



Echoes From the Past, 5 by Pastor Glenn Huebel

Every year since the first service of “Keller Lutheran Mission” (Nov 2, 1980) we have commemorated Life Sunday on or near the anniversary of the infamous Roe versus Wade Supreme Court decision (Jan. 22, 1973). That decision forbids the States from prohibiting abortion on demand. It doesn’t just legalize abortion, it forbids State protection of the unborn. In other words, the Federal Government, for the first time, told the States what it could and could not prosecute as “murder.” This decision immediately created controversy, but American protestants were largely caught by surprise and unprepared to address the issue boldly and clearly. Great numbers of otherwise conservative pastors and congregations were content to ignore the injustice, not wishing to cause unnecessary strife and division in their ranks. Even the great Billy Graham for many years refused to speak out on the issue as if it were merely a political matter, not a heinous injustice. (Later in life, he stated that he regretted that decision.) We may give thanks to God that the LCMS vocally opposed this decision from the beginning, as did the Roman Catholic Church. But many members (and pastors?) of LCMS Churches were not on board and wavered in such a bold stand. Many pastors, perhaps MOST of the pastors in the LCMS, were unwilling to confront this hot potato topic in their churches. I may have been among these “reeds blowing in the wind” had not the Ft. Wayne Seminary invited Dr. John and Barbara Wilke to make a presentation to the students of the seminary. Through the horrendous “war pictures” and sound arguments, I was immediately and profoundly impacted. I was literally trembling to preach on this issue for the first time on Jan 18, 1981. I had no idea whether I would have a congregation left to serve the next Sunday. I survived the ordeal, and so did the congregation. I don’t think everyone was on board at first. I have received negative responses on more than one occasion, but every year since then we have commemorated Life Sunday in January. Our congregation is now solidly rooted and established in defense of the sanctity of life, thanks to the Holy Spirit working through the Word. The following sermon was preached at Messiah on Life Sunday, January 23, 2000.

GOD’S WONDERFUL WORKS

Text: Psalm 139:13-16
1/23/00

Epiphany 3
Life Sunday

¹³For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully
made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there were none of them.
-Psalm 139:13—16

It is our custom to use this Sunday of the year to celebrate the gift of human life and hear God’s Word concerning its sanctity. The reason we choose this particular Sunday is because it is nearest to the most tragic decision ever made by the Supreme Court of our land, the Roe vs. Wade decision that dehumanized the unborn and prohibited the States from protecting their lives. Since that horrendous decision was made 27 years ago,

our nation has witnessed and sanctioned the slaughter of over 34 million babies, and the toll is mounting every day.

Today, I have chosen to focus our thoughts on a wonderful text penned by King David, a text that reveals God’s participation in the development of life in the womb. Let us focus our attention today on

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Christian Symbols at Christmas—Pastor Chryst | 3 |
| Parenting Series—Elders | 5 |
| Deaconess Acceptance Letter | 5 |
| Higher Things, Part 4 | 7 |
| Messiah for Young Voices | 8 |

*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing
you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

GOD'S WONDERFUL WORKS

- I. Your Creation
- II. Your Neighbor's Creation

I.

Who are you? Unfortunately, many today think of themselves only in relation to people and things of this world and life. "I am an engineer. I am an accountant. I am a teacher. I am a mother, a father, a student."

The Creeds of the church teach us to think of ourselves in a different way. In his explanation to the Apostles' Creed, Martin Luther helps us to apply the truth in a very person way. Who are you? "I believe that God has made me.....I believe that Jesus has redeemed me.... I believe that the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel." *Do you* believe these things? Unfortunately, many do not, and that unbelief produces a harvest of misery that we see today, for the despising of human life bears bitter fruit. The truth of the Creed is really at the heart of any long-term solution to the problems we face in the world.

