



October 2023



Jesus Is Not A Mascot



Every so often, you might get asked, “What are you reading right now? Anything interesting?”. Personally, I’m very particular about the kinds of books I read, mainly because I’m not the most regular reader. I like Religious Studies books, and Current Event books. That’s pretty much it. Even right now, I have 2 books in my Kindle App that I do want to read. One current events book, because I liked another book by that author. And I’m reading the other one right now. It’s one that was suggested as being useful and worth the read. Its title is “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?”, by Matthew Richard. In it, Richard identifies false Christ’s that our culture portrays, talks about, and loves. He then concludes with a look at the true, biblical Jesus. The Real Jesus we need.

His first false Christ is one he calls the Mascot. He is someone who stands on the sidelines of life, pom-poms in hand, and encourages you in your pursuit of happiness. He always supports, always cheers. He won’t boo, he’s your loyal fan. He strongly appeals to someone who supposes that good and evil are tied solely to pleasure and pain. Evil things produce pain, good things produce pleasure. We know the difference between the 2 by what we feel. This Jesus won’t confront bad behavior with God’s 10 Commandments. He won’t call you to repentance. He’s an all-around nice guy who encourages his followers in their pursuits of pleasure and happiness. After all, you deserve to be happy! Go find your happiness

As Richard see it, there are 3 main problems with the Mascot Jesus. 1) he accepts ethical hedonism, where pleasure is at the center of life as the ultimate goal and good. 2) He avoids the Law, and 3) he avoids doctrine of hell. Since the Mascot Jesus will not trade pom-poms for the Law, he avoids causing any kind of pain, especially the painful conviction of sin that the Law brings. That would then destroy the central focus on pleasure. Hell also does not exist with this false Christ. Because if hell did exist, then our lives have moral consequence. We CAN’T do whatever we want because there are consequences to our thoughts, words, and actions

It is good to hear the voice of the real Jesus break through the glitter and shallow talk to drive us to repentance. To remind us that trying to surround ourselves with teachers who will teach us what we want to hear is not the way to go.

God’s Law, the Word that commands us to do this and don’t do that, is good and holy. Our hedonistic self needs to be shattered. Our foolish schemes and utopic dreams need to be exposed for what they are. The voice of the real Jesus does bring pain to our lives, no doubt. But the real Jesus is also the one who speaks forgiveness to us, not only to set us free from sin and the hell we deserve, but to also create and sustain faith in us. Only in the real Jesus do we receive true happiness, true joy, and lasting peace

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom



The Cross, the Crucifix and Other Crosses

by Edward Riojas

Artwork and visual symbolism seen in a church building often make a confession long before parishioners hear what is confessed in the liturgy. Some of the symbolic meaning, however, may be lost to us. This is the [eighth of nine articles](#) devoted to those images which we often see — but may not always understand — in the sanctuary.

Ask a believer what the first Christian symbol was, and most likely they would respond: “The cross.” They would, however, be dead wrong. For decades after the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the cross was merely a public execution device. It was humiliating, excruciating and, as with all public death sentences, carried the stigma of a heinous malefactor. Polite folks did not speak of the cross openly.

One feeble attempt to modernize our understanding of this reality happened in a Bible study that used an electric chair to explain the crucifixion of Jesus. In spite of the strange attempt at updating history, it nonetheless drove home the point of the cross’s stigma.

While we may find it nearly impossible to wrap our heads around the ancient perception of crucifixion — especially when modern Christianity is saturated with images of Jesus’ death — it adds profound meaning to Paul’s then-strange admission to the Corinthian church: “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2).

Early Christian usage

Some spotty, early evidence of Christians using the cross as a Christian image exists, but it took at least 100 years to universally accept the cross as a symbol within the church. As with the terms “Christian” and “Lutheran,” a tool of derision eventually was embraced by adherents as a point of pride.

The idea of a crucifix — a cross with the image of a dead or dying Christ upon it — took longer to catch on. Crucifixions continued to occur well after Christ’s ascension, and the horrors of such events remained fresh in the minds of Christians. It’s not surprising that it took another 200 years before the crucifix gained acceptance.

