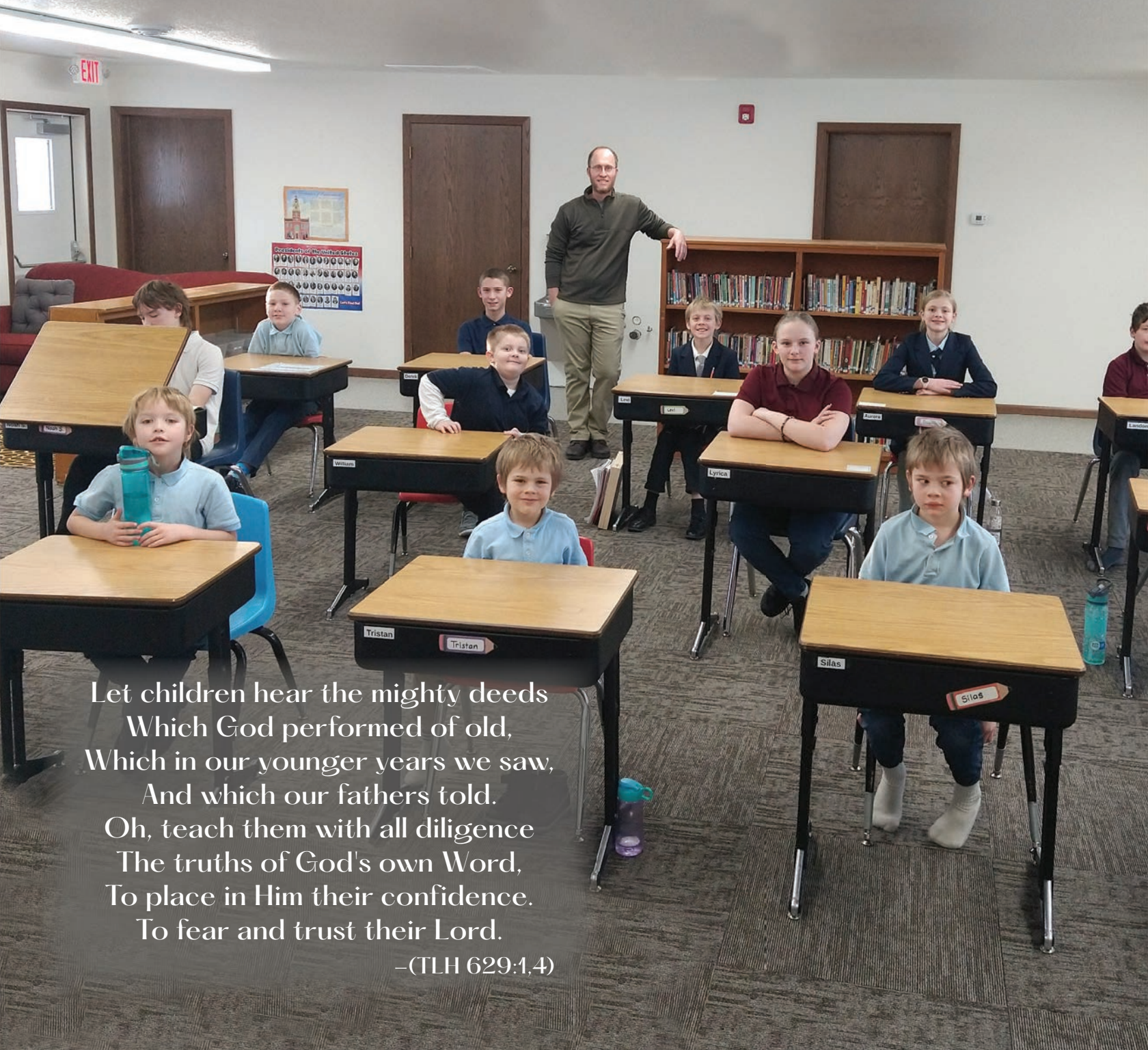


AUGUST 2024 VOL 67 NO. 2

# LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN

*"...The Scripture Cannot Be Broken." (John 10:35)*



Let children hear the mighty deeds  
Which God performed of old,  
Which in our younger years we saw,  
And which our fathers told.  
Oh, teach them with all diligence  
The truths of God's own Word,  
To place in Him their confidence.  
To fear and trust their Lord.

-(TLH 629:1,4)



**IN THIS ISSUE AUGUST 2024**

**COVER STORY - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Christian Education—A Key Ingredient for Life ..... 3

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Photos from CLC Schools ..... 4-5

**DEVOTION - THE CATECHISM**

"Who Will Guide Me?" ..... 6

**OUR LITURGICAL LEGACY**

Service of the Sacrament: The Benedicamus ..... 7

**STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

What Will Their End Be? ..... 8

**GEMS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

When to Pray, or Not ..... 9

**THE PARABLES OF OUR LORD**

The Two Sons ..... 10

**VOICES FROM THE PAST—PAUL F. NOLTING**

Shepherd My Lambs ..... 11

**WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?**

Zion Lutheran Church—Loganville, Georgia ..... 12-13

**NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

Gospel Outreach in India ..... 14

**BREAD OF LIFE READINGS, AUGUST 2024 ..... 15**

**SEEN IN PASSING/ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... 16**

*Cover: Teacher Nathan Wales and his class,  
Faith Lutheran School, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota*

The Lutheran Spokesman (USPS 825580) (ISSN 00247537) is published monthly by the Church of the Lutheran Confession, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701, and is an official organ of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). Website address: www.clclutheran.org

Periodicals postage paid at Eau Claire, WI and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes (Form 3579) to Lutheran Spokesman, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701-7134

Editor: Paul Naumann, 3732 Claymore Lane, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, E-mail to paul.naumann@ilc.edu; Assistant Editor: Craig Owings; Art Director, art direction & graphic design by Pipestone Publishing Co.; Proofreaders: Vance Fossum and Paula Naumann; Staff: James Albrecht, David Bernthal, Timothy Daub, Michael Eichstadt, Wayne Eichstadt, David Fuerstenau, Mark Gullerud, Richard Kanzenbach, John Klatt, Joseph Lau, Delwyn Maas, Drew Naumann, Karl Olmanson, John Pfeiffer, Nathan Pfeiffer, David Reim, Peter Reim, Sam Rodebaugh, Michael Roehl, Robert Sauer, David Schierenbeck, Chad Seybt, Mark Weis.

