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Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule:

Sunday School: 8:30 am

Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Wonnacott

Office Hours:

M, W, TH & F

8:00 – 11:30 am

From Pastor Wonnacott's keyboard:

This month I would like to start my epistle article with a question, "What is prayer?" Answer: Prayer is speaking to God in words and thoughts; prayers are to be directed to the only God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.) We are to pray in faith that God is almighty and that He answers all prayers.

Now let's look at **Luther's Small Catechism question # 193**, "what privilege and command does God give to those who believe in Jesus Christ?"

Answer: God commands and invites believers in Jesus Christ to pray. Matthew 7:7-8 ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Next we have **Luther's Small Catechism question #197** "What should be the content of our prayers?"

Answer: Philippians 4:6 ⁶ "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Psalms 136:1 *“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.”*

Finally we read **Luther’s Small Catechism question #200** “How does God answer prayer?”

Isaiah 65:24 ²⁴ *“Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.”*

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 ⁸ *“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

The study of prayer will be the focus of our midweek Life Light Bible Study this fall. Life Light will begin September 14th in the evening, and the morning sessions will begin on September 21st. Please join us!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EPISTLE IS SEPTEMBER 20TH!!! Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or e-mailed to Eric Thornton at firemanet@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

Board Briefs:

YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES

Recent Events

- **National Youth Gathering Wrap Up:** Our Youth and Chaperones who attended the Youth Gathering in Houston, TX had a wonderful opportunity to share about their experience during Bible Class and the Church service on Sunday, August 7th. Thank you to our 3 Chaperones – Heidi Wildauer, Curt Nielsen, and Rick Napper— for your time and commitment and to the congregation for your support over the last year. Please continue to keep our Youth in your prayers.
- **Beach Day:** 7 of our Youth braved unseasonably cooler weather and made the trek to Tiscornia Beach in St. Joseph, MI on Sunday, August 14th. The Youth more than dipped their toes in the water, enjoyed fellowship with one another, and even on a cooler day downed some tasty ice cream.

Upcoming Events

- **Youth Nights:** Wednesdays in September will see the return of Youth Nights for Youth of all ages (Grades 4 through High School), with various activities planned, devotions, and snacks. These will begin on September 7th and go from 7-8 pm in the Gym or on the soccer field. We encourage all Youth to bring a friend.
- **ATTENTION YOUTH in Grades 6 through 8:** The annual Indiana District Jr. High Youth Rally at Camp Lutherhaven is on October 15-16th. This is an opportunity for our Youth to engage with other Youth in the District in Christian fellowship, Bible Study, various activities, and more. While these dates coincide with Fall Break for St. Paul's Day School and BMS, we need to gauge interest in any Youth attending. Please speak with Andy Wildauer soon as the **deadline is September 15th**. Cost is \$25/attendee with the Youth Board offsetting the remaining registration fee.

If there are any questions related to the Youth Group, please contact Andy Wildauer at (801) 707-3399.

Parish Fellowship Board

Euchre Party is Friday, September 16th from 7-9:00ish pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun and fellowship, and please bring a snack to share. Bring a friend to join the fun!

Welcome All Seniors! You are invited as Pastor Wonnacott leads a time of devotions at the Whitlock on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next time is September 27th at 10:30am. Come one, come all!

Mother / Daughter Fun Night is September 15th at 7pm in the Bethany room. Come to enjoy Bingo and a sing-along with family and friends. We'll also provide delicious refreshments! There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex so we can plan accordingly.

Evangelism Board and Parish Fellowship Board are teaming up for the Oktoberfest on September 23rd and 24th. We need your help! For our table we need cookies or other desserts in recloseable bags. We will be collecting a free-will offering and all proceeds will go to the Riley Children's Hospital in Indy. We also need people to manage the table. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

INFORMATION ON CALL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The Call Committee for a new Administrative Pastor at St Paul's is presently "On Hold" until the completion of the Revitalization Program that was approved by voters for proceeding with Indiana District offices. This program may result in revisions to our priorities in searching for the Administrative Pastor. The Epistle previously contained a description of the Revitalization Program, which basically will help us understand who we are, where we're going and how do we want to get there.

Parish Planning Council members are presently finishing up compiling the information requested by Indiana District to proceed with the program.

Please keep the Call Committee and Parish Planning Council in your prayers.

