



Messiah's Messenger

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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2026 22nd Avenue — Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

Church: (262)551-8182

Parsonage: (262)551-9081

Christ Lutheran Academy: (262) 697-1720

Fax: (262)597-5168

Little Lambs Learning Center: (262)551-8167

Email: Peperkorn@higherthings.org

www.messiahkenosha.org

October 2005

Spiritual Growth

What does spiritual growth really mean? I have heard that phrase kind of tossed around occasionally. It's a good question, and an important one for our congregation. Let's look for a moment at our congregation and see if we can understand biblical spiritual growth.

Our congregation's Constitution has the following as the purpose of our Church:

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation shall be to seek and promote the glory of God and the salvation of all mankind. To that end it shall strive to win souls for Christ; to build its members up in their knowledge and understanding of the Gospel through the use of the means of grace; to foster Christian fellowship and compassion among its members; and to equip them for their ministry in the Church and in the world. The activities of this congregation, as well as those of its organizations, shall therefore aim at the achievement of this purpose.

There's a lot to comment on in that little paragraph, but I want to highlight one point. The way that the glory of God and salvation of all mankind is achieved is by *building up our members in their knowledge and understanding of the Gospel through the use of the means of grace.*

Another way of putting that would be like this: Spiritual growth comes by the

Word of God. That is how the church grows. That is how Christians grow. Any model or picture of the Church that is not centered around the Word of God is ultimately doomed to failure. No program, no amount of information, no amount of encouraging or berating, none of these things will actually cause growth or do anything of real benefit apart from the Word of God.

This past month in *The Congregation at Prayer* we have been praying and studying the 10 Commandments. Luther has some very fine comments on this question of spiritual growth and faith in the *Large Catechism*. Here is a little excerpt:

Nothing is so effectual against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts as to occupy oneself with the Word of God, talk about it, and meditate on it. Psalm 1 calls those blessed who "meditate on God's law day and night." You will never offer up any incense or other savor more potent against the devil than to occupy yourself with God's commandments and words and to speak, sing, and meditate on them. This, indeed, is the true holy water, the sign which routs the devil and puts him to flight.

For this reason alone you should eagerly read, recite, ponder, and practice the Catechism, even if the only blessing and benefit you obtain from it is to rout the devil and evil thoughts. For he cannot bear to hear God's Word. God's Word is not like some empty tale, but as St. Paul says in Romans 1:16 it is

the power of God, indeed, the power of God which burns the devil and gives us immeasurable strength, comfort, and help.

Time and paper would fail me if I were to recount all the blessings that flow from God's Word. The devil is called the master of a thousand arts. What, then, shall we call God's Word, which routs and destroys this master of a thousand arts with all his wiles and might? It must indeed, be master of more than a hundred thousand arts.

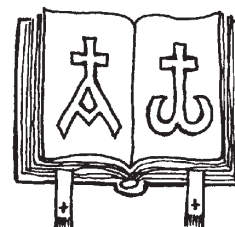
Shall we frivolously despise this might, blessing, power, and fruit?

This is why *The Congregation at Prayer* is such an important step for our congregation. Spiritual growth comes by the Word of God alone. The time and energy we as a congregation spend in the Word of God is time invested in eternity, your eternity with Christ.

Have you made time for hearing the Word of God, for prayer, and for meditation in your life? Try *The Congregation at Prayer* with your family. It will be worth the effort, and will bear fruit for a lifetime.

In Christ,

Pr. Todd Peperkorn

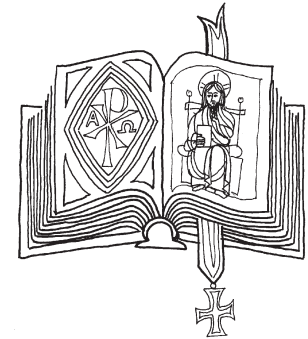


The Congregation at Prayer

By Pastor Todd Peperkorn

If you have not received your copy of *The Congregation at Prayer* yet, please make a point of picking some up on the back table at church. This booklet is produced seasonally, and includes readings, prayers, catechism lessons and more for the Christian family. It is what our confirmation instruction is based on, as well as our Academy teaching and worship schedule. Please make a point of starting to use it, and if you like, as Pastor if he'll come over to the house and give you a demonstration to you and your family on how to use it!

