

# Valley Lutheran School—A Cedar Valley Asset

By Carl Bollwinkel and Kayla Irwin

Valley Lutheran School's vision is *To set the standard for excellence and innovation in Christian education*. Enrollment has blossomed in recent years with approximately 180 students now in grades K- 12 receiving Christian-based education in our community. Valley Lutheran School is a fully accredited school both through the state of Iowa and also through National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). There is a multitude of benefits to attending Valley Lutheran School, including:



- Christ-centered education
- Daily exposure to God's Word
- Christian morals and values
- Weekly chapel services
- Small class sizes
- Student to teacher ratio of 12:1
- Advanced placement courses
- Exceptional test scores
- Christian service
- Award-winning sports, speech, drama, music, and robotics teams
- Preparing minds and hearts for the future—college and beyond

Our Redeemer has made the commitment to become a member of Valley Lutheran School Association. Valley Lutheran is in need of support through financial contributions and recruitment of students. The Association bylaws state that each church should provide "its share" of financial support. Other active, dedicated congregations in the area have interpreted this to be approximately 5 percent of the annual church budget. By that standard, Our Redeemer's contributions should be about \$900 per month. Broken down into "giving units" that would be about two dollars per week per giving unit in our congregation. These funds help offset basic operational costs, and Our Redeemer has the opportunity to contribute more in terms of tuition scholarships costs.



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**Our Redeemer** 904 Bluff Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613



To:

# the REPORter

## Editor's Entry

Summer winds down. School is in session. The days grow shorter. Goldenrod commands the prairiescape. Cubs have the best record in baseball. Some things are just so reassuringly familiar and predictable . . .

Also predictable: great writers contributing great articles to this edition of *the repORter*, to wit:

- Pastor Knox is inspired by a conversation with a dear shut-in;
- Carl Bollwinkel and Kayla Irwin are inspired by Valley Lutheran School;
- Sara Lair is inspired by *Higher Things*; and
- Gerry Peterson is inspired by early Christianity.

*A Blessed Reformation Season to All!*

-Greg Gerjerts

## Also in This Issue:

- Tom Wemlinger interviews Jamie Knox.
- Judy Fink reminds us of what fun we had at the big pig roast (I'm still full!).
- Sara Lair informs us about St. Silas (Lutheran Church, that is, in North Liberty).
- **Plus:** the calendar of upcoming events; hymns and readings for Oct-Nov Divine Services; and a big Bible test. (*You must let me know if you score 100%.*)



## Pastor's Post

### "Why Do They Read the Bible?"

By Pastor Michael Knox

That was the question I heard from one of our shut-ins during a recent visit. She asked the question because I was talking to her about Christians who believe that the Bible is full of myths, stories, and outright lies. I chuckled as this saintly woman cut right to the heart of the matter. Put another way, if a person doesn't believe the Bible to be the word of God, infallible truth, and the source of eternal truth, why would he waste his time reading it? I had been struggling to decide what I should write about for this edition of the RepORter and when I heard her question, I knew in an instant I had my topic.



### Bible Believing Liberals

In an article entitled, "Bible Believing Liberals," author Todd Wilken notes how so-called conservative Christians, who loudly confess that they accept the Bible as God's inspired word, actually are quite like liberals when it comes to believing and practicing based on that word.

Biblical critics, who reject the inspiration of the Bible, can quite easily dismiss portions of Scripture as the opinions of man or collections of myths and fables. For example, the liberal Bible critic can reject the doctrine of creation by describing the account of Genesis 1 and 2 as a myth which arose from centuries of verbal embellishment. Or, he can reject the prohibition of women serving in the Pastoral office as merely the opinion of Paul shaped by his misogynistic culture.

But how does the so-called conservative Christian get around things that he either can't understand or doesn't like? Prime examples are doctrines such as the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper, or Baptismal regeneration. Unfortunately, many conservative Christians act eerily similar to the most radical of liberal Bible critics. They conveniently ignore, reject, or alter the clear Word of God to fit their personal choices, likes, and dislikes. The bottom line is that liberal Bible critics and Bible believing liberals end up in the same hopeless mess: they reject doctrine and lose the beauty of the Gospel.

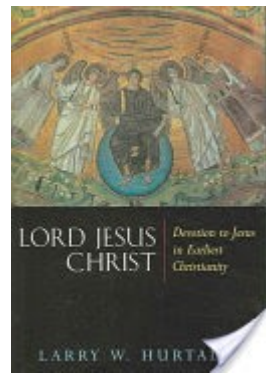
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# Earliest Christianity

Three Books by Larry Hurtado from Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing:

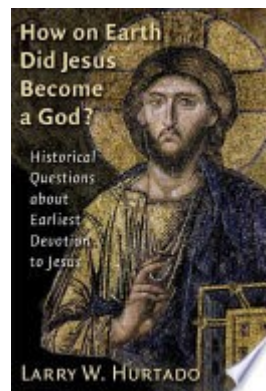
*Lord Jesus Christ; One God, One Lord; How on Earth Did Jesus Become God?*

