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

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**July 2018**

**“You shall not commit adultery.”**

**The Ten Commandments: The Sixth Commandment**

Here we are, already halfway through the year 2018 AD. To be honest, when I decided at the end of last year to write about the Ten Commandments in these newsletter articles, I have been dreading the arrival of the month of July. Why, you might ask? Going down the list of commandments, this month we arrive at number six: “You shall not commit adultery.”

If you take this literally, it seems pretty straightforward. Adultery, after all, has to do with remaining faithful to our husbands and wives. But just like with other commandments before this one, Lutherans have always understood this commandment to have a deeper meaning. It more generally has to do with the dreaded three-letter word: sex. In the *Small Catechism*, we translate Luther’s writing in this way:

*We should fear and love God so that in matters of sex we are chaste and disciplined in our words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.*

Sex is a private and uncomfortable topic among most of us, especially in church, which explains my dread at having to write about it this July. Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, it would be easier to just skip over this Sixth Commandment for the sake of our comfort. But when you take a look around our world, you notice that sex is a big topic of conversation everywhere we go. It is on television shows, in movies, in music, on the internet, and even in advertisements. Societal attitudes toward sex have changed dramatically in recent decades. Comparing what was considered acceptable on television in my childhood during the late 1980s and early 1990s with what one sees today is shocking. The envelope has been pushed and pushed, and we have become quite desensitized to it. Sex is often handled in very unhealthy and harmful ways in our world. And since the rest of the world is always talking about it, in the Christian Church, we need to be able to talk about sex in a healthy way. Since we believe that God loves the world and the people of the world, it should come as no surprise that God cares about sex and the way that we handle it.

In this commandment, we are presented with a funny-sounding word: chastity. Knowing about this word helps us understand this commandment. A lot of times, people think that chastity simply means “no sex.” But that’s not what it means, at least on the whole. Chastity means channeling sexual desire into God-pleasing forms. Sex is not a bad or dirty thing. It is a part of God’s good creation. Obviously, the human race would not exist without sex. God has ordained it as the means by which humanity perpetuates itself. In his *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther praised the gift of sex, and he criticized the Roman Church of his time for lifting up a celibate life (priests at the time were commanded to remain single, as are Roman Catholic priests today) as superior to married life that produced children.

But like anything, we know that good gifts can be misused. The realities are devastating in our society and world. When sex gets removed from the boundaries that God has given it, lots of things go wrong. Instead of the blessing that God intends it to be, sexual desire can lead to all kinds of problems. Instead of understanding sex as a gift of God, sex gets lifted up as a god itself to which we must bow and worship, which goes back to the First Commandment, and this can harm others and ourselves. Think, for example, how widespread pornography addictions are as well as sexual abuse and slavery (human trafficking). Just like any other desire, not all sexual desires are good, and we need to exercise appropriate restraint. Even so, we know that even when we do restrain ourselves, our thoughts and desires are still sinful. As we go through life, we must remain ever watchful, knowing that the attitudes of the world regarding sex are most often not in line with God’s will. When temptations come, God calls all of us to repent of our mistakes and to receive his gracious forgiveness and redemption.

God desires that His creation would thrive as intended, and so he gives us boundaries. Sex is good and meant for the marriage relationship of a man and a woman. Sex is a powerful force in our world, and so God attaches a warning label to it. In 1 Corinthians 6, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian community two thousand years ago about sex. He wrote:

*“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”* (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ESV)

* 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.



This month, we look at the life of **Catherine Winkworth**, an English Christian woman known for her translations of German hymns as well as her advocacy for women’s education. She is commemorated on July 1.

Catherine Winkworth was born on September 13, 1827 outside of London. Eventually, she traveled to Germany and spent a year in the city of Dresden. It was there that she took an interest in German Lutheran hymns. She translated many of these German chorale hymns into English and published them in books, notably her *Lyrica Germanica*. Winkworth is one of those people whose contribution to church life is often overlooked. When many Lutherans came to North America from Germany, they did not have access to English translations of the hymns they knew and loved. As these American Lutherans from Germany began switching to the English language, they had no choice but to abandon this important part of their heritage in favor of English language hymns. Catherine Winkworth’s translations preserved the German hymn tradition for them, and her legacy lives on. Look in the back of any hymnal, and you will notice her name followed by a number of hymns that she is responsible for translating.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Featured Hymn for July 2018**

***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 14*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,

Joy of heaven to earth come down;

Fix in us thy humble dwelling;

All thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, Thou art all compassion,

Pure unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation;

Enter every trembling heart.

1. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,

Into every troubled breast!

Let us all in Thee inherit;

Let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its Beginning,

Set our hearts at liberty.

1. Come, Almighty to deliver,

Let us all Thy life receive;

Suddenly return and never,

Never more Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,

Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,

Glory in Thy perfect love.

1. Finish, then, Thy new creation;

Pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see Thy great salvation

Perfectly restored in Thee;

Changed from glory into glory,

Till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before Thee,

Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Note: One of Charles Wesley’s most beloved hymns, this hymn, refusing to be confined to Methodist churches, has become a Lutheran standard.*

**Monthly Watchword for July 2018**

“Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.”

* Hosea 10:12 ESV

**Ushers for July:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Ed and Tina Sage
* Ushers:
  + Melvin and Sandra Barger
  + Brandon Barger
  + Stella Branstiter
  + Leah Poppe
  + Riley Eckmann

**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 First Article - Creation**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*What does this mean?*

*I believe that God has created me and all that exists, that he ahs given me and still preserves my body and soul, my eyes and ears, my reason and all my senses, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property. Every day he provides abundantly for all the needs of my life. He protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from every evil. He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I ought to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true.*

**Birthdays for July**

*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!*

* July 10: Tara Barger
* July 12: Addison Barger
* July 12: Ashley Guenther
* July 14: Jake Eckmann
* July 20: Scott Eisenhauer
* July 30: Lacey Barger

**Baptismal Anniversaries for July**

*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!*

* July 1: Annie Jessen
* July 10: Darci Barger
* July 15: Dylan Kauth
* July 15: Jarrin Sage
* July 18: Hudson Barger

**Other News**

* The annual ice cream social will be the last Sunday of this month, July 29. No youth carnival this year, as that was done during the Lindy Days celebration in June.
* 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.

**Announcement from the WOW/WNALC (Good Shepherd Women)**

* **The women of the church have been asked to serve lunch to a group of about 225 tractor riders on July 14th at the church. We will be calling to request a pan of bars or 3 dozen cookies. We also could use some extra help on Friday, July 13th preparing taverns and potato salad; or serving lunch from about 10-1 on Saturday, the 14th. If you want to volunteer before we make calls please call Margo at 402-373-4963.**

**Notice about NALC event**

* **The executive council and the executive staff of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), one of the church bodies that Good Shepherd is associated with, will hold their regularly scheduled meeting this time in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As a part of this meeting, they are holding an open forum at Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church in Brandon, South Dakota (just outside of Sioux Falls). The forum will include brief presentations from the NALC staff members and include a Q and A time. This should be a great time to get an update of happenings in the NALC as well as a time to meet and interact with people of other area NALC congregations. The open forum is free of charge and open to the public. Please consider attending this event to learn more about the life of the NALC.**

**It will be held MONDAY JULY 23rd FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 PM**

**Spirit of Truth Lutheran Church is located at 112 Annabelle on the western edge of Brandon. The church building is situated next to Fastenal to the west, and B&G Milky Way to the east.**

**If anyone would like to attend this event, you are welcome to ride with me (Pr. Tom). Just contact me, and we can make arrangements.**

**Treasurer Needed**

* **Good Shepherd is in need of someone to fill the role of treasurer. Anyone interested should contact members of the church council or Pr. Tom.**

**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**

**A Personal Thank You!**

* **I wanted to say “thank you” to everyone who made their way up to Menno at Grace Lutheran on June 2 for my surprise graduation celebration as well as to everyone for your congratulations and well-wishes!**

**It is quite some distance to get to Menno from Lindy, so I am appreciative of your time, and it was great to see everyone there. Theresa did a pretty good job of concealing the plan from me!**

**I am glad to be finished with my PhD degree, but I am also glad to be a continued part of the Lindy and Menno communities!**



**“Just as there is no fire without heat and smoke, so there is no faith without love.”**

* **Martin Luther**

**July 2018**

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

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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