



St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

November, 2025

Pastor's Notes:

What does it mean that Jesus Christ “descended into hell”?

In the second article of the Apostles' Creed, we hear that Jesus Christ “...suffered and was buried, he descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead...” While we talk about Jesus' suffering and death and resurrection often, you might wonder what the creed means when it says Jesus descended into hell. What does it mean by hell? How did He descend into hell? What did He do there?

We confess that after Jesus' burial, “the entire person, God and man, descended into hell, conquered the devil, destroyed hell's power, and took from the devil all his might.” So by “hell” we mean the realm of the devil and those who are eternally separated from God. He descended both as God and man, and he did so in order to conquer the devil and hell for us. This is a comforting doctrine for Christians, to know that Christ has fully defeated the devil and hell and they have no power over us if we are in Christ.

One verse that speaks to this is Matthew 12:22-30:

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Jesus is speaking about casting out demons in His earthly ministry, which is an image of the greater work He does binding the “strong man,” the devil. Jesus is that “Stronger Man” who enters the strong man's house (hell) and plunders it (destroys its power over souls who believe). We know this is for those who believe because Jesus says “He who is not with Me is against Me” – the benefit is for those who trust in Jesus.

Another verse that speaks of the descent into hell is 1 Peter 3:18-19:

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

Here we have Christ, flesh and spirit, going to preach to the spirits in prison, that is, in hell. Jesus goes there after His burial and before Easter Sunday to proclaim His victory. We see this as properly part of Jesus' “State of Exaltation.” Jesus is not suffering in doing this, or working in His humility. He is not holding back His divine power, but beginning with the descent into hell He fully uses His divine power to proclaim victory.

That victory is that, in His suffering and death, Jesus has made payment to God for the sins of all people and satisfied God's wrath forever. Because Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, the devil no longer has power over us. Satan is now unable to threaten mankind with the charge that we are in debt to God for our sins, because Jesus has paid that debt and our sins are forgiven. As we trust in Jesus, we trust in the true Victor who has declared His victory and can never be overcome. .

NEWS AND NOTES

Lunch with Pastor: The next Lunch with Pastor will be held on Tuesday, November 11 at 11 am at George's Restaurant in Lockport.



Manna: Order forms are available on Sunday, November 2, orders with payment are due on November 9 and orders can be picked up on November 16.

November Mission Offering: Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday, November 1. Turn back the clock at 2 am.

Check out our new church sign in front of the building:





**Photos from the
St. Paul's "trunk"
at the Trunk or
Treat Event at
Lockport
Township**





Carolyn Scott	November 3
Abigail Miller	November 28
Michael Smulterowicz	November 19
Cheryl Jarosz	November 21
Karen Rohder	November 24
Megan Panka	November 30

Happy Baptismal Birthday

Elena Gerk	November 2
Carolyn Scott	November 3
Ken Gerk	November 6
Janel Johnson	November 7
Dan Rohder	November 8
Diane Bellas	November 10
Jade Rohder	November 21
Joseph Land	November 23
Doris Peterman	November 27
Joel Pilz	November 29



November 6, 1977	Raumond & Tina McSherry
November 21, 1999	Richard and Diana Bellas

St. Paul's Family Pumpkin Carving 2025





November, 2025

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lockport

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 All Saints Day 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School Manna order forms are available 12-5pm SPAGHETTI DINNER	3 8 am Morning Prayer	4 8 am Morning Prayer 7 pm Elders meeting	5 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf./Abs.	6 Circuit visitor meeting @ CUC	7	1
9 3 rd Last Sunday 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Sunday School 10:40 am Annual Business Meeting Manna orders w/ payment are due	10 8 am Morning Prayer	11 8 am Morning Prayer 11 am Lunch with Pastor	12 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf./Abs.	13 9 am Circuit meeting @ Our Savior Joliet	14	15 8:30 am Trustee Meeting 9 am Monthly Work Day
16 2 nd Last Sunday 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School Manna orders ready for pickup	17 8 am Morning Prayer	18 8 am Morning Prayer	19 11 am NICL	20 8 am Morning Prayer	21	22 9 am Long Range Planning Meeting
23 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School Gift cards for seminarians due.	24 8 am Morning Prayer	25 8 am Morning Prayer	26 8 am Morning Prayer	27 THANKSGIVING DAY 9 am Divine Worship OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 First Sunday in Advent 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School 6 pm Book of Concord						



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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