



Echoes From the Past, 6 by Pastor Glenn Huebel

Note: Every year, around this time, we celebrate “National Lutheran Schools Week” with our whole Church Body, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Missouri Synod began school ministries together with new congregations from its inception. Obviously, we have a very high regard for Christian education. We now have almost 2,000 schools nationwide from Early Childhood Centers to High Schools. This system is supported by 8 Lutheran Colleges and Universities established for the training of teachers and other vocations. During the opening Sunday of Lutheran Schools week, we invite our students to sing in the service, and their parents to join with us for a Matins Service. I preached the sermon below for this service in 2012. It focuses, not only upon the vital importance of Christian education for children, but on the proper content of such an education. I believe this ministry to the community and world is one of the most important ministry the Lutheran Church is engaged in at this critical time. Read below and see if you agree. Pastor Huebel

EQUIPPING CHILDREN FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Text: 2 Timothy 3:1—17
3/4/12

Lent 2
Lutheran Schools Week

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. ¹⁰You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my

patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹²Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it

¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:1—17

Today is the Sunday our church body has chosen to celebrate the blessing of Lutheran Schools. And since, like over 2,000 other LCMS congregations, we have a school which includes a pre-school, it is appropriate for us to join the celebration. We know from experience what a blessing our school has been to our congregation, including the fact that many of our members have been brought to us through that ministry. We also rejoice today that the Lord has blessed many families

outside of our congregation through this ministry, and we thank those of you with us this morning who have become a part of our extended family by entrusting the education of your children to our school. We don't take that trust lightly. The text for my sermon on this occasion is the text chosen by our Synod to mark the main theme of the week. I want to use this text to speak on the important topic:

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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

Equipping Children for the Challenges of the 21st Century

- I. The Nature of the Challenges our children will face
- II. The Provision God has made for His children to overcome the world

I.

When most people think about the future, they think in terms of advancements in science or technology or medicine. They may reflect how quickly things changed in the last century alone. Marcia's grandmother died in 2003. She was born in 1900. She was born before the Wright brothers took their first flight, before the mass production of automobiles, before it was common for houses to have electricity or indoor plumbing. She witnessed magnificent changes in her lifetime, including space travel and moon landings, radio and television, and communication devices she could not have imagined in her youth, probably not even in her middle age. We have often thought that if such drastic changes could happen within a single lifetime, what advancements will come in the lifetimes of our children? We tend to think of the future only as improvement.

While science, technology, communication, and medicine may indeed improve dramatically in ways we cannot now envision, we often fail to see or consider another trend, and that is the general decline in faith and morality or character. Now, for what it is worth to you, when God looks to the end of days as judgment approaches, He does not speak about rockets and cell phones and medical marvels – though certainly He could foresee such things. God talks about the rapid deterioration of the soul of man, because **THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING**. Some may be thinking “that’s the most important thing for Christians, but it is irrelevant in the big picture of things!” No. It is the most important thing from ANY perspective because if mankind degenerates into gross darkness spiritually, these other improvements – if they even exist – cannot rescue you from misery and destruction. Hitler and the Germans were at the cutting edge of technology in the zenith of their power, but they didn’t bring blessings to those they conquered, or even to their own people.

The most difficult problem to tame or conquer in our world is not a disease or a new frontier to explore, or developing new sources of energy. The most difficult and stubborn problem that must be tamed is the heart of man, the nature called “the flesh”. St. Paul warns Timothy about this problem in the first nine verses of our text. He says that “in the last days there will come times of difficulty.” These spiritual challenges are the chief challenges our children will face as they walk into the future, and as the coming of the Lord draws near. St. Paul catalogues the sins which will increase as time goes on, and it sounds much like the world in the days of Noah before the Flood. People will grow more and more selfish, materialistic, arrogant, abusive, ungrateful, stubborn, and deceptive. They will become grossly irresponsible as they the pleasures of earth more than a

relationship with God. Naturally, under these conditions, the family unit will deteriorate as authority is despised – even the basic unit of authority, that of the parental office. Their “religion” will become self serving, and will be used to justify their evil. Hypocrisy will be rampant. In these days “learning” will continue at a rapid pace, but it will never arrive at a destination, for they will never be able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

