

LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN



Thanks be to God for
his inexpressible gift.

2 Corinthians 9:15

CLC (1960-2010)
50th Anniversary Theme:

Our Jubilee in Christ: Redemption for the Past, Hope for the Future

Special Services:

Synodwide local celebrations: Sunday, May 16, 2010

Scripture texts:

Leviticus 25:1-17 (The Lord's command for the year of Jubilee)

Romans 5:1-11 (Our cause for rejoicing is that we are saved
from wrath through Christ)

Luke 10:13-20 (Proper rejoicing—not that we are the CLC,
but that our names are written in heaven)

Synodical Celebration:

Wednesday evening of the June 21-25, 2010 Convention

Scripture texts:

Isaiah 61:1-11 (The acceptable year of the Lord, or Jubilee,
finds its fulfillment in Christ)

Ephesians 1:2-7 (That we are acceptable to the Lord is only due to Christ)

Luke 4:16-21 (Christ is our Jubilee)

Jubilee Thankoffering — July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

ABOUT THE COVER:

Quoting from a recent pastoral epistle of our CLC President John Schierenbeck: *“As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, we give thanks to God for His ‘inexpressible gift’ to us. We give thanks not for the CLC, but for the gospel ministry God has entrusted to us. We give thanks for the ‘inexpressible gift’ of God’s Son, Jesus, and the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us by the grace of God. Grace is the undeserved gift of forgiveness and life to lost and condemned sinners. In this section of 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul speaks of the ‘grace’ of thankful giving. These believers were enabled by God to bring their offerings out of faith and to show their thanksgiving to God in concrete ways.”*

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To God Alone The Glory—

“OUR JUBILEE IN CHRIST”

“OUR JUBILEE IN CHRIST” is the theme of the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The word “jubilee” is derived from a Hebrew word *jobel*—the joyful shout or clangor of trumpets, by which the Year of Jubilee was announced.

The Old Testament Year of Jubilee was celebrated every 50th year. During this year the land that had been taken from its owners was returned to the family to whom it originally belonged. All slaves of Jewish blood were to be released. Leviticus 25 describes the divine command and reason for the Year of Jubilee.

The Father commanded it as an expression of divine love through which He provided for the preservation and welfare of families and tribes. It contributed to the recording of genealogies and preserved evidence to establish right to ancestral property. “The Year of Jubilee became a year of freedom and of mercy to the entire people, but especially to the poor and oppressed, and a year of rest from toil and drudgery” (Kretzmann—*Popular Commentary*, Vol. 1).

Since the Year of Jubilee was part of the ceremonial law, we of the New Testament are no longer under its mandated provisions. In Christ through whom liberty is proclaimed and through whom the broken-hearted are bound up (Isaiah 61:2, Luke 4:18, 19), we enjoy the spiritual rest and freedom foreshadowed by the Year of Jubilee. The peace we know is the peace of forgiveness, proclaimed by Christ, and won through Him. The freedom we know is the freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil. In Christ we have **REDEMPTION FOR THE PAST** and **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**.

It is the will of God that in the exercise of church fellowship on earth there be unity of teaching (1 Corinthians 1:10). When it is established that such unity does not exist, we are to sever such relationships (Romans 16:17,18) for the preservation of our confession, our faith and our hope in Christ. The immediate cause of the formation of the CLC arose out of the change in fellowship doctrine and practice of our former fellowship. Consciences were compelled by the Word to act. Our Year of Jubilee celebration is dated from our inception as a confessional Lutheran Church body in 1960.

The visible Christian church in the world today is in the sorry condition it is in part because, having forsaken God’s Word, it rejects His teaching regarding the practice of fellowship. However, the purpose of our synod’s existence is greater than the promotion of the Scriptural fellowship principle. In fact, the principle serves the greater purpose—the proclamation of the full, free, and unadulterated gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our witness is not, “See how ‘pure’ we are in our fellowship practice.” Such a boast is vain and belies the struggle in which we are regularly



engaged. Our witness is to the cross of Him upon whom was laid the sin of us all. Our witness is to Him who gives life and salvation. Our jubilee year in Christ is not to the praise of our church body, but is recognition that our Father in His mercy has preserved to us the blessed message of salvation without which there is no joy or peace or freedom—no hope and no future. For fifty years He has graciously blessed us with the privilege to preach the gospel.

