

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Walking Together: the Sign of the Cross

As we at Jehovah Lutheran walk together on our path of discipleship and outreach, we are exploring together the aspects of the Divine Service. Last week, we looked at Confession and Absolution and how we begin our worship not merely by admitting our sin and unworthiness to be in God's presence but also forgiven by God for the sake of Jesus Christ. This week's topic is one that is related to Confession and Absolution, though it is not unique to this point in the service. This week, we look at making the sign of the cross.

Throughout the service the pastor makes the sign of the cross and the laity are invited to cross themselves as well. This physical practice of making the sign of the cross is a reminder of what Christ has done for us by His death and resurrection, of our baptism into Christ, and our identity as a child of God in Christ. While we make the sign of the cross in worship, this practice can also enrich our personal devotional lives.

When we make the sign of the cross in worship or out of worship, we are reminding ourselves and others that Jesus has died and risen for us. We are remembering what God has done for us. This physical practice is a declaration of truth. It is a sermon in miniature. It says something powerful about God, about the truth of salvation, and about our worth.

When I cross myself, I am saying, I have a God who loves me so much that He has sent His only Son to die for us. I am proclaiming that Christ came for me to redeem me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. By crossing myself, I am also proclaiming to the world that I am a Christian, that I am baptized into Jesus Christ, who has taken my sin and death as His own and has instead given me His righteousness and eternal life. By crossing myself, I am preaching. I am preaching the truth of what God has done, and I am also proclaiming my trust in the work of God in Christ for my eternal salvation.

This proclamation does not just declare my faith to the world. It also tells me what is true about myself. As Martin Luther highlights in his *Large Catechism*, our Christian life is not a neutral endeavor. Instead, we live out our Christian life under continual attack from the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature. We are constantly bombarded by bad news from the world, temptations from our sinful nature, and accusations from the devil. These assaults aim to push us into anxiety, depression, sin, and despair. As Luther says, making the sign of the cross can be a powerful and daily defense against such attacks.

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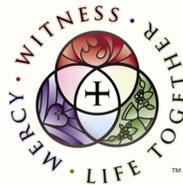
Making the sign of the cross each day—in the morning when we awake and at night when we go to sleep, according to Luther—proclaims that we belong to God in Christ. It declares that we are worth much in the eyes of God, because He sent His Son to die for us. It declares that we do not belong to sin, the world, death, sickness, mental illness, or the devil. For, it declares that we belong to God in Christ alone.

So, I encourage you, make the sign of the cross. Make the sign of the cross in worship to remember that you belong in God's presence because of what Christ has done for you. Make the sign of the cross when you pray to remember that you pray in the name of the Savior who was crucified and raised for you. Make the sign of the cross when you awaken in the morning to dedicate yourself and your day to the Lord. Make the sign of the cross when you go to bed at night to commend yourself to God's care. Parents, teach your children to make the sign of the cross that they may remember that they are the children of God by grace.

The sign of the cross is not just for worship. It is for all of the Christian life. Making the sign of the cross is a powerful statement to ourselves and to all of who we are and whose we are. It proclaims that we belong to God in Christ.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

Luther's Large Catechism: with Study Questions, ed. Paul T. McCain (St. Louis: CPH, 2010), 29-30.
Ibid. Luther's Small Catechism: with Explanation (St. Louis: CPH, 2017), 30.



Living by Faith: HAVING A GOD

Last week, in our Sunday morning class *Living by Faith*, we studied the First Commandment and its meaning in our Christian lives. The First Commandment teaches us that we are to have no other gods other than the Triune God who has made us His own children by faith in Christ. A false god is not necessarily a statue or a god from another religion. A false god can be anything that we look to for all good in life, trust in with all our heart, and run to in times of trouble. Our Triune God wants to be the only one we trust alone. He wants us to look to Him to provide all our needs, and He wants us to run only to Him when we face difficulties. This is what it means to have the one, true God as our only God.

I invite you to join us in *Living by Faith* this coming Sunday at 11:00am as we look together at the Second Commandment, which teaches us how to honor God's name.

