

# the REPORTER

## Editor's Entry

The **Season of Easter** is the theme of Volume 1, Issue 3.

Thanks to our loyal writers, this issue is chock full of good reading! Look for: a solid review of John Kleinig's book, *Grace Upon Grace*; a recounting of the Brothers of John the Steadfast Conference held in Naperville, IL; an introduction to the "Sisters of Katie Luther" web site; insightful interviews of ORLC charter member Helen Heth and the multitalented Mitch Dekutoski; and further great insight into the life and times of Martin Luther.

*A blessed Easter Season to all.*

-Greg Gerjerts

## Also In This Issue:

*Pastor's Post: Reflections on Easter*

*Willie Grills: Our New Vicar!!*

*Central Middle School Choir, St. Paul!*

*Two Summer Conferences To Attend  
LWML Convention*

*LWML Fall Conference*

*Mary Martha Quilt Group*

*Ascension Day Services*

*Plus lots more:*

*Word Cloud Puzzle; Event Calendar;  
Upcoming Hymns & Readings; Attendance  
& Contribution Graphs*



## Pastor's Post

### *Reflections on Easter:*

## *I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting*

*By Pastor Michael Knox*

On her knees in humble repentance, with a smudge of a dusty cross upon her forehead, the church heard this truth on Ash Wednesday: "From dust you were formed and to dust you shall return." The reality of these words is confirmed when a Christian's body is laid in the grave: "We now commit the body of our brother to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."



It seems so cold, so harsh, so final. Has the Apostle lied when he boldly proclaims, "Death is swallowed up in victory"? How can he further taunt the seeming victor, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (I Cor. 15)

Appearances can be deceiving. The graveside service, when the Christian's body is laid to rest, is not the end of this body! God did not just create this body for a lifespan of only 80-90 years, as is the case with modern man, or even for 950 years, as was the case with Noah. God created man, with body and soul, to live for eternity. That is why Christians all over the world confess, "I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

Job confessed this faith long ago: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27) When Jesus promised Martha that her recently deceased brother Lazarus would rise, she too confessed this faith: "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." (John 11:24)

That is why the church in the burial of the dead doesn't stop with the words "dust to dust." She continues, "in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subdue all things to Himself."

# Like You Were There

## “When Heterodoxy Hits Home”

### Brothers of John the Steadfast Conference, Bethany Lutheran, Naperville, IL

By Tom Wemlinger

Is the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod capable of dealing with persistent false teaching in her midst? This became a most timely and pressing question in January of this year, when it was revealed that Prof. Matthew Becker, an LCMS clergyman who has for years been teaching contrary to the Scriptures on the subjects of creation, homosexuality, and women’s ordination, had been exonerated of all charges and was permitted to remain on the clergy roster. The case brought to light the grim reality that when it comes to dealing with

false teaching and false teachers, the LCMS is severely hamstrung by her own labyrinthine system of bylaws and dispute resolution procedures. How do we return to the Scriptural and Confessional standard for addressing heterodoxy?

Some 255 pastors and laypeople gathered in Naperville, Illinois, in February to hear noted speakers Rev. Brian Wolfmueller (pictured below), Rev. Todd Wilken, Rev. Fr. Larry



Beane, Rev. Clint Poppe, and Rev. Hans Fiene offer presentations on the topic “When Heterodoxy Hits Home.” Although the 2015 BJS conference theme was selected

months in advance, the issues highlighted by the Becker case in January were at least partially responsible for this year’s record number of registrants (with organizers even offering a



discount “Becker Rate” as the registration deadline approached). The presenters, while offering differing perspectives on the topic at hand, were all in accord on the necessity of addressing the current crisis concerning doctrine and practice in the LCMS.

In addition to the presentations, the many opportunities for worship (prayer offices, Divine Service), and great and plentiful food, participants were also privileged to hear an update by Rev. James May on the work of Lutherans in Africa (LiA). Focusing its efforts on training pastors and evangelists, LiA is preparing to move into the next phase of its ministry by building a permanent educational center in Kenya.

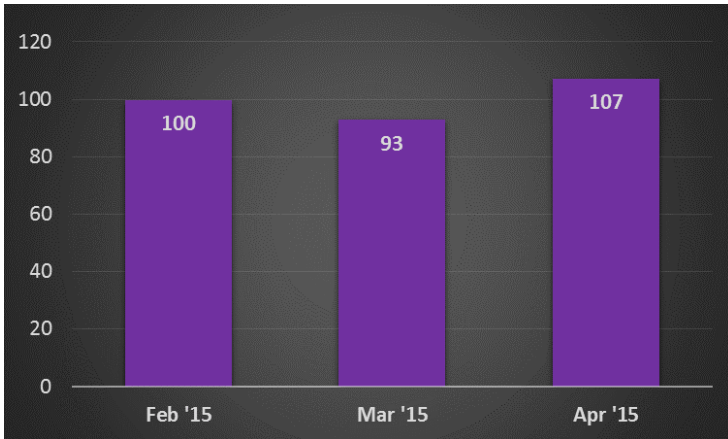
You can learn more about Rev. May and the work of LiA at:  
[www.lutheransforafrica.com](http://www.lutheransforafrica.com)