Our jubilee in Christ will be meaningful only as we continue faithfully in the Word of God, and only as we continue to proclaim the gospel of which Jesus is the heart and soul. We are but servants of the Lord our God (cf. Leviticus 25:55).

“To The Triune God alone be jubilee praise and glory forever. Amen.”

—*Pastor Em. Daniel Fleischer*
Minneapolis, Minnesota



With an eye toward the CLC’s 50th anniversary celebration, delegates to the 2008 CLC Convention designated May 16, 2010, for “synodwide local celebrations.” At the same time the Anniversary Committee chose three Scripture texts (Old Testament, Epistle, Gospel) to highlight the Anniversary theme: “Our Jubilee in Christ: Redemption for the Past, Hope for the Future.” With this in mind, three staff writers of the *Lutheran Spokesman* have contributed these “50th Anniversary Devotionals.” We thank them. —*Editor*



50th Anniversary Devotional *(First of three)*

A Year of Jubilee

(Please read Leviticus 25:1-17)

It began with the blast of the ram’s horn trumpet on the Day of Atonement every fiftieth year. It was a special Sabbath year when even the land was given rest, and liberty was to be proclaimed to all the people. Everyone was to be allowed to return to the property first assigned to their family when they entered the Promised Land. It was a year to remember that all blessings, both temporal and spiritual, came from God.

While we of the New Testament era are not in any way bound by this Old Testament ordinance, as we observe this our jubilee anniversary it is good for us to meditate upon the blessings which God has given us, and to do so with a jubilant noise!

We must begin with the atonement, for indeed our salvation in Christ Jesus is the greatest and most precious of all the blessings which God has bestowed upon us. We have been cleansed of our sin and guilt by the sprinkling of His holy,

precious blood which He shed upon the cross for our redemption. This message lies at the very heart of our spiritual identity.

God not only revealed this wondrous gospel to us, but He also opened our hearts to believe it and has preserved this saving truth for us against all the assaults of the devil and this sin-darkened world. Over the centuries many church bodies have lost their focus on the gospel and then lost the truth. So in this our Jubilee year we praise God for the gospel and the grace to remain true to His Word.

The Year of Jubilee was also to serve as a great reminder for the children of Israel of all the other blessings which came to them from God, including the temporal blessings that enriched their lives as the Children of Israel. We also see the evidence of God’s abundant blessings upon our Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Consider the blessing of our Immanuel

Lutheran College. God has provided church homes for our local congregations. He has also continuously provided our local congregations with servants of the Word in pulpit and classroom, as well as the rich blessing of spiritually mature lay leaders in congregations and Christian homes. All these blessings serve to advance the gospel in our midst.

This leads us back to another important feature of the Old Testament Jubilee. They were to proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants (Lev. 25:10). The greatest reason for offering praise to our Lord is that we share the message of liberty from sin and death through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which He has provided for all the inhabitants of the land.

As we gather around the Word for these special synod-wide services, may it be a true Jubilee celebration in which we express our appreciation for the

Lord's blessing us with church homes and families. As we pray for the Lord's continued blessings, let us remember that He who is ever faithful and true is the LORD, our God, the God of our salvation.

Even as He has blessed our feeble efforts in His kingdom work far more than we could have ever imagined, so He also has promised to be with us always with His strength and blessing. As we look forward to the next fifty years, may we set out with humility and confidence, remembering that the Lord who has helped us this far is alone our strength and our salvation.

May He preserve us in His truth and grace in the years to come as He has in years gone by. To God all praise and glory!

—*Pastor Theodore Barthels*
Austin, Minnesota



50th Anniversary Devotional *(Second of three)*

Our Justification—A Glorious Truth! *(Please read Romans 5:1-11)*

Redemption for the Past!

In his beautiful explanation to the Second Article, Martin Luther wrote: “He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.”

While Luther did not choose to mirror the language of the apostle Paul's description of our redemption in Romans chapter five, his thoughts certainly paralleled Paul's gospel presentation.

Paul speaks of our justification, pointing out that “while we were still

without strength, Christ died for the ungodly,” and that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!” We who were “enemies” of God were reconciled to Him and therefore saved by Him. When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive the blessings of that divinely planned reconciliation!

What a glorious truth! God did not give us poor sinners a spiritual program of exercises to perform by which we might someday become acceptable to Him. No! By God's grace we sinners were redeemed, forgiven, and then called into a living relationship with our Savior-God!

By himself mankind would never

come up with such a solution for sin. Oh, man might conceive of a plan to rescue someone he considered already righteous or good. Perhaps some people might even do so at the risk of their own lives. But when it comes to an enemy, man would simply let the ungodly sinner die.

Thank God, that He is not a man! Thank God that because of Jesus we have no need for fear or uncertainty but rather every reason for joy, confidence, and hope as we look to the future!

Hope for the Future!

What is the source of our Christian hope? Paul informs us that “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” God who redeemed us through the work of His Son sent His Holy Spirit to call us to faith through His gospel proclamation. When by faith the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us, a sure and certain hope is implanted in our hearts!

And what is the nature of our Christian hope? Paul writes that it begins with the fact that we are at “peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!” Jesus’ birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension assure us that all is now well in our relationship with God! The sins that once separated us from God have been

removed so that we have “access” to God and may “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!”

While we still live in a world filled with trials and tribulations, we can now do so with absolute confidence to the point that we can “glory in tribulations”! Why is this so?

We can glory in tribulations, because we know that God does not permit tribulations to enter our lives as a punishment for our sins, for those sins have been removed in Christ. Rather, such tribulations are permitted by God in order to produce within us those Christian virtues we need to honor Him and bring blessing to others.

God’s love for us will never change, nor can it ever be taken away from us! Rather, our understanding of that love will continue to grow as we cherish the gospel message and regularly ponder it. That love assures us that we have been “saved from wrath” and will spend eternity with our God in heaven!

As we celebrate together our synod’s 50th Anniversary, may we seek every opportunity to proclaim this gospel message to the honor and glory of our Savior God and for the encouragement and salvation of many souls!

—*Pastor Paul D. Nolting
Mankato, Minnesota*



Grace Lutheran Church of Sleepy Eye, Minn., hosted the recessed meeting of the organizing Convention of the CLC in January 1961; charter members of Grace include: (top) Charles Lendt, Myron Lochner, David Theneman, Jane Fischer, LaFaye Wellmann, Marj

Christensen; (middle) Joleen Huiras, Bernice and Herb Geiger, Walter and Emily Romberg, Marion Romberg; (bottom) Edna Theneman, Mable Bloemke, Edith Jensen, Hazel Lowinske, Alma Romberg.



50th Anniversary Devotional

(Third of three)

Rejoice! Your Names are Written in Heaven!

(Please read Luke 10:13-20)

Joy is not always a good thing.

If joy is to be good, it needs to be based on something truly good. There was surely plenty of joy in the cities by the Sea of Galilee in Jesus' day. The residents thought they had a lot going for them, because their cities, situated in pleasant lakeside locations, were busy and prosperous.

Capernaum was "exalted to heaven." Yet Jesus said to them, "Woe to you!" because the people's joy was in things that were either sinful or simply insubstantial. The Son of God had been walking among them. He had shown them many mighty works which should have led them to repent and believe in Him. He offered them the gospel of forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Their joy should have been like that of Philip who, after he met Jesus, went to his friend and exclaimed, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote" (Jn. 1:44). But except for a few, the people of the cities by the lake had despised Jesus and had gone their ways, one to his farm, another to his business.

Jesus' words of woe to the ungrateful cities are sobering to us all. Like them we have had great advantages. The Son of God who walked among them has also been among us in the Word that has been preached to us. We too have heard His voice and have seen His mighty works.

Time for Reflection and Repentance

Great advantages bring with them great responsibilities. An anniversary such as our CLC is observing this year is a time for reflection and for repentance

for our own sins of neglect of the Word. In contrast to their mostly indifferent neighbors, the disciples of Jesus had joy in Jesus and His work. They had just returned from the preaching tour on which He had sent them. They were full of joy as they excitedly reported that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus' name.

The Lord confirmed their report: yes, He had seen Satan fall like lightning from heaven as His disciples preached the kingdom in His name. Yet Jesus still cautioned them about their rejoicing.

They had recently enjoyed the heady experience of success: the power of the Lord Jesus had been at work through them, and they had been able to do the same kinds of works that He had been doing; they had been able to heal the sick and cast out demons.

But even these successes should not be the basis for their joy. They would not always see such dramatic results as they continued to do the work of preaching the gospel. They would meet with opposition, persecution, indifference, and then they would be in danger of becoming discouraged and downhearted.

