



Zion Lutheran Church Crown Christian School

Rev. Jacob Dandy, Pastor

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ZionLutheranCrown.com
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On Justification

Justified! A few years ago this was the title to a popular television series. The title reflected the attitude of the main character when it came to killing criminals who were on the run. He would say that he was justified in his behavior. It was a righteous kill. His actions, he claimed, were for the better good. He reasoned to himself that though what he did was not in and of itself a righteous action, it was for the better good and justifiable action.

That is what it means to justify something to make something that may be wrong, questionable, or even downright evil into something that can be called good. However, most justifications don't add up. I can justify parking in a handicap space because I am in a hurry, but that doesn't make it good when an actual handicapped person can't get into the store. I can justify ignoring my neighbor who is hungry because I have my own problems,

That is why his faith was
"counted to him as
righteousness." But the words
"it was counted to him" were
not written for his sake alone,
but for ours also. It will be
counted to us who believe in
him who raised from the dead
Jesus our Lord, who was
delivered up for our trespasses
and raised for our justification.

-Romans 4:24-25

but that doesn't make it good when my neighbor dies of malnourishment. I can justify to myself not supporting the congregation financially, but that doesn't make it good when the church can't afford to continue vital ministry. Our justification for our own evil behavior doesn't seem to cover the bad results. Our justifications in this world are only to ourselves. Our sins still have their harmful effect, and there is no erasing them. We can reason around our sinful actions and paint a mental picture of ourselves as holy, righteous, and zealous people, but at the end of it all our shame still isn't too hard to find.

Our justifications for what we do and fail to do are simply impotent. They don't matter. They don't help. There is only one justification that does matter. It is God's justification of you. It is when He takes something that is objectively wicked and boldly declares that it is something fully good. He looks upon us in our sin and claims that this person is righteous and good in My sight. So the horrible consequences of sin, of death and hell are no longer applied to this person. This declaration comes from no other place than believing Jesus was crucified, killed, and has risen for me. That my sin is dead with Christ. That as He is holy, by God's declaration, I am holy also.

Our justification comes from God alone, not from my reasoning or working. It is just His claim on me in Christ. Anything else is false justification. As it says in the Defense of the Augsburg Confession, "For it is false [I thus conclude, and am certain that it is a fiction, and not true] that we merit the remission of sins by our works. False also is this, that men are accounted righteous before God because of the righteousness of reason [works and external piety].] False also is this, that reason, by its own strength, is able to love God above all things, and to fulfill God's Law, namely, truly to fear God, to be truly confident that God hears prayer, to be willing to obey God in death and other dispensations of God, not to covet what belongs to others, etc.; although reason can work civil works. False also and dishonoring Christ is this, that men do not sin who, without grace, do the commandments of God [who keep the commandments of God merely in an external manner, without the Spirit and grace in their hearts].

He alone saves us, because He is the only one that can! We can try to justify ourselves, but just won't be just. We aren't just. Christ alone is just. He is the one who makes us just before God. In His life that fulfills all righteousness. In His death, that is a payment for our sin. In His resurrection, that promises life to us. This is the only justice we have. It is good.

Pastor Dandy

With the help of an \$800 grant from Allina and donations over the last few years from our church members we now have a defibrillator in our church.



Crown Christian School

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Our school staff is ready and excited to start the new school year at Crown. School started Tuesday, Aug. 30th. Just about all of our school students and their families joined us for “Welcome Back to School Night” on Monday, Aug. 29th. This year our enrollment is 47 students in preschool through sixth grade. We welcome Rachel Cralley as our new 3rd-6th grades teacher. Rachel attended our school through 7th grade and received her teaching degree at Concordia, St.

Paul. On returning to our school as a teacher, she can vouch that it is a whole different world in the classroom with all the technology advancements and enrichments that are available for our students. To help our students make full use of these resources and to prepare them for continuing on in their future education, Chromebooks (browser laptops) and Learnpads (teacher managed tablets) have been fully integrated in our curriculum.





Historic

Zion Lutheran Church of Crown

annual

Turkey Dinner & Crafts Sale

Sunday, Oct. 9th 11:30am - 2:00pm

Adults \$10.50

5 - 12 \$5.00

4 and under free

served family style

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

Zion Lutheran Church & Crown Christian School

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August 28 – September 25, 2016

Our district Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is hosting a **Young Investors (Y.I.) Back to School Service Contest**.

You can win \$1,000 for your Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) church/school! Any age can participate: Sunday school students, youth and adults. There will be a \$1,000 winner from each LCMS district in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

How?! Share examples of your community service in a video clip of 30 seconds up to two minutes (maximum) or a photo at lcefuppermidwest.strutta.com

Show our young people how we serve others in our church, school and local communities. Shine for Jesus!



Share examples of your community service in a video clip or a photo.

Did You Know?

LCEF's Young Investors (Y.I.) Club members (ages 7-18) can earn up to \$25/year for 10 hours of community service.

Learn more at lcef.org/yi-club or call LCEF at 800-843-5233.


**Win
\$1,000 for
your LCMS
ministry!**



George Miller
District Vice President
Minnesota North District
800-482-5022 (MN only)
george.miller@lcef.org

SEPTEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elders and Greeters: Al Stifter and Brad Bartz				1	2	3
Altar Guild: Wendy Daudt and Nancy Hass						
4 Worship Service 9am Communion Bible Study	5  LABOR DAY	6 Mens' Lunch at Captains – noon Sunday School Staff meeting 6:30pm	7 Bible Study 10a	8 LWML / Ladies' Aid Meeting 7PM	9	10
11 Worship Service 9am Rally Day	12	13 Schl Brd Meeting 6:30	14 Bible Study 10am Conf. Class 6PM	15	16	17
18 Worship Service 9am Communion Sun. School & Bible Study	19 Elders 6pm Council 7pm	20	21 Bible Study 10am Conf. Class 6PM	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 9am Sun. School & Bible Study	26	27	28 Bible Study 10am Conf. Class 6PM	29	30	