

February 2026 Newsletter

The Bible study on Monday and on Thursday is covering the book of 1 Corinthians. At first glance the book is straight forward. Paul calls the people of Corinth to repent. Some of their sins include numerous divisions, their lack of care for one another spiritually, their lack of desire to call a member to repentance, their haughty and proud attitudes that despise the poor and strengthen the haughty, the desire to look important through the misuse of spiritual gifts, the inappropriate conduct between men and women, and their lack of order and reverence to God during worship. That's just to hit the surface.

Paul highlights some major themes in his letter. One captures the difference between the order of creation and the order of redemption. He also speaks about the theology of the cross vs. the theology of glory. He also reminds them, even though chastising them, that they are and belong to God. He starts in the very beginning of letter by sharing the name of our Lord Jesus Christ 10 times in the first 10 verses. He reminds them who they belong to. How are they to remedy all those anti-Christian issues if they can not remember their baptismal identity?

It seems to be that way in every age. Even here at The Lutheran Chapel of the Cross. It sounds so funny to have that definite article attached to the front of the name of this church. There is another Lutheran Chapel of the Cross in Milwaukee. I often receive phone calls from people looking for that congregation instead of this one. Yet we have decided to definitively state that we are THE one. Maybe that was never the intent. Paul writes to those sanctified "in Christ Jesus", those called to be holy, together with those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gives thanks to God for them.

He calls upon them to be of one mind and thought so that they all agree. That is, that since they are God's children, baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, they would be those who are in fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ. They are to confess the same confession, have the same mind and understanding together. They are to grow and mature in faith, not continuing as mere infants living off just milk. They are, you are, to grow together in Christ. This is why we continue to invite you to come and continue to mature in the faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through worship and Bible Study. You are indeed loved by God, and I do give thanks for you. You are His children. Let us grow together in faith, in Christ Jesus. There are plenty of opportunities for worship and Bible study, especially as we enter Lent with Ash Wednesday Services on February 18th at 4pm and 6pm.

Pastor Ficken