Jesus told the disciples that they should rejoice that their names were written in heaven. In Him they had eternal salvation, and that would never change; in that they could rejoice at all times!

And they did! When the apostles were arrested, tried, and beaten by the Sanhedrin, they rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer shame for His name (Acts 5:41). When Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned, they sang hymns (Acts 16:25).

What our Lord says here is good to keep in mind during this anniversary

year. Church anniversaries should indeed be joyful occasions. We are right to celebrate them with joyful hymns, liturgies, choral and instrumental music. But let us guard against looking for our joy in such things as an organization, buildings, budgets, and programs.

Let our joy be in the blessings of God's pure Word and sacraments that He has graciously preserved among us, and in the salvation that each of us possesses by the grace of God in Christ.

—*Pastor John Klatt*
Rapid City, South Dakota



Putting Your Lutheran Spokesmans To Good Use

This is the time of the year (months of May and June) when we make an appeal for new and renewal subscriptions.

Readers may have noticed that the number of pages per issue has recently declined—from 24 to 16. Why? It's the old "money" question. Business Manager Benno Sydow wrote in January: "I've paid all the bills for 2009 and there is a balance of about \$5,100. At \$1,800 a month that doesn't get us too far . . ." Subsequently the synod Board of Education & Publications handed down a fewer-pages ruling, hoping that we can slide through somehow until the budget is replenished with new and renewal subscriptions at the end of June.

Our *Spokesman* is hardly alone with declining subscriptions. Here is how one reputable magazine editor analyzed the declining subscriber base for many magazines: "Up against (1) an ailing economy, (2) a revolution of new technologies, and (3) a widespread public perception that their products lack journalistic integrity, . . . news executives find themselves with little audience loyalty" (*WORLD* magazine, Nov. 21, 2009).

We may have to grant that *Spokesman* subscriptions are affected by the ailing economy and by its free accessibility over the internet. On the other hand, we will



Our Savior's Lutheran, Jamestown, N. Dak., is another CLC charter congregation. Charter members include: (back) Carol Hillstrom, Janna Cumber, Luxton Brooks; (middle) Frances Brooks, Dorothy Heier, Marlyn and Kenneth Wegenke, Laurie Hamm, Alvin Berndt; (front) Everett and Marcella Murch, Marie Stelter, Lois Baker, Emlin Hansen.

ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL FACT

It was reported to the 1994 convention that resolution of the "third use of the Law" controversy had been reached, and fellowship had been acknowledged between the CLC and St. Paul's of Golden, Colorado.

not admit to a lack of journalistic integrity—what our writers write is as thoroughly biblical as ever!—nor will we fault the loyalty of our subscriber base. What we have felt is that “our loss is heaven’s gain,” as many of our one-time, long-time CLC subscribers have gone home to the Lord.

That said, we print here a very encouraging letter received a few months back from one of those long-time and still very active subscribers:

Hi Pastor Fleischer, I am writing to thank you . . . I have pretty much taken the Spokesman for granted because it was always around during my growing up years and we used it for family devotions and such, but until this past week I didn’t realize how important it is.

Last week both of our older children, Natalie (at Kansas State in Manhattan, Kans.) and Jarrod (Aberdeen Training Ground, Maryland—US Army) commented on how much they appreciated getting and reading the Spokesman.

Since they are so far from home or a church it was great to hear both of them speak about that! We just recently purchased a subscription for Natalie since she’ll be in Manhattan for a few more years. We will be sending Jarrod our copies since he’ll be moved around quite a bit. He said he read three recent issues on a plane trip from Kentucky to Maryland and that he’s very thankful for that. Yay! (Jarrod was able to fit the three handy-sized Spokesman issues in the lower side pants pocket of his camouflage Army fatigues!)

I just wanted to share that with you. It made our day! Keep up the good work!

*/s/ Vickie Schreyer
Mankato, Minn.*

Our written response to Mrs. Schreyer was that she made OUR day with her kind letter (and she has given us permission to print hers).

Fellow loyal readers, what a good and God-serving way to put copies of the *Lutheran Spokesman* to really good use! And let me summarize another loyal reader’s innovative idea, with happy results:

A member of one of our Minnesota churches did not want to just throw away back issues—so she put them out at her garage sale! The neighbor’s visiting mother came to the sale, noticed the *Spokesmans*, and commented that she once went to a small CLC church in South Dakota. The inquirer was invited to attend our CLC church, together with her daughter and male friend. Result: The young couple was married at the church and with the mother and her husband, all became members!

Praise the Lord!

The bottom line is that before you, our readers, and God, and other people can be served by the magazine, you need to subscribe!

Then too, the more subscriptions we have, the more pages we will be able to use to proclaim the greatest news that any magazine can tell: the Good News of Jesus!

Will you, dear reader, help us be a “spokesman” for Jesus? Thank you!

—Editor



ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL FACT:

The CLC was organized in 1960. In 1988 there were 67 congregations, served by 52 pastors. The baptized membership was 8,655. In 2007 the membership was 8,170 in 77 congregations served by 67 pastors.



Mother's Day

God's Gift of Christian Motherhood

On Mother's Day it has been customary with a child. for children to remember their mothers with gifts as a way of showing them their love and appreciation. Such gifts may be the simple gesture of sending a Mother's Day card with a meaningful message inside, sending a boutique of flowers or some other thoughtful present.

It is good for us to remember our mothers in such ways, for they are God's representatives placed over us for our blessing and therefore are truly worthy of being honored. In those cases where we have been blessed with Christian mothers, it is good not only to remember our mothers on Mother's Day, but also the Lord. He above all is worthy and deserving of our praise and thanksgiving because Christian motherhood is a gift of God. The Bible account of the Old Testament believer Hannah (First Samuel chapters 1 and 2) beautifully sets forth the various facets of this precious gift from above.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit this God-fearing woman first of all recognized children as being special gifts from the Lord. She recognized that when God blesses couples with children, one of the purposes of marriage is being fulfilled (cf. Gen. 1:28; 9:1). When Hannah was unable to conceive a child, she turned to the Lord in prayer, trusting that God "gives to all life, breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25).

This understanding seems to be lost on many young couples in our day. This becomes apparent when we hear some speak of "making babies," as if the beginning of human life rests primarily with them. Or when couples are unable to conceive a child, they may rely solely on professional medical help without recognizing that it is God alone who can work through such means to bless them

Dedicating Children to the Lord

Hannah's God-given motivation for motherhood did not spring from a self-serving ego-trip—as has been the case with various individuals in this generation. On occasion we may hear it said that motherhood is desirable, because it can be so self-satisfying and self-fulfilling.

From the prayer Hannah offered up in seeking the blessing of a son (1 Sam. 1:11), it is obvious that she was more concerned about the interest of God's kingdom and the service of the Lord than about her own personal interests. Hannah made a promise to God that if He were to bless her with the gift of a son, she would raise him to be dedicated to the Lord and the religious service of God's people.

This exemplary devotion to God's kingdom draws our attention to a very special purpose of Christian parents—raising children in the Lord. If each succeeding generation of lost and condemned sinners is to learn of their Savior, it is paramount that there be Christian witnesses who testify to others of the saving truths of God.

How very important for Christian mothers and fathers to raise their children in the Lord, not only that they might gain saving faith, but also that they might use their gifts and talents for service in God's kingdom and for the glory of His holy name.

What a blessing Hannah's son Samuel turned out to be for the people of God, for by the grace of God he became a great religious prophet and judge in Israel. Under his leadership Israel underwent a much needed religious reformation and

spiritual renewal.

A major factor behind Samuel's fruitful life in God's kingdom was his being blessed with a fine Christian mother!

Thank God for His gift of Christian motherhood, because those who have

been blessed through it enjoy priceless spiritual treasures and are given the privilege of serving the Lord in His kingdom.

—*Pastor Mark Gullerud
Bowdle, South Dakota*



Surveying CLC History

From the 25th Anniversary Booklet (1985)
"Reflections...Projections"

"Projection" Number Five of Twelve **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

When one is given a task to do, we might say that the person has been COMMISSIONED with this work. The person has been entrusted with the carrying out of the work.

One of the more familiar sections of Holy Scripture has often been referred to as the GREAT COMMISSION. On a mountain in Galilee some days after His resurrection, Jesus spoke these words to His disciples: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt. 28:18-20)

While commissioning the disciples of that day and of ages to come with the work of the gospel cause, Jesus reminds us that He has "all authority" and that He will be with us "always."

