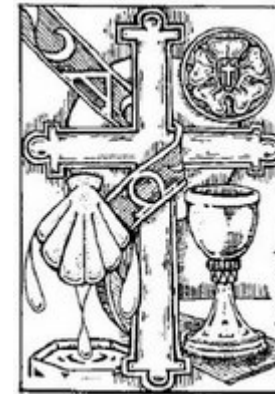


Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church



St. Athanasius Lutheran Church

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www.saint-athanasius.org

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Pentecost Newsletter
(August/September 2025)

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From the Pastor . . .

Summer's Almost Over!

Once again, the summer has flown by. I hope you had a good one! But very soon now our college students will be leaving, others will be arriving for school in our area, and our children will be back in school. So our congregation will jump into our Fall activities as well.

Our **seminarian offering months** begin in August, to help our pastoral students pay their Fall Quarter expenses.

Our **adopt-a-student program** will again support our college and seminary students, keeping them in our prayers and encouraging them.

Homeschool Chapel begins its third year, every Tuesday and Thursday morning praying Matins, reviewing the catechism, and getting ready for Sunday. (And remember: *it's not just for kids!* This is good for all families and individuals to spend time in the Word of God and prayer during the week!)

We hope to increase and improve our **Campus Ministry** at Patrick Henry College with a regular Evening Prayer service on Wednesday nights.

And we'll continue our regular **Sunday morning Bible Study** on the Book of Leviticus, our regular **Wednesday evening online Bible Study** on the Book of Acts, and our **Daily Morning Prayer** on WebEx. We're also trying to increase our Social Media presence and hope to start our "Take Five" short form videos soon. Lots of opportunities for you to take advantage of! *And I hope you do.* You need Jesus! You need His forgiveness. Life is tough and often confusing. Temptations are strong and persistent. The world is constantly catechizing us in its ways and wisdom, which are contrary to God's. Don't try to fit God into your life (that doesn't work!); conform your life into God and His Word. For only in Him is the life, joy, and comfort we need.

His servant and yours,

Pastor Douthwaite



Meet Our Newest Adopted Seminary Student

My name is Erik Preus and I am beginning my second year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. My wife, Bethany, and I have been married for eighteen years and we have been blessed with six children. Before starting at CTSFW in the fall of 2024, I worked in the software industry for just over twenty years. During this time, I had the opportunity to live, work and attend church in Alexandria, Virginia for one year. That was 2004 and a very special year as I witnessed the funeral procession of President Reagan and all the festivities surrounding the opening of the World War II Memorial. While I enjoyed my previous career and was blessed to meet and work with many different people, I give thanks to God that I am now afforded the opportunity to study His Word within the seminary setting. As a family, we enjoy music, reading, and playing soccer and tennis. What a joy it is to learn and articulate the whole counsel of God's Word as I prepare for the office of the Holy Ministry!

CPH BIBLE SALE - going on NOW!
25% off every Bible with the code BIBLES25
cph.org



Don't forget!
Start each day
in the Word of God and prayer.
Morning Prayer on the Web
Every Monday-Friday, 7:00 am



August Is Seminarian Offering Month

The month of August is the first of our three special "Seminarian Offering Months." These offerings will help our adopted seminary students **Nathaniel Hall** (son-in-law of the Keisers) and **Erik Preus** (see page in this newsletter for an introduction) pay their fall quarter expenses. If you would like to contribute, please put your donation into the offering (or give online!) *specially marked* for seminarian support.

And please remember - this is a *special* offering above and beyond your regular giving to the church. Don't reduce your regular giving! We need that for our regular expenses and as we look to the future. Thanks for your generosity and love, both for the students and for the congregations they will one day be called to serve.

+ + + + + + + + +



Adopt a College or Seminary Student

We are inviting all of you to again support our college and seminary students. This is an important time in their lives and they need our love and support. Can you pray for one of our students? Can you send a card or offer a word of encouragement? Maybe you'd even like to send them a care package! Whatever you are able to do, we'd love to have you help! Individuals, couples, families - this is for everyone! And if we have more volunteers than students, that's okay, too! Our students will feel very loved!

Interested? Take a brochure available for you in the entrance of the church, or speak with Grace Killian or Caroline Trundle. **And thanks!**

Second Saturday Fellowship



Our new focus to provide you with fellowship opportunities continues! Mark your calendars! Here's what's coming up:

August 9 - Book Club

We'll be reading the second half of *Because Jesus Taught It* by Flame. We had a great discussion on the first half in July - join us as we continue!

September 13 - Outdoor Activity

We haven't yet decided what this will be, but stay tuned! And got anything you'd like to do? Let us know!

The times and locations for these will be announced soon. And these are **open to ALL** - invite friends, families, neighbors, anyone! We'd love to meet them and give them a little introduction to who we are as Athanasians. Hope to see you!



Food for Body and Soul!

Come one, come all - all are welcome to join us!

Friday, September 26th

at the home of the Roysters

Don't miss out!



Focus: Youth



Our youth trip to the Higher Things conference **All Things New** in Amherst, MA was great! Good worship, good learning, and good fun. Thank you all for making this trip possible. We are already looking forward to next year's conference in Saint Louis with the theme *Dying Church, Rising Hope*.