The key to helping *The Congregation at Prayer* to work for you and your family is flexibility. You will Psalms, readings, bible verses, catechism selections, all kinds of things. Obviously it is best if you try to use it as it is intended. But what is really important is to remember that this is for you and your family, to help you stay connected to Christ and His Holy Promises for you. That may mean in your life you have the time and the energy to go through the whole thing every day (takes about 7 minutes). Or, you may want to only use a portion of it. But give it a try. We will be talking about it in Bible class, and will probably use it as our closing with the Sunday School as well.



God bless you as you hear His Word and pray in His Holy Name.

Our Servants at Messiah

The following is a list of those serving on various boards and committees of Messiah Lutheran Church. If you have an area where you would like to serve, please contact Keith Kentala or Pastor Peperkorn.

President	Keith Kentala	Altar Guild	Lois Metallo (President)
Vice-President	Mike Snodgrass	Board of Evangelism	Brent Jiter (Chairman)
Secretary	Marjorie Harmon		Todd Walther
Treasurer	Ted Scholz		Betty Boness
Financial Secretary	Vacant		Mary Jo Jiter
			Bill Dissen
			Tamara Weathersby
Elders	Ron Hulke		Rebecca Noble
	Chuck Brothers		
	Bob Hagerman	Social Welfare	Kathy Capriotti (Chairman)
	Todd Walther		Amy Walther
	Phil Jacobs		
	Keith Kentala	Board of Stewardship	Vacant
	Don Moe		
	George Rabey	Board of Youth	Vacant
		Activities Committee	Vacant
Board of Trustees	Marjorie Harmon		
	Chuck Brothers	Little Lambs	Charles Brothers (Chairman)
	George Metallo		Marjorie Harman
	Pete Campagna		Toni Marshman
	Sam Braya		
Board of Education	Kathryn Peperkorn	Christ	Tyler Nehls
	(S.S. Superintendent)	Lutheran	Todd Walther (Vice-President)
	Marilyn Dissen	Academy	David Messersmith (Treasurer)

Messiah News

BAPTISMS on the way

By the time you read this, **Grant Arthur Noble** (son of Ashley & Becky Noble) will be in the kingdom of God by Holy Baptism. Grant is also the grandson of long-time members Art and Shirley Froemming. Welcome to the family, Grant!

On October 9th **Kendal Isabel Schumm** will be brought into the Kingdom of God by Holy Baptism as well. Kendal is the daughter of Luke & Maggie Schumm. Luke and Maggie joined our church this past June. Welcome to the family, Kendal!

Wedding bells

Congratulations to **Heidi Suxstorf and Tom Tobalsky**, who are getting married on Saturday, October 8th at 2:00 p.m. here at church. God be with you!

Keep in your prayers

- Gloria Pipkorn, who had gall bladder surgery
- Pam DelFrate, who is struggling with back pain related to surgery.
- Shut-Ins: Ida Sadowski, Elsie Rintamaki, Jeanette Davis, Hilma Maddern, Erma Petrich, and Charlies Sciortino.
- Our CLA Students: Naomi Jiter, Anna Walther, Katy Billings, Hannah Messersmith, Meg Walther, Rick Zuehls
- Our confirmation students: T.J. Kulbacki, Andrew Billings, Garret Koch, Shelby Mogensen, Kaitlin Kentala, Lindsey Brothers
- Our adult confirmation students: Kelly & Shane Pederson and Jason Stephans
- Expectant mothers: Kathryn Peperkorn, Tamara Weathersby and Kellie Ratzburg
- For all those suffering from cancer, including Sandra Russo, Robert Hoeke (Virginia Campagna's brother), and Eleanor (Kathy Rabey's mother).