Christians have used other variations of the cross as well, including crosses with the resurrected Christ and crosses with the Good Shepherd. The Christus Rex crucifix is an older variation occasionally seen in Lutheran

THE CROSS, THE CRUCIFIX AND OTHER CROSSES *continued*



Fig. 1: Christus Rex

sanctuaries. At first glance, it looks similar to crosses bearing non-crucified figures. The Rex version shows a fully clothed Christ with regal vestments of His office of Priest and King. The Christ figure also wears a kingly crown. On closer inspection, however, the body of Jesus is indeed crucified. His outstretched hands, while in a posture of blessing, are nailed fast to the cross. So, too, are His feet. The Christus Rex crucifix confesses that the cross was Christ's throne of glory and that there, as Priest, He offered up the highest sacrifice for mankind.

Variations require study

Beyond these variations, there is a dizzying array of crosses. Some have specific use in Christianity, while others have no place at all. Hence, it is best to research any given variation before gluing it to a church banner. Here are some notable variations:

- St. Andrew's Cross, as its name implies, is a variation that, according to pious tradition, represents the martyrdom of St. Andrew. It has also found a place in secular society and is the rallying emblem of the Scottish people.
- St. Peter is sometimes shown with an upside-down cross. According to tradition, he did not want to be made equal with his crucified Savior and therefore requested to be crucified upside down. Satan worshipers have hijacked the symbol. Once again, context is key.
- The papal cross has three horizontal bars and is reserved for use by the Vatican, so don't even think of using that version.
- Some crosses are associated with secular entities, so it's wise to avoid them as well. These include the patriarchal cross or the Cross of Lorraine, which has two parallel beams. One variation places the beams equidistant from the top and bottom. The peculiar cross has been used by kingdoms throughout Europe, and, strangely enough, it graces every Oreo cookie you eat.

Early Christians might have found it hard to understand our take on the cross, especially when we have a penchant for plating it with gold and affixing gems upon it. They would, however, agree that it is a symbol of divine beauty, not in its outward appearance, but because it symbolizes the exquisite grace found only in the love of the Father and the ultimate sacrifice of His Son for us.

Figure 1: By author.

Feature image: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford

About The Author

Edward Riojas is a Lutheran artist who creates paintings, sculptures, illustrations, and the like for Lutheran sanctuaries, institutions and private collections. He is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Life Quotes for October

October 1 “The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God’s commandment of ‘You shall not murder’ (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being.” *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

October 8 “These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand.” *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

October 15 “For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion—and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies—repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: ‘Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matthew 11:28). God give us courage to engage in the battle For Life!” *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

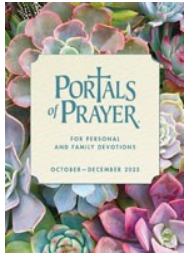
October 22 “So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

October 29 “On this Reformation weekend, let’s rekindle our commitment to be faithful to the God who both preserves and redeems this world in His ways. And let’s remind ourselves of the blessings that come from following Him in all things, now and forever.” *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

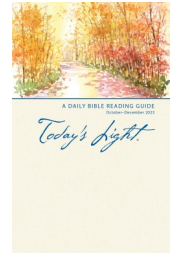
Announcements

October-December 2023

Portals of Prayer Now Available

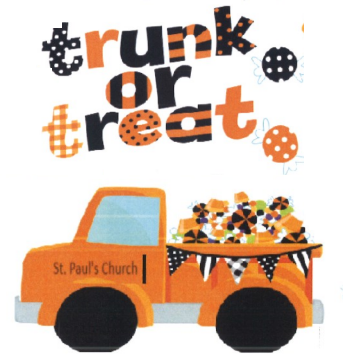


The October—December Portals of Prayer daily devotions and Today's Light daily bible reading guide are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors, or on the resource area table.



St. Paul's Annual Trunk-Or-Treat

St. Paul's Annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 15th from 2pm to 4pm! If you would like to participate in this fun event, the signup sheet is located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. We are looking for volunteers to decorate their vehicle with age appropriate (not too gruesome) Halloween decorations. There will be games and candy for the children and refreshments for everyone. This is a great opportunity for St. Paul's to entertain the preschool families and the local community. If you would like to stay after service on Sunday October 15th to volunteer or to set up your vehicle, there will be soup and chili available in the kitchen. Hope to see you there!



