

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE  
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN  
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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“We are beggars. This is true.”

- Martin Luther

## FROM THE PASTOR

My offering for this month. Enjoy!

Pax Christi,

Pastor Parent

**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 will talk about 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 described as “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 Philip 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. Philip 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 united 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, cer-

tain and final. The Scriptures are accepted by the Lutheran Confessions as the actual Word of God. The Lutheran Confessions urge us to believe the Scriptures 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, 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 deeds 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, that 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 an “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 pastors, 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.

Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the Missouri Synod’s first president, explained the meaning of an unconditional confessional subscription in words as clear and poignant today as they were then:

“An unconditional subscription is the solemn declaration which the individual who wants to serve the church makes under oath that he accepts the doctrinal content of our Lutheran Confessions, because he recognizes the fact that they are in full agreement with Scripture and do not militate against Scripture in any point, whether the point be of major or minor importance; and that he therefore heartily believes in this divine truth and is determined to preach this doctrine.”

### **So what is it to be a Lutheran?**

Being a Lutheran is being a person who believes the truths of God’s Word, the Holy Bible, as they are correctly explained and taught

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.

To be a confessional Lutheran is to be one who honors the Word of God. That word makes it clear that it is God’s desire for His Church to be in agreement about doctrine, and to be of one mind, living at peace with one another (1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11). It is for that reason that we so treasure the precious confession of Christian truth that we have in the Book of Concord. For confessional Lutherans, there is no other collection of documents, or statements or books

that so clearly, accurately and comfortingly presents the teachings of God’s Word and reveals the Biblical Gospel as does our Book of Concord.

Hand-in-hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession of the faith, is, and always must be, 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 Corinthians 4:13). This is what it means to be a Lutheran.

For Further Study:

Robert Preus, *Getting into the Theology of Concord: A Study of the Book of Concord* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1977).

David Scaer, *Getting into the Story of Concord: A History of the Book of Concord* (St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 1977).

To purchase a copy of the Book of Concord, call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

—Dr. A. L. Barry, President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## Sunday's Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Feb. 4	Isaiah 55:10-13	2 Corinthians 11:1–12:9	Luke 8:4-15
Feb. 11	1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 18:31-43
Feb. 14	Joel 2:12-19	2 Peter 1:2-11	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb. 18	Genesis 3:1-21	Hebrews 4: 14-16	Matthew 4:1-11
Feb. 25	Genesis 32:22-32	Romans 5:1-5	Matthew 15:21-28
Mar. 3	Jeremiah 26:1-15	Ephesians 5:1-9	Luke 11:14-28

### Lenten Services

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th, 7:00 pm**

(How wonderful to spend St. Valentine's Day with  
the Lover of your soul)

### Mid Week Services

Wednesday, Feb 21st–Mar 20th

6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich

7:00 pm Service

### Holy Week Services

March 28th–30th

### Private Confession

Every Sunday

8:00-8:45 a.m.

Or

By Appointment

Please see Pastor Parent .

**FROM LWML**

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

January mites totaled \$15.03.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. You may bring the mite box any Sunday. Mite donations are sent to the Gulf States District LWML to fund mission grants and district expenses and national mission grants.

Your mite donations are making a difference. Four of the 31 mission grants for the 2023-2025 Biennium are paid in full and three are partially paid. As of December 31, 2023, received \$911,895.14 of the \$2,350,000.00 approved mission amount.

Mission Disbursements Paid in Full:

#2. A Healing Space for At-Risk Children, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND, \$100,000.00

#5. Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX, \$50,000.00

#21. Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church, Lutheran Family Services, U.S., \$106,000.00

#24. God's Word for Central and South American Missions, \$100,000.00

Mission Disbursements Partially Paid:

#3. Serving God's Children With Special Need, Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI, Paid \$75,329.00

Remaining \$24,671.00

#6. Mobile Kitchen Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S., Paid \$42,500.00 Remaining \$42,500.00

Over 130,000 meals have been served in the Gulf Coast Region in smaller communities overlooked by larger organizations.

#16. Care for Street Children of Western Kenya, Paid \$28,418.00 Remaining \$21,582.90

Early Bird Registration is open till March 15 for the Gulf States 2024 District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Prattville, AL. There are no refunds after April 19. The registration form and hotel information is in the Glad Tidings Winter Issue. Copies are available in the Narthex and I can send a copy electronically to anyone who wants one.

