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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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How do you know what you know?

You may not have ever stopped to wonder about that, but if you have, you probably have feelings about that question. The question of how we know things can quickly make your head spin. Many philosophers, theologians, and even scientists have taken a crack at trying to pin down this slippery question. The general study of how humans know and understand things has been a topic of debate all the way back to ancient Greece.

As Christians, it becomes a topic of importance when we start to think about how we know and understand Scripture. All of us have the capacity to learn and reason about daily life. We can choose what we eat for breakfast or how to budget our money. But our capacity to understand things clearly is clouded by the effects of sin in ways we often are unaware. This is not a small hurdle but one that the Formula of Concord states as follows: "human reason and understanding are blind in spiritual matters and understand nothing on the basis of their own powers" - The Book of Concord, p. 491.

In other words, on our own, we cannot understand a single letter of Scripture. We can study, memorize, and gather an impressive array of facts, ideas, or theories about God and about Scripture. But if the Holy Spirit is not at work within us, all those bits and pieces will never become true knowledge and understanding. Its a little bit like giving a toddler all the tools and parts to change a tire. You can sit and explain the whole procedure. They may even be able to repeat things back to you. But when the wrench gets put to the bolts, or the tire needs rolled, they will not be able to do it. We are in that same position with God and His word. We may indeed have all the resources and tools to be a premier scholar. But under our own power, we will not be able to truly understand a thing.

But this does not mean we are in a hopeless position. St. Augustine points out a much different path to knowledge and understanding than we often travel: "understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore do not seek to understand in order to believe but believe that you may understand;" - Tractates (Lectures) on the Gospel of John, Augustine of Hippo, Para. 6

Likewise Luther echoes this humble approach to reading Scripture: "These are statements of the Holy Spirit, taken from Moses, "God said, let there be light" (Gen 1:2). No human intellect or wisdom is able to grasp them, however high it may be. Therefore we should not consult reason in this matter but should give the Holy Spirit the honor that what He says is the divine truth. We should believe his words, meanwhile blinding, nay, gouging out, the eyes of reason." - What Luther Says Vol 1, p. 90

We approach God and His word not as a judge, but as a little child learning how to speak from our Father. Knowing and not knowing are often set against each other as a black and white difference. You know it, or you don't. While this may be true of everyday things, or facts, etc. It is completely wrong when it comes to knowing God and His word. A more helpful distinction is to think about ignorance, unknowing, and knowing.

Ignorance is when we simply ignore or fail to hold on to God's Word. Like the crowds who heard Jesus but did not follow Him or do anything He said.

Paul lays out the ideas of knowing and unknowing in 1 Corinthians 13:12: "For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

In all that we learn and think and understand, on our best days, with the most sophisticated tools, and the power of the Holy Spirit pushing us, we only know a little. This partial knowing is the way we live our whole lives. If we are honest about this we can accept our unknowing. Not giving up and slipping into ignorance but seeking and searching and learning with the awareness that we live not in full

knowledge, but in unknowing. Knowing in its fullness will never be here on earth until Jesus returns and we physically and tangibly see Him face to face.

As we learn to come to Scripture in faith and our unknowing. I leave you with Psalm 131 as the Holy Spirit's faithful guide to learn to live in this way:

Psalm 131

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;

my eyes are not raised too high;

I do not occupy myself with things

too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,

like a weaned child with its mother;

like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord

from this time forth and forevermore.

Pastor Brenden Harrell



- Aug 01 Mowing - Williamson, Weiting**
- Aug 02 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- Aug 02 10:00 am - Communion Service**
- Aug 03 9:00 am - Pastor's Summer Bible class**
- Aug 04 3:00 pm - SH in use (Shelter)**
- Aug 05 6:30 pm - Handbell practice**
- Aug 08 Mowing - Riddiough, Schofield**
- Aug 09 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- Aug 09 10:00 am - Worship Service**
- Aug 09 11:00 am - Congregational Meeting**
- Aug 09 11:30 am - Outgoing Elder/Council reception**
- Aug 09 3:00 pm - Willie memorial**
- Aug 10 9:00 am - Pastor's Summer Bible class**
- Aug 10 4:30 pm - Elders' Meeting**
- Aug 10 6:00 pm - Men's Group**
- Aug 12 6:30 pm - Handbell practice**
- Aug 15 Mowing - Atrops, LaBelle, Allred**
- Aug 16 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- Aug 16 10:00 am - Praise/Communion Service**
- Aug 16 11:00 am - Council Meeting**
- Aug 16 2:00 pm - Adult Fellowship**
- Aug 17 9:00 am - Ministry Availability Due**

- Aug 17 9:00 am - Pastor's Summer Bible class**
- Aug 18 5:30 pm - P/S Board Mtg.**
- Aug 19 6:30 pm - Handbell practice**
- Aug 20 9:00 am - Sept. Newsletter Deadline**
- Aug 22 Mowing - Hathaway, Mayes**
- Aug 23 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- Aug 23 10:00 am - Worship Service**
- Aug 26 6:30 pm - Handbell practice**
- Aug 29 Mowing - Mayberry, Tate, Oliver**
- Aug 30 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study**
- Aug 30 10:00 am - Worship Service**



