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THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM
THE INIQUITY OF US ALL

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

CHRIST DIED FOR SINNERS

In the 1940's thousands of Americans went off to war. Many did not come back. Years later thousands went to Korea and Viet Nam, and made their graves there.

During these wars there were many heroic deeds. Sometimes a grenade would be thrown from enemy hands. It might land between soldiers. One soldier would leap on it allowing the explosion to impact into his own chest. Thus he would save his fellow soldier from the blow.

A man might lay down his life for a fellow soldier because he is his brother in arms. But would a man do such a thing to save an enemy? If you have a friend who has done you great favors, perhaps risked his life for you, you might risk your life for him. But would you die for someone who countless times has sinned against you?

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:7-8).

Christ came into this world with the set purpose of dying. But He did not come to do it for people who were worthy. He came and died for people that did not even care for Him. In fact He died for people who hated Him.

All men were born Christ's enemies because of their sinful nature. Everyone has transgressed God's commandments countless times. We are included. We were born with the sinful nature. We have countless sins. And yet God loved mankind so much, you and me included. This love moved Him to send His Son into this world to be nailed to a cross of wood, before all to see, there to bleed and die.

For You!

Does anyone seem to care today? So many pass by the symbol of the

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cross without repentance. They go on their daily tasks and forget that it was for their sins that He died.

Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Tho' we see Thee wounded, bleeding,
See Thy thorn encircled brow?
Yet Thy sinless death hath bro't us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Thy grace hath taught us
Calms the sinner's stormy breast."
—(TLH, 145:2)

The Bible says that the wages of a man's sins is death. Man deserves to die for his sins forever in hell. We deserve the same. But Christ took upon Himself the sins of the whole world and paid for them by dying on the cross. He took upon Himself your sins and mine. As we go through Lent we are ever beholding the Lamb of God

that taketh away the sins of the world. (Jn. 1:29)

"Christ died for us." He died for you! It does not matter how terrible your sins are, they are forgiven. Christ has forgiven all your sins. For Christ took our place on the cross. He died the death that we deserved. And He obtained for us eternal life, peace, and the forgiveness of all our sins. He saved us from God's wrath. He delivered us from the pit of hell.

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly . . . Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Rom. 5:6, 9).

—David Sweet

Please see I Corinthians 4:1-5 . . .

JUDGE NOTHING BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME

Many employees receive an end-of-the-year performance evaluation. This oftentimes subjective evaluation can determine when you receive a promotion or a merit raise. We continually are evaluating ourselves, our work, and our worth. This evaluation process is heightened by the marking of the passing of another decade, by a forty-fifth birthday, by a retirement, or by an anniversary.

As a church body, congregations, pastors or teachers, or God's children, it is proper for us to evaluate our work as "servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God" (I Cor. 4:1).

Our high calling as the stewards of God does involve definite accountability. "Now it is required that those

who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (I Cor. 4:2). We need to be careful that our work as the servants of Christ is evaluated on the proper basis and by the proper person. The apostle Paul found himself and his ministry under attack in the Corinthian congregation because of his lack of flash and personality. This caused him sorrow and heartache as it would us.

In the first three chapters of I Corinthians Paul reminds the congregation in Corinth that the work of the Gospel dare never be judged by the world's standards.

The world is concerned with outward show and results. The world is constantly involved in a short-term view of the worth of things. The world by its very nature is not spiritual but

worldly. The secret things of God dare never be judged by the world's shallow and outward criteria.

Do not judge your work by the standards of this age. The largest and most important church is not necessarily the most important in God's sight. In fact God has chosen the foolish things, the weak things, the lowly and despised things in the world's estimation so that no one may boast in His sight.

Different Evaluations

The results of your ministry are not to be judged by others. It does not make any difference how your life or work is looked upon by the world to whom the things of God are foolishness.

It does not make any difference how a congregation evaluates the results of its pastor's or teacher's ministry. In seminary we were told that within a congregation there will exist different evaluations of a pastor. For 10% of the people, the pastor can do nothing right. For another 10% the pastor can do no wrong. A pastor or teacher should not concern himself or herself about these evaluations of his work.

It matters very little what people think about the work we do as congregations, pastors and teachers, or believers. Most of these human evaluations of the ministry or the results of our work are based on totally subjective and human standards.

In fact, it does not make any difference how we evaluate our own work. This is a tremendous comfort when it seems like we are not getting anywhere and others seem to have so much outward, numerical success.

But it also means that even if we think we are doing a good job, this does not make our conscience clear. None of us can or should evaluate the results of the work we are doing as stewards of the secret things of God.

Be Faithful

Jesus alone will evaluate the work we have done and our faithfulness. It will not be until the appointed time when the Lord comes that everything will be revealed. On that day Jesus will expose the motives of men's hearts. On this day each will receive his praise from God. The fire of judgment will finally reveal the quality of each man's work. That is all that really matters.

On this appointed day of judgment, there are going to be many surprises. Those who are outwardly successful and movers and shakers in the church may have built on straw or hay. Those who have served as pastors in small, forgotten parishes, those who were in the back rows may prove to have been the most faithful. There are many simple and dedicated Christians who will be revealed to have done more for Jesus' kingdom than all the important pastors and evangelists.

As a church body, congregations, pastors and teachers, and children of God, we need to be faithful in the use of what has been entrusted to us. We do not need to worry about becoming men-pleasers. We do not have to even evaluate our own work.

We labor waiting for that appointed day when Jesus will bring everything to light. May we then hear Jesus' words: "Well done, you good and faithful servant."

—John Schierenbeck

“JUST SAY NO!” (What Was Moses’ Secret?)

It’s so simple. A sound solution to the grievous problem of substance abuse. You want to be spared the misery of nicotine dependency? Just say NO to that first cigarette. You want to be preserved from the horrors of hard drug addiction? Just say NO to the first friendly pusher who tempts you.

It is that simple. And it is sure.

The trouble with this healthy bumpersticker advice? It doesn’t provide the *power* to “just say NO.” In fallen human nature there is a deadly force that moves us to say YEA to what hurts and destroys. Scripture calls it “sowing to please our sinful nature.” And the harvest from such sowing is *always* destruction! How shall we be delivered from this “body of death”? What *is* the secret of “just saying NO”?

What Was Given to Moses

Moses had it. He was able to say NO to the *sweet life* of the privileged as a son of Pharaoh’s daughter, even though the alternative was to share the shame of God’s enslaved people in Goshen.

Moses had it. He was able to say NO to “the *pleasures of sin*” that come so freely to the rich and famous.

Moses had it. He was able to say NO to the *love of money*. In the tomb of a minor pharaoh, the boy King Tutankhamen, they found several thousand pounds of gold. Such wealth was close to Moses hand. He said NO to them when they were placed in

balance with the privilege of suffering “disgrace for the sake of Christ.”

Moses had it. He said NO to *fear* when a fearsome Pharaoh forbade the exodus of the Hebrews, telling the panicky people: “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD!”

Moses had it. He said NO to the *carnal “wisdom”* that would reject a gospel of salvation by the blood of a lamb painted on doorposts.

What Was It?

The secret of his power to “just say NO”? Not what one might expect in the man through whom God gave the covenantal Law to Israel. Not just dread of the judgment which the Law pronounces as the wages of sin. There is some deterrent force in that, to be sure. Fear of a heart attack has started a lot of people on a diet.

Moses, however, needed far more power than you get from fear of consequences. And so do we all.

He had it. In a word, it was *faith*. The faith in Christ which enabled a great cloud of witnesses to rise above their natural selves in heroic conduct. The faith which produces those glorious works which truly glorify the Father which is in heaven.

This, then, was Moses’ secret to “just say NO.” In the text of Hebrews 11 we find some clues to the way it works. “He was *looking ahead* to his reward.” When God’s Word of Promise created and nourished Moses’ faith, it gave him confidence in the

long-term blessing of eternal life the Savior won for God's believing people.

In this expectation comes the strength to say NO to the short-term pleasure that tempts us. "In due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." So faith challenges the temptation to get immediate gratification by some form of sin. It knows that God, who has promised, is faithful!

