



THE ANCHOR

SEPTEMBER 2007

Why Go to Church?

“You don’t have to go to church to be a Christian.” Heard that line before? Said it before, maybe?

I suppose it’s true. As hard as we might try, we can’t save ourselves. Not even by going to church. But it takes extraordinarily little effort on our part to damn ourselves. And we’re exceedingly good at it.

Picture this: A loving, doting wife makes dinner for her husband. He knows she made it, but on the way home, he stops at a fast food restaurant. There, he meets some friends, and they leave there to play cards. He doesn’t go home. “I can still love my wife and not go home to her,” he says. “I can even call her on the phone and tell her I love her.” Now imagine that this happens night after night.

How long would he stay married? Not very long, I imagine. And does he really love his wife? No. He’s a rebellious, wicked husband.

Picture this: A loving, gracious God prepares gifts weekly that he distributes through his Word and Sacraments for his beloved children. But one child decides he doesn’t need to be in church to receive his Father’s gifts. He can still love God from the golf course. Or the campsite. Or the bed. Or the soccer field. Or home Bible studies. Or wherever. “I can still love God and not go to church,” he says. “I can even pray to Him wherever I am.”

How long does this person retain the gift of faith that was given to him?

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews exhorts us: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (10:24-25). Can you pray to God or worship Him anywhere? Sure. But don’t do so in a way that rejects the particular ways He chooses to reveal Himself.

Your Lord is a gift-giving God. He gives the gift of faith as the Holy Spirit works where and when the Word of God is preached (Romans 10:17). He gives forgiveness, life and salvation through Holy Baptism (Romans 6:3-7; 1 Peter 3:21), through Holy Absolution (John 21:20), and through the Body and Blood of Jesus in His Holy Supper (Matthew 26:26-28). Where else are these gifts delivered but in the Lord’s Church?

Gifts are either received or rejected. Receiving the Lord’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation is the work of faith. Rejecting the Lord’s gifts is an act of unbelief. It’s an act of rebellion against the Lord.

Do you have to go to church to be a Christian? Wrong question. Christians go to church to receive the Lord’s gifts. This is your great privilege as a dearly beloved child of God. You *get* to receive His gifts.

In Christ’s Service,

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

JULY ATTENDANCE

Sunday school Adult Bible Study Sunday Worship/Communion

<u>1ST:</u>	15	28	142
<u>8TH:</u>	5	23	127
<u>15th:</u>	19	17	128/90
<u>29TH:</u>	24	19	122/89



SERVING THE LORD IN SEPTEMBER

ELDER:

DENNIS HENNEMAN

ALTAR GUILD:

ROSEMARY IVERS & MARILYN ROGERS

GREETERS:

2ND: ANITA ASSAR & ELKE MONROE

9TH: KEITH & MATTHEW BAECHT

16TH: RANDY & TRAVIS TRISLER

23RD: LINDAY BLASA

30TH: TAD & KAREN DROSTE

USHERS:

2ND: RICK ANGEL, LEN STRAUB, MARVIN FRAZER & RANDY MARGESON

9TH: JOHN & STEVE FICKER, NATHAN MARTIN & BILL IVERS

16TH: JOHN LYMING, MIKE ROTH & JERRY & SCOTT SUMMERS

23RD: DAVE ROTH, DON CARPENTER, ERIC TRISLER &

KRIS MCGUIRE

30TH: TIM VANHOVELN, VINCE SIBLEY, BRYAN MCKENNON

Carpet Fund



THE CARPET FUND AS OF 8/31/07 IS \$6032.74.



A CHRISTIAN GIVES BECAUSE JESUS WAS FIRST GIVEN TO US...SO THAT THROUGH HIM WE HAVE LIFE AND WE HAVE IT TO THE FULL! [GOD] WHO DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL – HOW WILL HE NOT ALSO WITH HIM GIVE US ALL THINGS? (ROMANS 8:32) GOD DOESN'T NEED OUR MONEY!!! WE NEED GOD AND WE NEED THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HIM BY WORSHIPING WITH OUR GOD-GIVEN TIME, TALENTS AND FINANCIAL TREASURES.