St. Paul adds that those who follow Christian teaching and faith will suffer persecution at the hands of the world because the world always hates the truth and rebels against its Creator. He does not give any hope concerning spiritual improvement. In fact he frankly says, “evil people and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” The major challenges that our children will face in the 21st century are spiritual in nature. The masses of our nation do not seem to comprehend the seriousness and implications of this challenge, but I hope I can assume a Christian congregation can grasp those implications. Spiritual, moral deterioration will undermine the very fiber of our life and culture. It will undermine and destroy democracy and liberty. It will undermine and destroy the home and family, marriages, the environment in which business can thrive, and the health and wellbeing of the individual soul. No advancements in earthly knowledge, in communication or medicine or military weapons can defend against this danger. When these kinds of attitudes become normative you have an environment in which each man does what is right in his own eyes. The book of Judges teaches us that the result will not be prosperity or peace, but confusion, poverty, chaos, and ultimately tyranny. In such an environment very few prosper and no one is really safe. This **MUST** be taken into account in any plan to equip our children for the challenges of the future. To that point I will now turn my attention.

II

After showing Timothy what is in store for the world in the last days, Paul points him to the refuge to which he may flee for protection and strength – the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. Man’s wisdom leads him to grope in darkness, but God’s wisdom in Christ leads to harmony and reconciliation through the truth. God’s saving wisdom has been made known to the world through Jesus, as we see in the Gospel reading today and the famous confession of St. Peter. Peter was led by the Spirit to see and confess that Jesus was indeed God incarnate, but he resorted quickly again to human wisdom in rejecting the mission of Christ, His determination to give His life as a ransom for sinners. How easy it is for us to lose sight of the truth when the light of the Word is not directing our thoughts. Thus, St. Paul commends Timothy to the source and the norm for God’s truth, the Sacred Writings. He was referring to what we call the Old Testament Scriptures, for the New Testament was still percolating.

Paul says wonderful and glorious things about these writings, things which human wisdom cannot

comprehend or embrace. He says that “all Scripture is God-breathed.” That means it has its origin in heaven, not in the wisdom of men. That means that Scripture is not a book written by wise religious men reflecting on their conceptions of God. It is God’s revelation to man. Though the Scriptures were penned by men, St. Peter tells us that God used these men as His special instruments to record His message. In our Catechism, we define divine inspiration this way: “God the Holy Spirit moved holy men to write and put into their minds the very words that they wrote and the very thoughts they expressed.” So even though the Scriptures were not written by angels on tablets of gold in heaven, they were breathed out by God through ordinary men so that they teach heavenly truth without error.

This truth will lead us and our children and grandchildren through the perils of this life and safely to our eternal destiny in Christ. This truth will enable our descendants to distinguish the things of God from the things of men, the things that are eternal from the things that are temporal and pass away. It will establish good and right priorities which are fundamental to a life well lived. The Scriptures are profitable for DOCTRINE, i.e., teaching or education. Moses counseled his flock to immerse their children in these sacred writings on a day-by-day basis in their homes, and when this was neglected, great sorrow and trouble followed for the ensuing generations.

Doctrine, of course, is not just head knowledge. The heart of the Scripture is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God who became a true man so that He could live a holy life under the law and die as the atoning sacrifice for the sin of the world. That Gospel message is the power of God which is able to “make wise to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.” Teaching the Bible to children, even infants, is an amazingly beneficial thing because it touches their hearts. In and through that Word, the Holy Spirit comes to breathe the new life of faith into the child, connecting the child with his or her Creator through Christ. The world can maintain a basic level of outward morality and social order through the application of the law, through a system of reward and punishment, but faith in Christ changes the heart. Jeremiah wrote of the New Covenant, “I will write my law on their hearts....”. The law’s power will diminish when the hearts of people are hardened by sin, but this faith works new life from within through love of Christ. It doesn’t need the motivation of the law, but serves God willingly.

