

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

June 2024

Issue 6

Don't Get Out of the Habit

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Memorial Day marks the “unofficial” start of summer. For many of us, you may have summer plans. It could be a vacation that you have been dreaming of that you are finally going to make happen. Or you could be looking forward to a “staycation.” Whatever your summer plans may be, be sure to not get out of the habit of what is most important: your sabbath rest in the Divine Service.

We all need rest from labor. This is why God in the Old Testament set apart the seventh day and appointed it for rest. He did this so that the Jews would stop toilsome work and rest, so that man and animals might recover and not be weakened by endless labor.

However, as we all know, the Jewish people greatly abused the Sabbath by wrongfully thinking that if by doing no manual labor whatsoever, they were fulfilling the Third Commandment. Yes, the Sabbath is the day to rest and refreshment, but it isn't a day we take off from loving God and serving our neighbor. We can never take a day off from our daily vocations.

Today, sadly, the culture promotes Sunday as “Funday,” implying that the Divine Service is not included in this “fun.” “Sunday Funday” is the day to do anything except for coming to church to receive God's gifts of forgiveness in Word and Sacrament. “Sunday Funday” is very much similar to how the Old Testament Jewish people abused the Sabbath. Both, when the Divine Service is omitted, become false idol worship. It's false idol worship because you are preferring to not gladly hear God's Word, hold it sacred and learn it.

In the year of our Lord 2024, we have many distractions which attempt to keep us away from the Divine Service: from youth sports to professional sports, from fishing to hunting, from biking to hiking, from running to swimming. We have too many distractions, including apathy, which falsely leads us to think that we know enough and need no more instruction. As Luther says in his Large Catechism: *“Apathy is a malignant, dangerous plague with which the devil bewitches and deceives the hearts of many so that he may surprise us and secretly take God's Word from us”* (See: Matthew 13:19).

Now, there are times when we must miss church, but if that becomes a habit, our sinful nature, which is always against God and His Word, will lead you to think that church attendance is not necessary. This is what Satan desires for all of us. Satan wants us to not be in God's house so that we would join him. By not having regular attendance in the Divine Service, the fallen world will take over catechesis and lead you to follow the fallen world rather than Jesus. As I preached on Easter 5 “Staying Connected to the Vine” (John 15:1-8): *“If we neglect our fertilization through Word and Sacrament, we become much like our lawns and gardens that without fertilization, they dry up, go limp, lose color, and eventually wither and die. So, those who continue to live apart from the Vine, who do not gladly hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest His Word and receive His Sacraments, are like withered branches that are of no use other than to be picked up and thrown into the fire.”*

We all need rest, but not only physical rest. Most importantly, we need rest from the impossible task of seeking security, righteousness, and salvation through our efforts, work, and accomplishments. The triune God invites us to rest in Him, reflect on His Word, and receive His forgiveness in order to strengthen our faith in Him. In the Divine Service, God is present as His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are administered. Through these Means of Grace, He freely gives His gifts and blessings, chiefly the forgiveness of sins. In the Divine Service, Jesus speaks through the mouth of His undershepherd, whom He has called to care for our souls. The Word of God is not simply information, but the Word actually delivers what it says. Here at Prince of Peace, we have great opportunities to rest in Jesus! If you can't make it Sunday at 9 a.m., be sure to make your Sabbath rest on Monday at 7 p.m.!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Adelsen

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Prince of Peace Tidings

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 1 Corinthians

In many ways, the Church of Corinth is much like the Western Christian Church today. Corinth was a major Greek seaport complete with traffic, travelers, sailors, and merchants. Corinth was cosmopolitan, pagan, idolatrous and immoral. At its height, Corinth was the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire. Among its inhabitants were Roman colonists, ex-slaves, former soldiers, admirers of Greek wisdom and culture, and a scattering of Jews. It was a very prosperous and wealthy city, but it was also a very irreligious city. Naturally, when the Christian faith collided with the paganism in Corinth, the young congregation founded by St. Paul, was plagued with many problems and questions. These problems included congregational factions, lawsuits, promiscuity, marriage and divorce, desertion, the place of women in the church, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the resurrection of the body. The Church in Corinth turned to St. Paul for guidance and counsel.

The Church in Corinth was not a perfect congregation, but through the Holy Spirit, St. Paul told this imperfect congregation about God's grace. The experiences of the Church in Corinth are increasingly those of present-day Christians, not only in traditional heathen countries, but also in so-called Christian lands slipping deeper into pagan ways. The impact of the fallen world's morality on the Church is all so evident today, with political factions growing, marriages failing, sexual morality sinking, and church disorders increasing. Today's Christian faces many of the moral dilemmas reflected in this epistle.

At the same time, 1 Corinthians is a letter of hope for our times. In trying to hold the Corinthians to the Word of God, St. Paul found it necessary to state both their human faults and their proper goals. In the epistle, St. Paul shows them the way of error and the way of truth. This epistle is practical as it presents everyday problems confronting Christians in the world as the Holy Spirit supplies the answers to our daily problems.



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5th Sunday Potluck & Trivia

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 30! Following the Sunday Divine Service, Prince of Peace will be having a great time of food, fellowship, and trivia! What sort of trivia? Have you ever participated in a trivia night at a local restaurant or bar? It will be much like that, except with a focus on the Church! The questions will be based on our Bible studies, Church year, basic Bible trivia and current events. In the style of trivia nights, we will have teams (maximum of 5 per team). The overall winner will receive a traveling trophy. Free-will donations would be greatly appreciated and will benefit the POP General Fund!



Men's Bible Study

In years past, Prince of Peace offered a Men's Bible Study. If you are interested in participating in the Men's Bible Study in the future, please express your interest to Pastor Adelsen (email: pastor@wspop.org). Pastor is planning on starting a Men's Bible Study later this summer or fall. Day, time, and topic are still to be determined.



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CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

June, 2024

Summer is finally here! We can enjoy all of our warm weather vacations, picnics, and outdoor activities. Let's not forget, however, our true priority is the worship of our Lord and Savior every Sunday morning. Remember the Sabbath Day and consider the sacrifice Jesus made for us. How can a couple of hours on Sunday compare with that?

Thank you Roger and everyone who participated in the church cleanup day. Many hands make short work of most projects. It is particularly gratifying to see our storage closet contents reduced to a manageable level and reduce the chance of fire code violations!

I'd also point out the efforts of Randy Otto and others to create an outdoor meeting area for congregation use east of the storage barn. It will be a great addition when completed. Could an outdoor worship service be in the offing?

Special thanks to Pastor Adelsen for the Ascension Day and Pentecost divine service celebrations. Each was and is truly inspiring.

Prince of Peace has completed its withdrawal from active participation as a member of the steering committee for the proposed new Lutheran school. No response from the Genesis Team has been received or noted.

Our congregation voter's meeting will be held on June 16, 2024 after worship. Mark your calendars and give voice to any concerns or thoughts you might have.

Church attendance remains a challenge here at Prince of Peace. Our finances also continue to be quite problematic. Please continue to do as you are inspired and keep the needs of our congregation in your prayers.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN AND ASCENDED. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

Prince of Peace Tidings

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Evangelism Committee members have registered to once again participate in the June Dairy **Days Parade on Saturday, June 1st** downtown West Salem, WI. We are currently seeking candy donations for the parade and also volunteers to walk with the parade float. If you are interested in helping with the float or participating in the parade, please let Sharie Brunk know. Any questions may be directed to Sharie, Patty Horstman or Elaine Schmidt.

Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program -

The Evangelism Committee will again be assisting the West Salem School with the **Feed Our Children Summer Lunch** program. This is a project that is requested by the West Salem School District, coordinated by Our Saviors Lutheran Church and supported by the other churches in West Salem. Prince of Peace has committed to making sack lunches on July 16th and 18th. If you are interested in assisting or would like more information, please talk with Sharie Brunk.

LWML News:

We won't be having a June meeting.

On July 6 at 11 a.m. we will be meeting at the Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe for lunch. The shrine is located off of Hwy. 14 at 5250 Justin Road, La Crosse. If you would like to join us, please contact Debbie Dunnum or Sharie Brunk. We can arrange transportation and would love to have you join us.

Mark your calendars for October 5 at 9:30 a.m. We will be hosting our zone Prayer Meeting. The annual Prayer Meeting theme this year is Grace, Mercy, Peace and will be led by Pastor Adelsen and Pastor Erdman from Necedah.

The prayer meeting will be taking a closer look at grace, mercy and peace and there will be prayers led by the pastors and some hymns.

The entire congregation is invited to join us.

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 6.

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Our June birthdays

Joan Abbott	June 1
Carson Luethe	June 1
Wesley Luethe	June 1
Russ Brunk	June 6
Leatta Danielson	June 6
Brian Shockey	June 7
Sylvia Mauss	June 9
Leo Zezulka	June 11
Paul Hoffmann	June 15
Emma Schran	June 17
Les Mull	June 24
Karl Horstman	June 29
Addison Kuehn	June 29
Kim Shockey	June 30

Anniversaries this month:

Peter & Melissa Adelsen	June 1
Kurt and Ona Childs	June 18
Paul and Dena Zezulka	June 21
Bill and Margot Pyatt (60 years)	June 27

Prince of Peace Tidings

June Schedules

Ushers

June 2-Mike & Carolyn Dosland
June 9-Roger & Ginny Emmons
June 16-Barb Hinds & Garry Hensley
June 23-Russ & Sharie Brunk
June 30-Randy & DeAnne Otto

Greeters

June 2-POP Family
June 9-POP Family
June 16-Randy & DeAnne Otto
June 23-Chris Leis & Barb Hinds
June 30-Mike & Carolyn Dosland

Money counters

June 2-Barb Hinds & Ona Childs
June 9-Elaine Schmidt & Debbie Dunnum
June 16-Barb Alsobrooks & Chris Leis
June 23-Lori Peters & Barb Hinds
June 30-Ona Childs & Debbie Dunnum

Song Leaders

June 2-Brooklynn Scholze
June 9-Sarah Kolander
June 16-Holly Ford
June 23-Brooklynn Scholze
June 30-Sarah Kolander

Altar Guild

Sharie Brunk
Lisbeth Novak

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June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 June Dairy Days Parade
2 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Elders: 11:30	3 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	4	5 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	6	7 Pastor's day off	8 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
9 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	10 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	11	12 Bible study: 9:30 a.m.	13	14 Pastor's day off	15 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
Father's Day 16 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Voter's Meeting following the worship service	17 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	18	19	20	21 Pastor's day off	22 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
23 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	24	25	26	27	28 Pastor's day off	29 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
30 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Potluck & Bible Trivia after our service						

EVENTS

June Dairy Days Parade

We're participating in the parade this year on June 1. Talk to Sharie Brunk for details.

Feed Our Children

We'll be making sack lunches June 16th & 18th. Talk with Sharie Brunk for details. We need volunteers.