

Voice of the Saints
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool
Aberdeen, SD *October 2020*

Psalm 33:4-6: “⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”

God's Justice (Part II)

Last month, we discussed how a key dynamic that makes the biblical understanding of justice significantly *different* than our modern understanding. That dynamic was the all-encompassing nature of God's judgments. As twenty-first Century Americans, we tend to think of justice as measurable outcomes within a political setting. In these cases, if God is brought into the conversation at all, it is typically only for manipulative purposes, to show that one side has divine endorsement for their view of what is fair while the other side does not.

Scripture, however, shows God's judgments as connected to His authority as Creator and as the one from whom true knowledge and action proceeds. Thus, God's judgments uphold the universe but also tell us the truth about who we are: the destruction of sin and God's plan in Christ to deal with that sin. Justice then has less to do with measurable outcomes and more to do with repentance and acknowledging God's authority. When we think God has not given us what we deserve, we are questioning His wisdom and justice by insinuating there is something we deserve beyond or above His grace to us in Christ. Yet, in Christ, we see God's justice on full display. Through the law God has judged us all sinners (Romans 11:32; Gal. 3:22) and condemned us, but through the blood of Christ, He has declared us righteous and holy. Thus, God's justice resides in the judgments rendered through Christ, judgments that apply to both our sin and our salvation. This kind of justice talk, however, is glaringly absent from modern discussions of justice. Why? Because modern notions of justice are just that, modern, and while this does not make them necessarily harmful, it does make them fundamentally unbiblical.

Another example of this difference is whether we see ourselves as governed by laws or by a person. As modern people, we have a strong tendency to see ourselves as governed by laws, so justice is achieved by just laws and institutions, and injustice is eliminated by dismantling or changing laws and institutions. This view is substantially different from a biblical view. In the ancient world, you were foremost ruled by people (kings, rulers, princes, elders) and not by laws. Therefore, the laws, no matter how just, were only as good as the leader charged with their enforcement. Ideally, a good leader had the leisure and time to make good judgments, could make his judgments respected within the community, and through his acknowledged leadership superiority within the community, would be expected to bring his deeper reflection and experience to bear on judgements.

This focus on a person instead of set of laws becomes even more pronounced as we see that the ultimate leader in Scripture is God the Father, and then His Son who fulfills the Father's will (John 5:30, 36). The Ten Commandments are not empty laws but a description of what's best for us as God's people, and we trust and believe this because of the person and leader to whom they point—Christ, the one who keeps the law perfectly and then lays down His life, so our faith can be in Him. As Christians, our primary devotion is not to justice as interpreted by modern culture but to our true Leader who establishes justice on a cosmic scale as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Only in the Father who creates, the Son who redeems, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies, can we find justice with any authority worthy of our trust.

In Christ,
Pastor Bobby

October Events:



Five Loaves Supper has been CANCELED for October, November, and December. The Committee will meet later to decide January, 2021.

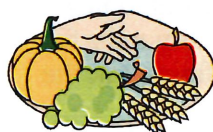


LWML Sunday is October 4, 2020. The breakfast has been canceled.

LWML meeting on October 8, 2020 at 11:00am. Dessert will be served.



A Circuit Reformation Worship Service will be held on Sunday, October 25th at 4:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mansfield, SD. This will be a worship service only.



The **Ham & Meatball** dinner has been **canceled** for this year.



24 Hour Prayer Vigil is planned for October 3rd beginning at 8:00 am. Time slots are 1 hour and will conclude on Sunday morning at 8:00 am. Prayers will include the call process and for the Pastor we call and his family. Sign-up sheets are available or call the church office to sign up.



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting group meets on Thursdays at 9am.



October is Pastor appreciation month. Thank you Pastor Bobby for your leadership and care you give to St. Paul's. We are so blessed to have you and your family with us.

OCTOBER USHERS:

EARLY:

Rodney Kono Head Usher
Myron Voegele
Terry Ellingson
Bob Roth

LATE:

Dennis Stoebner, Head Usher
Edna Stoebner
Beth Kruse

**Church Council Meeting
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
September 21, 2020**

Opening Devotion was led by President Larry Jung.

The minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting were approved with a motion by Nate Bode and a second by Jon Mesmer.

Taylor reviewed the treasurers report and mentioned that the finances are still good thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program. The treasurers report was approved with a motion made by Nate Bode and a second by Paul Swanston

Board Minutes were discussed and Nate Bode reported that the Elders are continuing to go through call lists of members that haven't attended any services in quite some time. They have also been reviewing the call process and also planning for the 24 hour prayer vigil coming up on Oct 3rd. He reported that someone from the seminary will be visiting the church in regards to our upcoming calls.

Pastor's Report/Church Report – Nate Bode reported of some concerns about the ability to social distance during church and bible study due to increased attendance. A discussion was had about how we should start to formulate a plan in the event that there is a spike in cases/hospitalizations in our area and also plan for how to ease back to normal routines once we are able to do so. Pastor Bobby started a discussion about conducting personality tests for the church staff and how it could be beneficial in regards to the upcoming staff that could be hired.

There was a discussion about the Youth Checking Account and how it needs to be moved from Wells Fargo to Dacotah bank. Will need to find out who is listed on account in order to do that.

2021 Budget Proposals will need to be completed before the November voters meeting. Larry discussed health insurance for employees that work less than 30 hours, it will no longer be offered. However, there will need to be clarification from Concordia on the exact terms and conditions of that and will report at the next meeting.

The decision on whether to have music Sunday this year will be left to the Elders.

Nate Collins reviewed the pricing again for the computer that runs the slides and is used to post livestreams. Taylor made a motion to keep the price under \$1600 and let Nate Collins decide which one he thinks is best. A second was made by Nate Bode.

An announcement was made that Russ Podoll has given his resignation from the Church Council. Nate Bode motioned to accept the resignation and Jason Oberfoell made a second.

There is a balance for the rewards points on the Church Credit Card. Nate Bode motioned to have the cash value taken and apply it to office supplies. Second was made by Jon Mesmer.

Pastor Bobby asked about his old computer and how he would like to purchase it for home use. A motion was made by Taylor to gift the old computer to Pastor Bobby, second was made by Nate Bode.

Memorials and Gifts - Terry Mages - \$50.00 / Tim Erickson - \$15,000.00 designated to facility improvement (less 10% to mission and ministry) / Marilyn Lickfelt - \$580.00 / Joetta Swanhorst - \$25.00. Motion to approve was made by Tom Agnitsch and the second was by Jason Oberfoell.

Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Nate Bode second by Jon Mesmer.

Next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Larry Jung, Jason Oberfoell, Jerry Streckfuss, Deb Droog, Dustin Klapperich, Taylor Beutler, Jon Mesmer, Paul Swanston, Nate Bode, and Tom Agnitsch

Applying Biblical Principles

When you were very young, did you ever daydream about what you wanted to be when you grew up? Probably all of us did. Little girls thought about becoming nurses, models, or flight attendants. Little boys thought about becoming policemen, firemen, soldiers, or truck drivers. Today, both boys and girls think about becoming astronauts, politicians, business leaders or even President of the United States.

One thing that probably none of us ever envisioned was to become a servant. Say what—a servant? That’s how Christ described Himself in Luke 22:27 as He said, “. . . I am among you as one who serves.” Jesus came not to be served, but to serve.

Even the Apostle Paul — whom we sometimes envision as a cross between John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and the Hulk — on several occasions called himself “a servant.” As Chuck Swindoll put it,

This man, the one who certainly could have expected preferential treatment or demanded a high-and-mighty role of authority over others, referred to himself most often as a “servant” of God. Amazing. He was indeed an apostle, but he conducted himself, he carried himself, as a servant.

Regardless of what they do or how they do it, servants have one thing in common: They do the bidding of their masters. And that includes Christians who do the bidding of their Master, Jesus Christ. At least that’s what we are supposed to do.

