

PASTOR'S PAGE

White Linen Pant Katie Joplin

While we wait in tribulation for our white robes (or pants) to be washed in the blood of the Lamb, we confess to one another our seen and unseen stains.

As much as I would love to wear white linen pants topped with a chambray shirt in the warm summer months, I know I would never be able to handle the responsibility of keeping white pants clean. Black leggings do a much better job of hiding coffee stains. I'm simply not careful enough to have white pants remain stain-free for a whole day.

And when it comes to spiritual matters, I used to think I had a similar problem. As I sat in the passenger seat of my fiancé's pickup on the way to premarital counseling, I wondered if I should wear white on our wedding day. Surely, I didn't deserve to, but I had a decent cleanup plan. My argument was this: I may have had a one-night indiscretion, but I was going to be the best wife and mother imaginable; all my work would redeem me. Fortunately, during premarital counseling at my childhood church, my pastor did not hear a well-thought-out plan for redemption. He had the wisdom to know that the things I set out to do were good things but would do nothing to either keep me clean or remove my stains. His ears were tuned to hear a confession. In the church office, he looked at me and replied, "Katie, you do know you are forgiven. And if you do not, hear me now, you are forgiven."

I could do nothing to earn the right to wear white at my wedding. There was nothing I could do to redeem myself. It didn't matter how many times I put a meal on the table at just the right time. It didn't matter how patient I was. It didn't matter how in shape I stayed. I had careened into the curb of premarital relations. The law was broken. But in that church office, I was reminded with the sweet words of forgiveness that while I had broken God's law, I had not broken my relationship with Christ.

I wore white at my wedding, but not because my virginity was restored. Just like every other bride in the history of creation, I wore white as a symbol that I was a forgiven bride. Recognizing that my future husband and I were both saints and sinners was the only way our marriage would survive. We each came into the relationship as sinners for a myriad of reasons, and yet we were also both sinners clothed in Christ.

This reality also informs how I view my current shortcomings and sins because I repeatedly break them regardless of how hard I work to follow the rules. My metaphorical white pants continue to get stains: I balance too many things in my hands. I don't pay attention to my surroundings and brush up against dusty vehicles. I do one more quick chore before I leave, and I end up with the evidence on my clothes.

My shortcomings may not be as apparent to a passerby as a black coffee stain on white linen pants, but they are there, and they are many. Those closest to me could give detailed descriptions of the stains I carry each and every day.

Yet I continue to don my white linen pants because I trust that Christ's righteousness frees me to confess my shortcomings. My identity as a saint now gives me hope as I look forward to what the book of Revelation speaks of:

I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14).

While we wait in tribulation for our white robes (or pants) to be washed in the blood of the Lamb, we confess to one another our seen and unseen stains. We hear the sweet words, "On account of Christ, you are forgiven," and we look with hopeful joy for what is in store when we gather before the throne of God without hunger, thirst, or scorching heat. And instead, when our Heavenly Father leads us to the springs of living water and wipes every tear from our eyes.

Katie Koplin is passionate about highlighting Christ for us in the Scriptures and encouraging others to live in the freedom we have on account of Christ in her writing, speaking, and coffee dates. She co-hosts the podcast Freely Given with Gretchen Ronnevick. Katie lives in Minnesota where fields of grain meet woods and water. She shares her home with her husband Dallas, 4 kids, and a sturdy lab named Moose. She graduated from Bethany Lutheran College in 2007 (B.A. Communications).

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I had the opportunity to accompany Pastor Steele to the Doxology conference in Aurora, NE, this past weekend. This was part three of a three-part series, with this one being geared toward lay leaders from the congregation. There were approximately 35 people attending the conference (about a dozen of which were pastors), so a rather small group, which made it easy to meet and get to know some of the other pastors and leaders. I met some fantastic people and had some great conversations with the leaders of other churches. Hearing some of the stories about the struggles other churches are having comforted me in knowing we are not alone, but also made me feel blessed and thankful for what we DO have at Bethany, as some of them are facing some very difficult times...and not just financially.

A lot of the information geared toward the lay leaders had a lot to do with the life of a pastor and helping us understand their work life, home life, and the pressures they face in today's society. They had some eloquent speakers who were very engaging. They did a great job at helping us see things from the pastors' perspectives and help set some reasonable expectations for their work and how we can better support them. My ask of the congregation is that you lift Pastor Steele in prayer, as well as his family, and offer him words of encouragement often.

Overall, I really enjoyed my trip. It was a great opportunity to strengthen my own faith, get some better perspective on the life of a pastor, and form a closer friendship with Pastor Steele (you get to know someone quite well being in a car together for 20 hours!) I would recommend this to the rest of the leadership team as well. It was well worth the trip.

Yours in Christ,
Andy Fibiger



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

During the months of September and October, any money received in the "Designated Offering" contribution envelope, will go to **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** – Transforming lives behind bars here and around the world. By bringing the Holy Gospel to inmates, they are reaching those others may have forgotten. To learn more about Good News, visit their website at www.goodnewsjail.org



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10-01: Summer Menzer
10-04: Sandy Kuehlmann
Todd Matte
10-09: Sharon Werner
10-12: Katie Werner
10-13: Lauren Miller
10-16: Karl Kaeppler



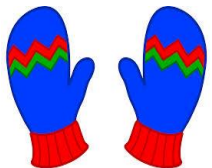
10-18: Lori Wychesit
Arlyne Weber
10-19: Brian Faucher
Bruce Fisher
10-20: Margaret Faucher
10-21: Beth Loree
10-29: Sue Prange

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10-02: Dave & Roxanne Taylor
10-03: Brad & Ashley Cox
10-06: Russ & Sue Sholten
10-08: Marilyn & Louis Buell
10-17: Brian & Ann Walesh
10-26: Pat & Joanne Stangel

Blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office, and let us know.



MITTEN BASKET

Please bring your donations of handmade or store-bought hats, mittens, gloves, blankets, and scarves to church and place them in the basket in the lower narthex. The items will be donated to the Salvation Army at the beginning of November. Thank you!



Reformation Rally

Sunday, October 29 | 3:30pm

at the Lutheran High School Performing Arts Center

Join LCMS congregations from the surrounding area to celebrate the reformation of the Lutheran church. A mighty fortress is our God! Open to the public. General seating – no need to reserve seats in advance. Watch for more details in the weekly church bulletin.



Saturday, October 21, 2023
5:30 – 8:30pm
Pine Hills Country Club

Online Options

Not able to join us on October 21st? Never fear! You can still participate in our online silent auction and 50/50 raffle! Simply pre-register your credit card online and join the fun!

- Online silent auction with an amazing selection of items from our generous donors.
 - Simply register with a credit card and you will be sent a link for access to the bidding site once it opens on October 19
- Cash donation at registration with or without dinner reservations

Live Event

Join in on the fun on Saturday, October 21st at Pine Hills Country Club in Sheboygan:

- \$75/plate with your choice of chicken piccata, 6 oz steak filet, or vegetarian stir fry with tofu
- Exclusively at the event - join in fun games for more great prizes such as:
 - WINE PULL for \$20 and a chance to enter a raffle drawing for a Wine Tasting Party
 - HEADS 'N TAILS for \$5 for a chance to win a gift basket valued at \$75
- Live Auction including Golf at Destination Kohler, Jamaican Dinner Party, and more!! Pool your money with friends to win these amazing packages!
- Short presentation with testimonials from our neighbors

Plus, you will get to see the silent auction items up close! Bidding will be done through your own electronic device using our online auction site, but you can get a better look at how fabulous our options are.

Click the link below for all the information and to register:

<https://loveincsheboygancounty.ejoinme.org/LOL23>

Or visit loveincsheboygancounty.org

Friends of Bethany,

Can you help fill this tool bag with tools and accessories for a silent auction item from Bethany for the Living out Love event? If you are unable to shop but still want to help with a donation, see Sue Prange or Gina and the shopping will be done for you! Deadline will be Sunday, October 15. God bless you and our work as we continue the path of:

Building Hope ~ Meeting Needs ~ Transforming Lives



Thank you for supporting Love In the Name of Christ!

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023

Sunday, October 1
10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Mattes
Altar Guild:	Sue & Dave Prange
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Patrick Johnson
Streaming:	Madison Fibiger

Sunday, October 8
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Ray & Shirley Ottman
Altar Guild:	Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Scripture Reader:	Kelly Paltzer
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Noah Fibiger

Sunday, October 15
10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte:	Katelynn Regutis
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Matte

Sunday, October 22
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Dan Fibiger
Altar Guild:	Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger
Streaming:	Steve Perry

Sunday, October 29
10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Dave & Sue Prange
Altar Guild:	Rachel Johnson & Julie Steele
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Diane Marotz
Streaming:	Thomas Yang

OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC	02 6:30pm Elders	03	04 6pm Bible Study	05 10am Bible Study 6:30 Board of Education	06	07
08 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship	09 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	10	11 6pm Bible Study	12 10am Bible Study	13	14
15 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC	16	17	18 6pm Bible Study	19 10am Bible Study	20	21
22 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship	23	24	25 6pm Bible Study	26 10am Bible Study	27	28
29 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC 3:30pm Reformation Rally @ LHS	30	31	