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We Believe.... An explanation of the Nicene Creed

By Pastor Munding

And Was Made Man

.....and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.....

Some of you may have noticed that when we get to the part of the Nicene Creed where we all speak together the words "*and was made man*", some pastors bow until we get to the part that says "*And the third day He rose again...*". You may be curious why they do such a gesture during the creed. If you go to different churches within the LCMS you will find different practices when it comes to gestures during the divine service. Even in our own church I have noticed that there are some who will make the sign of the cross at various moments in the service to remind them of their baptism into Christ. Though some may think such gestures are a bit too Roman Catholic, the Lutheran church has been using them from the very beginning starting in the Reformation and is still used today by some. Luther even remarks on this when he says, "*And when the congregation came to the words 'from the Virgin Mary, and was made man,' everyone genuflected and removed his hat.*"

Gestures, such as genuflecting, bowing, and making the sign of the cross, play an important role in teaching through visible signs and they are also reminders for the individual who is performing them about the glorious deeds of our Lord. They are not done as a signal that one is better than the other person who chooses not to make such gestures (The Pharisees were guilty of making an outward showing of their piety and Jesus rightfully condemns this). These gestures are what we call *adiaphora*, meaning that the Scriptures do not command the use of these practices, nor do they condemn them as well.

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The idea of adiaphora is that these actions are neutral. They aren't sinful because they don't break any commandments, but—having no command from God to do them—there is no sin in abstaining from them. It is up to the believer to determine if they wish to do them or not. For some it may be beautiful, for others not so much.

These gestures can help teach us about the divine mysteries in the service, such as the bread and wine becoming the body and blood of our Savior. You may have noticed the pastor bowing after the Words of Institution in some churches (including ours). This is to signal and show reverence that our King is indeed here in with and under the elements. Such a gesture can be helpful to show what we Lutherans actually believe about the Lord's Supper, that is not a symbolic meal, but our Lord and King is truly physically present in this feast!

When it comes to the Nicene Creed, I bow down during these specific words as a reminder of Christ's humility in his incarnation. Martin Luther has this to say about the practice, *"It would still be proper and appropriate to kneel at the words 'and was made man,' to sing them with long notes as formerly, to listen with happy hearts to the message that the Divine Majesty abased Himself and became like us poor bags of worms, and to thank God for the ineffable mercy and compassion reflected in the incarnation of the Deity."* Luther rightfully describes just how important this part of the creed is for humanity. Jesus' incarnation and death on the cross is the very means of our salvation, the most important moment in human history. It is such a glorious thing that our Lord would choose to lower himself to be like us and that he would step into the mess of this sinful world in order to redeem it.

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger also has this to say about it, "In manifesting himself, God shows that he is our Lord, not just our idea. His self-manifestation is rightly at the heart of the Creed. The confession of God's history in the heart of man's history is not a departure from the simple profession of faith in God: rather, it is its intrinsic condition. For this reason, the center of all our creeds is a Yes to Jesus Christ: "By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man." At this article of the Creed we genuflect, because now heaven, the veil surrounding the hidden God, is torn open, and the Mystery comes into immediate contact with us. The distant God becomes our God, Emmanuel - 'God with us'."

For me, bowing during this moment is a way to help me fully appreciate what Jesus did for us in his incarnation. It is a way for me to show reverence to our dear King who set aside His crown and stepped off His throne to take on our flesh and dwell among us. Indeed, what a glorious mystery the incarnation is that God would dwell among us in such a form so that He could save us. And was made man, this is a confession that the Word of God, the Second Person of the most holy Trinity, became man, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone, one of us, for us and our salvation!

Of course, I am not calling for everyone to start bowing during the service, these practices are adiaphora after all. If they prove beneficial for you that is great, but if don't that is alright as well. The Scriptures neither condemn nor condone their use. The use of such gestures or the lack thereof does not take away the glorious reality that Jesus was made man for us and that we all stand as God's children thanks to the work of our dear Savior! This is the reason for this Advent and Christmas season!



