



JULY 2024

THE SHEPHERD

A newsletter from the Shepherd of the Springs
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Colorado Springs,
CO.

Hirtenbrief 7-24

July, 2024

Defining Lutheranism



Over the year, maybe you've been asked, "What is Lutheranism?" This is an answer that we, and I, have struggled with. Yet, here is a clear definition of Lutheranism for you to consider: *"An absolute, unrelenting focus on forgiveness and the means through which Christ promises it."*

What an awesome definition of Lutheranism! It truly is: *"An absolute, unrelenting focus on forgiveness and the means through which Christ promises it."* Our focus on forgiveness and the means through which Christ promises it stands at the center of all we say and do as Lutherans. It always has! This was the very reason for the Reformation of the Holy Christian Church in the 16th century.

Luther was led by the Holy Spirit to discover the truth in Scripture. The Church in his day had become corrupt and had lost sight of the truth. It taught that forgiveness was merited (earned) by human beings in a variety of ways—the purchase of indulgences, confession of all sins followed by making satisfaction through works, going on pilgrimages to holy sites, etc. But, Luther discovered the truth, that forgiveness is not something we merit or earn, but has been merited and earned for all of us by the perfect life and death of Jesus Christ.

What amazing, beautiful Good News this is for sinners...for you! It means that Christ won forgiveness for all your sins—yes, even those really bad sins that still burden you. It means that you need not worry about whether or not you have been good enough, since Jesus Christ is been good enough for you! It means that there are no "ifs" attached to your forgiveness. Christ has taken away all the "ifs" by His Holy and Precious Blood shed on the cross. You ARE forgiven! It is a Divine guarantee!

We Lutherans need to maintain an absolute, unrelenting focus on His forgiveness that Christ won for all people on the cross. We also need to maintain an absolute, unrelenting focus on the means through which Christ promises that forgiveness to us. These two go hand in hand and make actually makes the definition of Lutheranism complete. You see, while Christ has won forgiveness for all people of all time, it is only through the means of grace He has established—His Holy Word and Sacraments—that the forgiveness He won is delivered to sinners!

Thus, an absolute, unrelenting focus on forgiveness would be meaningless without focusing on the means by which that forgiveness is applied to you. Therefore, the Means of Grace, which Christ has established must remain at the heart and center of all that we Lutherans say and do. This is just as true in our day and age as it was for our Lutheran forefathers in the 16th century. In fact, the challenges you face today are even more severe than what they faced back then.

Today, it is not only the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches which teach that human beings must earn the forgiveness Christ won for all people. This false teaching is taught by nearly all Protestant Churches as well. In one way or another, nearly all denominations have adopted the false belief that sinners must do something to “get right with God” and merit forgiveness. However, we Lutherans know differently! We know the truth. We know that we have no ability within ourselves to “get right with God,” but Christ has done all things necessary to make us “right with God.”

You know that because the Holy Spirit has worked through the Holy Word and Sacraments to bring you to faith! And, through faith in Christ Jesus—not through good works, not through holy living, not through indulgences, not through pilgrimages, not through a “personal decision,” not through Church membership, not through a special anointing, and so on and so on—you ARE forgiven and you ARE declared righteous in God’s sight! Period! Full stop! No ifs; no ands; no buts!

“An absolute, unrelenting focus on forgiveness and the means through which Christ promises it.” That’s what Lutheranism is all about; since, that’s what Christianity is truly all about. May it be what we are all about here at Shepherd of the Springs!

In His (and Your) Service,

Pastor †



Catechetical Kernel

July 2024

The Lord's Prayer

Liturgical use: 4th –6th C.

St. Matthew 6:9-13



Historians tell us the Lord's Prayer has been said regularly in conjunction with the Lord's Supper since the 4th to 6th centuries. Its use had long been regular in Luther's day, but both The Lord's Prayer and His Words (of consecration) had been swallowed up into an exceedingly long prayer known as the "*Canon of the Mass.*"

This prayer included, among many things, the offering of the bread and wine to God; intercession for the dead; a listing of saints, through whose merits and prayers the assembled hope to be defended; a prayer that this offering (of the bread and wine and the rite) might be acceptable to God; and finally, after the consecration, the actual offering of the body and blood of Jesus to God, and so on.