Video and audio presentations from the 2015 BJS Conference are available at:  
[steadfastlutherans.org/category/2015bjsconference](http://steadfastlutherans.org/category/2015bjsconference)

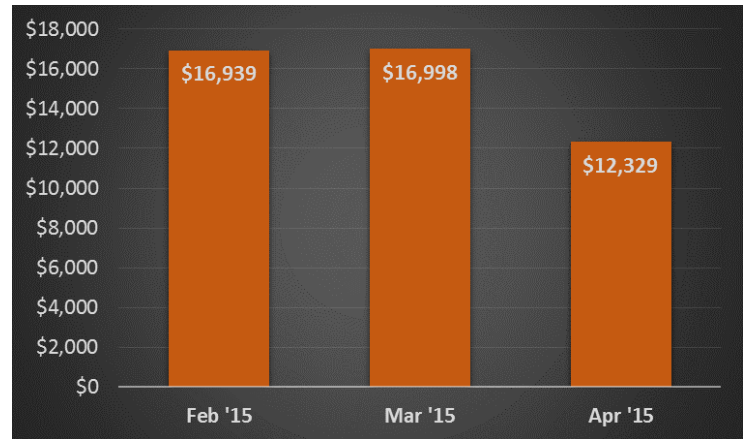


# ORLC By The Numbers

Divine Service Average Attendance



Divine Service Total Contributions



## Cloudy Content

Impress the Editor: Guess the Textual Source of this Word Cloud!

**Word Cloud:** An image composed of words that are used in a particular text or document.

The size of each word indicates its frequency or importance.

**Last Edition's Solution:** Explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles Creed





# LWML's National Convention—Register Now!

By Judy Fink

**May 2015:** Spring in the Heartland! It's time to plant God's grace and mercy as we prepare to receive our guests at the 36th Biennial LWML Convention in Des Moines, June 25-28. We ask God's guidance that His plans will be our plans. ***If you have not yet sent in your registration, please do so prior to the deadline.*** Workers and Pages are still needed for the convention. If you plan to be a worker at the convention, please fill out the worker form and send to Jan Steffen (address is on the form). When you receive your worker confirmation, follow the steps in your worker assignment packet. Remember to complete the registration form in the packet and attach your worker coupon to receive a \$65 discount. Convention Logo Polo Shirt mail orders need to be postmarked no later than May 15—but the postmark deadline is June 1 to be able to pick up your shirt at the convention.



Please go to the host website, <http://www.lwml-ied.org/>, to view the Host Committee Convention Newsletter, "Bountiful Blessings". Feel free to contact Judy Fink with any questions you may have about attending the convention. It will be worth your time to attend!

"Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn" (Matthew 13:30).

**June 2015:** Complete the Harvest! It's time to dig deeply from His Word, Glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and Share His overflowing love. Pray for safe travel as we gather to participate and experience a life changing opportunity to serve wherever we are called. Don't be late for the Opening Worship with Rev. Gregory Seltz, Proclaimer. Our Awesome God leads us to the bounty to sow, nourish and reap His Word to all in attendance and carry it into the Harvest fields. You will be BLESSED!

"And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

## Iowa East District LWML Fall Retreat

Camp IoDisECa will be the site of the Iowa East District LWML Fall Retreat to be held on Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19, 2015. Registration and Servant Events will begin at 1:00 p.m. with supper and opening devotions beginning Friday at 5:30 p.m.. Registration begins Saturday at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed by devotions and Bible Study.

The Theme is "Harvesting the Bounty of God's Love" (John 3:16). All ladies in Iowa East District are invited to attend. If you cannot attend both days, plan to attend either the Friday or Saturday session. You will join your sisters in Christ from all over Iowa East in Bible Study, singing, servant events, laughter, and fellowship. Mark September 18 and 19 on your calendar.

LWML's Waterloo Zone is hosting this event. More information and the registration form will be in the Summer issue of the *Alive in Iowa East* newsletter.

## Summer Conferences

You may wish to consider two excellent conferences this summer:

Issues, Etc. is hosting its "Making the Case Conference" for the third year in a row. This conference is geared for laymen, which means that the content of the speakers does not get too academic. The conference is held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL, across the river from St. Louis. Some of the speakers include Dr. Paul Maier, Mollie Ziegler Hemingway, Pastor Jonathan Fisk, and Pastor Chris Rosebrough. The dates are June 19-20, and registration is limited to 400. The details may be found at:

<http://issuesetc.org/47753-2/> .

