

the REPORter

Editor's Entry

The Season of Lent is the theme of Volume I, Issue 2. We've expanded to 12 pages—a reflection of the generosity of those who contribute their writing talents to *the repORter*. My sincere thanks to you all!

Look for a terrific feature on Tom Strub's dental mission trips, a fascinating book review about What Church was Like in Luther's Day; interesting close-ups on two of our cherished young parishioners; and a timely reminder of our fundraiser to install new Ed Wing windows (*windows that actually keep the heat inside the building!*).

A blessed Lententide to all.

-Greg Gerjerts

In This Issue

Pastor's Post: Reflections on Lent

Insights From our Board of Elders Chair

Let's Meet: Jessica Knox

Experiences in the Mission Field

Worship Wars in Early Lutheranism

Worldview Everlasting

Mary Martha Quilt Group

Plus lots more:



Pastor's Post

Reflections on Lent: Hard or Easy?

By Pastor Michael Knox

Let's be honest - most Christians want their "Christianity" to be like an insurance policy. Buy it, know it's there, have a good agent, hope you really don't need to use it, and then maybe review its coverage every few years.

How sad that for many Christians the faith they hold and the savior they seek is just to be used in cases of "emergency". Someone's sick, someone's going through a tough spell in their life, someone's struggling with people in their life. You know how it goes. Indeed, while Jesus is willing to be a part of your life in these circumstances, He desires so much more. Turning to Jesus "as needed" is not the Christian faith as taught by Jesus or the Savior He revealed Himself to be.



The Gospels of the New Testament describe Jesus's "ministry" as a journey. Jesus was **on His way** to Jerusalem where he would ultimately give His life as the ransom for lost humanity. The Church rejoices in the completion of that journey each year in the services of Holy Week culminating—in the events of Good Friday and the Festival of Easter—in the great celebration of our Lord's victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil.

In the months and days leading up to Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem He journeyed throughout the villages of Galilee, Samaria and Judea speaking of the life that those who are His disciples are called to live. In Jesus's teaching you hear, for example, that:

- the life of a Christian is one of cross bearing, suffering and persecution;
- it is a life of renouncing the world and all self-righteousness;
- it is a life of putting others' needs before your own;
- it is a life where you are called upon to love everyone, even your enemies;
- it is a life where you are commanded to do good to others, even those who slander and hurt you;
- it is a life of vigilance and patience as you wait for your Lord's glorious return;
- it is a life of repentance, confessing one's own sin and guilt;
- it is a life of humble and childlike faith in the works and merits of Jesus;
- it is a life of seeing your life, and all that you have and are, as being the possession of God, entrusted to you to be used for His glory and the benefit of your fellow man;
- it is a life in which you are called to forgive one another as God has forgiven you.

Doesn't that sound easy? I think you know the answer. The conclusion of Jesus's teaching is direct: **It's hard to be a Christian!** In fact, by your own

Continued on Page 9

CouncilConnection

Insights From Our Board of Elders Chair

By Glenn Staudinger



In the New Testament, a reference to “elders” is usually about “Pastor types”. In the Old Testament, a reference to elders easily brings to mind the leaders of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Entering the third year of my second term on the Board of Elders, I see the reference as a little bit of both. Generally we think “elder” means older. I always did. At least it was a good excuse not to join the Board—and I now find myself being the Board’s oldest. But age has nothing to do with it!

Probably a better word is wisdom. From my perspective, the entire Board of Elders and Assistant Elders is wise beyond my years (remember, I’m the oldest). Wisdom knows stuff; more importantly, it means knowing and accepting the *right* stuff. Knowing the word of God in its truth and purity—i.e., read, taught and preached as written in the Scriptures and explained in the Lutheran Confessions—is knowing and accepting the right stuff. Pastor Knox teaches and preaches the right stuff! This observation is the essential component of the mandate of the Board of Elders: to watch over the spiritual wellbeing of the congregation. The desired effect of hearing is faith.

The place where we hear is that building on Bluff Street in Cedar Falls. As the Sainted Klemet Preus once said, “The building is a mundane dwelling place where God does his work.” Actually, he was talking about the theology of the cross, which he said means that “God does his greatest work through lowly, insignificant, mundane, commonplace, little things. So God did His greatest work by this tiny baby in a manger. . . . God does his greatest work hanging on a cross and crying out in agony. . . . God’s greatest work is the work by which He forgives your sins and saves you eternally. . . . God does His greatest work through water, just plain old water. God does His greatest work through bread and wine, which is the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament. He adds words to these mundane things and that is God’s greatest work.” (Preus’ sermon from May 2007, reprinted in *LOGIA*.) The congregation of Our Redeemer, part of the “bride of Christ, His Church”, is a mundane dwelling place.