FINANCIAL REPORT: **AUGUST**

NEEDED PER WEEK: \$2548.09



5TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$22.50
PLATE: \$227.25
ENVELOPE: \$2388
DEBT FUND: \$105
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$2742.75
CARPET FUND: \$40
FLOWERS: \$10
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
PARKING: \$25
OTHER: \$25

12TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$22.25
PLATE: \$549.80
ENVELOPE: \$1391
DEBT FUND: \$5
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$1968.05
CARPET FUND: \$0
FLOWERS: \$0
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$10
WITNESS: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$25

19TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$33.25
PLATE: \$163.11
ENVELOPE: \$2291
DEBT FUND: \$5
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$2492.36
CARPET FUND: \$20
FLOWERS: \$10
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
MOVING: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$400

26TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$24.06
PLATE: \$97.25
ENVELOPE: \$1598
DEBT FUND: \$25
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$1744.31
CARPET FUND: \$0

FLOWERS: \$0
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
MOVING: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$200

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS THIS MONTH WERE \$5-TRAVIS
BRADLEY AND \$5- SOPHIA MITKOS. THANK YOU TINA LYMING.**



PRAYER PARTNERS

2ND: MIKE & JEANNE ROTH (TIM)
9TH: BOB & BEV SCHNEIDER (RYAN & SARAH)
16TH: VINCE & DORIS SIBLEY; BOB & CAROL SKIBBE
23RD: DENNIS & BRANDI SMITH (ERIN & LUKE)
30TH: KELLY SMITH; JUDY STANLEY; ESTHER STAMBAUGH



SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

3RD: RANDY NEAL	17TH: ALEXANDRA TOWELL
4TH: JOE GREENE	18TH: HEIDI O'NEAL
6TH: ESTHER STAMBAUGH	19TH: JOSHUA NEAL
7TH: ED BASHAM	20TH: ZANDER LITTLE
8TH: JENNIFER STRUBBERG	22ND: AMANDA NOYES

SANDY PURCELL
KAREN DROSTE
9TH: LARRY DECKER
10TH: GARY KALLAL
11TH: BOB SCHNEIDER
12TH: PAT SUMMERS
13TH: KELLY LITTLE
14TH: DIANE DECKER
JOHN DAVID LYMING
MONTANA WHITE

CARY ROBERTS
24TH: KELLY MILLER
CHRISTINA PERKINSON
25TH: MARCIA ADAMS
DR. FRED HUSMANN
26TH: LINDA BLASA
GARRET BLASA
MARIE LYMING
30TH: STACEY EBERHARDT
ELLIE CARPENTER

ANNIVERSARIES

3RD: JOHN & SUSY POHLMAN
DICK & CINDY ZUMWALT
4TH: ED & DARLENE GOWIN
5TH: ROY & BARB YOUNG
10TH: DR. ABASS & ANITA ASSAR
15TH: BILL & MALINDA TOWELL
16TH: TONY & BRANDY PURCELL
21ST: LARRY & DIANE DECKER
25TH: JIM & KORRI ONTIS



THE LADIES FINISHED MEALS ON WHEELS IN AUGUST. SERVING KITS AND SCHOOL KITS ARE BEING ASSEMBLED FOR THE LWML. THE LADIES PURCHASED A NEW SHREDDER FOR THE OFFICE. THEY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING A COOKIE WALK FOR THIS COMING YEAR. THEY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL WOMEN TO JOIN IN. NO TALENT IS NEEDED.



THERE WILL BE A YOUTH GROUP MEETING ON SEPTMEBER 6TH FROM 6-7P.M. THE KIDS WILL BE SET UP FOR COSMIC BOWLING ON SEPT. 21ST. FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO KIM FRAZER. THE YOUTH WILL HAVE A YARD SALE ON SEPT. 29TH FROM 8A.M.-1P.M. ANY AND ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED. THE YOUTH WILL HAVE A WORK DAY FOR THE SALE ON FRI. THE 28TH. THE KIDS NEED TO BE AT CHURCH RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL. ANYONE WHO WISHES TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE YARD SALE PLEASE SEE KIM. THEY WILL BE STARTING AT 10A.M. ON FRI.