Material submitted for publication should be sent to Editor Paul Naumann three months before date of publication. Announcements and other short notices should also be sent to Editor Naumann.

Business Manager: Steve Lentz, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI, 54701. E-mail to lutheranspokesman@ilc.edu. Subscription Manager: Jessica Lau. Individual subscriptions {foreign-U.S. currency only}: \$18.00 {\$36.00} for one year; \$34.00 {\$50.00} for two years; \$50.00 {\$72.00} for three years; sent in bulk to congregations: \$15.00.

Send address or payment question requests to: lutheranspokesman@ilc.edu

Spokesman Online Version at: www.lutheranspokesman.org

Printed in U.S.A.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version, © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# Christian Education - A Key Ingredient for Life

***“For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Colossians 2:1-3)***

The Apostle Paul displays the heart of a father. He has a “great conflict,” (verse 1) a heart that yearns for his “children,” desiring that they all obtain these important ingredients for life. The gifts he mentions nicely describe what is received through Christian education.



Lower grade students of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

He longs “that their hearts may be encouraged.” (verse 2) Encouragement is a vital ingredient in a productive life. There is much in this life that is discouraging, especially to a child. What can be more encouraging to my heart than to know that God loves me dearly, that He has a purpose for me, and that “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”? (Philippians 4:13)

Paul also desires that they all be “knit together in love.” (verse 3) Being reminded daily of God’s constant love develops an environment of love. It is heartwarming to see children playing together in harmony in one of our parochial schools, and to know the love for these children that unites the congregation members who support them.

In that environment where “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” (Proverbs 9:10) and where God’s Word is taught daily, we will “attain to all riches of the full assurance of understanding.” (verse 2) Truly understanding God’s grace is the greatest source of riches and gives one full assurance. That also enhances every form of knowledge and understanding. Every subject is made rich and meaningful in the context of God’s supreme rule over all things.

Finally, he desires that they gain “the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (verse 3) Some would argue that a good secular education is necessary to really succeed in

this world. However, the true treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ and the Father. That is why the Gospel is called “the mystery of God,” (verse 2) which cannot be figured out by deductive reasoning. It is only revealed in God’s Word. In God’s Word we receive the treasure of eternal life with God in heaven, which is worth much more than worldly success.

But even by academic measures, our Christian day schools have often proven to be superior to the public schools. In this way they prepare our children for life in this world and the next.

Paul desires these things for you so that no one will “deceive you with persuasive words,” (Colossians 2:4) and so that no one will “cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8) The public schools of our day are full of empty deceit that can lead children away from the treasures of true wisdom and knowledge. When people don’t even know something as concrete and objective as what makes a male or a female, there is little hope of finding any absolute truth.

Christian education is a key ingredient for life. May we treasure it, desire it for our children, and continue in it all our lives. For it is truly “better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.” (Proverbs 16:16)



David Reim is pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Vernon, British Columbia.

# Photos from CLC Schools



Messiah Lutheran School  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin



Grace Lutheran School  
Valentine, Nebraska



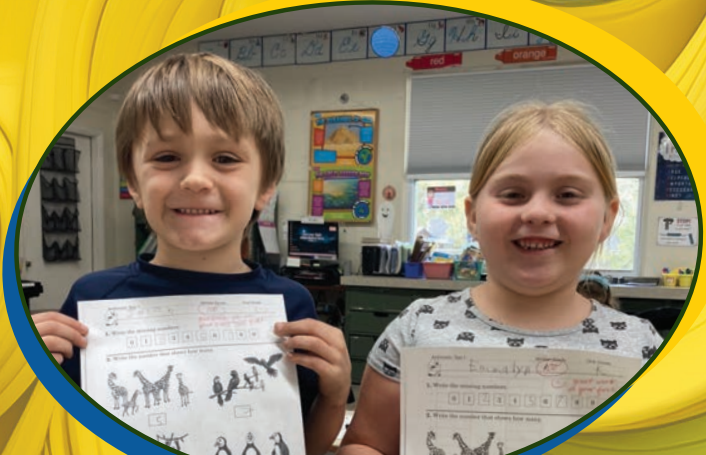
Grace Lutheran School  
Valentine, Nebraska



Messiah Lutheran School  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin



Immanuel Lutheran School  
Winter Haven, Florida



Immanuel Lutheran School  
Winter Haven, Florida



Grace Lutheran School  
Valentine, Nebraska

# Photos from CLC Schools



Holy Trinity School  
West Columbia, South Carolina



Holy Trinity School  
West Columbia, South Carolina



Holy Trinity School  
West Columbia, South Carolina



Messiah Lutheran School  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin



Grace Lutheran School  
Fridley, Minnesota



Messiah Lutheran School  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin



Grace Lutheran School  
Fridley, Minnesota

# "Who Will Guide Me?"

When the Holy Spirit connected Philip with the treasurer for Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, Philip heard him reading from the Book of Isaiah. When Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading from Isaiah, the man said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:31)

We appreciate guides who know the way. When traveling in a foreign country, we appreciate having guides who know the area and can get us safely to our destination.