We welcome the energy and “mundane understanding” of Ryan Thornton and Matt Kenitzer as newly elected Elders, and Scott Irwin and Adam Lewis as appointed Assistant Elders.

Be ready for more mundane stuff to come, as evidenced in the following:

- The ongoing updating and reconciliation of inactive member lists has continued to be discussed. Office Manager Tammy Nicholson, Pastor Knox, and Stewardship Chair Greg Gerjerts have reconciled membership records and the Church360 software. Recommendations for action will come from the Elders to remove or transfer those identified as acutely inactive. The office manager also is entering communion attendance data into the software. Pastor and

the Elders are very concerned about the spiritual wellbeing of all the members of the “body of Christ”, particularly those not regularly present at the Table.

- Corporate Confession with Individual Absolution and Individual Confession and Absolution, as is now our custom, will be held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. or by appointment with Pastor Knox. During Lent the normal schedule will be changed to follow the 2nd and 5th Lenten Midweek Services (February 25 and March 25).
- Pre-Confirmation classes have been meeting on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m.
- The Service Bulletin format was changed and modified as constructive input was received and added to the format.
- ACELC Theses on Holy Communion: The draft of the Holy Communion theses from the Association of Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Congregations (ACELC) was discussed by the Elders in April and reported to the Voters in May (2014). The proposed changes from Our Redeemer were then passed along to the ACELC board of directors via The Reverend Rick Sawyer. Revised Theses have not yet been received from the ACELC to review and present to the Voters. More information was gathered from the ACELC meeting in February (2015).
- We reviewed all our goals for 2014 and set new goals for 2015 at our December meeting. Attention to better communication with members, both active and those moving toward inactivity, will be a high priority.

Goals for 2015

1. Communications
 - a. ACELC—e-blasts posted in Parish Hall
 - b. Concern Letters
 - c. Elders’ Activities
 - d. “repORter” articles
 - e. Intra-board—email ideas and/or concerns or problems as they come up: don’t wait for a meeting
 - f. Inter-board—Council approved two “All Boards nights”
2. Workshops
 - a. Hosting an Organist/Music Directors Workshop, Fall, 2015
3. Improving Attendance
 - a. Church
 - b. Bible Classes
 - c. Confession/Absolution—available following 2nd and 5th Lenten midweek Services
 - d. Lutheran Confessions Class—all Elders should be in attendance

Hopefully all the “mundane” things happening at ORLC will continue to bless you and keep you in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

LWML's 36th Biennial Convention—*Register Now!*

By Judy Fink

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) 36th Biennial Convention will be held June 25 -28, 2015, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. These national conventions are held every two years in various parts of the United States. The last convention held in Iowa was 30 years ago in Ames. Iowa Districts East and West are excited to be hosting this year's convention under the Theme "Bountiful! Sow—Nourish—Reap".

This is a fitting theme for the heartland of America, where we recognize how bountifully God shares His love and goodness and how He equips us by the Holy Spirit to be in our Father's mission field. Truly we will be fed by God's Word and Sacrament, nurtured through worship and fellowship, and equipped to sow, nourish, and reap in the Lord's harvest field long after the convention has ended.

The convention's scripture verse is: "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)



If you have never attended a National LWML Convention, please consider doing so this June. If you can't be there the whole time, come for a day or two. Especially try to attend the opening Service on Thursday. Come, meet and make new friends with fellow sisters in Christ from all over the United States. You will be glad you attended!

There will be many things in which to participate such as servant events, packaging meals for Kids against Hunger, making lap robes, marking Bibles for Prison Ministry, making plastic bag mats, tying quilts, and much more. You will be fed spiritually with Bible Study and worship, speakers and singing. You also will be meeting and making new friends from all over the United States. Various day trips are planned to interesting sites around the Des Moines area before and after the Convention for those interested.

Please pick up a copy of the Lutheran Women's Quarterly on the table in the Parish Hall. You will find all the information about the convention registration and hotels and activities in the Quarterly or you can go to www.lwml-ied.org and click on 2015 Convention, then click on "2015 Convention Information and Registration).

Early discounted registration opened February 1. Regular registration opens on March 14, although the registration fee increases at that time so you will want to register early. **Talk to Judy Fink** if you would be interested in attending, and feel free to ask her any questions you may have.

Quilt Group Gatherings!

March	April
2, 9:00-11:00 a.m.	9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.	13, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
12, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	18, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
16, 9:00-11:00 a.m.	23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
21, 9:00-11:00 a.m.	27, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	May
30, 9:00-11:00 a.m.	2, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Parishioner Profile: *Emily Kenitzer*



Emily Kenitzer is Our Redeemer's newest member and recently married Matt. Emily has lived all over the Midwest. She was born in Michigan, was raised in Illinois, and attended college in Wisconsin. Now, Emily lives here in Iowa, and her family lives in Minnesota. Emily has always been an LCMS Lutheran. She is trained and credentialed as a teacher of Spanish. Tennis and travel are her favorite pastimes.

From "God Grant It"

Daily Devotions from the Sermons of C.F.W. Walther
Tuesday, The Week of Quinquagesima

The crucified One stands in the middle of world history as the banner to whom the prophets pointed forward and to whom the apostles and evangelical preachers point back as the Lamb of God, who bears the sins of the world. And, as John writes in the Book of Revelation, He was crucified "before the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

May this move us daily during the Lenten season before us to search the writings of the prophets in holy silence, both to find references to the suffering and dying Christ and to see, as in a mirror, the abomination of our sins and God's anger over them. There, too, we will find the complete atonement of our

sins and the riches of divine love and grace. We are completely blind to this by nature, but let us, in simple faith, call on Christ to open our eyes. In this way, we will experience the power of the holy Word: "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well" (Luke 18:42).

*Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me,
By Thy stripes, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Thy cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yea, Thy comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Thy all atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation. Amen*

(TLH 144:4)

Let's Meet Our Youth . . . *Jessica Knox!*

By Tom Wemlinger



Many of you have watched this young lady grow up here at Our Redeemer, and have seen her smiling face at church just about every Sunday morning.

But you may not know that on Saturday evenings, she can usually be found in Shell Rock, lending a youthful voice to worship services at Peace Lutheran Church. She is a valued member of our youth and chamber choirs here at Our Redeemer, and she also enjoys making shut-in and hospital calls with her dad.

Let's learn a little more about Jessica Knox!

Q. What school do you attend?

A. Cedar Falls High School.

Q. What year in school?

A. Sophomore (10th grade).

Q. What is your favorite subject?

A. Math.

Q. How about your least favorite subject?

A. English.

Q. What do you like most and least about school?

A. I enjoy CF High because you are able to make more choices on your own. You get to pick more electives for classes and you are allowed to carry your backpack from class to class. What I like least is the extra load of homework this year.

Q. What are some of your favorite activities?

A. Pep band, weightlifting and running, band and marching band, track, cross country.

Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?

A. Sing and listen to music.

Q. If you were stuck on a desert island, what are three things you could not do without?

A. Food, clothing, water.

Q. Who is your favorite musical group/performer?

A. Taylor Swift.

Q. If you found a \$100 bill on the way home from school, what would you do?

A. Try to find the owner.

Q. Tell about what you plan to do after graduation.

A. After graduating I would like to go to college and study physical therapy. I want to be a physical therapist for children.

Q. What do you enjoy most about visiting hospitals and nursing homes?

A. It brings me great joy to visit the elderly who cannot get to church very easily.

Q. What is your favorite Bible verse? What makes it special to you?

A. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade away- kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power" (1 Peter 1:3-5). It is special to me because it is my confirmation Bible verse.

Q. What else would you like for people to know about Jessica Knox?

A. I am a caring person and I enjoy serving others. I would love to work with children.

Way To Go, Mitchell Dekutoski!

Reprinted From 18 January Celebrations (Waterloo Courier)

CEDAR FALLS -- Mitchell Dekutoski, a student at Cedar Falls High School, has been selected for the 2015 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall.

He will perform as a second bass at Carnegie Hall in February with the Honors Choir. Participation in one of the three Honors Ensembles is limited to the highest rated high school performers from across North America and selected schools internationally.

Dekutoski, a junior, auditioned this fall for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review. He will join other performers from 49 U.S. states, several Canadian provinces, and several foreign countries for a special performance at Carnegie Hall.

Dekutoski has studied music for eight years and is a member of the Cedar Falls High School Concert Choir, where he serves as vice president. He is also a member of the Jazz Band and Symphonic Band, where he plays the baritone saxophone.

Experiences and Adventures in the Mission Field

By Tom Strub

As many of you may know, I have been involved in overseas dental mission work in Third World countries for the last 22 years. It all began in 1993 after I shared an interest with a friend at Zion Lutheran Church LCMS in Albert Lea, Minnesota: I wanted to use my God-given dental talents to the benefit of those less fortunate in other parts of the world. Little did I know that my friend's sister was the leader of a dental mission team from Peace Lutheran Church LCMS in Hurst, Texas, and that I would soon have an opportunity to walk the walk and not just talk the talk.

