

SEPTEMBER 2022

# THE CROSS & CROWN

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## NEW SEASONS & NEW BEGINNINGS

### PASTOR HANS FIENE

As you all know, the calendar year begins on January 1. Likewise, I imagine most of you are aware that the church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. But, for those like me who didn't have many years in between going to school and having kids in school, the new year essentially begins with the arrival of the academic year, be that mid-August or early September. That's the time of year when I focus on new beginnings, new ideas, new schedules, and new plans. And in that spirit, I'd like to share with you a few of the new things that are beginning at Prince of Peace beginning this month.

### New newsletter:

As you can see, we have relaunched the congregational newsletter, thanks in large part to Vicar Doeblor's layout and design talents.

While we'll still continue sending out email blasts and putting announcements in the bulletin, **you'll find all the info for the upcoming congregational events here.** You'll also find a few sections featuring devotional materials—namely the pastor's article and a section on Luther's Small Catechism, as well as some brief financial reports and calendars for the upcoming months.

For most of our members, the newsletter will be sent out electronically. However, we'll still print a few copies for those who prefer them.

### New fellowship opportunities:

For the past two summers, we did VBS a bit differently than it's normally done. Instead of having a one week event aimed primarily at children, we featured three consecutive Wednesday evenings aimed at families. We had a meal, a lesson, and time for fellowship and fun. Those who attended found these events to be a great way for us to grow in the faith and to grow in familiarity with each other.

In that spirit, we've decided to start offering once a month fellowship evenings. On the **second Wednesday evening of each month** (excluding Advent and Lent), we'll have a potluck, a brief devotion, and some time for a variety of fun activities.

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### SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

#### SEP 5:

LABOR DAY (MON. SERVICE  
MOVES TO TUES 9/6)

#### SEP 6:

DAILY MATINS SERVICES  
BEGIN (9:00 AM, M-F)

#### SEP 6:

COUNCIL MTNG (11:30)  
VOTERS' MTNG (12:00)

#### SEP 14:

FELLOWSHIP DINNER (5:30)  
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

#### SEP 25:

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT  
PHOTOS FOR CHURCH  
DIRECTORY/UPDATE INFO



"...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

## FOLLY & WISDOM

VICAR MATT DOEBLER

A few weeks ago, we heard the parable of the rich fool—a warning against putting hope in our own resourcefulness. The rich fool is deceived by his abundance. He convinces himself that his life is self-sustaining and not a gift on loan from God. He forgets that he is a mere creature. He proceeds to act as if he is his own Creator—capable of speaking his future into existence:

*And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." (Luke 12:19)*

Yet, God's verdict on the matter is that those who think and act this way are fools. **What does this mean?** The scriptures (especially the wisdom books of Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) give us a comprehensive picture of what makes one a fool in God's eyes. A fool rejects God's authority (Ps. 14:1), mocks God's righteous law (Pro. 10:23), believes he is accountable only to himself (Pro. 12:15), despises those who correct him (Pro. 15:5), and keeps repeating the same self-destructive patterns (Pro. 26:11).

Sound familiar? We don't have to look far to find ample evidence of foolish attitudes and behaviors. In fact, we often need only to look in the mirror.

The antidote for foolish thinking is wisdom. Wisdom begins with the recognition that God is the creator of everything—which means that we are His creatures: dependent, accountable, and existing only because of God's "fatherly, divine goodness and mercy" apart from any merit or worthiness of our own. This is what we confess in the first article of the creed.

This month, take some time to meditate on these four central truths that the first article teaches us: 1) We are God's creatures—he owes us nothing, 2) It is our duty to thank God for his gracious provision of our creaturely needs, 3) We should confess our failure to acknowledge God's gracious care 4) True faith is a future hope which rests in God's promises.

**I believe in God,  
the Father  
Almighty, maker  
of heaven and  
earth.**

### CONT. FROM PAGE 1

#### **New daily Matins services:**

Beginning on September 6, Vicar Doebler and I will begin offering daily Matins services. The services will take place **every Monday through Friday at 9 am**. The hymns and liturgy will be sung acapella. We won't have a sermon each day, but we'll have a brief devotional reflection on the text.

9 am is not an ideal time, of course, as many people will just be beginning their work day at that point. Unfortunately, with our children's school schedules, that is the earliest we could offer it. However, even if nobody else or very few people attend, we still plan to continue offering the services.

Nevertheless, for all those who are able to attend, it would be great to have you with us. We all could use more prayer, more scripture, and more hymns in our lives, so Vicar Doebler and I are excited about the opportunity to offer that to you.