This faith in Christ works by love, and Scripture guides the believer in the path he should walk. It serves the practical purpose of *rebuking* us when we go off in the wrong direction in life. We are entering the brave new world in which there is no such thing as a wrong way – there are just different right ways. This is utter nonsense to which the “ever learning, never able to come to the truth” crowd is leading. No society or family or any relationship can be established on that mush. And we don’t want our children to be guided by the hair-brained mores of political correctness which grants sanctity of life

status to fish and removes it from humans, which makes it highly immoral to cut down trees or drill for oil, but sees no problem with sexual immorality. The rebuke of Scripture comes from above, from our Creator, not from the most recent fad or trend of man. Scripture does not just tell us when we are going wrong, but shows us how to get back on the right path. Scripture is profitable for *correction*. The Greek word here contains the root word, *ortho*, from which we get orthodontist or orthopedic. It means “straight.” Scripture helps us to straighten out what is crooked or broken or in the wrong place in our lives. It is a guide that leads us through the dark woods back onto the path of life. Finally, Scripture is profitable for “*training in righteousness*.” It enables us to discern right from wrong, truth from error, wisdom from foolishness, as we face new problems and are confronted with new decisions in life.

Thus, Scripture connects us to Christ and His forgiveness through faith, and then guides us through the pitfalls and dangers of this world in our walk in life. Is this not the primary foundation that our children need as we prepare them for the challenges of the future? Do we not want, first and foremost, for our children to become wise, understanding, discerning adults who know who they are before God and who can make right choices in their lives? Will not this faith and knowledge be a rich blessing to them and others in the building of a marriage, in the raising of children, in the service of their vocations in life? Does this mean that we should focus on Scripture alone and dismiss all other academic disciplines? Of course not! As Christians we know that Christ and the word is source which informs, shapes, and unifies all other aspects of life.

Now some people are not ready to regard Scripture as the central facet of a good education and of the preparation of their children for the future. They see religion, even at best, only an accent, an ornament, a spice to life. They want their children first and foremost to be successful in this world and to achieve success there. Religion may add something to that. That is like saying I want to make sure my child has a first class cabin in the Titanic. I had the opportunity to visit an exhibit on the artifacts salvaged from the Titanic. It was a fascinating exhibit which included many corroded, rusted items salvaged from first class cabins. I can assure you, the first class cabins went down with the rest of the ship and rested in the watery grave for nearly a century. This world is like the Titanic. People may think it is solid, safe, and sure, but it is going down to destruction and all who find their life in it will perish with it. That’s what Jesus means when He says “Whoever wants to save his life will lose it” and “what good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”

Christian education recognizes that life consists in more than things of this world. We know that when we put our children’s hands into the hand of Christ and commend them to His Word, they will be safe because He will keep them through every valley and every storm and we will meet them again on the other side.

I've often articulated some important distinctions and guidelines when it comes to the role of pastors and churches in speaking to "politics". For instance, we would never "endorse" a candidate for office (whether in or out of the pulpit). We also do well to "stay out" of politics whenever possible. The church's role is to preach the Gospel, in both the wide and narrow sense. And the Word of God doesn't speak to tax policy, particular budget priorities, or many such things.

But the Bible clearly speaks to what some call "social issues", or which I would call "moral issues". Abortion is the unjust taking of a human life. Marriage is created by God for men and women, and homosexuality is sinful. We also ought to care for the poor, the widowed and the orphaned.

*And when it comes to morality issues, what is right and wrong, what is sinful- the church **must** speak up – first of all to our own members, but then in the public square – and uphold the basic teachings of the law that are written on the hearts of all men. Some call this "natural law", and approach the argument from a secular perspective. That can have its value. But the church stands ultimately on Scripture.*

Here is where the trouble can sometimes begin, as morality and politics overlap, and churches get accused of "playing politics". We must take great care, as churches, and as pastors, to say what God has said concerning these things – and to NOT say what God has NOT said regarding the same. It's too easy to fall off on one side or the other.

