



OCTOBER 2020

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What We Believe—Augsburg Confession

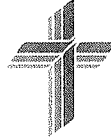
Article XIV—Order in the Church

Note: When this article speaks of a rightly ordered call, it refers to the Church's historic practice of pacing personally and theologically qualified men into the office of preaching and teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. No one in the Church can take such authority for himself or bestow such authority on his own. The ministry is conferred by means of a formal, public, and official call from the Church. At the time this article was presented, it was understood that a minister's first call is publicly ratified and confirmed by means of prayer and the laying on of hands, ordination, a practice that dates back to the time of the apostles. In the Lutheran Confessions, "ordination" is a term often used as shorthand for both the call and ordination. (See also AP XIIV; SA III X.)

Our churches teach that no-one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments without a rightly ordered call.

For Further Personal Study

Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action (pg. 15)



By: Matthew C. Harrison

Luther described the Divine Service as a man coming with an empty sack. In the Invocation, the name of the triune God, the very name placed on us in our Baptism, is spoken on us again. That name is grace, mercy, and forgiveness dropped into our "sack." We add an "Amen," that is, a "Yes, it is so! It is in my bag." Then we confess our sins—"Dear God, my sack is empty"—and the pastor "in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ" forgives us. We say again, "Amen! It is in the bag." God gives more grace and mercy in the readings from Holy Scripture. The sermon is replete with the forgiveness of sins in Christ, the Gospel that "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). As the very words are heard, they do what they say. At the end of the sermon, the pastor speaks the apostolic blessing, and we say, "Amen! It is in the bag". The Lord's Supper is given... We receive Jesus' body and blood with a hearty, "Amen!" The sack continues to be filled right through the Aaronic Trinitarian blessing: "The bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." And we respond, "Amen, Amen, Amen! Yes, it is in the bag!"

From the Pastor

(As we prepare to celebrate the Reformation once again this month, I thought my message for October's Herald would be an excerpt of a past Reformation sermon. I pray that the sermon was edifying when first proclaimed and still edifying this today.)

Today we celebrate the 503rd year of the Gospel being made known to the Church once again: Martin Luther and his hammer and nail. ... And that means something. It really and truly does. For the faith given to us, handed down through the Church, bled and died for, taught by pastors and teachers and grandparents and parents, is a cherished gift unto salvation. We ought not take this lightly; because our enemies and persecutors certainly do not. It is easy to become complacent with the gift of the Gospel. It is easy for us to fall into a sense of boredom and apathy for it all. We can easily find ourselves despising God's Word, keeping ourselves away from the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins, neglecting and overlooking the wonderful gift of the sacraments, in which God gives to us the salvation that He won on the cross. We must gird our loins, so to speak, because even we can become enemies of the Gospel. ... May the Lord keep us from this we pray!

John the Baptist came neither eating nor drinking, proclaiming the Law in its horrible Truth, calling sinners to repentance, pointing to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and He was seen as having a demon. When the Word of God is preached into the world that is how it is always viewed: as backwards and hateful, as ignorant and self-centered, as bigoted and even demonic. Yet, God's Word stands there nonetheless. It will be proclaimed until the end of time; that is God's promise. But we pray that it might be proclaimed among us and that we might not shrink away from proclaiming it as well. God's Law is the only thing in this world that will make us ready to hear the Gospel. Without it, our hearts remain hardened as stone and we cannot come to the knowledge that we are but poor miserable sinners for whom Christ died. ... May this never happen among us dear Lord!

Jesus came eating and drinking and He was seen as a drunkard and glutton. He was seen as one who makes friends with sinners. He never lined Himself up with the self-righteous. He never made alliances that would put in jeopardy the proper proclamation of the Word. Instead, He dined with sinners. He came to those dead to their sin, those with no way out of the punishment that God's Law demanded for their transgressions. He came to them and gave them life, gave them the Gospel, gave them the forgiveness of sins. He came to die on the cross for the whole entire world so that salvation unto us may come.

And He did this all without any merit or worthiness in us. He did not come because we deserved it or earned it. He did not come to give us another option or one of many roads to heaven. He came in grace and mercy, to give us freely the only option, the only way: Him crucified! Him in a Word proclaimed! Him in a cleansing, washing, and renewal of baptism! Him given and shed to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. ... He came to be a friend of sinners, of which you and I are the greatest.

That is the celebration of the Reformation. We come here today, not only to remember and give thanks that God has once again made the salvation of the cross known to us, but that He freely gives that salvation to us. That is why we are here today: to receive the salvation of our Lord in the forgiveness of sins! So that we might celebrate this gift and receive it together standing side by side in song and praise, listening to the Gospel read and proclaimed, lifting our voices in prayer, kneeling next to one another and receiving the Good News of salvation placed upon our tongues and poured down our throats.

Thanks be to God that we have this gift of salvation and that we might receive it always free and clear. Thanks be to God that you and I might be called each and every single week to dine with the Lord who only receives sinners. Thanks be to God for Church bodies such as the LCMS and for congregations like ours where this gift is properly proclaimed. Thanks be to God for the cross, for the Holy Spirit who makes us alive in faith unto salvation, for the holy Christian Church, for communion of saints, for the forgiveness of sins, for the resurrection of the body, and for life everlasting! Thanks be to God for Jesus, the friend of sinners! Thanks be to God for the Reformation! ... In the name of Jesus! Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Eli



**Welcome to all women of the congregation!
Be Still”**

***Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.
Psalm 46:10***

Mite Sunday is October 18

One Sunday each month (used to be) now it is every Sunday, but we still call your attention to the MITE BOX for the congregation’s donations in support of the various mission grants of our District and National organization.

How “MITE” you respond? You are invited to help fund the mission grants of this biennium. By God’s grace, your mite offerings, along with the contributions of other LWML supporters, will help meet the mission goals of district and national.

Mercy Meals - \$5,000 - Volunteers from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs and surrounding churches gather to assemble Mercy Meal bags that are shipped internationally by Orphan Grain Train to places like the war-torn Republic of Georgia. Each bag contains rice, soy, dried vegetables and nutrient-rich vegetable base powder. They package an average of 360 meal bags a week, with a cost of 13 cents per bag, and have at least 15 volunteers at work sessions. The Christian organizations that receive and distribute these Mercy Meals present the Gospel to those receiving the meals, providing the spiritual food that endures to eternal life. This grant would provide supplies for two shipments of Mercy Meals while more donors and volunteers are sought out to continue this life-giving ministry.

Action Center Food/Personal Hygiene Items Drive

We will continue to collect non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for the Action Center through the month of October. Each Day hundreds of men, women, and children of the Action Center heeding help. Many of these families are struggling to keep from falling further into a cycle of poverty while some are looking for help because of the current pandemic crisis, and are new to poverty and its effects. Every day, the Action Center is able to meet this need through the generous support of donations like you! Thank you so much for all the items that have already been brought and delivered. We will continue to make deliveries through the end of October.

North Central LWML Zone Rally

Saturday, October 17th at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 500 Drake St., Denver at 9:30 am. Bible study, business meeting, virtual district report, elections. Concludes with a Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch. Please contact Carol Mathews if you plan to attend. Carpool from church.

Grant all women to be blessed by the many opportunities awaiting them in the LWML and may each of the mission grants’ needs be met according to your perfect timing.

Reminders:

- Greeting cards for all occasions in the card rack in the narthex. We ask that you leave a \$1.00 donation.
- Next regular LWML meeting will be held on Saturday, November 14th at 9:00 am.

REMEMBER!!

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!

Celebrate and thank him for his hard work!

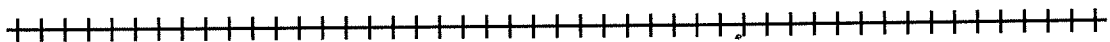


**The 503rd anniversary of the Protestant
Reformation**

To be observed Sunday, October 25
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

All Saints' Day

To be observed Sunday, November 1
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



**Bethesda Lutheran Ministries
Craft Fair**

**will be held in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 18
Please help support this worthwhile ministry.
Do some early Christmas shopping!**