



Messiah's Messenger

Celebrating 40 Years of Preaching the Gospel to Kenosha

June 2001

FRONT AND CENTER

Baptism in the Life of the Christian Congregation

During this past Eastertide, we moved the baptismal font to the front/center of the aisle, right in front of the communion rails. We talked about this with both the Elders and the Altar Guild, and are now considering whether to make this a permanent move.

This has caused me to reflect on the place of Holy Baptism in the Christian congregation. For Lutherans, our practice flows from our theology. In other words, what we believe determines how we do things in church. The readings, vestments, even the architecture of the space itself flows from our believe that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation** (2 Cor. 5:19).

So what does this have to do with God's gift of Holy Baptism, and how does this relate to moving the font front and center?

The connection is this. It is very easy and even tempting for us to look at Baptism as a one-time event, an eternal rabbit's foot that wards away evil spirits. Now obviously Baptism is a one time event, but it is a one-time event with eternal implications. Consider the following Scripture passage:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen (Matt. 28:19-20).

There are several key words in these verses. First of all is the word *disciples*. A *disciple* is a follower, and it is the same root from which we get the word *discipline*. So what is the *discipline* of the Christian faith, what pattern do we follow? We follow the pattern of sound words. We follow Christ's words of Law and Gospel to me.

So how do I become a disciple? I come a disciple by being baptized, and by learning (hearing) all the things that

He has said. This isn't simply Law. It is talking about how we learn the faith. We learn the faith by hearing Jesus' words.

So for the Christian Church, there is an incredibly close link between Baptism and teaching. This is why teaching the faith is so important to Christian parents. My responsibility as a Christian parent is to teach the faith to my child. Our responsibility as the Christian Church is to teach that one same faith to all of our spiritual children.

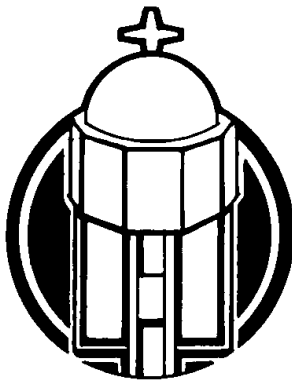
Second, remember the our Lord Jesus Christ links *Baptism and teaching the faith* (preaching) to His eternal presence. **Lo I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.** This is God's work. Baptism is what God is doing for us. He gives us Jesus Christ and His eternal forgiving presence.

So how does this understanding of Baptism impact our practice as a Christian congregation? It does so in several ways:

1. Anything we can do to continue to extol God's gift of eternal life given in Baptism is a good thing. Moving the font front and center is one way. Making the sign of the cross is another. Teaching our children about Baptism and what God does through it is still another.
2. We link Baptism and teaching. This is why we catechize (teach the faith) to adults who wish to be baptized and become members. This is also why we take Christian education so seriously.

So the next time you have to move around the font to get to the communion rail, remember this: God is always putting things in front of us to help us remember who He is and what He has done for us. Maybe having the font front and center is a good way for us to remember that it is God who draws us to Himself through His great gift of Holy Baptism.

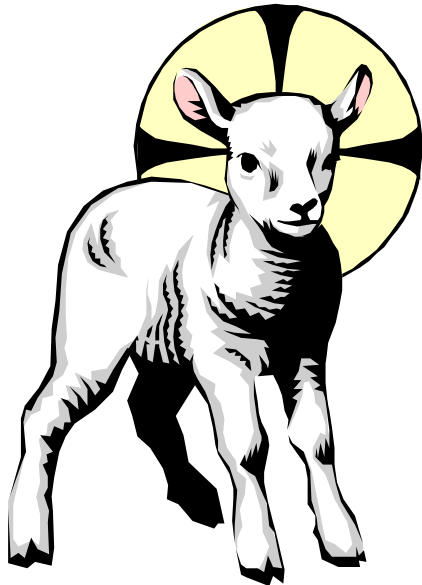
—Pastor Todd Peperkorn





AVAILABLE

Power King lawn tractor. Needs repairs.
Talk to George Metallo about details.



OPPORTUNITY

VBS CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED TO WORK WITH LAMB OF GOD

They have the program “Follow the Lamb” and will provide some teachers. Need someone to work with them on when VBS would be held at Messiah. Time and dates need to be decided. May not need to be present during VBS. If willing to accept this opportunity contact Pastor or Sue Mielke.

Ask the Pastor

Whatever happened to that youth magazine?



As some of you may remember, I have been involved with a group of pastors and others interested in producing good materials for the youth of our church. This is the group that put on the *Dying to Live Youth Conference* this past summer.

This same group is producing a magazine entitled, *Higher Things: Dare to Be Lutheran*. God willing, the first edition of *Higher Things* will go in the mail sometime this month.