Any questions please email: Ken Chaffe at kenneth0814@att.net.



LWML Noisy Mite Weekend

We will be celebrating Lutheran Women In Mission Weekend on October 7th & 8th. The service "The King is Coming" will be based on Psalm 24:7-10. A special mites collection will be taken to enable the LWML Ohio District to meet its mission goal (\$190,000). As of July 31st, \$100,482.03 has been

collected. Since the fiscal year ends March 31 for the district, that means there are 7 months left to meet the goal! As people use less currency, "Noisy Mites" are hard to come by – but "quiet" money and checks (made out to St. Paul's Friendship Circle) are also accepted. Continue to pray for the mission work of the LWML and continue to feed your hungry mite boxes.

Announcements

Updated Congregation Members Directory Time and Talent Sheets



Thank you to everyone who has returned their updated information and time and talent forms. If you have not please return them by October 14th. The new directory will be in your mailbox the following weekend.



TIME & TALENTS
Survey

Food & Fellowship Friday

Joining us for our final Food and Fellowship Fridays of the year on Friday October 27.



We will not meet November through February when the weather is unpredictable. Please email Diane Wayner at dianewayner@yahoo.com if you plan to attend in order to give the restaurant a heads up of how many to expect prior to the day of the lunch.



Looking forward to seeing you all!

Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Please place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and put it in the collection plate.





September Meeting Minutes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor reported making 20 calls, 1 hospital & 2 shut-in visits, he and 4 others will attend District Summit Oct. 21 in Hudson, as well as Pastors' Conference in Columbus Oct. 8-11, and that a summary of Synod Convention should be available soon.
- 2) President's Report: Dennis thanked all who contributed and attended the church picnic, and thanked Peggy for painting the classrooms and Terry for painting the sanctuary and vestibule. He also has re-viewed our insurance policy and will meet with agent to detail our needs.
- 3) Vice President's Report: Eric reported carpet and chairs have been cleaned.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported our cash position still good, with largest accounts payable being insurance. Income was up \$3345 vs. 2023, with \$2400 from Preschool grant transfer. Expenses were up \$2,940 in part due to parsonage maintenance, office supplies, and Shepherd's Staff. Net income loss in line with last year's first 2 months.
- 5) Education Report: Erin reported Rally Day will be Sept. 10 to kick off this year's theme of "God keeps His Promises"; snacks provided. Attendance has averaged 18 weekly in 2023. There will no more Thursday online classes as of now.
- 6) Preschool report: Star reported Preschool enrollment is 33 and 3 assistants have been hired, installation of staff during Sept. 10 service, and classes start Sept. 11. She also reported \$108,235 was the final grant tally, with \$26,712 reimbursed to the church. Popcorn fundraiser will be 9/29-10/12, and work on NLSA accreditation 2023-24 has begun.
- 7) Elders' Report: Dale reported that new members have been assigned elders, and they are reviewing a letter to delinquent members as well as considering return of common cup during communion.
- 8) Stewardship Report: Kristi reported she is working with Ken to wrap up Outreach activities, reviewing and updating Time & Talent surveys to be released this month, and reviewing contacts to be made for Giving Tree collection.
- 9) Financial Secretary Report: Jenn said there are still openings for counters in the coming months, otherwise counting is going well.
- 10) Outreach Report: Ken reported Hot Dog Lunch had 20 volunteers and 30-40 guests (may consider combining this with Preschool Registration Day in future), Door Tag distribution will be Sept. 30, 10-noon, Trunk-or-Treat will be Oct, 15 2-4pm, Ken also said he is reviewing our promotional flyers, and plans to have another ValPak ad ready before Christmas
- 11) Building & Grounds Report: Craig reported making Several light replacements, church and parsonage septic tanks were pumped (parsonage tank showing signs of degradation), all 4 Clevertouch screens are installed, work on parsonage shower drain and seal continues, outlets in parsonage kitchen need to be addressed, A/C unit in tiered classroom iced up and needed new filter and additional foam insulation, and walls in sanctuary and vestibule have been painted-thanks to Terry. Craig has also begun installing bolts on classroom doors after attending Lake County Sherrieff Dept. meeting to provide extra security to classrooms.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES continued

