

WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm w/Communion
Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:00am & 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10:30am)
9:15am Sundays - Family Bible Hour for all ages

MAY 2016

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 51 No. 5

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ oslcsheboygan.com ♦ e-mail: oslcsheboygan@gmail.com

This Is Love!

One of the most intimate, powerful, and caring ways which the Lord uses to help us to understand love is through our mothers. Like most of you, I was blessed with such a mother. From the very beginning, she helped me to understand that I was loved by her and by God!

Throughout life, whatever else we may have learned and experienced from our mothers, above all, many of them were faithful to show us the love of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Those of us who have been blessed by mothers like this have some amazing stories to share about a mother's resolve to continually point us to Christ, the Savior.

If your mother was like mine, she had two great qualities: one, she wasn't afraid to tell you when you were wrong and two, most importantly, she never hesitated to speak with a sense of compassion about the faith, forgiveness, and the incredible sacrifice of Christ for our sins.

There are many reasons for honoring our mothers in the month of May, but the best reasons are for those that helped to bring us the assurance that we are loved by God. As you have the opportunity to speak with your mother on Mother's Day I hope that you'll take some time to express your gratitude to her for all she's done over the years—don't wait, because there will come a time when you can no longer do that. Certainly you know that and you probably

don't need me to remind you, but if you've not done it, please take a moment to say, "Thanks mom—thanks for assuring me that I can rejoice in God's love because of your encouragement, that I can treasure my relationship with Him, and that my full and final hope is in Him!"

If you're a mom, I have no doubt you'll treasure the expressions of love that will be given and spoken to you on Mother's Day. Enjoy them. No doubt your kids will say a lot of nice things in a flattering way—each of those complements is well deserved. But treasure most of all the evidence you have in the lives of your children that they have heard your encouragement to remind them that they are loved by God, that they cherish their relationship with Him, and that they know that heaven is their home—that's an answer to a parent's ongoing prayer!

To each mother and every woman in the congregation, I would like to express my personal appreciation for all you do in modeling Christian faith and love. Your commitment to serving children, family, community and church as it's done in faith is done as if it were done unto the Lord!

Blessings and peace in Jesus for a Happy Mother's Day!

Pastor Marcus Powers

"What does the Bible say about Christian mothers?"

Being a mother is the most important vocation of all, a role that the Lord chooses to give to many women. Below are just a few of the opportunities God gives to those He chooses to become Christian mothers:

- Recognizing the gift – understanding each child is unique and from the hand of God. (Psalm 127:3)
- Availability – morning, noon, and night. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
- Involvement – interacting, discussing, thinking and processing life together. (Ephesians 6:4)
- Teaching – the Scriptures, and helping that child to understand how God's Word applies to daily life. (Psalm 78:5-6, Deuteronomy 4:10, Ephesians 6:4)
- Training – helping a child develop skills and discover her strengths. (Proverbs 22:6)
- Discipline – teaching the fear of the Lord, drawing the line consistently, loving, and firmly. (Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 12:5-11, Proverbs 13:24, 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15-17)
- Nurture – providing an environment of constant support, freedom to fail, acceptance, affection, unconditional love. (Titus 2:4, 2 Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 4:29-32, 5:1-2, Galatians 5:22, 1 Peter 3:8-9)
- Modeling with Integrity – living what you say, being a model by which a child can learn by "catching" the essence of godly living. (Deuteronomy 4:9, 15, 23; Proverbs 10:9, 11:3; Psalm 37:18, 37)

God's word never states that every woman should be a mother. However it does say that those whom the Lord blesses to be mothers are to take the responsibility seriously. Mothers have a unique and crucial role in the lives of their children. Sadly, much of society sees the role of mother as wanting or unrewarding. Yet, a Christian mother continues to be a profound influence in the lives of her children regardless of age. That's because a mother's love, nurture, and encouragement never ends.

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS:

On **June 5th at the 9:30am service**, we will give recognition to the graduating seniors from our congregation. So that none of the graduates are left out, it would be helpful if each graduating senior inform the church office of their name and school graduating from, either by phone (452-4005) or email (oslcsheboygan@gmail.com)

We will then contact you with further plans and details. High School Seniors of Our Savior's - please mark your calendars.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

The summer worship schedule begins on Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th. Each Sunday throughout the summer, worship hours are 8:00 & 9:30am through September 11th. Thursday evening worship will take place each week at 6:00pm. The Lord's Supper is celebrated at the 8:00 service on 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and 9:30 service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. Communion is offered during all Thursday services throughout the summer.

