

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.
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August 2004

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During July, I was privileged to have the opportunity to represent our circuit at the 62nd Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It was an interesting convention marked like most conventions with stark differences on some issues and surprising (at least according to our culture) near unanimity on other issues. I'm still trying to sort out just what happened, the possible ramifications of various overtures, and what the future might hold for our synod. When I get that done, I will write a more extensive report. For now, I will just leave you with the transcript of the message I gave on the closing day of the convention in the SD District caucus and devotion breakfast. I think that will give you a little flavor of the convention.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

When I was asked to lead the devotions for today, determined that I would follow the assigned reading for today. According to the system I generally follow, that is Isaiah 66:10-14, the Old Testament reading many of us will hear on Sunday. But as I read it, it seemed it had very little connection to the Synodical convention. It speaks of rejoicing and taking great delight. And I thought of the possibility that the only rejoicing that we might feel like this morning is rejoicing that we are almost done. The only delight we might take is in the thought of home. Not wishing to be so crass, I decided that I would just have to find a suitable passage as the events of the week unfolded.

A number of passages came to mind. But I must confess I found the temptation very strong to use those precious words of Scripture as arrows and stones launched against others who have a different point of view. I was also concerned that I might pull a few verses out of context to support my argument. So I did what usually works best for me—I stuck with the assigned pericope. And, rather than say what I thought those misguided souls on the other side need to hear, I decided to say what I—a poor, miserable sinner and blood-bought saint—need to hear. Perhaps you need to hear them, too!

So what do I need to hear about? I need to hear about peace! Now, maybe you're sick and tired of hearing about peace. You've listened to speaker after speaker talk about peace, *ad nauseum*. Maybe, like I, you're thinking: "I've heard an awful lot about peace this week, but I really haven't seen all that much peace." Perhaps, like I, you've had the not-so-peaceful comment perching precariously on the tip of your tongue: "Wake up! If you other guys only had the sense to see things the clear way I do, we'd have peace." Maybe, like I, you've thought once or twice: "If those other folks just wouldn't be so nit-picky, we'd have a little more peace."

I have news for you... while each of those statements probably has at least a kernel of truth in it, none of these things is likely to happen here today. At least not to the extent that we will have a real, lasting peace due to my efforts, or your efforts, or your efforts or the efforts of any delegate or officer of our beloved synod. The problem is not just those other folks; it's you and me too! We are each fallen, worldly sinners, living in a sinful, fallen world, trying to deal with a world full of our fellow fallen sinners. Ever since the Fall, our enemies—the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh—have sought to separate us from one another and destroy our peace.

But even worse, that sin separates us from God. Because of sin, we are by nature, not at peace with God, but we are His enemies, living under the condemnation of His righteous wrath. Spiritually blind, we cannot find our own way to peace. Spiritually dead, we have neither the desire or ability to do so. But in

the midst of this hopeless situation, God gives us hope. In the midst of our brokenness, God gives us a promise—the day will come when we will have peace like a river that never goes dry.

The Good News comes in the 66th chapter of Isaiah. By the time Isaiah writes this chapter, he has already delivered many messages to God's people. He has led us through the despair of seeing God's people forget who they are. He has warned us against our sin. He has told us that his message is for the whole world. And woven throughout his warnings is a message about a baby who will be called God Almighty. About a servant who will become a suffering servant. And, finally about a victory.

This does not mean that the pain and struggles have disappeared. We haven't suddenly gotten our handbook and constitution and by-laws so perfectly crafted and fine-tuned we will get along in this world in perfect peace and harmony. As long as our sinful nature still clings to us, we will not avoid the pains and sorrows and their harmful effects.

No, we don't bury our heads in the sand, or pretend to have peace where none exists. As Christians, we can celebrate perfect peace because we can face reality. You see, even as Isaiah listed the sins and sorrows of the Israelites in all their gory detail, he also spoke of God's promise—the Messiah, the Prince of Peace. He told them about the baby called Immanuel—"God with us."

By God's grace, we know the Savior, Isaiah promised has come. Jesus Christ lived the perfect, obedient life we could not. He suffered and died for our sins—even our failures at making peace of keeping peace. Christ rose again from the dead to give us the certain hope of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. He willingly gave Himself up as an atoning sacrifice to bring us perfect peace with God. And through His Word and Sacraments, He continues to come to us with peace like a river that never goes dry. Those good gifts bring us forgiveness and empower us to begin to live with one another in peace.