The other conference is the Concordia Catechetical Academy Symposium held at Peace Lutheran Church in Sussex, WI. The presenters include John Pless, Pastor Burnell Eckardt, Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, and Richard Resch. The topic of the symposium is "Pastoral Care for the Shepherd and His Sheep: Catechesis under the Office of the Keys and Confession." The dates are June 17-19. More information may be found at:

<http://lutherancatechesis.org/symposium/>

## Mary-Martha Quilt Group

(All Meetings at ORLC)

May 2, 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
May 7, 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
May 11, 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
May 16, 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
May 21, 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
May 30, 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
June 4, 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
June 8, 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
June 13, 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
June 18, 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
June 22, 9:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.  
June 27, 9:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.

# Let's Meet Our Youth . . . Mitchell Dekutoski!

By Tom Wemlinger

This month's youth spotlight shines on a face that is familiar to many of you. This young man will often be seen at church patiently attending to his little brother while his mother is occupied with her duties playing the organ. He will often be heard as well, lending his smooth bass voice to our youth and chamber choirs. Let's find out a little more about Mitchell Dekutoski!

Q. What school do you attend?

A. I attend Cedar Falls High School.

Q. What year in school?

A. I am a Junior.

Q. What is your favorite subject? How about your least favorite subject?

A. My favorite Subject is History, my least favorite is English.

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

A. I like all the opportunities I am given here at this school. My least favorite thing is all the homework.

Q. What are some of your favorite activities?

A. I like sports and music.

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

A. I plan to stay here in Iowa, and go to a four year college.

Q. You did some volunteer work with the Muscular Dystrophy Association last summer. Tell us a little bit about your

camp experience.

A. I went to MDA thinking it was going to be a drag, but after the week was over, I realized how much fun I actually had. These kids don't get to do much in life, but this is the one chance they have to be like a normal child, and they love it. Which in turn makes it fun for the counselors.

Q. You were recently selected to participate with a national honors choir for a concert at Carnegie Hall. How did you get selected for that honor, and how was your trip?

A. I was sent a letter a couple weeks after All-State telling me about this group, and how to audition. So I did for the heck of it, and I got selected as a finalist. So I went to New York, and had the time of my life.

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

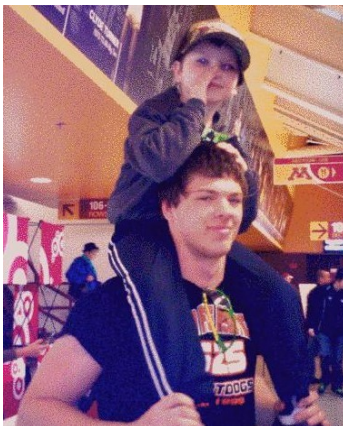
A. John 3:16. I like it because it explains why we are saved,

Q. If your house caught fire and you had time enough to grab only three things before getting out, what three things would you grab?

A. My sheet music, my saxophone, and any person or animal living in the house.

Q. What else would you like for people to know about Mitchell Dekutoski?

A. Not much, really.



*“ . . . they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”*



College Professor Amy Engelsdorfer) to the traditional Zambian song *Bonse Ab*” and *Lo Yissa Goy*, a Hebrew folk song.

Special thanks to many congregation members who contributed to the evening meal and Saturday breakfast for the choir and adult chaperones.

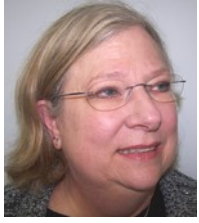
This perfectly describes an energetic and delightful group of Central Lutheran School, St. Paul, Minnesota, middle-schoolers presenting a concert April 17 at Our Redeemer. Under the direction of Elizabeth Wegner, 33 youth lifted their voices in praise to God to a most appreciative audience.

The repertoire was an ever-changing melody of selections, from traditional hymns such as *Amazing Grace* (arranged by Luther



# What was Martin Luther Really Like?

By Elizabeth Peterson



For Lutherans, Martin Luther is an iconic figure. His theology, especially as expressed in works such as his Small Catechism and his hymnody, is mostly how we know him.

But gradually, over my decade as a new Lutheran, I have begun to wonder: what sort of person was Martin Luther?

I have begun reading about the history of Lutheranism, and I have found that I need to understand the people who are a major part of that history, in order to be able to learn and understand the historical events that involve those people. Once I get a bit of a handle on the people, the events become meaningful and memorable.

So, in order to start researching the history of Lutheranism, I have recently been reading about Luther. I am beginning to find out so many interesting things about him that I propose to write a several-part essay on Luther. This will be my first installment, and in it I will describe Luther's physical appearance and health.