There is nothing more naturally foreign to man than the way of God and His will for us. Oh, we could guess what God would have us do and how we can find Him, but no one, by nature, knows the way (1 Corinthians 2:14). We are spiritually blind sinners, groping around in our lost condition, hoping to find the right way and do the right thing (Acts 26:18). Like the Treasurer, we need a guide.

Thank God that He hasn't left us lost in the dark! He has given us His Word as lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). In the Bible, the one true God has revealed Himself to us and shown us His Son, our only Savior from sin. In the Bible, God also reveals His will for us as His children.

While the Bible is the only light we need, we, like the Treasurer, still could use a guide to take us through the Scriptures. Christian parents could use a guide to help them carry out the Lord's calling to teach His Word to their children (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Knowing we need a guide to instruct young and old about the basics of the Bible, Martin Luther put together the *Catechism*. A catechism is a book of questions and answers used to instruct someone. Luther felt compelled to write his catechism after touring congregations in Saxony and finding that many of the baptized Christians didn't know the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, or the Ten Commandments. He was likewise appalled that even the pastors were largely ignorant of the basic teachings of the Bible.

For this reason, Luther wrote both the *Small Catechism* and the *Large Catechism*. His *Small Catechism*, published in 1529, consisted of just the basic teachings of the Bible and explanations to the Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer,



Title page of Luther's Small Catechism  
Wittenberg edition, 1536

Baptism, Confession, the Sacrament of the Altar, various daily prayers, and the Table of Duties. His *Large Catechism* expanded on each of these "Chief Parts" of the Bible. He gave it with these instructions: "Which the head of the family shall teach to his household." Luther intended that his catechism would be used as a guide for parents to teach their children about the Christian faith and life.

But Luther did not intend his catechism to be used ONLY for children. No, Luther says, "Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and I do it gladly." (Book of Concord, Tappert ed., p.359; Fortress Press, 1959) What a thought! The great Reformer, the Doctor of Theology, Martin Luther, regularly went back to the catechism to guide him back to the basics of the Bible! When was the last time you pulled out your catechism?

Back to the Ethiopian Treasurer, we read in Acts 8 that, beginning with the verse of Isaiah that he was reading, Philip told him the good news about Jesus. After having been instructed and then baptized by Philip, the man "went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:35-39) Let us also rejoice for those who have guided us to the good news about Jesus as our Savior from sin and only hope for heaven. Give thanks for the guides God used in your life—your Christian parents, your pastors and teachers, and yes, the *Catechism*.

"Lord, help us ever to retain  
The Catechism's doctrine plain  
As Luther taught the Word of truth  
In simple style to tender youth. Amen." (TLH 288:1)

For online access to Luther's *Small and Large Catechism*, visit [www.BookofConcord.org](http://www.BookofConcord.org)



Nathan Pfeiffer is pastor of Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

## OUR LITURGICAL LEGACY

*Ever wonder why we Lutherans use the form of worship we do?*

*In this series we examine the depth and meaning of the various elements of our Lutheran worship service.*

# Service of the Sacrament: *The Benedicamus*

**O**ur lives in this fallen world are burdened with trials and troubles. We are threatened by dangers to both body and soul. We are grieved by the brazen wickedness of the unbelieving world. We are troubled by our own sins of thought, word, and deed. We see and feel our time in this life swiftly passing by.

But as we travel through the desert that is this world and this life, we have an oasis where there is cooling shade and refreshing water, a place where we can stop and rest a while before we continue our journey. It is the Sunday service in our churches. There we can find refuge from the noise of the world and listen quietly to God's Word. There we can gather with our fellow travelers and join them in singing hymns to God and expressing our faith in the one true and living God. With all of this refreshment from the Lord Himself, we can go out again into the world with the peace of forgiveness and the joy of salvation.

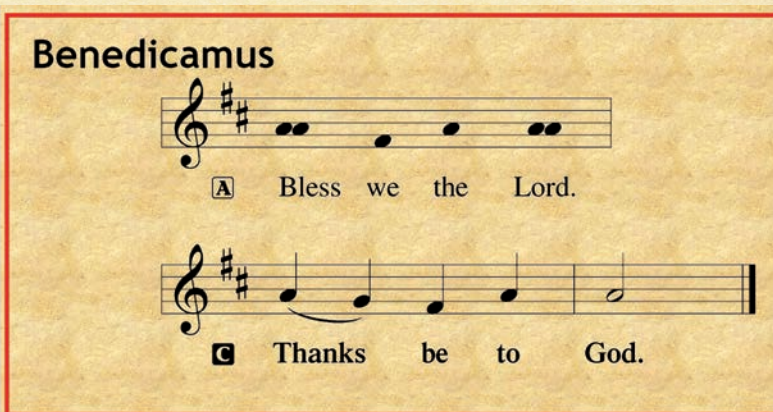
In services where we take Holy Communion, Jesus gives us the additional refreshment of His own body and blood with the bread and the wine. He gives to each of us His personal assurance that He gave His body and shed His blood for the remission of our sins. Having received such great blessings in the Communion service, it is appropriate that we should hear from the pastor the *Benedicamus*, "Bless we the Lord," and respond, "Thanks be to God."

*Benedicamus* is a Latin word that means "we bless," using the word *ble*ss in the sense of "to praise" or "glorify." To bless the Lord is to exalt Him in our hearts and to speak of His righteousness and holiness, His love, and His grace in Jesus Christ.

The sentence "Bless we the Lord" occurs in the concluding verses of the books into which the Psalms are divided. For example, Book One ends with this doxology: "*Blessed be the LORD God of*

*Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.*" (Psalm 41:13) Book Two closes with this magnificent hymn: "*Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.*" (Psalm 72:18-19) These expressions of praise serve as fitting conclusions to collections of the Psalms, for these are prayers that God Himself has given to us to enable us to call upon Him in all our needs and to praise Him for His unfailing mercy and help.

**Benedicamus**



**A** Bless we the Lord.

**B** Thanks be to God.

In the *Benedicamus* we follow the example of the psalmists by making some of the last words of our Communion services statements of praise and thanks to God. The simple statement spoken by the pastor and the response from the congregation should cause us to think back over the service that is ending and to marvel that our God should be so gracious as to invite us to

worship Him and to speak to us words of comfort; that Jesus Christ should come to us with the very body and blood that He gave and shed for us on the cross to redeem us from our sins and give us eternal life.

The *Benedicamus* is an expression of praise that will continue into eternity. In the book of Revelation, we read of a vision granted to the Apostle John in which he heard "every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea. . . . saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'" (Revelation 5:13)



**John Klatt** is a retired pastor. He lives in Watertown, South Dakota.

# What Will Their End Be?

*“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely [or, “with difficulty”] saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.” (1 Peter 4:17-19)*

**P**eter first talks about judgment beginning at the house of God. That is to say that despite what some might think, Christians are not immune to difficulties or hardships in life. Rather, God will often allow various trials and hardships to enter the lives of Christians to train and discipline them in the faith, to drive them to His Word, and draw them to Himself.

Peter then asks the question, “*what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*” (verse 17) Doesn’t that sound like the question Christians sometimes ask, “How does a person who does not believe in Jesus possibly deal with this?” This is more than a question of mere curiosity; it’s also a question of great compassion. The caring Christian has sincere concern for the unbeliever going through hard times.

Peter takes the thought a step further when he writes, “*Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’*” (verse 18) By this, Peter does not mean to say that it’s somehow too difficult for God to save a believer; rather, Peter refers to the difficulty a believer has in his daily walk with God as he is buffeted on all sides by the devil, the world, and his own sinful flesh. The Christian is mercilessly attacked with various temptations to give in to sin and despair.

The point is that if the Christian has such difficulty facing life’s hardships, and he has ready access to the Word of

God and prayer for help, then what possible hope can the unbeliever have? The simple answer is “none.” What a horrible way to go through life’s many hardships and heartaches—without the knowledge of the love of Jesus, without the comfort of forgiveness, and without the hope of Christ’s resurrection! It is no wonder that so many in our world surrender to despair and even suicide, or find escape in substance abuse, sexual gratification, or their own manmade gods and religious observances.

Such knowledge on the Christian’s part should not only move us to compassion, it should also move us to action—to try to reach out to lost souls in such sad estate, to share with them the Gospel so that they can join us in having the same joy, comfort, help, and hope in Jesus that we have!

*“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”* (verse 19) The Christian can trust that if God allows some adversity to come, then He is allowing it for our soul’s ultimate good. Thanks to Jesus, Christians can go through life, in good times and bad, completely confident in God’s will for our lives and in His love for our souls.

*Thanks to Jesus,  
Christians can go  
through life, in  
good times and  
bad, completely  
confident in God’s  
will for our lives  
and in His love for  
our souls.*



**Chad Seybt** is pastor of a quad parish that includes Morning Star Lutheran Church in Fairchild, Trinity Lutheran Church in Millston, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Melrose, and Peace with God Evangelical Lutheran Church in Onalaska; all in Wisconsin.



# When To Pray, Or Not

A visiting missionary to India recounted this prayer-experience. His mechanical pencil had run out of lead, and though he was in a large city, he had difficulty finding replacements. Shop after shop had none. He finally resorted to prayer, asking God for directions. The very next shop he visited had the needed leads. This answered prayer saved him time and energy and left him joyful.

Some might react: “Really? Why bother the Lord with a thing so trivial? He probably would have found his leads soon enough without his silly prayer.”

Is there any prayer too silly or trivial for the Lord? He tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17); that we have not because we ask not (James 4:2); that whatever we pray in Jesus’ name He will grant (John 14:13). The missionary needed leads for his Kingdom work. He asked, and the Lord answered, to the glory of God.

Recall the time when good King Hezekiah prayed for his life (2 Kings 20). He became deathly ill, and the Lord told him he would soon die. But the king turned his face to the wall in tears and prayed. The Lord granted him an extra fifteen years.

Then there is the time when the people should have prayed and did not. It happened early in the Israelites’ conquest of Canaan. One day they were met with a peace delegation from a supposed far country. This delegation looked and played the part: worn-out sandals, dusty clothes and moldy bread; and a good story about their desire to establish a peace covenant with God’s people. It should have sounded suspicious, especially in view of God’s command to cleanse the promised land of heathen inhabitants and have no fellowship with them. Was the delegation of strangers from a far land? No. They were Canaanites living right down the road. Instead of asking the Lord for guidance, the Israelites entered into a peace treaty with the Gibeonites. This would affect them in the years ahead. It already revealed their propensity to seek safety through treaties, instead of trusting in the Lord and relying on His strength. It

was surely a time when they should have prayed for guidance and did not.

Then there was the time when a prayer was offered, but should not have been. After the city of Jericho was conquered by the Lord’s wall-tumbling power, the Children of Israel next set their sights on the small town of Ai. It was so small that Joshua sent only a detachment of 3000 men to take it.

