**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**August 2018**

**“You shall not steal.”**

**The Ten Commandments: The Seventh Commandment**

If it is not already clear from these monthly newsletter articles about the Ten Commandments, our relationship with God is something that goes beyond Sunday morning worship. That time in worship is important, as we have seen. However, our whole being is meant to express the love, mercy, and grace that we have received through Jesus Christ.

And so these Ten Commandments touch on issues of everyday life and conduct. How we conduct ourselves on a day to day basis is not a matter of indifference in the eyes of God. This month, we get to the Seventh Commandment, which has to do with the topic of stealing. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther explained it in this way:

*We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbors of their money or property, nor take from them by unfair dealing or fraud, but help them to improve and protect their property and means of making a living.*

I suppose that most of us are not guilty of blatant robbery. But the temptation to steal is with us from a young age, when we see candy in the checkout line that we want but can’t have, when we see our classmates and friends’ fancy crayons and pens. This commandment speaks to the attitude that God desires to find in us. We are called upon to respect the property of others, even when we would like to have it ourselves.

But just like the other commandments thus far, Martin Luther took the Seventh Commandment and understood it more broadly than a specific command against robbery by gunpoint. In his own day, he was aware that many people used their roles to take advantage of those near them. He called upon employees to be honest with their employers, for employers not to take advantage of those in their charge, to pay them fairly. He called upon business owners not to overcharge customers to line their own pocketbooks.

God calls us as His people to live with integrity, even in the little things of life. We have been entrusted with much, and we are ultimately accountable to God. With this commandment, God seeks to protect those in our world who are most harmed by “unfair dealing.”

Luther wrote in his Large Catechism:

*Let all people know, then, that it is their duty, on pain of God’s displeasure, not to harm their neighbors, to take advantage of them, or to defraud them by any faithless or underhanded business transaction. Much more than that, they are also obligated faithfully to protect their neighbors’ property and to promote and further their interests, especially when they get money, wages, and provisions for doing so.*

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not venerate (pray to) special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.



August 15 is the day set aside on the Christian calendar to commemorate the life of **the virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord**.

Talking about Jesus’ mother Mary might sound strange for those of us in a Lutheran church. After all, devotion to Mary is something that we usually associate with the Roman Catholic Church. Roman Catholics have special feast days to remember Mary, and they often say a prayer known as “Hail Mary.” Over the years, many Roman Catholics have reported seeing appearances of Mary. For a time, there was a movement in the Roman Catholic Church to declare Mary as the “co-redemptrix” of humanity, claiming that Mary was just as responsible for the salvation of the world as her Son Jesus.

But it would be a mistake for Lutherans to ignore Mary, even though the way we approach Mary is different than our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. In the Christian tradition, Mary has been described from early on as “Theotokos,” a Greek word meaning “bearer of God.” Like Roman Catholics, Lutherans are among Christians who affirm that Mary, by giving birth to Jesus, gave birth to God. Hence, she played a critical role in the story of God’s salvation for the world. Some of the most beautiful things that Martin Luther ever wrote were about Mary. He lifted her up as an example of how God comes to the lowly and fills them with his grace.

Curiously, Martin Luther never objected to the first part of the so-called “Hail Mary,” or Ave Maria. It is not a prayer, but a declaration of what Mary has done: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.”

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Featured Hymn for August 2018**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 217*

1. Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

2. Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, breath of God, unite my soul with thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

* Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889

*Note: This hymn was first published in a pamphlet entitled Between Doubt and Prayer in 1878 and was included in Henry Allon’s Congregational Psalmist Hymnal in 1886.*

**Monthly Watchword for August 2018**

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

* 1 John 4:16 ESV

**Ushers for August:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Tim and Annie Jessen
* Ushers:
  + Travis and Shauna Kauth
  + Perry and Lavon Kolterman
  + Gary and Sheri Ermels
  + Les and Denise Yule
  + Renee Kauth

**For Further Information on LCMC and the NALC:** You can download and read the newsletters of both organizations at the following addresses:

* **http://www.lcmc.net/newsletters**
* **http://thenalc.org/newsletter/**

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Apostles’ Creed: The Second Article - Redemption**

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*What does this mean?*

*I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary – is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, and has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil, not with silver and gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns for all eternity. This is most certainly true.*

**Birthdays for August**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* August 3: Jim Petersen
* August 6: Gregg McGee
* August 9: Sandra Ziegler
* August 29: Jett Sucha

**Baptismal Anniversaries for August**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* August 1: Larry Barnes
* August 3: Gary Kumm
* August 3: Venita Sage
* August 5: Matthew Hanson
* August 20: Addison Barger
* August 20: Troy Poppe
* August 23: Elliot Olson
* August 24: Jacob Stewart
* August 25: Tara Barger
* August 27: Kora Poppe

**Other News**

* Many thanks to everyone who participated in the annual ice cream social in any way! Your service is what made the event a great success.
* The introductory meeting for new confirmation students and parents for this coming fall will be on Wednesday August 29 at 7:00 PM. New seventh grade students are welcome as well as older students who have not yet begun confirmation instruction. Confirmation class will begin the following week, September 5 at 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

**Holy Families Initiative**

* The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) in cooperation with Sola Publishing, has produced a resource for families called the Holy Families Initiative: Discipleship Resources for the Home.

This is simply a collection of brief family devotions designed to help families remained grounded in God’s good news and promises in Jesus Christ.

The website is www.holyfamilytime.com

**August 2018**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5  Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 AM (altar rail)  Green | 6 | 7 | 8  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Church council, 7:00 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12  Worship, 10:30 AM  Green | 13 | 14 | 15  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Women’s meeting, 10:00 AM | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 AM (continuous)  Green | 20 | 21 | 22  Pr. Tom in Lindy | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26  Worship, 10:30  Green | 27 | 28 | 29 30 31  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Introductory  Confirmation  Meeting, 7:00 PM | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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