## Important dates in Luther's Life

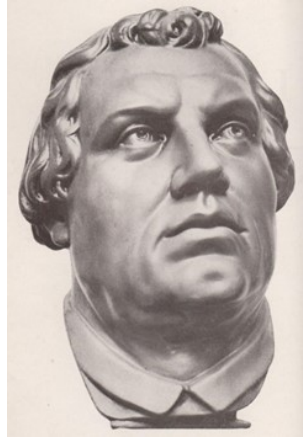
Martin Luther was born in 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. He entered a monastery in 1505, became a priest in 1507. Luther earned a doctorate in 1512 and became a professor at Wittenberg University. He nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg church in 1517, and married Katherina von Bora eight years later. When he died in 1546, he happened to be traveling through Eisleben, so that, entirely by coincidence, he died in the town of his birth.

## Physical Appearance

Surprising to me was that when Luther was younger, he was described as being quite thin. This shows somewhat in the two images below. During his years as an Augustinian monk, he lost weight due to both the frugal meals in the monastery and also to over-diligence in fasting, which left him quite thin until his marriage in 1525, after which Katy made sure that he was better fed.



A physical description of him when he was 36 (by Mosellenus) includes these elements: "Martin is of middle height [in the middle-1500's this was about 5 feet 6



inches tall] and slender body, worn out by study and care, so that you can almost count his bones...His voice is sharp and clear." (Plass, p. 32)

"He carried himself erect, tilting his head backwards. If this created an image of self-importance, it was belied by Luther's entire demeanor, which while increasingly self-confident, was genuinely modest and unassuming." (Plass, p. 32)

Luther's hair was medium-to-dark brown and wavy, or curly, as shown in the multiple images on these pages. Also easily seen: he had a prominently cleft chin.

Interestingly, his eyes were called his most significant feature, and were referred to as being very striking and compelling: "Perhaps nothing about Luther's appearance is more frequently referred to by his contemporaries as his eyes. They were black, deep-set, and slanted slightly downward toward the bridge of his nose. They were unforgettable eyes, marvelously expressive." (Plass, p. 33)

A man who met Luther at an inn remarked, "His eyes are black and deep-set, shining and sparkling like stars, so that one might well not bear to look at them." (Plass, p. 33) You can see slight hints of this in the images above, but the expressiveness of his eyes probably was dependent upon changing facial expressions which do not show in still images.

Luther's eyes made his opponents in debate uneasy. One adversary said this, "I will no more discuss matters with this beast; he has eyes deep as lakes and marvelous speculations in his head." (Plass, p.33)

## Voice

Luther's voice was not deep..."[It was] a spoken tenor...but clear and penetrating." (Plass, p. 33) His voice apparently carried well, an important quality when no amplification existed. He also had a pleasing, tenor singing voice, and gained lots of experience singing beginning in his student years. He played the lute, and as we know, wrote a number of hymns and other church music.

## Productivity

From the time he moved to Wittenberg University and began his career as Professor of Theology in 1511, Luther taught university courses and preached several



# Part 1, Appearance, Health, and Life

Continued from Page 6.

times a week. He attended many meetings, conferences, and debates. Shortly after he posted his 95 Theses, Luther began to write massive amounts for publication. Publishers and printers loved Luther because his voluminous and popular writing made them lots of money. During his period of most prolific writing, the 1520s-1540s, fully one-third all of all German publications came from the hand of Martin Luther, making him easily Germany's best-selling author. (Ozment, p.5, p. 107) He published over 350 works. (Plass, p. 4)

Luther's correspondence load—both his writing and receiving letters—was always heavy. In fact, he wrote over 3,000 letters during his lifetime. (Plass, p. 8)

## Reputation and Influence

His advice was requested constantly. "Martin Luther was venerated by his followers even during his lifetime. In matters of faith, doctrine, and church life, he was the court of final appeal among Lutherans throughout the German-speaking region. Cities and territories regularly sent him drafts of church ordinances for his approval..." (Herl, p. 3)

## Health

Luther's workload left him very little time for exercise, although after his marriage, he did engage in some gardening of both vegetables and flowers.

From about age 40, Luther bore numerous, different, periodic illnesses. "I am a veritable Lazarus, he once remarked, greatly troubled by sickness." At various times, Luther suffered from dizziness, ringing in the ears and ear infections, digestive and intestinal problems, painful bouts with kidney stones, fainting spells, gout, arthritis (probably rheumatoid since it was accompanied by fever), dysentery, headaches, and toothaches. (Plass p. 181)

Toward the end of his life, Luther developed chest pains and shortness of breath, which pointed toward the heart trouble that ended his life at the age of 63.

## Sources:

- **The Serpent and the Lamb.** Steven Ozment. Yale University Press, 2011.
- **This is Luther.** Ewald Plass. CPH, 1948.
- **Worship Wars in Early Lutheranism.** Joseph Herl. Oxford University Press, 2004.

*At right is a sample of images of Luther at different ages. Probably the most commonly reproduced images that we see show him as an older man—partly with heavy features, as illustrated by the last image.*



# Hymn Cycle

## Easter-Pentecost Season Readings and Hymns

### SUNDAY, 3 MAY 2015, 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:1-21, John 15:1-8

Hymn of Invocation: All Who Believe and Are Baptized .....	601
Gradual Hymn: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word .....	488
Gospel Procession: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice And Sing.....	475
Hymn of the Day: Christ, The Word Of God Incarnate .....	540
Dist Hymn: Awake, My Heart, With Gladness .....	467
Dist Hymn: The Tree of Life .....	561

### SUNDAY, 10 MAY 2015, 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 10:34-48, 1 John 5:1-8, John 15:9-17

Hymn of Invocation: I Bind Unto Myself Today.....	604
Gradual Hymn: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word .....	488
Gospel Procession: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice And Sing.....	475
Hymn of the Day: Dear Christians One and All Rejoice .....	556 (1-5)
Dist Hymn: Dear Christians One and All Rejoice.....	556 (6-10)
Dist Hymn: He's Risen, He's Risen .....	480

### THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2015, THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Hymn of Invocation: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing .....	493
Hymn of the Day: See, The Lord Ascends In Triumph.....	494
Dist Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared .....	622
Final Hymn: On Christ's Ascension I Now Build .....	492

### SUNDAY, 17 MAY 2015, 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Acts 1:12-26, 1 John 5:9-15, John 17:11b-19

Hymn of Invocation: Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain.....	487
Gradual Hymn: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word .....	488
Hymn of the Day: Christ Is The World's Redeemer.....	539
Dist Hymn: The Infant Priest Was Holy Born.....	624
Dist Hymn: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia .....	466
Final Hymn: This Joyful Eastertide .....	482

### SUNDAY, 24 MAY 2015, THE DAY OF PENTECOST, DS SETTING ONE

The Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Entrance Hymn: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling .....	650
Hymn of the Day: Hail Thee, Festival Day .....	489
Dist Hymn: Jesus, Jesus Has Come and Bring Pleasure.....	533
Dist Hymn: Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest .....	498
Final Hymn: Come, Holy Ghost, God And Lord .....	497

### SUNDAY, 31 MAY 2015, THE FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, DS SETTING ONE

The Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17

Entrance Hymn: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name .....	940
Gradual Hymn: Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old .....	960
Hymn of the Day: Te Deum Laudamus .....	223-225
Dist Hymn: Alleluia! Let Praises Ring.....	822
Dist Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy.....	507

Continued on Page 9

## New Windows Funding

By Dave Kmoch, Congregation President

Here's a quick update on the financing of our window project. The last update (Mar 27) indicated that in addition to exercising our \$20,000 line of credit, it looked like we needed to borrow an additional \$3,000 from LCEF. However, following some significant month-end bill payments, our checking account balance was significantly reduced so the loan request was increased to \$9,000.

The requested documentation was submitted to LCEF last week and they sent the necessary paperwork for signatures. Chris Fink and Tammy Knox signed the documents and the funds were transferred to our account today (Apr 6). The payment to Huff Contracting will be sent out later today or tomorrow.

The first payments (on the line of credit and the loan) are due on May 6, and we still need to work out some repayment details such as how much to apply to each source of funds. For example, the line of credit expires on Nov 15, so we should probably focus on repaying it first—although we also need to repay interest on the note on a monthly basis. I think we can probably target the initial repayments at \$1,500 for the first 3 months but we will have to monitor our checking account balance as we get close to May 6.



Following the July payoff of our mortgage, we can consider increasing our loan payments by our current mortgage amount (approx. \$2,100) for a total of about \$3,600 per month. Even at this fairly aggressive and optimistic repayment rate, since we had to increase the loan amount from \$3,000 to \$9,000, repayment will probably be extended into February of next year. Of course, we can also decide to spread repayment over a longer period but we will need to consider another source of funds (like a new mortgage) to do so.

Just wanted to provide a quick update and let you know the funds have been received and the check for the window project has been sent. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.



# Reflections on Easter

Continued from Page 1

And then she prays,

May God the Father, who created this body; may God the (✠) Son, who by His blood redeemed this body; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In human flesh Jesus redeemed your body and your soul, “not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” (Small Catechism) Through Baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit sanctified your body and your soul to be the temple of God. In Absolution your Pastor lays his hands upon your head, reminding you that your sins have been laid upon the flesh of Jesus in death and that the forgiveness which God bestows is granted to your body and your soul. In the Sacrament of the Altar Jesus bestows His resurrected body and blood so that in the eating and the drinking there is communion with Jesus in both your body and your soul.

Jesus rose bodily from the grave. And so will you, but not until the last day. On that day the ashes to which your body has returned will be that from which God recreates a new and glorified body—a body like unto Jesus’ resurrection body. Your soul, which has rested in Jesus since the time of your death, will be reunited with that new body.

***In this body you will dwell for eternity. In this body you will never suffer. From this body sickness and disease will be gone forever.***

On that day will come to pass the promise of God spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.” (Isaiah 25:6) On that day, the church that has fallen to her knees in humble repentance will rise gloriously to exclaim, “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 15:57)

## Updated Data

**New Contact Data**  
[None this period.]

**New Addresses**  
[None this period.]

# Hymn Cycle

Continued from Page 8

## SUNDAY, 7 JUNE 2015, 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING ONE

The Readings: Genesis 3:8-15, II Corinthians 4:13—5:1, Mark 3:20-35

Entrance Hymn: O Day Full of Grace ..... 503

Hymn of the Day: To God The Holy Spirit Let Us Pray ..... 768

Dist Hymn: O Lord, We Praise Thee ..... 617

Dist Hymn: Sing Praise To God, The Highest Good ..... 819

## SUNDAY, 14 JUNE 2015, 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING ONE

The Readings: Ezekiel 17:22-24, II Corinthians 5:1-17, Mark 4:26-34

Entrance Hymn: To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray ..... 768

Hymn of the Day: Preach You the Word ..... 586

Dist Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ..... 790

Dist Hymn: Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid ..... 500

Dist Hymn: Preserve Your Word, O Savior ..... 658

## SUNDAY, 21 JUNE 2015, 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING ONE

The Readings: Job 38:1-11, II Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

Entrance Hymn: Father, We Praise Thee ..... 875

Hymn of the Day: Evening And Morning ..... 726

Dist Hymn: Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs ..... 812

Dist Hymn: We Praise You, O God ..... 785

## SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 2015, 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, MATINS

The Readings: Lamentations 3:22-33; II Cor 8:1-9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43

Hymns TBD: President Saunders, Guest Preacher

## “ON CHRIST’S ASCENSION I NOW BUILD THE HOPE OF MY ASCENSION” . . . (LSB #492)

On Thursday, May 14th, at 7 p.m., Our Redeemer, Christ, and Peace Lutheran Churches will be observing one of the Holy Days of the Church Year. “Ascension Day” always falls on a weekday—in fact, always on a Thursday—because it comes 40 days after the Lord’s Resurrection. On this day, the Church remembers the bodily Ascension of our Lord to sit at His Father’s right hand.

Do not be misled. Jesus’ “reign” is not a reign “in absentia” or “from on high.” Though Jesus’ earthly ministry was complete, He did not leave His Church. He is present in His Body, the Holy Church, through the preaching of His Word and in the Holy Sacraments. So, on this day, the Church gathers to receive from Him in His Holy Supper the fruits of His victory for Her as She continues on in Her earthly life.

One symbolic act you will notice in this Divine Service involves the Paschal candle. At the conclusion of the reading of the Holy Gospel, the Paschal candle, which has been lit since the Easter Vigil, will be extinguished. This candle symbolizes the bodily resurrection of Christ and His visible presence with the disciples after His resurrection. With His ascension, His visible presence was withdrawn, yet He continues to abide with His Church via Word and Sacrament. The candle will again be lit at the Vigil next year, as well as at Funerals and Baptisms as a confession of Christ’s Resurrection and the hope which this brings to us.

*Please pause from your busy schedules to celebrate the Holy Day of our Lord’s Ascension at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 14th. The*

# Relevant Review

## Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today

by John W. Kleinig. Concordia Publishing House, 2008

Article by Gerry Peterson

Last August I had the pleasure of attending a seminar given by Professor John Kleinig at College Hill Lutheran Church. He is the author of the Concordia blue book commentary on Leviticus. He delivered a fine seminar in a delightful Australian accent. He taught about the clean and the unclean, the holy and the unholy, and the mercy and presence of God. He showed how the Israelites, at the command of God, received grace through the sacrificial system. Professor Kleinig made it clear that it is God who delivers blessings to man, and not vice versa; everything is a gift of God. He put the system of God's Commandments into its Middle Eastern anthropological background. And, perhaps most important, he showed how our Divine Service is directly descended from the pattern of worship established by God among the Israelites over three thousand years ago.

But, returning to my subject, I made an interesting discovery during a break in the lectures. Concordia Publishing House had a small display of other books by Professor Kleinig. Among those books was Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today, published back in 2008. I had not heard of this book, nor did I know about Professor Kleinig's deserved reputation as one of the leading experts and teachers on spirituality in the Lutheran church today. I am very glad that I bought a copy of his book.

Spirituality was an accepted part of Christian life for at least fifteen hundred years. But it had drifted by the time of Luther. And, since then, it may have drifted even further. Nowadays it seems to have become something that WE should be doing—living purer lives, being more pious, working hard to figure out what God wants us to do, studying to become more devoted to Christ, coming to a private understanding with God. Sometimes it seems to lead to the notion that we can receive grace outside of the Divine Service, the Word, and the Sacraments—some sort of private, mystical communion with God.

Instead, Professor Kleinig writes about "receptive spirituality": that is, receiving from God what he has promised and will deliver. Professor Kleinig does not write a step-by-step manual for improving our spiritual life. Rather, he outlines possibilities that follow the Scriptural paths that Luther recommended, including prayer, meditation, and temptation. Professor Kleinig defines spirituality as the way in which we go about our Christian vocation. It is not a mystical experience leading to a special and higher kind of knowledge. It is simply coming to understand God's presence and availability to us in our daily lives.

Professor Kleinig emphasizes that we have access to the Father through the Son by means of faith worked by the Holy Spirit. That is important. Our faith allows us, in the name of Jesus, to address the Father with our prayers. The Father listens to and responds to our prayers. Professor Kleinig says that faith is ongoing. We do not possess it; rather, we continue to receive it throughout our lives as Christians. And, using our faith strengthens our faith.

Spirituality need not be complicated. It can be as simple as stopping for a few moments each day to remember our Baptism, think about Scripture, recite the Apostles' Creed, and pray the Lord's Prayer or Luther's morning and evening prayer. First thing in the morning and last thing at night are good times. In the morning we can thank God and then ask Him for the blessing, guidance, and strength necessary to carry out our Christian vocation for the day. In the evening we can thank God for his gifts and guidance, ask forgiveness for what we have done wrong, and request God's protection for the night. Saying a prayer

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## Begging Your Attendance

(All locations @ ORLC unless noted otherwise.)

### May

- 2 Quilt Group, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 2 Spring Workday, Camp IoDisEca
- 7 LWML Ladies Night Out, Dinner
- 8-9 Mother-Child Retreat, Camp Io-DisEca
- 14 Ascension Day Divine Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Altar Guild, 6:00 p.m. (will next meet in September)
- 26 Confessions Study, 7:00 p.m. (will next meet in September)

### June

- 1-3 Peter Scaer speaks in Rochester, MN, "The Mysteries of Mark: the Churchly Gospel"
- 17-19 "Pastoral Care for the Shepherd and His Sheep: Catechesis under the Office of the Keys and Confession" Conference, Concordia Cate-



### July

- 13-15 Reed Lessing speaks at College Hill Lutheran Church (Isaiah 1-39)
- 14-17 2015 Higher Things Conference, Univ of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
- 19-25 ORLC Vacation Bible School, at Faith Lutheran, Waterloo
- 21-24 2015 Higher Things Conference, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
- 27-31 2015 Higher Things Conference, Concordia University, Seward, NE

# Web Gem: Sisters of Katie Luther

<http://katieluthersisters.org/>

By Jennifer Knox

**My Katie. Wife. Mother.** These are all words that are used to describe Katherina von Bora, better known as Katie Luther, wife of Martin Luther. The Luthers were blessed with multiple children and, fortunately, with a large house to live in—close to 40 rooms! Katie took care of the children and about a dozen students who lived with them, as well as a variety of other guests who occupied some of their rooms along the way. On top of that, she helped to keep the household finances in check. Regardless of all the details and specific numbers, Katie's life is the basis for the name of a new blog site geared toward women in the church: *Sisters of Katie Luther*.

The site is very similar to Brothers of John the Steadfast (BJS); in fact, some of the regular bloggers have written for BJS, others are married to BJS bloggers, and many appear to be pastors' wives. There are some consistent bloggers, as well as other guest writers, and they write on all sorts of topics. A few of the topics include: children growing up and moving on, children being in church, the Book of Concord, Holy Week, and the list goes on. As you can tell, it seems most topics are related to bringing up a family in the church, and there is an ever-growing number of posts to read that are related to these varied topics.

As I mentioned before about this being a new site, it seems the earliest posts were in February. If you are interested in receiving emails from



the site, there is a subscription option on the top right part of the homepage to sign up by email. If you have particular topics you're interested in reading about there is a "tag list" on the right hand side. Ultimately what that means is that for each blog post there are tags, or topics, that are connected. When you pick a tag it will pull up the blog posts that are tagged with that topic.

While there aren't near the number of bloggers or posts as with a site such as BJS, it seems that Sisters of Katie Luther will continue to grow and have more and more contributors. Hopefully you have checked out previous sites featured here, and will check this one out too.

**If you come across other sites you would like to see featured here, please share so they can be potentially featured in The RepORter.**

*Excerpt from the web site: Katharina von Bora (January 29, 1499 - December 20, 1552), was the wife of Martin Luther and he often called her "My Katie". Katie played an extremely valuable role during the Reformation by helping to define the Protestant family life and setting the tone for clergy marriages. She was also known for her organizational skills as well as her astute managing of the Luther family finances. The Luther family had a rather large home (a gift from the Duke) with scholars and pastors as frequent guests. Katie was essentially a full-time innkeeper along with raising the Luther children.*

## Parishioner Profile: Helen Heth

Article by Sara Lair

Our first two editions of the repORter have profiled new members of Our Redeemer. This edition features an original member of Our Redeemer . . . and we mean that in every sense of the word, because Helen Heth is a charter member of our parish. Let's meet Helen, and learn more about her and about the history of our congregation.

Helen and late husband Elmer were members at College Hill Lutheran. The population of Cedar Falls was growing, and it became apparent that College Hill was not going to meet the long-term needs of both the campus community and the more established residents of Cedar Falls. A mutual decision was reached by members of College Hill and leadership within Iowa District East to establish another LCMS congregation in Cedar Falls.

The first service of the new congregation, what would become Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, was held on Ash Wednesday, March 7, 1962, at the American Legion Hall on 14th Street. In September 1962, the first service was held at the present location, with 57 communicant members and 92 souls.

Cedar Falls was growing, and couples had large families. In

ten short years, membership had grown to 283 communicant members and 430 souls.

Helen recalls a sense of mission and closeness with the members of Our Redeemer, nurtured by many hours of work together throughout the years: construction and dedication of a new parsonage in 1977; extensive remodeling of the sanctuary in 1992; many spring and fall workdays; and countless church potlucks and pancake feeds.

When asked what activities at Our Redeemer gave her the most pleasure, Helen responds immediately: "Oh, I loved cooking the Wednesday night suppers and Lenten luncheons. I really miss those activities."

Helen has two children, Delmar and Barbara. She enjoys frequent visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren (Trent, Travis and Tristen Heth of our congregation are among Helen's great-grandchildren). A wonderful cook, Helen shares cookies, pies, pecan rolls with family and friends, and entertains her family often with fabulous dinners. Pastimes include sewing, quilting and gardening.



# Relevant Review: *Grace Upon Grace*, John W. Kleinig, CPH 2008

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before meals is also a good way to appreciate the presence and gifts of God.

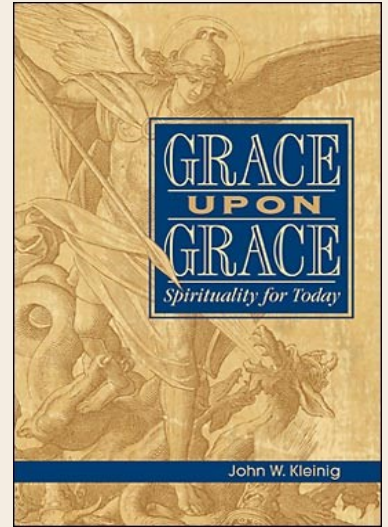
This need not be a strict regimen. Forgetting a morning prayer occasionally is not critical. God is always there whenever we find time to appreciate his presence.

Professor Kleinig emphasizes that our daily devotions are not independent of other parts of a Christian life. Rather, they are part of the larger picture of personal spirituality. Included in that larger picture are the weekly Divine Service, Scriptural study (especially the Psalms), and the church year calendar. Each part of the picture enriches the other parts. One part leads to other parts in a kind of circle that makes it increasingly easy to understand that God is always present and ready to serve us in our daily lives.

Professor Kleinig makes it clear that powerful evil forces in the world, under the direction of the devil, seek to undermine our faith. Those forces concentrate their efforts among those who have faith. However, the more we trust that we are in God's presence, the stronger is our position. We need to remind ourselves that God is with us. And, with Luther, we

should remember that when the devil tempts us, "one little word can fell him".

This is a long book—over 300 pages. And I must admit that I had to push myself to get into it. But once I did get going, I could not stop. I have read it a number of times since last August. It has changed my devotional life. It has given me a clearer picture of God's presence in my life. I highly recommend it.



**Note:** You might be interested to know that there will be another seminar at College Hill this summer. Professor Reed Lessing will lecture on Isaiah 1-39 on July 13-15. I believe that it will be worthwhile to attend that presentation.



## *Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .*

It is an honor to be serving as vicar in Iowa District East!

My name is Willie Grills, and I have been married to Angelica Maria Grills for five years. We have one son, Agustín (Gus), who is 10 months old. (He has grown a bit since this photo was taken!)

I was born and raised in eastern Kentucky. Angelica was born in Queens, NY, and raised between Panama City, Panama, and Kissimmee, Florida.

We so look forward to meeting you all.

In Christ,

-Willie Grills

*The Our Redeemer, Christ, and Peace congregations rejoice in this good news! Look for more about our new vicar and his family in the July-August edition of the repORter.* -Ed

**Our Redeemer** 904 Bluff Street



To: