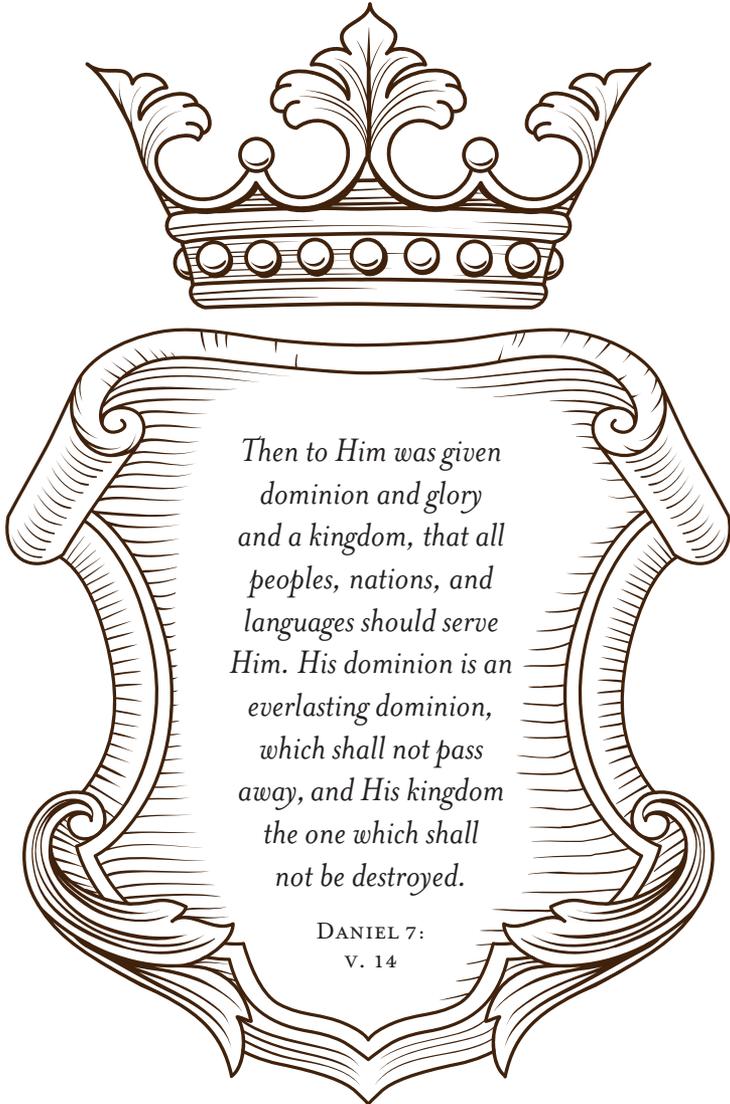


LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN

"...THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN." — JOHN 10:35



*Then to Him was given
dominion and glory
and a kingdom, that all
peoples, nations, and
languages should serve
Him. His dominion is an
everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass
away, and His kingdom
the one which shall
not be destroyed.*

DANIEL 7:
V. 14

Lutheran Spokesman

"...THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN." — JOHN 10:35

We are here to speak the Truth of the Gospel.

The first issue of The Lutheran Spokesman was printed and distributed in June of 1958.

Its fifteen pages were mimeographed and the subscription rate was by voluntary contributions through church offerings or \$1.00 per year for an individual subscription. The periodical had been authorized by the Interim Conference held in Cheyenne, Wyoming the previous month. The first editors were Pastor W. Schaller Jr. and Pastor N. R. Carlson. The publication was to be published bi-monthly. Two hundred copies of the first issue were printed and distributed; the second, seven-hundred; today the circulation is one thousand nine hundred eighty-eight and includes an online version at www.lutheranspokesman.org.

In his first editorial, Pastor Schaller asks the question; "Why another one? Are there not more than enough papers proclaiming the heritage of the Lutheran Reformation in America?" His answer to that question holds true for us fifty some years later. "The trend has moved steadily, turning the face of the churches from the other world to this world and its problems." Therefore as Martin Luther was the spokesman for the Word, Pastor Schaller writes, "And that, pray God, will be our policy. 'It is written,' and we cannot add or subtract from that message, but proclaim the whole counsel of God." This policy was illustrated on the cover of The Lutheran Spokesman for many years, the testimony of the stern-faced Reformer, pointing with purpose at the clear Word of God. "The Scripture cannot be broken." Jn 10:35.

"Why another one?" "What makes you different?" These questions are still being asked of us today and our answer is still the same as Pastor Schaller's concluding paragraph. "On the basis of that clear word (Jn 10:35), it will be our purpose and policy to feed God's flock, to protect them from false teaching, to attack when necessary all teachings and practices which are not in accord with the Word, for Scripture cannot be broken. "We now implore God the Holy Ghost!"

— SOLI DEO GLORIA — To God Alone the Glory!

