

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

I'm going to continue a series I started last month about death and funerals. I already wrote about how a Christian should think about death in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We should view our death as the fulfillment of the promise that we too will be raised from the dead. Where Jesus, our head has gone, there we, the body, will follow.

In this article I'll write about how to deal with and be prepared for your own death. Obviously, this is a difficult topic for many people. It's difficult because we don't like to think of our own mortality, the deaths of other people have been especially difficult, or we just want to avoid discussing things for which we have no power over.

I contend that the Christian life is a long (or short) preparation for that last moment. Yes, you are to be loving and serving your God and neighbor each and every day, but in addition, you should be thinking how you prepare for that last hour.

The parables of Jesus that speak about the Last Day, his return, give us a good framework to think about how to prepare for our death. The parables of Jesus about the Last Day like the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46) and the parable of the 10 Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) are wonderful teaching moments for how we should prepare and be ready for that last day.

It might be tempting to think that preparation for our last hour involves wills, financial plans, meetings at the funeral home, or buying a grave. There's nothing wrong with those things, but true preparedness comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Just as the five wise virgins had oil in their lamp and the sheep were living a life of faith, so we are truly worthy and well-prepared for the last day with faith in Jesus Christ.

We need not fear our own death because we know that it is a portal to life everlasting. We rightly think about it as an entry way to that which is better than we have right now.

And yet, we might fear death. My counsel to people has always been that you may fear the process of death, but you don't need to fear death itself. Death is a defeated enemy through the resurrection of Jesus. However, we can think about the process of death like we would think about anything else in our life. You may not want to go through this or that suffering. You don't want to have surgery, endure that treatment, deal with that difficult situation in your family. In the same way, you don't know how you will die, so you may fear that. The unknowns, the possible pain, the separation between yourself and family or friends. In all of that, you address it the same way you

address other sufferings or unknowns in your life: knowing that Jesus provides for his beloved sheep. The Lord God will walk you through any difficult days you have; and in fact, the Good Shepherd will lead you THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). He doesn't leave you in darkness, rather he is with you each step of the way.

You can look to the crucifixion of Jesus and know that even though death is hard to look at, it is not the final outcome for you or for any of the children of God.

You face death with the confident hope that Jesus will come again on the Last Day and raise your body from the grave. With that confidence you can meet any challenge that comes upon you in this life, including your own death.

If you struggle to deal with death, your own or someone else's, please talk to me. I'd be happy to share additional Scripture passages with you and give you the comfort that comes from the resurrection of Jesus.

Next month I'll spend some time on funerals; their purpose, their benefit, and what we want to confess at them.

In the life of the resurrected Jesus,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

RED BARN BRAT FRY

We will be hosting a brat fry at Charlie's Red Barn on Monday-Wednesday, June 15th-17th, from 9-5. The families attending the Higher Things Conference will work, but they may need some help. Proceeds will be used to help pay for the transportation expense to St. Louis.



ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

There is no Book Club in June or July. The following books have been selected for future meetings: *The First Time I Saw Him* by Laura Dave will be discussed in August. This is a sequel to "The Last Night He Told Me". For September, the book selected is *The Harvey Girls* by Juliette Fay. October's choice is *Chained to a Killer* by Kellyann Amelung, and will be hosted by Amy Riesenberg.

GIVING OPTIONS

You can now give online by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/DonateStJakobi>. This easy way to give to church can be done as a one-time gift or recurring. You can give from your checking account or credit card. If you would like you can help offset the expense of offering this service, there is information at that website.



BAPTISM:

Baptized into Christ on May 31st was Whitley Mavis Raddant. She is the daughter of Kyle and Emily Raddant. Her sponsors are Aaron and Elexea Romanek. Thanks be to God who gives new birth by water and the Spirit.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY

Joseph Kleinschmidt is graduating high school. Pastor and Noël invite you to his party that is June 20th from 11:30-4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come and celebrate with Joe!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are being made for VBS to be held the week of **June 1st-5th** in the mornings. The theme this year is Tropical Trek: Jesus comes to Seek and Save. Make plans now to have your children attend, help, or tell your grandkids and friends about this great opportunity to learn about Jesus. **You can register your child or register to volunteer at www.vbsmate.com/jakobiVBS or by scanning the QR code.**



CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 7th, following the outdoor service. We will be serving pulled pork, mac n' cheese, hot dogs, and slushies. Please bring a dish to pass or a dessert. Fun activities include a bounce house and hay wagon rides.

READINGS AT CHURCH

June 7th: Hosea 5:15-6:6
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13

June 14th: Exodus 19:2-8
Romans 5:6-15
Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21st: Jeremiah 20:7-13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

June 28th: Jeremiah 28:5-9
Romans 7:1-13
Matthew 10:34-42

HYMNAL RIBBONS

We are trying to preserve them for as long as possible. Please do not braid or pick at the end of the ribbons in the hymnals.

PARISH EDUCATION

Sunday School is done for the school year and will begin again the weekend after Labor Day. We will continue to have Adult Bible Class on Sundays after church along with the Thursday afternoon class that studies the Bible readings for the upcoming weekend.

SENIOR CONNECTIONS LUNCHEON

Thank you to all who attended the Senior Connections Luncheon on Friday, May 1st. We had a great turnout. We hope to host one more Luncheon in 2026, tentatively set for late September. If you have any comments or suggestions for the Luncheon, please feel free to speak with an Outreach Member. Don't know who the members are? You're welcome to join our meetings on the second Saturday of each month, at 9:00am in the Jerusalem room.

ALUMINIUM CAN RECYCLING

You can turn your aluminum cans in south of the church. Put the cans in closed bags and then place the bags inside the fence. The youth group will receive the proceeds of the recycling. Thank you!

RAISE RIGHT CARDS

Do you have an upcoming celebration for which you need a gift? Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, graduation or wedding? Check out the large selection of gift cards available through RAISE RIGHT!! Cards ordered on Monday arrive Friday afternoon.

SUNDAY SNACK SIGNUP

If you would like to bring a snack to share on Sunday after church, then you can sign up on the counter by the kitchenette in the Narthex.

WRLHS EVENTS

Check the Wolf River Lutheran High School Bulletin Board in the hallway for upcoming events: Rummage Sale, and Summer Camp options.

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The pictures in the newsletter look best in color. You can sign up to view them on your computer by going to this website. <https://tinyurl.com/JakobiNewsletter>

DID YOU KNOW?

Christians confess three historical, ecumenical Creeds. They are the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. We say the Athanasian Creed once a year on Trinity Sunday. This year Trinity Sunday is May 31st. The Creeds summarize what the Holy Scriptures teach about who God is and what He has done and is doing.

NEW MEMBERS

New members welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, April 26th were Jeff Anker, Curt Bohm, Rev. Steve & Bernadette Conradt, Pam Drake, Ann Kestell, and Michael Peters.



Pam Drake

Michael 'Bitzen' Peters



Jeff Anker

Ann Kestell



Rev. Steve & Bernie Conradt

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 - Willow Berendt
1 - Courtney Drake
1 - Debra Schneider
2 - Callie Boyles
2 - Kristi Skalitzky
2 - Alison Sperberg
3 - Joshua Berkhahn
3 - Taylor Pethke
3 - Jeremy Pyatskowitz
4 - Bob Johnson
4 - Crystal Thoma
5 - Christie Hietpas
6 - Lincoln Ejnik
6 - Amanda Felkowski
6 - Sheila Herrmann
7 - Wendy Kroenke
8 - Lori Schmidt
8 - Steven Verstoppen Jr
9 - Darryl Prodel
9 - Tiller Krull
10 - Wyatt Krueger
12 - Kourtney Erickson
12 - Paul Romberg
14 - Owen Gueths
14 - Chad Wendorff
16 - Kelly Matsche
17 - Bobbi Jo Ladwig
17 - Betty Szucs
19 - Landon Lindner
19 - Dana Price
20 - Dayton Pedersen
20 - Kaitlyn West
21 - Mark Schuster
21 - Rebecca West
21 - Jerele Westphal
23 - Jeff Buettner
26 - Ashley Damveld
26 - Chuck Stoehr
27 - Derek Drake
27 - Samuel Gueths
27 - Emily Teetzen
28 - Carrie Bohl
28 - Boston Buntrock
28 - Daxon Drake
28 - Harper Ejnik
28 - Peggy Parsons
28 - Marjorie Vorpahl
30 - Carrie Fink
30 - Mary Jung-Wians

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1, 2019 - Jesse & Brittany Waldvogel
3, 2017 - Peter & Mikayla Carroll
5, 1987 - Daryl & Charlene Seelig
7, 1980 - Jeff & Mary Theis
6, 2024 - Skylar & Mackenzie Rodenbeck
11, 2021 - Dustin & Cassandra Fischer
14, 1969 - Marshal & Susan Giese
16, 1984 - Timothy & Jamie Massey
18, 2016 - Adam & Katie Carroll
18, 2005 - Faron & Kristi Skalitzky
21, 1980 - Jeff & Teresa Schuettpelz
27, 2020 - Tristan & Courtney Buntrock
30, 2007 - Cory & Rachel Neville
30, 1990 - Michael & Vicki Waldvogel



AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Zoey Bartz
	VBS 9am-12pm				1:00 Bible Study	
7 9:00 Outdoor Service Church Picnic	8	9 4:30 Elders	10	11 1:00 Bible Study	12	13 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Harper Ejnik
14 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Bible Study Acolyte: Emma Ladwig	15	16	17	18 1:00 Bible Study	19	20 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Hailey Weishoff
	Charlie's Red Barn 9am-5pm					
21 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Bible Study Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik	22	23	24	25	26	27 1:00 Men's Shooting 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brielle Reinke
		Higher Things - St. Louis, MO				
			2:00 Crafty Day			
28 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Bible Study Acolyte: Adam Kleinschmidt	29	30		Elders: Sat: Tim Massey Sun: Mike Daley Tom Tuma Special: Jeff Buettner		Altar Guild: Carol Magee Roxy Martzke Noël Kleinschmidt

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

