

Quindecennial Thanksgivings, Pt 2

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 1st Sunday in Advent
3 December, A.D. 2017
Isa 64:1-9; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 11:1-10

Introduction

1 Corinthians 1:3-9. The beginning of 1st Corinthians applies also to whom?

I. Christ Forgives

What does an older member who can't come to church really miss?

Who helped St. Paul's recover the historic and Lutheran practice of weekly communion?

St. Paul calls himself "_____ of sinners." (1 Tim 1.15)

Every good, conscientious pastor is keenly aware of the weight of our Office, that we ". . . *are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an _____.* [to God]." (Hebrews 13:17, ESV)

What do pastors feel the weight of? What is the solution?

"Hosannah!" means _____!

When has the Church—for centuries—sung these words in worship? What do we call this song?

Why is the *Sanctus* a great teacher of who Jesus is and what we believe?

1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV)

⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship [*koinonia*] of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation [*koinonia*] in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation [*koinonia*] in the body of Christ?

Why is receiving The Lord's Supper frequently so important and helpful—for you and for your pastors?

Prizing the Sacrament

For a person not to prize highly the Sacrament is tantamount to saying that he has no sin, no flesh, no devil, no world, no death, no danger, no hell. That is to say, he believes in none of these although he is overwhelmed by them and is the devil's possession twice over. On the other hand, he needs no grace, life, paradise, kingdom of heaven, Christ, God, or any good thing. Surely, if he recognized how much evil is in him and how much he needs all the good things he lacks, he would not neglect the Sacrament, which gives help against such evil and bestows so much goodness. He will not need to be forced by law to the Sacrament but will himself come running in a hurry to the Lord's Table, constrained within himself and pressing you to give him the Sacrament. —from Luther's "Introduction" to the *Small Catechism*



**Voters' Meeting
December 10, 2017
12:00 pm in the Church**

AGENDA

Mission: Reaching, Serving & Growing Disciples

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Devotion
- C. Approval of Agenda/ Minutes from Previous Voters' Meeting
- D. Committee Reports
 - 1. Board of Elder's report Rick Zastrow
 - 2. New Member Committee report Pastor Scharnell
 - 3. Evangelism Committee report Pastor Scharnell
 - 4. Marketing/Publicity Committee report Amy Hackbarth
 - 5. Mission Outreach Committee Mary Hickenbottom
 - 6. Stewardship Committee report Mike Tesch
 - 7. Education Committee report Aaron Boldt
 - 8. Operations Committee report Scott Kalien
 - 9. Financial Oversight Committee report Dick Allen
 - 10. Endowment Fund Committee report Al Mueller
- E. Parish Reports
 - 1. Pastor's Parish report Pastor O'Donnell
 - 2. School Principal's report Jill George
 - 3. Church Leadership Team report George Menden
 - 4. Treasurer's report Jon Schmeling
- F. Old Business
- G. New Business
 - 1. District Nominations (in Pastor's Parish Report) Pastor O'Donnell
- H. Adjournment
- I. Closing Prayer

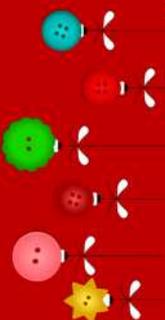
**Child Care available during the meeting by *Warrior Nation*
(St. Paul's Lutheran School's 8th graders).**



St. Paul's Early Childhood Center

SILENT AUCTION

December 11th-19th



Help us reach our goal of \$4,000 to replace the student lockers in the ECC. We need to raise \$2,149 to reach our goal. This year's "class-donated" basket themes include *Books, Breakfast Is Served, Date Night, Family Night, and Spa Night PLUS* items donated by our teachers and Retail Community. The auction will be open during center hours and before & after church services from December 11th thru December 19th at 6pm in the halls of the ECC. We hope to see you!



Lutherans are marked by an unrelenting focus on forgiveness, and the _____ by which Christ promises that forgiveness.

The *embodied* forgiveness we receive from our crucified and risen Lord goes out where?

Christ's forgiveness equips us to live _____. Forgiveness means "moving _____," moving forward, leaving the _____ behind.

If you're not burdened by the past you can *live in the* _____.

II. Christ Equips and Sustains

Getting "out of order"...

German word *seelsorger* = "carer of _____." A pastor should also have a _____. Who is *the* Good Shepherd?

Siobhan O'Donnell's "Best & Worst about being a PK"

Best

1. Being a PK means that I am constantly surrounded by those who love Christ and have a strong faith. Whenever I have doubts, questions, or fears I always have someone to turn to. Being a PK means that I am surrounded by those who support and strengthen me and my faith.
2. Being a PK means that I get to meet new people from all over the world, from all different paths of life and hear their stories. I get to meet people who inspire me to be a better person, and to praise and love Christ every step of the way.

3. Being a PK means that I have opportunities and experiences that I would never had otherwise. I am writing this from the Dominican Republic, something I would not have been able to say if my life were different.
4. I love being a PK because it gives me the chance to see the world from a very special perspective. As a PK, I am able to see the world as the precious and intelligent creation of a loving and incredible God. This perspective has allowed me to face each and every day with hope and joy.

Worst

1. Others expect you to not make mistakes, be the "perfect" example;
2. Others expecting you to know everything about the Bible;
3. Moving a lot.

Other answers, a father who has learned, and thanks that are due...

"I want to be a faithful husband, a faithful father, and a faithful pastor. In that _____."

Getting Back in Order

1. Confess your sins.
2. Receive Christ's Forgiveness

"We love because He first loved us." (1 Jn 4.19)

Conclusion

CCT: Christ still comes to _____, equip, and sustain.