- 12) Contribution Secretary Report: Billie reported contributions for August were \$14,283 vs. \$14,413 in Aug. 2022; number of contributors was 28 vs. 26 last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Pastor said the completed By-Law changes were reviewed and approved by District Office, but they recommended adding a statement of dissolution to our constitution. Billie made a motion to add an article to our concerning the disbursement of assets should St. Paul's dissolve and written notice be given to members prior to Nov. 19 Voters' Meeting so to be voted on then. Craig 2nd. Motion passed.
- 2) Pastor said we are still waiting to hear from Concordia about our purchase of church hymnal/service program.
- 3) Disaster Response Team met again decided doors be closed during services, numbers to be displayed in classroom windows, looking into installing safety lights in restrooms, Amy will provide Preschool safety guidelines to review, will do fire drill after services, first aid kits in classrooms, and will begin a written safety/response plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

A review of Council Meeting Rules was discussed and a number of changes and suggestions were made. Dennis will provide an updated version before next meeting. Review of Officers & Boards Manual was tabled until Oct. meeting due to time constraint.

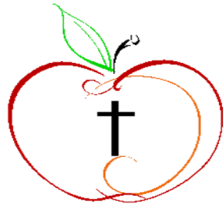
NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Oct. 4 @ 6:30pm.

VOTERS' NOTICE

Following up on a review of our By-Laws changes by the Ohio District, they recommended we include a statement of dissolution to our constitution. At the Sept. 6th Council meeting, a motion was made and approved of adding an Article X(10) concerning the disbursement of church assets should St. Paul's be dissolved, be presented to congregation members prior to the Nov. 19 Semi-Annual Meeting to be voted on at that meeting. Addition to read:

"Article X: Dissolution

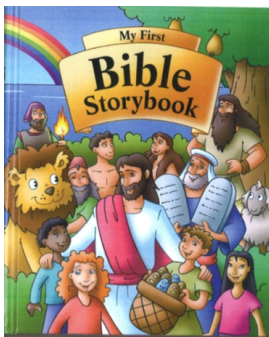
In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final voters' assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation, and any and all surplus connected therewith, shall be donated to the religious or charitable organizations, 501(c)(30), including the Ohio District, as determined by the final voters' assembly."



From the Preschool

Annual Popcorn Fundraiser

The annual Preschool popcorn fundraiser has begun. It runs September 29th through October 17th. Order forms can be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please put the order form and the money in the envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate or in the preschool tuition box.



My First Bible Storybook

On October 3rd the preschool will be presenting **20 Bibles** to the new children attending St. Paul's for the first time this year. It is through your generous donations to Bible Buddies that we are able to provide these Bibles. We thank you for your continued support of this mission. The teachers connect what they are doing in class with the Bibles and the children can read the lessons together with their families. What a wonderful way to get God's message into the homes of these children!



October Birthdays

Eleanor Fischbach	Oct 12th
Claire Hines	Oct 18th
Erin Cardina	Oct 20th
Pavel Lindrose	Oct 23rd
Nancee Thomas	Oct 24th
Tristan Walters	Oct 25th
Eric West	Oct 25th
Cheryl Dewit	Oct 27th



October Anniversaries

Eric and Debbi Davis	28 years on Oct 14th
Ed and Kelly Hines	18 years on Oct 15th
Kevin and Diana Kiel	28 years on Oct 15th
Rory and Laurie Srebernak	19 years on Oct 15th
John and Rosemary Galayda	43 years on Oct 17th
Don and Suzanne Luther	18 years on Oct 20th



January to September Baptisms, Weddings, New Members Funeral

Baptisms

Theo Burzanko	Feb 4
Colt Thomas Seyler	Feb 19
Callie E. Atwell	Jun 3
Audrey A. Stegh	Aug 6