The same disciples who heard the words of the GREAT COMMISSION shortly thereafter witnessed Jesus' ascension into heaven, as recorded in Mark 16 and Acts 1. They were told by messengers sent from God on that occasion: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

How dramatically the ascension of Jesus underscores His capability to properly equip the ones He has commissioned with the work of witnessing to Him as the Savior of the world, the One through whom the forgiveness of sins has been accomplished. The disciples soon saw what Jesus meant when He said: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Disciples of each age have been commissioned with the work of being witnesses for Jesus. Each believer has been given the Word and Spirit of God as equipment for this work of the gospel. May God grant each of us renewed eagerness to speak to all, especially to those who know little of Jesus, about Christ, our Lord and Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

—*Pastor Douglas Libby*

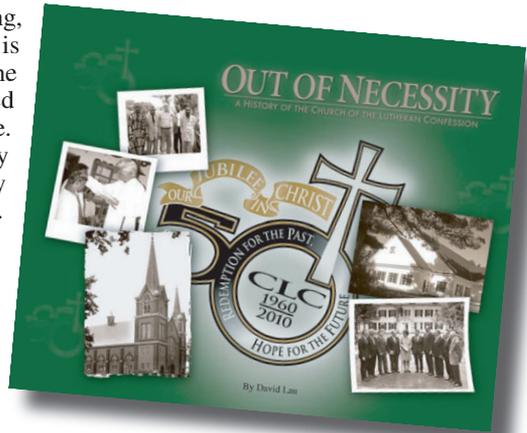


Book Review

OUT OF NECESSITY: A History of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

The 8½ tall by 11¾ long, 467-page, dual column book is available for \$29.95 through the CLCBookhouse; the book is listed on their website (clcbookhouse.org); it can also be ordered by phone (715-836-6623) or by e-mail (CLCbookhouse@ilc.edu).

Since Christmas our Bible Class at Redeemer, Cheyenne has been reading and discussing early-release chapters of the CLC History book written and compiled by synod archivist, Pastor David Lau.



At the time of “the break” back in 1960, this writer, your editor, was a Wisconsin Synod pastor-track student. In other words, he is of the vintage that he can say he lived through those days. That fact has been allowing him to “flesh out” first-hand some of the historical details of Pastor Lau’s book.

In our opinion, this history book—the “necessity” referring to constraints of consciences bound to the clear Word of God—will be extremely helpful by way of review for any old-timers, as well as for introducing second, third, and future generation CLCers and others to the doctrinal controversies which ultimately precipitated the leaving of one synod and starting a new one.

How God, our faithful God, guided and led individual Christians—clergy and layfolk—as well as whole congregations (or parts of them) through some turbulent times makes for an interesting and encouraging read.

Fifty years later, may we to whom the torch of conservative, orthodox and confessional Lutheranism has been passed by our forefathers prove up to the holy task of proclaiming, preserving, and defending God’s only-saving Gospel and the infallible and inerrant Word of truth which encapsulates it. The proper motivation and spiritual strength to do so comes alone from God’s Holy Spirit working among us through the “sword of the spirit which is the word of God.” In the words of Luther: Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word!

*O gracious Lord, direct us,
Thy doctrine pure defend,
From heresies protect us,
And for Thy Word contend,
That we may praise Thee ever,
O God, with one accord,
And say: The Lord, our Savior,
Be evermore adored. (TLH #544:3)*



Chapel Talk On Chapter Eleven Of The Book:

OUT OF NECESSITY: A History of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today I want to talk to you about Chapter 11 in the history of the CLC. This chapter gives a brief history of the forty-three congregations that were charter members of our church body. I cannot take the time here to relate the histories of all of these congregations. But I will give you a brief summary of the history of two of these congregations: Berea congregation of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and Messiah Lutheran Church of Hales Corners, Wisconsin. I am sure there are members of these two congregations in our audience today.

Berea congregation was the very first mission congregation begun by the group that organized the CLC. The first service was held in the fall of 1959, even before the CLC was organized. Pastor Gordon Radtke of Mankato conducted the service in the home of one of the members, and there were sixteen in attendance. In January 1960 the group organized as a congregation, and Marvin Eibs was called as the first pastor. The congregation could not afford to support him, and the church body could not help very much either. So Pastor Eibs had to work for the St. Paul Post Office for six years to support himself and his family. In March of 1960 the congregation began to worship in a church building on Marshall Avenue in St. Paul. In 1966 the CLC granted enough financial support that Pastor Eibs could quit his job at the Post Office and serve the congregation full-time.