Juan Ortiz, a pastor in Argentina, described us this way:

We are all upside down. The lords sit in the pews. We treat Jesus as if He were our slave. We pray, “Lord” (but our attitude is just the opposite), “I’m leaving now. Please watch the house so that no one breaks in while I’m gone. And please keep me from an accident while I drive.”

What do we expect Jesus to say? “Yes, ma’am” or “Yes, sir”?

Servants don’t say, “Lord, do this and do that.” Servants say, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” The satisfaction of the servant is to see the Lord satisfied. No wonder our churches don’t work right. We have not begun to think about how to serve Jesus. Our praises are His dinner. The hymns are the water on His table. The offering is yet another part of His meal.

Can you say you have done everything that Lord told you to do? If so, we can have a graduation ceremony for you. We will give you a diploma that reads, “Unworthy Slave.”

. . . One I was in a meeting where someone was introduced with great fanfare. The organ played and the spotlights came on as someone announced, “And now, the great servant of God.”

If he was great, he was not a servant. And if he was a servant, he was not great. Servants are people who understand that they are worthy of nothing. They work eight hours and then come in and fix dinner for their Lord — and are refreshed and joyful when they see their Lord enjoying the meal.

May God help us to do with joy what servants in the kingdom do.

Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

October 2020

What is a child? (Identity as Created Being!)

Welcome to the beginning of our discussion of what a child is! Once we establish what a Biblical view of children is, we will have a better starting point to know how we should interact with children. We will also know more about ourselves as "Children of God."

As Scripture begins in the beginning so will we! God created all that has been created. He didn't create Adam and Eve as babies, but He did create them with the ability to procreate and reproduce after their own kind. We also hear that God knitted the writer of Psalms together in the womb.

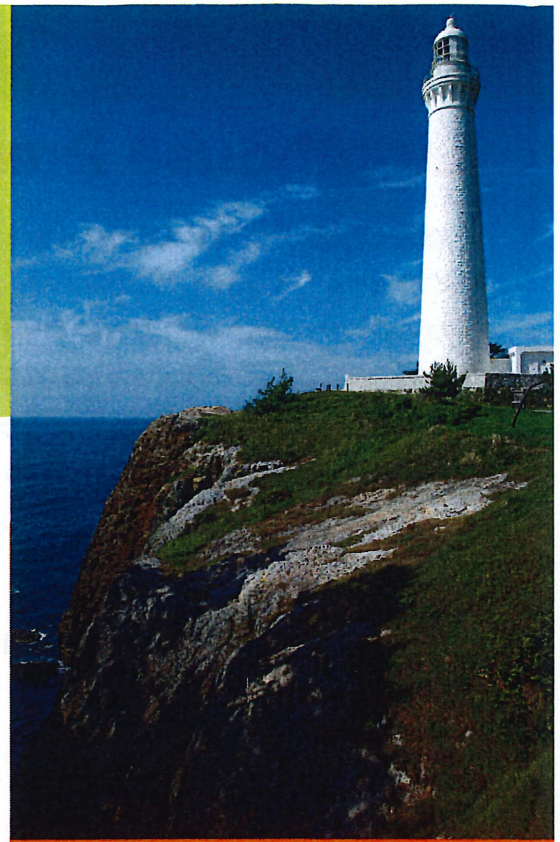
Being created carries a lot more truth than we may realize. Something that is created is:

CREATED BY GOD, NOT BY PEOPLE: Despite all our scientific engineering to make reproduction possible, life is only possible where God allows it. It is the reason new parents are in awe of their new baby. Creation is awe inspiring and leads us to thank the creator for His work.

SUSTAINED EVERY DAY BY GOD: Not only does God create the world, but He sustains it every day! Every day He provides for all the needs of His creatures. If we ever stopped sending His light and breathe, all of creation would cease to exist.

Announcements:

Did you know we have a Lighthouse Preschool Scholarship Fund? You can donate money to that fund to help us help families send their child to our preschool! Just mark that fund in the memo line of a check!



