

214 Harvey St, Viborg, SD 57070

www.oslcvib.ora

### FROM THE PASTORS DESK

### On Spiritual Gifts and the Church Body

Hello readers! Over the last few weeks, the Epistle reading (second reading) has been coming from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. We began in the first half of chapter 12 hearing about spiritual gifts, and the next week about different members of the body, with Paul leaving a cliffhanger for the end of chapter 12 saying "But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."

Spiritual gifts. How do we know when a gift or talent is God given or just something a person happens to be good at? Here is the answer: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Cor. 12:7)." God gives us all gifts for the common good. To put it into more plain English: Your gifts are not for you, they are for your neighbor. When a gift is truly helping the neighbor - a neighbor being literally anyone - then you know that it is a spiritual gift.

Sometimes we worry about whether or not our gift is good enough, or if it is actually useful in the world. Which then brings us to the second half of chapter 12 saying that each and every member of the body of Christ is just that; a member of the body of Christ! Whether you were in worship to hear this preached or not, it is worth repeating. What member of the body you most identify with does not change the fact that you are indeed a part of the body of Christ.

Even if you don't know exactly what your God-given spiritual gift(s) may be, your identity can and should still lie in the larger picture: Christ, a member chosen by God, forever.

And as huge as these points are, Paul still goes on to say that there is still something even greater, which leads us into chapter 13. Do you know what this more excellent way is? It is love. All thirteen verses of chapter thirteen spell out this love. We often hear these verses at weddings hearing about how love is patient and kind... love never ends... and then finally, verse 13: "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

This is where our Christian faith and hope lie. In this love that Paul is writing about. Yes, we strive for this love between each other (this is for all people, not specifically husband and wife). But we must go further to recognize that this is truly the love that Christ has for us. His love never fails. Even when we don't recognize our spiritual gifts, even when we don't think that we have anything to contribute to the body, and even when the opposite is true and we place our full identity in our gifts and supposed role, Christ continues to give us this love.

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So finally, why is the greatest of these love? Because faith is trusting that God's Word and promise for us is true, hope is the waiting to see this promise, and both of these things come to an end when we

at long last see God in all His glory and feel His love everlasting.

This is most certainly true. Pastor Max

### Welcome New Members!!



Justin, Catrina, Brody, and Hudson Walsh



Derek, Jena and Holden Hight



Linda and Don Renken



Brody Walsh seated in prayer after his baptism



The New logo for the VCIS Youth Group! VCIS. Vocavit Called, Congregentur Gathered, *Illustratus* Englightened, Sanctificatus Sanctified



Baptism of Emmett David Ahlschlager, son of Kirsten & Saud Ahlschlager



### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Please direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to a 501(3)c charity of your choice, hopefully your church, by March 1st.

If you have any questions or need help, please contact Janet Holmberg at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

## 2022 Committee's of the Month

Each month's committee members are responsible for reading the Scriptures on Sundays. Confirmed youth of committee members are included in the month in which the parent serve. A full list of duties is on the bulletin board and in the committee of the month binder.

#### **FEBRUARY**

Derrick and Kayla Mehlhaf Ellie Whitehead Mike and Laura Stevens Don and Linda Renken

#### **MARCH**

Matt and Denise Graves Neal and Jenny Hanson Jon and Krista Schaeffer Derek and Jenna Hight

#### **APRIL**

Mike and Lisa McIlvenna Derrick and Kayla Mehlhaf Troy and Amy Lee Lydell and tath Peterson Nancy Severson

#### **MAY**

Shelley Wray
Matt and Sharon Wirth
Joe and Teddy Shafer
Steven and Linda Holmberg
Tyler Bjerke and Samantha
Rothschadl

#### **JUNE**

Fred and Janet Holmberg Robert and Marilyn Christensen Loren and MicheHe Johnson Robert and Mariann Lee

#### **JULY**

Josh and Jenae Duus Fred and Janet Holmberg Jay and Melanie Parsons Staci Kropuenske

#### **AUGUST**

Joe and Teddy Shafer Les and Judy Sampson Robert and Marilyn Christensen JoAnn Hansen

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Loren and Michelle Johnson Matt and Denise Graves Chad and Belinda Holm Justin and Catrina Walsh

#### **OCTOBER**

Matt and Sharon Wirth Shelley Wray Chad and Belinda Holm Steven and Linda Holmberg

#### **NOVEMBER**

Jay and Melanie Parsons Josh and Kristie Huth Ellie Whitehead Don and Jeanie Gerdes

#### **DECEMBER & JANUARY 2023**

Mike and Laura Stevens (Dec.) Mike and Lisa McIlvenna (Jan.) Josh and Jenae Duus Evan Stevens

The Next Council meeting is
February 2 at
7:30 PM!

# February Bible Readings

#### 2/6 5th Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13), Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

#### 2/13 6th Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

#### 2/20 7th Epiphany

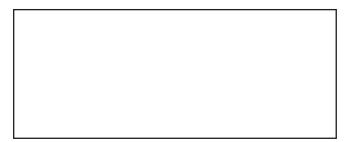
Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

#### 2/27 8th Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



**Newsletter submissions!** While it may be too late for this month, whoever needs or wants to submit anything to the newsletter just needs to go onto the website, scroll all the way to the bottom, and click "Submit your newsletter article". If you have any photos, please put them in a Word document and be sure to label them. The newsletter will be proofed before being sent out, don't worry. Talk to Pastor Max if you have any questions!



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
214 Harvey St
PO Box 98
Lutheran Church
Viborg, SD 57070

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#### 5:00PM - 9:30PM

Drop your kids off at the Parish Hall so you can have a pre-Valentine's Day date night! The VCIS Youth will be providing snacks and games while you enjoy a night out! Free Will donation is encouraged as the VCIS continues to fundraise for their Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO.

The food pantry is in need of the following items: facial tissue, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotion, body wash, canned pasta, toaster pastries, cereal bars, granola bars, cooking oil, mayo, salad dressings, ketchup etc., sauces- soy, worchestershire, etc., spices, peanut butter, jelly, pastas, rice (not instant) and Ramen noodles. We have a refrigerator and large freezer so meats, cheese and other items may be donated as well.