After Pastor Eibs was replaced by Pastor Paul Larsen in 1970, the big decision was made to move from St. Paul to Inver Grove Heights. The congregation grew, and by 1973 Berea became a self-supporting congregation. That is, it

received no more financial help from the church body. In 1978 a Christian day school was opened. One building project followed another because more room was needed. Average attendance went up from 81 in 1982 to 141 in 1992 and by 2007 the average attendance was 224. David Schierenbeck became the pastor in 1983 and is still serving as pastor today. Thus this congregation has had only three pastors in its 50-year history. Our Lord has greatly blessed Berea congregation through the years with steady internal and external growth.

Messiah congregation of Hales Corners has had nine pastors in its history, including your president, John Pfeiffer. The first service was held in a home in 1960, and there were nine persons present. For over six years the congregation rented church buildings for its services, first in Milwaukee, then in Milwaukee and Waukesha, and then only in Waukesha, until property was finally purchased in Hales Corners. The congregation enjoyed early growth so that it could become self-supporting after only a few years. Before that time the pastor had to support himself by other employment. I know all about that, because I was the pastor, and I worked full-time in the public library system of the city of Milwaukee for several years.

For many years the membership of the congregation remained steady at about 100 members, but then hard times came for the congregation because of several pastors who were not in total agreement with the CLC, and quite a few members left the congregation. In fact, two of the pastors serving the congregation also left the congregation and the CLC. At one time the congregation was down to 60 members, just about the same as in the

first years of the congregation. But after your professor John Ude became pastor of the congregation in 1991, the Lord again brought stability and growth. In 1993 the congregation opened a Christian day school, and also received 35 new members in that one year. This growth has continued, and now the congregation has more than 200 members.

Berea of Inver Grove Heights and Messiah of Hales Corners – two charter member congregations that have grown and prospered under God’s blessing. Other charter congregations have not experienced such growth; in fact, many of them are much smaller than they once were. Nevertheless, we can be sure that when the true gospel of Jesus is proclaimed, God’s work is being done, even though there may not be any external growth.

For one of its anniversaries Messiah congregation said: “We hope to be and remain a congregation such as Martin

Luther himself would be happy to join, for Luther once said: ‘I want to be and remain in the church and little flock of the fainthearted, the feeble, and the ailing, who feel and recognize the wretchedness of their sins, who sigh and cry to God incessantly for comfort and help, who believe in the forgiveness of sin, and who suffer persecution for the sake of the Word, which they confess and teach purely and without adulteration.’ ”

As God has blessed us, may He continue to bless and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, by creating within us zealous hearts eager to work while it is day. “O Lord, let us always live in expectation of Thy glorious return, for our crosses, tribulations, sorrows, and pains are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us on that day. To God alone be glory! Amen.” We sing TLH #264:5-6.

—*Pastor David Lau*



(Front) Margaret Seeley, Orville and Mabel Noeldner, Lavonne and Alvin Sieg, John and Dorothy Lau, Adelgunde Schaller; (back) Ray Seeley, Anne and Paul Koch, Jim Pelzl, Don and Phyllis Skinner

(Front) Gordon and Claudine Radtke, Ruth Sydow, Kathy Sydow, Eunice and Ron Roehl; (back) Rob and Ruth Rehm, Beth and Jim Sydow. Charter members not present for the photos: Martha Gullerud, Betty Nolting, Fred and Naomi Radichel, James and Darla Gullerud, Paul and Virginia Tiefel, Jonathan Radtke



Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wis., is not listed among the 43 charter congregations of the CLC, since it was not formally organized until December 1960. Counted among its charter members are a number of retired ILC faculty members.



50th Anniversary of the CLC—

Layman Edmund Klatt shares his memoirs

What is your name and age?

“My name is Edmund Klatt. I’m 91 and 3/4 years old.” [Edmund is the father of Pastor John Klatt (Good Shepherd Lutheran, CLC, Rapid City, S. Dak.) and Mr. David Klatt (Member and Elder of Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown, S. Dak.).]

In which CLC congregations have you held membership?

“I’ve been a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Watertown, South Dakota.” [Edmund is one of the founding members of the congregation, having left the Wisconsin Synod and his former congregation, Emmanuel in Grover, S.Dak., in 1959.]

What circumstances or persons did the Lord use to influence you to leave your previous church affiliation?

