

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

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For the last couple of years, our congregation has been using the unofficial motto, "Reaching the Lost by Involving the Found." That is our very purpose for existence as a church here in this very location, at this exact period of time. God, in His mercy and grace, has chosen you and me to be a member of the body of Christ. While we were still lost, He sent His only-begotten Son to seek and to save us. On the cross, Jesus died so that we might receive forgiveness and salvation and be His own. Through His Word and Sacraments, He has given us eternal life and made us His disciples. As His disciples, He has blessed us with the privilege of being His ambassadors to the world, beginning at home and extending to the farthest reaches of the earth. In His Great Commission, He has given us the responsibility and authority to make more disciples throughout the world, to seek and to save the lost by sharing His Gospel message.

At our Mission/Friendship Sunday on Sunday, September 12th, we will be able to learn more about our opportunities to fulfill our mission/commission. We will learn ways in which we can reach out to the strangers among us, the multicultural mission field that God has brought into our own neighborhoods and cities through immigration and refugee resettlement. And we each have an additional opportunity to reach out to others as we invite our friends and neighbors to join us for worship, some special entertainment, a pork loin meal, and root beer floats.

Please plan to attend this special event. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as well as we continue our mission of "Reaching the Lost by Involving the Found."

God's richest blessings!

Pastor Moeller

P.S. We will taking a special offering for Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service. A free will offering will be accepted for the meal.

Life"Quotes from Lutherans For Life

"Certainly, we cannot and are not expected of God to save the world. That was His job. And that particular task was completed some 2,000 years ago on the cross where Jesus cried, 'It is finished.' No, we cannot save our brother. But we can be faithful in our commitment and determination that God's Word be heard and preached and disseminated to all who have a need to hear. We can be faithful in our own little part of the world to make sure that God's Word does not go wanting for a spokesman when no one else will speak out. We can be faithful even within the small arena of our own families where it is important that our children hear and understand this thing called faith and how it lives itself out in the decisions we make in our daily lives. As stewards of this heady and magnificent gift called the Gospel, God simply asks that we be found faithful in the field in which He has placed us. And with that alone, He is pleased. And remember, the fields in which He has placed us are white for the harvest."

Rev. Gerald N. Epperson

September Stewardship

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

The Labor Day weekend is usually considered the end of summer. September is that time of year when most congregations resume many of the ministry activities that were put on hold or scaled back during the summer months. It's a time of renewed efforts and events like Rally Day celebrations. It's also that time of year when church members have more opportunities to put their time and talents to work serving the Lord and his people. The stewardship of time and talent is equally as important as the stewardship of financial resources. Maturing stewards know that from experience and they strive for excellence in all they do and give.

The giving of time and talents provides many blessings and benefits. The total ministry of the congregation is enhanced as maturing stewards use their time and talents for Sunday school, youth activities, church choirs, men's and ladies' groups, leadership and officer positions, and a host of other activities. In the process people are served and those involved in serving grow in their Christian discipleship. It's a marvelous thing to see a church alive with members using their gifts and talents in a free and generous way.

Maturing stewards are willing to take the first step and offer their time and talents for service in the congregation. Wouldn't it be something if our pastors and church leaders had to tell the members to stop offering their gifts because more than enough had already been offered? One of the few times such a thing happened was during the gathering of freewill offerings for the building of the Old Testament tabernacle. Exodus 36:2-7 records that the people kept bringing gifts for building the tabernacle until there were way more than enough. Moses actually had to order the people to stop bringing more gifts for the project. What a pleasant problem!

The reality in most congregations is that there are fewer volunteers than needed, not more volunteers than needed. Wouldn't it be something if in this congregation members would take the first step and offer their time and talents for the work of building up the ministry of our congregation? Could that actually happen, or is it only a pious dream? Where the Spirit of God is at work you will also find people who are growing as stewards and looking for opportunities to use their time and talents to make a difference. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us of the truth that "we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." ***Maturing stewards recognize that truth and strive for excellence in all they do and give...and together they make a difference!***

Fullness of Joy—A Sunday Morning Bible Study of the Lutheran Liturgy

The word *liturgy* itself is a good conversation starter. Many simply have no idea what a *liturgy* is. Others take it for a collective term for everything that is not important in a service. In other congregations, members doggedly sing the *liturgy* on a weekly basis. However, if we are to ask them why, the answer too often is "We've always done it this way before."

As important as history and tradition is, "We've always done it this way before" is not an adequate reason for continuing what we've done in the past. With the *liturgy*, there is a far better reason. The liturgy teaches and rejoices in the outstanding truth that our crucified and risen Lord is present with His people in worship—present to serve us with the forgiveness of sins.

In order to learn more about the riches of the liturgy our Sunday morning adult Bible study group (10:30 – 11:45 a.m.) is looking at "Fullness of Joy: A Study of the Liturgy of the Church."