Your Pastor,
Joshua Miller

To prepare for this week's discussion, please read pages 26 - 31 in the Large Catechism.



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A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE



9:30 AM Divine Service

Sundays in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend and join us
for a year of connecting and Walking Together

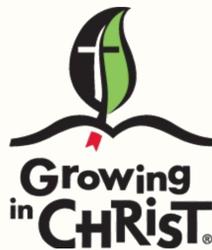
Living by Faith

11:00AM on Sundays.

Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge.

Contact Pastor Miller with questions
at 612-600-3514 or pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.



Growing in Faith

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the Divine Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.



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PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

2-3pm Wednesdays

in Drews Memorial Chapel.

In the event the chapel is occupied for other purposes, please proceed to the sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Isaiah 53:4-12

Isaiah depicts a "servant" who identifies himself with all Israel, suffering vicariously for them.

"He shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities."

Hebrews 5:1-10

God designated Jesus as high priest. He was Son, yet learned obedience through suffering and became the source of salvation for all who obey him.

Mark 10:35-45

When James and John ask Jesus for positions of honor in the coming kingdom, he promises suffering instead and tells the disciples that to become great one must be servant of all.



WALKING TOGETHER: OUR ROADMAP AT JEHOVAH LUTHERAN

Join us as we walk the path of our three-year outreach roadmap at Jehovah! The first year, we are focusing on getting in contact with all of our members, revitalizing our education programing, and discovering how God encounters us in the Divine Service of worship.

For more information about *Walking Together*, please contact Pastor Miller or a member of the board of Lay Ministry.



In compliance with the recommendations of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health, face masks must be worn inside the facilities of Jehovah Lutheran Church anytime you are with another person who is not in your immediate household. This includes worship services, all board meetings, Bible studies, working, and volunteering. A facemask must completely cover the mouth and nose. If you do not have a facemask, we are happy to give you one.

Please help us continue to keep our facilities open, our worship services in-person, and our neighbors safe.



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IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Donna Ostenson Kiefert
Bernice Demulling
Rita Galston
Paul Finegan
George Mendoza
Sandy Quenzer
Tom Kelly
Tim Robinson
Kristine Robinson (sister-in-law of Tim Robinson)
Patrick Carey
Wesley Pagel
Shirley Starner and her son-in-law Greg Beaudoin
Jim Kinsel
Lynne Baerthel and her family
Marge Maule (undergoing surgery)
Jeannie Edwards (cousin of Pastor Miller)
Joyce and Susan Boettcher (stepmother and cousin of Elizabeth Wegner)
George Hild, Sr. (father of George Hild)
Jenna Schmidt (daughter of Perry Schmidt)
Sue Schutte (mother of Principal Jay Schutte from King of Kings Lutheran, on hospice)
Carolyn Hayes (recovering from surgery)
Frank Loffler (friend of Gary Reed)
Ramone and his family



*Let my prayer
rise before you as incense.
Psalm 141:2a*

Those suffering or recovering from COVID-19 (including Bruce Carlstrom (friend of Tim Robinson) and for wise use of the vaccines.

Safety and good health for all students, teachers and staff at schools, including those from this congregation.

Thanksgiving for the upcoming baptism of Eleanor Manosack (daughter of Ashley Gagner) this Sunday.

For strength to speak out for and protect the lives of the unborn our God has created and compassionate care of all that He has made.

For the people of Afghanistan, for innocent lives caught in the midst of the tumultuous events taking place there, and for the refugees coming to North America for a better life.

For President Biden and Vice President Harris as they serve our nation.

For Governor Walz and all in leadership in our state.

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For our Synodical President Matthew Harrison, our District President Lucas Woodford as they lead us, and our Circuit Visitor, Steven Bielenberg.

For our congregation, as we follow our outreach roadmap, *Walking Together*.

For the Mekane Yesus congregation as they call a new pastor.

Special Weekly Prayers:

As we pray for each member and family in our congregation by name, this week we pray for Pastor, Katie, and the Miller family.

*Note, we are currently praying for two members or families from Jehovah Lutheran each week. The order for these prayers is alphabetical. In addition to our public prayers, our Pastor and board of Lay Ministry are praying individually for these members and families each week. Special prayer requests are encouraged any time and may be given to Pastor via phone or email.



JEHOVAH'S WEEKLY FRIENDLY FRIDAY CALL-IN CHAT



Join us on Fridays at 11:10am.

All you need is your phone.

Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number.

When prompted enter the JELC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We will have a short devotion, a topic for discussion, and prayer.

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11



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Join us for Bible Study at 1:00pm
the first Thursday of each month
Open to all women
Our curriculum comes from the Fall 2021 Quarterly

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Pastor Miller.



LWML MITE OFFERINGS

Sunday, October 10, was Lutheran Women Missionary League Sunday. Here is a summary of the mite offerings.

Pennies = 705
Nickels = 180
Dimes = 218
Quarters = 200
Dollars = 15
5 Dollars = 4
20 Dollar = 1
100 Dollar check = 1

Total Coins = \$87.85

Total Other = \$156

Total Mite Giving = \$243.85

thank
you



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SORT THROUGH DONATED ITEMS

Jehovah congregation members and friends have been donating clothing and household items to be given away for free during the National Night Out (NNO) event held annually in early August. These items have been collecting in the Crib Room inside the Nursery since Fall 2019 and through 2020 and 2021 when we did not host an NNO due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We plan to go through all of those bags and boxes to sort and organize the donated clothing and items to identify what is there, to see if there may be some items that could be used by those in need right now, as well as to be ready for NNO and other giveaway events in the coming year.

We plan to move all of the items out of the Crib Room to a larger room on the lower level of the church so we have enough space to sort and categorize and so we aren't pressed to get it all done and cleaned up in one day. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please contact Marge Avoles at margeavoles@comcast.net or at 651-398-8204. Once we have a list of volunteers we will offer some different days and times for people to meet at the church to work.

Members and friends should feel free to continue to donate items and put them in the Crib Room.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 23

2pm - 4pm



Join the fun on Saturday, October 23 for Trunk or Treat
Decorate your vehicle's trunk
and fill it with new packages of individually wrapped candies and/or small toys.
We'll also give away a beverage and literature about Jehovah and Growing in Faith.
Wear a costume if you wish. No devils, please.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

We need 8-10 people or couples or families to volunteer to dress up their car trunks and perhaps themselves and hand-out unopened candy or small toys. We will also have some children's Bible books as well as information on church and Sunday school on hand to distribute. We also need 3-4 volunteers to help set-up and take-down and 2-4 volunteers (they could also help with set-up and take-down) to work a table with the church and Sunday school information. If you are interested in helping (even if you have indicated so before), please email Pastor Miller with your name(s) and what role(s) in which you can help Thank you!



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School Supply Kit for Children of Refugees

- 3 Folders with Pockets
- 3 Wide Ruled Notebooks
- #2 Pencils
- 1 Eraser
- 1 Scissors
- 1 Glue Stick
- 1 Pencil/Crayon Sharpener (We always needs lots of these!)
- 1 Box of Crayons
- 1 Pencil Bag
- 1 Backpack (Place all supplies inside)



You can purchase backpacks in bulk at Backpacks USA for only \$3.00 each <https://www.backpacksusa.com/collections/wholesale-2-5-bulk-backpacks/products/copy-of-17-kids-wholesale-backpacks-7-assorted-colors-wholesale-case-of-24-bookbags>

If you are moved to make a monetary gift, please donate to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services by clicking on the “donate now” button here:

https://www.lirs.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwhaaKBhBcEiwA8acsHFJ-WRYwGPSMT-hcD4-wLaIO26CGI-uGfbNuGfVA2BBOfgKmiz3G5BoC-ecQAvD_BwE

In the same way, let your
light shine
before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

FREEDOM STORE REQUEST

Damascus Way is opening a new house in Shakopee for 45 returning Christians. They will need the following items. Can you help? Contact Jim Seeman with any questions at seemann@csp.edu Many thanks!

Toaster
Plates, Bowls, Cups
Kitchen Utensils

Pots and Pans
Kitchen Towels
Wash Rags

Shower Curtains
Bath Towels
Face Cloths



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