In early 1994, I received an invitation to be a part of their dental mission team that had been going to Honduras since 1986. Not knowing exactly what to expect, but trusting that God would lead me and provide for me, I accepted this invitation that would turn out to change my life significantly.



So in July of 1994, I boarded an airplane for Dallas not knowing anyone with whom I would spend the next 8 days, and very

little about the country I was to go to or the people I would serve. My expectation was that this trip was about how I would help others, and I was completely blindsided by the fact that that was only a small part of it. In reality, the next 15 trips were really about how God was going to impact me and my faith.

Before we even began to set up our dental clinic at an orphanage that first morning, I was introduced to one of two women who were the sole caretakers for 113 children. She told me that her day had started out at 4:00 a.m. with a knock on her door, where she found two babies in a cardboard box with a note stating, "Please take care of my children as you can give them a better life than I can." Just minutes later a young woman handed me her starving six-year-old son and said to me, "You're an American doctor. Save my child."

I was totally unprepared for those incidents. My thoughts were, "Hey, I'm here to save teeth, not lives. And like Dorothy in the Wizard Of Oz, I said to myself, "Tom, this isn't Minnesota anymore." We were able to take up a collection from the 24 mission team members



to send the young boy to the nearest hospital, 50 miles away, only to find that there were no antibiotics or even IV solutions available there. He died of starvation three days later.

That year I remember working on a gentleman who was 58 years old. When I asked him how I could help him, he related that his teeth were so infected that for the last 30 years he had only gotten two hours of sleep at night because of the pain. He said he had a family of five to care for and it cost him six weeks' salary to have one tooth removed. It came down to pain relief or literally being able to feed his family. After removing eight teeth and filling twelve more, he got up and hugged me. I could relate hundreds of stories just like this one, as it is the norm on our trips.

We usually have four to seven dentists on each trip and 20 to 23 support people—of whom usually only



one or two have any professional dental background or formal dental training. Because of our somewhat limited equipment—no dental X-ray units and sometimes limited and unpredictable electrical and water supplies—and the non-dental facilities we often operate in like churches, schools or government buildings, we confine our treatment to tooth extractions and routine dental fillings. We do not have the facilities or equipment to do more sophisticated dental treatment like root canals, dentures, crowns, bridges or implants.

It's really quite like the 4077th MASH unit you used to see on television. Patients go thru a brief intake station where a short medical history is taken. Then they move to the hygiene station (cont'd on page 7)

... in the Mission Field (Cont'd from page 6)



where they get instructions on brushing and flossing and are given a toothbrush and floss, which many have never had or used before. Next they move onto the diagnosis area where we do a visual exam to chart the needed fillings and tooth extractions as best we can. They then proceed to the anesthetic station and then to either the drilling and filling stations or to the extraction station. Following this, they are released.

The support staff (teachers, computer programmers, engineers, nurses, housewives, salesmen, etc.) man the intake station, give the hygiene instructions, do the sterilization, work as dental assistants, and re-supply all the stations. The whole process usually takes place in one large room, so privacy is at a minimum. It is really like running one large emergency dental room and it actually works quite well. We have our routine worked out smoothly over the years so it runs like a well-oiled machine. We can usually see about 120 patients a day, but most days we have 200-250 people waiting for us at 7:30 a.m. when we open the clinic. Amazingly, the people are so desperate for care that they wait all day and, if they aren't seen, they travel home and come all the way back again the next day, which sometimes involves a 10-15 mile walk.

We try to close the clinic by 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. We wrap up the day after supper with a short devotion given by Pastor Walt or one of the team members, and a team meeting to go over the day's activities and to prepare for the next day. A normal week's work for us will involve 1200-1500 extractions and 1000-1200 fillings at a value of \$250,000-\$400,000.

My dental mission adventures have taken me to 11,000 feet in the



Indian Himalayas, twice to the ghettos of Panama City, and 11 times to the mountain communities of Honduras—where we have established some very special relationships. Unfortunately, in the last five years in Honduras we have had to have two guards armed with Uzi machine guns travel with us at all times for safety. Last year we finally had to leave Honduras because of the violence there, and switched locations to the destitute of Belize, where we will be serving again this year.

Over the years, my wife Char has made six trips with me and I have been blessed to be able to share the experience—intense and rewarding as it is—with 19 other people. You come back a changed person with a different appreciation for the blessings that God has given you, how God uses the unique talents that you have for His glory, and how He strengthens your faith through the experiences. I continue to be humbled at how much more I receive from God on these mission



trips than I ever give to the people I go to serve.

Tom is "always available" for presentations to share his photos and many other stories about his mission adventures and experiences.