When Luther and the other Lutheran Reformers reformed the Mass, they eliminated this long canon, which emphasized unscriptural doctrines and elevated the work of man in the Mass, in favor of actually using The Lord's Prayer. How fitting!

It is the chief prayer of the Christian Church, the one our Lord taught us (Matt 6:7-15; Luke 11:1-13). In this prayer, He teaches us to pray, saying, "*Our Father;*" that is, He teaches us to pray as those with whom He has shared *His* Father, "*who art in heaven.*"

Liturgically speaking, we are led to pray the Lord's Prayer and then to receive the Lord's Supper as the foremost response to it. How might this be suggested where the Prayer is taught in Luke 11:1-13? How can receiving the Lord's Supper give us confidence that our Father in heaven will indeed give us all the needful things for which Jesus teaches us to pray (Rom 8:32-39)?

Looking at the petitions of The Lord's Prayer in the context of the Lord's Supper (perhaps with the help of Luther's Small Catechism), how might you say that each is about to begin (at least) to be satisfied when our Lord comes to us in His Body and Blood?

The Peace of the Lord be with you,

Pastor ✝



Every Sunday, after Divine Service, Shepherd of the Springs Church members and friends gather to enjoy refreshments, and greet each other. If you don't stay for refreshments, you are missing out on some "deliciousness" and "getting to know" conversations.



At 10:30, and with the sound of the loud, clanging bell, we continue with Bible Study. **It is not to be missed!** While refreshments and snacks feed the body, Bible Study is nourishment for our brains and our spirits.

Even if you don't know a Greek verb from a Hebrew acclamation, Bible Study is well-worth the hour effort. It is a time of reflection, questioning, probing, learning or just taking in and marveling at the beauty of the poetic flow. Its value is different for all of us but the importance is that **you are there**.

So make a commitment!!!! Under the excellent guidance of Pastor Patterson, with tummies full, and coffee mugs filled;

come, listen, and study the Bible.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
Psalms 119:105 (KJV)

July, 2024: A Bible Study update from Pastor Patterson



Dearly Beloved,

Our Study of the Book of Romans is going very well. We have just completed the “deepest theological” section of Romans, Chapters 9-11, and it’s appropriate that you all are given a brief synopsis of this very important section of Romans.

It has been the case throughout Romans that St. Paul has very skillfully (and this should not be a surprise nor should it be questioned, remembering that Paul is under inspiration of the Holy Spirit!) weaved together the flow of his thought. This section is not a stand-alone section of Romans, as some wrongfully teach, but is, rather, again, a skillful explanation of what the Book of Romans teaches about the place of the Jews and Gentiles among the New Testament people of God. Paul directly applies this concisely, from Chapter 1 (verse 6) to Chapter 11 (verse 32) by the use of “all!”

The culminating and all-encompassing nature of this section of Romans becomes very clear as it reaches its conclusion. St Paul draws together chapter 9-11, while adroitly recapturing and, thereby, reasserting the bulk of his argument from earlier in his letter. St. Paul is teaching the Church, even you and I today, about humanity and more preeminently about God! What is this teaching? It’s that your Lord God Almighty desires to show mercy to all and does so in Christ Jesus, your Redeemer! All who hear this message are, thereby, driven to marvel at the astounding ways of God and to respond with worshipful adoration which most fittingly attributes all glory, laud, and honor to Him!

Please consider remaining after Divine Service as we will continue with our catechesis of the wonderful Book of Romans. We shall begin the study of the final section of Romans, chapters 12-16, where you will be enriched in St. Paul’s exhortation that you, as a child of God, should want to and are able to live for God! However, this desire to live for God isn’t by your power, but from the Holy Spirit working through the blessed Holy Gospel. So in this section you will learn of the value of the Holy Gospel!

I’m looking forward to seeing you all in our study of Romans!

In Christi,
Pastor +++



Welcome to All

Sundays

Divine Service 9:00 AM

Bible Study 10:30 AM

July 4



July 5 4:00PM Church Elders meeting

July 7* Trinity 6 Righteousness Sunday

July 14 Trinity 7 Feeding the 4,000 Sunday

July 21 Trinity 8 Little Reformation Sunday

July 28 Trinity 9 Unjust Steward Sunday



**NATIONAL
ICE CREAM
MONTH**

July is National Ice Cream Month.

**On Sunday, July 7, look for an ice cream treat during refreshment time.*



*July 25
Dale Etchells*



*July 7
Cheri and Sam Penwell*



The Commemoration of Ruth

July 16

On the LC-MS liturgical calendar, July 16 is recognized as the **Commemoration of Ruth**. In doing so, we are following the liturgical calendar proposed by the 19th century Lutheran scholar Wilhelm Löhe. Pastor Löhe was also a key player in the formation of the LC-MS, and he is also commemorated, January 2, on our calendar. Ruth of Moab, the subject of the biblical book that bears her name, is an inspiring example of God's grace. Although she was a Gentile, God made her the great grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17) and an ancestress of Jesus (St. Matthew 1:5).

A famine in Israel led Elimelech and Naomi of Bethlehem to immigrate to the neighboring nation of Moab with their two sons. The sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth, but after about ten years, Elimelech and

his sons died (Ruth 1:1-5). Naomi then decided to return to Bethlehem and urged her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Orpah listened to Naomi's advice; but Ruth refused, replying with the stirring words, *"Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God"* (Ruth 1:16).

After Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, Boaz, a close relative of Elimelech, agreed to be Ruth's "kinsman-redeemer" (Ruth 3:7-13; 4:9-12). He took her as his wife, and Ruth gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of David (Ruth 4:13-17); thus, preserving the Messianic line. Ruth's kindness and selfless loyalty toward Naomi and her faith in Naomi's God have long endeared her to the faithful and redounded to God's praise for His merciful choice of one so unexpected.

A few lessons we can learn from Ruth (not all of them) are included:

- + Ruth was a Gentile and did not know the true God until her husband and mother-in-law shared with her about the One True God. Family ties continue to be an important way the Christian Faith is shared.
- + Ruth was not just any Gentile, but was from Moab. According to Deuteronomy 23:3, "No ... Moabite may enter the assembly of the Lord," yet she does. Here we see that God's grace and forgiveness is greater than any transgress. As the old prayer puts it, God is always more ready to forgive than we are to ask. No one is beyond the grace of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
- + Ruth was a Gentile and yet also an ancestor of Jesus. This is a testimony that Christ came for all, not just the physical descendants of Abraham.

Prayer: *Faithful God, You promised to preserve Your people and save Your inheritance, using unlikely and unexpected vessels in extending the genealogy that would bring about the birth of Your blessed Son. Give us the loyalty of Ruth and her trust in the One True God, that we, too, might honor You through our submission and respect and be counted among Your chosen people, by the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, who reign together with You, One God, now and forever. Amen.*



Members

Jill Damec
Ron Dodge
Lana Packer
Cheri Penwell
Darrell Root
Marlene Schmidt

Military

Captain Rob Landers (USAF) (Barry's Son-in-Law)
Captain Abel Wilson (USAF) (Friend of SSLC)
2LT Frederick Heidt (USAF) (Friend of Larry and Sue)
Master Sergeant (USMC) Kyle Chase (Dale & Kari's Nephew)
First Sergeant (USA) Benjamin Kueter
Sergeant First Class (USA) Jordan Etchells (Dale & Kari's Son)
A1C Trevor Smith (USAF)

Family Members

Gayle Rathbone (Heather's Mother)
Patty Krueger (Barry's Wife)
Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)
Jacob Damec (Jeff and Jill's Son)
Rainer Dieterle (Conny's Father)
Tyson (Tiffany's Uncle)
Eli (Shannon and Ben's nephew)
Janice Patterson (Pastor's Mother)

**To add to or keep our prayer list updated and relevant,
please speak with Pastor: pastor@sslc-cos.org**



This newsletter is a publication of the
Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical Church

Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!

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