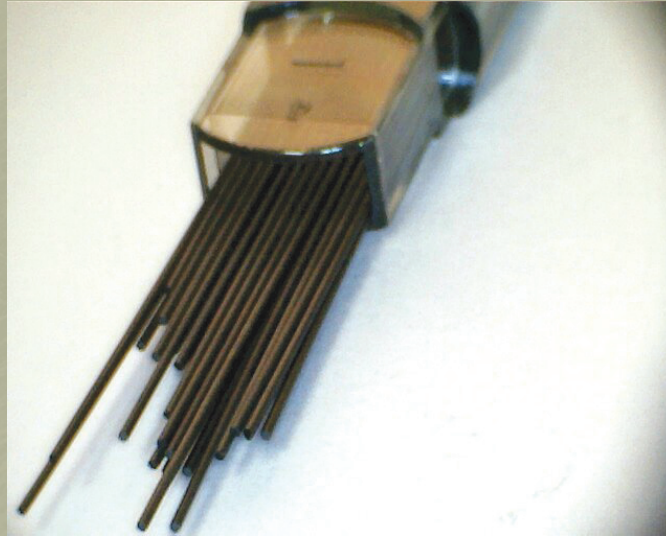
But Israel got smoked, and good. They not only failed in their effort but were chased in ignominious defeat. Thereupon Joshua prayed to the Lord. But it wasn’t a good prayer, or wise. It was a prayer in which he blamed the Lord for the embarrassing debacle. He accused the Lord of going

back on His promise of victory (Joshua 7).

The Lord replied by telling Joshua to get up from the ground, and quit playing the blame game. The fault lay with his people! Joshua should have put two and two together. The Lord had commanded that none of the accursed spoils of war from Jericho were to be kept. But the family of Achan saved some, and the defeat at Ai was the result.

Lesson: when you pray don’t complain and blame God for something that is your own fault. Don’t pray for things that are obviously against His revealed will. Don’t pray selfish prayers, but pray in the Lord’s name.

Is there anything too trivial or seemingly unimportant to pray for? No. Pray, for the Lord loves to answer the prayers of His children. Pray for leads, pray for life, and pray for anything in between. Pray in His name, and He will grant it. He promised!



David Fuerstenau is a retired pastor. He lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

# The Two Sons

[Jesus said,] *“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said to Him, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.’”* (Matthew 21:28-32)

**S**iblings often respond differently to the instructions of their parents. Such was the case in the “Parable of the Two Sons.” The father’s command (not a suggestion) was for these sons to work in his vineyard. The first son responded, “I will not.” The second son said, “I go, sir.”

If I had witnessed this exchange, my first impression would have been clear. The first son is an arrogant, disrespectful brat who does not obey the commandment, “Honor your father and your mother. . . .” The second son would be more to my liking—eager, willing, and respectful; even using the term “sir” in responding to his father.

All is not as it seems, however, for we are told that in the end, the first son regrets his initial disobedient response and goes to work after all, while the second son, in spite of his initial obedience and politeness, does not go to work at all. Jesus then poses this question to His audience, *“Which of the two did the will of his father?”* (verse 31)

It is helpful to know the context of this parable. Jesus was addressing an audience of chief priests and elders in the temple at Jerusalem. Jesus had recently driven out the moneychangers who had made God’s house a “den of thieves.” (Matthew 21:13) The Jewish leaders were interrogating Jesus in an attempt to trip Him up. They wanted to know by what authority Jesus had done these things in the temple.

In response to Jesus’ question about the sons, these temple leaders rightly answered that the first son had ultimately done his father’s will. Jesus uses their response to teach them an important lesson. He says to them, *“Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.”* (verse 31)

The Jewish leaders were like the second son. They outwardly obeyed

the Old Testament laws (and others they had added themselves), and gave lip service to the God of Moses. However, they were as those spoken of in Isaiah 29:13, *“These people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts*

*far from Me.”* They believed that their public piety was what would save them, while at the same time they rejected the promised Savior pointed to by John the Baptizer, *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29)

Conversely, it was the tax collectors and harlots who were like the first son. They had openly led lives in sinful opposition to God’s will. But many of them believed John’s message of forgiveness in Christ. In their contriteness, they were convinced of their own inability to



The Two Sons by Andrey Mironov

save themselves.

Let us all learn from this parable, regardless of our previous walks in life, to trust in Jesus’ righteousness to cover our sins. God wants our hearts, not our hollow lip service.

*“All righteousness by works is vain, the Law brings condemnation;  
True righteousness by faith I gain, Christ’s work is my salvation.  
His death, that perfect sacrifice, has paid the all-sufficient price:  
In Him my hope is anchored.”* (TLH 375:4)



Joe Lau is a professor at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



Rev. Paul F. Nolting  
1923-2005

*In this series we are reprinting Spokesman articles by early leaders in the CLC. Pastor James Albrecht is the curator of the series. Rev. Paul F. Nolting (1923-2005) was a leader in the formation of the CLC. He served as pastor at various CLC congregations, notably Sleepy Eye, Minnesota; West Columbia, South Carolina; and Loveland, Colorado. He was a longtime secretary of the CLC. This article is from the Lutheran Spokesman of June 1960. Scripture quotations are from the King James Version.*

## Shepherd My Lambs

“... And these are our children,” we parents proudly say, as we introduce our children to guests in our home. And so right we are, for our children are flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood. They bear our name, resemble us in physical appearance, perhaps even in temperament and disposition. They live with us, eat at the family table, come to us with their problems, look to us for comfort, encouragement, and protection; and expect us to pay their bills. By the law of nature and by the law of the land our children are indeed ours.

