

# Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church



## St. Athanasius Lutheran Church

703.455.4003

[www.saint-athanasius.org](http://www.saint-athanasius.org)

Meeting at:

114 Kingsley Road SW  
Vienna, VA 22180

Mailing Address:

3057 Nutley Street Suite 822  
Fairfax, VA 22031

[www.saintathanasiuslutheran.blogspot.com](http://www.saintathanasiuslutheran.blogspot.com)

[www.hopeandhelp-foryou.blogspot.com](http://www.hopeandhelp-foryou.blogspot.com)

[www.thesoberpeasant.blogspot.com](http://www.thesoberpeasant.blogspot.com)



**Pentecost Newsletter**  
(June/July 2023)

**Rev. James A. Douthwaite**

Cell: 703.861.4359  
[revjdoc@gmail.com](mailto:revjdoc@gmail.com)



## From the Pastor . . .

### *What Am I Proud Of?*

The month of June is now “pride month.” But not a good kind of pride. It is the kind of pride Paul spoke of in Philippians (3:19) when he said: *Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.* That is what we see in our world today - people proud of and glorying in their sin, rather than repenting of it. Following their own ways in stead of God’s ways. We’re all sinners, this is most certainly true! But we are not to be proud of our sin and hold onto it, but repent of it and let go of it. Then the forgiveness of Christ works in us a new creation, to live new lives, Gospel lives, lives not sin-centered but Spirit-filled. Our world needs this message today just as much as ever, so it is important for us to be out in the world and speaking the truth in love to all.

So this “pride month,” let’s be proud of who WE are! **Proud** to be children of God. **Proud** to [try to!] *live chaste and decent lives in all we say and do* (Small Catechism, Sixth Commandment). **Proud** of our Saviour who died that we might live. **Proud** to defend the life of the all people, from the womb to the tomb. **Proud** to bear the name of Christ. Proud to be Athanasians. **Proud** to serve others. **Proud** to stand up for the biblical definition of marriage. **Proud** to confess only one true God and only one way to eternal life - through Jesus! **Proud** of the rainbow as a sign of God’s promise, not as a symbol of depravity. **Proud** to confess that God made us in His image as male and female only, and that He doesn’t make mistakes. **Proud** that Jesus died for all people, loves all people, and wants to save all people, even those who hate and persecute us. **Proud** that the Bible is God’s eternal, unchangeable word and truth. And what else? Lots more, to be sure!

So this June, let’s take back “pride month!” Let’s make it all about Jesus and the life we have in Him.

His servant and yours,

*Pastor Douthwaite*



## New Video Series: *Take Five*

Your Board for Evangelism and Outreach is starting a new effort to produce a series of short videos to explain our Lutheran faith and address contemporary issues in our world today. It is titled “Take Five” for each video will be only five minutes long! Our hope is not only to reach people who have questions, but also to provide a resource for you to learn and equip you to speak with folks who may have questions.

So can you spare five minutes? Then *Take Five* and hear of the hope we have in Jesus and how we might help others hear the old, old story in a new way. Stay tuned!

## Wednesday Evening Online Bible Study

What happened to our online Bible Study? Well, we had to take a break during the Lenten season with its special Vespers services, and currently, pastor’s schedule did not permit us to restart during the Easter season. But fear not! We will start again very soon - sometime in the month of June. Stay tuned for more details! This summer, we will begin a look at the prophet **Zechariah** - a rich book filled with Christ! Save your Wednesday nights and plan to join us!



Did you miss our **Good Shepherd Seminar** this year on *The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian*? If so, you missed another good one! But you can listen to the audio files that have been posted to our website. Go to [saint-athanasius.org/GSAudioArchive.html](http://saint-athanasius.org/GSAudioArchive.html) to listen.

## Commission on Mercy School Supplies

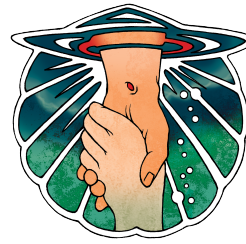


As one school year ends, getting ready for the next one begins! Summertime is the time to buy supplies for the next school year. Once again, we'll help ECHO [Ecumenical Community Helping Others] provide school supplies to families in need in our area. The list of most-needed supplies is below. **[New items only please!]** *Note that you do not have to buy one of everything!* Just select what and how much you would like to contribute. All donations, no matter how big or how small, are welcome! If you would like to help, purchase the supplies and **bring them to the church on July 16 and 23rd**. We'll gather them up and deliver them to ECHO after that.

