

# Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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June 2019

"I'm proud of my honor roll child," reads a bumper sticker in bold letters. "Isn't that so-and-so's son?" smiles an onlooker as he points to a boy helping his neighbor. When children live and act well, it brings pride and honor to their parents' name.

On the other hand, what parent would display a bumper sticker that read: "My child disrespects authority"? What parent would feel proud to see his son's name in the newspaper for a crime? When children live and act badly, it brings shame and dishonor to their parents' name.

As children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, what kind of name do we bring to "Our Father who art in heaven"? This is uppermost in our minds as we pray: "Hallowed be Thy name."

Certainly, the name of the Triune God is honorable, regardless of how we live. When Isaiah saw the Lord seated on His throne, seraphim called to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3)

God's name is holy in itself, as the God who is sinless. He is also set apart as the God who graciously saved us from our sins by giving His Son to die on the cross for them.

As those who bear God's family name through faith in His Son, as temples of His Holy Spirit, what kind of impression do we give others about what God's name stands for? What kind of impression do we give about what it means to be a child of God?

Obviously, if we call on the Lord's name in church, only to go and use our mouths in public for gossip, cursing, and dirty jokes, or otherwise living contrary to His will, we do not represent our Father's name with an image of holiness, but rather sin and shame. Perhaps an unbeliever would be led to say, "I don't want anything to do with that religion of hypocrisy."

The same would be true if we misrepresented God's name by teaching something other than His Word teaches. Imagine sending a love letter along with a messenger, with very important and specially chosen words addressed to your beloved; only to have the messenger twist your words as he read it. Would you feel honored to be misrepresented by lies, thus affecting your relationship in any way with the one you love? Neither does any twisting of God's Word hallow His name. That is always the work of Satan.

Therefore, we pray that God's name may be kept holy among us as "His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God live holy lives according to it."

Like Isaiah before the "Holy, holy, holy" Lord, we confess: "Woe is me! For I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips." We have not kept God's name holy by our words and lives. But God has cleansed us. An angel touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal from the altar and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged" (Isaiah 6:5-7). This pictured the once-for-all sacrifice of atonement Jesus made on the altar of the cross, by

which God has cleansed all our sins away.

Now, what is our motivation to honor our Father in heaven? Because He delights in us. He calls us holy for Jesus' sake. He treats us so well. We want to "be imitators of God as dear children" (Ephesians 5:1). We want to show our love to Him who first loved us and gave His Son to save us. We want to share His goodness and salvation, as Jesus says: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

In our Father's name,  
Pastor Smith

## **The Lord's Prayer: First Petition**

*"Hallowed be Thy name."*

### **Catechism Explanation:**

*What does this mean?*

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.

*How is God's name hallowed?*

God's name is kept holy when His word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the word of God teaches dishonors God's name among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

# If Only I Could Be Clean!

**Romans 6:3-4 “Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”**

Are you familiar with Lady Macbeth? She is one of the main characters in Shakespeare’s tragedy *Macbeth*. Desiring to be “Queen Macbeth,” she becomes obsessed with gaining power. She connives and sets things up so that there would be opportunity to get rid of King Duncan so that her husband could then become king. When Lord Macbeth expresses reservations about the plot she goads him into the act. With her prodding, he goes and murders King Duncan as she waits nearby. After her husband commits the murder, she takes the bloody daggers and plants the weapons on the king’s attendants that she had previously drugged—framing them for the heinous crime!

She seemingly achieves her desires as she is now queen, but it comes at a high cost. The guilt that she feels drives her to insanity! To her core, she is miserable. Incessant rubbing and washing of her hands, to try and rid herself of the blood of King Duncan does not help. She repeatedly mumbles to herself the iconic phrase: “Out, damn’d spot!” She wants her hands to be clean—she wants her conscience to be clean. But the guilt of her crime does not go away. In her mind, she continues to see the blood on her hands. It is stained into her conscience!

Many people know the struggle of Lady Macbeth—they have experienced it themselves. Perhaps it’s not murder, but it might be something else that afflicts the conscience: unfaithfulness, betrayal, theft, or some act of immorality. People understand the sting of their sins and guilt. We feel it and we naturally acknowledge that it is not good. We even understand, as Lady Macbeth did, that there are eternal implications tied to our wrongful actions—she recognized that hell was in store for her because of her guilt.

Is there a crime—is there guilt that weighs heavily upon you? Have you ever expressed the

desire that Lady Macbeth had: “If only I could be clean!”? God desires for you to be clean and He offers to do the work of cleansing you! He does so by pointing you to Jesus, who takes your crime and guilt upon Himself and pays for it upon the cross. And in place of our dirty sins, He wants you to be covered in His righteousness!

Jesus wants the spots that should cause us to face damnation removed from our hearts. For this reason He has given us the gift of baptism! As we are baptized, God gives a promise to those who are covered with the spots of sin that *He* washes us clean! Because of this, we are assured that we can now stand before God as those who are holy and righteous, because we are covered in the righteousness of Jesus! After all, in baptism we are “baptized into Christ Jesus.” This means that His death upon the cross counts for us. It also means that His resurrection counts for us too—assuring us that we also rise and “walk in newness of life.”

Whenever Christians feel the weight of their sin and guilt—when we recognize that spots of sin have again crept back upon us—we take that burden to God who washes us again and again. Daily, we throw that guilt back into the font into which we were baptized as we turn to God with hearts that are sorry for our sins and trusting in Him to give us His grace. We don’t need to be baptized again and again; we confess our faith in “One Baptism for the remission of sins” (Nicene Creed). But by simply remembering our baptism and the promise that God made to us in baptism, God cleanses our hearts again and again—renewing His promise of forgiveness—and telling us to go out again, departing in peace!

Do you desire to be clean? God desires it! Be baptized. Remember your baptism. And go in peace!

# June 2019 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <i>Easter 7 / Confirmation Sunday</i> Worship with Communion (Confirmation of Micah Smith) 9:30 AM Refreshments provided by the Smiths After church Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Happy Birthday Ashlyn Smith</i>	<b>7</b> Jesus Cares Ministry for Special Needs 2:00 PM	<b>1</b> <hr/> <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <i>Pentecost</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Kelly Ruiz</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Council Meeting 4:30 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:30 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <i>Holy Trinity / Father's Day</i> Worship 9:30 AM	<b>17</b> <i>Happy Anniversary Pastor &amp; Maria Smith</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Happy Birthday Margaret Howard</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Happy Birthday Barbara Walker</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Happy Anniversary Randy &amp; Jackie Bednar</i>
<b>23</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 9:30 AM  Synod Sunday	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship 9:30 AM  <i>Happy Birthday Dale Hauck</i>	Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention (Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN)					
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-style: italic;">                         "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;                          The whole earth is full of His glory!"                          (Isaiah 6:3)                     </p>						

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