Come to think of it—we have seen peace this week. We have experienced an ever flowing river of peace as we received Christ's very body and blood in the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning. We have experienced the peace of God, the peace that comes by God's grace for Christ's sake in these words: "You are forgiven all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Amen
The peace that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting.
Amen.

God's richest blessings in Christ!

Pastor Moeller

P.S. I've also included an example of what I would consider to be one of the high points of the convention, Resolution 3-05A To Affirm Marriage as Union of One Man and One Woman, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority vote of 1,163 to 22.

To Affirm Marriage as Union of One Man and One Woman

RESOLUTION 3-05A Overtures 3-71–74 (*CW*, pp. 185–186)

WHEREAS, The LCMS in convention in 1973 stated in Res. 2-04 (*Proceedings*, p. 110): “That the Synod recognize homophile behavior as intrinsically sinful” (Lev. 18:22, 20:13, Rom. 1:24-27); and

WHEREAS, The Gospel declares that Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2) and that Christ, who knew no sin, was made to be our sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21); and

WHEREAS, The church’s proper evangelical work is to proclaim the reconciliation of the sinner to God in the death of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-19); and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention (2001 Res. 2-08A) encouraged its congregations "to minister to homosexuals and their families in a spirit of compassion and humility, recognizing that 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus' (Rom. 3:23-24)"; and

WHEREAS, Many in American society are demanding legal recognition of same-sex unions as “marriages” by appeals to “equality under the law” (e.g., the Supreme Court of the State of Massachusetts, Feb. 4, 2004); and

WHEREAS, God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph, 5:32); and

WHEREAS, Homosexual behavior is prohibited in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1Cor. 6:9-20; 1 Tim. 1:10) as contrary to the Creator’s design (Rom. 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, For our Synod to be silent, especially in the present context, could be viewed as acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod urge its members to give a public witness from Scripture against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual “marriage”; and be it further

Resolved, That in ministering to homosexuals that “A Plan for Ministry to Homosexuals and Their Families” prepared by the President’s Task Force, be commended as a resource for study and a guide for pastoral care; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod deal with sexual sins with the same love and concern as all other sins, calling for repentance and offering forgiveness in the Good News of Jesus Christ when there is repentance; and be it further

Resolved, That husbands and wives give thanks to God for the blessings of marriage, lead a chaste and decent life, and each love and honor one’s spouse; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention affirm, on the basis of Scripture, marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:2-4; Matt. 19:5-6).

Campus Ministry Information

The District Office is asking all congregations to provide contact information on all their members who are attending colleges or universities this year. This will enable the Campus Ministry pastors to keep in contact. If you or your son or daughter are heading off for college or university, please let Pastor Moeller know their name, the post-secondary school they will be attending, the student’s school address and phone number, and e-mail address.

Federal Marriage Amendment

The 62nd Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on July 13th affirmed, “on the basis of Scripture, marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6).” The delegates supported Resolution 3-05A (see Pastor’s Ponderings) by more than 98 percent. The resolution was adopted 1,163 to 22. The resolution urges members of the Synod “To give a public witness against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual ‘marriage’”.

As Christians in the United States of America, we have the right, privilege, and obligation to speak up on moral issues in the public square. One of the ways we can do this is write letters to the editor of our newspapers. Another way is to contact our legislators on both the state and federal levels. The Federal Marriage Amendment is certainly one of those issues we must address.

On July 14th, the U.S. Senate voted on the Federal Marriage Amendment. The cloture motion was rejected with 48 voting “yea,” 50 voting “nay” and two not voting. A 3/5 majority was required to bring the issue up for debate. This is not the end of this issue. Both Senators Daschle and Johnson voted “nay” on the cloture motion. You may wish to contact our senators.

Senator Thomas Daschle Telephone (202) 224-2341 FAX (202) 224-2047
Web Form: <http://daschle.senate.gov/webform.html>
Website: <http://daschle.senate.gov>

Senator Tim Johnson Telephone (202) 224-5842 FAX (202) 228-5765
Email: tim@johnson.senate.gov
Website: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

Purity is about propriety, mystery, and modest. Purity must be nurtured in a special garden, not a coed classroom; it must grow in a safe environment where modesty is preserved. Purity is best taught in the home by the parents to whom the responsibility was first entrusted. Children trust parents.