Ushers: It is very important that you find your own replacement if you are not going to be able to usher during your assigned time. Please take the time to do this so that we always have ushers available to assist our members and visitors. Thank you.

Postings from Preschool

Praise be to God for another school year at St. Paul's! Our enrollment stands at 20 students from various backgrounds who bring energy and joy to our classrooms. We are excited to share Jesus with them and to equip them with the skills they will need in Kindergarten. Please pray for our staff, students, and their families as we journey through the school year with our theme: "Jesus is our greatest Treasure!"

Amazon Smile Reminder

Attention Amazon shoppers: Choose Amazon Smile and designate St. Paul's as the charitable recipient on your account. Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to our church and school. Please note this doesn't cost you anything, but is a charitable donation made by Amazon. Thanks for supporting St. Paul's through this program.

"This is the 1st in a series of articles outlining the duties and responsibilities of the various St. Paul's boards to enhance awareness. This month we look at the Board of Stewardship.

A brief overview of Stewardship responsibilities includes:

- 1) Programs to develop good stewardship attitudes in the members of the congregation.
- 2) Help to ensure the financial stability of the congregation.
- 3) Encourage a program of proportionate first fruits giving .
- 4) Encourage the members in the work of Christ's Kingdom.
- 5) Oversight and appointment of a Financial Secretary to track all donations and receipts of the congregation"

SGO DONATIONS

Please don't forget to donate to St. Paul's SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization)! This last year we disbursed almost \$21,000 in scholarships to assist students with tuition in St. Paul's Lutheran School. This is a huge blessing to them and a way to minister to others!

Plus, donating to the SGO benefits you! Your donation will be given a 50% state tax credit as well as being eligible as a deductible.

For more information, contact Jennifer Harman at the school office (547-546-2790) or pick up a pamphlet from the tract rack in the narthex.

Mission of the Month

Our Sunday School continues to send \$75.00 each month to a mission.

September Mission of the Month: LAMB

Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese (LAMB) was founded by Rev. James Keller in 2003 with the purpose of providing support and spreading the word of God to immigrants and refugees from Myanmar (Burma) who are living in Allen County (Ft. Wayne).

For more information go to their website: <http://lamb-fw.org>

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

A Letter from President Elect Stuckwisch

Pastor Stuckwisch was elected to his first term as Indiana District president at the district’s 23rd convention, held June 23–24 in Fort Wayne. He was elected on the second ballot. Stuckwisch has served as pastor at Emmaus, South Bend, since 1996 and as the district’s first vice-president since 2018. Pastor Stuckwisch and the other elected officers will be installed on September 6.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am honored by my election to serve as the new president of our Indiana District, and I give thanks to God for that privilege and opportunity. It is no less humbling to consider the duties and responsibilities with which I am thus entrusted, and I am praying that our Lord in His mercy will grant me the wisdom and fortitude to serve faithfully to the glory of His Name and for the benefit of His people.

To that same end, I ask that you remember me in your prayers and intercessions at home and as you are gathered together within your congregations. I’ve got a rather large learning curve ahead of me as I adjust to this new office, but already I know that the job is not one I can carry out or fulfill by my own reason or strength, but only by the gracious gifts of God in Christ, by His Word and Holy Spirit. Thankfully, I am confident of His providential care, and I rejoice that

our Father in heaven hears and answers all our prayers with a resounding “Yes” and “Amen” in Christ Jesus.

Along with learning the office of district president, I am also attending to the needs of my family and congregation, Emmaus, South Bend, as we are all together in a time of transition. It is my hope and expectation that I will remain attached to Emmaus as a pastor of that congregation, as our district bylaws permit, and will serve there as I am able, to the extent that I can without compromising my duties and responsibilities to the church at large. I believe it is important for me to remain deeply rooted in the ministry of the Gospel, for the sake of approaching my work as district president in a pastoral manner, as President Brege has done so beautifully over these past four years. I am truly thankful for the good example he has set, and it is very much my goal and intention to follow in his footsteps, as the Lord so enables by His grace.

Moving forward, I intend to continue the conversation that began within the praesidium over the past four years concerning the structure and governance of our life together as brother pastors and sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In particular, I want to find and facilitate more and better ways of providing real pastoral care for the pastors of the district. As everything we are and do depends upon the preaching and administration of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is essential that the ministers of His Gospel be strengthened and sustained in their own faith and life by His Word and Holy Spirit.

