



# The Beacon

## June/July 2021

Christ Ev. Lutheran  
Church

320 N 28<sup>th</sup> St E  
Superior, WI  
54880

Office Phone  
715.398.3680

Web Site  
[Christlutheran-superior.org](http://Christlutheran-superior.org)

Divine Worship  
Services  
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study & Sunday  
School  
Sunday - 9 a.m.



The Apostle Paul was a pillar of the early Christian Church. His mission work among the Gentile people (the non-Jewish people) was second to none. He is credited with writing at least thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. In his letter to the Christians living in the city of Philippi, the Apostle Paul listed his “earthly” credentials — *“circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, as to the law, a Pharisee, as to zeal, a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness under the law, blameless.”*

Yet, the Apostle Paul struggled with living the life that God wants all of us to live. In the Book of Romans, Paul talked about that struggle. *“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”*

Unfortunately, that sinfulness dwells within all of us. Ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve, sin has been a part of our human nature. Our catechism refers to it as “original sin”. It defines original sin as: *“that total corruption of our whole human nature that we have inherited from Adam through our parents”*. In Psalm fifty-one, the Psalmist writes: *“I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me”*. Just like the Apostle Paul, we too struggle to live the life that God wants us to live. It is a life long battle that we will contend with until the day that we die.

To help us do better, beginning June 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be starting a new Sermon Series entitled: “The Christian Atheist”. It’s based upon a book by the same name written by Craig Groeschel. The title may seem like an oxymoron (a combination of contradictory words), but unfortunately, it’s not. Too often, Christians believe in God, but they live as if God doesn’t exist. **They live as if everything is up to them.** When we are able to truly live out our beliefs in God, the very opposite will be true — we will live as if everything is up to God.

This sermon series will challenge us to actually live out the beliefs that we have toward God. It will challenge us to live the life that God wants all of us to live. Join us (and bring a friend or two) as we discuss how we can be more consistent in living out the Christian faith that we proclaim!

The following will be the topics for the next two months:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| June 9 & 13      | “When you believe in God but don’t really know Him”      |
| June 16 & 20     | “When you believe in God but are ashamed of your past”   |
| June 23 & 27     | “When you believe in God but aren’t sure He loves you”   |
| June 30 & July 4 | “When you believe in God but not in prayer”              |
| July 7 & 11      | “When you believe in God but don’t think He’s fair”      |
| July 14 & 18     | “When you believe in God but won’t forgive”              |
| July 21 & 25     | “When you believe in God but don’t think you can change” |
| July 28 & Aug 1  | “When you believe in God but still worry all the time”   |

Pastor Bernecker

## Congregational Call

On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> the congregation met to vote on which Pastor to present with a call. The decision was to send a call to Rev. Timothy Steckling of Bessemer, MI. He was contacted and said that he would consider our call. Please pray for Pastor Steckling, his family and for our congregation, that the Holy Spirit will guide everyone to the optimal outcome for His kingdom!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our graduates. Best wishes to you in all of your future endeavors.

### Graduates:

Aiden Kroeplin, Northwestern High School.  
James Kirchoff, Lake Superior College, AA degree

If you are going away to college or not living at home, please let the church know so we can have current information and stay in touch. If you graduated this year from either High School or College, and your name is not listed please contact the office so we may include you.

## My Savior Lives Northland LCMS Service of Worship for the Duluth region televised by KBJR Channel 6.

"My Savior Lives Northland" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran Hour Ministries (starting at 10:00 a.m.). MSL Northland is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations. Please check your local listings as sometime the program is moved to a different channel due to programming conflicts on NBC. Please send contributions c/o: Mt. Olive Lutheran, 2012 East Superior St, Duluth, MN 55812. Checks should be made to: MSL Northland

### June 6

Pastor Matt Kohl, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Cloquet, MN

### June 13

Pastor Rick William, Zion Lutheran, Ashland, WI

### June 20

Pastor Matthew Gunia, Trinity Lutheran, Ironwood, MI

### June 27

TBD

## Church Council

### Ma 13, 2021

**Members Present:** Jim Lemmerman, Len Campbell, Wayne Ploetz, Don Hauser, Mike Kraemer, Pastor Bernecker, John Keske and Sharyn Vengrin

**Call to order:** Jim Lemmerman

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bernecker

**Call for additional agenda items:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Len made the motion to accept the April 8, 2021 minutes and Wayne Seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried

**Pastor's Report:** Rest homes are opening up. Soon Pastor will be able to visit and give communion.

**Treasurer's Report: Checking Account Balance: \$63,565.82** Mike made the motion to accept Checking Account Balance as written. Don seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

### BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Board of Deacons:** Communion was discussed. Treats for Bible Study. Need help with communion distribution.

**Board of Trustees: No Meeting held.**

Finding the leak in the Women's bathroom is on hold. Timing will be everything. Need a rainy day. When it starts dripping have to go up into the attic to see if we can find it.

The flagpole rope broke a couple of weeks ago. New one arrived today. Will get in touch with Dick to see when we can get it put back up.

Roni is working on removal of the wallpaper in Pastor's Office. She will also remove the wallpaper in the Women's rest room. Once completed, Lawrence will paint each room.

Belknap Plumbing and heating was called for a stuck valve in the Multipurpose Room. Actual cause was the thermostat. It was changed. While here he also replaced a gasket in one of the boilers that was leaking. The boilers will be replaced. There will be two instead of three. The cost will be \$24,000.00.

This project will be done by Belknap Plumbing and Heating. The money will be taken out of our savings account. Maybe some donations also.

**Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:** No meeting.

**Board of Education:** No Report

**Memorial Committee:** No change

**Endowment Committee:** No change

**Memorial Garden:** Resting

**Old Business:** Call committee update: 2 candidates to present to Voter's Assembly.

### New Business:

Voter's Assembly May 16, 2021. Congregational vote on Calling New Pastor

Voter's Assembly-Election of 2021-2022 officers and boards.

Nomination Committee report, May 2, 2021

President: Len Campbell

Vice-President: John Keske

Treasurer: Wayne Ploetz

Secretary: Sharyn Vengrin

Deacons: Mike Kramer, Lois Teich, Millie Derick

Trustees- Don Hauser, Mike Kramer

Stewardship and Evangelism: Mike Stumpf, Chris Stumpf  
Board of Christian Education: No 3-year terms  
Appointments (1 year) by President Lemmerman.  
Board of Christian Education: Sara Kroeplin and Helena Frost  
Board of Stewardship: Dave and Mary Pat Severin  
Requests to use Fellowship Hall: None

Next Council Meeting: 5:00 p.m., Thurs., June 10, 2021  
Adjournment-Lord's Prayer

## **Voter's Meeting**

**May 16, 2021**

**OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Pastor

**Roll Call:** Jim Lemmerman

**Approval of Agenda:** Len made the motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Wayne Ploetz. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reading and approval of minutes from February 14, 2021. These are posted in the Newsletter.

**Admission of new members:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance: Checking: \$63,565.82.  
LCEF: \$10,162.27. Christ the King: \$217,045.07.  
Building Fund savings: \$9,227.28 A motion was made by Len Campbell and seconded by Dave Severin to receive and file the Treasurer's report as printed. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** No new business

**New business (Action needed):**

Election of officers

Officer and Committee Members Nominees 2021/2022

**PRESIDENT:** Len Campbell

Motion made to accept and seconded by Dave Severin and Mike Kraemer

**VICE PRESIDENT:** John Keske

Motion made to accept and seconded by Mike Kraemer and Don Hauser

**SECRETARY:** Sharyn Vengrin

Motion made to accept and seconded by Roni Hauser and Millie Derrick

**TREASURER:** Wayne Ploetz

Motion made to accept and seconded by Don Hauser and Millie Derrick

**Blanket Motion:** Dave Severin and Millie Derrick: All in favor. Motion carried.

**Board of Deacons:**

3 Year Term

Mike Kraemer

Lois Teich

Millie Derrick

Stewardship and Evangelism

Mike Stumpf

Chris Stumpf

Stewardship and Evangelism: 1 year term Appt. by President Lemmerman

Dave Severin

Mary Pat Severin

Board of Education: 1 year term Appt. by President Lemmerman

Sara Kroeplin

Helena Frost

**Call update and Extending a call to our future Pastor:**

Vote was taken: Pastor Steckling was selected.

Call was made to him by Pastor Frank.

A Diploma of Vocation will be sent to him. He will then decide whether he will accept the call.

Adjournment: Jim Lemmerman

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: September 20, 2021

## **Stewardship**

There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that.

And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

### Sunday School Teachers for 2021/2020

With in-person Sunday School return this fall the Board of Education is looking for new/additional Sunday School Teachers for the 2021/2022 school year. We have added new faces and our Sunday School is growing.

We would like to add at least a few more teachers to our staff. Curriculum is provided and we will support and train anyone who is willing to step forward and teach our youngest church members. If they have any questions, please contact the church office or John Keske.

### Greeting Cards Available in the Library

The library is well stocked with new cards for birthday, anniversary, sympathy, "thinking of you", get well, thank you, Baptism...cards for every occasion. Cost is only 50 cents each. If you're looking for a card for your Guardian Angel, we have it!

### Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

### Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry

### Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to [clcoffice320@gmail.com](mailto:clcoffice320@gmail.com)

### Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org) or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

#### June Birthdays

- 1 Janet Kroll
- 3 Lydia Bennis
- 5 Carly Larson  
Sarah Nestrud
- 6 CLC  
Robert Raaflaub
- 8 Kathie Nikula
- 9 Jay Thompson
- 10 Zoey Heytens
- 11 Mercedes Mullikin
- 12 Jeffrey Makela
- 13 Harlow Filteau
- 15 Tylar Brand
- 16 Aiden Kroeplin  
Weston Ormsby
- 18 Sara Kroeplin  
Lars Root
- 19 Vicki Lull
- 22 Karl Schroeder  
John McMillian
- 23 William Doane  
Brian Amundson  
Bruce Johnson
- 25 Jill Markee
- 27 Peder Becken  
Rebecca Harkabus  
Emeline Larson  
Jessica Stumpf
- 28 Dennis Austin  
Ivy Bennis
- 30 Evelyn Reinkall

#### July Birthdays

- 1 Gloria Jablonski
- 2 Gabriel Kroeplin
- 3 Hope Fudally  
Lois Geiger
- 5 Harla Lemmerman
- 7 Harris Balko
- 9 Melanie Sternberg
- 12 Sylvia Bloxham
- 19 Shannon Allen
- 21 Dane Blomquist
- 23 Everly Fonger
- 24 Matthew Markee
- 25 Robert Sorenson  
Danika McLaughlin
- 27 Scott Winans  
Hannah Kidd
- 30 Michael Kramer  
Leone Syring