# A LOOK BACK... AT SUMMER

## VBS

This year's VBS was a great success! The theme was "mountains." We learned about Moses on Mount Sinai, Elijah on Mount Carmel, and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

The meal and bible lesson were followed by a fun time of games and fellowship. Thank you to all the volunteers who set up, prepared food, and cleaned up.

## WELCOME VICAR DOEBLER

On July 24, we installed Matt Doebler as our congregation's first vicar. Matt is a student at Concordia Seminary here in St. Louis and has served as our field worker for the last two years.

Prior to his arrival in St. Louis, Matt taught high school English for 13 years. We are overjoyed to have the entire Doebler family with us for another year!

## THANK YOU, MISS CONNIE!

On Sunday, August 21, our congregation honored Connie Bickel for her 30+ years of faithful service in Christian education. For the past 24 years, "Miss Connie" has been teaching the little one at the Prince of Peace CCLS campus.

We pray for God's blessings on her and her husband Greg as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Connie, you will be sorely missed!

## GARDEN HARVEST

To date, 235.6 lbs. of garden produce have been harvested this season--including onions, zucchini, yellow squash, and tomatoes.

All the harvested produce is donated to the Afton Christian Food Pantry.



THE KIDS ARE HAVING A GREAT TIME AT VBS,  
AND EVEN THE BIG KIDS GOT IN ON THE FUN!



"Thank you,  
Miss Connie for  
all your years  
of faithful  
service!"



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## IMPROVEMENTS TO CCLS CLASSROOM SPACES

### CCLS UPDATES

The school year has begun! Christ Community Lutheran School is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Thanks be to God for the wonderful blessing of Christ centered education for our little ones.

The CCLS theme this year is: "All in."

*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross. (Col. 1:19-20)*

### TREASURER'S UPDATE

We are blessed to have a beautiful church that we can attend weekly. We are able to hear Pastor Fiene and Vicar Doeblner preach about the forgiveness of our sins through the propitiation of Jesus's blood. We are able to commune at the altar rail and to study God's Word in bible class as our children attend Sunday school.

Thanks be to God that Prince of Peace is in good financial standing, but please do not decrease your weekly offering during these difficult financial times. Thank you!



Over the summer, many improvements were made to the downstairs hallway and CCLS classroom spaces. They included new tile flooring, painting, baseboards, and cabinet refinishing.

A big thanks to David Witbrodt (Trustee), Paul Heidbreder, and the CCLS staff for taking the lead on this project!



# A CLOSER LOOK AT...MATINS

### WHAT IS MATINS?




























Matins is a service of devotional contemplation, prayer and praise that is in keeping with St. Paul's admonition to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

The term "matins" comes from the Latin phrase for "of the morning." The theme of Matins is preparation and watchfulness. We are beginning the day in anticipation of our Lord's return and responding in patient hope to his promise that He will make "all things new" (Rev. 19:5).

One of the highlights of the Matins service is the canticle "Te Deum Laudamus" (We praise You, O God!) Drawing upon imagery from Revelation 4-6, the Te Deum imagines the entire Holy Christian Church gathered together in heaven's throne room along with the prophets and apostles and martyrs—lifting up a hymn of praise to the Triune God who has redeemed them.

# SEPTEMBER 2022



S	M	T	W	R	F	S
 <b>Altar Guild</b> Lori McGrew Karen Androff			Deadline to submit an announcement for the bulletin is 12:00 Noon, each Wednesday.	1	2	3
 4 <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b> Com. Assistant: Lasky Usher Team: 1 ----- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class	 <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b> NO Elders Meeting Church Office Closed	9:00 a.m.  6 Matins Service ----- 10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study ----- <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Worship Service</b>  Com. Assistant: Weisheit Usher Team: 1	 7	 8	 9	10 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day  Church Office Closed
<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  11 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b> Com. Assistant: Fletcher Usher Team: 2 ----- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class ----- 11:30 a.m. Council Meeting ----- 12:00 Noon Voters Meeting	 12 9:00 a.m. Matins Service	 13 9:00 a.m. Matins Service ----- 10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study	 14 9:00 a.m. Matins Service ----- 5:30 p.m. Dinner/Fellowship Night Theme: <i>International Cuisine</i>	 15	 16	17 Church Office Closed
 18 <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b> Com. Assistant: McGrew Usher Team: 3 ----- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class	 19 9:00 a.m. Matins Service	 20 9:00 a.m. Matins Service ----- 10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study	 21	 22	 23	24 Church Office Closed
 25 <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b> Com. Assistant: Hall Usher Team: 4 ----- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class ----- <b>Deadline to Submit Photos for Updated Directory</b>	 26 9:00 a.m. Matins Service	 27 9:00 a.m. Matins Service ----- 10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study	 28	 29	 30	Church Office Closed