With all of that in mind, I submit to you an article written by a fellow LCMS pastor that I believe threads the needle correctly and addresses some of the issues we've been hearing in the news today.

-Pastor Chryst

Reprinted here with his permission:

Morality, "the Wall," and Abortion

Christians of good will may disagree with the wisdom of certain civil policies and support different political parties. However, other issues involve stances that are intrinsically immoral and must be rejected by Christians.

Two issues have lately been dominating the news cycle:

1. A proposed wall on our nation's southern border; and,
2. Abortion.

Let us consider the morality of each of these issues.

Many people have taken to using the word "immoral" or "unchristian" to describe the proposed wall or barrier. They will also claim that the "Christian" thing to do must be for a nation to welcome people who seek to enter into its territory. These claims must be observed to be false. A protective wall is not intrinsically immoral. To protect what God has given us in a sinful world, we all lock doors and build fences. The wisdom to build a particular protective wall could be called into question, but to call a protective wall immoral is nonsensical. More seriously, to call it immoral implicitly accuses those that support it as being unchristian and in violation of God's will.

It is a Christian desire, born out of love for home and hearth, to defend and preserve one's own nation. Even non-Christian nations understand this by nature. The ancient Chinese built a wall. The Romans built them in multiple places. Or, for a more recent example, the Israelis built one that has significantly lowered both illegal immigration and terrorist activity.

The debate over "the wall" should be argued in the realm of wisdom. Some will wish to argue that a wall is ineffective, unnecessary, or too expensive. Others will point to the need for protection for our country. However, approaching the issue from the question, "Is this wise?" allows for the possibility of an evidence-based, reasonable discussion between the two sides of the debate. Christians of good will may disagree over the wisdom of a wall on our southern border, but Christians have no biblical justification to consider such a protective wall intrinsically immoral—read the book of Nehemiah if you are in any doubt of this.

The situation is exactly opposite in the case of abortion. Fundamentally, either killing babies is immoral, or, it isn't. Abortion is an issue where the morality (or in this case: immorality) of the act is intrinsic to the debate and drives the argumentation for both sides. Christians of good will cannot disagree on this issue. The Word of God teaches us that murder is wrong, which is precisely what abortion is.

The ongoing, government-sponsored, slaughter of children in our nation should be a cause for great concern for every Christian. One cannot help but notice that abortion is reminiscent of the pagan practice of sacrificing infants. We should pray that God would show mercy to our nation and hold back His wrath for the sake of His Son. We should also pray for those who have participated in this bloodshed, that they may find forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ.

May the Lord grant us all wisdom when considering and speaking about these important subjects.

In Christ,
Pastor Ramirez

Meet the Peters

Dear Friends at Messiah:

We have, in the past, supported a seminary student, especially when one of our own members is studying to be a pastor (like Brent Keller). It's time to support a new student, now that Brent has made it through and is actively serving in the parish. The following is a letter

from our new "adoptee", Seminarian Mark Peters and his family. Mark and Martha were members at my previous congregation in Wisconsin (and I actually helped to fix them up together!) The family is planning a visit when Mark can serve as a guest preacher here at Messiah sometime in the late Spring. - Pastor Chryst

Greetings in Christ!

We are the Peters family, and we are so excited to meet you!

Mark Peters is a second career seminary student in his first year at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He was an electrician for 20 years in Racine, WI, where he grew up. He has always been passionate about theology, politics, and sports. He's a diehard Brewers and Packers' fan and has passed that excitement to our children. Mark served as head elder at our church, Grace Lutheran Church in Racine, WI, for 2 terms.

Martha Peters grew up in Minnesota but moved to Wisconsin for college and her first teaching job. She worked at 2 different Lutheran schools in Racine for 14 years before moving to Indiana. Martha enjoys books, writing, cross stitching, gardening, and getting kids excited about reading. She has been subbing in the Lutheran schools in the Fort Wayne area this school year.