New Members

Charles Atwell
Sidney & Callie Atwell
Nancee Thomas
Valarie Sullivan
Wesley & Jill Schubert

Weddings

John & Taryn Marjak

Funerals

Marlyss J. Sekki	Feb 12
Norman G. Salminen	Mar 9



Those Who Serve: October 2023

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A Sunday Craig McConnell

LECTORS:

09-30-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
10-01-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake
10-07-23	6:00 P	Easter Vigil	Dave Murphy
10-08-23	9:30 A	Easter Sunday	Jack Lelle
10-14-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
10-15-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Kenn Chaffe
10-21-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
10-22-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
10-28-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Mave Murphy
10-29-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee

COUNTERS:

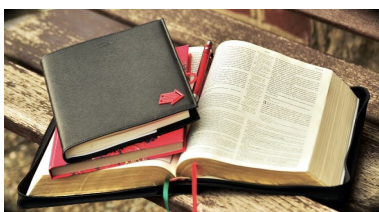
Tom Cardina, Craig McConnell
Kristi McConnell

GREETERS:

6:00 P Saturday
9:30 A Sunday

**SIGN UP IN OCTOBER TO
GREET YOUR FELLOW DISCI-
PLES.**

**Sign-up sheet located on the
double doors at the back of the**



Scripture Readings for October

September 30/Oct 1

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Philippians 2:1-18
Matthew 21:23-32

October 7/8 [LWML Weekend]

Isaiah 2:1-5
1 Peter 2:4-10
Matthew 11:25-30

October 14/15

Isaiah 25:6-9
Philippians 4:4-13
Matthew 22:1-14

October 21/22

Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 28/29

[Reformation Weekend]
Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

October Word Search—Fall & Harvest Words

E	G	O	U	R	D	S	Z	C	S	F	K	H	F
J	H	E	S	J	I	C	R	O	W	O	O	A	T
U	A	H	A	X	O	S	S	L	E	O	Y	L	M
V	R	W	A	P	B	J	Y	O	V	T	B	L	M
J	V	H	V	Y	P	R	S	R	G	B	O	O	A
M	E	E	C	O	R	L	O	S	G	A	N	W	P
I	S	A	A	R	C	I	E	W	U	L	D	E	L
J	T	T	D	A	T	G	D	C	N	L	F	E	E
F	C	X	W	N	K	E	Q	E	I	H	I	N	T
Z	A	H	P	G	Y	R	E	D	S	D	R	G	R
U	G	L	I	E	H	A	Y	R	I	D	E	S	E
Z	D	Z	L	L	G	E	E	S	E	G	S	R	E
Z	B	L	R	G	L	C	O	R	N	M	A	Z	E
G	X	V	U	I	F	Y	O	R	C	H	A	R	D

CHILLY
BROWN
COLORS
FALL
GEESE
HAYRIDES
MAPLE TREE
ORANGE
APPLE CODER
WHEAT
CORN MAZE
GOURDS
FOORBALL
HAYRIDES
CROW
BONDFIRE
HALLOWEEN
ORCHARD
HARVEST
RED

Play this puzzle online at: <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6040958/fall-word-search/>

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool

250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor
Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45 am
Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 3 pm Circuit Forum	2	3 Preschool Chapel	4 6:30 pm Council Meeting	5 Preschool Picnic All Classes	6	7  LWMW Noisy Mite Weekend	
8  LWMW Noisy Mite Weekend	9  Professional Church Workers Conference	10 Professional Church Workers Conference	11 Professional Church Workers Conference 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting	12 No Preschool—Fall Conferences	13 No Preschool—Fall Conferences	14	
15  2 pm Trunk-or-Treat	16	17 Preschool Popcorn Fundraiser Ends	18	19	20  November Newsletter Articles Due	21 	
22 	23	24	25 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26 6 pm Outreach Meeting	27 Elders/Men's Retreat 1 pm Food & Fellowship Friday	28 Elders/Men's Retreat	
29	30	31  Halloween	 COMMUNION SERVICE October Birthstone Opal & Tourmaline		WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am October Flower Calendula		Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays