

September Newsletter 2016



Let Me Learn of Jesus

Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Turning Away from the Devil

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

The devil, though defeated by the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, remains a very capable and clever foe. He is smarter than we are. He's been watching us and taking notes for a very long time. He knows what we want, and he knows how to lure us away. And he does this by telling us what we want to hear. That's what makes it so difficult.

To us who are greedy, he says: "You are not greedy. You are prudent. You are frugal. You are a good steward with your money. God doesn't want you not to have all the things you want. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to have the latest and greatest toys for both young and old." So if you consider yourself to be wise in the way of money and finances, beware of who just might be telling you these things.

Satan is a liar. He tells us what we want to hear. He lures us away from repentance and confession and faith, so that we harden our consciences and place our souls in peril. We must not underestimate the enemy. We have all taken his bait. We have all failed in this. None of us can say that we have fought this temptation to hold back with everything we have and won.

And we must repent. Yes, God wants us to be happy. But this happiness is never at the expense of faithfulness. We have a calling. We are a member of His family, the church. That relationship places a duty upon us: to give a generous proportion of the first fruits of the income He provides.

Only God is true to His Word. Only God is true to His promises. His promises never fail. His Word endures forever. His mercies are new every morning. He is faithful. He provides everything that we need. He provides food and clothes, house and home, everything that we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer.

There are a whole host of things that we have that we do not need. The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether these have come at the expense of our faithful, generous proportion of the first fruits of our income. If they have, then we must repent, turning away from our selfishness to Him who is faithful by giving His Son into death so that we are reconciled to Him and justified in His sight.

The devil will always tell you what you want to hear. But God tells us and gives us what we need to hear. With law and gospel, he cuts us to the heart, so that we will repent and believe His Word and promises. He is faithful. He is good. He will not forsake you, or leave you destitute. So believe and trust in Him. And you will not only be happy. You will be blessed.

**Prayer: Cast care aside; Upon thy Guide
Lean, and His mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its Life and Christ its Love. Amen.**

A Man Named Martin – Part Two

Thursday Bible Class Begins September 15

A Man Named Martin-Part Two: The Moment examines the errant teachings and wayward traditions of the Late Medieval Church that eventually sparked the Protestant Reformation, a theological overhaul set in motion most notably by Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg.

As a follow-up Bible study to 2015's *A Man Named Martin-Part One: The Man*, this three-session Bible study takes a close look at the widespread teachings of the late Medieval Church that were superfluous to the Bible or not scripturally grounded. Among them were purgatory, penance, celibacy, prayers for the dead, transubstantiation, the treasury of merits of Christ, devotion to Mary and the rosary, the institution of the papacy, and the one most often linked to the Reformation: the sale of indulgences.

Joining forces in examining these aberrant teachings and the role Martin Luther had in debating and, ultimately, rejecting them is a cast of scholars, professional church workers, and pastors. Here Dr. Paul Maier, Dr. Ken Schurb, Dr. John Nunes, Dr. Joel Lampe, Dr. Susan Mobley, Dr. Joel Biermann, and others, along with The Lutheran Hour Speaker and host Dr. Gregory Seltz, add insight and expertise to this fascinating period in the life of Martin Luther.

Classes Begin Thursday, September 15th in our church's fellowship hall. Classes will be at 10:00 AM and again at 7:00 PM. This class will continue where we left off with the early life of Martin Luther. If you did not come to the class last year you can come to this class and you will be able to

catch up on what you missed. Please come to this important study.

Acolyte Schedule for September

The acolyte Schedule for September will be established during the confirmation class. We will have a more formal schedule in October when the class roster has been established.

September Bell Ringer

September 4

Cody Adams

September 11

Jeff Hohlt

September 18

Tyler Kassmann

September 25

Cory Adams

Usher Schedule for September

1: Corey Adams

2: Phil Pelster

3: Andrew Kassebaum

4: Bryan Adams

5: Mark Kassebaum

Alternate: Cody Adams

Head Usher: Wilbert Baumann

Altar Guild for September

Denise and Kate Walkenhorst

September Birthdays

Stewart Darrah	9/1	Julie Hilkerbaumer	9/12
John Redhage	9/3	Anna Hilkerbaumer	9/12
Esther Voelker	9/4	Bob Schreiner	9/13
Kenzie Crego	9/4	Adeline Keune	9/13
Leah Becerra	9/5	Paul Gleitz	9/14
Andrew Schroeder	9/6	Steve Gilbert	9/22
Jeff Bopp	9/8	Kayleigh Crego	9/22
Marvin Sprick	9/9	Elmer Kellmann	9/23
Bob Kirschenmann	9/10	Harvey Quinn	9/26
Andrea Wesche	9/10	Jessica Angeles	9/29
Kelsey Schroeder	9/11	Jennifer Thurmond	9/29

September Anniversaries

Jeff & Joyce Hohlt 9/5
David & Joan Menke 9/7
Ben & Ali Faulkner 9/7
Kevin & Susan Hoemann 9/14
Corey & Michelle Kasmann 9/30

Rev. Edward Engelbrecht to hold Services at Port Hudson

Rev. Ed Engelbrecht, former member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, will be conducting services for Pastor Zastrow on September 3 and 4 and again on October 8 and 9. Pastor Engelbrecht was an editor for Concordia Publishing House for many years and loves to come back to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with his dear friends.