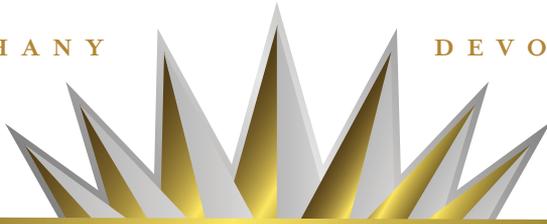


"The trend has moved steadily, turning the face of the churches from the other world to this world and its problems."

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BEHOLD THE GLORY OF THE KING OF KINGS

Pastor Theodore Barthels, Austin, Minnesota

As we come to the close of the Christmas season, we hear once again the remarkable account of how, by God's guidance and grace, the Wise Men from the East came searching for the one "who has been born King of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2), so that they might bow before Him and worship Him. In this event we see the beginning of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy regarding our Savior. "The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising" (Isaiah 60:3).

While it is unlikely that these Magi were kings, they were powerful men in the world who very likely had their place in the king's court. And yet they were more than ready to fall down before the Child Jesus and worship Him. By faith they recognized the majesty and glory of their Savior and King in the young Christ-Child.

We rejoice in the grace of God that was revealed to the Gentiles, the Wise Men being the first representatives of so many Gentiles who down through the centuries would come and worship this new-born King.

In this Epiphany season we observe how the divine glory and majesty of our Savior has been made manifest. While the Wise Men from the East recognized Jesus' glory because the Holy Spirit opened their hearts to know and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, this revelation of His divine glory was only beginning.

Jesus is the King whom the Wise Men adored, but let no one think of Jesus as just another earthly royal. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Before Pilate, Christ Jesus witnessed the good confession (1 Timothy 6:13), telling him, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.' Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are You a king then?' Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice'" (John 18:36-37).

Jesus testified of the truth that saves us from our sins. He came here to bring us life and salvation through His righteousness, through His sufferings and death upon the cross. It is through faith in this truth that

Continued on page 19

Our Unchangeable God in an Ever-changing World

Pastor Mark Gullerud · Bowdle, South Dakota

In one of our treasured hymns we make the following observation and plea to the LORD our God: *"Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!"*

With the passing of each year we observe changes in our lives and in the world about us. While some of the changes are good and beneficial, others are not. Were it not for the assurance of the abiding presence of our unchangeable Lord, our spirits would be greatly distressed and our hearts would melt out of fear and worry.

The sure and certain Word of our God comforts us in the knowledge that the Lord Jesus who rules over all things for our sake (see Ephesians 1:22,23) is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), and that He has given us this unfailing promise: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

The daily news brings alarming reports of a deteriorating economy, coupled with mind — boggling government indebtedness. We cannot help but be concerned about how these changes could adversely affect our employment and our financial security. Looking into the future, we think about how our children will fare if the trend is not drastically turned around.

As we listen to commentators and pundits talk about the kind of cure that is needed in our country, above all it is important to keep in mind our almighty, all-knowing, all-wise God who is always faithful to provide for us and sustain us (Matthew 6:25-34).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift

is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). The psalmist David testifies of God's faithfulness to His people and His unchanging ways, as he writes, "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

The decay of morals in our society seeks to deal major blows to God's sacred institution of marriage and His divinely ordained nuclear family. Responding to recent findings, a newspaper article posed the question, "Is marriage becoming obsolete?" This question was asked in view of a report that "nearly one in three children is living with a parent who is divorced, separated, or never-married." Also, the view of society — and even of some churches — as to what constitutes marriage is changing, as the worldly-minded seek and speak their approval of same-sex "marriage".

God's Unchanging Word

While there are church leaders who speak and act as if God had changed His mind about marriage and the family, the Bible reveals that God's holy will is unchanging. When Jesus was being tested by His enemies about marriage and divorce, He made it clear that nothing has changed from the beginning of time. He declared, "Have you not read that He who made them

Continued on page 20

Evangelism and the Book of Acts

Pastor Nathanael Mayhew • Atlanta (Lawrenceville), Georgia

How long has it been since you read the Book of Acts?

This important book is often overlooked by many Christians who prefer to read the Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus or the doctrinal sound-bites of the New Testament epistles (letters).

But the Book of Acts is an invaluable commentary on the message and work of the early New Testament Church.

For this reason it serves as a resource for our personal and corporate evangelism.

During the 2010 Epiphany season our congregation considered sections from the Book of Acts as well as the implications for us today. (Dear reader, we have only scratched the surface. Dig into it on your own!)

Here are a few things to look for as you read the book of Acts:

- The focus of the Book of Acts is on the Holy Spirit's proclamation of the gospel through many different individuals. While the Book of Acts focuses much attention on the work of the apostles Peter and Paul, it also mentions many others in supporting roles—such as the apostle John, the deacons Stephen and Philip, Barnabas, James (not the apostle) and Apollos.
- Many others who played a smaller role are mentioned as well, such as Mark, Silas, Timothy, Aquila and Priscilla, Aristarchus and others, showing how the Holy Spirit was working through each of them.
- Thus we are assured that the Holy Spirit can and does work through each of us – whatever our role – to bring the knowledge of God's truth to others!
- We also notice that the Book of Acts is full of examples of preaching and teaching, which present the message of the New Testament Church from the its very beginning.
- In all there are twenty such addresses or parts of addresses recorded in the book of Acts! In these addresses we find being proclaimed the doctrines which form the foundation of the Christian Church: sin and grace (law and gospel), the death and resurrection of Jesus, Jesus' atonement for our sin, repentance, forgiveness, Jesus is the only way to heaven, and much more. Look for other doctrines as well.
- Reading carefully in the Book of Acts, we will also see how the Holy Spirit was at work using His people to bring the message of the Savior to Jew and Gentile alike!
- Such mission work was carried out in many ways and by many different people, some of whom were "unlikely" candidates for the gospel ministry. Let us be encouraged that the Holy Spirit is able to use each of us for His holy purposes no matter how unsuited we think we might be.

