



# St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

August, 2022

## Remember Your Great Inheritance

Imagine if the richest man in the world gave you a promise that you would inherit everything that was his. Even on a really bad day you could remember that promise and know that soon everything good is coming to you. This, and much greater than this, is what we Christians have in our baptism. It is the inheritance of eternal life, both now and in the life to come. Baptism into Christ is our protection against despair and sin. No matter what temptations or trials that come against us, we can remember – “I am baptized! I am a son and heir of the God of heaven and earth. He has promised true life and salvation to me.”

Luther says in the Large Catechism that it is of greatest importance that we esteem this gift of baptism. We hear about baptism in Matthew 28, where Jesus says, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* Also in Mark 16, Jesus says, *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”* In baptism we have both the command of God to do this and the promise of salvation. What could be more precious than something that God himself has attached his command and promise to? Nothing could be more certain, more true.

Yet we who are baptized still have sin that clings to us, that Old Adam who needs to be drowned. Therefore, it is important that we remember our baptism. We do not need to be baptized again, for the promises of God in our new birth by water and the Spirit are sure – you only need to be spiritually born once. So instead we remember these promises of God by remembering our baptism. Like remembering a great inheritance is coming, we can gain peace and comfort by remembering the word of God which we received in baptism which promises life and salvation, for nothing is more sure than the Word of God.

There are many ways the church has remembered baptism, and one physical way is the sign of the cross. By making the sign of the cross we do not gain any favor from God, but we remember that such as sign was put on *“your forehead and on your heart, marking you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.”* In baptism, the salvation Christ won for us on the cross is given to us. In the baptismal rite, a sign of the cross is made to show physically the connection between baptism and that cross of Christ. In making the sign of the cross, we then remember our baptism and so also that Jesus has redeemed us by the cross.

Martin Luther in the Large Catechism speaks of the sign of the cross as a way of keeping the second commandment. He says to teach children to call upon the Lord in any time of need when they see anything monstrous or terrible by making the sign of the cross and saying, “Lord God, protect us!” or “Help, dear

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(cont. from pg 1)

Lord Jesus!" In so doing, the child's mind and body is focused instead on Christ who has died for them, baptized them, and cares for them. It is certainly something even older folks can do – maybe especially when watching the news!

There are other baptismal traditions as well. One which has been taught here at St. Paul's is dipping a finger in the baptismal font and making the sign of the cross. For those who wish, it is a reminder as we approach the altar of God that we are baptized and can be confident He wishes to give us, His dear children, every good thing. Another baptismal tradition my family does is to celebrate baptismal birthdays. On the anniversary of our baptisms, we light the baptismal candle (usually inside a donut, for fun) and sing a baptismal hymn – *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It* (#594 in the hymnal). Even the very young can have fun remembering their baptism. Baptismal certificates, banners, and bibs (as we give here at St. Paul's) also can serve the purpose of remembering one's baptism.

Since God has connected His word of command and promise to the water of baptism, it is more valuable than anything on Earth. Let us always cherish this inheritance which we have, remembering what he has done and nurturing our resurrection life through continually hearing and meditation in His word and promises.



## Liturgy Notes – Proper Preface

The Proper Preface follows the preface in the communion liturgy. After the pastor faces the people and they give their final response, “*it is meet and right so to do*,” he turns to the altar and offers the Proper Preface as a prayer to God. Like the preface, this comes before the sacrament of the altar, but is a “proper,” which, as mentioned before, means that it changes from week to week – or in this case, seasonally.

The proper preface always begins with –

*It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord...*

This follows the response of the congregation that it is “meet and right” to give thanks to God. We come to God in thanksgiving for the gifts which God gives to us, most of all His Son in His body and blood. The proper preface says that we do this “at all times in all places.” This is a shortening of much longer older prayers which would list many times and places in which it is suitable to give thanks to God. All this we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, as through baptism into Christ we have become sons of God and heirs of his benefits.

The next part of the prayer is the proper part and is a beautiful statement which speaks about our salvation colored by the emphasis of the season. For example, the Easter proper preface says –

*And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection...*

Here we’ll tell the Father that it is most especially right for us to praise Him on the day of Easter, when His Son destroyed death and gave us eternal life. We have references both to Good Friday and Easter, including the specific people at the Easter accounts, and most importantly that this is all connected to our own resurrection from the dead. You can see how in a few sentences the meaning of the Easter season is dwelled upon in great depth, and this is true for the other seasons as well.