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|-----|----|------------------|
| Aug | 02 | Jared Camacho |
| Aug | 03 | Lucy Riley |
| Aug | 03 | Wilma Kennedy |
| Aug | 06 | Caitlin Miller |
| Aug | 09 | Bill Williamson |
| Aug | 09 | Emma Olney |
| Aug | 14 | Sarah Ganschow |
| Aug | 15 | Jules Hahn |
| Aug | 16 | Dylan Gomez |
| Aug | 18 | Nathan Schofield |
| Aug | 19 | Reese Riddiough |
| Aug | 19 | Samuel Riley |
| Aug | 20 | Kirsten Escobedo |
| Aug | 21 | Jane Riddiough |
| Aug | 21 | Matt Olney |
| Aug | 23 | Jeff Sweeney |
| Aug | 23 | Linda Sweeney |
| Aug | 27 | Frank Presnell |
| Aug | 28 | Mark Andersen |
| Aug | 30 | Paul DiModica |
| Aug | 31 | Henry Clavin |
| Aug | 31 | Eden Harrell |



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|-----|----|-----------------------------|
| Aug | 02 | Ramon & Kirsten Escobedo |
| Aug | 08 | Billy & Diana Brown |
| Aug | 17 | Darrell & Marianne Heuchert |
| Aug | 22 | Harold & Ruth Oliver |

MOWING for AUG



Aug 01 – Williamson, Weiting
Aug 08 – Riddiough, Schofield
Aug 15 – Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
Aug 22 – Hathaway, Mayes
Aug 29 – Mayberry, Tate, Oliver



Aug 02 –Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Marianne Heuchert

Flowers: - Escobedo's 29th anniversary

Aug 09 –Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Peggy Payne

Flowers: - OPEN

Aug 16 – Praise/Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway

Flowers: - J. LaBelle in memory of Carol

Aug 23 –.Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin

Flowers: - L. Sweeney in honor of Jeff's birthday and in memory of Shirley Rkert's birthday

Aug 23 –.Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Kelly Olney

Flowers: OPEN



Pondering *Eternity*... and Other Things



That Make My Head Hurt

Lately, I have found myself thinking a great deal about the future—about heaven, eternity, and eternal life. Maybe it's because I am getting older, maybe it's because I recently lost my mother, I don't know. Thinking about the future is nothing unusual. Most of us do it every day. We wonder if our retirement account will survive us, if our favorite sports team will ever win another championship (go 49'ers!), or if the price of groceries will ever return to the same universe as common sense...Now, I sound like my mother! Thinking about *heaven* is not especially unusual for Christians either. But for some reason, thinking about *eternal life* feels different.

Perhaps it is because eternal life stretches beyond anything our minds are designed to grasp. We can understand a day, a year, even a century. *But forever?* Come on now, that's a little harder. Try imagining something with no ending. By the time your brain starts to get hold of the idea, it usually throws up its hands and asks for a nap.

Yet God speaks clearly on the matter. Jesus says, "*For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life*" (John 6:40).

Now, while we may never fully comprehend eternal life, we certainly cling to it. As Christians, we believe that the God who loves us so deeply in this life through Jesus Christ will continue loving us beyond death itself. Eternal life is our way of expressing the conviction that we will live forever in God's presence, united with Him and with all who belong to Him.

Unfortunately, many people view eternal life primarily as a heavenly extension program—as if Christianity were simply God's version of a lifetime warranty. Believe in Jesus, get an endless future, and collect your reward later.

But Christianity is much more than securing a reservation in heaven.

Being part of Christ's Church is not about obtaining an entrance ticket to paradise. It is about belonging to Jesus and His family *right now*, so that we may belong to that family forever. Through His Church, God is shaping us, teaching us, and preparing us to be His companions throughout eternity.

Someone once described Christianity as "learning how to live with God now so that we may live with God forever."

I like that.

Every week in worship, we are given a glimpse of eternity. We gather around God's Word, receive His gifts, sing His praises, and join our voices with saints and angels. Worship is not merely a weekly obligation; it is a small preview of our eternal future. Think of it as a heavenly appetizer. The full wedding banquet is still to come.

But before Christians can talk about eternal life, we must first speak honestly about death.

The Christian faith is remarkably realistic. We do not pretend death isn't real. We don't paste a smile over grief or deny the pain of loss. Christians look death squarely in the face and acknowledge what a terrible enemy it is.

We die.

Our loved ones die.

Every earthly accomplishment eventually fades away. No trophy, title, bank account, or collection of

garage-sale treasures survives forever. One day our bodies will cease functioning, and they will return to dust.

Christians believe that when you're dead, you're dead.

And yet—that is not the end of the story.

Far from being terrified by death, Christians have boldly proclaimed from the very beginning that the same God who raised Jesus Christ from the grave will also raise us. The God who lovingly pursued us throughout our earthly lives will not suddenly abandon us at the cemetery gate.

Jesus Christ conquered death. He walked out of His tomb alive. *And the risen Lord has no intention of spending eternity without those He came to save.* He brings His people with Him.

