



The Lutheran Beacon

August 2022 | Monthly Newsletter of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

A Message from the Pastor

Mark 1:15

“The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent and believe in the Gospel.”

The Old Adam within us is always trying to turn salvation into a DIY project, a self-salvation scheme. Often this takes the form of trying to sneak the Law back in through the back door, so to speak. We hear and know that we are saved by grace, through faith, apart from the works of the Law; but the Old Adam tries to reintroduce the Law into the equation. Like a packrat, he tries to squirrel it away in places he doesn't think you'll look. And one of his favorite places to do so is within the shell of the word “repentance.”

We don't talk about repentance nearly as often as we probably should, and so it often goes unexamined. Consequently, we assume we all know what we mean by the word, with the result that what we mean by it often becomes highly moralized. “Sure, you're saved by grace through faith,” we'll say, “*but* you have to repent.”

Meaning you have to feel sorry. Sometimes we'll add the adverb “truly” into the mix: “truly repent,” “truly sorry.” The net effect is that we are basically placing qualifiers upon the free Gospel. That is, we're saying it's not enough that Jesus died for your sins; you have to feel bad enough first in order to merit that sacrifice being applied to you. We've snuck the Law back in.

Now, it is true that repentance and contrition (feeling sorry) are essential parts of the Christian life and of salvation; but it is our misunderstanding of *why* they are necessary that gets us into trouble.

The first thing to note about repentance is its definition. The word used in the New Testament which gets translated as “repent” means “a change of mind,” or “a turn of mind.” It means to go from thinking one thing to thinking something else. Just in understanding the definition, we can see why that would be an essential element of salvation. Interestingly, whenever we encounter the word “repent” in the New Testament, it is in such a grammatical form as to indicate something that is ongoing, continually, from that point forward. We are to always be repenting. Obviously, repentance includes contrition, but is not limited to contrition.

Mark Your Calendar

August 2

Von Bora Circle Meeting

August 5

Men's Group Meeting
Movie Night and Cookout

August 16

Church Council Meeting

August 17

Worship and Music Committee

August 21

Bell Tower Rededication

August 23

Red Cross Blood Drive

August 27

Confession and Absolution

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VOLUNTEERS FOR AUGUST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Communion</u>
Aug. 7	<i>Not reported</i>	Greg Fraunfelter	<i>Not reported</i>	<i>Not needed at this time</i>
Aug. 14		The Starners		
Aug. 21		Sue Karshner		
Aug. 28		Susan Mehr		

Altar Care: Marilyn Stewart and Nancy Collins

Lay Readers: 8:30am - Greg Fraunfelter / 10:15am - Beth Morgan

A Message from the Pastor, cont'd

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Contrition itself, however, is even more interesting. Knowing its definition, “to feel sorry,” we can see that it is as much a byproduct of hearing the Gospel as it is a prerequisite. The more and more we encounter God’s gracious love for us, the more and more we recognize our own miserable failure in loving Him and our neighbors. But *why* is it *necessary*? Well, because without it, we will eventually end up hearing God’s love and forgiveness as *not* love and forgiveness, but rather as *apathy*. An *imaginary* apathy, that is. You’ll even hear people confess this sometimes, saying things like “I don’t really think God cares if I...” (whatever sin it is they’re trying to justify). We begin to hear the Gospel as if it were God saying that He doesn’t really care what we say or do; when in fact, He very much cares... but He also loves and forgives, and has redeemed you from all condemnation. Repent and believe.

Updates

- Bootcamp continues on. This month we will be discussing: Aug. 7—The Lord’s Prayer; Aug. 14—Baptism; Aug. 21—Holy Communion; Aug. 28—Absolution. Join us Sundays at 7pm.
- As you probably know, we’re looking to get the greeters started back up as a ministry here; let me know if you’d be willing to serve.
- The new banner frames have been added out front. You may have noticed they are not “permanently” placed (they’re being held up by wooden stakes and zip ties). This is so they can be moved around as needed or desired.
- I’ve recently changed schools for my Doctor of Ministry program. I’ll now be studying through St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, under Dr. Jim Nestingen. If you’ve ever heard Dr. Nestingen preach or teach, you’ll understand why the switch appealed to me so much.
- We’ve got a baptism coming up on Aug. 7, at the 10:15 service! It would be great to see as many people from the congregation there as possible!

Bell Tower Rededication on August 21

On Sunday, August 21, we will be celebrating the completion of our bell tower restoration project. The Bell Tower Rededication will take place during the 10:15am Worship Service (there will be no 8:30am service on this day). A potluck lunch will follow the service. Join us!

Von Bora Circle News

Submitted by Marilyn Stewart

THIS IS OUR PURPOSE! To support the women's ministry of congregations of the North American Lutheran Church, with the goal of mutual support and encouragement as a community of faith, hope, and love. To assist congregational women's ministries in mission, study of God's Word, fellowship, and service in Christ's name. And to provide guidance to congregations of the NALC who are forming new women's ministries.

On Tuesday, July 12, the Von Bora Circle enjoyed its annual summer luncheon at the Millstone restaurant. There were ten ladies and three guests that attended. There was no business meeting, so no news to report. As they say, "a good time was had by all."