Birthdays in October

Brothers, Charles	10/18	Capriotti, Louis	10/09
Cleereman Jr., Richard	10/31	Curry, Justine	10/01
Dickey, Kathryn	10/31	Geniesse, Jamie	10/22
Geniesse, Jennifer	10/17	Green, Carol	10/25
Haines, Jeff	10/09	Harmon, Marjorie	10/02
Kamin, Debra	10/15	Kayon, Joseph	10/01
Koch, Vernon	10/04	Maddern, Hilma	10/07
Marshman, Kurt	10/06	Metallo, Lois	10/31
Mogensen, Shelby	10/16	Schumm, Luke	10/22
Snodgrass, Michael	10/15		

Anniversaries in October

Sam & Louise Braya	10/13/1973	John & Pamela DelFrate	10/26/1996
Keith & Diane Kentala	10/16/1993	Randall & Paula Koch	10/19/1991
Gerald & Kris Kochman	10/10/1998	Don & Cheryl Moe	10/14/1995
Rebecca & Ashley Noble	10/21/2000	John & Cheryl Piel	10/07/1989
Jeff and Stephanie Zuehls	10/12/1996		

Sunday School Lessons for September

October 2, 2005

Today in Sunday school our students learn the account of God healing a military leader from a foreign country, based on 2 Kings 5:1–19. A topic to discuss might focus on God’s care and healing for His children. Parents might ask, What was the sin in this story? How did God deal with that sin? How does Jesus provide eternal healing for us?

October 9, 2005

Sunday school students learn the story of young King Joash, who at age seven began his reign over Judah in Jerusalem (2 Kings 11:1–12:21). A topic to talk about could focus on how God works through world leaders to care for this world. Review questions might be, How did God make sure that the rule under Joash went well? How has God made sure that we can live in His kingdom?

October 16, 2005

Today in Sunday school our students explore the exciting ministry of Jonah, a missionary who had some interesting adventures (see the Book of Jonah). A talk topic might discuss things that God did to show mercy to Jonah and the Ninevites. Review questions might be, How did God save Jonah and the city? How did God save us?

October 23, 2002

Today our younger Sunday school students learn how God provided food and housing for the prophet Elisha through the generosity of a kind believer (2 Kings 4:8–17). Older students learn about God’s call for Isaiah to speak the Word of God to people (Isaiah 6:1–8; 9:1–6). One conversation suggestion is for your family to discuss ways you could together reach out to help others. Some questions might include, Who really was taking care of Elisha? How can we tell others that God’s best care comes through Jesus?

October 30, 2005

Today our Sunday school students learn about King Hezekiah and God’s miraculous answers to Hezekiah’s prayers (2 Kings 18–20). A family talk topic might discuss times when prayers have been answered. Review questions on the lesson might be, What sign did God give that He would answer Hezekiah’s prayer? What signs do we have that Jesus’ forgiveness is certain?



OPEN HOUSE

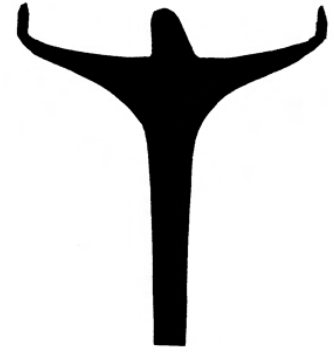
*For Little Lambs
Learning Center*

*Thursday
October 6th
6-8 PM*

*Call 551-8167 for more
information
Ask for Lisa!*

Messiah Moves Forward with Long Range Planning

After a number of years of discussion, Messiah Lutheran Church is now working toward developing a long-range plan for our congregation. Keith Kentala, Chuck Brothers, Debbie Davidson, Don Moe, Brent Jiter (chair) and Pastor met on Tuesday, September 27 in order to develop goals and figure out where to go. Essentially, the plan at this point is to develop long-range strategic goals for the church (like remodeling, mission starts, Academy & Little Lambs growth and the like), and then to think through how these goals may best be achieved by our church. This process is expected to take about six months, where at the end there will be a master plan for our church that will include facilities, staff, and will serve to unify our congregation around Word and Sacrament. Look for more info to come in the months ahead. We may be talking to you soon!