On August 29th Pastor and Margaret will be traveling to Minnesota visiting Pastor's family. This past July Pastor's mother turned 97. She is doing well at the Good Samaritan Lutheran Home in Minnesota Lake. Pastor and Margaret will also be vacationing in Northern Minnesota for a week of

relaxation. Pastor and Margaret will return to Port Hudson on Thursday, September 8th.

The weekend of October 8 and 9 will be Mary Beth's and Nate Hiatt's wedding at Ebenezer. There will be many activities for Pastor Zastrow and for this reason Pastor invited Pastor Engelbrecht to do services that weekend.

Note about the wedding. The Wedding will be at 2:00 PM at our church on October 8th. A reception for Mary Beth and Nate will be here at church immediately following the ceremony. **THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO ATTEND.** More information will be coming out as the day approaches.

We thank Pastor Engelbrecht for being available during the absence of Pastor Zastrow for Divine Worship.

Ladies Aid Luncheon with Speaker

Invitation - Ebenezer Ladies Aid is hosting a luncheon on September 16, 2016 at Ponderosa Steakhouse in Washington, MO. All ladies are invited to attend as guests of Ladies Aid. We will gather at Ponderosa at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. Following our lunch we will have a presentation by a representative of Grace's Place mission. If you need transportation please contact Pastor or Margaret. Hope to see you there.

Recycling Update

We are pleased to report the addition of \$27.26 from recycle aluminum. This brings our grand total for recycle aluminum to \$4932.91 and our grand total for all recycling to \$9,454.56. Thank you for your help and support. The recycle paper dumpster is almost full. Central Paper Stock will be called when it is full. This gives us the

opportunity to get the largest load. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Also please remember to not include any cardboard, plastic, or trash. Pass this along to any neighbors or friends that may also use our dumpster. Thanks again for your help and understanding.

**Monthly Treasurer’s Summary
July 2016**

Beginning checking balance	\$7,142.42
Receipts *	\$16,108.07
Disbursements	\$13,577.48
Ending checking balance	\$9,673.01
LCEF savings balance	\$30,329.60
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,028.67
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$2,800
Year-to-date income less expenses	-\$16,157.72

- Includes \$5,000 transferred from LCEF savings

Ebenezer Mission Society

Our Ebenezer Mission Society will hold our annual Cookie Sale after Church service on Sunday, September 18th. The cookies will be \$4.00 per dozen. The proceeds of this Cookie Sale will go to Orphan Grain Train as a benefit for the Ecuador Earthquake Relief.

The Earth Shook...

On April 16th, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 struck the east coast of Ecuador killing more than 650 people and injuring 16,600. Some 7,000 buildings were destroyed leaving 25,000 men, women and children living in tents. Orphan Grain Train is sending food and humanitarian aid for

the families devastated by the earthquake and has partnered with Kids Around the World (KAW) to work with their recipient in Ecuador. The shipment will enter through the port of Guayaquil and then be transported to the town of Puertoviejo, which will be the distribution hub for relief supplies to all of the surrounding communities hardest hit by the earthquake. Orphan Grain Train shipped 7,700 lbs of edible dry beans, 28,512 Kids Against Hunger meals and 149,688 Mercy Meals, blankets, quilts, clothing, shoes, 100 water filters for purifying drinking water, and hygiene kits on May 17, 2016. The need is immediate and long-term. Orphan Grain Train plans to make this an ongoing mission for the families of Ecuador hurting from the loss of lives and destruction from the earthquake. If you would like to help support this mission and give hope to the children and families of Ecuador, you can mark your donation with “Ecuador” and help with the cost of shipping food and aid. Thank you for your support and prayers for this and all the shipments, international or domestic, to help others in desperate living conditions. Please see the bulletin board at the back of Church to see the pictures and information from Orphan Grain Train and Rob Hilbert.

A Note of Appreciation

The Ebenezer Mission Society has received a “Thank You” note from Rob Hilbert of Lutheran Bible Translators – “Dear friends at Ebenezer Mission Society, I’m writing from Botswana to thank you for your support of our ministry. Mical and I are currently working on the New Testament for the Shekgalagari language – spoken by over 200,000 people. Thank you for thinking of us”.

Blessings, Rob Hilbert\

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Pastor to Minnesota	2 Pastor to Minnesota	3 Pastor to Minnesota Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM
4 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00 AM	5 Pastor to Minnesota Labor Day	6 Pastor to Minnesota	7 Pastor to Minnesota	8 Pastor returns from Minnesota	9	10 Worship 5:00 PM Pastor returns from Minnesota.
11 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM	12	13 Elders 7:00 PM	14 Confirmation Class Begin 6:30 PM	15 Luther Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	16 Ladies Day out At Ponderosa 11:30 AM – Speaker from Grace's Place	17 Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting
18 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00 AM Adult Confirmation Cookie Sale EMS	19	20	21 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM	22 Luther Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	23	24 Worship 5:00 PM
25 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM	26	27	28 Confirmation Class 6:30 PM	29 Luther Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	30	