Upcoming Dates:

October 12- No School

**October 23- No School
(Parent/Teacher
Conferences)**

**November 25-27-
Thanksgiving Break**



Lighthouse Preschool News (Continued)

UNIQUE: At the very heart of Creation is diversity. Despite the claims of Evolution, God himself creates different kinds of animals, plants, landforms, and even genders. His church holds to diversity more so than the world that seems to value uniformity, sameness, and a one size fits all approach to life and uniqueness.

PLACED IN A CONTEXT: The Lord did not create parts of His creation and let them float around. He gave them a specific place to be and equipped them to live in their environment. Regarding children, He placed them in your home and family for a reason and is sustaining and equipping you to care for them. Their presence is no mistake.

REMINDERS:

-Please save those Ken's and Kessler's receipts. We can begin accepting receipts from September 2020 and later.

- Thank you for all the snack donations! They are greatly appreciated!



A note from Mrs. Siebert

Our school year is off to a great start! It is so wonderful to finally be back in school teaching and spending time with the children. As we begin the new school year, we are reminded that God is in charge. Though we may at times feel scared and unsure of what the future may hold, we can always trust that God is with us. The kids are learning about God's great creation. As part of His creation, he has promised to always be with us and take care of us. As we continue the school year, please pray for our continued health and ability to work around the challenges that COVID-19 will give us this year. Blessings to you all!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Aberdeen SD
Treasurer's Report as of August 2020 for General Fund

Account #	Account Name	Annual Budget	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD
INCOME					
4.1010	General Offerings	524,398	48,539	311,728	346,492
4.1015	Electronic Giving Offset	300	52	315	186
4.1020	St. Paul's Leola/SMP	12,000	1,000	8,000	0
4.1200	Sunday School Offerings	500	0	223	253
4.1250	Coffee/Soup & Sandwich Receipt	4,000	278	1,624	2,781
4.1400	Miscellaneous Income/Giving	5,000	0	48,340	5,869
4.1500	Stewardship Giving	0	0	0	0
	Total Member Giving & Income	\$546,198	\$49,869	\$370,232	\$355,584
4.1510	Pre School Tuition	37,500	2,150	16,042	16,116
4.1520	Pre-School Giving	10,000	132	17,777	9,310
	Total Pre-School Tuition & Member Giving	\$47,500	\$2,282	\$33,820	\$25,426
	TOTAL INCOME	\$593,698	\$52,151	\$404,052	\$381,011
EXPENSES					
5.1000	Lutheran Witness	2,750	0	(155)	(206)
5.1100	Portal Of Prayer	1,250	291	583	583
5.1200	Personalized Mission Support	5,000	0	2,500	2,500
5.1210	Together In Missions (TIM)	1,000	0	0	0
5.1300	Main Street Living	2,000	0	1,000	1,000
5.1400	SD District Support and Missions	50,000	4,166	33,333	31,333
5.1450	Advertising	1,000	0	300	414
5.1500	Mission Festival/Evangelism	500	0	0	0
5.1550	Postage	2,000	110	715	845
5.1600	Fellowship Events	6,500	229	2,514	3,828
5.1650	Five Loaves Fellowship Supper	2,000	0	862	744
5.1700	Worship/Communion Supplies	2,500	158	2,480	1,444
5.1800	Baptismal Supplies	250	0	231	81
5.1900	Offering Envelopes	700	0	0	0
5.1950	Evangelism Miscellaneous	2,000	0	102	560
5.1951	Mercy Fund	3,600	0	1,200	2,400
	BOARD OF EVANGELISM	\$83,050	\$4,956	\$45,667	\$45,530
5.2010	Property Maintenance/Upkeep	22,000	5,776	15,973	12,976
5.2040	Church Utilities	22,500	1,697	10,774	16,388
5.2050	Church Insurance	11,000	2,118	9,934	8,818
5.2060	Office Miscellaneous	1,000	0	84	86
5.2061	Electronic Giving Fees	1,000	82	387	620
5.2062	Bank Service Charges	250	8	73	185
5.2090	Church Snow Removal	12,000	0	3,613	12,758
5.2400	Van Upkeep and Repair	1,000	0	175	363
5.2500	Office Supplies	3,000	121	1,410	901
5.2550	Office Equip.Maint/Support	5,700	19	2,380	3,090
5.2600	New Office Equipment	11,000	828	7,281	5,940
5.2620	Capital Improvements	5,000	4,269	4,269	0
	BOARD OF TRUSTEES	\$95,450	\$14,920	\$56,359	\$62,131
5.3010	Miscellaneous Elder Expenses	1,000	0	0	0
	BOARD OF ELDERS	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
5.4010	Senior Pastor-Salary	52,894	4,407	28,762	28,483
5.4011	Asst Pastor-Salary	39,977	0	21,112	24,824
5.4030	Senior Pastor-Car Allowances	1,500	125	1,172	926
5.4031	Asst Pastor-Car Allowance	200	0	132	0

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Aberdeen SD
Treasurer's Report as of August 2020 for General Fund

Account #	Account Name	Annual Budget	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD
5.4050	Senior Pastor-Housing Allowance	23,000	2,916	23,333	20,733
5.4051	Asst Pastor-Housing Allowance	23,000	0	12,000	15,971
5.4080	Senior Pastor Continuing Ed.	500	0	500	0
5.4081	Asst Pastor Continuing Ed.	500	0	0	0
5.4090	SMP Expenses	12,000	0	9,224	0
5.4120	Babysitting Services	2,000	0	468	371
5.4200	Secretary- Salary	32,540	2,711	21,693	20,986
5.4205	Secretary - Substitutes	600	0	0	0
5.4220	Adult Ser./Custodial-Salary	21,333	1,286	10,124	16,822
5.4250	Organists-Salary	4,800	0	785	1,150
5.4260	Pastoral Support	1,200	0	1,625	0
5.4300	Payroll Taxes	4,675	305	2,792	2,981
5.4310	Health Insurance Benefits	70,714	3,122	49,611	44,873
5.4320	Retirement	17,250	733	8,086	11,013
5.4330	Life/Dis Insurance	5,000	0	2,046	2,787
5.4340	HRA Reimbursements	11,750	0	1,028	6,537
5.4350	Lighthouse Preschool Tuition Benefit	6,000	2,000	2,000	0
5.4500	Conventions/Conferences - Pastors	3,000	0	102	2,792
	BOARD OF PERSONNEL	\$334,433	\$17,609	\$196,603	\$196,851
5.5000	Sunday School	2,000	32	216	85
5.5100	Vacation Bible School	2,000	0	900	853
5.5200	Confirmation	1,100	606	1,249	1,184
5.5250	Adult Christian Education	500	0	(951)	324
5.5300	Youth Ministry	500	0	271	402
5.5320	Camp Mineboji	500	0	0	0
5.5500	Library Media Resources	300	0	0	248
5.5600	Retreats and Workshop	150	0	0	0
	BOARD OF EDUCATION/YOUTH	\$7,050	\$639	\$1,684	\$3,098
5.6100	Pre-School Director Salary	21,462	1,121	13,158	14,613
5.6110	Pre-School Teacher(s)	23,230	2,539	16,217	7,812
5.6120	Pre-School Assistants	9,000	459	5,438	10,269
5.6210	Pre-School Payroll Taxes	4,110	305	2,643	2,501
5.6220	Pre-School Retirement	3,575	0	3,674	3,982
5.6222	Pre-School Life/Disability Insurance	1,118	371	693	626
5.6310	Conventions/Conferences - Pre-School	1,500	123	644	100
5.6410	Pre-School Insurance	720	771	1,471	700
5.6420	Pre-School Snow Removal	950	0	200	700
5.6430	Pre-school Maintenance	1,950	443	1,466	1,899
5.6440	Pre-school Utilities	2,300	164	1,371	1,835
5.6510	Pre-School Ed. Materials	1,000	350	556	405
5.6520	Pre-School Supplies	1,200	24	109	1,065
5.6530	Pre-School Advertising	600	300	481	0
	LIGHTHOUSE PRESCHOOL	\$72,715	\$6,977	\$48,125	\$46,509
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$593,698	\$45,104	\$348,440	\$354,122
	Difference	\$0	\$7,047	\$55,611	\$26,888