“It was what I was taught in confirmation instruction under Pastor Walter William Fredrick Sprengeler. I remember what he said to us the day before we were confirmed. It was a Saturday, and he said, ‘Get one thing clear in your mind. When you promise to be faithful, don’t think to be faithful to Immanuel Lutheran in Grover or the Wisconsin Synod, because if they deviate from the Word of God, it will be your duty to leave.’ I consider my leaving fulfilling my mental vow.

“My spouse (Elna Mischke Klatt, who went to be with the Lord in 2006) was confirmed with me. She was the only girl in a class of eight. She was also in agreement as to what to do. Pastor Albrecht also took the correct stand and he was ‘more than some help.’

“Give the Holy Spirit complete credit. He worked through them. If it had not been them, it would have been someone else.

“God also used fellow church



Edmund Klatt

Editor’s Note: This interview was conducted by the current pastor of Trinity church, Andrew Schaller, and the bracketed comments are his. Subscribers may want to refer to our November 2009 issue which told the story of Trinity, Watertown—where the organizing convention of the CLC was held in 1960—on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

members like Martin Fuerstenau and Martin Kuhlman. We all had all kinds of relatives on both sides. That’s the way that God did it. He furnished me with all I needed—Baptism, Confirmation, and Pastors who steered in the right direction. Adversity works in the right direction when God works through it . . . perhaps more effectively. In retrospect I see those things clearly.”

What discovery/lessons can you share with the younger generation about that time?

“You can’t take your spiritual instruction, like confirmation, too seriously. Without it I would not have been equipped to make a stand.

“See how the Lord takes care of you. I see how He also furnished a spouse who was perhaps stronger than I.

“In our first meeting as former members of Emmanuel Lutheran in Grover, S.Dak., we decided as the majority to dissolve the old Church Council and establish a new one. I was

elected the new secretary and asked to take minutes. I had no pencil or paper, but I found a stub of a pencil and tore a sheet off the calendar and kept track.

“It was a difficult time.

“When we later went to the city seeking a building permit, there were those on the zoning board who threatened not to approve our building unless it was built of brick. The fire chief and his assistant overruled those who sought to make it difficult and expensive to build our new building in Watertown.

“Later on, in separate incidents bullets were shot at the church, and concrete was put in the lock of the front door of the church. It was a difficult time, but the Lord used the adversity for our good.

“We worshipped in the finished basement of our new building on December 24, 1959.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Central Delegate Conference Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Jamestown, North Dakota May 25-27, 2010

Agenda:

- * Retaining members who have gone through a divorce – Pastor Frank Gantt
 - * Encouraging men to active spiritual leadership roles in the home and church – Layman
 - * The importance of prayer. How and why we should pray – Pastor Andrew Schaller
 - * A study of David—a man after God’s own heart – Layman
 - * How to assist members struggling with addictions – Pastor John Klatt
 - * Discussion of Convention Prospectus
- Chaplain:** Pastor James Sandeen
Communion Service Preacher: Pastor Michael Roehl

Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Arizona April 27-29, 2010

Agenda:

- * Begin a study of “Concerning Fellowship” – Pastor Neil Radichel
- * Report, analysis, and conclusions regarding the recent departure of several CLC young people, and recommendations – Pastors Del Maas and Michael Gurath

* Word study of *chesed*—synonymous with “grace”? – Pastor Paul Naumann

* Preaching the Gospel to Every Creature (becoming better at personal evangelism) – Pastor Terrel Kesterson

* Old Testament Exegesis, Daniel 12:2 – Pastor David Reim

* New Testament Exegesis, Hebrews 10:1-10 – Pastor Tobe Decided

Conference Chaplain: Pastor Robert List

Communion Service Speaker: Pastor Caleb Schaller

—Pastor Terrel Kesterson, Secretary

Anniversary Celebration

Redemption Lutheran Church of Alderwood Manor, Wash. wishes to announce and extend to all members of the CLC an invitation to its 50th anniversary celebration on Sunday, July 18, 2010. The service time is 10:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon meal and afternoon of reflections, photos, and fellowship. CLC members, former pastors or teachers of Redemption, who may have stories to share or photos of the church’s history are invited to contact the Women’s Group 50th celebration chair, Lori Jo Higgins at jhigginsfamily@mac.com. Photos or stories shared on celebration day can be scanned and returned.

Cover: Matt Schaser