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

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**October 2018**

**“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, workers, or livestock, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”**

**The Ten Commandments: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments**

As I mentioned in January of this year, Jews and various kinds of Christians have different ways of numbering the Ten Commandments. For many Christians, the commands regarding coveting are grouped together into the tenth and final commandment. The way that Lutherans and Roman Catholics number them, the prohibition against coveting is divided into two separate commandments. In the end, of course, it doesn’t really matter. What matters is what these words say to us, how they communicate God’s will to us.

At first glance, it might seem a little redundant. We already have heard about commandments against adultery and stealing (the sixth and seventh commandments). So why do we need to hear about coveting? We already know that we shouldn’t try to steal someone’s property, which presumably includes their house. We already know that we should remain faithful to our own husbands and wives.

The way Martin Luther explained it in his *Large Catechism*, the commandments against coveting are meant for respectable, law abiding people. It’s obvious that God doesn’t want us to flagrantly break the civil law by stealing or to commit adultery, and most of us don’t. But that doesn’t let us off the hook. Our sinful nature still remains, and these commandments are meant to remind us of that. They are meant to remind us that even though something might technically be legal in the eyes of the civil law, it can still be sinful. We are reminded that trying to obtain someone else’s property even through legal means is a sign of our rebellious heart and not something God takes lightly. Rather, we are to look to the interests of others and help them keep what is theirs.

In some ways, these commandments against coveting bring us full circle from the first commandment. God calls us to acknowledge him as the only true God of our lives in that first commandment. How easy it is to get distracted with “stuff” that we neglect the most important thing, which is our relationship with our Creator, who loves us dearly. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him and what He has so richly lavished on us, that we are filled with thanksgiving for what we *do* have.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not 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 **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**, the Anglicized form of his German name, which was Heinrich Melchior Mühlenberg. Sometimes known as “the father of American Lutheranism,” Muhlenberg is considered the principal organizer of American Lutheranism. He was born in Einbeck, Germany, in 1711 and studied at Göttingen and at the Lutheran Pietist training school at Halle. Originally desiring to be a missionary to India, others convinced him that North America was the mission field most suited for his abilities. At the time, North America was very much a mission field, with scattered immigrants from Europe needing help in organizing church life.

Lutherans had been in America for quite some time before Muhlenberg arrived, but they were scattered communities of various national backgrounds. They also had no central organization or regular access to pastoral service. There were also charlatan pastors, impostors who would take advantage of congregations. Several congregations wrote to Halle University, asking for a quality pastor. With Muhlenberg, they got their wish. He arrived and promptly “cleaned house.”

He arrived in Charleston on September 23, 1742. Though officially never anything more than the pastor of a few congregations in Pennsylvania, he was soon accorded widespread recognition by Lutheran churches of various ethnic backgrounds, and people looked to him as a source of wisdom and guidance. He travelled widely, settling disputes and advising congregations about a variety of matters. In 1748, he founded the first permanent Lutheran organization in North America, known as the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. With this organization, Lutherans in North America began to govern themselves rather than rely on churches and pastors from the “old countries.” Muhlenberg also influenced the worship life of Lutherans in North America, with many of our worship patterns (liturgies) today inspired by his work.

The Muhlenberg family went on to become an influential one in our national life. One of his sons, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, served as a general under George Washington in the Revolutionary War. Another, Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, became a member of the Continental Congress and later on became the first Speaker of the House of Representatives. A great-grandson, William Augustus Muhlenberg, became an eminent Anglican priest and the author of one of the hymns we sometimes sing: “Like Noah’s Weary Dove.” Henry Melchior Muhlenberg died on October 7, 1787 and is buried at Trappe, Pennsylvania. His epitaph in Latin reads: "Who and what he was, future ages will know without a stone."

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Featured Hymn for October 2018**

***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 192*

1. My hope is built on nothing less

Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

1. When darkness veils His lovely face,

I rest on His unchanging grace;

In every high and stormy gale,

My anchor holds within the veil.

1. His oath, His covenant, His blood,

Sustain me in the raging flood;

When all around my soul gives way,

He then is all my hope and stay.

1. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found; Clothed in his righteousness, alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne.

* Edward Mote, 1797-1874

*Note: Mote, a cabinet maker by trade, became a Baptist preacher when he was 55. He called this hymn, “The Gracious Experience of a Christian.”*

**Monthly Watchword for October 2018**

O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

* Psalm 38:9 ESV

**Ushers for October:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Lacey Barger
* Ushers:
  + Dennis and Dixie Stewart
  + Nolan Poppe
  + Elliot Olson
  + Teri Edwards
  + Tatum Olson

**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 Lord’s Prayer: The Introduction**

*Our Father who art in heaven.*

*What does this mean?*

*God encourages us to believe that he is truly our Father, and that we are truly his children, so that we may boldly and confidently pray to him, just as beloved children speak to their dear father.*

**Birthdays for October**

*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!*

* October 1: Connie McDonald
* October 11: Sandra Barger
* October 15: Theodore “Red” Branstiter
* October 24: Marlin Kumm
* October 25: Colin Kemp

**Baptismal Anniversaries for October**

*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!*

* Galen Guenther: October 15
* Mica Olson: October 15
* Kash Poppe: October 15
* Kelly Friedrichsen: October 24
* Jim Friedrichsen: October 24
* Ryker Guenther: October 24

**Worship Schedule**

October 7: The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion at altar rail (Green)

October 14: The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

October 21: The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (youth led, no Holy Communion) (Green)

October 28: Reformation Sunday (Red)

**Important Announcements**

* First, a personal “thank you” from Pr. Tom: I have not yet gotten around to sending individual “thank yous” to everyone, but for now please accept this as my and my family’s appreciation for all of the cards and gifts on the occasion of our daughter Antonia’s birth! Adjusting to life with a fifth person in the house has been good, but still a bit challenging. We are grateful for all of these things as well as being among the Lindy and Menno communities!
* Regarding Antonia, her baptism will be held on October 21 at Grace Lutheran Church in Menno, and so I will need to be in attendance for that. Therefore, the youth of Good Shepherd will lead worship that Sunday, and there will be no Lord’s Supper as there usually is on the third Sunday of the month. Many thanks to them for their help!
* Many thanks also to everyone who helped with the soup and pie in Bloomfield!
* The Sunday school Christmas program will be held during worship on December 9.
* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30. There will be coffee and some goodies available.
* Through the end of October, Good Shepherd will continue collecting donations of old clothing for the Native American Heritage Association. These clothing items will go to reservations across South Dakota. All kinds of clean, usable clothing are welcome, ranging from clothing for infants to adults. Boxes are placed in the fellowship hall of the church. Thanks to those who have already contributed!
* Sharing an announcement for First Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomfield: Oktoberfest celebration will be held on October 13 with traditional German meal at 5:00 (Bratwurst, etc.). Freewill offering for hurricane relief and guided tour of new stained-glass windows. All are welcome!

**Recent Pastoral Acts**

* Donna Rae Bourn, funeral on September 15, 2018 (non-member)

**October 2018**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3  Soup and pie in Bloomfield; no confirmation class | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7  Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)  Green | 8 | 9 | 10  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15  Church council, 7:00 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Green | 15 | 16 | 17  Pr. Tom in Lindy  WOW/WNALC meeting, 10:00  Confirmation class, 5:15 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30 (youth led, Pr. Tom at daughter Antonia’s baptism); no Holy Communion)  Green | 22 | 23 | 24  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15 PM | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28  Sunday School, 9:30  Adult education, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Reformation Sunday (Red) | 29 | 30 | 31  Pr. Tom in Lindy  No confirmation  class; Halloween | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

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