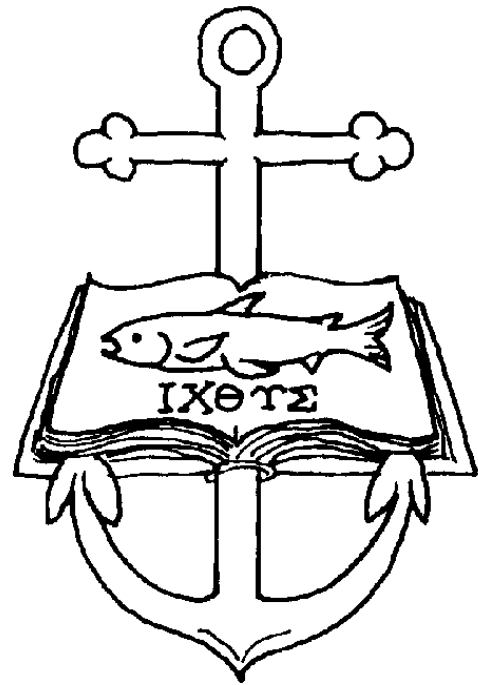
This is an exciting opportunity for our church and our congregation. There are so many forces that seem to pull our young people away from Christ and the Gospel. Anything we can do to help keep them grounded in the truth of God’s Word is worth every bit of effort.

There will be copies available at Church for anyone who is interested in subscribing.

—Pastor Peperkorn

SUMMER MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

Beginning on Wednesday, May 30th, we will have our summer midweek Divine Service at 6:30 PM. This service will last about half an hour, and will immediately be followed by Bible Class. This shorted Divine Service will continue until the week before Labor Day. We are hoping that those who are out of town during the summer will continue to receive Christ's Body and Blood and hear His Word .



Bless we the Lord!
—Pastor Peperkom

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 Ted Scholz, Pastor Peperkorn, or Alberta Helmke (stewardship).

President	Ted Scholz	Karol Voigt
Vice-President	Mike Snodgrass	Brent & Mary Jo Jiter
Secretary	Marjorie Harmon	
Treasurer	Dennis Helmke	Social Welfare
Financial Secretary	Gloria Pipkorn	Charlene Sweeney
Elders	Bob Hagerman (Chairman)	Board of Stewardship
	Chuck Brothers	Alberta Helmke (Chairman)
	Ron Hulke	Evone Hagerman
	Rick Holtz	Gloria Pipkorn
	Phil Jacobs	Board of Youth
	Bill Ratzburg	Phil Jacobs (Chairman)
		Heidi Curry
		Christopher Holtz
Board of Trustees	John Hrupka (Chairman)	Board of Activities
	Marjorie Harmon	Sarah Billings (Chairman)
	Chuck Brothers	Kathryn Peperkorn
	George Metallo	
	Pete Campagna	Little Lambs
Board of Education	Sue Mielke (Chairman)	Tyler Nehls (Chairman)
	Alberta Helmke (Adult Ed.)	Marjorie Harman
	Tyler Nehls (S.S. Superintendent)	Debbie Kamin
	Marilyn Dissen	Sandy Vescova
	Marjorie Harmon	Toni Marshmann
Board of Evangelism	Bill Dissen (Chairman)	Lutheran School
	John Hrupka	Planning Comm.
	Betty Boness	Debbie Davidson (Chairman)
		Todd Giese
		David Messersmith
		Tyler Nehls

PARISH PLANNING NOTES

PRESIDENT

No report

VICE-PRESIDENT

No Report

TREASURER

EDUCATION

Messiah Sunday School needs a Superintendent for next year. Please prayerfully consider accepting this responsibility. Tyler Nehls or Sue Mielke can give you more details. We also will need teachers for next year.

EVANGELISM

ACTIVITIES

40th Anniversary committee is forming. Please contact Sarah Billings if you would like to help plan this celebration.

TRUSTEES

We are working on the window panes and getting the roof repaired at the church and parsonage.

YOUTH

No report

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

STEWARDSHIP

Alberta reported that we have started the "Window

Pane Fund" campaign to replace the windows in the parsonage.

SOCIAL WELFARE

No report

LITTLE LAMBS

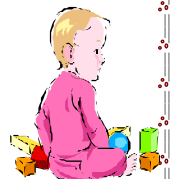


YOU
ALONE
WERE
WORTHY
TO
BEAR THE
PRICE OF
THE WORLD'S RANSOM



Pray & Play

Pray & Play will be meeting every Monday morning from 9:00-10:00 am here at Messiah (in the fellowship hall). Pray & Play is a group for parents and their children ages 0– 5 (school age). We will begin the play time with a devotion, and then we will enjoy a snack and fellowship with other parents while our little ones play and interact with each other.



A Six-Month Feasibility Proposal

The Lutheran School Planning Committee May—October 2001

On May 21, 2001, the Lutheran School Planning Committee (LSPC) met and decided upon a process for introducing the Lutheran day school to our respective congregations. Several decisions were made:

- We committed to using as our basic model the booklet, *The Lutheran Day School: Its Theological Foundation and Practice*, by the Rev. Peter Bender. Pastor Bender spoke to our congregations on May 17th.
- We committed to moving forward with the exploration into the details phase, with the goal of presenting the final findings to our congregations by early September.
- We committed to studying God's Word and the specifics of the plan for two months after which time we will vote on whether to start a joint school.

To that end, the following will be happening in our congregations during the next five months:

May

- Appoint five sub-committees to explore the specifics of starting and operating a joint school.

June

- A bible study on the theological foundation of the Lutheran day school will be offered during the Wednesday night bible class (May 30-July 11). This study will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church from 7-8:15 p.m.
- The five sub-committees will meet during June and July with a report of their findings due to the steering committee in early August.

August

- The LSPC will compile the findings of the sub-committees and present a report on their findings to both congregations by the first week in September.

September

- The LSPC will present the booklet to both congregations on **Sunday, September 9th**.
- In September and October, both congregations will do a Bible study of the theological foundations of the Lu-

theran day school from the booklet in Sunday morning Bible class. This will last 6-7 weeks.

- In September and October, **five open forums** will be held to discuss the specifics of the five sub-committees.

October

- Bible classes continue
- Open forums continue
- Special voters' meetings will be held at both congregations to vote on whether to form a school association and start a Lutheran elementary school. This voters' meetings are tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, October 28th**.

At that time, we will determine what is best for our respective congregations.

The Sub-Committees

Five Sub-Committees are being formed at this time. Prospective sub-committee members have been identified. However, *if you wish to serve on one of these committees, please let us know ASAP*. The five sub-committees and their duties are:

1. Association

- Determine the legal and practical means of establishing a joint school association.
- Look at other models of how associations have been started
- Contact an attorney for legal counsel
- Examine the churches' respective constitutions
- Make a proposal on how best to set up the association

2. Finance

- Determine the overall costs of starting a school
- Develop preliminary guidelines for teacher and headmaster salaries
- Determine the best means for assessing each congregation's financial obligation (number of students, number of members, combination, etc.)
- Develop guidelines for tuition

- Prepare a preliminary budget for the first two years of the school

3. Development

- Work with the finance committee to determine the percentage of tuition, congregational assessment and third-source funding for each child
- Explore third-source funding for the school
- Develop percentage guidelines of how much will come from parents, from the congregation, and from third source funding
- Make a proposal on what kind of capital should be available before the school starts

4. Academic

- Explore the various models of curricula for Lutheran elementary schools
- Determine what qualifications would be necessary for a teacher and/or headmaster
- Develop a 2-5 year plan for grades offered and what grades to begin initially.
- Make a preliminary proposal for a curriculum, first teacher/headmaster and initial grades for a Lutheran school

5. Building/Facilities

- Evaluate the facilities at each congregation, and what would be available for a school
- Determine the government regulations for space for an elementary school
- Learn what kind of government approval we would need for the space
- Make a proposal on both *where* the school should start and *how many students* we could serve at our present facilities

Important Considerations

Several important things to keep in mind during this process:

- 1) It is not *necessary* for us to have a Lutheran elementary school in order to be church. The Gospel may be proclaimed in other ways.
- 2) We need to be on the same page as to both *why* and *how* to start a Lutheran elementary school. To that end, it is very important that as many people as possible attend the Bible studies, participate in the sub-committees, and involve themselves in the open forums.
- 3) Our goal is to have 30 people involved at the sub-committee level (app. 15 from each parish).

- 4) It is very important that we build consensus in our two congregations. This is a major undertaking. If you have questions or concerns, *please communicate them*.
- 5) This will happen only if we as congregations believe this is what is best for our church and for our children, and if we commit to making it happen.

Questions & Answers

What would the name of the school be?

Nothing has been decided. It would probably have the words *Lutheran* and *Academy* in it, but beyond that, nothing has been determined.

How can I help?

You can help by A) Praying; B) Giving your support; C) Coming to the Wednesday & Sunday Bible classes; D) Serving on a sub-committee; E) Telling others about the importance of Lutheran education.

What if I don't have children?

Good question. If we start a school, it is the work of both congregations, even if a specific responsibility falls on the parents of school children. Nevertheless, everyone has a part in this work. The children are the future of the church, and that is *everybody's business*.

Aren't the public schools good enough?

It is very important to recognize that we wouldn't start a Lutheran elementary school because there is something *wrong* with the public schools. It is more a question of public schools being unable to teach our children the most important thing of all, namely, Christ and the Gospel. That is why we would establish a Lutheran elementary school.

Lutheran School Planning Committee Members

Lamb of God

Amy Vallis
Bill Kroll
Lynn Fredericksen
Christa Hegland
Rev. John Berg

Messiah

Debbie Davidson
Todd Giese
David Messersmith
Tyler Nehls
Rev. Todd Peperkorn



INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Following our sermon series on Confession and Absolution in Lent, I will now be holding regular hours to hear confession and give God's forgiveness. This month I will be available on **Wednesday, June 13th at 6:00 p.m.**, before the Divine Service. I am also available at any time upon request

—*Pastor Peperkorn*



Messiah Lutheran Church
2026 22nd Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53140

MESSIAH WEB PAGE

Please take a look at Messiah Lutheran Church's new web page, located at:

<http://messiah-lcms.gatheringspot.com/>

The Pastor's e-mail address is:
TPeperkorn@worldnet.att.net

To sign up for MessiahNews, an e-mail information list, go to:

<http://www.yahogroups.com/community/MessiahNews>

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