Finally, every proper preface ends with –

*Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying...*

The purpose of this part is to connect to the Sanctus which follows, the song of the angels in heaven from Isaiah’s vision. Yet we can stop here briefly to realize this – where Jesus comes to us in his body and blood, Our Lord and God is here for our good. Heaven has come down to earth, and therefore in the sacrament of the altar we worship together with the angels and also the saints who have gone before us – David, Elijah, Moses, Paul, Peter, Lazarus, and even our believing relatives. For all the saints in heaven are also praising our Lord Jesus, the Lamb Who Was Slain, who remains God and man. Our worship as we receive His body and blood is a foretaste of that glorious victory feast. Therefore, it makes sense that we would follow this with the song of the angels before the presence of God, “holy, holy, holy” in the Sanctus, which we will discuss in the next article.

## FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AT LUNCH WITH PASTOR

Thanks to everyone who came out on July 11th. Lunch with Pastor is a monthly fellowship event every second Monday where all are invited to come enjoy food and fellowship, as well as speak to Pastor about whatever is on your mind in a casual setting. Our next lunch is scheduled at **11 a.m., August 1st** at George's Restaurant. We will be having this month's lunch on the first Monday instead of the second Monday because pastor will be on vacation.



## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

**Lunch with Pastor:** Lunch with Pastor will meet at George's this month on Monday, August 1st at 11 a.m. *Please let Pastor know if you plan to come by July 31st as the restaurant needs to know the size of the party.*

**Manna:** Order forms are available August 7th, orders with payment are due on August 14th and orders can be picked up on August 21st.

## **AUGUST MISSIONS: MORNING STAR MISSION**

**Submissions to the Monthly Messenger:** Any church board, group or member is welcome to submit news to the Monthly Messenger. Content appropriate to the weekly Messenger would also be appropriate here. Submissions must be in by the deadline for that month. The deadline to submit for September Monthly Messenger is Aug. 22nd.



*Adriel Xavier Zavala*

Was baptized on  
Sunday, July 3rd, 2022



# *Happy Baptismal Birthday*

Linda Sanfilippo	August 1
Jean Lemke	August 3
Angel Zavala	August 5
Gavin Popadowski	August 8
Brooklynn Panka	August 9
Karin Antonetti	August 13
Stephanie Scott	August 14
Matthew Collier	August 28
Jonathan Surprenant	August 28
Michael Saxon	August 31

Joan Summers	August 6
Paula Thomas	August 7
Daniel Campbell	August 13
Richard Bellas	August 14
Stephanie Fox	August 14
Angel Zavala	August 15
Pastor Antonetti	August 16
Alyssa Rada	August 17
Michael Bachmann	August 22
Doris Peterman	August 25
Ramona Gudgel	August 27
Jennifer Staley	August 28
Brandon Sheldon	August 31



Michael & Tracey Bachmann      August 10, 2002  
Allan & Jeanette Luzbetak      August 29, 2020

We will be printing out the birthdays, anniversaries and baptismal birthdays every month in the newsletter. If we have missed anyone or if any are in error, please let the church office know. Thanks.

## Pastor's Vacation

While pastor and his family are on vacation Pastor Dan Gensch will be filling in on Sunday, August 14 and August 21. In case of emergency please contact an elder or Pastor David Totsky from St. Peters in Joliet.



# August, 2022

## at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lockport

815.838.1832  
[www.stpaulslockport.com](http://www.stpaulslockport.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8 am Morning Prayer 11 am Lunch w/pastor 7 pm Elders meeting	2 8 am Morning Prayer	3 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Confession & Absolution	4 8 am Morning Prayer	5	6
7 Eighth Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible class	8 9	10 6 pm Trustee Meeting	11	12	13	
PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION
14 Ninth Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class	15 16	17	18	19	20	
PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION
21 Tenth Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class	22 23 8 am Morning Prayer	24 11 am NCL	25 8 am Morning Prayer	26	27	
PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION
28 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Adult bible Class	29 30 8 am Morning Prayer	31 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Confession & Absolution				



## **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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