Another clue to the way faith works: "By faith Moses . . . persevered, because *he saw him* who is invisible." When eyes are fixed in faith

on the Author and Finisher of our faith in all His glory and grace, no temptation can prevail.

A wise Christian parent was heard telling a child who was leaving home for a party: "Have a good time, and be sure to keep Jesus with you at all times." The child was back home early, explaining: "Jesus wouldn't stay." The power to "just say NO."

Our God gives it to Moses. He still gives it. Drives the devil crazy with frustration!

—Rollin A. Reim



Tracing the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 19)—

"So the Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed" (Acts 19:20).

The Church in the Community

How would you describe your church—as "stirred into" or "stirring up" your community? Does your church's message blend well with community opinion because it avoids

the proclamation of the "uncommon" Truth of Christ? Or does your church sometimes make waves and cause separations in the community batter as a truly vital (life-giving) church, directing sinners to "the New and Living Way" (Heb. 10:20)?

A church *does* as a church *is*. A church may be content to have a form of godliness, while despising or denying the Gospel of Christ which is "the power of God unto salvation." Such a church may have religious forms, and its members may even be heard to speak of God and morality. But care is taken to speak in generalities about such things lest another's "form of godliness" (2 Tim. 3:5) appear to be

condemned. This church may become so "stirred into" the community that it causes no ripples, saves no souls, and does no eternal good.

Jesus, The Only Way

How different is the church which preaches "the New and Living Way"! Its members trust in Jesus Christ alone as the only Way to acceptance before the holy God through the forgiveness of sins. Divine grace moves them in love to distinguish this Way from every false way, God working with them by His living and powerful Word.

In Acts 19 see how Paul and the little church of Ephesus (twelve men to begin with, 19:7) stirred up the com-

munity.

The Jews in Ephesus had a form of godliness. They prided themselves in their sacrifices and formal observance of the Mosaic Law. But "the Way" (19:9) to salvation by faith in Christ, as preached by Paul, opposed their self-righteous ways. So, in their hard-heartedness and unbelief they "spoke evil of the Way" in the community.

These Jews may have thought that without legalistic forms and an impressive synagogue, the "Way" of Paul would come to a dead end in Ephesus. But God wanted to show that the *power* of godliness lies not in form, formula, or man-made forms, but in the living Word Paul preached. Even those twelve disciples mentioned in vs. 1-7 did not receive the "power of godliness" by a false baptism formula administered in the name of John—they had not even heard of the Holy Spirit! It was Paul's preaching of Christ that saved them.

When Jewish exorcists noticed the "unusual power-works" performed by Paul in the name of the Lord Jesus (v. 12), they "took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus" in an attempt to cast out evil spirits. These Jews clung to a form of godliness, but did not believe in Jesus nor preach Him as Savior.

But they thought they had the right formula: "We adjure you by the Jesus whom *Paul* preaches." The seven sons of Sceva (v. 14) tried this formula and received the beating of their lives! Before he stepped on their faces, the evil spirit put them in their places: "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but *who are you?*" (v. 14-16)

As word of all this spread, the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified (v.

17). By the end of two years "all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks" (v. 10). (Paul's nearly three-year stay in Ephesus during this third missionary journey marked the height of his missionary activity.)

The Word of Jesus Prevails

But then "the New and Living Way" stirred up a great commotion about manmade forms—the lifeless images of Diana (Artemis), "goddess of the Ephesians" (v. 21ff). This community-wide commotion had to come. To preach the saving Word of the only living Lord is also to say: "they are not gods which are made with hands."

Now the silversmiths were losing money and the idol-makers becoming idle. The community craftsmen cooled their furnaces and turned the heat on Paul's companions. It was a dangerous moment. But the "confused" (v. 32) were defused by the city clerk who, while affirming the "glory" of the Ephesian god, was the unwitting tool of the living God! By Demetrius' own testimony the Word of Jesus prevailed over the worship of man-made forms: "Throughout almost all Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people" (v. 26).

Please note, dear reader: turning people away from every false way to "the New and Living Way" is the working of *repentance*. Repentance is a most unusual power-work, a change of heart. That is shown by those Ephesians who made a public confession of their sins, and those who even burned their sorcery (magic) books at great financial loss (v. 18-19).

It is not a "Paul," or personalities, but the power of the living, life-giving

Word that persuades and turns the hearts of people. "They BELIEVED"! (v. 18) The Word of our Savior is a living, mighty thing! Those who preach it and confess it are bound to stir up their community even as they are stirred to repentance and new life in

Christ. So the Word of the Lord *still* grows mightily and prevails over forms, formulas, and man-made forms, and precious souls are turned to the Way of life everlasting.

—Vance Fossum



DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL 1990

Date	Scripture	Theme	Hymn
The Great High Priest			
1	Hebrews 9:15-22	Without shedding of blood is no remission.	168:1
2	John 13:31-35	Jesus gives a new commandment to His disciples.	168:2
3	Hebrews 9:24-28	Christ was once offered to bear our sins.	168:3
4	Hebrews 10:1-10	The weakness of the law sacrifices.	168:4
5	Hebrews 10:11-18	Jesus' one offering on the cross cleanses us from all sin.	168:5
6	John 11:47-55	Jesus is prophesied to die for the people.	168:6
7	2 Corinthians 1:3-11	God comforts us in all our sufferings.	168:7
The Man of Sorrows			
8	John 17:1-10	The Son prays for His glorification.	142:1-2
9	John 17:11-19	Jesus prays for His disciples.	142:3-4
10	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for His future believers.	142:5-6
11	Psalms 22:1-19	Our Savior in His humiliation.	180
12	Psalms 22:20-32	All peoples of the world will worship the Lord.	181
13	John 18:1-14	Jesus is betrayed into the hands of sinners.	182
14	John 18:15-27	Peter denies his Lord.	183
Death and Resurrection			
15	John 18:28-40	The King of the Jews before Pilate.	184
16	John 19:1-16	Jesus is delivered to be crucified	185
17	John 19:17-30	"It is finished!"	186
18	John 19:31-42	The body of Jesus is prepared for burial.	167
19	John 20:1-10	The tomb is empty—Go and tell!	195:1
20	John 20:11-18	Jesus appears to Mary.	195:2
21	John 20:19-31	Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!	195:3
In White Garments			
22	John 21:1-14	Christ appears again to His disciples	195:4
23	John 21:15-25	Peter is restored and encouraged	195:5
24	I Peter 1:22-25	Born again by the abiding Word of the Lord!	208:1-2
25	John 5:1-14	Jesus cures the impotent man.	208:3-4
26	I Timothy 1:12-17	Jesus came into the world to save sinners.	208:5-6
27	Romans 6:3-11	Risen with Christ to a new life!	208:7-8
28	Jonah 3:1-10	Jonah is sent to testify to Nineveh.	208:9-10
The Good Shepherd			
29	Hebrews 13:12-21	Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep.	210:1-2
30	Matthew 18:10-14	The Son of Man came to save the lost.	210:3-5

MISUSE OF THE GOSPEL

There have been reports in the news concerning the decision of two Lutheran congregations in the San Francisco area to ordain three homosexuals as pastors. The ordination services were held on January 20, 1990. The two congregations are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The ELCA opposes these ordinations because the three persons to be ordained do not comply with the ELCA standards of ordination.

I have a copy of the statement made by Bishop Lyle Miller, the bishop of the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod in which the two congregations are located. He declares that the two congregations are acting contrary to the ELCA constitution in ordaining these three homosexuals, and therefore he considers their action divisive.

His statement, however, says nothing about the Bible's teaching on homosexuality. In fact Bishop Miller says: "I very much support our church's ministry to and with gay/lesbian people . . . The Sierra Pacific Synod and the ELCA remain committed to the gospel of God's love given in Christ for all people, gay and straight. The heart of our church's theology is that we are all saved by God's grace through faith."

Do you see how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being used to condone that which is sinful? Yes, it is true that we are saved by God's grace through faith. Yes, it is true that God has given His love in Christ for all people, blasphemers, murderers, thieves, adulterers, homosexuals, self-righteous etc. Yes, it is true that God wants us to minister to sinners of all kinds. The problem with the ELCA position is that homosexuals are not called on to repent of their homosexual behavior, but are permitted to continue in it as accepted members of the congregation. Jesus died for thieves, but we don't tell thieves they can keep on stealing if they like. Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery: "Go and sin no more" (John 8:11). He forgave her sin without condoning it.

The ELCA apparently does not regard homosexual behavior as sinful. At this time they do not want practicing homosexuals to serve as pastors, because the church has not yet approved of this practice. But they do approve the church's ministry "with gay/lesbian people."

Let us not be taken in by the ELCA misuse of the Gospel. The apostle Paul wrote: "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such *were* some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (I Cor. 6:9-11).

Let not a sow, having washed, return to her wallowing in the mire. See 2 Peter 2:18-22.

(From the January 28, 1990 church bulletin of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. David Lau is the pastor.)

Could or should this article or something like it be submitted to your local newspaper as a testimony to the world that there still are Lutherans who believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God?

The Bible is the Truth of God

No one can dispute the fact that the Bible is an important and influential book. For hundreds of years people in many different countries of the world have been reading this book we know as the Bible. Many of them have read it from Genesis to Revelation and have even memorized large sections of it. Probably there is no one in the world who does not accept at least a few statements from the Bible, whether he is a Christian or a non-Christian. For the Bible contains many teachings about every-day living that are in perfect agreement with the common sense and experience of the ordinary person. Who, for example, would disagree with the statement of Ecclesiastes 9:5 in the Old Testament: "The living know that they will die"? Of course this is true, and everybody knows that it is true.

But the Bible also contains many hard sayings and teachings that people have a hard time believing and accepting. When the Bible says that lust in the heart is sinful and leads to eternal damnation in hell, people say that's going too far. And then, what about all the miracles in the Bible? People getting cured of all kinds of diseases and even rising from the dead. Whole nations or cities being destroyed in God's anger. A flood covering the whole earth. Jonah swallowed by a fish. Jesus walking on the water. Jesus dying on a cross and rising again from the dead. It's just too much! Who can believe it?

For hundreds of years most people that called themselves Christians did believe it. They believed every word and syllable of this sacred book. Of course they did not always agree in their understanding of the Bible. They had their differences of opinion on what the Bible meant. But they did agree that the Bible itself is the precious Word of God in all its parts. When different branches of the Christian church argued with each other about Christian teaching, they all appealed to the same Bible as their ultimate authority.

But today all of this has changed. Even for many would-be Christians the Bible has lost its authority as the Word of God. Christian teachers dare to talk about the errors in the Bible and even poke fun at some of its teachings. The Christian preachers of tomorrow are being taught in their seminaries that much of the Bible is untrue or unimportant. Christians in many congregations of our land are being taught to believe the things in the Bible that they want to believe and to ignore what they don't want to believe.

Can you imagine playing a baseball game where there were no rules? Can you picture a spacecraft engineer trying to do his work without following any laws of mathematics or physics? And yet we do not think it strange when Christian teachers do not follow their own book!

All of you people out there who

claim to be Christians, get tough with your teachers and pastors. Insist that you want to hear the Word of God from their lips; otherwise they can keep quiet. You can attend a political rally if you want to learn something about politics. You can go to a counselor if you need some human advice. You can go to concerts or watch comedians on television if you want entertainment and humor. But in church you want to hear the Word of God. Insist on it! Why be satisfied with less?

A Christian is a believer in Christ and a follower of Christ. What did Christ say about the Bible? He said: "The Scriptures cannot be broken" (John 10:35). He said to His enemies: "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures" (Matthew 22:29). He appealed to the Bible as the highest authority: "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female?" (Matthew 19:4) Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit guided them to write the books of the New Testament, and in these books we have God's truth.

How much of the Bible is true? "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16), and "God

cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). This includes the account of creation in six days, the flood, the miracles, Jesus' death and resurrection. Of course it does. Don't be satisfied with any Christian teacher who gives you less than the whole truth. And the most wonderful thing is that in these inspired Scriptures you will find Jesus, your Savior. "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

Walk away, if you like, from Jesus and His teachings. Follow those teachers, if you like, that do not believe the source book of their own religion. But know this, that the alternative to life is death. There is no other Savior like Jesus. There is no other book like the Bible. Jesus once asked His disciples: "Do you also want to go away?" Peter answered for them all: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 7:67-68).

For a more complete statement of faith in the Bible as the errorless Word of God and faith in Jesus Christ as the only Savior of the world, write to (fill in the name and address of your own congregation).

—Submitted by Pastor David Lau



Mrs. Paul Albrecht (1905–1989)

Pastor Paul Albrecht, the first president of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, died in New Mexico on March 22, 1976. Since that time his widow Marie lived in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and was an active member of

Messiah congregation. On Sunday morning, October 29, 1989 she was found dead in her apartment, having just celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday with members of her family on the previous day.

The text for the funeral service was Hebrews 12: 1-2: *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Marie Hoffmann was the daughter of a pastor and the wife of a pastor. She shared the joys and burdens of her husband's ministry. She was the mother of eight children, six sons and two daughters. By the time of her death there were 31 grandchildren and 39 great grandchildren.

For 39 years the Albrechts lived in Bowdle, South Dakota. It was there

that they experienced an agonizing church conflict in the years from 1958 to 1962 that led eventually to the formation of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bowdle. During these same years the Church of the Lutheran Confession was organized. Pastor Albrecht had already served as an officer in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and it is not surprising that he was chosen to be the first president of our church body. His faithful wife stood by him and supported him during those trying times.

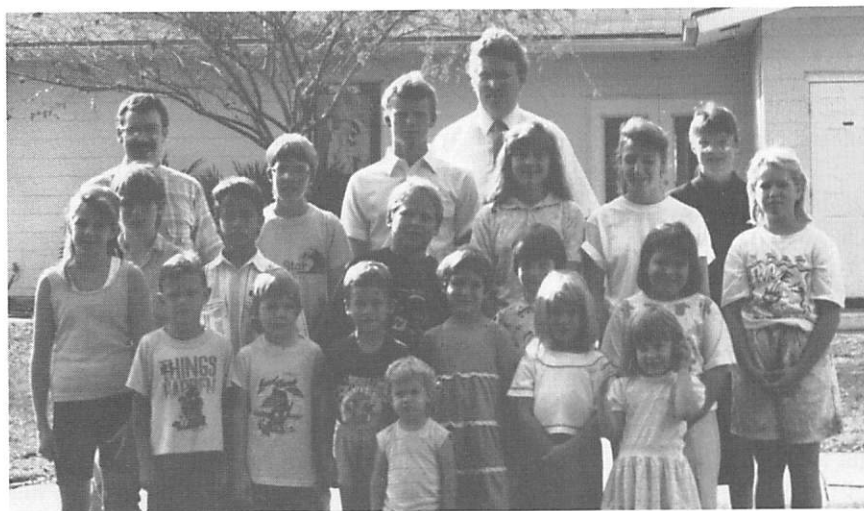
It is good for the younger ones among us to realize what stresses and strains our predecessors had to endure in order to remain faithful to their confession. Pastors' wives also had to go through much grief along with their husbands. By God's grace Mrs. Albrecht remained faithful to the end. To God alone be the glory!

—D. Lau

Partners in the Gospel . . .

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Winter Haven, Florida





Pastor Kesterson and Teacher Quade with the children of Immanuel.

Greetings in Christ from your partners in the Gospel of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Winter Haven, Florida!

Immanuel was started by a group of conscientious Christians who had left the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod due to unscriptural teachings and practices within that body. A yellowed membership list dated September 28, 1952 contains the following names: Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Shaffer and son, Jesse David; Pastor and Mrs. Albert Schupmann and son, Albert Jr. and daughter Karen; Mr. & Mrs. Emil Weis; Ernest Weis and son, Richard; Brenda Weis; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Weis and son, Paul Mark.

On July 27, 1952 Pastor Schupmann began conducting services in the Paul Weis home. By late 1952 services were held in the American Legion hall. Pastor Schupmann's last service here was held on December 18, 1954. Pastors who have served us since are: Luther Hallstein (1955-56). G.W.

Fischer (1956-57), Richard Kuehne (1957-64), Martin Galstad (1964-76), Paul Gurgel (1976-81), John Reim (1983-87) and Terrel Kesterson (1988 to the present).

Our first chapel/kindergarten building was dedicated on December 28, 1958. Seminary student Clifford Kuehne spoke on I Kings 8:27-30: "When is God Truly Worshiped?" An addition was dedicated on December 27, 1959. Again Clifford Kuehne spoke, this time on Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "God's Method of Religious Education." A separate classroom wing was dedicated on December 30, 1962. ILC Professor Martin Galstad spoke on I Peter 2:1-9: "The Spiritual Building Indicated by this Earthly House."

A Christian Day School has been a top priority for us from early on. In 1958 we started with kindergarten taught by Pastor Richard Kuehne. Grades were gradually added in the following years. Presently we have three students enrolled in our pre-
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school program, and fourteen more students enrolled in grades K-9. Our lower grades are being taught by Marie Olmanson and our upper grades by our principal, Ted Quade.

Others who have taught in our school are: Irma Speerschneider, Henry Haase, Janet Neubert, Marion Fitschen, Gail Kottke, Nancy Abel, Eunice Galstad, Barb Gurgel, Teri Karnitz, Peggy Kesterson, Jo Anne Weis, Kevin Hulke, and Candice Ohlmann. Our pastors and other volunteers from our congregation have also helped with the teaching load.

In order to have a Christian Day School a congregation must be willing to give its support and make certain sacrifices. The Lord has blessed us through our Day School by providing a quality, Christian education for our children, and by giving us a useful mission arm to bring the Savior to the unchurched in our area.

Our Christian brethren of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota hold a special place in our hearts. These partners in the Gospel "adopted" us as a mission, helping us in our early years with their prayers, encouragement, and generous support.

Immanuel of Winter Haven was incorporated on February 2, 1959. On July 11, 1965 we applied for voting membership in the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Immanuel became self-supporting on June 30, 1974. Presently we number 111 total souls, with 79 communicant members.

When you are visiting central Florida, please come and worship with us! Winter Haven lies midway between Tampa and Orlando, only thirty minutes from Disney World and Epcot Center.

Throughout our 38 years of existence, Immanuel has had its share of trials. The fact that we are here is a testimony to our Lord's grace and power. Jesus says: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him" (Jn. 14:23).

Christ's love brought about our Immanuel congregation and our CLC. We pray that Christ would continue to abide with us, making us and all of you CLC partners in the Gospel a faithful, alive, growing body of Christians!

—T. Kesterson



ST. PETER'S REMEMBERS

On Sunday, October 8, 1989, the members and friends of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Stambaugh, Michigan, gathered to observe the 100th anniversary of the congregation. It was a happy occasion, with ample opportunity for former members to renew acquaintances. A 34-page History was written, giving all an opportunity to

"remember." Guest speaker was Pastor Paul M. Tiefel Jr., of Dowagiac, Michigan, a grandson of former Pastor George Tiefel, who served the congregation from 1937-1969.

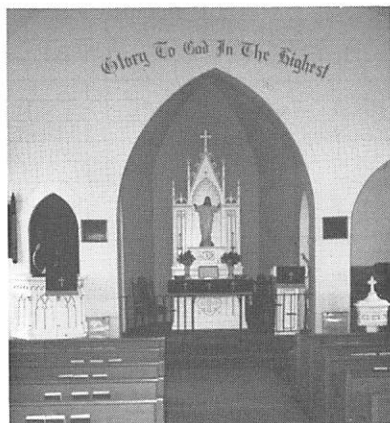
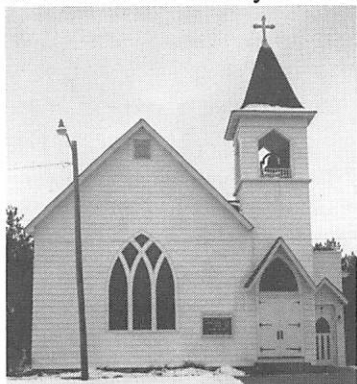
In a sermon based on Matthew 16:13-23, the speaker reminded his hearers that in a changing world, what really matters never changes. Today, as

always, the individual soul remains under constant severe attack by the enemies of his soul. Now is not the time for us to let down our guard and imagine that Satan has given up trying to draw us away from our Savior.

