and soul, a world that wants you to believe that you can bring about social justice or return to social order by hating your neighbor. Our world is one that daily seeks to beat believers down and rip Christ from their hearts in countless ways.

On account of this, you don't have the "luxury" of attending holy worship less often than your parents, nor do you even have the "luxury" of attending as often as they did. Returning to Paul's words from Ephesians 6, putting on the armor of God in our current culture means piling on more of it and pulling the straps even tighter. It means showing up every week.

Every week, you and your children need to hear the promise of God's love to drown out the lies of a world that tempts you to hate God. Every week, you need to receive the Sacrament to strengthen yourself against the attacks of a world that despises the Savior who offers us His flesh and blood to eat and drink. Every week, you need instruction from God's word to clear your ears of this world's endless stream of lies. Every week, you need to escape those who mock you for believing in Christ by standing beside brothers and sisters in the faith who cherish your faith because they share your Savior and His salvation.

Put on the whole armor of God, not half of it. Not a quarter of it. Put it all on by joining the divine service every week.

A LOOK BACK... AT SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Our first Wednesday night fellowship dinner was a terrific success! Folks brought in an incredible array of delicious dishes from a dozen or so different countries.

Mark your calendar for the next fellowship dinner on October 12 at 5:30. The theme is "charcuterie boards." Check the weekly bulletin for more details.



IT WAS A GREAT TURNOUT AT THE
SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP DINNER!!

GOLF OUTING

Congratulations to our Prince of Peace golf team who competed in the Crestwood 75th Anniversary Golf Tournament. **John Crumrine, Mike Schmidt, Bob Androff, and Russ Nunnally** placed 4th overall in the scramble format tournament with a final score of 8 under par.



CCLS SUNDAY

On September 18, Prince of Peace celebrated "CCLS Sunday." **Dr. Matt Hoehner**, the executive director of CCLS shared a presentation during the Sunday School hour that focused on CCLS's theme this year: "All In"

Dr. Hoehner also highlighted some of the exciting things that are happening with regard to the growing enrollment at CCLS and the new "micro-school" campus at Bethlehem Lutheran.

Take a look at this month's Treasurer's Report to see how you can use your state taxes to support scholarships that benefit CCLS students.

DAILY MATINS

September marked the start of our daily matins services. Pastor Fiene and Vicar Doebler lead these services which include prayers, a daily hymn, selected OT and NT readings, and a short devotional homily.

Matins is held every Monday through Friday at 9:00am in the sanctuary. The service lasts approximately 20-25 minutes.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

TREASURER AND CCLS UPDATE

DANIEL SCHOW

I'm not a betting man, but I'll make a wager anyway. I'll bet that everyone reading this newsletter has—or knows someone who has—looked at their finances and wondered how can they possibly afford to send their children to a Christian private school.

The answer to that question is the new Missouri program called **MOScholars**. Children who qualify are eligible to receive a \$6,375 scholarship! Plus, if a child is awarded the scholarship, it can be renewed through 12th grade and is not considered MO taxable income. Dr. Hoehner recently shared that there are several students at CCLS who have already received this scholarship.

Currently, the MOScholars program is funded by donations. Both individuals and businesses can donate to the fund. The exciting part is **you can donate up to 50% of your state tax liability** to help build the scholarship.

I know that this is a new program, and it can be confusing. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

4TH QUARTER MISSION EMPHASIS



Our mission emphasis for the fourth quarter (Oct-Dec) is the mission work of **Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte** in West and Central Africa, under the auspices of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Read about their ministry in the flyer on the credenza in the narthex.

Our congregation will match our members' donations (up to a total of \$1,500). Envelopes for your contributions can be found on the credenza in the narthex. To subscribe to the Schultes' online newsletter: missioncentral.us/schulte



A CLOSER LOOK AT... THE BOOK OF CONCORD

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF CONCORD?

The Book of Concord is actually a collection of several confessional documents. Those documents are: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed, the Augsburg Confession (1530), the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord. These collected confessions of the Lutheran church were formally published in 1580.






































WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The word "concord" means agreement. The purpose of the Book of Concord is to guide Lutherans in a right understanding of what the Holy Scriptures teach so that they might "agree together" and make a good confession of the faith. In this respect, the Book of Concord functions like a road map for how Lutherans read and interpret the scriptures. The Book of Concord also guides our church's public teaching. As part of their ordination vows, every LCMS pastor is required to promise that they will perform their pastoral duties in accordance with the Book of Concord *because* it is in agreement with the scriptures.

OCTOBER 2022



SUN MON TUE WED THR FRI SAT

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p> 2</p> <p>HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Weisheit Usher Team: 1</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class</p> | <p>9:00 a.m.  3</p> <p>Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>HOLY COMMUNION  7:00 p.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Androff Usher Team: 1</p> <hr/> <p>7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting</p> | <p> 4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study</p> | <p> 5</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 6</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> | <p>1</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> |
| <p> 9</p> <p>HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Fletcher Usher Team: 2</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class</p> | <p>9:00 a.m.  10</p> <p>Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>HOLY COMMUNION  7:00 p.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Doebler Usher Team: 2</p> <hr/> <p>7:00 p.m. Council Meeting</p> | <p> 11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study</p> | <p> 12</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>5:30 p.m. Dinner/Fellowship Night Theme: <i>Charcuterie Boards</i></p> | <p> 13</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 14</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> | <p>8</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p> |
| <p> 16</p> <p>HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Doebler Usher Team: 3</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class</p> | <p>9:00 a.m.  17</p> <p>Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>HOLY COMMUNION  7:00 p.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Hall Usher Team: 3</p> | <p> 18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study</p> | <p> 19</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 20</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 21</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> | <p>15</p> <p>12:00 Noon Crestwood Parade</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p> |
| <p> 23</p> <p>HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: McGrew Usher Team: 4</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class</p> | <p>9:00 a.m.  24</p> <p>Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>HOLY COMMUNION  7:00 p.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Doebler Usher Team: 4</p> | <p> 25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study</p> | <p> 26</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 27</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> | <p> 28</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> |
| <p> 30</p> <p>HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Doebler Usher Team: 1</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class</p> | <p>Reformation Day  31</p>  <p>9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>NO Evening Worship</p>  | <p>November  1</p> <p>All Saints' Day 9:00 a.m. Matins Service</p> <hr/> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>HOLY COMMUNION  7:00 p.m. Worship Service Com. Assistant: Lasky Usher Team: 1</p> | <p>Deadline to submit an announcement for the bulletin is 12:00 Noon, each Wednesday.</p> | | | <p></p> <p><i>Altar Guild</i></p> <p>Greg & Sandra Hall Dave & Donna Witbrodt</p> |