



AUGUST 2016

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VOMITOUS CHRISTIANITY

“Over and over, wrong and wrong again; with the Church not speaking to the world from her wisdom, but the world teaching the Church a lesson in its foolishness, and the Church going along, like the puny kid in the schoolyard who sucks up to the bully and learns to cheer when the bully beats up the kid’s own brothers.” – Anthony Esolen, Crisis Magazine “The Future Church that Never Was” May 17, 2016

Like the promise of the old Bionic Man, saviors of the church have come forward with the promise that we can make the church better, we can improve on the old message, we can rescue worship from irrelevance, and we can reach people by listening to them... The prophets of the mighty once and future church have proven to be false voices. But we still listened to them and now we find ourselves with a church that has heard too well the voice of the world and forgotten to hear and proclaim the voice of Jesus.

We sat by and laughed at the crude and vulgar caricatures of a church that went before, of pious children and ancient rites, of moral confidence and doctrinal certitude, and of truth that does not change. We laughed and promised that the once and future church would not be your grandfather's church but a new creation relevant and relative, with big ears to listen to the world and small mouths with not much to say but "yes" to every sin called normal and every old heresy called truth.

We lived more in fear of what the world thought than what Jesus thinks and so we sucked up to the powers of the moment rather than risk rejection in standing close to Jesus. Someone once told me that if you stand close to Jesus you will be spattered with blood. Well, the clothes of modern Christianity are pretty clean. We tell everyone to trust the voice of desire and to do what seems right in their own eyes and then wonder why no one pays much attention to us anymore. We have selective memory and can recall absolute clarity everything wrong with the past but cannot name one thing right. We cheer as the bully of the moment trashes marriage and lauds abortion, glories in sex and dismisses Scripture. We are standing on the right side of earthly power but on the wrong side of faithfulness. We have emptied the churches of the transcendent in order to make room for the moment and lowered the ceiling so that we could be the main focus and the object of what passes as worship. We did it all in the name of relevance and still the world ignores us. What more can we ditch on the side of the road to moral ambiguity, heresy, and hell?

We have forgotten that we are in but not of the world, that the old man was drowned in baptism so that the new man might rise anew in Christ, and that we are citizens of an everlasting city that is burning ever more brightly as the passing one fades. We have a message for a world captive to sin and comfortable with death. We have a hope strong enough for a people who have learned to be friends with despair. We have a cross big enough to carry the weight of every disappointment. We have a Gospel strong enough to be a lifeboat for every sinner. We have a truth that does not pass away for a world that does not even realize it is.

Wake up Christians and wake up Church. Relevance was supposed to save us but it took our soul and left us the lukewarm whom Christ vomits from His mouth. But it does not have to be this way. Read the Word. Trust in the crucified Savior. Rejoice in the absolution of your sins. Eat the flesh and drink the blood that satisfies our hunger and quenches our thirst once for all.



Pastor Peck



Are you going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can get help. Contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Judy Kugler, Eady Broscheit, or Joe Broscheit and learn more about Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers have received special training to provide quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with a cancer diagnosis, going through a divorce or separation, battling a chronic illness (or caring for a spouse or parent who is chronically ill), experiencing a great deal of stress, facing the loss

of a job-or encountering any of countless other life challenges.

Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way to get help.

Lutheran Women in Mission



Welcome to all women of the congregation!

Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2

Your Mites go toward this National Mission Grant – Training Teachers and Leaders - \$100,000

More than ever, the global Lutheran churches with which the LCMS works are seeking ever-advanced theological study, in a confessional Lutheran context, for those who will teach and lead them in the years to come. At the same time, very few of these church bodies are able to support the cost of sending to the LCMS the best men and women that they have for graduate students. This LWML grant provides support to ensure that each of its admitted students will be able to achieve the goal of acquiring an advanced theological degree.

MITE SUNDAY, August 14th

Thank you very much for your support to our mission grants. Both National and District LWML have mission goals to complete. Let's keep reaching out to those around us with the message of God's love. Continue to pray for God to bless the recipients of all our mission grants. The Mite Box will be available for your contributions at the fellowship table in the narthex.