

O S L MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2026
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALL DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

11:30 - 1 PM

DINE IN OR DRIVE THRU

CHURCH SERVICE @ 10:00 AM

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO GO TO JENNA FORNEY'S RECOVERY

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from Pastor Gary's Desk

Martin Luther was a hateful polemicist. What is a polemicist? A polemicist is a person who writes or speaks out against something. The opposite of an apologist, who speaks out in defense of something. But if you've ever read much of Luther's work, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. He wrote passionately against his opponents, stringing together insults vulgar enough to make a construction worker blush. I don't want to make light of this. Some of the stuff he said against the Jews and Anabaptists was genuinely vile. He was a complicated person.

Now, most of us are familiar with the Jews and the history of antisemitism in Europe, but who are the Anabaptists, and why was Luther so mad at them? To start with, "Anabaptist" was a term used by their opponents, not the actual group themselves. It refers to them baptizing people a second time, which would have been theologically frowned upon. They didn't necessarily believe in second baptism. Rather, they didn't consider infant baptism to be valid. If the child didn't understand what was happening, how could they make the commitment to baptism? Some would argue that their parents and godparents could do so on their behalf, but the Anabaptists didn't buy it. They thought parents should wait until the child was old enough to understand. People shouldn't be baptized, unless they chose it for themselves.

A lot of people hated the Anabaptists for reasons other than their theological convictions. While they were a widely varied and disparate group, many of them were opposed to serving in public office, swearing oaths, and serving in the military. Their rejection of the secular authorities and desire to separate themselves from society, made many leaders consider them seditious. The Amish, for example, are an Anabaptist group, and at least some of the Anabaptists in Luther's time were trying to live apart like the Amish today. This wasn't about rejecting technology so much as it was about rejecting parts of society that they didn't consider Biblical.

In truth, Luther had a hard time arguing against them. They derived a lot of their radical positions from the text of Scripture. Jesus certainly seems opposed to war, and one could easily read a call to live by different social values than those of the "world" in the New Testament. The Anabaptists weren't wrong in that sense. And on the issue of infant baptism, many Christians today agree with them. I have seen people who were baptized in Lutheran churches as babies get baptized as adults in Evangelical or Non-denomination churches.

Generally, a Lutheran pastor will roll their eyes at such a thing and make some snarky comment. "Oh, you don't think God did a good enough job the first time, so you need to get baptized again?" Lutherans believe God is at work in baptism. It isn't just a symbol. It is a washing by the Holy Spirit to claim us as God's children. In baptism, we are killed in our sins and raised to new life in Christ, and the baptism, though only happening once repeats this continuously as the Holy Spirit continues to renew us each day.

And yet, it is hard to definitively reject the Anabaptist belief that adults should be baptized. The named characters in the Bible that get baptized are adults. The early church baptized adults. And only adults can claim that faith for themselves. So why should we do infant baptism? Why should we reject the Anabaptist position on this issue?

from Pastor Gary's Desk

Some insist upon baptizing infants because we believe that unbaptized infants can't go to heaven. This is what is referred to by some theologians as "baptism for fire insurance." I don't like this idea. It implies that baptism is so necessary for salvation that God's hands are tied if we don't have it. What do we say about babies who died in the womb before they had a chance to be baptized? Are they simply damned? No, I believe that baptism is a promise, but God can work beyond baptism, and we shouldn't worry over it so much that we expect babies who were not baptized to be forever lost.

So, why do we baptize infants? In addition to it being a comfort for families, there is a more theological answer. You might not believe this answer is theological, but well... my answer is: "Why not?" Why not baptize infants?

If someone would say that we need to intellectually grasp the meaning of baptism, I would reply that such a position implies that we earn salvation through our study and intellectual work. That's not what we believe. Salvation, and by extension, baptism, is a free gift, a work of God given to us by God's grace. We don't need to understand it. We simply need to trust. And if someone were to say that babies don't have enough faith to trust in baptism, I would reply: "Who does?" Faith is also a gift of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit grows faith within us throughout our lives. We can trust that the Holy Spirit is at work, making faith in an infant as much as in an adult.

We baptize infants not because we are afraid of what happens if we don't baptize our babies in time. We baptize infants because we trust that baptism doesn't require our work. We leave it completely up to the power of God to make us believe and understand. We baptize infants, at least in part, to remind ourselves that we too are helpless. We need God to hold us, carry us, forgive us, lead us, and love us, not because we are smart or trusting enough to earn it, but because it is what God does.

Your baptism is sufficient, no matter what age you were when you received it. It doesn't depend on your parents or pastor doing it right. It all depends on God, who is unfailingly dependable.

BE THE WELCOME BEFORE THE WORSHIP!

A warm smile, a friendly handshake, and a cheerful hello can make someone's day before the service even begins!

We're inviting church families to sign up (sheet is on the table in the entry way) to greet before our Sunday services and help create a welcoming atmosphere for members and guests alike. It's a simple way to serve together and share Christ's love from the moment people walk through the doors.

Sign up today and help us make every Sunday feel like coming home!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 28 - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

October 30 - Community Coffee - St. Peter Lutheran Church - 10 a.m.

November 1 - Church Service at 10:00 a.m.
Fall Dinner - 11:30 to 1:00 pm

November 5 - Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

November 6 - Community Coffee - Wymore Library - 10:00 a.m.

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 18 - Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

November 19 - Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m.

November 22 - LYF @ 1:00 p.m.

November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

REMINDER:

A suggestion box has been placed on the table in the entry way.
Please feel free to put any suggestions or comments for the
Council in it.

Remembered in Our Prayers

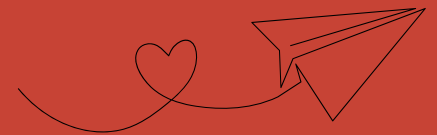
Jennifer Cohorst
Jenna Forney
Kent Hohensee
Dave Mick

Kathleen Remmers
Eric Riley
Kai Spann



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

04 - LAUREN IDEUS
04 - AUDREY WHITWER
05 - EVERLY SCHMIDT
09 - JAYLIN KLOVER
09 - LINDSEY MCKEEVER
11 - GENE ERDMANN
12 - BETTY SCHROEDER
14 - RHEN BENINGHAUS
17 - ELAINE FRERICHs
17 - BRIGHAM WHITWER
21 - MOXLEE DIETER
24 - CHAVONN MAILAHN
25 - KALIEMMA CROME
26 - JAMES DORN
26 - JOHN MCKEEVER
26 - GENE RICKERS
28 - TRAVIS KLOVER



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

14 - ROGER & ILEEN THEYE
26 - RON & BETTY SCHROEDER

Did You Know?

The new sound system includes assisted-listening devices for those using hearing aids.

If you would like to use one, please speak with a council member before the church service.

Hymn Requests



If you have a favorite hymn you'd love to hear in an upcoming worship service, we'd love to include it.

Simply fill out one of the cards on the table in the fellowship hall and place it in the basket.

Shout-Out to
Ava Jerred & Ryker Whitwer!!

Thanks for taking your turn to serve as
Assistant Minister and earning those confirmation points.
Great job!



Our LYF kids joined the Southern FCA for "Fields of Faith" October 5th at the Beatrice High School football stadium, for a fun evening of fellowship & worshiping Jesus!





PLEASE JOIN

*Faithy
Formation*

Sunday, December 6th at 6pm

as they present to you:

*All Aboard For
Christmas*

*Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Wymore, NE*