

## We Preach Christ Crucified

On July 29–August 3, the LCMS will meet for its national convention in Milwaukee with “We Preach Christ Crucified” as the theme.



### *The Power of Salvation*

“Gospel” means “good news.” When St. Paul speaks of the Gospel, he has a specific meaning in mind.

### Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–5

1. What does the Gospel do (15:1–2)?
2. In verses 3–5, St. Paul gives us the core content of this Gospel. What is the good news in each of these verses and why is this important?

When the Formula of Concord in the Lutheran Confessions speaks of this specific Gospel, it says:

The Gospel is properly a doctrine that teaches what a person should believe, so that he receives forgiveness of sins with God. In other words, it teaches that God’s Son, our Lord Christ, has taken upon Himself and borne the Law’s curse and has atoned and paid for all our sins. Through Him alone we again enter into favor with God, receive forgiveness of sins through faith and are delivered from death and all the punishments of sins, and are eternally saved.

Everything that comforts, that offers God’s favor and grace to transgressors of the Law, is, and is properly called, the Gospel. It is a good and joyful message that God will not punish sins, but will forgive them for Christ’s sake. (FC SD V, 20–21).

What are the two ingredients of this good news?

(1)

(2)

**Read Romans 1:15–17**

3. What is St. Paul eager to do, and why might he think it necessary to say he is not ashamed?
  
4. What does he mean when he says that the Gospel is “the power of God for salvation” and when he calls the Gospel the righteousness of God?
  
5. “The righteous shall live by faith” is a quote from Habakkuk 2:4. Why is this quotation significant and what does it mean?
  
6. Why would St. Paul be eager to preach the Gospel to Christians—to people who already believe the Gospel? Why is it important for believers to keep hearing the Gospel?

**Read Romans 1:18–32**

7. What are the consequences of rejecting the Gospel and opposing God?
  
8. If we see any of this at work around us today, how should the church respond?

The Gospel is the news of the One who died to defeat sin. Risen again, He declares to you, “Take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

*The Foolish Gospel*

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–25**

9. What distinction does St. Paul make in how people regard the Gospel?
  
10. Provide some examples in the Bible of people considering the Gospel to be foolish.