Anniversary Thank Offering May 2016

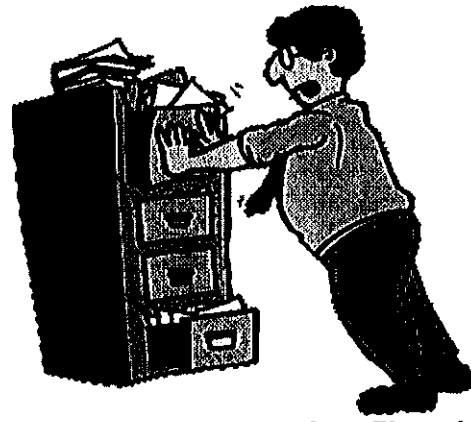
Our present church building was dedicated to the glory of God on May 17th, 1953. Since that time God's people here at Our Savior's Lutheran Church have given an annual 'Anniversary Thank Offering' commemorating the event. Motivated by faith in Jesus Christ, this special offering is given in appreciation for God's amazing grace that comes to us through the Word and Sacrament ministry that takes place in His house.

Over the years, these special offering have been designated for various missions and activities. We ask that you use the special 'Anniversary Thank Offering' envelope included in your offering packet, on Mother's Day, May 8th, for this special gift. The suggested amount of \$25.00 is the same as in past years. However, the Lord knows your heart and your ability to give.

Thank you for your love and concern shown through this special offering.

Rummage Sale, 2016

You may bring your items for the rummage sale, starting Monday, May 2nd during office hours or service hours. Please have the items boxed or bagged if possible. No furniture at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Bill and Lou Ann Stroo.



Choir needs a file cabinet

Mary Martha Guild News

On April 5th the ladies of Mary Martha began their meeting with a prayer and a lesson on how to deal with our weaknesses by Pastor Powers.

A short business meeting followed. Marijo Pitsch read the minutes of the last meeting. Dorothy Williams gave the treasurer's report. It was decided to donate \$50.00 to Lutheran High for their annual silent auction fund raiser. Next, announcements of coming events were made. There will be a pizza party on April 23rd, a special movie "God is not Dead" on April 30th at 6:30pm, and a retirement party is being planned for Pastor Powers on August 14th.

Next, we heard a very interesting and informative presentation from Detective Tamara Remington from the Sheboygan Police Department. The subject was human trafficking. It has become a very serious problem here in Sheboygan. Following Ms. Remington's presentation, hostess Joan Hering and Diane Fischer served a delicious dessert and coffee.

Our next meeting will be May 3rd. Bill Wangermann, retired police officer and Sheboygan historian will be guest speaker. Hostesses will be JoAnne Bartzen and Linda Powers. Anyone who would like to join us, please do so.

Marcie Sorenson
Committee Member

It's Spring and many people use that time of year to clean up and clear out. If you are cleaning out your home office or redecorating it, and you have a unwanted, but still very usable file cabinet, the choir could put it to good use.

Because the space I have to put it in is limited, it would be best if it were not more than 14 -15 inches wide. It would be nice if it were a four drawer model.

If you have one you are willing to donate, you can contact me, or just drop it off at the church office. I would be so very grateful.

Elaine Phillips, Adult Choir Director
467-4494
elpmusic@bytehead.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come join us at "Camp Kilimanjaro – An Epic Expedition" through Proverbs. This year's Vacation Bible School will be held June 13-16 from 5:45 – 8:00pm at Lutheran High School. Your child will learn about the book of Proverbs through Bible lessons, games, songs and craft projects. We will also have snacks. Register online at www.lutheranhigh.com and click on "upcoming events". Paper registration forms are also available. Please join us on our adventure.

For more information or to sign up, contact Carol Reisinger phone 920.458.1604 or email car1954@sbcglobal.net.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism:

Chelsey Lynn Schwark
Daughter of Bradley and Brittany Schwark
April 10, 2016

Tucker Owen Goes
Son of Steve and Tanya Goes
April 24, 2016

Funerals:

Mr. Mark Zenk
Age: 59
Died: March 28, 2016
Laid to Rest: April 4, 2016

Memorial Gifts

\$100 in memory of Clarence Heller
\$1,635 in memory of Gertie Froelich
\$35 in memory of Richard Hurley
\$35 in memory of Glenn Lorfeld

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

TRANSFER OUT

Kurt, Sandra, Kayla and Joshua Spatt and Carson Fleck to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls, WI

Pam & Allyssa Ourada to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls, WI

RELEASED TO ELCA

Roger and Gail Pantel to First United Lutheran, Sheboygan, WI

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Dear Friends in Christ;

How to tell when one should stop driving.

To determine that, you or a loved one might see signs that will lead to assessment.

- History of falls over the past year or two.
- Being in a motor vehicle accident or having traffic violations in recent years.
- Experiencing near misses or other driving scares, getting lost, or violating traffic rules such as going through stop signs.
- Having difficulty with visual tasks such as reading labels, cognitive tasks such as problems with language or memory, or with physical tasks such as walking or getting into or out of a chair.
- Taking meds that can cause drowsiness or impairment.
- Having medical conditions such as heart problems, diabetes, dizziness and balance problems, history of seizures.

If you think you need an assessment of your driving skills, you might investigate an on-the-road driving evaluation. It is one of the best ways to assess your ability to drive safely. Your doctor can perform numerous tests that are available to health providers to evaluate driving fitness.

You may also limit when and where you drive. Stay on familiar roads, avoid nighttime driving, drive less, and avoid left turns at intersections by modifying your routes.

Not being able to drive is one of the most difficult things in relation to our independence. However, for you own safety, and that of others, it is almost an inevitability as we age.

(Info from Mayo Clinic Health Letter, April 2016)

Prayerfully submitted, Deb

BP Sunday May 1. (I might be late into the office on Thursday, May 26th, due to the Parish Nurse Conference.)

A thought from the Elders

As the Month of May is now upon us, and the next young members of the congregation take their vow of faith. Let's all remember the significance of the vows of communion that we have confessed. Please take a moment to read an article from late Dr. A.L Berry former President of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod writes "The Sacrament of the Altar".

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 - Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink [this] cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

What About . . . The Sacrament of the Altar

On the journey through our earthly life to heaven, our good and gracious God provides a holy and precious meal to sustain and strengthen us on our pilgrimage—the Lord's Supper. What a privilege it is for us to receive this powerfully comforting gift! Thanks and praise forever be to God for the Sacrament of the Altar. Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; Hold me with your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.¹

Why do we need the Lord's Supper? As we examine our lives in the bright light of God's holiness, we realize how much we have sinned and how much we need His forgiveness. Our sinfulness and the troubles, sorrows, difficulties and stresses of our life in this fallen world are all reasons we need the Lord's Supper. As great as is our need, even greater is the life-giving meal He has provided! It is a very personal way God works in our life to save us, to strengthen us and to keep us close to Him. Jesus promised to be with us always, to the very close of the age (Matt.28:20).Through His precious Word and Sacraments, our Lord continues to fulfill His promise. Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Altar with these words: "This is My body, given for you. This cup is My blood of the new testament, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins"(Matt.26:26-29;Mark 14:22-25;Luke 22:14-20;1 Cor. 11:23-25).The Lord's Supper "is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink"(Small Catechism). Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, and come into the daylight's splendor, there

with joy your praises render. Bless the One whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded. He, though heavenly, high, and holy; deigns to dwell with you most lowly.²

What is Jesus giving us in the Lord's Supper? In the Sacrament of the Altar our Lord and Savior is continually distributing to us the body and blood of the sacrifice He made for us, the sacrifice by which He paid for the sins of the entire world. Thus, receiving His body and blood, we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. Flowing from these tremendous treasures of God's mercy are the love, peace and hope that He gives us in His Supper, and the ability and desire to do God's will, living in love and harmony with others. It is often observed how there is a foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper in the Old Testament discussion of how the sacrifices were eaten by those for whom they were offered (1 Cor. 10:18).The Scriptures indicate that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Heb.9:22).The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7; Matt.26:28; Acts 20:28;Rom.5:9;Heb.9:14;Heb.12:24;1 Peter 1:18-19;Rev.1:5;Rev.7:14).And it is this very blood He gives in His Supper. Draw near and take the body of the Lord, and drink the holy blood for you outpoured; Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.³

How is Jesus present in His Supper? We do not try to explain how Jesus is present under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, rather we believe, teach, confess and rejoice that He is present. We Lutherans let the words of Jesus stand without arguing about their possibility, or trying to explain how they are true. As Luther put it so clearly, "We maintain that the bread and the wine in the Supper are the true body and blood of Christ" (SA III.6).Everyone who communes receives into their mouths the body and blood of Jesus Christ, whether they believe it or not, be they worthy or unworthy. Jesus 'Word is sure and certain. The Holy Spirit gives us faith to trust in and believe Jesus' words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. "Faith in Christ's promise is what makes us worthy to receive His Supper. Christ's words of institution retain their validity and efficacious power and thus, by virtue of these words, the body and blood of Christ are truly present, distributed and received. Your body and your blood, once slain and shed for me, are taken at your table, Lord, in blest reality. Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery;