Now that the stores are stocking their shelves with school supplies at great prices, it is time to restock our shelves here with items needed for our NALC backpack project for Disaster Relief. This year we have a deep need for these four items: **backpacks**—elementary and high school; **high school calculators** that have several math functions for higher-level math classes, such as calculus (Texas Instruments is one brand); **spiral-bound notebooks**—one subject, wide-ruled (each child receives 4 notebooks, so we need lots); **glue sticks**.

Another way you can help is by donating money or gift cards from Walmart. We are very appreciative of your support over the years. Your help has made this project so successful and has helped several hundred students who have been victims of a disaster. By the way, each child receives the Gospel message. Included in the backpacks are age-appropriate Bibles and Christian literature. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Thomas or Marilyn Stewart.

The next Von Bora Circle meeting will be Aug. 2, at 10am. All women are welcome, even if you haven't attended before, or if it has been a long time ago for you. Have a blessed month of August!

Remember in prayer...

Kathy Bibby, Linda Brown, Kristie Freireich, Rosemary Hampton, Angie Land, Jim Monk, Bonnie O'Conner, Helen Ricketts, Debbie Scaparrotti, Michele Scaparrotti, Bud and Angela Seum, Jim Skinner, Rita Stivison, and John and Betty Tharp.

Also, remember those in military service, especially Annie Funk, Dustin Garner, Luke High, Katie Landers, Caleb Matheny, Clay Morgan, and Clay Risch.

Birthdays

Aug. 2	Rebekah Starner
Aug. 3	Thomas Iwanusa
Aug. 7	Beth Rutter
Aug. 8	Jim Monk
Aug. 14	Mark Hill
Aug. 16	Jean Libben Kayla Dunkle
Aug. 27	Bea Stallsmith
Aug. 29	Bonnie Rose
Aug. 31	Gary Bartow

Men's Group News

The next Men's Group meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 5, at 9am, at the church. There will be a regular meeting, and then the group will prepare for the Movie Night and Cookout, which will be that evening. All men are welcome!

Movie Night & Cookout

The Outdoor Movie Night and Cookout will be Friday, Aug. 5! Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy the fun. The movie begins at 9pm!



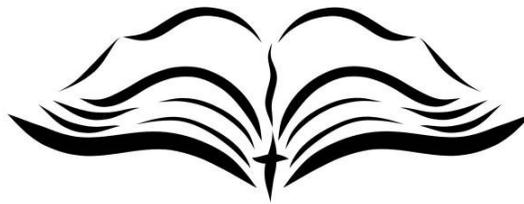
NALC
North American Lutheran Church

NALC Disaster Response Update

Texas church helps Kentucky rebuild after tornadoes

The All Saints Lutheran Church of Arlington, Texas, traveled on a mission trip to Mayfield, Kentucky, where an EF-4 tornado destroyed over 5,000 homes and took the lives of 88 people in December of 2021. An intergenerational group of twenty youth and adults from All Saints helped to build a home for a disabled veteran who is paraplegic, and to repair the home of a Ms. Kay, who lost her home, her job, and her best friend the night the tornado hit.

The team also worked on three other homes in the hardest-hit parts of Mayfield, Kentucky. We thank All Saints Lutheran Church for all its hard work, and for being the outstretched hands of Jesus to people in desperate need.



August Worship Service Readings

August 7: Jer. 23:16-29; Psalm 26; Acts 20:27-38; Matt. 7:13-23

August 14: 2 Sam. 22:26-34; Psalm 51:1-12; 1 Cor. 10:6-13; Luke 16:1-13

August 21: Jer. 8:4-12; Psalm 92; Rom. 9:30-10:4; Luke 19:41-44

August 28: Gen. 4:1-15; Psalm 50:7-23; Eph. 2:1-10; Luke 18:9-14

Sunday Services

8:30 am Early Worship Service
9:15 am Adult Sunday School/Coffee Hour
10:15 am Worship Service

*Our worship service is broadcast weekly on
98.3 FM in Logan, Ohio*

Newsletter Submissions: Angie Boelk -
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August 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
(740) 385-2272

[Every Sunday at St. Matthew:](#) Early Worship Service at 8:30am; Adult Education, Confirmation Class, and Coffee Hour at 9:15am; Worship Service at 10:15am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Von Bora Circle 10am	3 Bible Study 11am Book Study 7pm	4	5 Men's Group at the church 9am Outdoor Movie Night and Cookout	6
7 Christian Bootcamp 7pm	8	9	10 Bible Study 11am Book Study 7pm	11	12	13
14 Christian Bootcamp 7pm	15	16 Church Council 7pm	17 Bible Study 11am Worship and Music Committee 3pm Book Study 7pm	18	19	20
21 No 8:30am service Bell Tower Rededi- cation & Potluck Lunch Christian Bootcamp 7pm	22 Deadline for September Beacon	23 Red Cross Blood Drive 11am-5pm	24 Bible Study 11am Book Study 7pm	25	26	27 Confession and Absolution 10am-noon
28 No 8:30am service Baby Shower after 10:15am service Christian Bootcamp 7pm	29	30	31 Bible Study 11am Book Study 7pm			

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
258 East Hunter Street
Logan, Ohio 43138



The Lutheran Beacon

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Logan, Ohio

August 2022

We, St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Logan, Ohio, as followers of Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit, celebrate the gift of God's Grace. We reach out and welcome everyone to join us in sharing God's Love.