Randy	12/2	Jenna	12/17
Peter	12/6	Bill	12/18
Anke	12/8	Allen	12/21
Kevin	12/9	Mindy	12/22
Emily	12/12	Christopher	12/30
Alex	12/16	Susan	12/16

Herb & Marilyn 12/10
Cary & Elsa 12/28

*From the
Pastor*



I want to express my deepest gratitude and thanks for all the wonderful cards and gifts that were given to me for pastor appreciation day. This is a reminder of how God has blessed me by calling me to such a wonderful congregation. It has truly been a pleasure being your pastor for the past two years! I thank the Lord every day that He has called me here to Holy Cross!

What a Difference a Year Makes



Thinking back to last December you recall we spent the year of 2020 in many different worship situations due to COVID restrictions, although always blessed to be able to continue our worship under the leadership of Pastor Mundinger. In the sanctuary, through online recordings, in our cars in the parking lot and in the courtyard. We celebrated advent and Christmas with beautiful evening services lit by candles and many twinkling lights and followed our tradition of the candle-lit Christmas Eve service in the courtyard.

While we started 2021 in the courtyard and parking lot, we were again blessed to be able to return to the sanctuary by Easter following strict precautions of self-assessment of symptoms, temperature-checking, masks, distancing in our pews and modified sharing of communion. We have been able to stop checking temperatures and remove our masks when fully vaccinated and have returned to the parish hall for coffee fellowship, bible study and a growing resumption of fellowship activities such as Oktoberfest, Thanksgiving and our advent wreath-lighting meal. And you will be excited to hear of two more changes by Christmas, returning to communion service at the rail and no restrictions on where you choose to sit for worship (Although as Lutherans, it is likely we have grown accustomed to where we have been sitting the last few months!)

With these changes as we have progressed through 2021 yet another blessing has been the return of many members and acquaintances we did not see in person for a long time. Our faithful worship and homecoming are truly evidence of God's great work for us. See you in church!

December Bible Studies

The Zoom links for each are the same each week
& are in the Friday Announcements email.

Adult Sunday School, 11am, Parish Hall & Zoom

Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom

Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study (on break till after Christmas)



Operations and Service and Stewardship! Oh My!

By Mike Liebe

Even though we were faced with shutdowns and precautions, we have accomplished a lot this past year. Thank you to all who have contributed in so many ways. Here are just a few highlights from the year:

- ⇒ Replaced 2 more HVAC systems in the Ed Building. We have now updated all 4 AC and heater systems.
- ⇒ Added two new Tuff Sheds on concrete pads, working with YVCS.
- ⇒ Renewed YVCS lease for three years; over 100 students enrolled!
- ⇒ Entered a Use Agreement with Troop 484 that includes service hours from them.
- ⇒ Completed our inaugural Options Health "Diaper Drive" from Mother's Day to Father's Day.
- ⇒ The return of Nifty-Fifty dining and Men's Mandatory Formation breakfast at some tasty, new restaurants!
- ⇒ Participation in the YVCS Fun Run.
- ⇒ The very successful return of Holiday Hutch and Corner Cafe!
- ⇒ Trivia Tuesday team Cheese Curds flexing our memories.
- ⇒ Revamped our website and added Vanco as an online giving option.
- ⇒ Generous Lutheran Social Services Angel Tree Holiday Gift Drive giving for 43 adults and 7 kids.
- ⇒ Major tree trimming throughout our campus.
- ⇒ The second season of our community advent wreath.
- ⇒ Ongoing watering, mowing, trimming, weeding, fixing, cleaning, and decorating; to name a few tasks.

Coming Soon:

- ⇒ Worship service online simulcast.
- ⇒ Our kitchen make-over.
- ⇒ Ed Building SimpliSafe system update (BSA Eagle project).

Our Vision Committee continues to meet monthly each first Saturday morning. Join us to share your ideas and know-how for service, outreach, and fellowship activities.

2022 will be another blessed year here at Holy Cross!



Advent Schedule

JOIN US DURING
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Midweek Advent Services

Prepare your heart for Christmas.

WEDNESDAYS, 12/1, 12/8 & 12/15 AT 6:30PM

We will begin at 5:45pm with an Advent Supper
& time of fellowship.

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful Potluck Brunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 11AM

Bring a favorite brunch
item to share.



Beverages & Bacon will be provided!



**Advent Wreath Crew,
Saturday, 11/27:
Gregg S., John B.,
Mike L., Bill L.,
& Pastor**

**Submitted by Judy Scouten
(who knew Martin Luther was
also a poet?).**

A POEM BY MARTIN LUTHER

Feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God –
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
'Til soul and body sever,
For, though all things shall pass away
His Word shall stand forever!

— Martin Luther



*Sunday, 11/28,
Advent Starts:
Fellowship Dinner,
short outside
service & lighting
the 1st candle on
our Advent
Wreath*



*Pizza, Salad &
Dessert!*



***Sunday, 11/28, Advent Starts: Fellowship Dinner, short outside service
& lighting the 1st candle on our Advent Wreath***



WoHC (Women of Holy Cross): Happenings at the Corner Cafe



THANK YOU!

Corner Café Netted \$1150

Thanks to all who volunteered with set up, donations, clean up, prep, serving, shopping, dining & everything else that goes into this annual fundraiser & outreach event. 1/2 of the proceeds will go to CNH Mites & 1/2 toward our LSS Christmas gifts. Special thanks to Scott & Idalene, Pam, & Holly for spending much of your trip in helping us!



WoHC (Women of Holy Cross): Happenings at the Corner Cafe



Holy Cross Corner Café	
Menu & Suggested Donation	
Breakfast	Sides
Homemade/Fresh Baked Cinnamon Rolls \$2	Bag of Chips \$1
Lunch/Dinner	Sweets
Hot Dog \$2	Homemade Biscotti \$1
Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup \$3	Cookies \$1
Chili Dog \$3	Brownies \$1
Homemade Chili \$3	Beverages
Chicken Salad on Croissant \$5	Canned Soda \$1
Pulled Pork Sandwich \$5	Regular, Diet & Caffeine Free
	Coffee \$1
	Bottled Water \$1
	Hot Tea \$1



Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner



Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner



Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner



Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner





The Cheese Curds continue to meet each Tuesday.
When there's too many for 1 team,
we form our 2nd team "Better Than Cheese".
COME JOIN US ANY TUESDAY, 7pm!



11/9—We had some out of town visitors join us: Idalene & Pam (Melarie's) sister! Pastor was on vacation. Our 2 teams were #10 & #12 out of 14. Plus a highlight, we also celebrated Liz's birthday!








**TRIVIA
TUESDAY**



11/23—A last round "double score" moved us up to #3 out of 18!



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  5:45pm Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship Service	2	3	4 9am Vision Mtg, Zoom 9:30am LSS Gift Wrapping (PH)
5  9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom/PH	6 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	7 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	8  5:45pm Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship Service	9 1pm Nifty Fifty Lunch—Mountain Mike's	10	11 9am Sanctuary: Christmas Decorating
12 9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom/PH	13 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	14 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	15  5:45pm Supper 6:30pm Advent Worship Service	16 9am HC Men's Man- datory Formation, Huckleberry's 6:30pm YVCS Christ- mas Program (Sanctuary/PH)	17	18
19 9:30am Worship Service  11am Oh Come All Ye Faithfull Congregation Brunch	20 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	21 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	22	23	24  7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service	25  9:30am Christmas Day Worship
26 9:30am Worship Service 11am Adult Sunday School Zoom	27 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom	28 10:30am Prayer Group, Sanctuary 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	29	30	31	

YVCS School Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:45am—3:30 pm, Friday: 8:45am—2:15pm

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg., PH=Parish Hall



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Sunday Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Adult Sunday School 11 AM (In person & Zoom)

Youth Bible Study 11AM

Sunday School 11AM (on hold)

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 10AM Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7PM Zoom

Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

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