**We pray that through our on-going study of God's Word
the Holy Spirit would increase our knowledge and zeal to
*"proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light"***

(1 Peter 2:9)!

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” — 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Laboring With Confidence

Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer • Oakdale, Minnesota

The gospel with the message of salvation was at the heart and core of apostolic preaching.

If the Church in its ministry — either through its called ministers or through the individual witness of each Christ-believer — is to remain true to its apostolic roots, the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus must remain the focus of what is taught.

In the distressful days in which we live, opposition to the gospel will increase. For our own personal comfort as well as for encouragement to be bold witnesses, we take heart from Paul.

Hardly can circumstances be more dire for us than they were for the apostle Paul, who wrote his last letter to Timothy from prison. It is clear from this epistle that Paul anticipated the end of his ministry as well as of his life (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Nevertheless, Paul was not going out embittered, defeated, or without confidence. To the contrary! “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day...” (v. 8). Paul anticipated his future with hope and confidence.

So it is for us if we appreciate what the apostle says, for what Paul anticipated with confidence will be given “also to all who have loved His appearing.”

As we listen to the apostle carefully, we as God’s waiting, redeemed children

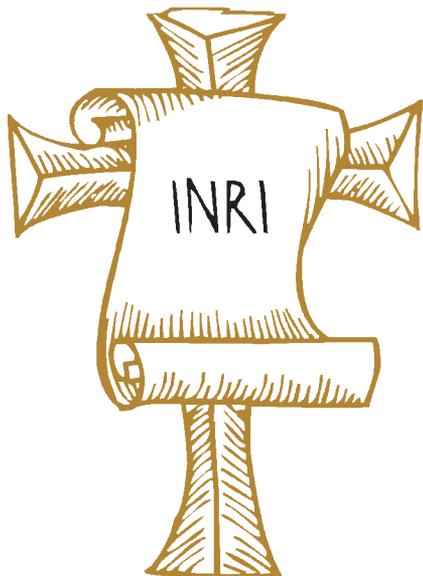
do have a future — one of which we may be confident.

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16). The eighth verse of our devotional text (2 Timothy 1:8-12) tells us that he was not ashamed to tell about his Lord. The apostle was not soliciting sympathy in his plight; instead, he encouraged Timothy to share in witness to the Lord and the gospel with the confidence that the Lord would likewise exercise His gracious power in the ministry of Timothy.

Rather than lament over his present circumstances, Paul used the moment to give Timothy and the Church of believers reason to minister with confidence. He reiterated the reason for his hope and confidence in words which gave voice to the richness of the gospel—words that comfort also us in our distresses, while at the same time compelling each Christ-believer and the Church to witness to Jesus.

Words That Speak For Themselves!

The apostle’s words of comfort are so rich in substance and meaning that one prefers to let them speak for themselves. Read and reread them. Take a moment to ponder what Paul says as he encourages Timothy and the Church to “share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God Who *has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according*



to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (Having read it once, read it again!)

Today we frequently hear that it really makes no difference what one believes so long as one believes something. We are not surprised then that the lives of so many are groundless, hopeless, and without direction.

Paul’s hope and confidence were not products of extraordinary intellect but were rooted in the gospel! “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” — the Day of Judgment.

Paul had entrusted the course of his ministry, the welfare of the Church, his personal welfare, his life, his soul, and his eternal wellbeing to the Lord. The Lord had called him to faith, had redeemed and sanctified him, and had called him into service. That same Lord would accompany

THE PRICE WE MAY
BE CALLED ON TO PAY
FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF
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IS MORE THAN COVERED
BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

him through the personal afflictions he was enduring, thus assuring the welfare of the Church as well as of fellow believers whom the apostle knew he would soon leave behind.

Paul was saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ—the Christ who had claimed him already in eternity. He was not ashamed of the Lord or of the gospel which had such power to create and sustain hope and confidence unto salvation.

Paul encouraged Timothy to such faith. By the power of the gospel Timothy was to pass on to others the selfsame gospel which begets such hope and confidence.

Thus as recipients of God’s grace we also are assured of our eternal inheritance. In the darkest of times we have a future! Such is the hope and confidence of all who know in whom they believe and trust in Him whose purpose and grace in Christ will not fail.

Even so, will we not assent to share in whatever affliction we are asked to bear as a consequence of sharing the gospel? The price we may be called on to pay for the privilege of proclaiming the gospel is more than covered by the grace of God. He shall bless all who know in whom they have believed. Such believers will share in the inheritance with the saints in heaven!