Mark and Martha were married on July 22, 2006, and added to the little family quickly. Paul Martin was born on April 23, 2007; Frederick Wallace was born on November 6, 2008; Russell David was born on May 20, 2010; and Benjamin James was born November 25, 2013.

Paul is 11, and he loves baseball, books, games, and running. Frederick is 10 and loves books, basketball, family walks, asking questions, and Thor. Russell is 8, and he loves books, hockey, soccer, and Legos. Benjamin is 5, and he loves books, baseball, Legos, and anything his brothers have. All the boys like camping and traveling to see new places. They also like zoos.

We are all so excited about this adventure in Fort Wayne. We have made amazing friends and have experienced wonderful things! We are so blessed by God's goodness! He truly provides and knows what's best!

May God bless all of you, keep you strong in your faith, and grant you grace and comfort.

Blessings,

Mark, Martha, Paul, Frederick, Russell, and Benjamin Peters



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Caring for Our Community: Swaddling Clothes by Deaconess Pamela Buhler



It's hard to believe Swaddling Clothes has now been open for four years! Thanks to our

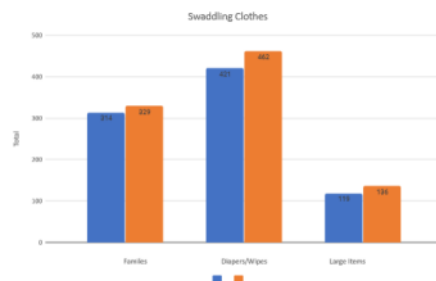
volunteers, Messiah has been able to show the love of God to our neighbor by providing our community with first article gifts. We provide clothing and shoes, diapers and wipes, food and accessories as well as maternity clothes and larger items like cribs, breast pumps, and car seats. Fellowship and prayer are a big part of our mission. We establish relationships with the people who walk through our doors and we are there to lend a hand in the name of Christ. The families that seek our gifts really appreciate the help as they struggle to raise children in today's world.

Our donations come from our generous church members, area churches and businesses, and the sweet families that use Swaddling Clothes. Donations come from recycling gently used items along with new items purchased

by donors or through monetary donations. Items are accepted in the Narthex at any time or down at Swaddling Clothes during hours of operation. We are open on second Saturdays from 9-12.

Our director, Karen Dana, does an amazing job organizing donations and volunteers. She keeps everything running very smoothly and always has a smile on her face. If you would like to help, please speak to Karen or stop by on second Saturdays. Volunteers are always needed to sort, wash, and hang items; carry items out to cars; or carry donations from the church down to the Activity Center.

On average, Swaddling Clothes now serves about 27 families a month. We hand out around 39 packages of pampers/wipes along with 11 large items. Saturday volunteers range from 4-6 Messiah members.



In December, with the help of volunteers and a

Thrivent Action Team, Messiah was able to give every mother a Christmas Gift Bag to show we care for our moms as well as their children. Included with these bags were hats loomed by Mary Shafer, bibs embroidered by Joan Burk and Tina Sawall, and Christmas books.

Stats

263 families in 2016
314 families in 2017
329 families in 2018



Living Generously With the Help of Thrivent by Deaconess Pamela Buhler

Care Baskets: With loving support from our Messiah members as well as our Thrivent Action Team helping us live generously, we were able to put together beautiful gift baskets and fruit baskets for our seasoned

saints and shut-ins. They were delivered in the month of December and were received with smiles of thanksgiving. Included with the gift baskets was a copy of Luther's Large Catechism. Thank you for all

your help making this Christmas special to the members who can't make it to church as regularly as they hope and thanks for showing them that their church family cares!



Caroling: Thanks to our Youth Coordinator, Erin McComack, our youth were able to visit four of our elderly members, deliver care baskets, and sing Christmas carols

to them. Our youth sang up and down the halls of two nursing homes proclaiming the birth of the coming Christ Child and bringing smiles to many workers and residents.

Caroling also took place at three other residences while deliveries were made.



