

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! As we continue through Reformation to All Saints Day, the end of the Church year is coming closer. Once again we have journeyed across the Scriptures from Jesus' coming to His life and teachings to His death and resurrection. We are wrapping up learning to live as ones saved by Him by the power of His Spirit.



From autumn and Reformation to the Nativity, Christ's love is for all of His saints...and the world!

At the same time as we wrap up the Church Year, we also wrap up our study of the Baptism section of Luther's Large Catechism. I have already made it clear in my teaching, preaching, and even through my first baptism that I believe infants should be baptized. I agree with Luther that the baptism is valid whether the infant has the faith to receive it or not—a baptism is not valid based upon the child's

ability to believe, but whether it is water with the Word. If it is water with the Word as per the command of God, then the baptism is valid, and it does not need to be redone.

In this sacred and sacramental act, the infant goes under the water—whether once in dunking or three times in sprinkling—and then emerges from it. Luther compares this to “the slaying of the old Adam and the resurrection of the new creature (BoC, p.465).” Sadly, though, “both of (these) continue in us our whole life long (BoC, p.465).” For this reason, we daily remember our baptism, purging the old Adam and the new creation coming forth. If we do not do this, the vices of sin continue unchecked and become worse and worse. We as Christians then daily remember our baptism so that we may become better and better day by day. Again, we will never completely be rid of that old Adam until Christ comes again for us—at our deaths or at the end of time—but we have the promise that He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion on the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Therefore baptism remains forever. Even though someone falls from it and sins, we always have access to it so that we may again subdue the old creature. But we need not have the water poured over us again (BoC, p.466).” So great is the mercy of God that in the once-for-all victory in Jesus’ death on the cross, His mercy endures forever. “As we have once obtained forgiveness of sins in baptism, so forgiveness remains day by day as long as we live, that is, as long as we carry the old creature around our necks (BoC, p.467).”

This weekend we celebrate those who have left the great tribulation to be with our Father in Heaven. We earnestly long to join them, but realize also that God has work for us to do here until He calls us home in His good time. Once more, then, all blessing, honor, and glory be to Christ Jesus our Lord, who grants us forgiveness until such time as we are completed through the working of the Holy Spirit in us. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Josh Frazee