God can accomplish vastly more than what we think he could

Why do we receive the Lord's Supper often? We receive the Lord's Supper often because of how much we need what the Lord gives in His Supper. We dare never make a law about how often an individual "should" or "must" receive the Lord's Supper. But this is a separate question from how frequently Holy Communion is offered in our congregations. Our Lutheran Confessions make it clear that the Lord's Supper is offered every Lord's Day and on other days when there are communicants present (AC XXIV.34 and Ap.XXIV.1). In saying this, our Confessions are merely reflecting the truth of the Sacred Scriptures, which place the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor.11:20, 33), not as an appendage or an occasional extra. It is for this reason that our Synod has repeatedly encouraged our congregations to provide the opportunity for communicants who so desire to receive the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. My Lord, You here have led me within Your holiest place. And here Yourself have fed me with treasures of Your grace; for You have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die.⁵

What should we do if we do not feel a need to receive the Lord's Supper? Because of our sinful human nature, we are tempted at times to think, "I don't need to take Communion. I just don't feel like it." But when we feel this way, we need to realize that in the Lord's Supper, the holy God of God, and Light of Light, very God of very God, is coming among us, under the bread and wine, to be with us, to join Himself to us, to forgive, renew and strengthen us. In preparing to receive the Lord's Supper, it is good for us to review, "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on page 306 of our hymnal, Lutheran Worship. There Luther talks about those times when we just may not "feel" like receiving the Lord's Supper. Luther writes, "To such a person no better advice can be given than that, in the first place, he put his hand into his shirt and feel whether he still has flesh and blood, and that he by all means believe what the Scriptures say about it in Gal.5 and Rom.7. "Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world, and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. "Thirdly, he will certainly have the devil also about him, who with his lying and murdering, day and night, will let him have no peace

within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Eph.6; 2 Tim.2." O Jesus, blessed Lord, my praise, my heartfelt thanks to You I raise. You have so lovingly bestowed on me Your body and Your blood. Break forth, my soul, in joy and say; what wealth has come me today, what health of body, mind, and soul! Christ dwells within me, makes me whole.⁶

Conclusion Here is how one Lutheran theologian beautifully describes the precious treasure of the Lord's Supper: "The Israelites were fed with manna in the wilderness as with bread from heaven (Ex.16:15). In this Holy Supper we have the true manna which came down from heaven to give life to the world. Here is that bread of heaven, that angel's food, of which if any man eat he shall never be hungry (John 6:35, 51). "The children of Israel had the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat, where they could hear the Lord speaking with them face to face (Ex.25:21,22). Here we have the true ark of the covenant, the most holy body of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col.2:3). Here we have the true mercy seat in the precious blood of Christ (Rom.3:25), through which God has made us accepted in the Beloved (Eph.1:6). "Nor does Christ simply speak the word of comfort to our souls, He also takes up His abode in us. He feeds our souls not with heavenly manna, but, what is far better, with His own blessed self. Here is the true gate of heaven for our souls, and the ladder reaching from earth to heaven on which the angels of God ascend and descend (Gen.28:12). "Christ holds us dear because He has bought us at so dear a price. He holds us dear because He feeds our souls with so dear and precious a food. He holds us dear because we are members of His body, of His flesh (Eph.5:30). "The holy flesh of God, which the angelic hosts adore in the unity of the divine nature, before which archangels bow in lowly reverence, and before which the principalities and powers of heaven tremble and stand in awe, has become the nourishment for our souls. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad (Ps.96:11), but still more let the believing soul exult and sing for joy, to whom God gives such an unspeakable gift!"⁷ O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you, in thanksgiving bow before you. Here with your body and your blood you nourish our weak souls that they may flourish. O Lord, have mercy! ⁸

1). Hymn 220, LW. 2). Hymn 239, LW. 3). Hymn 240, LW. 4). Hymn 249, LW. 5). Hymn 244, LW. 6). Hymn 245, LW. 7). John Gerhard, Sacred Meditations, pg.103ff. 8). Hymn 238, LW.

~ May 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:30-10:30 Blood Pressure Check 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship	2 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Board Meetings	3 1:00pm Mary Martha 6:00pm Membership Classes	4 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	5 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	6	7
8 Mother's Day 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	9 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Council	10 6:00pm Membership Classes	11 9:00am Quilters 3:30pm CEP 4:45pm Confirmation Rehearsal 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	12 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	13	14
15 Confirmation 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	16 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	17 6:00pm Membership Classes	18	19 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	20	21
22 8:00am Divine Worship 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	23 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse	24 6:00pm Membership Classes	25	26 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	27	28
29 8:00am Divine Worship 9:30am Divine Worship	30 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	31 6:00pm Membership Classes	Notes: Summer worship hours begin on Sunday, May 29. High School graduates will be honored June 5th at the 9:30am service.			