The Church can help parents by equipping them with God’s Word. Purity grows from the truth of Genesis: man and woman were created equal, but different from one another. Each has a unique and vital role—the man to protect, the woman to bear and nurture life. Purity understands that women, as the bearers of life, are vulnerable and have the most at stake. Purity places a young woman within protective, yet pleasant, boundaries. These boundaries are drawn by God Himself to respect the physical and psychological differences between male and female.

Woe to those who attempt to erase these boundaries or ignore them by pretending that boys and girls are the same. Neither are adults to remove the protective covering of modesty and desensitize children by repeatedly making them more “comfortable” with topics of “sex” and “sexuality.”

Contrary to the world’s perspective, male and female (of any age) are not called to “sexual” living, but holy living. We are not held captive to sexual thoughts and desires. That’s because God created Adam and Eve in His image, not the image of animals. Sin has flawed the perfect image we bear but, in Jesus Christ, there is hope! Through His redemptive love and the work of the Holy Spirit, boys and girls as well as men and women are enabled to make God-pleasing and healthy choices for a future of hope.

Linda D. Bartlett Past national president of Lutherans For Life

Lutherans For Life State Conference

The South Dakota Lutherans For Life will be holding their annual state conference on September 17th & 18th at Peace Lutheran Church in Brookings. Friday evening there will a banquet with Bryan Young as the features speaker. Tickets cost \$10.00. On Saturday from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be a variety of Bible studies, programs, and speakers on the theme: "*And God Said...*"

Registration forms are available in the Lutheran Witness or by contacting:

Lorraine Mosemann
37256 263rd St.
White Lake, SD 57383

Please send in your registration by September 3, 2004

Construction, I.N.C. Music

We have a cd (complete with printed lyrics) of the songs from our Construction, I.N.C. Vacation Bible School for each family who attended. You may pick up yours!

We also need help distributing copies to those who are not members of our congregation. This is an excellent opportunity to get a chance to meet new people. If you would like to help, please speak to Ray Matthies, Joe Krizan, or Pastor Moeller.

Stewardship Thoughts

"Maturing stewards strive for excellence in all they do!"

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 St. Paul writes: "*Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*" Years ago, Chinese farmers decided they would eat the good, big potatoes and use the small ones for seed. They gained a new understanding of the laws of life and found from bitter experience that the new potatoes resulting from this practice were reduced to the size of marbles. The harvest reflects the planting. "Planting small potatoes" is still common practice today, but not for maturing stewards who strive for excellence in all they do. Maturing stewards know that it is crazy to plant leftovers and expect a bumper crop in return.

Maturing stewards also relate to what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7: "*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*"

"*God loves a cheerful giver.*" Have you ever thought about that statement and tried to analyze your own feelings regarding giving of anything whether it's time, skills, work or money? When you discover that a more precise translation from Greek of the word "cheerful" is "hilarious," the question becomes even more interesting. How many of us give anything with "hilarity?" Perhaps the ability to give with cheerfulness or hilarity is related to our reason for giving. "Grudge giving" says "I have to!" Duty giving says, "I ought to." Thanks giving says, "I want to."

When God wanted to show us how much He loved us, He didn't send a letter; He sent His only-begotten Son. When Jesus was asked how much He loved us, He stretched out His arms and said, "This much," and He died. But He rose again, the firstfruits of all who die, to open up the gates of heaven to all believers. This same God who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will also with Him give us all good things, so that we will have enough for our own needs as well as the needs of others and the extension of His kingdom. God's maturing stewards want to be a part of that kind of sharing that makes an eternal difference, ***because they strive for excellence in all they do.***

Garage Painting

The garage is ready to be primed and painted now. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact John Barber (528-7380).

Bike for Life

Pastor Nabil Nour invites members of the SD District to participate in the Bike for Life event to be held on Saturday, September 18th. Participants bike whatever distance they can, (wherever they can), collect pledge money and submit the proceeds to Lutherans For Life. Participants are welcome to join Pastor Nour for all or any of his trip from Armour to the Alpha Center (in Sioux Falls) on Saturday afternoon. Pastor Moeller will be in Brookings for the SD Lutherans For Life Conference on that day, but he is planning his own bike ride from Trinity Lutheran Church to Tea and back (about 25 miles) on Saturday, September 11th. If you would like to join him or pledge to this ride, please contact him.

The Installation of the Rev. Darren Olson

You are all invited to the installation of the Reverend Darren Olson as the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Canistota and St. John's Lutheran Church in Montrose. It will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 8th at Zion Lutheran church in Canistota.

E-Mail Addresses for the Newsletter

The Stewardship Committee is collecting e-mail addresses for those would like to receive our monthly newsletter electronically rather than through the mail. Those who choose this method will be able to receive their newsletter more quickly and save the cost of postage as well. If you are interest in this option please send your request to pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

The Marriage of Lance & Cindy Wollmann

Congratulations to Lance and Cindy Wollmann (pictured to the left) who were united as husband and wife in a wedding ceremony yesterday on Saturday, June 26th at Trinity. We pray that God would continue to bless their marriage and grant them many years together.



Steve Oligmueller Benefit

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Steve Oligmueller benefit. Over \$1,500.00 was raised and will be matched by the West Minnehaha County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. (Pictured to the right: Steve and LeAnna Oligmueller.)



Life Ministry Coordinator Needed

Our congregation is in need of a Life Ministry Coordinator. This person would work with Pastor on sanctity of human life issues and help to keep our congregation informed. If interested, or if you'd like more information, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

High School Youth Group

August Activity – Thunder Road

The High School Youth Group is invited to Thunder Road on Wednesday, August 11 from 10:00 pm to 12:00 am. The cost is only \$5, includes all activities. This is sponsored by the West Minnehaha Chapter Board for Thrivent. If any High School youth are interested please call Michelle Thompson at 526-3539.

A Mile of Pennies – Fund Raiser

The high school youth group is sponsoring "A Mile of Pennies" Fund Raiser. We will have a jar for you to place your pennies in, we will also except other monetary donations (\$1.00 = 100 pennies). Do you know how many pennies are in a mile?

High School and Junior Youth Group Cross Painting

We will soon be setting a date for the two groups to get together for some fun. We are going to be painting some Crosses and having a BBQ. Watch for details.

Future Facilities Committee

Due to an on-going discussion on heating and air conditioning needs versus industry standards, our building project has been delayed. This issue is being resolved in the best interest of all concerned. If you have any questions, please contact Don Reichert and he can forward them to me.

Tom Mathiesen, Morton Buildings, Inc.

LWML Recycling Fundraiser

Over \$1000 has been raised so far, to help fund the Host Committee for the **national 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls**. Trinity was the first congregation to participate and see a return on its recycling. Thank you for remembering to save and turn in those printer cartridges. Some are worth more than \$10, so it is a worthwhile project.

Money raised will be used to pay expenses for some members of the Host Committee to travel to the 2005 convention in Tampa Fla. to learn from the committee there; rent exhibit space to promote the convention; host a dinner for the national Board of Directors in Sioux Falls in January 2007 and to finance committee meetings as the group begins its work.

Please remember the chairman, the committee and the 2007 convention in your prayers. Your help may be needed as the date draws near. Volunteers will be appreciated.

Thank you and keep recycling.

Pat Reichert
2007 LWML Convention
Host Committee Chair

Trinity Lutheran Church Voter's Meeting – Sunday, July 18, 2004

President Don Reichert called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Don Reichert in Keith Reuters absence. Report approved.

Pastor's Report: *Official acts at Trinity* -13 Sunday worship services (6 with Holy Communion), 13 Wednesday night services (6 with Holy Communion), 38 served private communion, 2 wedding services (Jeff and Robyn Kaufman, Lance and Cindy Wollmann), and 1 Baptism (Isaiah Joshua Nyreen). Pastor also gave a brief report on the convention in St. Louis, members will receive a full report next week.

Elders: *Christian Education:* VBS was a huge success, with 102 children attending, 20 helpers, and offerings of \$400.00. Everyone had a good time.

Christian Worship: Training of ushers on going. There will be instructional cards printed to be given to each usher.

Evangelism: Volunteers are needed to help with quarterly mailings, visit shut-ins, and help with welcome programs. Pat and Marty Reichert are the news reporters, any news for the newspaper or the bulletin board please let them know. Plans are being made for Mission Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004. The theme is "Reaching the Lost by Involving the Found." There will be a pork loin dinner. Joe Krizan made the motion to use \$200.00 from current fund to pay for the pork loin, seconded by Dale Snyder. MC.

Stewardship: No meeting during summer months. John Barber reported the elders had approved a 3% raise for Pastor Moeller, staying within the guide lines of the District. 3% amounts to \$765.84 a year. John Barber made the motion to accept the raise proposed to be used toward utilities, seconded by ray Matthies. MC. Everyone was in agreement Pastor is doing a very good job. John also encouraged members to use the prayer chain. When calling Pastor with your concerns and illness's mention to Pastor if you want the prayer chain.

Trustee's report: The bid to tuck, point, and paint the bell tower came to \$16,800.00. Melvin Matthies will check into more bids. Air conditioning for the church would cost \$5960.00 done by Tessier - a unit outside piped into the balcony. John Barber made a motion, seconded by Dale Snyder to use \$542.13 from the parsonage fund to pay for having the rain gutters and downspouts installed on the new garage. MC. The old mower was sold for \$150.00. Melvin Matthies will check with Orrin Geide about old garage, also see about getting small shed out before Mission Sunday. Ray Matthies will check with two saw mills about the tree on the east side of church.

Men's Club: Need volunteer's to help paint new garage. Some wiring yet to be done.

LWML: No report.

High school group: They are painting the crosses for Lutheran's for Life.

Y.E.S. group: Same as High school group.

Couple's Club: No meetings during the summer.

125th Anniversary Committee: No recent meeting.

Improvement Committee: Will help remove old buildings and clean up yard.

Future Facilities committee: Construction should start by September. Delayed because of a number of heating and cooling units in blue prints.

New Business: Don and Pat Reichert paid the \$500.00 to have inside of alter painted. Olson Painting did the painting. Pat Reichert moved we use up to \$150.00 from the Improvement fund to repair the broken church signs, one at the east corner and one at the west corner by highway. Seconded by Dale Snyder. MC.

Unfinished Business: John barber made the notion, seconded by Pat Reichert to move \$344.21 from improvement fund to memorial fund to pay for the painting around the alter. MC.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
June Snyder, Secretary.

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 2:00 pm Installation service for Rev. Darren Olson	2 6:00 am Men's Bible study	3 9:30 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Evangelism Committee	4 7:30 pm Worship	5 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study	9 6:00 am Men's Bible study 7:00 pm Education Committee meeting	10 7:00 pm Elder's meeting	11 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study	16 6:00 am Men's Bible study	17	18 7:30 pm Worship	19	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study	23 6:00 am Men's Bible study	24	25 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	26 Deadline for newsletter	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study	30 6:00 am Men's Bible study	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Please send your article for the newsletter to Stacy VanWesten at tommyguns23@netzero.com </div>			

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sun., Aug. 1

Cleaners: John & Carlene Barber, Carmen Barber, Casey Barber
 Greeters: Clarice Wixon, Stacy VanWesten
 Head Usher: Casey Barber
 Acolyte: Thomas Iverson

Wed., Aug. 4

Greeters: John & Carlene Barber
 Head Usher: Lance Wollmann
 Acolyte: Holly Kelley

Sun., Aug. 8

Cleaners: Adel & Amy Valdes, Keith & Sherry Rueter
 Greeters: Keith & Sherry Rueter
 Head Usher: Casey Barber
 Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum

Wed., Aug. 11

Greeters: Adel & Amy Valdes
 Head Usher: Lance Wollmann
 Acolyte: Phillip Oligmueller

Sun., Aug. 15

Cleaners: Talis & Laura Johnson, Tim & Kathy Totton
 Greeters: Tim & Kathy Totton
 Head Usher: Casey Barber
 Acolyte: Brady Eggebraaten

Wed., Aug. 18

Greeters: Talis & Laura Johnson
 Head Usher: Lance Wollmann
 Acolyte: Derek Johnson

Sun., Aug. 22

Cleaners: Ken & Robin Kleba, Paul & Linn Suttle
 Greeters: Ken & Robin Kleba
 Head Usher: Casey Barber
 Acolyte: Kimberly Kleba

Wed., Aug. 25

Greeters: Bob & Ruth Moore
 Head Usher: Lance Wollmann
 Acolyte: Aubrey Larson

Sun., Aug. 29

Cleaners: Denny & Walt Plagman, Chuck & Debbie Nelson
 Greeters: Chuck & Debbie Nelson
 Head Usher: Casey Barber
 Acolyte: Lyndze Thompson

Elder for July: Joe Krizan 363-3309