That is our hope in a nutshell!

Here is the truth: We shall die. Everyone we love will someday be taken from us, and we from them. Yet those who die in Christ do not disappear into oblivion. They are not lost to nothingness. By the sheer *grace and mercy of God*, they enter into eternity with Him.

Because of Jesus, salvation is assured. Because of Jesus, eternity is secure.

So perhaps, Elder Dennis, you should spend a little less time trying to figure out eternal life. After all, if eternity is difficult for your little pea-brain to comprehend, you're in good company. Maybe instead you should focus on the life God has placed directly in front of you today—*the people to love, the opportunities to serve, the Gospel to share, and the kingdom work to be done.*

And perhaps, dear friends in Christ, you should do the same.

After all, *eternity* is already taken care of. Jesus saw to that!

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Payne



You all were super "sweet" the first half of the year... and we would all enjoy these "sweet" gestures to continue. Please sign up to bring treats on Sunday morning. The signup sheet is above the rolling carts in Stankhe Hall. When being "sweet," please bring about 50 servings of a treat; store bought or homemade. Guaranteed, all treats are appreciated and enjoyed! Any questions, please see Lisa DiModica.



Double check your calendar to make sure you're scheduled to enjoy **Avila Beach** with your church family and friends on Labor Day, Sept 7th and **Family Camping at Lopez Lake** September 18-20th. Any questions, contact Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.

A trip to Fikisha in Nairobi, Kenya, is planned for June of 2028. Start saving your funds. We are always happy to host Moses and Frank here, but this is your chance to visit them and be an eyewitness of the mission we support. For more information, please see Paul and Lisa DiModica.





As most have heard the yard sale was a success - \$2,276!! These funds were distributed evenly (\$569) among Mission Central, supports LCMS missionaries
Orphan Grain Train, provides food, supplies, clothing in disasters
Care net Center, the crisis pregnancy center in Santa Maria
And the shipping of LCOS shoeboxes (OCC)

Mites for this last quarter were \$468.50. The first 4 (CNH District) mission grants have been funded. Praise the Lord! Pick up a mite box and remember the grants in your prayers.

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Bible Quiz

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

AUGUST 2026

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	GREETER	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
2 Sunday	10:00 AM Communion	Lori Williamson	Trevor Schofield	Todd Martin/ Rudy Stowell	Bill Williamson	Brent Clavin	Julie Martin	Altar: Marianne Heuchert
								Flowers: Escobedo's 29 th anniversary
9 Sunday	10:00 AM	Dawn Schofield	Drew Schofield	Tom Heuchert	Mike Foley	Lisa DiModica	Dennis Payne	Altar: Peggy Payne
								Flowers: OPEN
16 Praise Sunday	10:00 AM Communion	Jeremiah Mayes	Ali Mayes	Dennis Payne/ Art Atrops	Mike Southern	Marjorie Hord	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Connie Hathaway
								Flowers: Jim LaBelle in memory of Carol
23 Sunday	10:00 AM	Lange family	Lucy Chaney	Mark Hathaway	Sarah Ganschow	Jill Murdock	Terry Murdock	Altar: Stephanie Clavin
								Flowers: Linda Sweeney in honor of Jeff's birthday and in memory of Shirley Eckert's birthday
30 Sunday	10:00 AM	Kirsten Escobedo	Piper Chaney	Todd Martin	Jim LaBelle	Mike Southern	Julie Martin	Altar: Kelly Olney
								Flowers: OPEN
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		GREETERS	ACOLYTES	ELDERS	USHERS	READERS	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD
		*Estelle Schofield 598-6907	*Mark Hathaway 937-9675	*Tom Heuchert 934-1051	*Art Atrops 937-0485	*Todd Martin 801-3873	*Dennis Payne 934-1101	Becky Zielke 598-6924
		*Sarah Ganschow 266-0046						FLOWERS
								Connie Hathaway 937-9675
								FLOWER MINISTRY
								Menendez's 623-6130

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(s) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER.
2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(s).
3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGE(s) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	27	28	29 6:30pm Handbell practice	30	31	1 Mowing: Williamson, Weiting
2 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Communion Svc.	3 9:00am Summer Midweek Bible Class	4 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	5 6:30pm Handbell practice	6	7	8 Mowing: Riddiough, Schofield
9 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc. 11:00am Cong. Voters' Mtg. 11:30am Outgoing elder/council reception 3:00pm Willie memorial	10 9:00am Summer Midweek Bible Class 4:30pm Elders' Meeting 6:00pm Men's Group	11	12 6:30pm Handbell practice	13	14	15 Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
16 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Praise/Comm. Svc. 11:00am Council Mtg. 2:00pm Adult Fellowship	17 Ministry Availability Due 9:00am Summer Midweek Bible Class	18 5:30pm P/S Board Mtg.	19 6:30pm Handbell practice	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes
23 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	24	25	26 6:30pm Handbell practice	27	28	29 Mowing: Mayberry, Tate, Oliver
30 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	31	1 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	2 6:30pm Handbell practice	3	4	5 Mowing: Williamson, Weiting