SCHOOL DAYS

THERE WILL BE A CPH TEACHERS WORKSHOP ON SEPT. 22ND. ANYONE INTERESTED PLEASE SEE BRANDY PURCELL. THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES WILL BE TAUGHT TO THE P.S.-8TH GRADE CHILDREN. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GO OVER THESE WITH YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME AS WELL. THE MORE FAMILIAR THEY ARE WITH THE SCRIPTURES THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR THE TEACHERS TO GO MORE IN DEPTH. LISA IS COLLECTING TOILET PAPER AND PAPER TOWEL CARDBOARD TUBING FOR CRAFT PROJECTS.
SEPT. 2ND: JACOB'S FAMILY GENESIS 29:1-30:24

9TH: ESAU FORGIVES JACOB GENESIS 31:3; 32:1-33:20
16TH: JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS GENESIS 37
23RD: JOSEPH'S TROUBLES GENESIS 39
30TH: JOSEPH SAVES EGYPT GENESIS 40-41
OCT. 7TH: JOSEPH FORGIVES GENESIS 42-45
14TH: THE BIRTH OF MOSES EXODUS 1:1-2:10
21ST: MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH EXODUS 2:11-4:31
28TH: MOSES AND THE PLAGUES EXODUS 5-10
NOV. 4TH: THE PASSOVER EXODUS 11-12
11TH: CROSSING THE RED SEA EXODUS 13:17-15:21
18TH: GOD PROVIDES MANNA, WATER AND QUAIL EXODUS 16-17
25TH: THE TEN COMANDMENTS EXODUS 19-20



Miscellaneous News

PASTOR HEMMER IS DOING A REFRESHER ON THE CATECHISM DURING ADULT BIBLE STUDY (SUN. MORNING AT 8:30A).

WOULD YOU LIKE A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY? SEE PASTOR HEMMER FOR MORE INFO.

THE ALTAR GUILD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS.

The Concordia Seminary Institute on Lay Vocation in St. Louis will host a unique event called "German Days at the Sem" on Oct. 12-13, on the Seminary campus. The two-day event marks the first of a series of 10 significant gatherings of its type, which will be held every fall leading up to the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation on Oct. 31, 2017.

HOPE LUTHERAN MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK PASTOR HEMMER'S GRANDMOTHER, EVELYN RILEY, FOR THE GENEROUS GIFT. SHE GAVE THE CHURCH A PROCESSIONAL CROSS AND TORCHES.

THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED INTO EVERYONE'S MAIL BOXES AT CHURCH. ANYONE WHO WOULD RATHER HAVE THE EMAIL VERSION WILL NEED TO SUBMIT THEIR NAME IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



WORDS FOR THOUGHT: BY PASTOR HEMMER

Answers to Questions about Private Confession and Absolution

Q: "Do I need to confess every single sin? I'll be there all week."

A: No. Only those sins which particularly trouble your conscience or those at the forefront of your mind ought to be particularly confessed.

Q: "Do I need to confess particular sins at private confession?"

A: No. While this is healthy and recommended, the Rite allows for a general confession, as well.

Q: "Do I have to be there at the beginning?"

A: No. Private Confession and Absolution takes about 5-10 minutes. Feel free to come anytime between 6:00 and 6:45.

Q: "Is private confession only available at these times?"

A: No. Having a regular time when Private Confession and Absolution is available is designed as a convenience to you. But if you cannot make it at these times, come anytime the pastor is in his study.

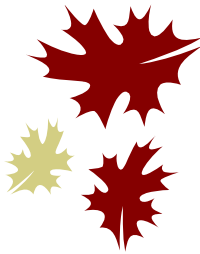
Q: "Is Confession and Absolution a sacrament?"

A: Yes, the Lutheran Confessions include Holy Absolution in their list of 3 sacraments. It's a gift of God, wherein he delivers the forgiveness of sins *to you*. (Elsewhere, the Lutheran Confessions state they would even be okay with calling ordination a sacrament, as well. Calling them sacraments, though, doesn't confess what's unique about each one. What makes each a wonderful gift of God is how through it God does something unique: water and word together, making us God's children; the very Body and Blood of Jesus in, with, and under bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins; the words "I forgive you" spoken by the pastor in the stead of Christ, forgiving your sins, the continuation of the Office of the Holy Ministry through which God promises to deliver His gifts.)