College Care Packages: Caring for our youth while they are away at college is a very important mission. Care packages were sent the first week of December to all students whose parents responded to the invitation. Thanks to everyone who has made donations Messiah is able to send care packages this spring as

well. They will be sent towards the end of March. It is not too late to sign up your young adult for a college care package. We are also very grateful to Thrivent Action Team for paying shipping for all of our packages. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to help with activities like

these, please speak with Deaconess Buhler.



Baby Bottles for Pregnancy Help 4U



Our MLCA students worked with the congregation to fill lots of baby bottles with loose change, cash, and checks to support the work of Pregnancy Help 4U.



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

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 (/ˈmɪsə, lānē /)

noun. —a mixture or collection of different things

- **The deadline** to report any discrepancies in your 2018 financial statement is February 5.
- The **baby bottles for Pregnancy Help 4 U** need to be turned in by Wednesday, February 6.
- 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 has opened to the general public. Tell your friends and neighbors about MLCA!
- Remember **Swaddling Clothes** when shopping (We always need wipes!) or cleaning our your kids' closets!
- **Save the Date!** Our Youth are hosting a Valentine dinner on Feb. 15, 2019. Watch the bulletin for information.
- **Save the Date!** VBS 2019 will be held June 17—20.
- **Save this Date, Too:** Pastor Huebel's last Sunday at Messiah will be June 23, 2019. A reception will be held that afternoon.
- There are still many blank spaces on our **2019 Flower Chart**. If you would like to provide the flowers for a Sunday Service, sign up! The chart is located in the Preschool wing, by the Copy Room.
- **Our newly elected Church Officers and Board Chairman for 2019-20:**
President – Jason Allen
Vice President – Chris Aguilar
Secretary – Bill Brandt
Treasurer – Herbert Herrmann
Board of Christian Ed – Jimmy Baker
Board of Evangelism – Bruce Dana
Board of Stewardship – Bill Stone
Board of Elders – Pete Hibbs
School Board – Clayton Brandt

Keep these men, our pastors, and our congregation in your prayers!

Sing a New Song. by Vicki L. Main, Kantor

Our first new hymn for 2019 is *From God the Father, Virgin-Born* – LSB 401 in the Epiphany section, which we will continue to be in throughout the month of February. The hymn tune, DEUS TUORUM MILITUM (sometimes called GRENOBLE) was published in France in the 1753 *Grenoble Antiphoner*, as a setting for the text "Deus tuorum militum" ("The God of Your Soldiers" – see stanza five - *be with us on the battlefield*. Of course our 'battlefield' today is the world in which we live).

The *Psalter Hymnal Handbook* of 1988 wrote this – "one of the finest French diocesan tunes from the eighteenth century, it represents a departure in Roman Catholic hymnody from the older chant style". . . . and it also gave an indication as to 'how' it was to be sung – "Sing with vigor!" Although it is an anonymous hymn which may date back as far as the 6th Century, the tune itself must have been well-liked as there are 18 different hymn titles used in some 30+ various hymnals – even a Chinese one.

From God the Father, Virgin-Born

- 1 From God the Father, virgin-born
To us the only Son came down;
By death the font to consecrate,
The faithful to regenerate.
- 2 Beginning from His home on high,
In human flesh He came to die;
Creation by His death restored,
And shed new joys of life abroad.
- 3 Glide on, O glorious Sun, and
bring
The gift of healing on Your wing;
To ev'ry dull and clouded sense
The clearness of Your light
dispense.
- 4 Abide with us, O Lord, we pray;
The gloom of darkness chase
away;
Your work of healing, Lord, begin,
And take away the stain of sin.
- 5 Lord, once You came to earth's
domain
And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield,
From ev'ry harm Your people
shield.

6 To You, O Lord, all glory be
For this Your blest epiphany;
To God, whom all His hosts adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

(Public domain)

You may want to read the Scriptural references used for the text as listed in our hymnal as well . . . John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; Luke 4:18; Acts 26:17-18.

Also note that John Mason Neale is listed as the translator. Although known as a priest, scholar and translator, he is best known as a hymn writer and translator.

If you remember to *sing with vigor*, I will try to play it that way as well!