As we pursue ways of providing that care, and as we seek to serve and care for all the congregations, schools and workers of the district, I am so very thankful for the men who have been elected to serve as our regional vice-presidents, Rev. Peter Brock (Northeast region) and Rev. Nathan Rastl (Southern), returning to that office for another term, and Rev. David Mueller

(Central) and Rev. Erich Fickel (Northwest), newly elected to that office. I know these men as good and faithful pastors, as dear brothers in Christ and as personal friends. When I call on them to assist me or represent me in the coming years, please know that I do so with the utmost confidence in their integrity and pastoral wisdom.

For the past 26 years, almost half my lifetime, I've been the pastor of Emmaus, South Bend, and it is the wisdom God has granted me through the care of that congregation that I will bring to bear upon my work as district president. Whatever else He will surely continue to teach me in the task He has now set before me, that is my starting point. I come to you, also, as the husband of my wife, LaRena, with whom the Lord has blessed me far beyond words for the past 37 years, as the father of 10 living children, six of them now married, and as the grandfather of a growing number of "baby grands." If you already know me at all, you know that my family is the crowning joy of my earthly life. As the Lord thus teaches me to know what it means to be a husband and father, I pray and trust that He will likewise be teaching me to love and care for the pastors and congregations that are the Indiana District in a manner that honors our heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, and our dear God and Father in heaven, by whom all fatherhood on earth is named.

President Elect Stuckwisch

Sunday School - Fall Quarter Offerings

Pre-K -Grade 2 Nazareth Room

This class will study the life and times of Jesus and its application for daily living. The class will meet in Mrs. Thornton's Preschool classroom and be taught by Wendy Coxey. 8:30-9:15 am.

Grades 3-5 School Classroom

We will pick up on our "Life in Christ" series as we study Old Testament History – the fall of Adam and Eve through the early years of Joseph – noting the plans and promises God has for His people. This class will be taught by Heidi Wildauer and will meet in the Day School. 8:30-9:15 am.



Middle School grades 6-8: Early Christians read God's Word aloud together in community. Bring your Bibles and come ready to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest. Gather in gym Mezzanine 8:30 am.-9:15 am.

High School Jerusalem Room

Bill Rogers will continue with a video series discussing situations that effect today's teens and how Christians should respond according to God's Word. The class will meet in the Jerusalem Room. 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Class

Terry Miller will continue leading the Bible study and discussion on the book of Daniel . . . meets in the Bethany Room, 8:30 am.-9:15 am.





Men’s Bible Study: Men (ages 18+) meet at the Bremen Community Hospital cafeteria to enjoy breakfast and fellowship while studying God’s Word and various topics. The group meets every other Wednesday, 6:30 am.-7:30 am.

We look forward to seeing you

The Board of Christian Education Thanks all of the teachers that have given of themselves to teach this last quarter.

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The Board of Evangelism will be delivering Welcome Bags in Bremen on

Monday, October 17th starting at 5 PM with bag assembly! This will be

the last delivery of 2022 but will continue again in the spring. With

this in mind we are asking for donations of the following items to be

included in the bags; Bottled Water, Single Water Drink Mixes, Microwave

Popcorn, Cheese & Cracker Packets, Sticky Notes, Mechanical Pencils,

Knit/Crocheted Dish Clothes. We will have a table in the Narthex to

collect any items brought in! We would like to sincerely thank all who

have knit/crocheted dish clothes or donated yarn to be used for dish

clothes. This will be an ongoing project so we will continue to collect

dish clothes over the winter. If you would like to help pack/deliver

bags October 17th or would like more information on this project please

contact Deb Burcham or Angie Hughes.

PTL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITES



Time for the PTL Rummage Sale!

**St. Paul's PTL will be hosting a Rummage Sale
September 17th, 8am -4pm.**

- * If you have gently used clothing, furniture, household items, etc. to donate, you may bring them to the school gym stage any time during or right after school.
- * We also need volunteers to help set up Thursday after school through Friday (Sept. 15-16), and volunteers to help supervise the event.
Contact Jennifer Harman for details, 574-210-2103.
- * All sales are free-will donations and the proceeds will support PTL activities.
Please come and support your PTL!



Fundraising opportunity Wednesday September 28, 2022 all day at La Parilla Caliente Mexican Restaurant, 119 W. Plymouth St. Bremen. Carmen will be donating 30% of her sales this day to St. Paul's.

Annual Church and School Picnic

All church members and school families are invited to the Church and School Picnic **September 30th, 6:00-8:00pm.**

Please bring chairs, blankets, roasting sticks, and a dessert or side dish to share. Hot dogs, buns, condiments and tableware will be provided.

There will also be Bingo (bring a white elephant gift to play!), kickball, and other entertainment for the children.



“Metamorphosis”

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

Paul urges Christians to offer their bodies as living sacrifices. Negatively, he asks them not to conform to the pattern of this world. The Greek word for “conform” suggests a rigid, assembly-line approach to life in which you look and act like everyone else. How boring, drab, and restricted the life of conformity to the world’s pattern! Positively, Paul admonishes, “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” The Greek word for “be transformed” suggests an interesting illustration from the world of nature – metamorphosis.

How does the lowly caterpillar become a beautiful butterfly? The caterpillar looks nothing like the adult butterfly. We are helpless to bring about a change in the lowly

caterpillar. Someone quipped, “You can’t change a caterpillar into a butterfly by Scotch-taping on wings and sending him to aviation school.” But God has provided a marvelous transforming process to accomplish the metamorphosis. The caterpillar or larva passes through an inactive stage in which body changes take place inside a cocoon. When the cocoon is broken open, out flies the colorful butterfly, totally transformed.

In the same way we are by nature lowly caterpillars. We are only capable of conforming to the world. But God sent His Son to live and die for us. From the cocoon of His grave He emerged on the third day as a colorful butterfly, triumphant over sin and death. God transforms us by a spiritual metamorphosis. He works faith in our hearts through His Word and sacraments. Christ lives in us. We are transformed into beautiful butterflies, free to serve Him with our lives. Through our regular exposure to His Word, God renews our minds. We can shun conformity and are transformed to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. Thank God for His metamorphosis!

PRAYER: Dear Lord, transform us to serve You. Amen.

The Board of Christian Education would like every member to read the Bible in one year. Every month in the Epistle we will publish a daily reading. This reading schedule is in accordance with Martin Luther’s suggestion: “But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided into lections, let this be preserved in the ears of the church.” We hope that you find this daily lectionary reading be inspirational to you.

Read the Bible in a Year – Readings for September

September

1	1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Job 31-33	2	Psalm 86 Job 34-36
3	Psalm 87 Job 37-39	4	Psalm 88 Job 40-42
5	Psalm 89 Proverbs 1-3	6	Psalm 90 Proverbs 4-7
7	Psalm 91 Proverbs 8-10	8	Psalm 92 Proverbs 11-13
9	Psalm 93 Proverbs 14-16	10	Psalm 94 Proverbs 17-19
11	Psalm 95 Proverbs 20-22	12	Psalm 96 Proverbs 23-25
13	Psalm 97 Proverbs 26-28	14	Psalm 98 Proverbs 29-31
15	Psalm 99 Ecclesiastes 1-3	16	Psalm 100 Ecclesiastes 4-6
17	Psalm 101 Ecclesiastes 7-9	18	Psalm 102 Ecclesiastes 10-12
19	Psalm 103 Song of Solomon 1-4	20	Psalm 104 Song of Solomon 5-8
21	Psalm 105 Jeremiah 1-3	22	Psalm 106 Jeremiah 4-6
23	Psalm 107 Jeremiah 7-9	24	Psalm 108 Jeremiah 10-12
25	Psalm 109 Jeremiah 13-15	26	Psalm 110 Jeremiah 16-18
27	Psalm 111 Jeremiah 19-22	28	Psalm 112 Jeremiah 23-25
29	Psalm 113 Jeremiah 26-28	30	1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Jeremiah 29-31

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September 2022

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Rob & Patty Bowen	24	Keith & Helen Bellman
6	Joe & Cheryl Ervin	25	Jason & Nicole Bailey John & Carole Sahlhoff
14	Todd & Lori Haug	26	Todd & Charlotte Knepper
17	John & Traci Pulliam II	29	Matt & Jasmine Fox Robert & Nancy Koontz
21	Ryan & Christin Lizzi		