Moreover, we need the same assurance today as was needed 100 years ago, that Jesus is our only Savior from sin and death. Modern science, with all its inventions to make life easier, has not been able to find another way to heaven than what we have in the simple message of the Gospel.

Since St. Peter's was also observing its annual Mission Festival, the speaker also pointed out that now as ever, God alone adds to His Church. We are not to be discouraged by small numbers, but be diligent in using our gifts to bring the saving Gospel to sinners, for it is God who creates faith in the heart and preserves people in the faith.

In its early years, St. Peter's was served by circuit-riding pastors who came from Florence, Wisconsin. Since 1915 the congregation's pastors have lived in Stambaugh. The present church was built in 1906, and has served the congregation well all these years. After a fire destroyed the old



parsonage, the new parsonage was built in 1986. Pastor Arthur Schulz has served the congregation since 1984.

The guest speaker wondered aloud what may have been on the minds of original members when they chose the name "St. Peter's" for their congregation. Perhaps it was as a constant reminder of Peter, both of his sins and weaknesses, and of his sturdy confession of faith. Luther once said: "Whenever I look at Peter, my very heart leaps for joy. If I could paint a portrait of Peter, I would paint upon every hair of his head: I believe in the forgiveness of sins."

St. Peter's is thankful for the many years in which Almighty God has kept and guided us with His Word of grace. As with every congregation, there have been severe tests and trials to go through. But in every case, the Lord provided a solution. May future generations truly treasure the spiritual blessings which we have in the Gospel, that God's Word may continue to sound forth in its truth and purity in the beautiful northwoods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

To God alone be all the glory!

—Arthur E. Schulz, Pastor

Itinerary — ILC Tour Choir

March 9	Morris, MN	7:30 p.m.
March 10	Detroit Lakes, MN	12:00 noon
March 10	Jamestown, ND	7:30 p.m.
March 11	Bismark, ND	10:00 a.m.
March 11	Lemmon, SD	7:30 p.m.
March 12	Rapid City, SD	7:30 p.m.
March 14	Bowdle, SD	7:30 p.m.
March 15	Hecla, SD	7:30 p.m.
March 16	Watertown, SD	7:30 p.m.
March 17	New Ulm, MN	7:00 p.m.
March 18	Fridley, MN	3:00 p.m.
March 25	Millston, WI	10:15 a.m.
April 1	Eau Claire, WI	7:30 p.m.

Installations

On Sunday, January 14, 1990 the undersigned (assisted by the President of Trinity Congregation, Mr. Gilbert Goetzka, and by Harvey H. Callies of Eau Claire, Wisconsin) conducted the Ordination/Installation of the Rev. Mark Bohde as the pastor of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Millston, Wisconsin.

—Gordon P. Radtke

Authorized by President D. Fleischer, the undersigned installed Pastor Paul W. Schaller as pastor of Trinity Congregation, Spokane, Washington on January 21, 1990.

—Robert Reim

As authorized by President Daniel Fleischer, I installed Stephen Kurtzahn as pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina on January 7, 1990.

—John Schierenbeck

Three Messiah Services

In order to accommodate the many visitors we anticipate on those Sundays, there will be three Sunday services at Messiah Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on Sunday, March 11, and Sunday, May 6. The services will begin at 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 10:00 a.m.

Correction

In the January issue, p. 9, second column, the sentence should read as follows: "Apparently Aquila and Priscilla at this time were *able* to provide their home as a meeting place . . ." The editor regrets his error.

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council will meet on April 18 and 19, 1990. The first session will begin on Wednesday at 8:30. Individual boards will meet according to their privately arranged schedule.

Call Committee

The Call Committee on Graduates will meet on April 18 in Eau Claire. Any congregation desiring to submit a call for a teacher or a pastor through the committee should have the call form (minus a name) with all information, and the accompanying letter, in the hands of the president by April 17.

—Daniel Fleischer, President