### Supplies Needed:

High School backpacks (17 to 19 inches high)  
COLLEGE RULE ONLY spiral notebooks  
Paper Folders, prong and no prongs  
WIDE RULE ONLY Composition books  
Loose leaf paper, Wide and College ruled  
2 inch binders  
3x3" sticky (Post-it) notes  
Elmer's Glue sticks  
Thin Classic Crayola Markers  
Broad Classic Crayola Markers  
Crayola Colored Pencils 12 count  
Thin and Broad Dry Erase markers  
#2 Yellow pencils, Ticonderoga preferred  
Red ONLY pens  
Plastic pencil boxes  
Primary Writing paper pads  
Small Construction paper packets  
New or gently used pleasure reading books for grades K-1 and grades 9-12 (young adult)

*You are always all so generous! Thank you for your love and mercy to those in our community in need.*



## Higher Things 2023 *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*

**July 18-21 Carbondale, IL  
and  
July 25-28 San Antonio, TX**

A number of our youth will be attending the Higher Things Conferences this summer. We'll have two attending the conference at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL, and three attending the conference at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX (where Pastor Douthwaite will also be serving as Conference Chaplain). Please keep our youth and all the youth who will be attending in your prayers for safe travel, good learning, and lots of fun.

The theme of the conference this year, *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, will focus on apologetics. Living in a world that is becoming more and more hostile to Christianity and Scriptural truth, it is more important than ever to equip our youth (and all our people) that our faith is not a pipe dream but real and based in history, truth, and fact.

Thank you for once again including our youth in the church budget to help defray the cost of attending.

## Vacation Bible School July 17 - 21

As you can see, the theme of our VBS this year is *Living Stones*. Our children will learn about how Christ is the cornerstone of the church, the world, and our lives, and that no other cornerstone will last or give us what we need. Only Jesus. Only the one who couldn't be held in by a stone but rose from the dead to life again. Please help us spread the word about our VBS, and please pray that God would draw many children to us to learn about their Saviour and His love for them, and that we have a good and safe week. And if you would like to help us - all week, or even a day or two - please let us know! All are welcome.





## 2023 Synodical Convention July 29 - August 3

Our Synod will be meeting in convention this summer in Milwaukee, WI. The theme is: *We Preach Christ Crucified*. The convention is a time for our church body to gather and make important decisions, pass resolutions, elect officers and board members, and look to the future together. It is a time of hearing the Word of God, learning, and encouragement.

If you would like to learn more, go to our synod's website, [www.lcms.org/convention/national](http://www.lcms.org/convention/national). There you can find the convention workbook containing reports and all the overtures that have been submitted for consideration. You can find out who has been nominated for elections and the slates to be considered. There is also a link to watch the livestream of the convention if you so desire.

Please keep the convention in your prayers, for safe travel for all who are attending, for a good and fruitful time together, for faithfulness and unity in our synod, and for God's wisdom and guidance. There are some very difficult matters that will be addressed - and perhaps decided - this year. Our world has always needed Christ crucified, and our present day is no different. And if you don't know how to pray for this, turn to hymn #585 in our hymnal and use the words there. This is a great hymn and very appropriate for the convention. **Thank you!**

**Help spread the word about our church!**  
**Remember: the best evangelism is . . . YOU!**

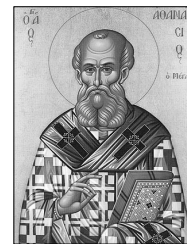


## From Luther . . .

*[Luther speaks of how to view Baptism as the precious treasure it is.]*

One must not hold baptism in low esteem, as do the devil's sectarians, who make of it simply a sign, but rather highly honor and exalt it as our highest and most precious treasure. And this despite the fact that we see nothing of it but the water and hear no more than the words spoken by the baptizer, of whom we cannot know whether he himself believes or not, which, as has been said, neither takes anything from baptism nor harms you. For I should not and will not stake it all upon what the minister is or believes. Rather, if I am to be certain of my baptism, I must look to the Founder and listen to what his Word and command say. True, the minister must be there, he must lend his hand and mouth; but I must not allow my attention to be fixed upon the visible baptizer, but rather upon the unseen Baptizer, who instituted and ordained the baptism; to him I must look, no matter who the minister may be.

