

Congregational News (Cont'd)

The Mid-South District (LCMS) is celebrating its 60th birthday with a series of free dinners. The next Mid-South District 60th Celebration Banquet will be hosted by **Grace Lutheran Church in Knoxville, TN on Sunday, November 8, from 5-7:15 PM**. There is no cost to attend the 60th Celebration Banquet, which will include hors d'oeuvres with fellowship time, dinner, District greetings, an update on the Blueprint for Ministry, an inspiring local ministry impact story, an opportunity to financially support District ministry, and a special keepsake. Reserve your seats for this special celebration at: <https://midsouthdistrictlcms.regfox.com/msd60thbanquetknox>

Jill Wilson can use help writing sentiments in the cards she will send to deployed military and vets. See Jill to help and get ideas for the messages.

Thursday evening Zoom Bible Class will start a new series on October 15 looking at everyday life in Biblical times. See Pastor Smith for the Zoom link.

Statistical Report

ATTENDANCE: Sep 27 – Oct 3	
Sunday Worship	70
Sunday School	22
Mid-Week Studies	
• Wed. Morning Bible Class	15
• Thursday am Zoom.....	8
• Thursday pm Zoom	8
BUDGET Status: As of Sept 30	
Weekly Budget Receipts.....	\$4,460.00
Total Budget Receipts to date:	\$ 225,905.61
Actual Budget Expenses:	\$ 224,475.18
Over/(Short) Anticipated:	\$ 1,623.74
Ratio of Actual to Anticipated:	100.64%
Sep 27 Noisy Offering (\$95.85) . . Current total	\$1,060.78
Noisy Offering recipients: <i>Choices Resource Center, Paradox Teen Ctr, Free Medical Clinic , Faith Quilters, FLC LWM, Venezuela Lutheran Mission</i> in equal shares.	

Congregational News

Electronics recycling has been extended to next week. Bring your old electrical equipment to the Fellowship Hall and put it in one of the large cardboard boxes.

Wednesday morning Bible Class has just started studying the Gospel according to Saint Mark. You are invited to join us on Wednesdays at 10:00am

Our Fall Festival is next Saturday, October 10 from 2:00pm to 5:30pm. The church will provide brats, burgers, and beverages. If you are able, bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will have Corn Hole, Bingo, polka music, board games and more.

We are approaching the final quarter of 2026, and some of you may be planning your next financial year at this time. Perhaps you are thinking of sharing some of your blessings with Faith during the next year, or even sometime in the future following your passing. If so, perhaps you would like to offer a gift to our endowment. Such a gift could be one that provides a ministry immediately, or even after its giver has gone to the Lord. Follow this link to some information about the Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund for you to review and consider <https://faithlutheranoakridge.org/endowment-fund/> If you would like **more information on our endowment fund**, or have decided to donate, please contact Pastor Chase or Pastor George. Remember: God loves a cheerful giver!

On November 1 we will not only celebrate All Saints day, but **we will dedicate the beautiful quilts made by our quilters** during the year. In November, our quilts will join those from other congregations in the area and be sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world. Last year congregations in the Mid-South District collected 996 quilts, 1,425 personal care kits, 101 fabric kits, 535 school kits and 75 baby care kits. If you would like to become part of this valuable ministry next year, see Jeannie Nelson, Linda Debner or one of our pastors.

Kelli Evans will have a granddaughter in November! She will use our Fellowship Hall for a shower on Oct. 17 at 2:00pm. All members of Faith are invited to celebrate. Gifts are not expected.

We will be converting plastic grocery bags into comfortable sleeping mats each Tuesday until Christmas from 10:00am till noon. Everyone is invited to join in.

Suzanne Johnston **assumed our greeting card ministry.** If you would like to help her with this valuable ministry, contact Suzanne.

October 2026

Ψ Holy Communion
is celebrated on the
1st, 3rd and 5th
Sundays of the
month.

Church Office Hours:
Mon & Tues 9:00am – Noon
Thurs & Fri.....9:00am - Noon

Sermons can be found at
www.FaithOakRidge.com
Recordings are available
through the church office

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8	Oct 9	Oct 10
Electronics Recycling						10:00 AM Adult Catechesis 2:00 PM FLC Fall Festival
Pentecost 19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Service ₪ 11:30 AM Coffee Hour		10:00 AM Sleeping Mat Assembly 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Men's Prayer Group	10:00 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Choir Practice	9:00 AM Circuit Pastors Meeting 6:30 PM B.O.D. Meeting		
Oct 11	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17
Mid-South Pastors' Conference				10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Class		10:00 AM Confessions Study 2:00 PM Baby Shower (Kelli Evans, granddaughter)
Pentecost 20 LWML Sunday /Pledge Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Matins	10:00 AM Quilters	10:00 AM Sleeping Mat Assembly 1:00 PM Caregiver Support Group	6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Adult Catechesis			
Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24
Saint Luke Pledge Sunday #2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Service ₪	10:00 AM Women's Prayer Group	10:00 AM Sleeping Mat Assembly 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Men's Prayer Group	10:00 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Choir Practice	10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Class		10:00 AM Adult Catechesis 6:00 PM Game Night
Oct 25	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31
Reformation Sunday Pledge Sunday #3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Service	10:00 AM Quilters	10:00 AM Sleeping Mat Assembly 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	10:00 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Adult Catechesis	10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Class		Reformation Day 10:00 AM Confessions Study



BIRTHDAYS

Oct 2 - Ian Cates
Oct 5 - Darryl Wachob
Oct 6 - Mairzy Truex
Oct 10 - Ray Ogden
Oct 17 - Justin Lelle
Oct 18 - John Kuehl
Oct 24 - Bill Truex
Oct 26 - Emma Clark
Oct 27 - Jennifer Bultman
Oct 30 - Marti Aperans
Oct 31 - Alane Evers



♥ Oct 25 – Donnie and Julia Phillips

Agnus

Day

WELL, THIS
STORY
TAKES A
TURN!

IT'S SAD...

GOD'S TENDER CARE FOR
THE VINEYARD IS MET WITH
BETRAYAL.

IT'S LIKE
THE SONG...

I HEARD IT THROUGH
THE GRAPEVINE, NOT
MUCH LONGER WILL
YOU BE MINE!

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WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

ISAIAH 5:1-7



Faith in Action

October 2026

St. Athanasius - On the Incarnation

Part Three: The Death of Jesus

[St. Athanasius has discussed two problems of the Fall. First, there was the the divine dilemma (August): God gave man life with his Word, but He also said that if man ate "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... you shall surely die." How could God uphold both words, that of grace and that of justice? Second, there was the issue of how God was known (September): the image of God in man was irreparably destroyed in the Fall, and man also began to worship created things instead of God. The solution to both of these problems was in the body of Christ. Now, St. Athanasius turns his attention to the manner of Christ's death and His victory over sin, death, and the devil. November will conclude with the resurrection of Jesus.]

All these things the Saviour thought fit to do, so that, recognizing His bodily acts as works of God, men who were blind to His presence in creation might regain knowledge of the Father... Even the very creation broke silence at His behest and, marvelous to relate, confessed with one voice before the cross—that monument of victory—that He Who suffered thereon in the body was not man only, but Son of God and Saviour of all. The sun veiled his face, the earth quaked, the mountains were rent asunder, all men were stricken with awe. These things showed that Christ on the cross was God, and that all creation was His slave and was bearing witness by its fear to the presence of its Master.

Thus, then, God the Word revealed Himself to men through His works. **We must next consider the end of His earthly life and the nature of His bodily death. This is, indeed, the very center of our faith... by it, too, no less than by His other acts, Christ is revealed as God and Son of God.** (19)

[What happened when the deathless son of God died?]

The body of the Word, being a real human body, was of itself mortal and, like other bodies, liable to death. But the indwelling of the Word loosed it from this natural liability, so that corruption could not touch it. **Thus it happened that two opposite marvels took place at once: the death of all men was consummated in the Lord's body; yet, because the Word was in it, death and corruption were in the same act utterly abolished.** Death there had to be, and death for all, so that the due of all might be paid. Wherefore, the Word, as I said, being Himself incapable of death, assumed a mortal body, that He might offer it as His own in place of all, and suffering for the sake of all through His union with it, "might bring to nought Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might deliver them who all their lifetime were enslaved by the fear of death" (Heb. 2:14f). (20)

Have no fear, then! Now that the common Saviour of all has died on our behalf, we who believe in Christ no longer die, as men died aforetime, in fulfillment of the threat of the law. That condemnation has come to an end; and now that, by the grace of the resurrection, corruption has been banished and done away, we are loosed from our mortal bodies in God's good time for each, so that we may obtain thereby a better resurrection. Like seeds cast into the earth, we do not perish in our dissolution, but like them shall rise again, death having been brought to nought by the grace of the Saviour. (21)

[This explains why Jesus had to die; but why did He have to die in this particular, disgraceful way on the cross?]

A generous wrestler, virile and strong, does not himself choose his antagonists, lest it should be thought that of some of them he is afraid. Rather, he lets the spectators choose them, and that all the more if these are hostile, so that he may overthrow whomsoever they match against him and thus vindicate his superior strength. Even so was it with Christ. He, the Life of all, our Lord and Saviour, did not arrange the manner of his own death lest He should seem to be afraid of some other kind. No, He accepted and bore upon the cross a death which was supremely terrible; and He did this in order that, by destroying even this death, He might Himself be believed to be the Life, and the power of death be recognised as finally annulled. A marvelous and mighty paradox has thus occurred, for the death which they thought to inflict on Him as dishonor and disgrace has become the glorious monument to death's defeat. **Therefore it is also, that He neither endured the death of John, who was beheaded, nor was He sawn asunder, like Isaiah: even in death He preserved His body whole and undivided, so that there should be no excuse hereafter for those who would divide the Church.** (24)

In no other way was it expedient for us; indeed, the Lord offered for our sakes the one death that was supremely good. He had come to bear the curse that lay on us; and how could He “*become a curse*” (Gal 3:13) otherwise than by accepting the accursed death? And that death is the cross, for it is written “*Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*” (Gal. 3:13; Deut. 21:23). Again, the death of the Lord is the ransom of all, and by it “*the middle wall of partition*” (Eph. 2:14) is broken down and the call of the Gentiles comes about. **How could He have called us if He had not been crucified, for it is only on the cross that a man dies with arms outstretched? Here, again, we see the fitness of His death and of those outstretched arms: it was that He might draw His ancient people with the one and the Gentiles with the other, and join both together in Himself. Even so, He foretold the manner of His redeeming death, “I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Myself”** (John 12:32).

Again, the air is the realm of the devil, the enemy of our race who, having fallen from heaven, endeavors with the other evil spirits who shared in his disobedience both to keep souls from the truth and to hinder the progress of those who are trying to follow it. The apostle refers to this when he says, “*According to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience.*” (Eph. 2:2). But the Lord came to overthrow the devil and to purify the air and to make “*a way*” for us up to heaven, as the apostle says, “*through the veil, that is to say, His flesh*” (Heb. 10:20). This had to be done through death, and by what other kind of death could it be done, save by a death in the air, that is, on the cross? Here, again, you see how right and natural it was that the Lord should suffer thus; for being thus “*lifted up,*” He cleansed the air from all the evil influences of the enemy. “*I beheld Satan as lightning falling*” (Luke 10:18), He says; and thus He re-opened the road to heaven, saying again, “*Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors*” (Psalm. 24:7). **For it was not the Word Himself Who needed an opening of the gates, He being Lord of all, nor was any of His works closed to their Maker. No, it was we who needed it, we whom He Himself upbore in His own body—that body which He first offered to death on behalf of all, and then made through it a path to heaven.** (25)

—St. Athanasius

OUR WORK FOR THE LORD – October 2026

October 4
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Alan Kerekes
Communion Elder..... Alan Kerekes
Communion Usher..... Downes/Aperans
A-V Technician Bret & Debra Cole
Lay Reader Tom Benzenhafer
Offering Reader Sharon Downes
Offering Recorder..... Emma Clark

October 18
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Logan Kearney
Communion Elder..... Logan Kearney
Communion Usher..... Bertels/Woody
A-V Technician Bret & Debra Cole
Lay Reader Emma Clkark
Offering Reader Sharon Downes
Offering Recorder..... Emma Clark

October 11 (LWML)
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Jane Miniard
Communion Elder N/A
Communion Usher..... N/A
A-V Technician..... Ken Kaiser
Lay Reader..... Carol Noe
Offering Reader..... Sharon Downes
Offering Recorder..... Emma Clark

October 25 (Reformation)
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Merry Ann Hansen
Communion Elder TBA
Communion Usher..... TBA
A-V Technician..... Ruben Popa
Lay Reader..... Linda Kerekes
Offering Reader..... Sharon Downes
Offering Recorder..... Emma Clark

Coming Events

October
Oct 10 FLC Fall Festival
Oct 18, 25 Pledge Sundays
Oct 1-9..... Electronics Recycling
Oct 25 Reformation Sunday

November
Nov 1.....Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov 3..... Election Day
Nov 14 Fall Workday
Nov 19.Family of Faith Thanksgiving dinner
Nov 26.....Thanksgiving
Nov 29.....Advent begins

December
Dec 2, 9, 16 Midweek Suppers/Services
Dec 13.....Annual Voters Assembly
Dec 20.....Choral Christmas
Dec 24, 25..... Christmas Eve/Day
Dec 31..... New Year Eve Vespers

January
Jan 1 New Year’s Day (<i>office closed</i>)
Jan 18..... Martin Luther King (<i>office open</i>)
All month.....Prepare for new directory