David, in our Psalm, reflects upon God's relationship to him. He traces this relationship into his past, beyond his youth, beyond his childhood, beyond even his birth. God knew him in the womb of his mother and even beyond that moment of his conception, for *"your eyes saw my unformed by, and all the days ordained for me...were recorded in your book before one of them came to be."* David traced everything in his life back to the womb – even his sin, as we see in his Psalm of repentance where he confesses, *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me."*

But the Psalms were written in such a way that we may all take up their words and make them our own, for they were hymns to be sung. Each of us may also praise God through these very words, for they apply to us. Note that ***your creation was personal***.

God didn't just create humanity in general without consideration for individuals. He didn't create you in a mindless and impersonal way as a factory produces cars or cans or computers, distinguished only by identification numbers. God created "you" and everything that makes you who you are as a unique individual. He did not just form your body but your "inmost being," the soul wherein dwells your personality, your emotions, your individuality. He created you just as individually and lovingly and intimately and personally as He made Adam and Eve on the sixth day of creation. In the Garden He lovingly formed Adam's body from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life. So it was with you at your creation: *"My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth."*

The Scriptures see every human creation coming out of the dust of the earth as Adam came. One interpreter says, "The earth was the mother's womb of Adam, and

the mother's womb out of which the child of Adam comes forth is the earth out of which it is taken." God didn't just form mankind – He "knit *you* together in your mother's womb." Your creation was a personal, individual act of God's love. If you have trouble believing that, take these verses of David upon your own lips and make them your prayer of praise every night until the Spirit brings them into your heart. God didn't inspire these words to make you stand in awe of David's creation, but your own! And "stand in awe" is what we will do if we contemplate our creation as King David did. David could only utter praise to His benevolent Creator as he thought about his origin: *"I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know that full well."*

The development of the child in the womb was considered one of the greatest mysteries of life to the ancient Israelites. The very contemplation of it made them shudder with astonishment. That is what David means when he says he was "fearfully and wonderfully made." This is not the fear and wonder of *God*, but the fear and wonder stimulated in *us* as we think on these marvelous things. If gestating life was regarded as an astonishing thing at *THAT* time, before they had the technology to take pictures of the developing embryo, and before the development of the science of fetology, how much more should we shudder with astonishment today. Our science and technology have NOT reduced this mystery to understandable proportions, but have, indeed, only proven the validity of the Psalmist's praise. The more we know about the fetus, the more wonder is inspired.

You are a **WONDER** of God, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Have you contemplated, like David, the marvel of human life, of *YOUR* life? Do you take for granted, every day, the magnificent design of the human eye which can see the wonder of all creation, or the human hand which is so multi-functional it can wield a sledgehammer or use a scalpel or do embroidery? Have you considered the wonder of the human ear or the tongue or the brain? Have you considered the marvelous way in which the human heart works, or the circulatory system and the ability of blood to coagulate? Have you contemplated the amazing way the immune system operates, or how the skin works? Each one of these things is a wonderful creation in itself. Truly you are fearfully and wonderfully made!

But as we consider your creation, let us contemplate especially ***the divine purpose behind it***. God created you with a purpose in mind. He didn't just send you out into the sea of life without charting your path. He has a plan for you and he leads you everyday to fulfill that high and holy plan, even though it may not always seem "high and holy" to you. Yes, He makes you lie down in green pastures and leads you to still waters, and accompanies you through the valley of the shadow of death. He has places for you to go and people for you to see and influence. He charted Jeremiah's life before his birth and said to him, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you

and ordained you to be a prophet.” He directed Philip the Evangelist to go on the road to Gaza because God had a gentleman from Ethiopia for him to meet and to teach and to baptize. He brought Peter to the home of a man named Cornelius because he wanted to open the door to the Gentiles. He created you to be a blessing your husband as Eve was a blessing to Adam. He brought you to be a blessing to your wife as Adam was a blessing to Eve. And He has a plan for you who have not yet found your life-partner, for “a good spouse comes from the Lord.” He has places for you to go and people for you to bless.

David perceived this, saying: *All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.* Your days were also written, just like Jeremiah’s, just like David’s, just like John the Baptist’s.... God created you for a purpose.