BIRTHDAYS

1	Kamden Guse Allysianna Hughes	15	Jared Miller Jasmyn Russel
2	Whitney Nick	19	Joe Beasley Kali Foster Brantley Shumaker
3	Wilodene Chaffin Jennifer Harman	20	Tara Andrews Noah Miller Molly Trigg
4	Layla Eby Joanna Fox Bradyn VanSoest	21	Nancy Koontz
6	Ashley Holderman	22	Virgil Anglemyer Keith Bellman Peter Sarber
7	Heather Middaugh	23	Tyler Quenan
8	Phyllis Brown Bradley Siefer	24	Abby Harman
10	Jennifer Brurok Larry Winterboer	26	Samantha Hinds Trisha Miller Lucinda Russell Alvia Wynn
12	Christian Quenan Jamie Rogers Carlie Scott	28	Ryan Lizzi
14	Roxanne Miller Michael Stillson		

St. Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League

*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,
and equip women to honor God by serving others. Adopted 2021*

!!! **ON THE CALENDER** !!!

October 3, 2022 - MONDAY 7:00 p.m., Bethany Room - L.A.M.B. Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese - Pastor Jim Keller, New Life Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, will be our speaker. Come and learn how this on-going ministry to one of the largest refugee peoples in Indiana, is spreading the Gospel among those who have never heard it before.
OPEN TO THE CONGREGATION. Refreshments will be served.

Eye-glass Ministry - MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short-Term)

Adult & Children's: Non-prescription Sunglasses; Reading Glasses; Bifocals (*any style frame, but in good condition*). The collection box is located beneath the 'Bulletin Table.'

Psalm 100:2a “Serve *the* Lord with Gladness” *LWML motto*

St. Paul's 176th LITURGICAL YEAR † September 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives * Celebration Of Holy Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Sept 4	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept 11*	14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sept 18	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Sept 25*	16th Sunday after Pentecost

August Minor Festivals 21 St. Matthew a.k.a. Levi, Evangelist • 29 St. Michael and All Angels •

Commemorations 1 Joshua • 2 Hannah, Mother of Samuel •

3 Gregory The Great, Pastor Pope Gregory I 590 – 604 • 4 Moses • 5 Zacharias & Elizabeth •

14 Holy Cross Day or Triumph of the Cross • 16 Cyprian Of Carthage, Pastor & Martyr •




22 Jonah • 30 Jerome Translator of Holy Scripture 345-420








Who are these “saints” whose days appear on the Church Year Calendar?

Joshua One of the 2 faithful spies; Successor of Moses; Warrior-Leader of Israel in the Promised Land; renewed the Covenant, exhorted Israel to remain faithful, serve

God only, heed Law of Moses, remember the Lord brings victory. No ‘negative’ events are recorded about his life or service. His name means ‘*Yahweh* (God’s covenant name) *is salvation.*’ 📖 **Hannah**, Mother of Samuel Her life/prayer for a son is recorded in I Samuel 1-2. Her prayer upon “*lending*” Samuel “*to the Lord*” is similar to Mary’s song. Luke 1: 46-55 **Gregory The Great**, Monk/Pope Gregory I 590 – 604 Born into wealth, became a monk; gave away the family fortune. First monk to become pope; stressed ascetic living among clergy; made liturgy more uniform Church-wide; promoted liturgical music by trained singers (Gregorian Chant); wrote a ‘training book’ of ideal qualities for bishops; sent monks to Britain, leading to many Anglo-Saxons converting to Roman Catholicism. But, he also developed ‘doctrine’ of Purgatory; stressed veneration of saints/relics (bones/clothing); and began West - East schism by stating *he* presided over all Christendom. Authored text of hymn #875 LSB. 📖 **Moses** His name means “*drawn from the water*” Writer of (Pentateuch) first 5 books, his life is divided into 3 equal parts: birth-40, Egypt: raised by Pharaoh’s daughter, knew he was Hebrew, slew an Egyptian mistreating fellow Hebrew, fled; age 40-80, Midian: married, had 2 sons; was a shepherd; age 80-120, in wilderness: received call at Burning Bush to deliver Israel (tried persuading God to choose another; God said no!); spoke with God face to face; did not enter Promised Land because he lost his temper, disobeyed God, failing to give Him the glory. Before dying, warned Israel of her fate if she rejected God; prophesied of The Prophet who would bring permanent redemption. Scripture says he was the

humblest of men. Named in one half of the Bible's books, including Revelation: *"And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: 'Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!'"* Rev. 15:3  **Zacharias & Elizabeth** Parents of John The Baptist, they appear only in Luke 1; both called: *"righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."* Zacharias did not believe Gabriel's announcement; made mute convinced him Gabriel was indeed sent by God. Elizabeth's response: has received God's favor (thinking her barrenness was disfavor). First to call Mary "blessed among women." At John's birth, Zacharias doubts were long gone. Named their son John, as Gabriel instructed, and his *"mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God."* Filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied the words of the Liturgical Canticle we call *The Benedictus*. Luke 1:68-79  **Holy Cross Day** a.k.a. Triumph of the Cross Started with dedication of a church built by Emperor Constantine, on the crucifixion's traditional site. Commemorates Constantinople's Emperor Heraclius' supposed return of the 'relic of the True Cross,' stolen by the Persians, to Jerusalem, in 630 AD . If Lutherans observe this day, it has nothing to do with buildings or pieces of wood; but with what Jesus Christ accomplished upon the cross.  **Cyprian Of Carthage**, Pastor & Martyr Converted in 246; devoted to celibacy, poverty, and the Bible, rejecting all other literature; became bishop in 248; fled during Decius' persecution, 250 AD ; believing church must be pure, opposed "easy" re-admittance for any who stayed and

recanted. Believed all bishops were equal, *but* Rome's was 'important.' His writings factored in Roman doctrine: belief that Spirit granted life and salvation *only* through Catholic Church; insisting groups causing schisms must be re-baptized; only the Church could administer the Sacraments (which Luther came to see as not Biblical). Martyred in 258, under Valerian.  **St. Matthew** a.k.a. Levi, Evangelist Of The Twelve; writer of first Gospel account; preached mainly to the Jews, showing Jesus to be Messiah; symbol is Winged-Man; his Gospel accents Jesus' earthly ancestry, human and kingly nature. No clear tradition of how he died; his 'shrine' is in Salerno, Italy.  **Jonah** Gives 1 event in the life of the prophet called to preach repentance to Nineveh, capital of Assyrian empire, Israel's enemy. Jonah heads in opposite direction, hops a ship to Tarshish (Spain); God sends a storm; mariners conclude somebody sinned! Jonah says "it's me;" overboard he goes. From the belly of the fish, God hears Jonah's prayer; fish spits him out; Jonah, repentant, goes to Nineveh, preaches: "*Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!*" Result: "*greatest to the least*" repent; put on sackcloth; fast: "*Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?*" says Nineveh's king. God sees changed hearts, relents. Jonah says: I rather be dead than see Nineveh spared! With a plant God illustrates to Jonah *his* heart needs changing. His response to God isn't known. Jesus tells the Pharisees: Nineveh is a judgment against them -- they do not hear the preaching of One greater than Jonah, and repent; He uses Jonah's 3 days/nights in the fish's belly to foretell His death/resurrection. Matt.

12:39-41  **St. Michael and All Angels** Word means *messenger of God*. Created beings; serve God; not to be worshiped Col. 2:18; are an “innumerable company” Heb. 12:22; in human form they are *always* male; 5 “types:” cherubim; seraphim; fallen; guardian; archangel (*chief*) - Michael's title. Ex. 25:19,26:1 Is. 6:2,6 Jude 1:6 Matt. 18:3 Jude 1:9 Michael's name means, *who is like God*; he is the defender of Israel; led the armies of heaven in defeating Satan. Dan. 12; Rev. 12 Tradition holds he will sound the trumpet on Judgment Day. In art, shown as a warrior, sword in hand, foot on Satan's neck. The song *Michael, Row the Boat Ashore* features him leading the faithful to the safe harbor of heaven.  **Jerome** Translator of Holy Scripture “Leading Biblical scholar” of his time. In 374, he said a vision criticized him of following Cicero, not Christ, due to his preoccupation with secular learning; so he headed into Syrian desert, mastered Hebrew; began transcribing Biblical manuscripts. Pope Damasus commissioned him to make an “improved” Latin Bible translation: it took him 23 years. Originally he used Greek Septuagint (Old Testament); later translated OT using the Hebrew Bible making it the 1st vernacular version based on the original languages of Scripture.  ***“...we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, ”*** Hebrews 11:23b-26