We also completed our Vacation Bible School **For You**, focusing on our gift giving God and all the gifts He gives to us. As we usually do, we took a special offering each day (Tuesday: pennies, Wednesday: nickels, Thursday: dimes, and Friday: quarters) and the children raised \$275! Pastor promised to match whatever they donated, bringing the total to \$550! The youth decided to support the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's project *Praise Him, Africa*, which will supply Lutheran songbooks in Swahili to children in East Africa. At \$5 each, we will provide 110 books! How great is that?

If you would like to learn more about this project, check it out at: <https://lhfmisions.org/adopt-a-project/childrens-mission-projects/praise-him-africa/>

NARRATIVE DIVINE SERVICE

We will have our annual "Narrative Divine Service" on **Sunday, September 15th**. This is the service with the explanations of *what we do* and *why we do it* embedded into the service. Bring a friend and learn again about our liturgy and how it reflects our theology and how our theology is embedded in all that we say and do.

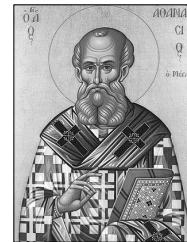


From Luther . . .

(*Luther disputes on the certainty of Absolution.*)

8. Remission of guilt is based neither on the contrition of the sinner nor on the office or authority of the priest. 9. Rather, it is based on faith, which is directed toward the Word of Christ, who says, "Whatever you loose . . .," etc. [Matt 16:19] 10. For it is true that it is not the sacrament of faith, but rather faith in the sacrament, that justifies (that is, not because [the sacrament] is performed, but because it is believed). . . . 15. Therefore, it is certain: sins are remitted if you believe that they are remitted, because the promise of Christ the Savior is certain.

[from "Disputation for the Sake of Investigating the Truth and Comforting Terrified Consciences" (1518) in *Luther's Works*, Vol. 72 (*Disputations* 1), © 2025 CPH, p.128]



From Athanasius . . .

(*Athanasius speaks of the importance of the Nicene Creed.*)

For this Synod of Nicaea is in truth a proscription of every heresy. It also upsets those who blaspheme the Holy Spirit, and call Him a Creature. For the Fathers, after speaking of the faith in the Son, straightway added, 'And we believe in the Holy Ghost,' in order that by confessing perfectly and fully the faith in the Holy Trinity they might make known the exact form of the Faith of Christ, and the teaching of the Catholic Church. For it is made clear both among you and among all, and no Christian can have a doubtful mind on the point, that our faith is not in the Creature, but in one God, Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible: and in one Lord Jesus Christ His Only-begotten Son, and in one Holy Ghost; one God. known in the holy and perfect Trinity, baptized into which, and in it united to the Deity, we believe that we have also inherited the kingdom of the heavens, in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom to the Father be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

[from "To the Bishops of Africa" (369), §11 in *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Second Series, Vol. 4, p. 494]



On the Catechism . . .

As we continue in the Pentecost season and its emphasis on growth in the Christian life and faith, our Catechism focus is on Confession and Absolution, for as Martin Luther wrote in the very first of his 95 theses, “When our Lord and Master

Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent,’ He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone with your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Wherever a devout farmer or citizen or subject serves his master, he is also serving God. The same applies to a child, a servant, or a maidservant in the house, if they are obedient and faithfully do that which they should, likewise princes and masters, fathers and mothers, when they govern well and attend to their office. . . . Now, the whole world is full of such service, if only they [i.e., the persons just mentioned] would perform it, for everyone in his station has his work laid upon him by God, in which he not only should but can serve him daily and constantly. . . . Nobody can excuse himself by saying that he does not know how or wherewith he should serve God, or pursue other trumpery stuff and seek in his own way to serve God, a way which he has neither ordained nor commanded, and meantime neglect what he has been commanded to do, as we in our blindness have done hitherto.

[from Sermon “On the Sum of the Christian Life” (1532) in
Luther’s Works, Vol. 51: Sermons 1 © 1959 Fortress Press, p. 260-61]

Preparing for the Divine Service

To give you the opportunity to look ahead and prepare for our Divine Service each Sunday, the Office Hymn, Holy Gospel, and Theme of each week for August and September are listed below.

Pentecost 8 (August 3):

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13–21 (Parable of the Rich Fool.)

Office Hymn: LSB #782 “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

Pentecost 9 (August 10):

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:22–34 (Don’t Worry! Jesus has your back.)

Office Hymn: LSB #666 “O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”

Pentecost 10 (August 17):

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49–56 (Fire and Division . . . from Jesus?)

Office Hymn: LSB #655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

St. Bartholomew, Apostle (August 24):

Holy Gospel: Luke 22:24–30 (Learning true greatness.)

Office Hymn: LSB #583 “God Has Spoken By His Prophets”

Pentecost 12 (August 31)

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1–14 (Parable of the Wedding Feast.)

Office Hymn: LSB #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Pentecost 13 (September 7):

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25–35 (Bearing the cross.)

Office Hymn: LSB #731 “O God, Forsake Me Not”

Holy Cross Day (September 14):

Holy Gospel: John 12:20–33 (The cross as the glory of God.)

Office Hymn: LSB #454 “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

St. Matthew, Apostle (September 21):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13 (From taking to giving.)

Office Hymn: LSB #730 “What Is the World to Me”

Saint Michael and All Angels (September 28)

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:17–20 (Satan falls; Jesus rises.)

Office Hymn: LSB #521 “Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken”

Note: The Liturgy through Holy Cross Day (September 14) is **Divine Service 4** (p. 203). The Liturgy beginning on St. Matthew, Apostle (September 21) is **Divine Service 2** (p. 167).