

**SUNDAY, MAY 14 & MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017**

**FROM PASTOR HAEUSSLER**

**Confirmation!** A week ago Friday night, our eleven second year Confirmands answered questions from Luther's Small Catechism (based upon Scripture) and gave their Affirmations of Faith (personal testimonies). While their answers were solid across the board, their Affirmations of Faith were impressive. So many of them were very personal, applying their faith to their lives. Many of them commented upon the positive nature of our congregation and how they always feel welcome here and are moved to be active here. I was most sincere when I shared with them in last Sunday's Confirmation message: "Pastor Green and I really want you to return and be active here so you can help us make this church even more blessed along with bringing Our Mission to even greater life!" Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers. They are as follows: Max Ciepiela; Kyle Gibbons; Benjamin Grawe; Martie Jones; Brendon Lauer; Elizabeth Nieman; Hannah Plunkett; Jennifer Reagan; Kayla Smith; Evan Toye; and Owen Wrate.

**A blessed Mother's Day!** While Mother's Day is not officially part of the Church Year (at Seminary I was taught not to pay attention to it as it is a "Hallmark creation"), I have always observed it during worship for it is a fantastic expression of the Fourth Commandment: "Honor your Father and your Mother!" Moreover, as Martin Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism: What promise does God attach to this Commandment? "... that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:3)

**Bible Studies.** This week we are beginning our final series for the academic year - We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms! This three part video series looks at issues involving government, Christianity, and our citizen role as Christians in the United States while emphasizing that understanding and participating in the democratic process as Christian men and women is more important than ever! Hosted by Concordia Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer, this Bible study examines the development of government throughout history, the idea that the United States is a Christian nation, and what we as Christian men and women can do now to live out our lives in service to both our glorious Savior and this great nation. We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms will be offered Sunday morning at 9:20, Monday night at 8:00, Tuesday morning at 9:30, and Wednesday morning at 11:00. Towards the end of a class led by Richard Hughes and myself, a fascinating discussion arose concerning The Shack. Our Summer Bible Study sessions will begin on Sunday, June 11 with a five week video series on The Shack! During the Summer months, sessions will be offered only on Sunday mornings at 9:20 and Wednesday mornings at 11:00.

**GOD'S LOVE SHINING THROUGH US... OPENING DOORS AND CHANGING LIVES!**

**\*\*\* WORSHIP SCHEDULE \*\*\***

Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 A.M.  
(Communion late on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, early on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
Sunday Adult Education Hour at 9:20 A.M.  
KREW (Kids Receiving Everlasting Wisdom) at 9:30 A.M.  
Monday Worship at 7:00 P.M. (Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends)

**NEXT SUNDAY & MONDAY** - “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as the removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!” Sunday at 8:00 & 10:45 A.M. - Uplifting Worship with Communion at 10:45. Monday at 7:00 P.M. - Uplifting Worship with Communion.

**CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC** - A congregational picnic will be held at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center on Sunday, July 16. It will be coordinated by Maryann Magill! More details to come! For now, mark this date on your calendar!

**WE ARE FRIENDLY!** But do our visitors know this? Let’s go out of our way to greet those we do not recognize. May the love of God SHINE brightly through us to one another!

**TASTE OF ST. PAUL RECIPE BOOKS** - The highly anticipated recipe books from the Taste of St. Paul will be available starting next Sunday after each worship service! If you ordered one or more, please stop by the table in the Gathering Place to pick up your copy next week. We apologize for the delay of the delivery of the recipe books to you. Thank you for your support!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS ASSIGNMENTS** - Assignments for Thursday, September 7:

\* **FIRST YEAR CLASS** - We hope to see as many of you entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade as possible! Any questions or concerns? Please contact us!

\* **SECOND YEAR CLASS** - We are excited about seeing all 13 of our students returning for an even better second year!