



Zion Lutheran Monthly

March 2023

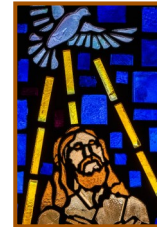
Pastor's Corner

"For Us"

During the month of March, we are in the very heart of the Lenten season. We reflect upon our sins, and remember Christ has called us to repent of those sins. But more than just concentrating upon ourselves, the season of Lent is especially a time for us to focus upon Christ. In particular, we focus upon what Christ has done for us as we prepare to enter Holy week and Easter.

During our recent Ash Wednesday service, I was particularly reminded of all that Christ has done for us. Before the service, we had some "quiet" time for reflection, so I read through the hymn "O Love, How Deep" (LSB #544). What struck me almost immediately about this hymn was often it mentioned that Jesus did something specifically "for us." In fact, the phrase "for us" appears fourteen different times. Here are just a few:

*For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.*



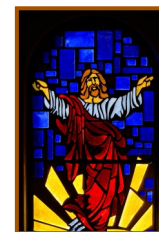
Always remember, everything Jesus went through in His baptism, fasting and temptation was not done for Himself, it was done "for us".



*For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.*

During Lent we focus not just upon our sins, we focus upon Christ and especially what He has done to combat our sins through His death on the cross.

*For us He rose from death again;
For us he went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.*



Even Christ's resurrection was done "for us." I pray for all of us that the remaining time we have in this Lenten season can be focused more and more upon Christ. Everything He did in this world was "for us." If you ever forget, or just want to remember better, try singing the above hymn every day during Lent, read it, or prayerfully reflect upon it.

-- Pastor Grimenstein

Chairman's Report

We're Being Watched...!

Hopefully the groundhog was having a bad morning when predicting 6 more weeks of winter. This winter has been anything but winter-like as we race toward spring and our holiest of times---the Easter Season.

Our trustees have been busy having the windows in the nave area around the altar replaced. We also installed another set of doors on the school building entrance -- a vestibule area -- to save energy and allow for a tad more security. When you see a trustee give them a nice thank you for all the things they've been doing to keep the physical plant looking good and operating well. We'll see if we can do a few more things and we'll keep you posted.

Since the weather seems so inviting, let's remember that Lenten services aren't meant to be in the normal genre of our regularly scheduled Wednesday services which are a convenient way to attend church if you work on weekends, or are going to be out of town, or need a 2PM service for physical reasons, etc. Lenten services are meant to be a "time" to prepare us for Christ's Passion and the Salvation He created dying for us and rising again. Instead of giving up sugar, alcohol or some other sacrifice, let's "sacrifice" some "time" and jam the Lenten services each Wednesday. Pastor conducts a nice vespers type service if you need to attend during the daylight hours at 2PM and of course we have our usual 7PM service at which you can enjoy singing. Both services have a weekly lesson to prepare us for Holy Week. Lenten services aren't just for the "Wednesday crowd"; we should see the same type of attendance statistics as we see on a Sunday. Lent and Easter are what separate Christians from, well, chaff in some cases. It's who and what we confess -- Christ crucified. The cross is what we preach and it's a stumbling block and offensive to many.



Our church provides the place and time for us to "seek the Lord"; it's our job to look for God and seek Him out. It's our job to gather as friends to enjoy the company of saints as a big Christian family. Psalm 14 is an interesting short chapter and verse 2 reads: **"The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God."**

We're being watched. God is looking right at us.

-- Paul Klemash

Return to the Lord Lenten calendars were sent home with parents and/or children beginning on February 19. If your family does not have one yet, please let us know and one will be provided. Parents, please help your children proceed through the daily activities shown in the calendar.



During March, Sunday School classes will be going through Enduring Faith Unit 5, Lessons 9-12: Lesson 9, *The Chosen King: Saul Becomes King*; Lesson 10, *The Fearless Shepherd: David and Goliath*; Lesson 11, *The Faith-Full Friends: David and Jonathan*; Lesson 12, *The King of Glory: David Worships God*.

Vacation Bible School resumes this Summer!

Mark your calendars:
July 24-28 9-Noon

A big thank you to Karen Kress and Megan Migyanko for volunteering to lead Vacation Bible School this year during the last full-week of July. They will be using the theme **God's Living Water** from Concordia Publishing House . You can see a preview of what the program looks like at teachthefaith.cph.org/gods-living-water . Karen and Megan have scheduled a VBS planning meeting for this month.



Many VBS teachers and helpers are needed! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Karen at kkress5@gmail.com or Megan at proverbs31meg@yahoo.com. Lots of opportunities to help as we bring this valuable mission back to Zion after a hiatus of two years!



2023
Zion
**MEMBER
DIRECTORY**

The church office is beginning work on a new Zion Member Pictorial Directory complete with up-to-date photos and contact information for every member of our church family!

We are working with a local photographer to take photos of our member families on Sundays from late April through mid-May ... [look for photo session sign-up sheets to be available soon!](#) Families may choose to download or purchase prints of these professional photos; however, there will be NO OBLIGATION or SALES PITCH to make any purchase!

The new Member Directory will be part of our 125th anniversary commemoration and will be completed and ready for distribution to in September!



2023 Altar Flower & Eternal Light Sponsorships

are still available for certain dates in the back of the sanctuary! Members may sponsor in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person in their lives, or in celebration of a joyous occasion.



News from the Preschool

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

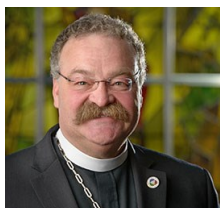
The Doxology has always been one of my favorite songs to sing. When my children were young, we would sing this before they went to bed. At our end of year program I always include an acapella version of the Doxology during our video presentation showing the children praying. So why not teach the preschool children to learn and sing it too? And that's exactly what we did. After chapel and kids praise conclude, we always say the Lord's Prayer, and now we have added the Doxology. It's taking some time, like the Lord's Prayer did, but they are getting it, and really starting to sing it with confidence and joy.



We sometimes think that preschool children are too young to learn things that they may not fully understand...but that's ok. Our goal is to plant the seed, and then watch it grow. Who knows....maybe they will take it home with them and teach it to their family or friends. Even preschoolers can be disciples and share God's word.

Tracey Harris
Zion Preschool Director

Statement on recent online unchristian teachings



*by Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
Feb. 21, 2023*

Dear friends in Christ,

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its president, vice-presidents and all 35 district presidents, along with its ministerium and congregations, categorically reject the horrible and racist teachings of the so-called “alt-right” *in toto* (including white supremacy, Nazism, pro-slavery, anti-interracial marriage, women as property, fascism, death for homosexuals, even genocide).

The Synodical explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism teaches that the Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” includes the prohibition of “hating, despising, or slandering other groups of people (prejudice, racism, and so forth).” The Scriptures agree: “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15). Every human being is precious to God and as valuable as the very blood of Jesus Christ shed for all, “for God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16).

We were shocked to learn recently that a few members of LCMS congregations have been propagating radical and unchristian “alt-right” views via Twitter and other social media. They are causing local disruption and consternation for their pastors, congregations and district presidents. They have publicly stated that they seek the destruction of the LCMS leadership. They have made serious online threats to individuals and scandalously attacked several faithful LCMS members. Through these social media posts, even our wonderful deaconesses have been threatened and attacked.

This is evil. We condemn it in the name of Christ.

These “alt-right” individuals were at the genesis of a recent controversy surrounding essays accompanying a new publication of Luther’s Large Catechism. This group used that opportunity to produce not only scandalous attacks and widespread falsehoods, but to promote their own absolutist ideologies. Anyone trying to sully the reputation of the LCMS based on comments from a small number of online provocateurs does not know the loving, faithful, generous, and welcoming Synod that I have met all across the nation. Our people are delighted to gather with sinners of every stripe to receive full and free forgiveness from our Savior and are not represented by these few men with their sinful agenda.

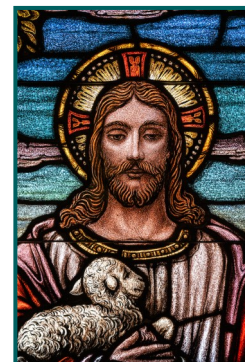


I am not speaking about the individuals who may have expressed theological concerns about the essays published alongside the Catechism. I’m talking about a small number of men who based their

opposition upon racist and supremacist ideologies. The former we welcome. The latter we condemn.

The LCMS is a robust Christian community under the authority of the inerrant Scriptures as the very Word of God, bound together in subscription to our Lutheran Confessions. Theological dialogue is good. We have clear processes for registering concerns over published materials, and we encourage such theological critique. The biblical confession of the LCMS on doctrine and life is true and unchangeable.

LCMS congregations agree to uphold our biblical standards. We are not a top-down institution. That said, I will work together with our pastors and district presidents to address this matter wherever it arises among us and reject it. We issue the cry of Jesus: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2). We are confident that the same Law and Gospel that broke the hard heart of St. Paul, himself a murderer and blasphemer, can and will do the same today. We are all called to repentance daily. “The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Where that call to repentance is not heeded, there must be excommunication.



Of all the things I’ve seen as LCMS president, this is the most bizarre. I am informed that other conservative denominations are experiencing similar challenges. This horrid attack of the devil drives us to be firm in our confession. Our message of Christ the Savior for all, our local and global mission that serves the entire human race with forgiveness and joy stands firmly opposed to Satan and all evil. Our steadfast message of love and biblical fidelity on the cultural issues of marriage, sexuality, race, and life is an assault on the devil and his minions to no end. Our steadfast witness and assistance to our global Lutheran friends has the devil fuming.

Do not be discouraged! Stand firm! Speak of Christ and His Gospel! “We preach Christ crucified” (1 Cor. 1:23). And if Jesus so carried our sins and the sins of the world, though He never sinned, shall we expect not to bear a few splinters of the cross in this age?

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:31–39).

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

NEW THIS SUMMER!

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), is excited to offer a new program in conjunction with Christ Academy, **Christ Academy: Family Institute**.



Christ Academy: Family Institute

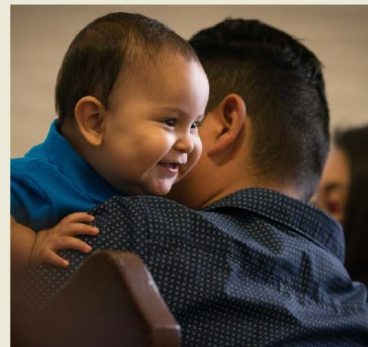
June 15-17, 2023

Christ Academy: Family Institute (CAFI) focuses on those who walk alongside young people considering church work vocations—their parents, families, and youth-focused church workers. CAFI builds on the same core foundations of all Christ Academy programs: worship, learning, and fun time in community.



Family Institute Goals

- 1) Help participants raise godly and faithful families.
- 2) Resource participants for this task.
- 3) Strengthen marriages and families.



Who should attend?

Christ Academy: Family Institute is perfect for parents, families, and church workers interested in growing in their care and love for one another and passing on the faith to future generations.



For more information or to register:

Visit the Events page of CTSFW at ctsfw.edu/Events, or scan the QR code here.

Shout Out to Students

Highlighting the academic awards, scholarships, and extra-curricular achievements of Zion's students in Kindergarten through College.



Charles Wallace, a senior in the Pre-Seminary program at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, was accepted into the Master of Divinity program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis for the 2023-24 academic year. Charles will begin studies at the seminary in late August. Congratulations Charles, your church family at Zion rejoices with you! May the Lord bless your service to His church!



Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The March collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, March 12th. The "item of the month" is FRUIT (canned and dried). Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack. You are welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for more information).



Calling All Zion Ladies! ...

Join us at the Spring Fling Luncheon hosted by **Concordia Lutheran Ministries** to support their **Good Samaritan Care Fund!!!**

Zion has reserved two tables (enough for 20 ladies), thus registration is only \$40 per attendee. Make checks out to Zion and turn in to Janet Zreliak, Tevia Grimenstein or Susie Bishop. Also, be sure to sign-up on the sheet in the narthex so we can plan for sharing rides!



Wildflower Wishes

Concordia Lutheran Ministries 2023 Spring Fling Luncheon

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Butler Country Club

310 Country Club Lane, Butler, PA 16002

10 a.m.

\$45 • Tables of 10: \$400

Basket Auction • Mystery Bags • Shopping (clothes and accessories)

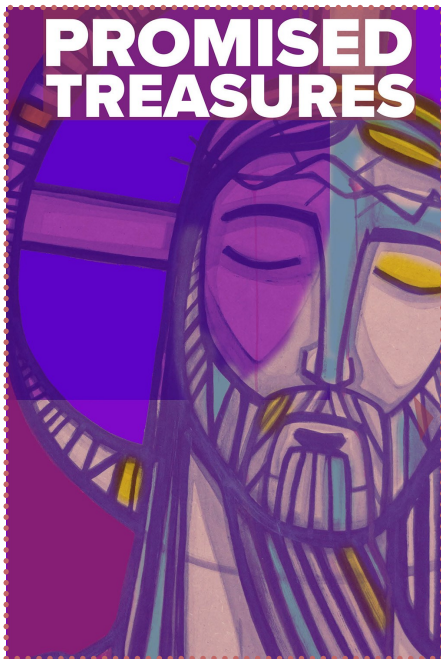
Lunch

Chicken Romano, Sour Cream and Chive Whipped Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots and Trio Dessert Plate

Performance by the Freeport High School Forté Show Choir

Valet Parking

Join us
Wednesdays
during Lent



Zion will have two Lenten services each week ...
an afternoon spoken service at 2 pm and our
regular 7 pm service.

Wednesday 3/1 -- 2 & 7 pm

Wednesday 3/8 -- 2 & 7 pm

Wednesday 3/15 -- 2 & 7 pm

Wednesday 3/22 -- 2 & 7 pm

Wednesday 3/29 -- 2 & 7 pm

We will explore the theme "Promised Treasures".
The theme reminds us that this Lenten season, we have
a fresh opportunity to embrace God's amazing love for
us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly
says that "faith comes from hearing" (Rom. 10:17), but
the Gospel is also communicated through the physical
senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. So, each
Wednesday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to
concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of
biblical elements. This series will begin with ashes, then
proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. All
these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will
remind us of God's eternal love in Christ, fill us with
renewed hope, and increase our joy,
knowing that because we are His
baptized children, God is near to us now
more than ever.



Join us for Breakfast Easter Sunday from 9-10 am

As part of our Easter celebration, Zion will once again host an Easter Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall on Easter morning, April 9th, from 9-10 am (between services). We'll enjoy egg bakes, French toast sticks, sausage links, fruit bowls, Jim's coffee cake, juice and coffee.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. [Please sign up if you plan to attend, and can help by preparing an egg bake!](#)





Anniversary Anecdotes

Each month during our 125th anniversary year we'll share perspectives from our members on Zion's past, present and future.

Ben Meyer



My wife, Megan, and I have been members of Zion Lutheran Church since we moved into the area in the summer of 2012. Having no family in the area, mine from Iowa and Megan's from Texas, we knew it was going to be important for us to find a very solid church congregation. I specifically remember Megan and I talking in the hotel when we first arrived up here.

We both agreed that we would try a couple churches out and see which one would become the best fit for us. We started at Zion for our very first church visit and instantly fell in love with the church. Needless to say we didn't have to look any further for our new church home. While we moved away from the area briefly from 2014 to 2016, we never went too long without coming back for a weekend visit to friends and church.

One of the main things that attracted us to the church was the number of young members and couples that were active in the church. Being early in our careers and new to the area, it was important to not only have a strong grounded faith, but be around others that we could relate to outside of the church setting. Although some of those friends and members have since moved on from the area, the memories and friendships will last a lifetime.

As our family has evolved and changed with the years since we first arrived in Pittsburgh, one thing for us has not, the support, fellowship, and love from Christ and the congregation. Starting a family and now seeing our two children, Lexi (9) and Lucas (7), from baptism to now having meaningful conversations about Jesus and the importance of having Him and the church in our lives has been wonderful. It is very important for us to be able to have that bedrock foundation for all that we do in our lives. I look forward to the many more years of great fellowship and growth in our lives as well as with the church in Christ.

Jane Kozak & Judith Dames



Sisters Jane and Judy, two life-long Zion members, have wonderful memories dating back to the 1940s, in what is now lovingly referred to as "the old church" (near the corner of Prestley Rd. and Washington Ave. in Bridgeville). Their parents were Frank & Paula Oelschlager. Back then, the church building was much smaller in size and Sunday school classes

Anniversary Anecdotes Cont'd

were held in the church hall and in the basement near the boiler room with makeshift classroom dividers. Confirmation classes were Saturday mornings. Local Lutheran teens met regularly for "Walther League" (a fellowship group named for the first president of the LCMS). According to Jane and Judy, "Walther League was always lots of fun ... we really looked forward to it, especially the scavenger hunts. Since most church members lived close by, we "hunted" for everyday items at church members homes and yards, and the winners got a nice prize".



Jane & Judy circa 1939

There were lots of great fellowship activities in those days. Members met often, outside of Worship and Christian education, for simple, fun activities. "We always had a great time at the June Strawberry Social, then in October we all came together to enjoy Boston Coolers (cantaloupes cut in half and filled with ice cream). The Walther League kids helped to make the desserts in the basement kitchen and carry them up to the fellowship hall." Some picnics were held at Scheiber farm (site of our current church building) which was very much a "country" setting in those days with very few stores nearby.



Sunday School teacher, Ed Warneld, and his class outside the "old church" in 1952. While some of the faces are unknown to us, included in the front row are Midge Oelschlager, Donna Cherpach and Anna-Louise Warneld; in the back row far right is Dick Wible.

As young women, they joined Zion's Ladies Aid, a service and fellowship group with monthly meetings and officers. "Ladies Aid was a very nice, happy part of Zion," Jane and Judy remember. "We had parties at Easter and Christmas, and a banquet at Cecil Grange. At our regular meetings we would discuss service projects around the church, enjoy games or other activities, and 2 or 3 of us were responsible for bringing dessert."

In addition to volunteer service, Judy served Zion in another important way: She was the first paid secretary in the church office! "In those days I used a manual typewriter and very rudimentary copy machine," describes Judy. "I was paid \$3 per hour. Of course there was no spell-check when preparing the bulletins, and one week I made my worst mistake as Secretary: I mistyped the hymn title *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* as *Jesus, Liver of My Soul*. I was so embarrassed. Of course there was no shortage of members who pointed the typo out to me following the Sunday service!"



Worship in the "old church". Sunday best meant hats for ladies and suits for men.

Over the years, through all of life's ups and downs, God has always been with Zion, keeping our faith strong. "All of these pleasant memories have been shared with so many lifelong Zion friends ... some are in heaven now. We have been together for up to 90 years, and some of our parents and grandparents were Zion members from the church's beginning. Zion has always been our guiding light, and we are blessed to be members of such a God-fearing and loving congregation of Christians."



What About...

Being a Lutheran

What really is a Lutheran?

While there are a variety of ways one could answer this question, one very important answer is simply this, "A Lutheran is a person who believes, teaches and confesses the truths of God's Word as they are summarized and confessed in the Book of Concord." The Book of Concord contains the Lutheran confessions of faith. Perhaps you have attended an ordination of a pastor and heard him promise that he will perform the duties of his office in accord with the Lutheran Confessions. When people are confirmed they are asked if they confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as they have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true.

These solemn promises indicate to us just how important the Lutheran Confessions are for our church. Let's take a look at the various items contained in the Book of Concord and then we'll look at why the Lutheran Confessions are so important for being a Lutheran.

* **What are the Ecumenical Creeds?**

The three ecumenical creeds in the Book of Concord are the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. They are called "ecumenical" [universal] because they are accepted by Christians worldwide as correct expressions of what God's Word teaches.

* **What is the Augsburg Confession and Apology of the Augsburg Confession?**

In the year 1530, the Lutherans were required to present their confession of faith before the emperor in Augsburg, Germany. Philip Melancthon wrote the Augsburg Confession and it was read before the imperial court on June 30, 1530. One year later, the Lutherans presented their defense of the Augsburg Confession, which is what "apology" here means. It too was written by Melancthon. The largest document in the Book of Concord, its longest chapter, is devoted to the most important truth of the Christian faith: the doctrine of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

* **What are the Small and Large Catechisms?**

Martin Luther realized early on how desperately ignorant the laity and clergy of his day were when it came to even the most basic truths of the Christian faith. Around 1530, he produced two small handbooks to help pastors

and the heads of families teach the faith.

The Small Catechism and the Large Catechism are organized around six topics: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar. So universally accepted were these magnificent doctrinal summaries by Luther, that they were included as part of the Book of Concord.

* **What are the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope?**

In 1537, Martin Luther was asked to prepare a statement of Lutheran belief for use at a church council, if it was called. Luther's bold and vigorous confession of faith was later incorporated into the Book of Concord. It was presented to a group of Lutheran rulers meeting in the town of Smalcald. Melancthon was asked to expand on the subject of the Roman pope and did so in his treatise, which also was included in the Book of Concord.

* **What is the Formula of Concord?**

After Luther's death in 1546, significant controversies broke out in the Lutheran Church. After much debate and struggle, the Formula of Concord in 1577 put an end to these doctrinal controversies and the Lutheran Church was able to move ahead untied in what it believed, taught and confessed. In 1580, all the confessional writings mentioned here were gathered into a single volume, the Book of Concord. Concord is a word that means, "harmony".

What is the connection between the Bible and the Confessions?

We confess that, "The Word of God is and should remain the sole rule and norm of all doctrine" (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 9). What the bible asserts, God asserts. What the Bible commands, God commands. The authority of the Scriptures is complete, certain and final. The Scriptures are accepted by the Lutheran Confessions as the actual Word of God. The Lutheran Confessions urge us to believe the Scripture for "they will not lie to you" (LC, V, 76) and cannot be "false and deceitful" (FC SD, VII, 96). The Bible is God's "pure,



What About...

Being a Lutheran *Cont'd*

infallible, and unalterable Word" (Preface to the BOC).

The Lutheran Confessions are the "basis, rule and norm indicating how all doctrines should be judged in conformity with the Word of God" (FC SD RN). Because the Confessions are in complete doctrinal agreement with the written Word of God, they serve as the standard in the Lutheran Church to determine what is faithful Biblical teaching, insofar as that teaching is addressed in the Confessions.

What is the main point of the Lutheran Confessions?

The Lutheran Reformation was not a "revolt", but rather began as a sincere expression of concern with the false and misleading teachings, which, unfortunately, even to this very day, obscure the glory and merit of Jesus Christ. What motivated Luther was a zealous concern about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here is how the Lutheran Confessions explain what the Gospel is all about:

"Human beings have not kept the law of God but have transgressed it. Their corrupted human nature, thoughts, words, and deed battle against the law. For this reason they are subject to God's wrath, to death and all temporal afflictions, and to the punishment of the fires of hell. As a result, the Gospel, in its strict sense, teaches what people should believe, namely, that they receive from God the forgiveness of sins; that is, the Son of God, our Lord Christ, has taken upon Himself the curse of the law and borne it, atoned and paid for all our sins; that through Him alone we are restored to God's grace, obtain the forgiveness of sins through faith and are delivered from death and all the punishments of our sins and are saved eternally. ... It is good news, joyous news, that God does not want to punish sin but to forgive it for Christ's sake" (FC SD,V,20).

What is a "confessional" Lutheran?

The word "confession" is used in a variety of ways, but when we speak of a "confessional" Lutheran we mean a Lutheran who declares to the world his faith and most deeply held belief and conviction, in harmony with the documents contained in the Book of Concord. You will catch the spirit of confessional Lutheranism in these, the last words written in the Book of Concord:

"Therefore, it is our intent to give witness before God and all Christendom, among those who are alive today and those who will come after us, that

the explanation here set forth regarding all the controversial articles of faith which we have addressed and explained -- and no other explanation -- is our teaching, faith, and confession. In it we shall appear before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ, by God's grace, with fearless hearts and thus give account of our faith, and we will neither secretly nor publicly speak or write anything contrary to it. Instead, on the strength of God's grace, we intend to abide by this confession" (FC SD, XII, 40).

What is "unconditional subscription" to the Confessions?

Confessional Lutheran pastors are required to "subscribe" unconditionally to the Lutheran Confessions because they are a pure exposition of the Word of God. This is the way our pastor, and every layman who confesses his belief in the Small Catechism, is able with great joy and without reservation or qualification to say what it is that he believes to be the truth of God's Word.

So what is it to be a Lutheran?

Being a Lutheran is being a person who believes the truths of God's Word as they are correctly explained in the Book of Concord. To do so is to confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Genuine Lutherans, confessional Lutherans, dare to insist that "All doctrines should conform to the standards [the Lutheran Confessions] set forth above. Whatever is contrary to them should be rejected and condemned as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith" (FC Ep. RN, 6).

Such a statement may strike some as boastful, but it is not. Rather, it is an expression of the Spirit-led confidence that moves us to speak of our faith before the world.

Hand-in-hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession is our equally strong commitment to reaching out boldly with the Gospel and speaking God's truth to the world. That is what "confession" of the faith is all about, in the final analysis. Indeed, "It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak (2 Cor. 4:13). This is what it means to be a Lutheran.

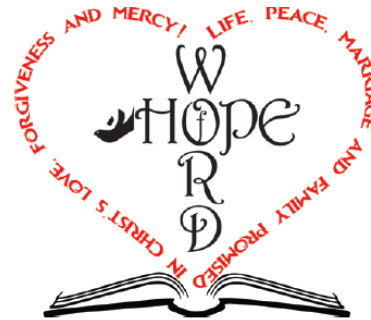
-Dr. A. L. Barry
Past President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Lutherans
For Life

**For those who have had an
abortion, a Word of Hope ...**
888.217.8679 • info@word-of-
hope.org • word-of-hope.org

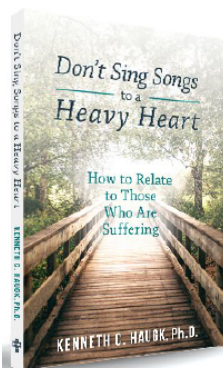
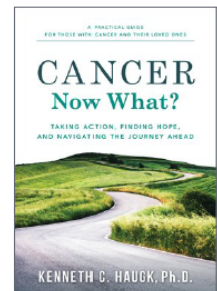


"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

Encouragement for those Facing Difficult Times

*Two Books from Stephen Ministries provide Help and Hope for Christians
Dealing with Hardship*

Cancer: Now What? is a practical guide for those with cancer and their loved ones. It is a comprehensive, easy-to-read tool for navigating the medical, emotional, relational and spiritual challenges that cancer brings.



Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart offers real-world advice on how to relate to those who are suffering. The reader will learn what to say and do -- and what NOT to say or do -- when people are hurting. The book is a valuable resource for those who work in a caregiving field, as well as for volunteers or anyone who wants to relate to people who are suffering in ways that ease their pain, instead of adding to their burden.

Both books are available for loan in Zion's library (located in our large conference room downstairs), **or for purchase at**

www.stephenministries.org

March Service Participants

	Elders	Acolytes	Time
Mar 5	Mike Wallace, Mike Kroeger Roger Deiderich, Jim Neill	Emily Trentini Jeremy Dyczewski	8:00 10:30
Mar 12	Bob Schmidt, Mike Kroeger Bill Bishop, Jim Neill	Daniel Grimenstein Jeremy Dyczewski	8:00 10:30
Mar 19	Bob Schmidt, Mike Kroeger Roger Deiderich, Bill Bishop	Pam Trentini Callista Chicott	8:00 10:30
Mar 26	Bob Schmidt, Mike Kroeger Bill Bishop, Jim Neill	Claire Schrag Callista Chicott	8:00 10:30



	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Mar	Janet & Marian Oelschlager, Megan Pasquini, Barb Oechslein, Diana Schmidt	Ava & Megan Pasquini, Barb & Wayne Oechslein	John & Kari Gresh, Andy & Dwight Weldon
Apr	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Shane Bryant, Bill, Ken & Will Schrag	Susie Bishop, Mike Kozak, John & Luke Lemonovich

MARCH

Birthdays

5th -- Cheryl Arter

5th – Jared Fitzgerald

5th – Sandy Hervert

5th – Deborah Sterba

8th – John Reihner

9th – Lee Glasser

9th – Prue Wilson

11th – Michael Sterba

13th – Tanner Wilson

14th – Susan Bishop

15th – Braeden Boyle

16th – Claire Schrag

17th – Max Ma

18th – Joe Gielarowski

21st – Tracy Yellig

23rd – Mark Killinger

24th – Bonnie Lewis

26th – Katie Gielarowski

I PRAISE
YOU FOR I
am
fearfully
AND
wonderfully
MADE

MARCH

Anniversaries

3rd – John & Robyn Reihner

4th – Bill & Carol Schrag

21st – Charles & Kathy Kacvinsky




26th – Tim & Rita Sheldon

29th – Brian & Megan Pasquini





March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:00 pm Lent 1 Worship 7:00 pm Lent 1 Worship	2 6:00 pm Adult Information Class	3	4
5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	6 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Trustees' Mtg. 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	7	8 2:00 pm Lent 2 Worship 7:00 pm Lent 2 Worship	9 6:00 pm Adult Information Class 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg	10	11 9:00 am Men's Choir
12 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship FOOD BANK COLLECTION	13 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	14 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg	15 2:00 pm Lent 3 Worship 7:00 pm Lent 3 Worship	16 6:00 pm Adult Information Class 7:00 pm Council Mtg.		
19 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	20 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	21	22 2:00 pm Lent 4 Worship 7:00 pm Lent 4 Worship	23 6:00 pm Adult Information Class	24	25 9:00 am Men's Choir
26 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	27 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	28	29 2:00 pm Lent 5 Worship 7:00 pm Lent 5 Worship	30 	31	