By Gerald Peterson



In the last few months I have continued my reading on earliest Christianity, the first few decades after the Resurrection. I think that I had the perception that St. Paul was the one who really got things going between about 50 and 60 A.D., when he took his mission to the Gentiles in Asia Minor, west toward Rome, and maybe even to Spain. Except for Paul's occasional visits to the struggling mother church in Jerusalem, I did not have much of an impression of what was going on in Judea. Perhaps my perception was strengthened by general trends in scholarship. That is, the "enlightened" critical view seemed to be that the faithful few in Judea maintained a primitive, perhaps more "authentic" Christianity. And even those people seemed to me to be more Jewish than Christian. I thought that it was Paul and his followers who moved things toward the orthodox Christianity with which we are familiar. But my recent reading of several books by Larry Hurtado strongly and convincingly disputes that view.

Professor Hurtado, now retired, was on the faculty of the University of Edinburgh, where he taught New Testament language, literature, and theology. His area of specialization is earliest Christianity. Professor Hurtado contends that Christianity was off to a good, foundational start in Judea even before Paul began to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles.



As I mentioned above, over at least the last hundred years the scholarly approach to the earliest years of Christianity seems to have been that the disciples who remained in and around Jerusalem after the Resurrection were the bearers of the real faith. They had lived and worked with Jesus. They were firsthand witnesses to his life, teaching, death, and Resurrection. They had taken direction from Jesus personally. They got it right. Paul, on the other hand, was a relative latecomer to the scene. What is more, he initially persecuted those who followed and confessed Jesus as God. Scholars, many of whom were ea-

ger to deny the existence of God in any form, found it easy to drift into the notion that Jesus was a great guy who taught revolutionary ideas on morality. But, they thought, he was not God or any other kind of divine being. It was also then easy for scholars to state that Christianity was the invention of Paul, clearly a human being with many faults. Scholars had fun with their deconstructive criticism of Paul's writing, moral precepts, and personal foibles.



Professor Hurtado marshals convincing evidence that the critics were wrong. He concentrates his case in several areas. First, he shows that devotion to Jesus as divine was early and strong. Thousands flocked to Jesus very shortly after his death and Resurrection. Most of the early believers were Jews, who were awaiting the long-promised Messiah, the one who would redeem Israel. They ascribed titles (Lord) and powers (All-Mighty) to Jesus that were used only for God.

Believing in Jesus was not easy for fiercely monotheistic Jews. Jesus was not an angel, a special messenger, or a new god. He was not just another prophet. How could Jews fit Jesus into their worldview that there is only one God? They could not accept Jesus as just another of the pantheon of gods in the Roman world. So, based on their understanding of Scripture, the witness of Jesus' disciples, and inspired faith, they came to the conclusion that Jesus Himself was God. They knew that Jesus was God and that there is only one God. Therefore, Jesus was God. Though it was not completely apparent to earliest Christians, we now understand that Jesus is the second person of the Trinity.

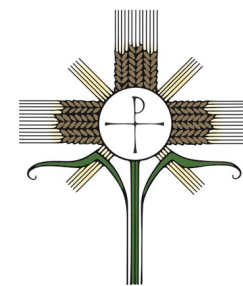
Professor Hurtado uses Paul's writings to make the case that devotion to Jesus as God was already well developed by the time that Paul began writing around 50 A.D., several decades after Jesus' death. Professor Hurtado shows that Paul was not making things up. Paul drew upon the established belief and practice in the Jewish Christian community in Judea. I will provide one example. Perhaps you can recall that Paul used the Aramaic expression "maranatha" in I Corinthians 16:22. Aramaic was likely the language that Jesus and his disciples spoke in their everyday life. Depending on how that expression is divided (marana tha or maran atha), it means "Come, Lord!" or "Our Lord has come". Paul wrote in Greek. What is an Aramaic expression doing in a letter addressed to Greek-speaking Gentiles? Professor Hurtado believes that using the Aramaic expression, without translation, shows that Paul's readers were familiar

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# Higher Things® Conference 2016

By Sara Lair

"Awesome," "Wonderful," "Great Experience." These are just a few of the comments made by Our Redeemer's participants in the 2016 Higher Things Conference held on the University of Northern Iowa campus in Cedar Falls July 5-8. Cedar Falls was one of three host cities (the others being Nashville, Tennessee, and Fort Collins, Colorado).



Alyssa Dekutoski, Jessica Knox and Jamie Knox, along with sponsor Tammy Knox, enjoyed the conference under the theme, "Bread of Life". The conference was based on John 6:35: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Higher Things® believes that solid teaching and experiences will nurture lasting Christian faith. By teaching and using the historic liturgical practices, it focuses on God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation delivered to us in the Word and Sacraments.

With that in mind, exactly what did the participants do? They lived in the UNI dorms, ate in the cafeterias ("great meals"), and enjoyed recreational activities as well as worshiping together in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI campus.

The day started with Matins and ended with Vespers services. There was time for study of God's Word, both in

## Answers to Bible Quiz

(from Pages 6-7)

### Section 1: Pentateuch

Q2: E (Genesis 6:5)

Q14: B (Genesis 5:19)

### Section 2: Historical Books

Q3: C (Joshua 24:15)

Q12: B (I Samuel 15:9)

### Section 3: Prophets

Q2: D (Jonah 3:4)

Q15: A (Amos 1:1)

### Section 4: Psalms and Wisdom Literature

Q2: E (Proverbs 3:17)

Q10: B (Job 19:25)

### Section 5: Synoptic Gospels

Q7: D (Matthew 25:13)

Q11: C (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6)

### Section 6: John's Writings: Gospel, Epistles, Revelation

Q2: E (Revelation 1:8)

Q4: C (Revelation 1:9)

### Section 7: Acts and Writings of Paul

Q3: A (Romans)

Q14: E (I Corinthians 11:34)

### Section 8: Other New Testament Books

Q1: A (Hebrews 7:11)

Q7: C (Jude)



plenary sessions and in smaller settings with fantastic leaders, many of whom were Lutheran clergy.

A highlight for all the girls was the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar in such a large setting. As Jamie stated, "We sang SIX hymns during the distribution. To hear all those voices as one was inspiring."

Our Redeemer's young ladies (all members of various choirs at Our Redeemer) participated in the large choir which met early in the morning, before the day's activities, to practice. I can attest to the inspiration the choir brought to the worship services—hearing young voices in a mass choir as the public was invited to attend the worship services. A good number of Our Redeemer adult members attended the worship services.

One of the statements made by Jamie, and attested to by Alyssa and Jessica, was, "We could see that there are other kids who are Lutherans. It is neat to see that other Lutheran kids have fun and we are not alone. There were participants from Canada, the Czech Republic and the entire United States. We want to go next year!"

# Hog Roast Gala

Continued from Page 3



Can't this line move any faster???



A good time had by all!



All over but the final cleanup . . .

# Begging Your Attendance

(All locations @ ORLC unless otherwise noted.)

## September 2016

- 4 Sunday School Commences
- 6 Brunch Bunch @ Gravy's, 9:00 a.m.
- 9-10 LWML Fall Retreat @ Camp IoDisECa
- 15 Service @ Shell Rock Nursing Home, 4 p.m.
- 10 Saturday Morning Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.
- 19 Confession/Absolution, 7 p.m.
- 25 Congregational Open House for Prospective Members, 4 p.m.
- 26 Congregational Open House for Prospective Members, 7 p.m.

## October 2016

- 3-4 Fall Pastors' Conference @ Camp IoDisECa
- 4 Brunch Bunch @ Gravy's, 9:00 a.m.
- 7-8 Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
- 8 LWML Fall Rally @ Denver, 8:15 a.m. Registration & Brunch, 9:00 a.m. Rally
- 8 Saturday Morning Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.
- 9-11 Oktoberfest @ St. Paul's Lutheran, Kewanee, IL
- 15 Speaker, Jeffrey Pulse, CTS @ College Hill Lutheran
- 17 Confession/Absolution, 7 p.m.
- 20 Service @ Shell Rock Nursing Home, 4 p.m.

## November 2016

- 1 Brunch Bunch @ Gravy's, 9:00 a.m.
- 12 Saturday Morning Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.
- 18-19 Senior High Retreat @ Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

## December 2016

- 6 Brunch Bunch @ Gravy's, 9:00 a.m.
- 10 Saturday Morning Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.

## January 2017

- 27-28 Middle School Retreat @ Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

## June 2017

- 22-25 National LWML Convention @ Albuquerque, NM

# Hymn Cycle

Continued from Page 8

SUNDAY, 30 OCT 2016, THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION, DS SETTING THREE

The Readings: Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Hymn of Invocation: Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice... 556 (1-5)

Hymn of the Day: Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice ..... 556 (6-10)

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

Dist Hymn: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word ..... 655

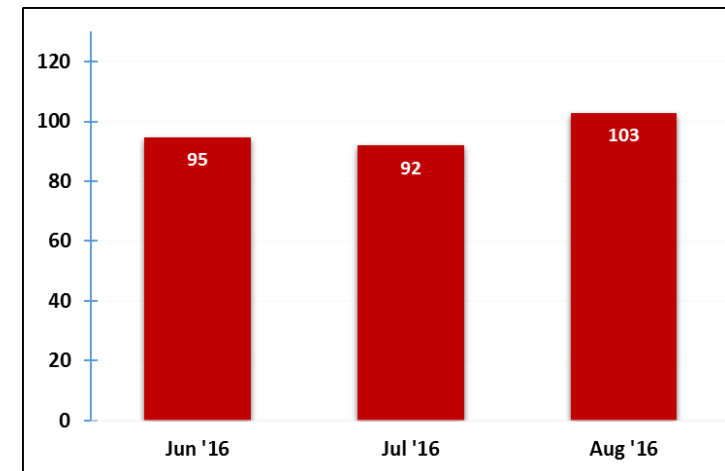
Final Hymn: A Mighty Fortress ..... 656

## Updated Data

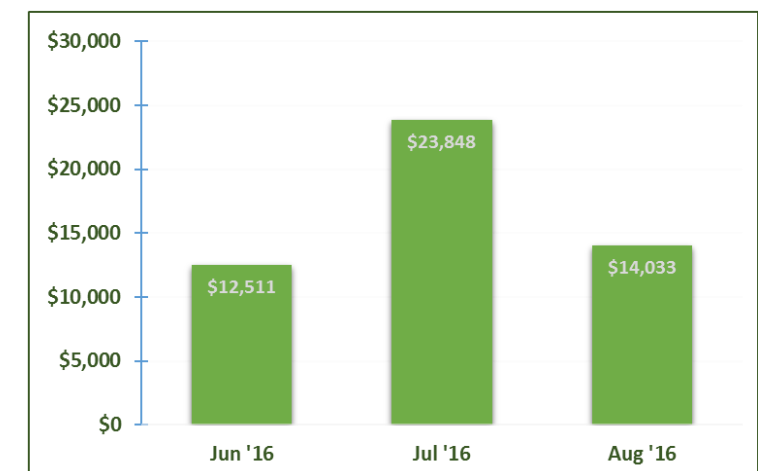
Complete listings of transfers from Christ Lutheran will appear in the Nov-Dec repORter.

# ORLC By The Numbers

## Divine Service Average Attendance



## Divine Service Total Contributions



# Hog Roast Gala!

Article and photos by Judy Fink

Our Redeemer's second annual Hog Roast was held on Sunday afternoon, July 17. The event was originally set to take place at Orchard Hill Park (as it was in 2015), but weather forecasters predicted rain and the Hog Roast was moved to the church. As it turned out, the forecasters were right. Rain started in the morning and continued most of the day.

Gerry and Elizabeth Peterson seasoned the pig and prepared it for roasting. With the help of Greg Gerjerts, the Petersons set up their unique roaster in the church garage. Chris Fink raised the pig and had it processed at Steeges Market in Benson. Tom Wemlinger and Glenn Staudinger assisted the roasting crew with moral support and libations.

Despite the weather we had a great turnout, great fellowship, and of course: **great food**. About 70 people attended, including friends from Peace, Shell Rock; Grace, Waterloo; and St. Paul, Webster City.

A huge THANK YOU to Gerry and Elizabeth Peterson for once again organizing the Hog Roast and preparing the main side dishes. Thanks also to everyone who helped with the sides and desserts, with preparation of the Parish Hall, and with the big cleanup. See you in 2017, *Deo volente!*



Two carvers and a taste tester.



Farmer Chris enjoys his own product.

## IDE 2016 Convention

The Iowa District East Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention was held June 18 and 19, 2016, at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and was hosted by the Marshalltown Zone. Over 200 sisters and brothers in Christ from Iowa East attended the two-day convention.

Judy Fink served as delegate from the Waterloo Zone. Also attending from the Waterloo Zone (pictured below, L-R) were: Gayle Rector, St. John, Denver; [Judy]; Hannah Krenz, Immanuel, Cedar Falls; Waterloo Zone Young Woman Representative Jaki Kapanka, Immanuel, Cedar Falls; Jan Miller, Grace, Waterloo; and Nancy and Rev. Randy McHone, Grace, Waterloo.



The theme for the 38th biennial convention was "God's Plan of Salvation: God's Ultimate GPS". The scripture verse was Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope."

Sixteen quilts were tied and many boxes of cards were trimmed for St. Jude's Children charity during the Friday morning Servant activity. The quilts will be gifted to the international students attending William Penn this Fall. A total of 335 Mercy Kits, plus many extra kit supplies, were collected as the Gifts of the Heart ingathering. The Mercy Kits were sent to the Orphan Grain Train, Clemons Branch.

The convention was opened with a colorful procession of banners made by societies from each of the 12 zones in the district. Judy Fink had the honor, along with Jaki Kapanka, to carry in the Waterloo Zone banner made by our very own Elizabeth Peterson. The beautiful worship service was led by Pastor Alex Post, Marshalltown Zone Counselor, and by guest pastors of the Marshalltown Zone.

Those attending the convention were reminded of the mission-minded purpose of LWML as we heard from the various speakers. IED Counselors Rev. Rempfer and Rev. Lingard each led us with spirited Bible studies on Saturday bringing

the theme and scripture verse to a deeper appreciation. Friday night's convention speaker was Janice Wendorf, past National LWML President. She shared her experiences from her 2013 LWR mission trip to Tanzania, including her observations of the Malaria Initiative and LWR quilt distributions.

During the business session, reports were given, By-law revisions were made, election of new officers took place, and 15 new mission grant presentations were voted on for the next biennium. Rev. McHone was elected District Junior Counselor. It was a wonderful two days filled with singing, worship, Bible studies, great speakers, and Christian fellowship.

The next Iowa East District LWML Convention will be held June 14-16, 2018, in Cedar Rapids, and will be hosted by the Mt. Pleasant Zone. The 2017 National LWML Convention is June 22-25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Join your sisters and brothers in Christ in the once-in-a-lifetime celebration of the LWML's 75th anniversary!

## IDE Fall Retreat

Don't forget to register for the Iowa District East Fall Retreat at Camp IoDisECa on September 9-10, 2016! The theme is "God's Plan for Salvation—Everyone prepared, Everyone Saved," based on Colossians 2:9: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Meet with sisters in Christ as we spend time in God's Word, relaxing, and enjoying the camp and the beauty of God's Creation. Bring your Gifts of the Heart items for the camp and, most importantly, don't forget to bring your Bible. Registration forms are on the table in the Parish Hall, or you may contact Judy Fink.

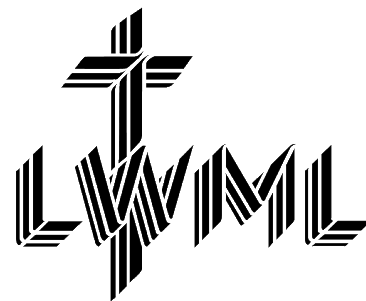
We hope many of you will consider attending!

## Waterloo Zone Fall Retreat

Ladies, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Waterloo Zone LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, October 8, at St. John Lutheran Church in Denver. Registration and brunch begin at 8:15 and opening devotions begin at 9 a.m. The theme of the Rally is, "Who is my neighbor? God's people in a remote place", based on Micah 6:8 & Joshua 1:9, and on the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10.

The speaker for the Rally is Helene Kuempel, member of Trinity Lutheran, Guttenberg. Kuempel is a nurse and participant of medical mission trips, most recently to Kenya in June, 2016. A monetary ingathering will be taken for Lutherans for Life.

Anyone wishing to carpool should let Judy Fink know.



## "Why Do They Read the Bible?"

Continued from Page 1

### Education is Important, but it is Most Important in the Church

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy,

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (II Tim 4:1-5)*

Paul is describing the work of a Pastor. It involves teaching. Specifically, it involves teaching the Word of God with great patience and care. But the education that Paul describes is quite different from teaching math or science, English or history. Secular education is important because it is necessary to enable a child to mature into adulthood and to become a responsible and beneficial member of society. Quite to the contrary, the teaching that a Pastor is called upon to do, and the education that he is to see that every member of his congregation receives, has eternal consequences!

### Why Don't You Read and Study Your Bible?

That is the blunt question you might hear from our shut-in if you were visiting and told her that you don't read your Bible daily and you don't attend Bible classes when they are offered. If you believe that Satan's chief attack on you is through lies and deception, as he employed in the Garden with Adam and Eve, what better way to defend against these attacks than to study the Word of God? Many classes are offered. This Fall we will be studying Galatians, Human Sexuality and Marriage, and the Weekly Readings. As you consider the opportunities that are offered, please join me in praying:

*Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

—Pastor Knox

### Update on Missions:

## St. Silas Lutheran Church, North Liberty

By Sara Lair

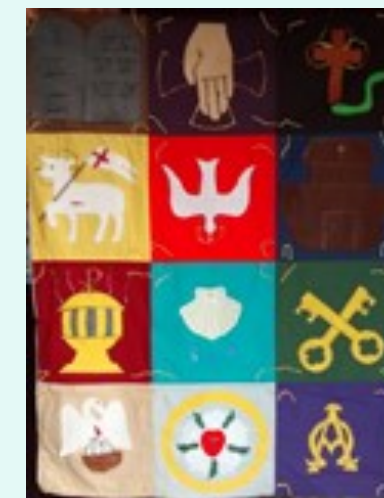
St. Silas Lutheran Church, North Liberty, is one of the mission projects supported in Our Redeemer's budget. Pastor Andrew Richard has recently updated the congregation's website, "[stsilaslutheran.org](http://stsilaslutheran.org)", and you are urged to read "The Service of the Lord Continues" in its entirety (click on the "News" link for the latest update). The following are excerpts from the website:

St. Silas continues to receive the Divine Service every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., preceded by Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. During the school year, Wednesday evening Catechesis takes place. Individual Confession and Absolution takes place on Saturdays.

St. Silas now has about 40 members and has frequent visitors. The congregation is slowly being weaned from district subsidy, and congregational giving has been steadily increasing.

Since its inception, St. Silas has celebrated two confirmations (on April 12, 2015) and held its first wedding (on March 16, 2016). As part of the growth of the congregation, new chairs were ordered. Pastor Richard led a 14-week course of study of the Large Catechism in the summer of 2015.

A study of Christian symbols was held in 2015. Each week the congregation studied a symbol, talked about its symbolism, and learned about where the image appeared in Scripture or church history. Then quilt squares (pictured) were made of the symbols of the week.



Since North Liberty is a rapidly growing city, it plans to reach out to the community by holding five-week segments on marriage and parenting, and inviting the public to attend. They are canvassing the area to see what the needs are in the community for congregational involvement.

As Pastor Richard writes, "What is the secret for making a congregation grow? The truth is: there isn't one. The WORD is the hope. Trust the WORD, proclaim the WORD, and remain faithful to the WORD."

# Hymn Cycle

## Reformation Season Readings and Hymns

**SUNDAY, 4 SEP 2016, 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: .....Deut. 30: 15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14: 25-35  
 Hymn of Invocation: Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee.....573  
 Hymn of the Day: Thy Strong Word .....578  
 Dist Hymn: You Are the Way; Through You Alone.....526  
 Dist Hymn: O God, My Faithful God .....696  
 Dist Hymn: O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee .....632

**SUNDAY, 11 SEP 2016, 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-24, I Timothy 1:5-17, Luke 15:1-10  
 Hymn of Invocation: Sing Praise To God, The Highest Good .....819  
 Hymn of the Day: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive.....609  
 Dist Hymn: O Love, How Deep.....544  
 Dist Hymn: Lord, To You I Make Confession.....608

**SUNDAY, 18 SEP 2016, 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Amos 8:4-7; I Timothy 2:1-15; Luke 16:1-15  
 Hymn of Invocation: Father, We Praise You .....875  
 Hymn of the Day: Seek Where You May to Find a Way .....557  
 Dist Hymn: Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion.....559  
 Dist Hymn: Jesus, Thy Blood And Righteousness.....563

**SUNDAY, 25 SEP 2016, 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Amos 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 16:19-31  
 Hymn of Invocation: Salvation Unto Us Has Come .....555 (1-5)  
 Hymn of the Day: Salvation Unto Us Has Come .....555 (6-10)  
 Dist Hymn: Thine The Amen, Thine The Praise.....680  
 Dist Hymn: Through Jesus' Blood And Merit.....746

**SUNDAY, 2 OCT 2016, 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4; II Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10  
 Hymn of Invocation: Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide.....585  
 Hymn of the Day: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word.....655  
 Dist Hymn: By Grace I'm Saved .....566  
 Dist Hymn: Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart .....708  
 Dist Hymn: Thanks To Thee, O Christ, Victorious .....548

**SUNDAY, 9 OCT 2016, 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Ruth 1:1-19a, II Timothy 2:1-13, Luke 17:11-19  
 Hymn of Invocation: O God Of God, O Light Of Light.....810  
 Hymn of the Day: Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old .....846  
 Dist Hymn: Let Me Be Thine Forever .....689  
 Dist Hymn: How Can I Thank You, Lord.....703

**SUNDAY, 16 OCT 2016, 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Genesis 32:22-30, II Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8  
 Hymn of Invocation: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty .....901  
 Hymn of the Day: To God The Holy Spirit Let Us Pray .....768  
 Dist Hymn: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness .....636  
 Dist Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing.....643

**SUNDAY, 23 OCT 2016, 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, DS SETTING THREE**  
 The Readings: Gen. 4:1-15; II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-17  
 Hymn of Invocation: If Your Beloved Son, O God.....568  
 Hymn of the Day: Christ Sits At God's Right Hand .....564  
 Dist Hymn: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive.....609  
 Dist Hymn: In Thee Is Gladness .....818

# Cedar Valley Lutheran School

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Our Redeemer's level of commitment and contribution to Valley Lutheran School and the Association will be on the agenda for Our Redeemer's November voters' assembly. Please prayerfully consider how you and your family can support the mission of Valley Lutheran School. More information can be found at [www.vlscrusaders.org](http://www.vlscrusaders.org) or by contacting Jamie Panning, Admissions Director, at 319-266-4565. Carl Bollwinkel serves on the board for Valley Lutheran School and Kayla Irwin is a representative on the delegate assembly. They will be happy to answer questions as well.



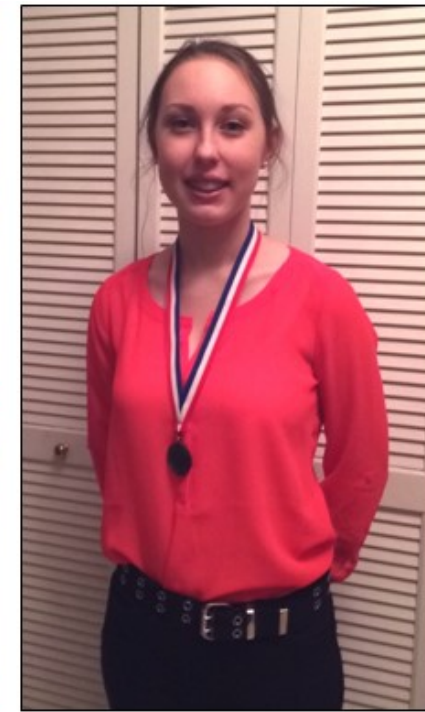
*The investment in Valley Lutheran School is an investment in our church's and community's greatest asset—the next generation. We have been given a wonderful gift in our community of a Lutheran School; we hope you will be supportive of its future growth.*



# Let's Meet . . . Jamie Knox!

By Tom Wemlinger

When I was doing the interview for this month's youth profile, I asked Jamie Knox if I could use her preschool photo from 2005 in the article. To my surprise, she immediately agreed. A considerably more recent photo was supplied by her mother. In that photo, the medal she is wearing is from the Iowa State Bar Association, one of only 100 awarded for excellence in the "Know Your Constitution" contest. In addition to being a Constitutional scholar, she is also a valued member of our choirs at Our Redeemer and is involved in the musical programs at her school. Let's find out a little more about Jamie Knox!



**Q.** Where do you go to school? What year will you be starting this fall?

**A.** I go to Cedar Falls High school and I am going to be a sophomore.

**Q.** What are your favorite and least favorite subjects?

**A.** My favorite subjects would be choir and history. My least favorite subjects would be math and English.

**Q.** In what extracurricular activities do you participate?

**A.** I will be trying out for all-state choir this year—although I am not guaranteed a spot—and I will be trying out for the school musical. I also play varsity tennis.

**Q.** You recently attended a Higher Things conference in Cedar Falls. What was most memorable for you?

**A.** I think that the most memorable thing would be the services. It was very enjoyable to be with so many other Lutherans and I loved hearing everyone singing. [Please see the related feature article on the conference by Sara Lair, Page 11. -Ed.]

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

**A.** I like to play tennis, read books, watch movies, and hang out with my friends.

**Q.** Any early thoughts on what you plan to do for college? Any specific career plans?

**A.** The only school I have really looked into going to is Concordia University Wisconsin. I have thought about going into something like political science, music, or history, and have thought about teaching music or history.

**Q.** Suppose you won an all-expenses-paid trip for four to anywhere in the U.S. Where would you go, and whom would you take with you?

**A.** I would want to go on a trip around the South and learn more about the history of the Civil War. I would take my sisters Jennifer and Jessica, my friend from school Alex, and my mother.

**Q.** Almost done. What is your favorite Bible verse, and why is it special to you?

**A.** There are a lot that are special to me. However, I think I would have to say my Confirmation verse, Revelation 19:9: "Then the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'"

**Q.** Finally, who is the Good Samaritan?

**A.** Jesus!

*Note: The final question was prompted by something that occurred during a Sunday school lesson on this parable. As Jamie's teacher, I was explaining that the priest and the Levite—representing the law—passed by on the other side of the road, unable to save the man who was robbed and beaten. Jamie, who was about 10 years old at the time, raised her hand and said, "Jesus is the Samaritan!"*

# A Bible Quiz Awaits You!

**Editor's Note:** Parishioner Tim Koch came across a 1987 paperback book entitled, *Can You Pass These Tests? The Toughest Tests You'll Never Have To Take, but Always Wanted To Try* (Harper & Row). In it you'll find 26 tests that are (or at least were, 30 years ago) used to measure applicant proficiency in a wide range of occupations and professional designations—everything from air traffic controller to elementary school teacher, from citizen of the U.S. to maritime captain, from taxi driver to wine master. Says Editor Allen D. Bragdon in the book's introduction, "This is for fun; it can also be a way to measure an avocational interest against a professional standard."

And wouldn't you know it, there happens to be a test in the book for "Bible scholar"—a test formerly used (perhaps still is?) by the Presbyterian Church (USA) to evaluate how well candidates for ministry know the Bible. The test is organized by groupings of biblical books, and presented below are representative samples of the actual questions.

For each of the eight Bible Scholar test sections, I'll present two questions: the first of which, according to the authors, is supposed to be relatively easy; the second of which, relatively hard. Answers to the test questions are found on Page 11 of this newsletter, and each answer is accompanied by a biblical passage that supplies the answer's source.

Thanks to Tim for suggesting the idea for this edition's grandiose puzzle! If any of you wishes to see the rest of the Bible Scholar test, or any of the other 25 tests, I'm sure Tim would be happy to loan you the book.

**Another Editor's Note:** I was not able to find the exact biblical translation from which the quotes in this quiz were taken—they are very close to the English Standard Version, but minor discrepancies exist. Can anyone help me out? *-gpg*

## Section 1: Pentateuch

**Q2: "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination in the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" refers to**

- (A) God's reaction to the Fall
- (B) God's reaction to the murmuring of the children of Israel in the wilderness
- (C) God's reaction to the Tower of Babel
- (D) God's reasons for the Flood
- (E) God's reason for giving the Ten Commandments

**Q14: Of the following persons, who was born the earliest?**

- (A) Benjamin
- (B) Enoch
- (C) Jacob
- (D) Judah
- (E) Moses

## Section 2: Historical Books

**Q3: "... choose this day whom you will serve . . . : but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord" was said by**

- (A) Deborah
- (B) Gideon
- (C) Joshua
- (D) Samson
- (E) Saul

**Q12: What did Saul do to make Samuel turn against him?**

- (A) Claimed to be king despite Samuel's opposition
- (B) Failed to destroy the Amalekites completely
- (C) Refused to acknowledge David
- (D) Refused to acknowledge Yahweh
- (E) Was defeated in battle

## Section 3: Prophets

**Q2: "Yet forty days and Ninevah shall be overthrown" is a warning from**

- (A) Amos
- (B) Hosea
- (C) Isaiah
- (D) Jonah
- (E) Micah

**Q15: The prophet whose oracles were addressed primarily to Israel, although he was himself from Judah, was**

- (A) Amos
- (B) Hosea
- (C) Jeremiah
- (D) Malachi
- (E) Obadiah

## Section 4: Psalms and Wisdom Literature

**Q2: "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace" is said about**

- (A) Bildad the Shuhite
- (B) Jerusalem
- (C) Job's wife
- (D) Queen of Sheba
- (E) Wisdom

**Q10: The book in which one finds "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth . . . and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh shall I see God" is**

- (A) Ecclesiastes
- (B) Job
- (C) Proverbs
- (D) Psalms
- (E) Song of Solomon

## Section 5: Synoptic Gospels

**Q7: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" is the conclusion to the parable of the**

- (A) fig tree
- (B) marriage feast
- (C) talents
- (D) ten virgins
- (E) wicked tenants

**Q11: The only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four gospels is**

- (A) cursing the fig tree
- (B) healing the paralytic
- (C) the feeding of the five thousand
- (D) the raising of Lazarus
- (E) the stilling of the storm at sea

## Section 6: John's Writings: Gospel, Epistles, Revelation

**Q2: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." These words occur in the**

- (A) Gospel of John
- (B) First Epistle of John
- (C) Second Epistle of John
- (D) Third Epistle of John
- (E) Revelation of John

**Q4: The Book of the Revelation of John describes visions granted to the seer when he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, while**

- (A) praying on a high mountain
- (B) sorrowing over the earthly city of Jerusalem
- (C) staying on the island of Patmos
- (D) suffering persecution at Ephesus
- (E) worshiping in the temple

## Section 7: Acts and Writings of Paul

**Q3: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift and through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" is a theme from**

- (A) Paul's letter to Rome
- (B) Paul's second letter to Corinth
- (C) Paul's sermon at Mars Hill
- (D) Peter's sermon at Pentecost
- (E) Stephan's sermon

**Q14: Paul's instruction, "If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home," pertains to**

- (A) conditioning for the trip to Corinth
- (B) eating of food offered to idols
- (C) preparations for a Jewish festival
- (D) taking advantage of a host's generosity
- (E) the Lord's Supper

## Section 8: Other New Testament Books

**Q1: "... show me your faith apart from your work and I by my works will show you my faith" is found in which of the following books?**

- (A) James
- (B) I Peter
- (C) Philemon
- (D) Titus
- (E) II Timothy

**Q7: The book which says "Convince some who doubt, save some by snatching them out of the fire . . ." and speaks of Enoch as a prophet is**

- (A) Hebrews
- (B) James
- (C) Jude
- (D) I Peter
- (E) II Peter

## Earliest Christianity

### Lord Jesus Christ; One God, One Lord; How on Earth Did Jesus Become God?

*Continued from Page 2*

with that term in their devotion and religious belief. It was part of their religious practice and liturgy. It did not need to be translated into Greek because his audience both believed it and felt that the words were meaningful and powerful. It is similar to our use of the Hebrew word "Hallelujah" in our liturgy. We could just as easily translate the word and say "Praise the Lord". But we still understand and maybe even prefer that three-thousand-year-old Hebrew word.

In this case, and in others, Professor Hurtado demonstrates that Paul used the well-developed language and practice of Jewish Christians when he addressed his Gentile audience already in the 50s A.D. Professor Hurtado also emphasizes the extremely rapid and unprecedented spread of devotion to Jesus. Already in the first century A.D. Jewish communities were spread widely over the Roman world. In many of those communities, there was a growing belief in Jesus as the Son of God. As a scholar writing primarily for a scholarly audience, Professor Hurtado, a believer, can present only the historical evidence. He cannot quite go so far as to state that faith in the one God was the reason why the Gospel spread so quickly. But I think that that is the obvious conclusion.

*Professor Hurtado has written these three books on devotion to Jesus among the earliest Christians. They are serious in tone, but still quite accessible. Professor Hurtado writes engagingly in the first person. He moves carefully and slowly, one subject at a time. He is a leader in current thinking about earliest devotion to Jesus. I recommend his work and would be happy to lend my copies of his books to any of you.*