I will be attending the District Zone President's meeting on February 8 (via Zoom), the District Biard Meeting on February 10, and the Emerald Coast Zone Board meeting on March 16 (Jehovah Lutheran, Pensacola).

Jehovah Lutheran Church, Pensacola agreed to host the 2024 Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LWML Gulf States District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Prattville, AL

Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, Saturday, September 21, 2024, Jehovah Lutheran Church, Pensacola, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

LWML 41st Biennial LWML Convention, June 26-30, 2025, Omaha, NE

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Urda



Easter Lilies

\$10 each

Going on sale Feb. 18th

See Linda Urda for details



## FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Hello everyone! Once again I just wanted to share how excited I am to be working on the Board of Social Ministry! I have a few things I want to share as we move into the month of February.

First of all, we are starting a crafting group! This will meet once a month, for a couple of hours. It's a time for people to get together and craft together! If you aren't very crafty but still want to come, please come and hang out! We will pick a day to meet based on what works best for the people interested.

Second, we are starting a prayer shawl ministry. This will provide a handmade prayer shawl to anyone who is dealing with loss, a medical diagnosis, or is just struggling in general. We are still working out the exact details of how it is going to work, so please reach out if interested or if you have any questions!

Third, we are making a church cookbook! We are accepting any and all kinds of recipes, so please email me your recipe(s) and I will email you back saying that I received them. If I

don't within a few days, please follow up. Also, we are holding a cover design contest! So please put your artistic side to work and submit a cover the same way you would submit a recipe!

Fourth, all Voters Assembly Meeting days are now pot lucks! So mark your calendars, because February 18th is now a pot luck!

Finally, we are looking to restart the church welcome basket! The Board of Social Ministry will provide the bag, but if you are on any board or committee and would like to contrib-

ute something that represents what you do at the church or would just like to contribute something in general, please reach out to me!

Speaking of reaching out, if you are wanting to get on an email list or have any ideas, please come talk to me!

Once again, I am very excited to work with you all! Reach out with any and all questions! Thanks!

-Clare Jones



## FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**A new Sunday morning Bible Study is starting soon!** As we complete our in-depth study of the Book of Matthew, we will turn the page and begin to delve into the richness of the Lutheran Liturgy.

Have you ever wondered:

Who is involved in the liturgy?

What does the liturgy mean?

When is it appropriate to make the sign of the cross and/or bow our heads?

Where did the liturgy and its distinctive parts originate?

Why do we even have a liturgy?

For the answer to these and many other questions, make it your plan to join us each Sunday morning at 9:00, as Pastor Parent shares with us the depth and beauty of this precious gift.

**Our Sunday School students have been busy** planning a number of projects, as they love and serve God by loving and serving their neighbor. They recently began assembling Grab & Go Bags for individuals who come to the Pastor's pantry in need of food, but have no means of cooking or otherwise preparing a meal. Also in the works is a project making bookmark ribbons for our hymnals, along with plans to assist at a future church work day. Consider taking a moment to ask our youngest members about these projects and share in their enthusiasm.

There is a small plaque on a bookshelf in our home that reads: "Learn and never quit". For us as Christians, this is good advice! Learning about God's Word, our faith, our worship...these are not a "one and done", but a lifelong endeavor. Just as we would not eat on the first of the month and expect to be sustained until the next month, neither should we learn a little, then quit, and expect that we would continue growing in Christian faith. Rather, we are reminded in 2 Peter 3:18, to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." God grant us all the desire to seek Him first and always.

In His Service,

Cindy Parent

## COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Coffee with Pastor  
begins with  
Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to know him  
and for him to get to know his flock!

### Reminder!

If you are the last to leave the  
premises, please check all  
doors to assure they are closed  
securely and locked.

Thank you!

### Yard Sale

Saturday, April 6th

8:00-noon

Donations may be dropped off  
starting Mar. 24th. Please put  
items in the Sunday School  
room.

No clothing items, please.

See Dcs. Bien for details



### Men's Group

February 20th

7:00 pm

Pastor Parent's house.



### Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us in the study of Proverbs

### Wednesday Mid-Week Suppers

The sign-up sheet for soup and sandwiches  
is in the Fellowship Hall

You may bring both the soup and the sand-  
wiches or pair up with someone and each  
take one.