One guest in our homes, however, would disagree when we speak of our children. He wouldn't dispute the fact that our children are ours, but He would add that our children are also His children. This Person, Who daily knocks at the door of our homes and Who ever desires to be our Guest, is our Lord Jesus. He calls our children “My lambs.” What tender love and concern radiate from those two little words, “My lambs”! What comfort for Christian parents to know that Jesus speaks of their children as “My lambs”!

A beautiful picture is brought to mind by those words, “My lambs,” but more—a basic truth is also expressed by them. Our children are the property and possession of Jesus, are they not? Do not we parents joyfully exclaim, “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalm 100:3) If we are His sheep, then our

children are His lambs. We are the parents of our children; Jesus is their Creator. He gave them body and soul, eyes, ears, their reason and all their faculties. He breathed into them the breath of life, and so He has every right to call our children, “My lambs.”

But more! “*All we like sheep have gone astray.*” (Isaiah 53:6) Our children have followed us, as little lambs follow the sheep. They also have wandered into the dread kingdom of darkness, ruled by Satan. We parents were unable to rescue our children, for we were unable to pay the ransom demanded for their release. What a dreadful future awaited our children; a life in sin, then death, and then the fiery lake of hell. But Jesus came to the rescue. He became for our children, His lambs, “The Lamb of God.” He paid the ransom for our children with His holy, precious blood. Indeed, our children are His children! Jesus can call them “My Lambs,” for He has done for them what we couldn't ever do for them. He redeemed them.

It follows then, that He has something to say to us about the care of our children that He so rightly calls “My lambs.” What He has to say to us we would consider in this series of articles that we shall call “Shepherd My Lambs.” [A monthly series of that title was written by Paul F. Nolting, and appeared in subsequent issues of the *Lutheran Spokesman*.]

## WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Updates from congregations around the Church of the Lutheran Confession

# Zion Lutheran Church

## Loganville, Georgia

Since our last update in the *Lutheran Spokesman*, Zion has experienced significant changes. Back then, we were optimistic that our Good Shepherd would bless our endeavors on a newly acquired property south of Loganville, Georgia. This land offered ample space for growth and various activities, even a couple of outbuildings we hoped could be remodeled into a sanctuary. However, we encountered a series of challenges, leading us ultimately to discern that it was not the Lord's will for us to continue on that property. Consequently, in September 2023, we sold it and acquired a much smaller parcel of land less than a quarter mile away. This property does contain significant room for building a church in the future, should the Lord bless us to that end.

One significant challenge that the Lord Jesus has permitted Zion to face is the loss of members—through transfer, withdrawal, and death. Six years ago, our average attendance at Sunday services was twenty-one, but now it averages seven, although several distant members continue to join us online via streaming and continue to support Zion's ministry.

While we would love to declare that the members of Zion have remained entirely undaunted by these trials, we acknowledge and confess that our responses have not always been marked by steadfast faith and joy, as is proper for saints. Nevertheless, in our moments of wavering faith, the Lord has remained unwavering in His faithfulness. He has forgiven our sins for Jesus' sake, continued to grant us access to His means of grace, and provided us with work to do in His kingdom. For His steadfast faithfulness, we lift our heads in gratitude and "press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

One of the blessings we are delighted to share with our brothers and sisters throughout the CLC is that Zion has achieved self-sustainability. This achievement came about through a unique set of circumstances, which in hindsight we recognize as a great blessing for our small congregation. The members of Zion are profoundly grateful both to the Lord and to the broader membership of the CLC for the financial assistance extended to us over many years by the CLC Board



of Missions.

Since our relocation last year, the Lord has opened several doors for us to proclaim the Gospel. Given our current small group in Loganville, we have set aside for the time being the idea of building or renting a church. Instead, the Lord has guided us to an alternative solution. We now meet in the "chapel" room of a local assisted living facility. This arrangement not only provides us with a gathering place, but also presents a direct opportunity to share the saving Gospel. The residents of the facility frequently join us to hear the preaching of the Word, adding on average another three souls to our attendance. Furthermore, this opportunity extends as



Current meeting place of Zion Lutheran Church's outreach effort in Cookeville, Tennessee

we interact with the residents' families and friends, as well as the facility's staff.

In addition to this blessing, the Lord has granted us the opportunity to conduct monthly outreach efforts in Cookeville, Tennessee, which began in January of this year. Cookeville is a somewhat central location among members of Zion who live in Tennessee. It was amazing to see how quickly the Lord blessed our desire to begin these monthly efforts, providing us with a room in a local library to hold church services and Bible study, an open dialogue to an AA group in Cookeville, and yet another opportunity to conduct Bible study at an assisted living home. Every month seems to present another joy-filled open door for witnessing the Lord's mercy and compassion.

Also, starting this August, Zion will collaborate with Holy Trinity of West Columbia, South Carolina in conducting Gospel outreach in the Anderson, South Carolina area. Zion's pastor will lead weekly worship and Bible study each Sunday afternoon and then remain for an additional day to engage in personal evangelism efforts within the community, working alongside members of Holy Trinity who reside in the area. That group has chosen for its name "Trinity Family Outreach," borrowing in part from the name of the doctor's office in which the meetings will take place.

In addition to these opportunities, we have also secured significant Sunday morning time slots on a radio channel in the Atlanta area, as well as another in Cookeville, Tennessee, reaching a considerable audience on a weekly basis. We have already received encouraging feedback from listeners who tune in to our weekly program, "What the Bible Says." You

can listen also to an mp3 version by going to our website: [www.zelcloganville.com](http://www.zelcloganville.com).

Zion's ministry is definitely not a typical parish ministry. Indeed, the members of Zion have begun to view Zion's ministry as a "mission at large," regularly operating and sharing the good news of salvation in Christ in three different cities across three states. This unique approach brings its own set of challenges, including the substantial costs of travel, but we trust that our Lord is fully capable of either removing these obstacles or providing a way around them. This, after all, is the essence of the Gospel—Jesus removing the obstacle of our sin as far as the east is from the west and providing a way into His kingdom of glory, being "the Way" Himself. (John 14:6) This is the good news we are privileged to share with our fellow man as we have opportunity.

We earnestly ask for your continued prayers on our behalf, just as you have faithfully done for more than two decades. From a human perspective, our efforts should have failed long ago. Yet, by God's will and grace, we remain as a witness to His salvation. "*The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure.*" (Isaiah 33:5-6 ESV)



**Frank Gantt** is pastor of Zion Lutheran Church of Loganville, Georgia.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

*In this series, those involved with CLC foreign missions profile one aspect of our overseas endeavors.*

# Gospel Outreach in India

[Editor: Names of people and places are being withheld because of the growing risk of persecution in India.]

**J**esus said to His disciples then and He says to us today, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14–16)

While Jesus wasn’t referring to the light bulb of a modern-day LCD projector when He spoke these words, this technology is a wonderful gift from the Lord when it is used for His glory! Some of our brothers and sisters in Christ in India are using modern technology to bring the light of the Gospel to many people in a nation that embraces the darkness of superstition and idol worship.

Since 2006, the Berea Evangelical Lutheran Church (BELC) in India has been using the *Jesus Film* in the Telegu and Tamil languages to share the Good News of our Savior. They dedicate a significant amount of time and effort to this form of outreach, especially during Lent and Easter. This past spring, during the six weeks of Lent and Easter, they brought the Gospel to 120 villages, reaching nearly 2000 men, women, and children with the Good News of our Savior’s perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection. Throughout the rest of the year, they plan to visit two villages a week in four different districts, with the goal of reaching over 400 villages and an estimated 6,000 individuals to show the film and proclaim the Gospel.

The BELC *Jesus Film* project is led by one of the BELC District Chairmen. BELC pastors and the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) students are organized into evangelism teams of

six or more. The evangelism teams work to identify towns, villages, and Dalit colonies (slums) where there is no Christian witness.

Before scheduling an evening *Jesus Film* event, the team surveys the village and engages the local leaders. Before and after the film screening, the evangelism team goes house to house to share the Good News of Jesus with each individual and household. As part of their outreach, they distribute the Gospel of John, along with tracts and pamphlets



BELC Gospel Film Introduction

in the local language. They follow up by returning to the same homes as often as necessary to answer questions, share more Bible truths, and encourage those who have been brought to faith in Jesus.

Over the past eighteen years, the BELC has been actively spreading the Gospel through this unique outreach ministry. As a result, thousands of former Hindu idol worshippers have been led by the Holy Spirit to repent of their sins, believe in Jesus as their Savior, and have their sins washed away through Holy Baptism. This, in turn, has led to the establishment of many more BELC congregations and preaching stations in places where there is no other Christian witness!

What a privilege it is to pray for, support, and partner with like-minded believers on the other side of the world to proclaim the truths of His saving Word for the salvation of souls!



Todd Ohlmann is a full-time visiting missionary for the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

## “BREAD OF LIFE” READINGS AUGUST 2024

TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; WS = Worship Supplement 2000; LSB = Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Date	Hymns	Reading	Comments
August 1	TLH 204/LSB 487	Exodus 14	The Lord commands Moses to lead the children of Israel across the Red Sea. The Lord destroys Pharaoh and his army when they attempt to pursue the children of Israel.
August 2	TLH 422	Exodus 15	Moses and the children of Israel sing a song of praise to the Lord for His deliverance from the army of Egypt. Miriam leads the women in a song of praise. When the people grumble over undrinkable bitter water, the Lord through Moses makes the water sweet.
August 3	TLH 316/LSB 642	Exodus 16	The children of Israel grumble again for lack of food. In response, the Lord sends quail for meat and bread from heaven.
August 5	LSB 534	Exodus 17	The children of Israel grumble again for lack of water. In response, the Lord provides water from a rock. The Lord gives the children of Israel victory over Amalek.
August 6	TLH 482	Exodus 18	On the advice of Jethro, Moses appoints chiefs over the children of Israel to judge the people. The chiefs are to decide small matters and Moses must concern himself only with hard cases.
August 7	TLH 575/LSB 966	1 Samuel 9	In response to the demand of the Israelites for a king, the Lord selects Saul as the first King of Israel.
August 8	TLH 583	1 Samuel 10	Samuel anoints Saul as King of Israel. Samuel gathers the tribes of Israel at Mizpah and presents to them their king.
August 9	TLH 260	1 Kings 19	Threatened by Queen Jezebel, Elijah flees for his life. Frustrated and depressed, Elijah asks the Lord to end his life. The Lord commands Elijah to anoint new kings over Syria and over Israel and to anoint Elisha as prophet. The Lord informs Elijah that seven thousand Israelites remain faithful to the Lord.
August 10	TLH 481	Ephesians 4	All believers are united in the body of Christ, our head. The Lord sends ministers to equip believers for the work of building up the body. Paul exhorts believers to reflect their faith in their actions.
August 12	TLH 581	1 Samuel 11	Under the leadership of King Saul, Israel defeats the Ammonites. Samuel renews the kingdom of Saul at Gilgal and the people are loyal to Saul.
August 13	TLH 427/LSB 728	1 Samuel 12	In his old age, Samuel addresses the people, urging them to obey the Lord. Samuel tells the people that their request for a king was wicked and the people acknowledge it.
August 14	TLH 589/LSB 679	Genesis 35	The Lord changes the name of Jacob to <i>Israel</i> and repeats to him the messianic promise. Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. Isaac dies; Esau and Jacob bury him.
August 15	TLH 29	Psalms 34	Read 1 Samuel 21:10-15 for the occasion of the writing of Psalm 34. David praises the Lord for delivering him from his enemies.
August 16	TLH 294/LSB 523	Proverbs 9	Solomon personifies wisdom as a woman and teaches the way of wisdom. In contrast, he personifies folly as a woman and describes the way of folly.
August 17	LSB 860	Ephesians 5	Paul exhorts the Ephesian believers to imitate God, to walk in love for one another, and to avoid sin. Wives are to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
August 19	TLH 128/LSB 400	Genesis 36	Moses records the genealogy of the Edomites, the descendants of Esau.
August 20	LSB 763	Isaiah 26	Often in this world we see evil grow and we see the wicked thrive. Often in this world the faithful people of God suffer various hardships. The Lord sees all of it. In His own good time He will judge His enemies, and He will deliver His faithful people.
August 21	TLH 610	Isaiah 27	Isaiah prophesies judgment and destruction for the enemies of the Lord, but grace and deliverance for the faithful people of the Lord.
August 22	TLH 466/LSB 909	Isaiah 28	The Lord pronounces judgment on Ephraim. The Lord pronounces judgment on Jerusalem.
August 23	TLH 512/LSB 839	Isaiah 29	The Lord will bring death and destruction upon Jerusalem. Even so, He will redeem and restore His people.
August 24	TLH 19/LSB 819	Mark 7	When the Pharisees ask Jesus why His disciples eat with unwashed hands, Jesus exposes their hypocrisy—they neglect the commands of God while insisting that human traditions be observed. Jesus teaches that what comes out of a man defiles him, not what goes into him. Jesus drives the demon out of the daughter of a Syrophenician woman and heals a deaf man.
August 26	LSB 569	Genesis 37	Joseph, the favorite son of Israel, tells his dreams. His jealous brothers sell him into slavery, deceiving Israel that Joseph has been killed by a wild animal.
August 27	TLH 392	Genesis 38	Moses digresses from his account of the life of Joseph to record some troubling drama in the lives of Judah and his children.
August 28	TLH 521/LSB 760	Genesis 39	Joseph serves faithfully in the home of his Egyptian master, Potiphar. When the wife of Potiphar accuses Joseph falsely, Potiphar sends Joseph to prison.
August 29	LSB 877	Genesis 40	Joseph accurately interprets the dreams of two of his fellow prisoners.
August 30	LSB 793	Genesis 41	Two years later, Pharaoh calls on Joseph to interpret his dreams. Joseph interprets the dreams and recommends a plan of action for the preservation of Egypt through an upcoming time of famine. Pharaoh makes Joseph second-in-command of all Egypt.
August 31	TLH 444/LSB 668	Ephesians 6	Paul gives the Ephesians instructions for children, parents, slaves, and masters, finally encouraging all believers to “take up the whole armor of God.” Paul concludes his letter with final greetings.

## SEEN IN PASSING

Items of interest from various sources of religious news and opinion, in print and on the web.

**AI Catholic Priest Defrocked.** An artificial intelligence “priest” named “Father Justin,” who used algorithms to answer questions about RC theology, has had his virtual plug pulled after two short days online. Catholic Answers, a lay-run apologetics and evangelization group based in El Cajon, California, came up with the AI “priest” as a way to build traffic on their website. They were admittedly unprepared for the immediate torrent of objections from mainline Catholics about the scheme, and were pressured to shut down the chatbot cleric. Some found him creepy. Some didn’t like his voice. Some worried about

replacing actual human beings. Some didn’t like his character being a priest. Chris Costello, director of information technology for Catholic Answers defended Father Justin, saying, “We do think artificial intelligence has a usefulness, at least as a starting point.” Several hours after that statement, however, the decision to end Father Justin was announced. McDonald, Matthew. “Catholic Answers Pulls Plug on ‘Father Justin’ AI Priest.” *Nation*. NCRRegister.com, 24 Apr. 2024. Web. 25 Apr. 2024.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2024 West Central Pastoral Conference

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado  
September 10-12

Agenda:

- A Study of the Promise of Romans 8:28 in context Romans 8:18-30—Pastor Cory Drehle
- A Review of Various Social Media Platforms as Outreach Tools—Pastor Benjamin Libby
- A Review of “Proselytizing” as It Relates to Liberal Christianity Today—Pastor Delwyn Maas
- Review of Typology and Allegory—Pastor James Naumann
- A Review of the Natural Law in Romans 2:15 and the Catechism—Pastor Paul Nolting
- Stale Discipline Cases—Pastor Richard Kanzenbach
- Exegetical Study of Hebrews 4:12 – Double-Edged Sword—Pastor Zachary Sippert
- Proper Preaching on Financial Stewardship: Christian Giving—Pastor Aaron Ude
- New Testament Exegesis (Romans 14:10ff.)—Pastor Timothy Daub
- Old Testament Exegesis (essayist’s choice)—Pastor Michael Roehl
- Grandchild Idolotry—Pastor Timothy Wheaton
- Chaplain— Pastor Paul Krause
- Speaker—Pastor Thomas Schuetze

—Submitted by Pastor Timothy Daub, Secretary



**Installation.** In accord with our usage and order, **Nathanael Mayhew**, who was called by Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mankato, Minnesota, to be their second pastor, was installed on May 25, 2024. Also participating in the service were (back row, left to right) Pastors Nathan Pfeiffer, Luke Willitz, George Dummann and Paul Tiefel.

—Pastor Joseph Naumann