And the ultimate purpose for your life is to receive an inheritance with all the saints of God so that “in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” I know that is His purpose for you even though I may not know who you are. I know that’s His purpose for you because that’s why He sent His Son to this world, that’s why Jesus died, to take your sins away, and that’s why He caused the Gospel to be proclaimed, and that’s why you are hearing it even now. He wants you to believe it and be saved eternally.

How marvelous is YOUR creation! He created you personally. He created you marvelously. He created you with a purpose to fulfill.

II.

But let me turn for a moment to your neighbor – to the one sitting beside you today, the one in front or in back of you....the one on the other side of the room. Let’s talk about your neighbor - the one you’re married to, the one you fathered, the one you gave birth to, the friend you love, the difficult person who aggravates you, the person who is in your way, the person who is inconveniencing your life, the enemy you despise. Let’s look at your neighbor – the starving child in Africa, the homeless and cold child in Ft. Worth, the frightened and miserable homosexual dying of AIDS, the downs syndrome infant, the old man in the nursing home who has Alzheimer’s disease, the baby whom God formed in the womb last night, whose very existence is known only to Him.

Let’s talk about your neighbor’s creation.....Everything David says about his own creation, and which you can say about your creation, is true also for your neighbor. God also created him personally and individually. God also created her in a fearful and wonderful way. God also has a PURPOSE for their lives, and that purpose was determined even before He formed them in the womb.

This is the context for the fifth commandment which protects human life. Human life is sacred because of its creation – every life is fearfully and wonderfully made in God’s image and for God’s purpose. How careful and gentle then we ought to be with the life of our neighbor! As Luther explains: “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.”

How deeply it must grieve God to watch as violence fills the earth and human life is crushed and swept away with calloused indifference. Most civilized people today would recoil with horror to hear of vandals breaking into the Louvre in Paris or even the Kimball in Ft. Worth and ripping to shreds precious and priceless pieces of art. And yet, in this civilized country, the Supreme Court must hear and decide whether a State has the right even to PREVENT the slaughter of a baby by the barbaric partial-birth abortion method. God’s precious unique irreplaceable masterpieces, both young and old, are being poisoned, neglected, starved, and literally ripped to shreds everyday under the protection of law. The pope calls it a “culture of death” and he is right and we applaud his saying it so forthrightly.

But dear friends, how are YOU treating your neighbor? Some of us tend to think that being against the barbarism of our day qualifies us to be called “Pro-life”, but that isn’t necessarily so. An embezzler, a lazy employee, or a crooked businessman may be opposed to thugs who rob innocent and helpless victims in back alleys, but that doesn’t make them honest. How have you treated your neighbor who is fearfully and wonderfully made? Have you pierced his heart with a sharp and unloving tongue? Have you made his life bitter by injustice? Have you stomped on him to get ahead? Have you neglected him, forgotten him, ignored him? Is there a poor Lazarus by your gate that you walk by everyday? Was there a man laying on the side of the road that you ignored as you went on your busy way? Is there someone you hold in prison with a grudge and a refusal to forgive? Do you love in word, but not in deed and in truth? Do you think you love God whom you cannot see, but despise your brother whom you can see?

Are any of us really “pro-life” when our thoughts, words, and deeds are examined in the light of God’s law? Do any of us really consider our neighbor’s life – or even our own life to be sacred? God have mercy upon us all for our contempt and indifference toward life. “O wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Paul answers his own question: “I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” The Bible says “Though our sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow,” for He is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” In love for our miserable lives, “God made Him to be sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Beloved, “if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

AMEN.

A Recipient's Guide to the Lord's Supper

Most of us, long ago at the time of our own confirmation, received some instruction from the pastor about just how to go about receiving the Lord's Supper. I know as I've confirmed kids over the years, I've often taken them on a "dry run", even letting them taste the un-consecrated wafers (but not the wine!) about a week or so before Confirmation day. I know Pastor Huebel has also carefully prepared our young people here in not only the "What" of Holy Communion, but also the "How" and "Why".



This article is more about the "How" of it. I'm going to assume you know the "What" - that this blessed sacrament is the true Body and Blood of

Christ under the bread and wine, that it's instituted by Christ and given to you for the forgiveness of your sins. But on a very practical level, it might be worth some ink spilled here to discuss the "How", that is, the actual practices and actions associated with this wonderful gift of Christ. Perhaps you'll get a better understanding of "why we do what we do". Perhaps you'll rethink your own practice a bit. Or perhaps you'll better understand why others do what they do.

Self-Examination

An important part of good Communion habits is "self-examination". This keys off of Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:28. And so it is good to prepare oneself for proper reception of the sacrament by a process of self-reflection.

This can be as simple as a prayer in which we once again confess our sins and need for Christ's forgiveness offered in the Sacrament. Or it can be a more extensive process of asking oneself questions, examining one's life based on the 10 commandments. I've also recommended the prayer in the very front cover of the hymnal, "Before Communing" as a worthy alternative.

Whatever form it takes, here is a recognition that reception of the Lord's Supper is so precious it should not fall into a thoughtless practice by which we simply "run on autopilot". But rather, receive it knowing what it is, and appreciating it for what it does.

Hand vs. Mouth

You may notice that while most people receive the host (the bread) in their hand, some prefer to receive it directly by mouth. Here there is no "right" or "wrong" practice, and most are surely doing simply as they were

taught long ago. Some may prefer the placement directly on the tongue as a way of confessing the absolute passivity with which we receive God's gifts. But to be clear, Jesus made no such instruction when he gave us the sacrament. He simply said, "take and eat". If you do receive the body of Christ by hand, it's most common to open your hand flat to receive the wafer (rather than grasping it with your fingers), and also expresses the passivity by which we receive this gifts.

And while, like many of these practices, Christian freedom reigns where no specific directions are given, still we ought to comport ourselves with reverence and decorum, out of respect for the real presence of Christ and in recognition that this gift is a holy thing of God. *"But let all things be done decently and in order."* 1 Corinthians 14:40

Chalice vs. Individuals Cups

Another practice that has caused unnecessary strife in certain circles is the option of receiving the wine, that is Christ's blood, from the chalice or the individual cups. While individual cups are a more recent practice in the Christian church (having been introduced about 100 years ago), there remains no legal requirement in Scripture for the kind of container or cup used in the Sacrament. The main thing is that this is Jesus' blood, and it's given for sinners to drink, for the forgiveness of our sins. As long as this is done with reverence, there is freedom in the details.



Some have preferences for one reason or another. Some prefer the chalice because it is an older form, and better represents the unity we enjoy in this Communion. Others prefer the individual cups, and point out that few of us use "one loaf" but rather individual wafers of bread. And some aren't comfortable sharing a cup for various reasons (even though at least one scientific study showed that it's very unlikely to transmit disease from a shared chalice). Some of this is cultural - what modern Americans are accustomed to doing. But we certainly don't want people distracted by such things while receiving the Sacrament. And so we offer either.

Some suggestions:

If you are one who prefers to receive the chalice, please know that it's not only OK but actually helpful to take hold of the stem or base and help the pastor or elder guide the chalice - so as to sip without any awkwardness or spillage. There's a bit of a "dance" that goes on but don't be afraid to assist.

Remember it's not how much or how little of a sip you receive, but that you "drink of it".

Women, remember to remove any lipstick that might smear on the chalice before partaking. If you receive the individual cups, it's not necessary to "refuse" the chalice, but simply let the pastor go by and the elder will come along with the tray of individual cups shortly. Please also don't let children handle the empty cups, but place them carefully on the shelf right there at the rail.

For either chalice or individual cup, and also after receiving the bread, some people whisper or say aloud "Amen", confessing agreement with the pastor's words, "This is the Body/Blood of Christ". Again, not necessary, but some find it helpful.

Reverencing/Bowing/Kneeling

You've probably noticed that most people offer a short bow just prior to kneeling at the rail, and again just after arising to depart. This is called a "reverence" and is a sign of respect for the Sacrament and for the Lord who offers himself in it. The pastor also slightly bows in respect for the recipients, the holy people of God who come to receive His blessings. None of these movements are mandatory, but they do exhibit a measure of reverence and respect. It's like folding your hands and bowing your head when you pray.

Likewise, kneeling is the usual posture for receiving the gifts. It's a sign of humility and reverence that is almost universally understood through time and in human cultures. But if your knees or your health doesn't allow you to kneel for some reason, don't feel bad, but simply stand respectfully. These outward practices are helpful to piety but not necessary or commanded.

Crossing One's Self

Another bodily ritual that many find helpful is the act of crossing one's self. Recommended by Martin Luther even in the Small Catechism, there is much to say for this outward action. Our hymnal notes the various places in the Divine Service where it is appropriate to make the sign of the cross, in remembrance of one's baptism. If that's so, then certainly at the other Sacrament seems an appropriate time to do so.

Some have complained the practice is "too Catholic". But just because Rome does something doesn't mean we shouldn't (or should!) In truth, the practice far pre-dates most of the false teachings of Roman Catholicism, and like many of the practices the Reformation retained – it can certainly be done without any false notion of "blessing one's self". Rather, by this sign we recall the blessings that God indeed has given, and continues to give us through Christ and his cross.

Back in the Pew

Another common act of Communion piety is when recipients return to the pew, to say a brief prayer of thanksgiving. Again, there is a suggested prayer for this inside the front cover of the hymnal, "Thanksgiving



After Receiving the Sacrament". I commend it to you.

Also, it's a joy and blessing to sing along with the "Distribution Hymns" - not just so you have something to do while others are at the table – but as an encouragement to them while they approach and receive. We are one body

in Christ, after all, and we are in communion here not only with Him but with one another. *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11*

How to "Feel"?

I should have found a better sub-heading for this section, because reception of the Sacrament, like all the blessings of faith, really isn't about how you "feel". It's just as valid and sure if you feel a little low, sad, happy, or whatever. It's based on the reality of God's word, an objective unchanging standard. Faith looks outside of itself, not inward. So in a sense it doesn't matter.

Except there is that phrase in the Prayer of Thanksgiving we pray in Divine Service Setting One: "With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us..." Some of my pastor friends have poked fun at the phrase "repentant joy". But I think it gets at something very true.

On the one hand, we approach the table of the Lord with a sober realization of our sin, contrite and sorry. We are beggars who don't deserve the gifts here offered.

On the other hand, faith knows the character of the giver, and trusts that He gives us himself with gladness. So there is also joy.

"Repentant joy" is the dual reality of sorrow for sin, and the relief of the forgiveness of Christ. We know the burden, but the burden is lifted in him. So we are serious, but not dour. We are joyful, but not flippant. Maybe that's not as much "feelings" as "posture" or "mentality" or how to rightly think about what's going on here.

The Sacrament of the Altar is a great and precious gift. And so we do well to pay attention, especially, to the words with which Christ offers it to us, and use this gift as he intended. And while there is flexibility in congregational and individual practice on a number of the details, it serves us well to be intentional and understand why we do what we do, evaluating our practice in light of Scripture, its usefulness, and the needs of our neighbors.

Vocations in Life – Parenting/Grand Parenting Series

So, we have been covering the big picture here to this point. But, we will change the focus to some ideas by age group.

1 – 2 years old

Children do learn fast but man's sinful nature does cause them to be naturally disruptive. As mentioned before teaching them to pray at home and to read/follow bible story books is great preparation for worship. It is always good to wrap up prayer time with the Lord's prayer. Even at this young age it is good to hear the Lord's prayer.

Here are some ideas how to progressively involve your child/children in the worship service. Put together a worship bag. The contents of the bag could include:

1. Hard board bible story books
2. Stuffed animal
3. A snack like Cheerios or gold fish in a small plastic food bag

3 - 5 years old

Continuing to read Bible story books out loud at home is important. Saying bedtime prayers and ending with the Lord's Prayer is also important. When a child hears the Lord's prayer at home and in worship, they make a connection. That connection should be

reverence. This will help them have the proper attitude in worship. So, to support a proper attitude the contents of the bag could include:

1. An Archway bible story book
2. Concordia Publishing House Children's bible
3. Biblical Coloring book
4. Crayola crayons
5. Big pencil
6. A pad of drawing paper
7. A snack like Cheerios or gold fish in a small plastic food bag

There should not be secular items like superheros in the bag. The focus needs to be on God. Really no superheros? Yes, it is important the child recognizes God is different from the secular world. This is hard work for parents and each child is different in their temperament. For instance, James Dodson has a book "The New Strong-Willed Child." It is just one of many resources available to you for information. (Editors note: this book is available in our library, along with other parenting books by Dobson, Leman, and others.)

6 – 12 years old)

Think of these years as preparing for confirmation and actively participating in worship at a greater depth over time. Which would you

like to do? Gradually learn a large amount of material or cram all of the learning into three years. Then there is learning how to memorize. For many of us this is a learned skill. It is easier to learn this skill while we are young and over a long period of time. There are techniques that can help to develop a memorization skill. Music and acronyms are a couple of these.

Here are some ideas to help your child use this time wisely:

- Memorize the Ten Commandments
- Be familiar with the basic Bible stories
- Participate in the catechismus (check spelling) recitals during Sunday school openings
- Know what the Confirmation I requirements are

All life's vocations have consequences both good and bad. We all would prefer to only have good ones. And nurturing a child's faith is one of our most important vocations. Failure will lead to heartbreak at some point in the future. So, pray daily for guidance and forgiveness because none of us parents are perfect.

Deaconess Buhler Acceptance Letter

The following is the text of Pamela Buhler's December 5, 2018 acceptance letter to the congregation:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I accept the position extended to me through Messiah Lutheran Church to serve as your Deaconess. It is an honor to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by and through our congregation. I look forward to working alongside all of you to bring mercy and faith to the people of God.

I give thanks to God for my two-year internship here at Messiah and the privilege to serve the members of this congregation. I am proud to be able to continue visiting and caring for our members and to strengthen the relationships I have established, especially our shut-ins. I look forward to serving under our pastors by assisting them with bringing souls to Christ.

The True Deaconess Spirit by Wilhelm Loehe describes the want of a deaconess. This desire is a want to serve the Lord, His wretched ones, and His poor. This desire I hold as well as the Concordia Deaconess Motto that is based on

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 which reads:

*Working in faith
Laboring in love
Remaining steadfast in the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I ask that you continue to pray for me that I bring glory to God and peace to Messiah Lutheran Church through my service. May our partnership bring honor to God and please Him.

In Christ our Lord,

Pamela Buhler

Deaconess Pamela Buhler

Higher Things 2018: Sanctified, Part 4 by Deaconess Pamela Buhler

Conferences are located in different areas of the country to help maximize outreach, offer a variety of site seeing opportunities, and expose high school youth to different college campuses. Next year's Higher Things conferences will be held at five of our ten Concordia Universities (NE, MN, IL, WI, and CA) and Messiah's youth voted to go back to Higher Things this summer!

Plans are in the works to head to Irvine, California this summer. We would love for you and your confirmed youth to join us in this educational and edifying Lutheran conference.

TOP TEN reasons YOUR teen should attend Higher Things next summer:

1. The opportunity to meet new people who share your beliefs while at the same time be able to partake in theological debate. It also

strengthens the bonds with the people you already know. -PH

2. Fun times while learning and fun times with learning. JB
3. You will learn a lot more about Jesus. JB
4. Higher Things is a great way to meet people of the same faith. It's overwhelming listening to everyone sing "We praise you and Acknowledge you" all in different parts coming together as a whole.
5. Higher Things shows you that you are not alone. You learn so much from each pastor, each different view and lesson. They inspire faith and want to learn. BC
6. To learn so many new things from so many different pastors. HC
7. To listen to all the believers sing! HC
8. Higher Things is a great way to meet people and to witness how many different kinds of people believe the same thing as you, and sing hymns of praise. AB
9. Higher Things is a lot fun! You meet new people and pastors. You can learn a lot and there is also a competition that adds an extra level of interactivity to the conference. MH



Bond with your brothers and sisters, strengthen your faith and the knowledge of Lutheranism and learn how small people can do BIG things through Christ who gives them the strength. **Join us for Higher Things 2019**



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

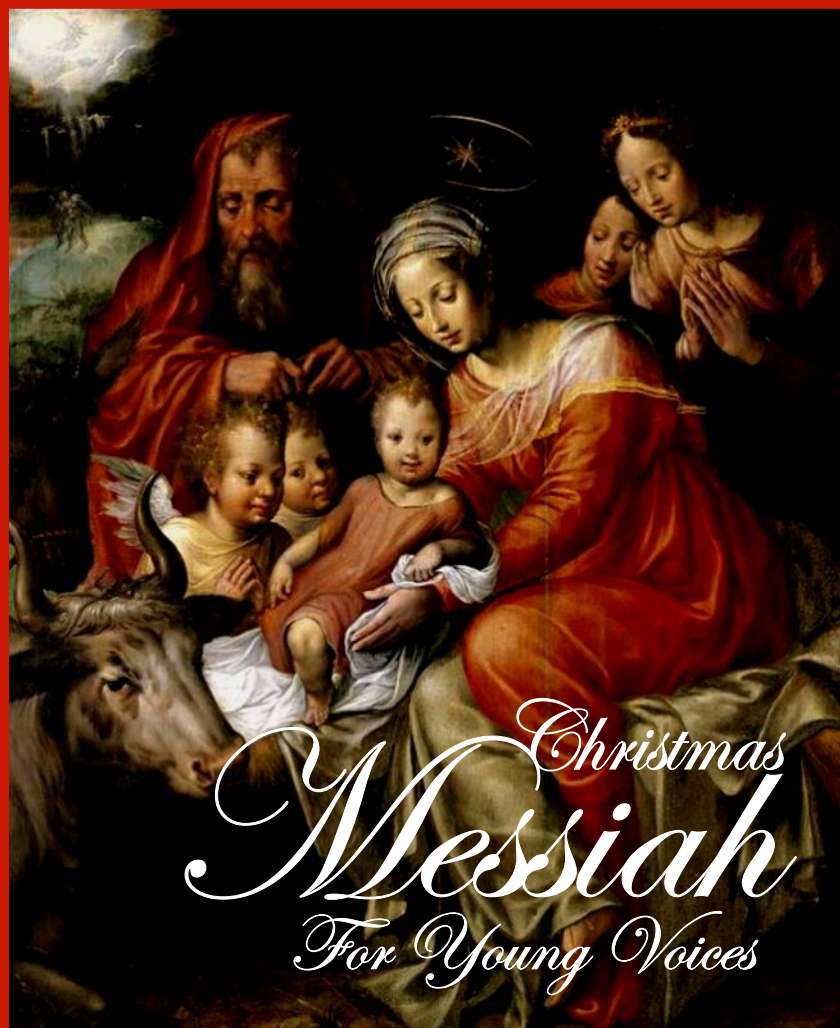
Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Thomas Chryst, Associate Pastor

www.messiahkeller.org

Miscellany (/ˈmɪsəˌlānē /)

noun. —a mixture or collection of different things

- Make plans to see our MLCA students sweetly sing **Handel's Messiah for Young Voices** on Thursday, January 17, at 6:30pm.
- **Statements** will be in your mailbox on January 20.
- **Deadline** to report any discrepancies in the statement is February 5.
- If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have them, email Lesley.Lara@messiahkeller.org
- **MLCA enrollment** for the 2019/2020 school year will begin on January 14 for our current families and opens to the general public on February 1. Tell your friends and neighbors about MLCA!
- If you are on/use Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, **please like/follow us!** It's a painless way to help our church and school—and it really does help! #MLCATexas
- **Save the Date!** Vacation Bible School 2019 will be held on June 17—20. Watch the bulletin and your email for more information.
- **Save this Date, Too:** Pastor Huebel's last Sunday at Messiah will be June 23, 2019. There will be a reception for him that evening.



BY G. F. HANDEL

CREATED BY TIMOTHY W. SHARP

Presented
by the
Students
of
Messiah Lutheran
Classical Academy

Thursday,
January 17