The Master Becomes a Servant

Pastor John Klatt • Rapid City, South Dakota

Years ago, it was not uncommon for young women from well-to-do families to become schoolteachers. These were young women who enjoyed many advantages and probably didn't even need to get a job to support themselves. But they chose to get an education and to labor in a field that involved a lot of work for modest pay. And no glory, for schoolteachers didn't get written up in the society pages like wealthy people who did high profile charitable work.

Perhaps accustomed to being waited on by servants, yet these teachers were willing to become servants to attend to the needs of young children. We marvel at those who willingly take on the role of a servant.

How much more the Lord Jesus Christ, God's own Son, who "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7)!

When He came into this world as a man, Jesus took on Himself the form of a servant. He did that first of all as God's Servant, the obedient Son carrying out the Father's plan of salvation. To complete that work, the Son also became the servant of those He came to save.

On the night of His betrayal, the night before He gave His life for us, we see Jesus as the Servant of God and of man. He knew that the time had come for Him to "depart from this world to the Father." That departure would take the route of the cross. The service that Jesus had to do for us was to carry the burden of our sins.

Jesus had told His disciples that He would suffer, be put to death, and rise

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

again, but they did not want to hear it. The role of a servant didn't fit with their ideas of earthly glory for Jesus and for themselves. Then He told them in a different way. Laying aside His outer garments, He wrapped a towel around His waist, put some water in a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with a towel. He was doing the menial work of a lowly servant.

Peter considered this improper and at first insisted that Jesus not wash Peter's feet. He didn't understand what Jesus was doing. Only later would he understand, Jesus says. Yet Peter is adamant, insisting: "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

Peter still didn't comprehend, but he accepted the Lord's word: "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

Peter did not honor Jesus when he tried to refuse the service that Jesus wanted to do for him. Nor does anyone honor Jesus who refuses the humble service that the Savior did for us all when He offered Himself as sacrifice for us.

Many refuse Jesus' service because they

“Portraits of Christ” in John’s Gospel:

Ch. 1 — The Son of God

Ch. 2 — The Son of Man

Ch. 3 — The Divine Teacher

Ch. 4 — The Soul-Winner

Ch. 5 — The Great Physician

Ch. 6 — The Bread of Life

Ch. 7 — The Water of Life

Ch. 8 — The Defender of the Weak

Ch. 9 — The Light of the World

Ch. 10 — The Good Shepherd

Ch. 11 — The Prince of Life

Ch. 12 — The King

Ch. 13 — The Servant

Ch. 14 — The Consoler

Ch. 15 — The True Vine

Ch. 16 — The Giver of the Holy Spirit

Ch. 17 — The Great Intercessor

Ch. 18 — The Model Sufferer

Ch. 19 — The Uplifted Savior

Ch. 20 — The Conqueror of Death

Ch. 21 — The Restorer of the Penitent

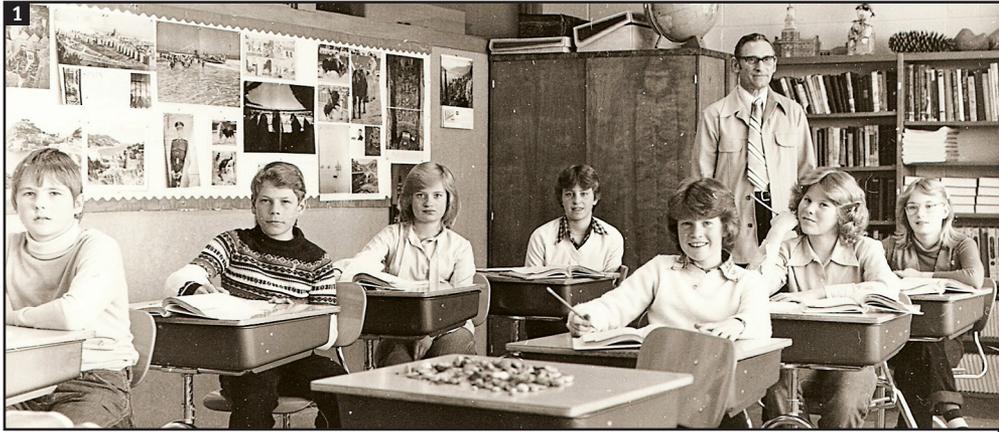
think they don’t need it, though they may frame their refusal in pious words about Jesus as a good man and a wonderful example. Yet Jesus’ statement stands: *“If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”*

We too need to humble ourselves in

repentance, confessing that we need to be washed by the Servant Jesus. Then by faith in Him as our Savior we are, as He says, “completely clean.”