HymnCycle

Lenten Season Readings and Hymns

SUNDAY, 1 MARCH 2015, 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38
Hymn of the Day: Christ, The Word Of God Incarnate 540
Dist Hymn: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart 708
Dist Hymn: The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord 634
Dist Hymn: Not All the Blood of Beasts..... 431

WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2015, MIDWEEK VESPERS II

The Readings: 2nd & 3rd Commandments
The Psalmody: Psalm 22:23- 31 (antiphon: v. 22)
Office Hymn: *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*..... 581 (vv 3-4, 12)

SUNDAY, 8 MARCH 2015, 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38
Hymn of the Day: The Law of God Is Good and Wise 579
Dist Hymn: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness 563
Dist Hymn: Come Unto Me, Ye Weary..... 684
Dist Hymn: Let Me Be Thine Forever 689

WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2015, MIDWEEK VESPERS III

The Readings: 4th & 6th Commandments
The Psalmody: Psalm 19 (antiphon: v 8)
Office Hymn: *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*..... 581 (vv 5, 7, 12)

SUNDAY, 15 MARCH 2015, 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
Hymn of the Day: God Loved the World So That He Gave 571
Dist Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared622 (vv 1-4)
Dist Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared622 (vv 5-8)
Dist Hymn: The Tree Of Life..... 561

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2015, MIDWEEK VESPERS IV

The Readings: 5th & 8th Commandments
The Psalmody: Psalm 107:1-9 (antiphon: v 19)
Office Hymn: *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*..... 581 (vv 6, 9, 12)

SUNDAY, 22 MARCH 2015, 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:32-45
Hymn of the Day: My Song Is Love Unknown..... 430
Dist Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray 623
Dist Hymn: Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me 683
Dist Hymn: Through Jesus' Blood and Merit 746

WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2015, MIDWEEK VESPERS V

The Readings: 7th, 9th & 10th Commandments
The Psalmody: Psalm 119:9-16 (antiphon: v 10)
Office Hymn: *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*581 (vv 8, 10,-11, 12)

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015 THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1- 15:47
Entrance Hymn: *All Glory Laud and Honor* 442
Hymn of the Day: My Song Is Love Unknown..... 430
Dist Hymn: Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion 559
Dist Hymn: Upon The Cross Extended 453

Continued on Page 9

New Windows in the Ed Wing!

By Gerry Peterson

On January 18, 2015, the Our Redeemer voters accepted the recommendations of the Trustees and the Church Council and decided to go ahead with a project to replace 27 windows in the Education Wing. The voters also directed the Church Council to seek financing for the project, if that is necessary.

The old windows are in very bad condition. The project will completely replace those windows: glass, frames, sills, trim, flashing, and caulk. On a trial basis, the contractor replaced three windows, including one that you can see in the church secretary's office. The Trustees are satisfied with the quality of the work. The improvement in temperature control is remarkable. That bill has been paid.

The project will cost \$54,000. The bill will likely be due in mid to late March. We have about \$15,000 saved for that bill. We also have a \$20,000 line of credit (LOC) from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) available. We have talked with the LCEF representative. She assures us that we could also apply for an unsecured note for whatever we need. Interest rates for both the LOC and the note are 3 7/8 per cent.

Your contributions to Our Redeemer have been strong. Thanks to you and thanks be to God. We



should be able to pay off our mortgage in a few months and, if our application for a vicarage is successful, we should be able to handle those expenses, too. The obstacle with the windows project is that the bill must be paid soon.

As we did with the boiler project a few years ago, we would like to raise money for the window project before the bill is due. That would enable us to borrow as little money as possible.

Over the next few weeks, please consider carefully what you might be able to contribute to this project. Any contribution would be a sound investment in the security, utility, and weatherproofing of our facilities.

If you wish to make a contribution to this project, you may put it into your regular contribution envelope. Simply write "Windows" on the memo line to distinguish it from your regular contribution.

If you have questions, please see me, Stewardship Chair Greg Gerjerts, or any Council member.

Reflections on Lent

Continued from Page 1

reason, your own strength, your own efforts, it is impossible to become, to remain, or to live as a child of God.

St. Paul knew this well. He wrote to the Philippians, "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (Philippians 2:12-13).

This same Apostle knew that the Christian life was a constant battle with the forces of evil and described it in terms of training for an athletic contest: "I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified" (I Corinthians 9:26-27).

In the face of this humbling teaching one thing has remained constant: God's faithfulness to you in the life and work of Jesus your Savior. **Everything He teaches you that you are unable to be or to do, Jesus has, is, and continues to be and do for you.**

That's why it is so comforting to hear from the Word of God: "Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

In a word, what St. Paul describes here is God's love for you and for all people! This kind of love is the love of which St. Paul spoke when he wrote to the Romans: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us'" (Romans 5:8).

This kind of love is the love of which St. John spoke of when he wrote, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This is the kind of love with which God has loved you. The love which Jesus described with these words: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Christ's love for you led Him to die for you, as symbolized by the crucifix you see each and every Sunday in the church. The benefits of that love include forgiveness of all of your sins, victory over death and the devil, and the promise of everlasting life.

God has bestowed this "new life" upon you richly in the lowly and humble way of being baptized into His death and resurrection. That life is sustained in you as you listen to the voice of Jesus in the preaching and teaching of His word. That life is renewed each time you kneel in your Savior's presence and He feeds you with His body and blood.

Is the Christian life hard? Yes. But Jesus says to you, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

The "hard life" of the Christian is made "easy" in Christ.

HymnCycle

Continued from Page 8

THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2015, MAUNDY THURSDAY, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Exodus 12:1-14, I Corinthians 10:16-17; ; Mark 14:12-26

Preparation: O Lord, We Praise Thee.....	617
Hymn of the Day: The Infant Priest Was Holy Born	624
Dist Hymn: Your Table I Approach	628
Dist Hymn: The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.....	634

FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2015, GOOD FRIDAY, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Hymn of the Day: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	450
Dist Hymn: O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken ..	439 (v.1-4)
Dist Hymn: O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”	439 (v.5-7)

SUNDAY, 5 APRIL 2015, FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9, I Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

Processional: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.....	457
Gradual: With High Delight Let Us Unite	483
Verse: Good Christian Friends Rejoice And Sing	475
Hymn of the Day: Hail Thee, Festival Day	465
Dist Hymn: This Joyful Eastertide	482
Dist Hymn: The Strife Is O'er	464
Dist Hymn: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia.....	466
Recessional: Now All The Vault Of Heaven Resounds	465

SUNDAY, 12 APRIL 2015, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 4:32-35; I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Invocation: With High Delight Let Us Unite.....	483
Gradual: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word	488
Verse: Good Christian Friends Rejoice And Sing	475
Hymn of the Day: O Sons And Daughters Of The King	471
Dist Hymn: Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands	458
Dist Hymn: Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain	487

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2015, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 3:11-21, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-49

Invocation: The Day Of Resurrection	478
Gradual: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word	488
Verse: Good Christian Friends Rejoice And Sing	475
Hymn of the Day: Thy Strong Word	578
Dist Hymn: Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal	533
Dist Hymn: He's Risen, He's Risen.....	480

SUNDAY, 26 APRIL 2015, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 4:1-12, I John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Invocation: Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free.....	473
Gradual: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word	488
Verse: Good Christian Friends Rejoice And Sing	475
Hymn of the Day: The King of Love My Shepherd Is.....	709
Dist Hymn: At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing.....	633
Dist Hymn: Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won.....	490

UpdatedData

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RelevantReview

Worship Wars in Early Lutheranism: Choir, Congregation, and Three Centuries of Conflict [What Church Was Like in Luther's Day: 1523-1546]

by Joseph Herl. Oxford University Press, 2008

Article by Elizabeth Peterson

Martin Luther (1483-1546) nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church in 1517. He had been an Augustinian Friar since 1505, only 12 years, and had achieved a doctorate in Theology during that time.



1523 was the year that Luther published his first Mass. It was entirely in Latin and included no congregational singing. The only changes he made initially were to eliminate references to the mass as a sacrifice and the invocation of saints. The Latin Mass was translated into German gradually over the years. As more German portions of the Mass were introduced, congregational participation increased.

First, to dispel a very silly legend: Luther did not use popular, secular music tunes for his hymns. He never used "bar" music; that is nonsense. When he used older tunes for his hymns, they were Gregorian Chants or semi-popular religious pieces, many of which had already been used in churches.

Here are some interesting facts about church in Luther's Day:

Divine Service on Sunday mornings were typically three hours long: first hour, readings and psalms; second hour, sermon; third hour, Holy Communion (the Communion portion was typically shorter than an hour, though, because few communed.) Divine Service was shortened in winter when the unheated churches were extremely cold. Divine Service was also held on many Holy Days and Feast Days; Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost were the big ones, but there were many more.

There were also numerous additional services during the week, especially in larger churches. Matins and Vespers were held either daily or at least several times during the week. Attendance at Vespers on Saturday afternoon with individual confession afterward was required for congregation members to commune at Divine Service the next day. Small Catechism service, at which children stood and recited portions of the Small Catechism, was held during the week.



Training Lutheran congregations to become active participants in the Divine Service was an uphill battle, since they were accustomed to being passive observers in the Catholic Mass. Some dozed, read, or even chatted during Divine Service.

Surprisingly, it was common for many in the congrega-

tions to attend only the sermon portion during the second hour. In good weather, many congregation members gathered outside the church and waited for a bell to ring when the Pastor entered the pulpit to preach. They went in at that time, sat through the sermon, and then left following the sermon. Very few people stayed to commune. The small number of communicants did shorten Divine Service from the standard three hours.

Continued on Page 12

BeggingYourAttendance

(All locations @ ORLC unless noted otherwise.)

March

- 4 Lenten Midweek Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 5 LWML @ College Hill LCMS, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Lenten Midweek Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Lenten Midweek Service, 7:00p.m.
- 25 Lenten Midweek Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Corporate/Individual Confession & Absolution, (following Service)
- 30 Midweek Holy Week Service, Noon
- 30 Altar Guild, 6:00 p.m.
- 30 Lutheran Confessions Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Midweek Holy Week Service, Noon

April

- 1 Midweek Holy Week Service, Noon
- 2 Midweek Holy Week Service, Noon
- 2 LWML @ College Hill Lutheran, 7:00 p.m.
- 2 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Good Friday Readings and Devotions on the Crucifixion, Noon
- 3 Good Friday Divine Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Easter Vigil, 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Easter, Divine Service, 9:30 a.m.



May

- 7 LWML Ladies Night Out, Dinner

June

- 25-28 LWML Convention, Iowa Events Center, Des Moines
- 26-27 Iowa East District Convention, Marriott Hotel, Cedar Rapids

July

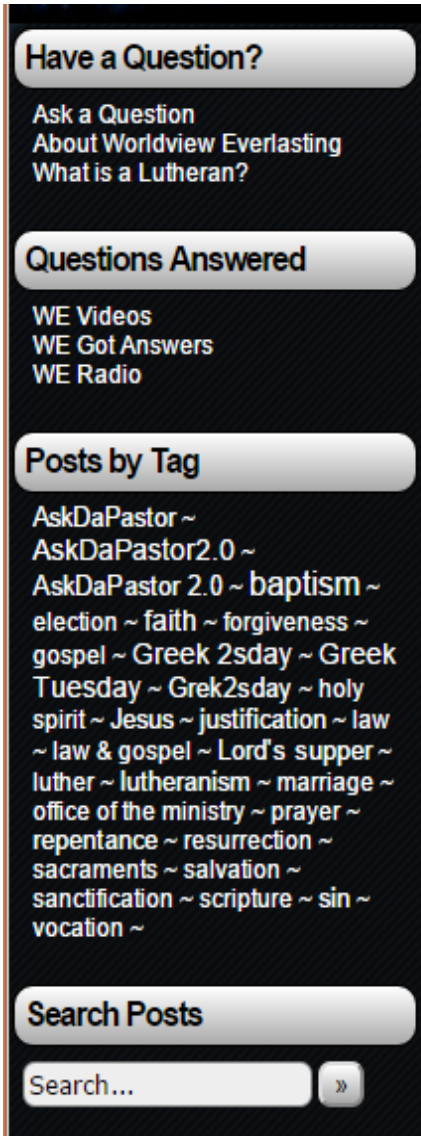
- 14-17 2015 Higher Things Conference, Univ of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

WebGem

Worldview Everlasting

<http://www.worldvieweverlasting.com/>

By Jennifer Knox



The screenshot shows a dark-themed navigation menu with several sections:

- Have a Question?**
 - Ask a Question
 - About Worldview Everlasting
 - What is a Lutheran?
- Questions Answered**
 - WE Videos
 - WE Got Answers
 - WE Radio
- Posts by Tag**
 - AskDaPastor ~
 - AskDaPastor2.0 ~
 - AskDaPastor 2.0 ~ baptism ~
 - election ~ faith ~ forgiveness ~
 - gospel ~ Greek 2sday ~ Greek
 - Tuesday ~ Grek2sday ~ holy
 - spirit ~ Jesus ~ justification ~ law
 - ~ law & gospel ~ Lord's supper ~
 - luther ~ lutheranism ~ marriage ~
 - office of the ministry ~ prayer ~
 - repentance ~ resurrection ~
 - sacraments ~ salvation ~
 - sanctification ~ scripture ~ sin ~
 - vocation ~
- Search Posts**
 - Search... [button]

Worldview Everlasting (WE) is not a static website. It has a variety of contributors and a vast array of types of media to indulge yourself with. As they say best on the website, “[Worldview Everlasting is] Committed to knowing nothing but Christ, and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins . . . and wondering why the Church in America has forgotten.”



WE has been around since the beginning of 2010 and its purveyors have been posting, creating videos, and answering

already been answered via video, written response, or audio. Moving on down the left side is a “Posts by Tag” section, so that if you have a topic in mind (e.g., Baptism) you could click on it and see the posts that have been tagged with the topic of choice.

Aside from doing a search of the website, you can also browse through posts by date. Another way you can browse is to look at the posts themselves in the middle of the page, where the most recent is listed first. Any way you look through this site, you will be sure to find something of interest related to confessional Lutheran theology.



questions ever since. If you are familiar with Pastor Jonathan Fisk and the YouTube videos he has created, you are familiar with a part of WE.

The site itself is fairly easy to navigate. Its creators did a good job using headings to help visitors find what they are looking for, and demonstrating a variety of ways to look at all WE has to offer.

Going down the left side you have a place to ask a question that will be answered by one of the contributors. Then there is a section for questions that have

If you make it through all of the content on this site, you should also check out all of the other blogs and sites linked to the WE page on both the left and right sides. If you are on social media, WE has a Facebook page and also a Google+ page. If you have an RSS reader, you can add Worldview Everlasting to it and bring all of your news feeds together.

If you're looking for something new, take a look at Worldview Everlasting—you won't be disappointed.



Mary-Martha Quilt Group

After sending Christmas quilts to the Seminary, we have now turned our attention to Lutheran World Relief Quilts. We also save our small fabric scraps and create doggy beds for the Humane Society.

Our 10 Doggy Beds for the Humane Society

Our First Mission Quilt for Lutheran World Relief (Stuffed With Fabric Scraps) Is Now Complete.



RelevantReview: *What Church Was Like in Luther's Day: 1523-1546*

Continued from Page 4

There were no pews or any other type of seating during Luther's time. These appeared around 1585 when rich people began to have private pews built in the churches for themselves. These private pews had walls and doors, and they were kept locked so that only their donors could use them.

Very few churches possessed an organ during this time. Smaller village churches were especially slow to acquire organs, and singing in church was performed without accompaniment. Even when churches had organs, they were initially used as solo instruments and to give the pitch to choirs. They even played alternate verses to the ones the choirs sang rather than accompany the choirs. The organists were always men.

Choirs consisted entirely of choir boys from the church schools. The church schools were for boys only. Girls were generally taught at home. Early in the period, the boys' choirs sang in unison—no parts.

The boys' choirs sang nearly all music in the service, as had been the case in the Catholic Mass. Congregational singing was limited for years, since:

- Very few hymns existed initially which were both suitable for Lutheranism and known to the congregations.
- New hymns were taught to the choirs first, and then to the congregations. It was a slow process.
- There were no hymnals. Over the years, printers offered music sheets and small pamphlets with common hymns in them, usually consisting of words only—no music. These publications included more hymns as more hymns were written. But individuals purchased them on their own. Hymnals were not provided in churches until the 1700s.
- Congregations were not initially enthusiastic about singing even the few hymns that they knew. Luther said that the congregation in Wittenberg did not sing as willingly as he would have liked, and many other churchmen of the day said the same. Church members may have brought their own pamphlet hymnals to church, but it is not clear how common a practice that was.

A cantor or the schoolmaster usually led the boys' choir. Congregational singing was led by the cantor, the schoolmaster, or the church clerk. Before organs were common, there often were problems with the leader's choice of starting note and timing.

The church clerk was the chief lay assistant to the Pastor. His many duties shed some interesting light on what church was like in Luther's time. The clerk was to:

- Ring the church bell at proper times related to the service
- Ring the prayer bell each morning, noon, and evening
- Set up the Altar and lead congregational singing
- Accompany the Pastor at baptisms, burials, and visitation of the sick
- Clean the baptismal font and put fresh water in it
- Clean the church
- Drive from the church stray dogs who run around during services and bite each other
- Keep grazing animals away from the churchyard
- Know the Small Catechism from memory and examine children on the Catechism
- Be able to sing and write the customary hymns in Latin and German
- Read from the Small Catechism when the Pastor cannot be present for services
- Assist the Pastor in admitting or excluding people from the Sacrament
- Attend every Lord's Supper to assist the Pastor and lead the hymn singing
- Dress as befits a servant of the church
- Not sell beer or brandy
- Not set himself against the Pastor

The items above compose only a small sample of the information in this remarkable book. It currently is not part of the OR library collection, but Elizabeth is happy to loan it to anyone who is interested.

Our Redeemer 904 Bluff Street



To: