



**THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2023

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“Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But then this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: “DEATH HAS BEEN SWALLOWED UP in victory. WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR VICTORY? WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR STING?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ .” 1Cor 15:50-57

FROM THE PASTOR

Have you ever been asked, “What is a Lutheran? What do they believe?” A better question might be, “What is a Christian?” since to be Lutheran is to be Christian. St. Peter writes, “... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you....” In an age when Christianity has come under increasing attack, Christians must be ready to defend their faith and confession. Equally important, we Lutherans must be able to explain the unchanging truths of our salvation in Jesus Christ as we find them in

God’s inerrant Word as it is recorded for us in Holy Scripture, and as it is explained in our Lutheran Confessions.

You may already be familiar with former President A. L. Barry’s “**What About...**” series which was printed in 2001. Even so, it is always good to review who we are and what we believe, teach, and confess. It is in that light that I have decided to offer up the following in our newsletter for your review. We will begin with “**Being a Lutheran.**”

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, 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 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 " (F C S D , V , 2 0) .

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 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 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 Cor. 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
Apr 2	Zech 9:9-12	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 26:1-27:66
Apr 9	Job 19:23-27	1 Cor 5:6-8	Mk 16:1-8
Apr 16	Ezek 37:1-14	1 Jn 5:4-10	Jn 20:19-31
Apr 23	Ezek 34:11-16	1 Pet 2:21-25	Jn 10:11-16
Apr 30	Is 40:25-31	1 Pet 2:11-20	Jn 16:16-22
May 7	Is 12:1-6	James 1:16-21	Jn 16:5-15

Getting Around OSELC

Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the fellowship hall

Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Directories—on the back counter in the nave (where Service is held)

LWML mite boxes—on the back counter shelf in the nave

Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco

Serve on a board—See that board's chairman (list is on the back of the newsletter)

Make Offerings Electronically—See Brian Hull

Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull

Websites:

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org

Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

Board of Christian Life

I am currently reading Pastor Matthew Harrison's book *Why am I Joy:fully Lutheran?* At this Easter season I wanted to share a passage from the section on the First of the Ten Commandments (page 15):

**JOY:FULLY
LUTHERAN**
1 THESS 5:16-18

REJOICE / PRAY / GIVE THANKS

“Why am I Joy:fully Lutheran? Because Jesus kept the First Commandment for me. He suffered my just punishment for all my sins against the First Commandment. Freed from the results of my own sin, freed from eternal death and the devil, freed from idolatry, I rejoice! ‘Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit (Psalm 51:12).’ And finally, freed from idolatrous abuse of all that is not God, I can use and enjoy God’s wonderful creation not as fake gods, the objects of my fear, love and trust, but precisely as joyous gifts.”

“Dear Lord, Forgive me. Renew my heart. Slay the old Adam within me. Destroy my idols. Cause me to cling to Jesus only, rejoice in Him alone, and find faithful joy in the right use of all Your creation. Amen.”

Thankful for the true joy found only in Christ,

Jennifer Currid

Reminder!

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

Thank you!

Julie Blaylok

FROM THE LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

March mites totaled \$19.50. Mite Box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Mites are sent to the LWML Gulf States District to pay for District mission grants, administrative expenses and for National mission grants.

The Emerald Coast Zone Board meeting was held at OSELC on March 4, 2023 at 10:00 am. We drafted the agenda for the Spring Workshop April 29, 2023. Thank-you to the Care Committee for providing fruit and to Jeannie Harrison for providing drinks.

Thanks to all who attended the LWML MISSION PROJECT on Saturday, March 4 to make Easter cards for the residents and staff of Crestview Manor. Thanks to Cindy Parent for setting up the card making stations and providing the materials. We made 80 cards. Thanks also to Brad & Emily Bien for taking pictures. We are still collecting snack size items such as cookies, crackers, chips, etc. NOTE: One additional item added to this is drink mix packets for the staff. Donation baskets are in

the Narthex until Sunday, April 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

LWML Emerald Coast Zone Christian Life Workshop, Saturday, April 29, 2023, Registration 9:00-9:30 am Closing 2:00 pm Registration/Lunch \$10.00.

Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 333 Commerce Street, Pensacola in the Redeemer Activity Hall. Gifts from the Heart will be nonperishable food (especially canned meats) for the Warrington Emergency Aid Center.

RSVP to Linda Urda not later than April 16, 2023 at 850•758•0471 or linurda@cox.net if planning to attend. All women and teenage girls are invited to attend. Please bring your Bible.

LWML National Convention, June 22-25, 2023, Milwaukee, WI. Registration is open via <https://www.lwml.org>

Gulf States District Retreat, October 13-15, Stone Bridge Farms, Cullman, AL

LWML Gulf States District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Prattville, AL

-Linda Urda



FROM THE DEACONESS

Meditation

Good for the Spirit, Mind, and Body

I wouldn't blame you if, when you hear the word "meditation", you think of sitting crossed legged thumbs pressed against forefingers while thoughts run through the mind of frolicking through a verdant meadow or contemplating the smallness of one among the vast celestial giants of space. That is what "meditation" is popularly purported to be: an "enlightened", pseudo-spiritual, mind exercise which feigns mental relaxation and spiritual awakening. This is a far cry from David's meaning of meditation. He did not have in mind what ancient Eastern gurus and post-modern Beatniks have made it to be. David tells us in the Psalms that he meditates day and night on God's Word.

We all meditate, whether we realize it or not. Have you ever caught yourself humming a hymn from Sunday's Divine Service? Or a piece of Pastor's sermon comes to mind

while driving to work? Or maybe the Scripture you recently read pops into memory while washing dishes. These are all forms of meditation. Your Spirit (guided by the Holy Spirit as promised in your Baptism) recalls Holy things which enter your mind and awareness and that is meditation. It happens as easily as

fruit grows naturally from the tree.

"There are numerous settings to meditate; what is crucial is the meditation centers around God's Word, Christ."

But what if you want to purposefully set time aside to meditate on God's Word but don't know where to start? My suggestion would be to first, pick a time and

space where you can be quiet. As for what to meditate on, a good place to start meditating on God's Word is, most obviously, in God's Word. The Psalms are a great place to meditate. Psalms 8, 20, 47, and 136 are good ones to get started. Another meaningful place is the "red words" – the Words of Christ (although the entirety of Holy Scripture are His Words). There is something about the words spoken from the physical mouth of God which reached the disciples ears and now

we can hear in the exact same manner. Some of which I gravitate towards are: Matthew 6:25-33, Luke 11:1-13, and John 10:1-18.

If you do not have a hymn book at home, I encourage you to obtain one. Reading through the Daily Offices at your own pace so you can slow down and meditate on whatever catches your attention. Turning to your favorite hymns and singing them to yourself can be joyful and meditative. You do not need to remember or know a tune of any one given hymn. The words of our hymnody are precious and need no melody although who can resist fully immersing in those sacred tunes.

Pulling out your Small Catechism and reading through Luther's explanations, not in a rushed, obligatory way but intently and purposefully, lingering over his teachings and Scripture references wringing everything you can out of the ink on the page is also a perfect way to meditate. There are numerous settings to meditate; what is crucial is the meditation centers around God's Word, Christ.

David, through the Holy Spirit inspired Word, encourages meditation

because of its life giving effect: "I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, LORD, according to Your word (Ps 119:107). His Word is sweeter than honey and more precious than pure gold. His Word promises life; His Word is life to the body, mind, and spirit. To be exact His Word is Christ. So, to meditate on God's Word is to meditate on Christ and His Name (all He is). It is not our act of meditating which



gives life but God's promise in His Word that He will revive us in it. Meditating on God's Word is wrapped up in our Sanctification – the ongoing process of making us holy. In our sanctification God is bringing us back to the image in which He made us and ultimately will be perfected in the final Resurrection. For now, in this earthly life, He is reviving us in body, mind, and spirit by His Word. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will do it." 1 Thess 5:23-2

Pax Christi, Dcs. Heather

FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Just a friendly reminder of the Fifth Sunday Feast on April 29th. The ham is being furnished by Grace Cafe. We are asking that each family bring their favorite side dish or a dessert.

I would also ask that you start thinking about volunteering to help cook on Tuesdays this fall so we could open Grace Cafe again. If we could get at least four people to cook you would only cook once a month. Please give it some thought.

- Becky Williams

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSELCO

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

Holy Week

April 6—Maunday Thursday Service 7:00 pm

April 7—Tre Ore Service (Good Shephard, Calloway) 12:00-3:00

Good Friday Service 7:00pm

April 8—Easter Vigil 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Study of
Psalms

Come join us for a good
time of learning and
fellowship!

Birthdays:

Jaime Sparks	4/4
Jennifer Franco	4/5
Ethan Grimes	4/5
Grace Parent	4/5
Becky Williams	4/6
Pearson Sparks	4/17
Clinton Trexler	4/25

Women's Book Club

Thursday, April 19

11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

See Jennifer Currid for details



Men's Group

There is no men's group in April.

There will be no Women's Bible Study or Coffee with Pastor on Maunday Thursday (4/6) and no adult or kids' Sunday School on Easter (4/9).

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!

"Sale for the Sem" Yard Sale

Saturday, April 22

8:00 am—12 noon

Bring your stuff anytime the week before.

No clothing, please.

ECZ LWML Workshop

Saturday, April 29

Redeemer, Pensacola

9:00 am

See Linda Urda for details

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



Council Meeting March 14, 2023



President – Alex Franco
Vice-President- Brad Bien

Opening Prayer- Pastor Parent

Attendance- Pastor Parent, Alex Franco, Brad Bien, Dcs Heather Bien, Brian Hull, Trish Hull, Jeannie Harrison, Julie Blaylock, Linda Urda, Alan, Widener, Becky Williams, Jennifer Currid

Approve previous council minutes- approved (Brian/Alex) with following amendments: Pastor's vacation is April 10-19, and the kitchen funds were moved to the operational fund, not the maintenance fund.

Reports:

Pastor's Report (Fr Parent)- see attached report on Synod nominations. Additional comments- Pastor has completed or is close to completing the next two Bible studies as well as his Holy Week sermons. No Matins or Coffee with pastor on March 23, April 6, and 13. No men's group on April 18th. Pastor has asked Troy's grandson, Sean Schoonover, to serve as an acolyte. As soon as Sean S and Sean W make their decisions, Pastor will begin their training. The new 7-candle candelabra are in use. Pastor will present Sue Cadenhead for membership this Sunday, March 19.

Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien)- see attached. Additional comments-Heather says that the oil candles will fit better than the wax candles that are in temporary use. Jeannie reported that \$386 towards the cost of the oil candles has been donated. Julie cautioned the elders to be careful around the wax candles. They might be moved a bit farther away from the altar.

Treasurer (Brian)- see attached. Additional comments- Freedom Tax Service charges will be \$100 a quarter, not \$300 a quarter as in their previous quote.

Financial Report (Jeannie)- see attached.

Board of Security (Julie)- no report.

LWML (Linda)- see attached. Additional comments- March 18th mission project will start at 9:00, not 9:30.

Board of Christian Life (Jennifer)- Care group gave Nancy Novy's new address to Linda Combs and Trish Hull. Care group provided lunch for the workday participants. Board of Education/ Youth (Gervase)-no report. Board of Elders

(Alan)- no report.

Board of Trustees (Brian)-see attached. Additional comments-Brian has added to the future projects list the installation of grab bars in the women’s restroom in the Parish Hall.

Board of Social Ministry (Becky)- Reminder that the 5th Sunday fest is April 30th.

Board of Evangelism (Alex)- no report.

Unfinished Business:

T Tax Service Implementation-addressed in treasurer’s report.

OSELK Constitution & By-Laws went into effect March 1 as approved a Feb. 19th voters’ meeting.

Church Roadside Signs- will install after Easter.

Julie requested that we discuss implementing a nomination committee as stated in our by-laws. Brian asked that we discuss this at our next face-to-face meeting

New Business: CPR Class & Volunteers (10 June 2023)- enough members have signed up for the course.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid

Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Council Secretary: Trish Hull

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Jeannie Harrison

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Jennifer Currid

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education/Youth: Gervase Anthony

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Becky Williams

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Soup Kitchen Director: Becky Williams

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

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We are on the Web!

www.Oselc.net