Excuses for not availing one's self of Private Confession & Absolution

1. Everyone will know what I've done.
 - Pastors are sworn to secrecy at ordination and installation.
 - When the pastor forgives your sins, they are truly forgiven. He never speaks of them to anyone, not just because he's sworn to secrecy, but also because they're gone. After the words "I forgive you," your sins are completely erased.
2. Confession is only for "really bad" sins.
 - All sins are equally damnable.
 - Luther says part of being a Christian is going to confession. "If you are a Christian, you should be glad to run more than a hundred miles for confession, not under compulsion but rather coming and compelling us to offer it...Therefore, when I urge you to go to confession, I am simply urging you to be a Christian." (*Large Catechism*)
3. I'll wait to go to confession until I don't have anything embarrassing to confess.
 - Sin needn't embarrass us. We're all sinful. Sin is not unique.
 - If you're embarrassed by your sin, words of forgiveness are precisely what you need to hear.
4. It's a Roman Catholic practice.
 - It's a distinctly Christian practice.
 - Lutheran Confessions say this practice should not be abandoned.

- Small Catechism speaks exclusively of Confession as a private thing done to one's pastor.
 - In the most recent Synodical convention, the Synod passed a resolution (2-07) to encourage pastors and congregations "to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to individual confession and absolution with a view toward recovering the regular availability of its practice in our congregations."
5. My pastor will look differently at me if he knows my private sins.
- He already knows you're a sinner.
 - It actually betters your relationship with him as you make good use of opportunities to receive the Lord's forgiveness.
 - When the pastor speaks the Lord's forgiveness, your Lord no longer remembers your sin. ("I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" Jeremiah 31:34). Your pastor is called to treat you the same way, remembering your sin no more, neither speaking of it nor holding it in his mind.
6. I can be sure of the Lord's forgiveness without receiving absolution privately.
- The word of forgiveness from the pastor is more than simple assurance. It is the very "voice of the Gospel" spoken to you that—there and then—releases your sins from you.
 - There's a difference between trying to remind yourself of forgiveness and hearing it spoken clearly *to you* at the confession of your own sins.



LET'S MEET THE MILLER'S

VANCE AND KELLY HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR ABOUT 2 AND HALF YEARS. THEY WORK AND OWN BERTELS SALES AND SERVICE IN DORSEY, IL. THE COMPANY SELLS AND SERVICES LAWN MOWERS, CHAIN SAWS AND WEED EATERS. THE WEB ADDRESS IS WWW.BERTELSSALES.COM. KELLY IS A LICENSED COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTOR. SHE RUNS A HAIR SALON (SHEAR EXCELLENCE) IN HER HOME. IT IS LOCATED IN DELHI.



VANCE HAS TWO BOYS. NICHOLAS IS 12 YEARS OLD AND ENTERED THE 7TH GRADE AT ILLINI THIS YEAR. ANDREW IS 9 YEARS OLD AND ENTERED THE 4TH GRADE AT JERSEYVILLE EAST. KELLY HAS TWO GIRLS. BETHANY IS 22 YEARS OLD AND IS STUDYING TO BE A PARALEGAL AT HICKEY BUSINESS COLLEGE IN ST. LOUIS.

KARLEY IS 14 YEARS OLD AND IS A FRESHMAN THIS YEAR AT JCHS. ALL THE CHILDREN ARE HIGH HONOR ROLL STUDENTS.



VANCE HAS AN ILLNESS CALLED LEUKEMIA. THE TYPE HE HAS IS TREATABLE. HE TAKES MEDICATION THAT HE RESPONDING WELL TO. THE FAMILY FEELS VERY BLESSED IN THEIR LIVES. IN THEIR SPARE TIME, THEY ENJOY BOATING. VANCE HAS A TRUCK THAT HE RACES IN LOCAL MUD DRAGS. YOU ARE LIKELY TO FIND THE FAMILY SUNDAY MORNINGS IN CHURCH. NICK IS A CONFIRMAND AND HANGS OUT AT THE YOUTH GROUP FUNCTIONS. KARLEY WAS CONFIRMED THIS PAST YEAR AND ALSO ENJOYS YOUTH GROUP.



JOKES:

WHY GOD MADE MOMS

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of ?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My Mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms & dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller & stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.