

November 2025 Newsletter

Matthew 22:2

The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son...

The church prepares for the end of the church calendar year. It is true that God has certainly blessed this congregation and has given many temporal blessings to THE Lutheran Chapel of the Cross. Budgets still need to be worked through, building and grounds need attention. We are called to take care of the "Business" of being a church. We are called to be good stewards, managers of all that God has blessed us with. It is not for show or to bring people into the pews. Yet many will see how we take care of our temporal things and know that by it we give a witness of where we place our faith. I know that is a two edged sword.

This month we look to the eternal as the reformation taught us to contend for the faith, the faith given and found in the very Word of God, as we believe, teach, and confess our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. We take a moment to remember the saints of old and those who have recently been commended to our Lord in the last year. It is a time for us to remember the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and His call through the preaching and teaching of His Word. It is a time to grasp the forgiveness of our sins bought through the blood of Jesus Christ as He suffered, died, and yes, rose from the dead.

We are indeed sinners. Yet, as sinners who cling to Christ and His work of redemption for us on the cross, we praise our Lord for He has made us saints. That being said... we also remember that Christ sent the prophets and apostles. He now sends pastors to call people to repentance and share the Gospel. He even has given you the power of the keys to forgive or to not forgive someone their sins. Many do not like to recognize that Hell exists. Yet the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew teaches us the call of God to attend the heavenly feast, the heavenly banquet, as those dressed in the righteousness of Jesus. No, we do not dress ourselves but rather are found worthy only through the blood of the Lamb.

Those the reject the call, the word of God, the preaching and teaching of His holy Word, are in danger of being cast out into the outer darkness. They seek a different kind of righteousness other than that through Jesus. The man who was not dressed in a wedding garment, who was bound hand and foot and cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth is a stark warning to all of us. Yet Christ still gives His Word, He still gives forgiveness to all who repent and turn from their wicked ways. The temporal will fade away but God has given you an eternity through faith in Jesus.

Pastor Ficken