The Christian Education thrust of Pastor Lau’s chapel talk (p. 10ff) as well as a report on the 2010 CLC Teachers’ Conference (p. 18f) suggested that pictures from CLC Christian Day Schools—years ago and today—might be a feature in this issue. A last minute request for pictures brought a number of them our way. Shown above are teachers and students of Trinity Lutheran School, Watertown, S.Dak.: Emily Kaasa, Mrs. Valerie Hammett, Lauren Zimny, Marisa Mertz, Evalin Hammett, Brianna Zimny, Mr. Ryan Hammett, Philip Schaller, and Manny Mertz (little guy). — Editor



Chapel Talk on Chapter 19 of the Book **OUT OF NECESSITY**

A History of the Church of the Lutheran Confession • Pastor David Lau

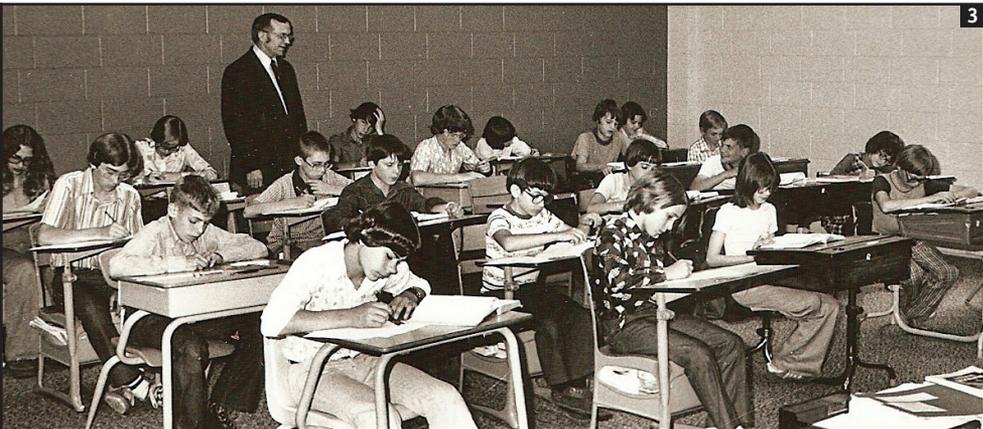
Dear Friends in Christ,

There are sixteen congregations in our church body that are presently enjoying a special blessing from the Lord. These congregations are operating elementary Christian day schools. Some of these schools have been in existence since the very beginning of the CLC, such as Immanuel Lutheran School in Mankato, Minnesota. In fact, Immanuel congregation has also been operating its own Christian high school ever since Immanuel Lutheran College moved from Mankato to Eau Claire in 1963.

It is hard for us even to imagine what it must have been like at Immanuel's grade school back in the 1800s when the school was begun. The records indicate that one teacher named C. D. Brockmeyer was the teacher all by himself in a one-room school with 168 students. That must have been an almost impossible situation. The enrollment at Immanuel's grade school today is less than 100, but there are many more teachers than just one.

Some of our schools are very small. Just last week I was talking with the pastor of Peace thru Christ congregation in Middleton, Wisconsin. There are five students in the school in Middleton, and





3



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5

1. Teacher Gerhardt Mueller, Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, early '60s
2. Teacher Barbara (nee Rutz) Ruegge, Cheyenne, early 60's
3. Teacher LeRoy Hulke, Messiah, Eau Claire, early 60's
4. Peace Thru Christ, Middleton, Wis. (2010);
Teacher Jennifer Ohlmann, Pastor Mark Bernthal
5. & 6. Teacher Neil Bernthal, Winter Haven, Fla.



6



the teacher is someone who is a recent graduate of ILC: Jennifer Ohlmann, and he said she was doing very well. For a number of years Trinity Lutheran School of Watertown, South Dakota, had only one student, but the congregation kept the school open and in time the school enrollment reached twenty.

There are other congregations in the CLC that had schools for a time, even schools with many students, such as Faith Lutheran School in Coloma, Michigan.

But as time went on, there were fewer students and greater expenses, and finally the congregation had to make the sad decision to close the school in the hope of reopening it at some time in the future.

In other congregations the school has grown. For example, Messiah School in Eau Claire started with 24 students in 1963, and now there are over 100 students, and most of the graduates are able to continue their education right here at ILC. In fact, many families have moved to Eau Claire from other CLC congregations in order to make use of

the schools here.

Obviously it takes quite a bit of money and time and energy for a congregation to establish and maintain a Christian school. There are many in the world that would tell us that it is foolish for us to expend so

much time and energy and money to operate these little schools when public education is available without any extra expense. Do we have a good enough reason to maintain Christian schools in our congregations?

This is what one of our pastors (Paul Fleischer) wrote about Christian education: *"Let there be no question about the fact that children and their Christian training are very dear to the Lord, and therefore children and their Christian training must also be dear to us who would serve Him aright. There are only two basic world-views. One is a God-centered view of life. The other is a creature-centered view. The former is what our Savior-God expects His people to inculcate to the up-and-coming generation. If we want true education, we must base that education on the truths of the Holy Scriptures, which alone can answer aright the big questions in this life of 'Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?'"* (1982 CLC Convention essay: "An On-going, Crying Need, Educating Our Children for the Real World")

Our Christian schools are schools where the Bible is the main textbook.



Of course, we must teach our children how to read and spell and think and do arithmetic. These things are necessary for them to survive in this world. But it is clear from the Bible that what God wants us to get across to our children is the reality of God in the world, God as Creator, God as Redeemer, God as Sanctifier. Our God wants us to teach His law and gospel to our children so that they know that they are sinners redeemed from sin through God's mercy as demonstrated in the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. If our children do not learn to know who God is and what He has done for them in Christ, they are missing out on what is most important and necessary.

Our Lord has not told us that we must establish a Christian day school in every Christian congregation. But He has commanded parents in these well-known words from the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians: **"You, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but**

The 2010-2011 CLC Directory lists the following Christian Day Schools.

Of 77 CLC member congregations, 16 have schools ('09-'10 enrollment in brackets):

Holy Cross Lutheran School (13),
Phoenix, Ariz.

St. Stephen Lutheran School (36),
San Francisco Bay Area West

Immanuel Lutheran School (15),
Winter Haven, Fla.

Gethsemane Lutheran School (16), Saginaw, Mich.

Immanuel Lutheran School (65), Mankato, Minn.

Grace Lutheran School (12), Fridley, Minn.

Berea Lutheran School (28),

Inver Grove Heights, Minn.



1. Redemption-Lynnwood, Teacher Quinn Sprengeler, Pastor Caleb Schaller
2. Okabena, Minn. Teachers Heidi Libby & Chad Sebyt, Pastor James Albrecht
3. Grace School, Fridley, Minn. (2010)
4. Pastor Paul Tiefel religion class, Messiah, Eau Claire (2010)

bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Fathers and mothers have this responsibility, and some of them are able to carry out this responsibility through instruction in their own homes. Christian day schools are not intended to replace parents in carrying out their responsibilities. Christian day schools are intended to assist the parents in doing their job. Many of you in our audience today have been blessed by attending Christian schools, where you have learned what the Bible says, where you have memorized the chief parts of Christian doctrine, where you have learned to sing God’s praises. You have been blessed with Christian teachers who have helped your parents bring you what Jesus called **“the one thing needful.”** May our Lord continue to bless our Christian schools. Amen. Let us sing TLH #628:1,4.



St. John’s Lutheran School (35), Okabena, Minn.
 Holy Trinity Lutheran School (17), West Columbia, S.C.
 Trinity Lutheran School (6), Watertown, S.Dak.
 Redemption Lutheran School (16), Lynnwood, Wash.

Messiah Lutheran School (121), Eau Claire, Wis.
 Luther Memorial School (29), Fond du Lac, Wis.
 Messiah Lutheran School (31), Hales Corners, Wis.
 Faith Lutheran School (41), Markesan, Wis.
 Peace Thru Christ Lutheran School (5), Middleton, Wis.

The Confidence of Those Who Know in Whom They Believe

Pastor Em. Daniel Fleischer · Oakdale, Minnesota

Our confident hope for time and for eternity is inspired by Paul's confident expression of faith in 2 Timothy.

In this prison epistle Paul recognized that his ministry and his life were drawing to a close. He wrote to Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (4:6-8).

From the time of his conversion to saving faith in Christ Jesus, as well as from the time that he was called to be a servant of the Lord, Paul had committed his person, his life, his spiritual well-being, his ministry, and his salvation into the hand of the Lord.

How could Paul be so confident and so trusting as to totally commit to the Lord who and what he was as well as the success of his ministry? The answer

lies in his own words. Previously in the same letter (1:12) the apostle said, "For I know whom I have believed." What blessing to live in confidence of faith in Christ Jesus, the eternal Word! Yes, Paul believed the Word of God.

Paul exhibited a faith and confidence that is not natural to man since the fall into sin. There is a reason why there are in our society many wandering about in despair without seeming purpose or direction—so many who have no idea from where they have come or where they are going.

Why is this? Because they have believed the big lie! Every false religion — no matter how "spiritual" or pious — which rejects, twists, or otherwise mishandles the Word of God has nurtured the big lie.

What was the genesis of that lie? The answer is found in Eden. "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:1-5).

the big lie

Every false religion — no matter how “spiritual” or pious — which rejects, twists, or otherwise mishandles the Word of God has nurtured the big lie.

The sin of Eve — and Adam with her — was not first of all their eating of the forbidden fruit. The first sin involved listening to the devil and rejecting the Lord and His Word! They ate the fruit because they believed the lie! And there is a reason why Adam and Eve hid from God. They were frightened! They knew they had sinned.

Listen to the Word!

Things have deteriorated over time. The chief difference between Adam and Eve and our generation is that, while the first parents ultimately recognized that they had sinned, many today refuse even to acknowledge God. Still fewer care what God says, while others who speak in the conceit of their own mind put words in God’s mouth. *Anything and everything from whatever source that contradicts any Word of God is a lie!* Every perversion of God’s Word is merely a variation of the first lie perpetrated by the devil. The Lord said through Jeremiah, “How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies” (Jeremiah 23:26). Those who cause God’s people to err through their lies and who thereby rob hearts of the confidence of Paul are called reckless by the Lord, who says of them, “They do not profit this people at all” (Jeremiah 23:32).

Do you want to grow in the confidence of faith and face affliction and even death with confidence? Then listen to the Word — the Word that is written that you might know that you have eternal

life — and reject the lies! “And this is the record that *God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son*. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11-13).

Even this fundamental truth of the gospel which manifests the love of God—the foundational truth that undergirds all of Scripture — Satan undercuts, and he does so in particular by asking “Has God said?”

There is only one source for the confidence exhibited by the apostle Paul — it is the inspired Word of God! As we hear and believe it, unlike those who do not hear and therefore fall for the lies conceived and promoted by Satan, we will be able to say with Paul, “*I know whom I have believed.*” As we believe in Him and are confident of Him in whom we believe, in the face of death we can join in the blessed confidence of another confident believer who — also in the face of death — said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59).

**Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.
Amen (TLH #292:9)**



Dare to be a Daniel...

Pastor Paul Fleischer · Cheyenne, Wyoming

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him...”

Daniel 7:13.

This “Son of Man,” the Messiah in human form, came riding on the clouds of heaven. And more than that: “He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.” The term “Ancient of Days” is the prophet Daniel’s special name for Jehovah God, the eternal God. Picture, if you will, the awe-inspiring scene of the Messiah in His state of glory being led and escorted by the angel hosts into the presence of His Heavenly Father, the Ancient of Days!

All this is a picture of Jesus after He successfully completed His earthly mission to redeem sinners. He ascended again into heaven in glorious victory as a cloud received Him out of the sight of His disciples. He is now seated at the Father’s right hand in glory from whence He shall come again to judge the living and the dead. In this connection we think of Jesus’ own words to Pilate: “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:62).

This had practical application for Daniel, and it surely does for us too. For Daniel this vision of the Messiah

in a state of glory strengthened his faith while living in exile in the heathen land of Babylon. The man of faith he was, Daniel would not and could not join in the idolatry of the land. Rather than worshipping Nebuchadnezzar’s heathen god, he knelt daily in prayer to the living God, even though the price of that faithfulness was facing hungry lions.

The applications for you and me become obvious as well. “Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone; dare to have a purpose firm; dare to make it known.” Who or what is it at this time which is tempting you or threatening you to forsake your beliefs, your faith, your Bible-based knowledge of right and wrong? “Dare to be a Daniel; dare to stand alone...!” Who or what is it that would have you believe it’s no big deal if you compromise your beliefs and go along with the unbelieving world? “Dare to be a Daniel; dare to stand alone...!” After all, is it more important to be popular with so-called friends who would lead us astray from God’s Word or to be true to Jesus, the King of Glory, our Lord and only Savior? “Dare to be a Daniel; dare to stand alone...!”

An Everlasting Kingdom

In his vision of the Son of Man, Daniel saw that “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14).



**Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone;
Dare to have a purpose firm;
Dare to make it known.**

The book of Daniel is an interesting book on prophecy. In chapter two we are told of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The king of Babylon had seen the most powerful kingdoms of the world at that time (Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome) break up into pieces and subsequently be succeeded by the far greater and more powerful spiritual kingdom of God.

Here in chapter seven Daniel sees that kingdom given to the Messiah, the Son of Man! Different from the nations of this Earth, all of which are eventually brought down or destroyed, the Messiah is given complete and unlimited dominion or rule over all people, and this rule or dominion lasts forever!

How this part of the vision must also have buoyed the faith of Daniel and the little remnant of other true believers who had been carried away into exile! Though they were held in bondage and often tempted to despair, they held on to the truth that the Kingdom of the Messiah—to which they belonged by faith—would be victorious and triumphant.

It is likewise so for you and me. The number of those who follow Christ as Lord and King is becoming an ever more shrinking minority. Many churches today preach what sinners want to hear, not what they need to hear — about their sin and its wages, and their desperate need for a Savior from sin. At the same time many churches today bend over backwards to accommodate ungodly lifestyles rather than taking a stand for true Bible standards and values.

In spite of all this, let us not doubt that Jesus is on the throne in glory. He is our Commander in chief, the Captain of our salvation. Under the

rule of the King of kings the Church survived the early persecutions, the Dark Ages, the eras of rationalism and modernism. And the true Church of Christ will also survive today—the era of postmodernism which denies even the existence of absolute truth, for “all truth is relative; your truth is not my truth, etc.” Be assured that the Word of Him who conquered sin, death, and hell for us cannot be bound, and the doors He opens cannot be shut.

So let us not hesitate to preach the Truth, to believe, follow, and practice our holy faith in accord with the Word of Truth, for Christ's kingdom shall not pass away. It shall not be destroyed. Jesus has promised that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against” His Church, and He will soon come to take us to heaven.

Luther adds this about Jesus' second coming: “*Upon His return on that Day, when He will come against the high and mighty, it will be different. Now He comes to the poor, who need a Savior; but then He will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting Him here*” (*What Luther Says, Vol. I, p. 155, #462*).

Indeed, the day is coming when “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth and of those under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10f).



2010 CLC Teachers' Conference

Teacher Nathan Wales · West Columbia, South Carolina

This year's CLC Teachers' Conference was hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mankato, Minnesota, Wednesday through Friday, October 20-22. All CLC Christian Day schools were represented. Also attending were six students from the education program at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Teacher David Bernthal, Fond du Lac, Wis., opened each session with a devotion. He stressed feeding our faith with God's Word for continued growth in our Savior, seeing God in the world around us, and having a renewal of faith as we return to our home congregations.

Pastor Wayne Eichstadt began the overall presentations with a paper titled "Burn-Out" which included a burn-out measuring test. The teachers were reminded to focus on what God is accomplishing through us. Other presentations for the first day included "When Do You Hold a Student Back?"

(by teacher Rachel Dassow) which allowed groups of teachers to work on case studies to determine if retention was necessary, a curriculum review of the *Christ Light* Bible history series (by teacher Ryan Hammett), and multiple "Title Five" papers on topics such as read-aloud packets, cursive writing, and teaching parts of speech in grammar.

Teacher Craig Owing's review of a book titled *Already Gone* (authored by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer) raised a number of concerns facing churches today, including reasons why the younger generation is not actively attending worship services, as well as why we need to defend our beliefs in society.

Taste of What's New

Thursday sessions gave the teachers a taste of what's new and available for classroom use. "Contemporary Christian Music" (by Professor Joel Gullerud) and "Using the Smart Board" (by teacher Kyle Ochsner) headlined



CLC teachers gather on the steps of Immanuel Church, Mankato, Minnesota

the day. Prof. Gullerud gave numerous samples and resources for finding Christian music to use in everyday lesson plans. He also made the point that CCM is available in all genres of music. He set out to prove that “Contemporary Christian music is a viable alternative to secular music” and can help “combat the immorality that the world promotes.” At the same time Prof. Gullerud responded to cautions concerning CCM—things such as substantive fluff, mere emotional highs, and false teaching. There was also discussion about if and when CCM might be incorporated into our public worship settings.

Teacher Kyle Ochsner proceeded to demonstrate the use of a Smart Board. This tool allows teachers to incorporate the installed program into lesson plans with other programs such as Microsoft Powerpoint, pdfs, and internet sites, turning them into interactive lessons. The question remains as to whether smaller schools can justify the efforts and cost for the benefits derived. Individual Smart Board practice was offered to any

teachers not attending the group field trip later in the day.

Thursday sessions included a paper on “How to Help the Slow Child” succeed (by teacher Kirsten Gullerud) and a Title Five presentation (by teacher Laura Ude) on freebies available to schools.

Three presentations were given Friday morning: a curriculum review of *God’s Design for Science* by Debbie and Richard Lawrence (by teacher Quinn Sprengeler); a Title Five “Rewards and Incentives in the Classroom” (by teacher Dan Barthels); and “Teaching With Analogy to Improve Critical Thinking” (by teacher Jeff Karnitz).

The teachers of the CLC would like to heartily thank the members of Immanuel - Mankato for their providing housing, meals, snacks, drinks, freebies, and all the rest!

Next year’s CLC Teachers’ Conference is to be hosted by Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, Wisconsin.

Behold the Glory of the King of Kings

Continued from Page 3

we know not only the glory of our Redeemer King but also the peace of God that leads us to eternal life. Jesus went to the cross as our King to deliver us from our enemies. For this reason, “God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11). Christ is preeminent, “far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only

in this age but also in that which is to come” (Ephesians 1:21).

This Epiphany season as we think upon the glory of Jesus, let us not only marvel at the glory which was revealed in Jesus’ ministry, but also joyously anticipate that glory which shall be revealed when the King of Kings once again appears — a glory “*which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen*”.

 1 TIMOTHY 6:15-16 

Our Unchangeable God in an Ever-changing World

Continued from Page 4

at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:5-6).

And lest anyone be deceived into thinking that happiness is found by changing along with the ever-changing society, Jesus gives us His unchanging promise, "Blessed [happy] are those who [continue to] hear the word of God and keep it [that is, hold on to, accept, and follow in faith and love]!" (Luke 11:28)

One feature about our personal lives that never changes from year to year is our sinfulness. Although we continue to battle this sinfulness with God's help—day after day drowning our sinful flesh with contrition and repentance—nevertheless sin continues to rear its ugly head on a daily basis.

In view of this, we give thanks and praise to God that we have an unchangeable mediator in the person of Jesus Christ. The writer to the Hebrews comforts us concerning this blessed, unchangeable truth about our Savior: "But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:24,25).

Because of our Savior, when we come confessing our sins with a penitent spirit we are assured that God "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Yes, change and decay in all around we see. However, because we have an unchanging, powerful, loving, merciful, and gracious Lord God, we can greet each new year with confidence, peace, joy, and hope instead of with fear and dread.

✻ HALLELUJAH ✻

Church of the Lutheran Confession Announcements

In accord with our usage and order, Luke Bernthal, who was called as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church of Valentine, Nebraska, Peace Lutheran Church of Mission, South Dakota, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of White River, South Dakota, was installed on Sunday, August 15, 2010. Participating in the installation were Pastors Mark Bernthal and Paul D. Nolting. - Pastor Michael Roehl