Please join us!

Sunday School

The new session of Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 12th. They are planning on meeting from 10:30 a.m. to **11:45 p.m. (Please note the time change.)**

Lutherans For Life State Conference

The SD Lutherans For Life will be holding their annual state conference on September 17th & 18th at Peace Lutheran Church in Brookings. Friday evening there will be a banquet with Bryan Young as the featured 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 by September 3, 2004

Digital Camera Available

Thanks to a generous donation, we have a digital camera available for all groups of the church to use to record their activities. This will be nice to use for updating our website, writing articles for the newspaper and newsletter, and chronicling each group's activities. If your group has an activity scheduled please contact Pastor Moeller so you can use this camera.

Finding Jesus in Genesis Sermon Series

We are currently having a series of sermons in our Wednesday night services that explore the Book of Genesis. We will dig into the ancient stories of Biblical heroes and villains, heroic adventures and sinful lapses, all the while following the golden thread that leads to Christ our Savior. May God bless our excavations in these weeks ahead, knowing that the promises we unearth are fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

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.

SESD Lutherans For Life

The SESD Lutherans For Life will be meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD on Friday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn more about sanctity of life issues.

If you would be able to furnish some cookies or bars for snacks, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

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. 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.

Reaching the Lost by Involving the Found

You are invited to our Mission/Friendship Sunday on September 12, 2004. "Reaching the Lost by Involving the Found" begins with worship at 9:30 a.m. followed by a presentation on LIRS by a volunteer and member of Trinity, Pat Reichert.

A pork loin and salad lunch will be served. Afternoon entertainment for all ages will include ethnic dancing, skits, music, and games. Plan to stay until 2:00 pm to enjoy root beer floats.

A free will offering will be taken to help support the work of LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service). Please be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!

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 to ride from Trinity Lutheran Church to Tea and back (about 25 miles) on Saturday, September 11th. We will leave Trinity at 8:30 a.m. and should be back at noon. If you would like to join him or pledge, please contact him. Everyone is invited to join us for a potluck dinner at noon.

Lifelight Bible Study

The Lifelight Bible study will meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The study will meet in people's homes and provides a perfect midweek break. The first meeting will be held on September 8th. We will continue our "Lifelight" study of "Prophecy." Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us. Please let Pastor Moeller know as soon as possible so he can order enough materials.

Confirmation Meeting

There will be a meeting for all 5th-8th grade students and their parents who will be attending confirmation classes this year on Wednesday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m. Please plan on attending.

Monday Evening Bible Study

On Monday evenings, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., we will meet to study various Bible lessons based upon the "Our Life in Christ" series. Those teaching Sunday School will find this study helpful in their preparation for teaching, as we carefully examine the coming week's lesson. But everyone else is invited to attend as well. Please consider taking part of this opportunity to grow in your Christian faith.

High School Bible Study

All High School-aged students are invited to come to the parsonage each Sunday from 10:30-11:45 a.m. for a Bible study. This year, we will be studying the "The Authority of Scripture" a Biblical look at the importance and authority of Scripture and the three main styles of challenges to Scripture throughout history. Joe Krizan and Archie Wolfe will be leading.

Men's Monday Morning Meditation

The Men's Monday Morning Bible study meets each Monday morning at Jubilee in Hartford at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and Bible study. We are finishing a general study of the New Testament, entitled "Exploring God's Word." The goal of this study is to equip the participants with a number of tools and skills that they can use for their own personal devotions. All the men are invited to attend this great way to begin each week. Please bring your Bibles.



A Statement on Marriage by Lutherans For Life

(adopted by the National Lutherans For Life Board of Directors on February 21, 2004)

In God's "very good" creation, there was one thing "not good." "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). It was not companionship that the man needed. It was relationship, a relationship that would be like God's relationship with him. Adam may have found a companion as all the animals paraded before him, but he found no one suitable for this kind of relationship (Genesis 2:20). He who bore the image of God needed someone who also bore the image of God in order to have a God-like relationship. So God made a woman. She was created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). She was like the man (Genesis 2:23). She was different from the man. She was created at a different time, in a different way, and for a different purpose (Genesis 2:22, 2:15, 3:20). It was that difference that made possible the kind of relationship God wanted.

Adam and Eve were capable of becoming one flesh and in that relationship could mirror their relationship with their Creator. God brought them together in this relationship called marriage (Genesis 2:24). Marriage was a part of all that was "good" in God's perfect creation. Marriage was not given as an institution to curb sin. There was no sin. Marriage was given as the foundation for the one flesh relationship.

Marriage was also the relationship through which procreation would continue. "Be fruitful and increase in number" (Genesis 1:28). Marriage is to produce children. The effects of sin upon God's biological process for procreation sometimes makes it difficult or impossible for a marriage to fulfill this blessing. However, barring such unfortunate circumstances, children are to be the result of this one flesh union.

Sin has certainly brought problems to marriage. The reality of problematic marriages, however, does not abdicate the essence of what marriage is. Jesus makes this clear. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one" (Mark 10:6-8). What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be.

Throughout Scripture marriage is a picture of God's relationship to His people. God is Israel's "husband" (Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20). As such,

He rejoices over His bride (Isaiah 62:5). Jesus is pictured as the bridegroom and the Church His bride (Rev. 19:7). It is His unconditional love for His bride the Church that caused Him to give Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).

Lutherans For Life affirms the great blessing of the institution of marriage as revealed in God's holy Word. We affirm that marriage is a God-given institution between a man and a woman. We affirm that this one flesh union reflects our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. We affirm that it is the means God has chosen for procreation. Based on this, we are compelled to humble ourselves before God and ask His forgiveness for all the times we have dishonored marriage by trivializing its importance, by failing to reflect Christ's love in our marriages, and by our failure to connect the importance of marriage and our relationship to God.

Based on this, we are also compelled to reject homosexual unions as contrary to the Word of God. The "sameness" of homosexuals prevents a one-flesh union as well as the possibility of the procreation of children. Such unions do not and cannot reflect our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Such unions are based on a lie rather than the Word of God (Romans 1:25) and cannot constitute a marriage.

Marriage is founded upon the promise publicly exchanged between one man and one woman. Similarly, our Redeemer binds Himself to His Church with His promise, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20); "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Living together without the public promise of mutual love, respect, and fidelity dishonors marriage and is fornication. Adultery breaks the marriage vow, whether by marital infidelity, abuse, or abandonment. We must reject as contrary to the Word of God these and all practices which would not keep the marriage bed pure – impurity of thought, word, or deed (e. g., the use of pornography). We also reject as contrary to the Word of God any reproductive technologies that violate or circumvent the institution of marriage (e.g. donated eggs or sperm and cloning).

We believe, as God says, "Marriage should be honored by all" (Hebrews 13:4). May God give us the faith, wisdom, and courage to bring honor to this great blessing from Him.

September 2004

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 pm Worship	2 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study	6 6:00 am Men's Bible study 7:00 pm Bible study Labor Day	7 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home	8 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML mtg at Connie's 6:30 pm Parent/student meeting for confirmation 7:30 pm Worship	9 7:00 pm Circuit Forum at Spencer	10 7:00 pm SEDS Lutheran For Life meeting at Trinity, Hartford	11 8:30 am Pastor's Bike-for-Life 12:00 noon Potluck dinner
12 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 11:30 am-2:00 pm Mission/ Friendship Sunday	13 6:00 am Men's Bible study 7:00 pm Bible study	14 7:00 pm Elders' meeting	15 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	16 9:30 am Circuit Pastor's Meeting at Canistota 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living	17 7:00 pm SD LFL Banquet at Peace, Brookings	18 8:45 am SD LFL State Conference
19 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study	20 6:00 am Men's Bible study 7:00 pm Bible study	21 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Christian Education Comm.	22 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	23 Deadline for Newsletter	24	25 9:00 am LWML Christian Growth Workshop at Blessed Redeemer in Brandon
26 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study	27 6:00 am Men's Bible study 7:00 pm Bible study	28	29 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	30		

Sept. 1

Greeters: Denny & Walt Plagman
Head Usher: Brock Thompson
Acolyte: Phillip Oligmueller

Sept. 5

Cleaners: Helen Wenzlaff, Pat Wenzlaff, Melvin Letsche
Greeters: Helen Wenzlaff, Pat Wenzlaff
Head Usher: Tim Totton
Acolyte: Holly Kelley

Sept. 8

Greeters: Melvin Letsche
Head Usher: Brock Thompson
Acolyte: Kimberly Kleba

Sept. 12

Cleaners: Orrin Geide, Earle & Connie Geide, Matthew Anderson
Greeters: Orrin Geide
Head Usher: Tim Totton
Acolyte: Austin Wolfe

Sept. 15

Greeters: Earle & Connie Geide
Head Usher: Brock Thompson
Acolyte: Aubrey Larson

Sept. 19

Cleaners: Archie & Lisa Wolfe, Myron & Paula Semrau
Greeters: Lester & Jean Gregersen
Head Usher: Tim Totton
Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum

Sept. 22

Greeters: Archie & Lisa Wolfe
Head Usher: Brock Thompson
Acolyte: Derek Johnson

Sept. 26

Cleaners: Marvin Mielke, Wilbur & Lois Mielke, Jennifer Bauer
Greeters: Marvin Mielke
Head Usher: Tim Totton
Acolyte: Brady Eggebraaten

Sept. 29

Greeters: Wilbur & Lois Mielke
Head Usher: Brock Thompson
Acolyte: Jared Bauer

Elder for September: John Barber 528-7380