LUTHER MEMORIAL CHAPEL &
UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER

*1916 – 2016: A Century of God's Gifts in Jesus Christ*

# CHAPEL NEWS

3833 N. MARYLAND AVENUE, SHOREWOOD, WI 53211 PHONE (414) 332-5732 NOVEMBER 2020

## THE SIXTH PETITION: TEMPTATION *BY PASTOR LARSON*

**The Sixth Petition**
**And lead us not into temptation.**

*What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory. (Small Catechism)

When we pray this petition we are really entering the fray! We are acknowledging that every day we Christians are constantly engaged in spiritual warfare. In the language of the Catechism, we understand that this temptation comes as something of an unholy triad, that is, three enemies: our old sinful nature, "the flesh," the world, and the devil.

*Great and grievous, indeed, are these dangers and temptations which every Christian must bear.... So every hour that we are in this vile life, we are attacked on all sides, chased and hunted down. We are moved to cry out and to pray that God would not allow us to become weary and faint and to fall again into sin, shame, and unbelief.* (Large Catechism)

We pray this Sixth Petition, being under spiritual assaults that are simply too great to be overcome by our own energy or strength. Therefore, we ask God's help, that He would guard and keep us, and by His grace overcome them and win the victory.

Luther notes in the Large Catechism that not all temptations are the same for folks. He notes that young adults deal often with lust and temptation toward sexual immorality, while older folks become more consumed by the pressures of this world, financial concerns, and various worldly anxieties. Luther urges us to watchful prayer:

*Accordingly, we Christians must be armed and expect every day to be under continuous attack. Then we will not go about securely and heedlessly, as if the*

*Continued on page 2*

## SERVING US

Michael C. Larson, *Pastor*

Jason Lane & Brian German, *Assisting Pastors*

Kathryn A. Hill, *Church Secretary*

Martha Galvin, *Director of Music*

Julie Wohlrabe, *IO Director*

Hannah Engwall, *US Coordinator*

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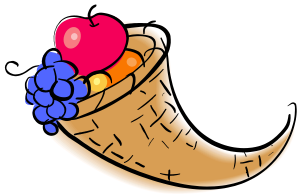

## LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

> *devil were far from us, but will at all times expect his blows and fend them off. Even if at present I am chaste, patient, kind, and firm in the faith, the devil is likely at this very hour to send such an arrow into my heart that I can scarcely endure, for he is an enemy who never lets up or becomes weary; when one attack ceases, new ones always arise.* (Large Catechism)

There is a warning here never to become complacent regarding threats and temptations that we Christians face. When one temptation ends, another one begins! We should be battle-ready, acknowledging that the devil is always at work with new schemes, wanting nothing more than to drive a wedge between us and God, thereby causing us to doubt or despair of His love and forgiveness.

The Christian must understand, however, that the battle cannot be won by sheer will or discipline, but only by the promises of Christ and the gift of His Holy Spirit. It's Christ, after all, who went toe to toe with the devil in the wilderness and was tempted, but unlike us, did not yield an inch! He fought for us and triumphed over the power of sin, death, and the devil by dying and rising for our salvation.

What's tempting you this week? Find your strength in Christ, who triumphed over it all in His resurrection. Ponder this very comforting passage from the writer to the Hebrews:

> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:15-16)

## GUILD OF SAINT SAMUEL SERVES ON REFORMATION DAY

Peter Ross, Joey Diaz, Joseph Buhler, and Joseph Burfeind serving on the Guild of Saint Samuel on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020. The Guild of Saint Samuel assists the pastor in the liturgy, lights the candles, changes the hymn boards, and helps with many other tasks.

# INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AT LMC:
## *IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES*

***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States, but did you know this type of holiday is also celebrated in other parts of the world? Brazil, Canada, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, India Grenada, Saint Lucia, and the West African country of Liberia (where our daughter-in-law is from). In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. On June 28, 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the *Holidays Act* that made Thanksgiving a yearly federal holiday. It's been a wonderful celebration for families and friends to gather together to give thanks to God for all of our blessings. It's also an important time to give generously to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. When I was looking at different Bible passages on this topic, the Bible verse above, particularly verse 18, "give thanks in **all** circumstances," jumped off the page at me as though I were wearing 3D glasses! Of course, I've heard it before, but this time, after ten months of the coronavirus plague that turned iO upside down, along with families, churches, schools, businesses, Wisconsin, America, and countries throughout the world, it has made me pause and review this part of Scripture, particularly in view of International Outreach.

Believing that our Triune God is sovereign and providential in all aspects of our lives allows me to give thanks to Him *even* during a global health situation. He is still in control, allowing things such as this to happen, to remind us that we are fallen creatures who are in need of salvation. That, of course, is the result of sin in this world. That sin is why Jesus was born as a baby, lived a perfect life, led His disciples, taught and preached, healed the sick, raised the dead, suffered, was crucified, died and rose from the dead, ascending to heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father, so that whoever believes in Jesus will live eternally with Him. Thanks be to our Holy Triune God!!! No matter what we as individuals, families, organizations like iO, churches, or even our country are experiencing in this sinful world, we can truly and honestly "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

We are thankful for the ten years of opportunities that God has given to iO to befriend those from faraway countries by helping them learn the English language and, most importantly, to share the awesome love of God and the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. For many of these international friends, iO has been their first introduction to Christians and Christianity. We are thankful for our volunteers who have been the face of Christ to them; the kind and loving voice of Christ; the helping hands and hugging arms of Christ. Many of these people met Jesus for the very first time in their lives while participating in the Bible reading classes and Worldview Conversations class, the activities and outings, the events, and especially during the dinners at the homes of volunteers or the special one-on-one times spent together sightseeing or simply talking together. We have much to be thankful for, recalling all that God has done within iO these past ten years.

The will of God in Christ Jesus for those of us in iO is that we *are* thankful in our current circumstance because He is faithful, and He has a plan for iO, and He has a plan for all of us. As I quoted Martin Luther in my article last month, "I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide," I'm encouraged, and I leave you with Romans 8:26-28: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

| God's Child | Rebirth Date |
|---|---|
| Alex Ignatowski | Nov. |
| Cheryl Toll | Nov. |
| Zoe McMiller | Nov. 1 |
| Levi Ledic | Nov. 3 |
| Allison Clark | Nov. 4 |
| Piera Siegmann | Nov. 6 |
| John Boldt | Nov. 7 |
| Raymond Hernandez | Nov. 9 |
| Paunthip Grossman | Nov. 11 |
| Jonathan Hagedorn | Nov. 12 |
| Michael Kohut | Nov. 12 |
| Kongsy Grossman | Nov. 14 |
| Karen Hagedorn | Nov. 14 |
| Kathleen Knutsen | Nov. 14 |
| Kirk Reiter | Nov. 16 |
| Hans Paterson | Nov. 20 |
| Allison Pelsis | Nov. 20 |
| Dexture Iusi II | Nov. 22 |
| Ruth Paterson | Nov. 24 |
| Rev. Jason Lane | Nov. 25 |
| Keziah Wieting | Nov. 29 |

## END TIMES HYMN

### The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

5
My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6
May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

– *LSB* 508

## DECEMBER SERVICES

*Please mark your December calendars now for these special services celebrating Christmas and the New Year:*

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10:45 a.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Divine Service

New Year's Eve and Day
Divine Services
With Corporate Confession & Absolution on
Thursday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 p.m.
Circumcision & Name of Jesus on
Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, at 10 a.m.

### Donating Poinsettias for December:

We will use green envelopes to be found in the Narthex and Parish Hall to gather your donations for red and white poinsettias in small or large pots. Envelopes with prices for 2020 should be available to you by Sunday, Nov. 8.

You may place your green envelopes in the offering plate. Envelopes should be returned to the Church Office by Monday, Dec. 14.

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S DAY IN NOVEMBER

The Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle, will be celebrated on the morning of Monday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 a.m. On that Monday evening, we will observe the First Sunday in Advent at 7 p.m.

| Date | Name of Day | Hymn of the Day | First Reading | Psalm | Epistle | Gospel |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. 1 | All Saints' Day | *LSB* 677 | Rev. 7:2-17 | Psalm 33 | 1 John 3:1–3 | Matt. 5:1–12 |
| Nov. 8 | Twenty-fifth S. after Trinity | *LSB* 658 | Ex. 32:1-20 | Psalm 31 | 1 Thess. 4:13-18 | Matt. 24:15–28 |
| Nov. 15 | Twenty-sixth S. after Trinity | *LSB* 508 | Dan. 7:9-14 | Psalm 56 | 2 Peter 3:3-14 | Matt. 25:31-46 |
| Nov. 22 | Last S. of the Church Year | *LSB* 516 | Is. 65:17–25 | Psalm 45 | 1 Thess. 5:1–11 | Matt. 25:1–13 |
| Nov. 29 | First S. in Advent (Ad Te Levai) | *LSB* 332 | Jer. 23:5–8 | Psalm 25 | Rom. 13:8–14 | Matt. 21:1–9 |

# *Excerpts from the Large Catechism by Martin Luther:* The Lord's Prayer: Part 1 of 5

We have now heard what we must do and believe, in which things the best and happiest life consists. Now follows the third part, how we ought to pray. For since we are so situated that no man can perfectly keep the Ten Commandments, even though he have begun to believe, and since the devil with all his power, together with the world and our own flesh, resists our endeavors, nothing is so necessary as that we should continually resort to the ear of God, call upon Him, and pray to Him, that He would give, preserve, and increase in us faith and the fulfilment of the Ten Commandments, and that He would remove everything that is in our way and opposes us therein. But that we might know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ has Himself taught us both the mode and the words, as we shall see.

But before we explain the Lord's Prayer part by part, it is most necessary first to exhort and incite people to prayer, as Christ and the apostles also have done. And the first matter is to know that it is our duty to pray because of God's commandment. For thus we heard in the Second Commandment: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain, that we are there required to praise that holy name, and call upon it in every need, or to pray. For to call upon the name of God is nothing else than to pray. Prayer is therefore as strictly and earnestly commanded as all other commandments: to have no other God, not to kill, not to steal, etc. Let no one think that it is all the same whether he pray or not, as vulgar people do, who grope in such delusion and ask, Why should I pray? Who knows whether God heeds or will hear my prayer? If I do not pray, some one else will. And thus they fall into the habit of never praying, and frame a pretext, as though we taught that there is no duty or need of prayer, because we reject false and hypocritical prayers.

But this is true indeed that such prayers as have been offered hitherto when men were babbling and bawling in the churches were no prayers. For such external matters, when they are properly observed, may be a good exercise for young children, scholars, and simple persons, and may be called singing or reading, but not really praying. But praying, as the Second Commandment teaches, is to call upon God in every need. This He requires of us, and has not left it to our choice. But it is our duty and obligation to pray if we would be Christians, as much as it is our duty and obligation to obey our parents and the government; for by calling upon it and praying, the name of God is honored and profitably employed. This you must note above all things, that thereby you may silence and repel such thoughts as would keep and deter us from prayer. For just as it would be idle for a son to say to his father, "Of what advantage is my obedience? I will go and do what I can; it is all the same"; but there stands the commandment, Thou shalt and must do it, so also here it is not left to my will to do it or leave it undone, but prayer shall and must be offered at the risk of God's wrath and displeasure.

*To be continued.*