KALEA Long Range Planning

Christ Lutheran Academy is also set to inform our congregations about its long-range needs and projected growth. KALEA (Kenosha Area Lutheran Education Association) chair Christa Hegland says that the intention is to give a long-range projection plan to our congregations by around Christmas time, and then to have an “all congregations” meeting in mid-January to discuss options for growth.

Part of what is driving this long-range plan is the reality that CLA will be out of room at Lamb of God Lutheran Church within three years, and possibly as soon as Fall 2007. This raises questions about splitting classes at our two churches, renting a third facility, or working on a building program at one of our congregations.



October 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Trinity 19 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 6:00 PM Didache (Adult Inst.)	3 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 1:00 PM LLLC Faculty Catechesis 7:00 PM Spiritual Life	4 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 7:00 PM Messiah Long-Range Planning	5 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:30 AM Little Lambs Chapel 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	6 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 6-8 PM LLLC Open House	7 NO ACADEMY (Mid- quarter break) 6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	8 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 2:00 PM Tobalsky- Suxstorf Wedding
9 Trinity 20 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 4:00 PM Lutheran Catechesis 6:00 PM Didache (Adult Inst.)	10 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 1:00 PM LLLC Faculty Catechesis 7:00 PM Parish Planning	11 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 10:00 AM LLLC Board	12 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:30 AM Little Lambs Chapel 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	13 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	14 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	15
16 Trinity 21 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 4:00 PM Lutheran Catechesis 6:00 PM Didache (Adult Inst.)	17 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 1:00 PM LLLC Faculty Catechesis	18 St. Luke the Evangelist 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	19 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:30 AM Little Lambs Chapel 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	20 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	21 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	22 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Altar Guild
23 Trinity 22	24 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	25 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	26 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 5:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	27 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 7:00 PM KALEA at Lamb of God	28 St. Simon and St. Jude 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	29
30 Reformation Sunday	31 8:20 AM CLA Chapel					

November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	2 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 5:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	3 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	4 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	5 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
6 All Saints Sunday 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class	7 8:20 AM CLA Chapel PASTOR OUT OF TOWN UNTIL TUESDAY EVE	8 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	9 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 5:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	10 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	11 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	12
13 2 nd Last Sunday of the Church Year 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 4:00 PM Lutheran Catechesis 6:00 PM <i>Didache (Adult Inst.)</i>	14 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 7:00 PM Parish Planning	15 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	16 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 5:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir	17 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 7:00 PM KALEA (at Messiah)	18 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	19 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
20 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 4:00 PM Lutheran Catechesis 6:00 PM <i>Didache (Adult Inst.)</i>	21 8:20 AM CLA Chapel 7:00 PM Spiritual Life	22 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	23 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 5:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26
27 Ad te Levavi (Advent 1) 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class 4:00 PM Lutheran Catechesis 6:00 PM <i>Didache (Adult Inst.)</i>	28 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	29 8:20 AM CLA Chapel	30 8:20 AM Divine Service @CLA 9:00 AM Women's Bible Class 3:15 PM Little Lambs Chapel 5:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Choir			

Upcoming Events at Messiah

**Sunday, October 30 at 9:00 AM
Reformation Service**

**Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 AM
All Saints Service**

**Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 PM
Thanksgiving Eve Service**



Messiah Lutheran Church

CHRIST LUTHERAN ACADEMY

LITTLE LAMBS LEARNING CENTER

2026 22nd Avenue – Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

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