[from: Sermon at the Baptism of Bernhard von Anhalt, 1540  
in *Luther's Works*, Vol. 51: *Sermons 1* © 1959 Fortress Press, p. 324]



## From St. Athanasius . . .

*(St. Athanasius speaks of how the baptism of Jesus was for our sake and benefit, not His own.)*

If then for our sake He sanctifies Himself, and does this when He is become man, it is very plain that the Spirit's descent on Him in Jordan was a descent upon us, because of His bearing our body. And it did not take place for promotion to the Word, but again for our sanctification, that we might share His anointing, and of us it might be said, 'Know ye not that ye are God's Temple, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?' For when the Lord, as man, was washed in Jordan, it was we who were washed in Him and by Him. And when He received the Spirit, we it was who by Him were made recipients of It.

[from "Four Discourses Against the Arians: Discourse I," Chapter 12, §47  
in *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 4, p. 333]



## On the Catechism . . .

*For the first portion of the Pentecost season, our Catechism focus is on Holy Baptism, for it is in Baptism that the Holy Spirit comes to us, we are born again in Christ, made children of God, and receive all the gifts of God.*

### **Holy Baptism: *What is Baptism?***

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

### ***Which is that word of God?***

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

Now, as I have often said, God's Word teaches us that the sacrament of baptism has three parts. The first is just natural water . . . but there is something more which is added to it, which makes this water glorious and holy, makes it in fact the real baptism, namely: The second part, God's Word beside and with the water . . . When these words are added to the water, then it is no longer simply water like other water, but a holy, divine, blessed water. For where the Word of God, by which he created heaven and earth and all things, is present, there God himself is present with his power and might. . . . Then there is a third part which is necessary to make it a sacrament, namely, institution or the Word which institutes and ordains baptism. . . . Therefore in baptism do not look to the minister's hand, which takes simple water, and his mouth, which speaks a few words over it . . . But rather look to the Word and act of God . . . who is himself the baptizer. That's why it has such power.

[from: Sermon at the Baptism of Bernhard von Anhalt, 1540  
in *Luther's Works, Vol. 51: Sermons 1* © 1959 Fortress Press, p. 320-23]

## 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 June and July are listed below.*

### **The Festival of the Holy Trinity** (June 4):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16–20 (The Great Commission.)  
Office Hymn: LSB #954 "We All Believe in One True God"

### **Commemoration of St. Barnabas** (June 11):

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:7–13 (Jesus sends out the twelve.)  
Office Hymn: LSB #837 "Lift High the Cross"

### **Pentecost 3** (June 18):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:35–10:8 (Jesus has compassion.)  
Office Hymn: LSB #834 "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth"

### **Pentecost 4** (June 25):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:5a, 21–33 (Expect persecution!)  
Office Hymn: LSB #659 "Lord of Our Life"

### **Pentecost 5** (July 2):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:34–42 (Expect division!)  
Office Hymn: LSB #685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

### **Pentecost 6** (July 9):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25–30 (The weary come to Jesus.)  
Office Hymn: LSB #684 "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary"

### **Pentecost 7** (July 16):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23 (Parable of the Sower.)  
Office Hymn: LSB #577 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

### **Pentecost 8** (July 23):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (Parable of the Weeds.)  
Office Hymn: LSB #663 "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

### **Pentecost 9** (July 30):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44–52 (Parable of the hidden treasure)  
Office Hymn: LSB #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

**Note:** The Liturgy for the Festival of the Holy Trinity (June 4) is **Divine Service 1** (p. 151). The Liturgy beginning with the Commemoration of St. Barnabas (June 11) is **Divine Service 4** (p. 203).