### Women's Book Club

Thursday, Feb. 15, 11:30 am

See Jennifer Currid for details



Birthdays:

Pastor Parent	2/7
Bruce Anthony	2/18
Cindy Parent	2/18
Stephen Braun	2/23

Chime Practice

Mondays @ 6:30 pm



**Getting Around OSEL C**

- Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the Fellowship Hall
- Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall
- Directories—See Trish Hull
- Members' mailboxes—In the Narthex
- LWML mite boxes—On the back counter shelf in the Nave
- Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull
- Websites:
  - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—[www.LCMS.org](http://www.LCMS.org)
  - Southern District—[www.southeranlcms.org](http://www.southeranlcms.org)

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSEL C**

- Serve on a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.
- Sign up for Flowers—See sign up list in the Parish Hall
- Sign up for Refreshments—See sign up list in Parish Hall
- Serve on the Altar Guild—See Dcs. Heather Bien
- Ongoing Projects on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee
- Serve as an Usher—See Julie Blaylock
- Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall
- Coffee with Pastor and Women's Study—9:00 a.m. Thursday

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



Council Meeting Minutes (TEAMS)

January 9, 2024



President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien

1.Attendance- Pastor Parent, Alex Franco, Brad Bien, Dcs Heather Bien, Brian Hull, Mahlon Haunschild, Julie Blaylock, Clare Jones, Cindy Parent, Linda Urda, Alan Widner, Jennifer Currid. Welcome to our new members Cindy, Clare, and Mahlon.

2. Opening prayer at 6:30 by Pastor Parent.

3. The previous council minutes were approved (Brad/Cindy).

4. Reports:

a) Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) – Praise God that our church campus did not have any damage from the intense storm on the evening of January 8th. The current Bible study on the book of Matthew has about two more sessions. Ash Wednesday service will be on Feb. 14. The first Sunday in Advent is Feb. 18. Pastor asks that we investigate a non-lthal method of self-defense, specifically the Byrna Self-Defense system. The cost is \$350 and include Co2 cartridges. If we do purchase one, Brian, who has the best view and angle during worship services, should be the one to operate the gun. Tom Smoltz has been in the hospital with kidney issues. Pastor is going to visit Becky again on Saturday, Jan. 6. Jeannie Arveson is still at Shoal Creek rehab Center. Rhett Cadenhead is at home.

b) Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien)- See attached. Additional comments: The February newsletter contributions are due on January 25. Please email entries to Heather.

c) Treasurer (Brian)- See attached. Additional comment: Friendly Florist is now our provider for flowers.

d) Financial Report (Mahlon)– See attached. Additional comment: End-of-year statements are in the individual church mailboxes.

e) Board of Security (Julie)- No recent security issues. Camera 6 is not working correctly. Brad or Brian will look at it. She deleted the code for the previous florist and added one for Steve Rogers who works at Friendly Florist and kindly delivers our flowers to the church.

f) LWML (Linda) – See attached. Easter lilies go on sale on Feb. 18 for \$10 each.

g) Board of Education (Cindy)- See attached. When the new Bible study on the liturgy begins, she is going to provide baklava as a treat and incentive.

h) Board of Elders (Alan)- The elders are working on removing non-attending members

from the official roll.

i) Board of Trustees (Brian)- See attached. Next wok day will be on January 20 or 27.

j) Board of Social Ministry (Clare) - See attached.

k) Board of Evangelism (Alex) – No report.

5. Unfinished Business:

a. Church Street Signs (pending BoT priorities)

b. New Storage Building (remains tabled)

6. New Business:

a. The annual report to the congregation was reviewed and approved.

b. Heather said we will have a yard sale after Easter.

c. Mahlon will look into the new fiber internet provider in the area, Live Oak.

7. Motion to adjourn at 7:34 (Brad/Mahlon).

8. Pastor Parent closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid, Council Secretary

“Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe  
and rejoice in Christ even more boldly.”  
— Martin Luther

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

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We are on the Web!

[www.Oselc.net](http://www.Oselc.net)



Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Secretary: Jennifer Currid

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Mahlon Haunschild

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life:

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Youth: Gervase Anthony

Board of Education: Cindy Parent

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Clare Jones

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Altar Guild Head: Dcs. Bien

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Newsletter Editor: Dcs. Bien

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien