



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - KELLER, TEXAS
Messiah Messenger

F.A.Q.'s

Rev. Thomas Chryst

Q. Who wrote the common table prayer used by many Lutherans, "Come, Lord Jesus" and where did it come from?

A. The *Hymnal Supplement 98 Handbook* (Concordia Publishing House, 1998) notes on p. 156: This is doubtless the best-known meal prayer among American Lutherans ...

The earliest known printing of the text is in a Moravian hymnal, *Etwas vom Liede Mosis, des Knechts Gottes, und dem Liede des Lammes, das ist: Alt- und neuer Brüder-Gesang*. (London, 1753). It is headed "Tisch Gebetgen" (table prayer), and the text reads: Komm, Herr Jesu! sey unser Gast; Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest, und segne, was du bescheret hast. And bless what you have bestowed.



It is likely that the text has an earlier, possibly Lutheran, origin. In the 1753 hymnal it is placed not in the chapter containing "Old Moravian hymns" nor with the "eighteenth-century Moravian hymns" but rather with "evangelical hymns from the seventeenth century" ("evangelische Lieder im siebzehnden Seculo"). The editor of the facsimile reprint, Dietrich Meyer, has identified the authors of most hymns in this chapter, all or nearly all of whom are Lutherans, but for "Komm, Herr Jesu" he has simply indicated "author unknown."

More than one version of the second line of text is known among Lutherans in this country, including "Let these gifts to us be blest," "Let Thy gifts to us be blest" and "Let these Thy gifts to us be blest," as well as other variations. The same situation applies in Germany, where the line is variously said "und segne, was du bescheret hast," "und segne, was du uns bescheret hast," and "und segne, was du uns aus Gnaden bescheret hast" ("and bless what you have bestowed to us out of mercy"). The committee preparing *HS98* has chosen the version that seems to be most widely used in this country; this version also avoids the problem of the archaic word "thy." Within our own LCMS tradition, this prayer appears in *Evangelisch-Lutherischer Gebets-Schatz* (St. Louis, 1881, 15th ed.; originally published in St. Louis in 1864). This volume of "Evangelical-Lutheran Prayer Treasures" underwent numerous reprintings even until as late as 1908. It attributes the authorship of "Komm, Herr Jesu!" to Martin Luther, although this is doubtful.

Q. Could you please tell me why a person should join a congregation? Couldn't they just go to the church, give a little here and there, and do the things a member does without joining? What benefits would I have by joining a church?

A. Joining a church says to the public you are a Christian, that you are a member of God's own people, who are called "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9), and that you believe and act thus and thus as a witness to the Christian faith and as an example to others. It means that you are doing what the very first Christians did in joining together to devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42). It means that you will be able to receive the encouragement, strength, prayers, baptism, the Lord's Supper and the application of God's Word from fellow Christians and a pastor, which you may not have the privilege of receiving as a non-member. It will tell other Christians and the world that you have considered it a serious matter to be able to join together with Christians to support the work of the church of calling a pastor, providing instruction in the Christian faith for the youth, adults, the older set, doing evangelism and mission work at home and abroad.

It would not only witness to other people who you are and what you are about, but it would show God that what He wants of His groups of His chosen, His own people, that you are not just talking about and maybe doing half-heartedly, but are involved whole-heartedly in doing what He expects. Joining is a serious declaration that you intend--with His help--to participate fully in doing the things of God. In most congregations, only members who have joined receive the Lord's Supper, the privilege of voting, recognition by the government for tax purposes, full use of the church and other amenities. What would happen to God's church if everyone decided not to join with other Christians to BE His own people?

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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*

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. Thomas Chryst, Pastor

Rev. Jeremy McDonald, Vicar



What is a Sacrament?

I found some helpful questions and answers to consider from Ministry, Word, and Sacraments: An Enchiridion written by Martin Chemnitz, also known as the “Second Martin” of the time of the Reformers. Basically, this was written to be used to examine pastors in their teaching and preaching of various doctrines and their understanding of them. And while it’s not the easiest reading to undertake, there are tons of gems that one can mine throughout the book.

One is the section he prepared to answer the question, “What is a Sacrament?” (he adds in the New Testament). He cites Philip Melancthon (another Reformer) that a Sacrament is a “...divinely instituted rite, added to the promise given in the Gospel, so that it becomes a testimony that is set forth and applied.” Note who is the acting agent here. It’s not us, it’s God. God is the One who institutes,

adds His promise of the forgiveness of sins (the gospel) and includes His testimony (for God cannot lie) that He puts forth for us. We aren’t the ones who perform these rites to acknowledge God or to obey Him, rather He gives His Sacraments for our benefit.

The next question, Chemnitz addresses, “What are the essential parts of a Sacrament?” First, there’s an outward, “visible element or sign in a certain outward ceremony or act...” that Christ institutes and ordains. Chemnitz comments that Christ gives a “special word and express command” to perform this act and that this is “committed to the whole church” for its use until “the end of the world.” To this he states, “Second, the word or promise of grace is joined to the element...” These are “outward means and visible testimonies” that Christ institutes to “set forth, apply, give, confirm, and seal individually to those who use them in true faith, the promise of grace....” This promise of grace is “proclaimed and offered” elsewhere in the Gospel in general.

Again, the main thing to understand is these are the mandating Words of Christ through which grace is given and is received by faith. This was not to be done for a limited time or for a special group of people but was to continue until the end of time for the benefit of all people. And while the gospel is preached and the forgiveness of sins is offered by believing in the Words of Christ, here an extra means of grace is given in the Sacraments.

It’s natural to ask, “If we receive the forgiveness of sins through believing in the gospel (the forgiveness of sins through the work of Christ) then why do we need the Sacraments at all?” Chemnitz tackles this by asking, “For what reasons did Christ add the Sacraments to the Word?” Answer: “So that our weak faith be sustained and preserved in this way. For our mind cannot so easily assent to the sole and bare Word and firmly rely on it.” Yes, we do believe the promise of the gospel generally speaking; however, he notes “...yet in the matter of a conscience troubled, and disturbed by temptations, one usually **falls into doubt** (emphasis mine) as to whether that **general promise belongs and pertains also particularly to him and whether he can and should apply it personally to himself**” (emphasis mine). “Therefore Christ, who is rich in mercy, instituted outward and visible sacraments to help our infirmity on this point....” This weakness is helped through the Sacraments for we can see these testimonies of the gospel of Christ. Not only do we see them, but we know that this is how Christ wants us to receive His “sure seal and pledge” that testify that “He truly applies, confirms, and seals the promise of the gospel individually to those who use these sacraments in true faith.”

The Sacraments aren’t simply things we do to obey Christ. They are instituted and given by Christ to us, whereby He is acting to give us the forgiveness of sins that is proclaimed in the gospel. Instead of relying upon our “hearts” or our “minds” to receive the forgiveness of sins and therefore trust in our flesh which is indeed weak, Christ gives outward objects of faith that we can see and completely trust. Thanks be to God that we have these gifts of grace in the Sacraments and can rest assured that in them by faith we do indeed receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP November 2021

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6). But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it. This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.” We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven. More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

Our preschool playground received a definite upgrade with the addition of two new items for our children to enjoy - a mud kitchen, and an outdoor paint easel! These items were made possible through the generosity of 2 members of Messiah Lutheran Church, Grover Downing and Bob Knipp, who donated their resources, time, and talents to serve our church and school!



***So many happy faces at
MLCA Preschool !!***

Reformation Movie Night at Messiah

Meredith Sifford



***Family, fellowship and movies at Messiah! Thank
you to all who helped make this night so fun!***



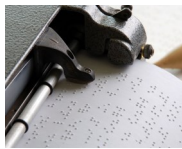
Advent Midweek Services - This year we are returning to "normal" with Advent Wednesdays. December 1st, 8th and 15th we will have a 6pm meal followed by Evening Prayer at 7pm. **MLCA School** will be hosting the December 1st meal with Tacos, and the students will sing at the service. Altar Guild will host the December 8th meal with Soups and Desserts. **December 15th still needs a church group to organize/sponsor the meal.** If your group is interested in sponsoring the 15th meal, email the church office at churchoffice@MessiahKeller.org.



Messiah is pleased to announce that we have a new youth leader – David Lee - a longtime Messiah member! David is a current student at UTA working towards his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. He is glad to be able to serve and help as this year's youth leader. Thank you David for agreeing to serve! We also would like to give a **huge thank you to Erin McComack** for helping with the youth over the past several years. We appreciate you! You can email David with questions at divadlee75@gmail.com.



Our former Deaconess Intern, Sarah (Schultz) Fields and her husband Rev. George Fields announce the birth of their second child, **Seraphine Ophelia**, born October 26th - 8lbs 2 oz, 20inches. The Fields live in Jackson, MS where Rev. Fields serves Christ Lutheran Church.



Open Braille Workshop will be meeting Friday, November 19th and will *break for the holidays for December*. Deaconess Elizabeth from Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church will be hosting this event from 6 to 8p.m. Please contact Barbara Pinero with any questions at 682.552.3622 or email at bpinero1scom@gmail.com.



Messiah's Upcoming Dates to Remember

November 12—MLCA Science Fair

November 19—MLCA Turkey Trot

November 24—Thanksgiving Eve Service Evening Prayer 7pm

November 25—Thanksgiving Day [Church Office closed on the 26th]

November 28—Advent Begins

December 1, 8, 15—Midweek Advent - Meal at 6pm, Evening Prayer at 7pm

December 24—Lessons and Carols w/ Candlelight 5pm

December 25—Christmas Divine Service 10am

January 8—From Fertilization to Forever Conference at Memorial, Houston

TRUNK OR TREAT 2021

Thank you to everyone who helped make this years Trunk or Treat a success!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MLCA UPCOMING EVENTS

SCIENCE FAIR—November 10th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend. This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

TURKEY TROT FUNDRAISER—November 19th. This year is Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy's 19th Annual Turkey Trot Walk-A-Thon! Everyone is welcome to join us on **Friday, November 19th from 9:30am-11:30am** and cheer on the students as they walk and run around our property. We are also looking for monetary support to reach our \$10,000 goal for the continued growth of the MLCA Athletic Department and other facility updates. To give, scan the QR code or cash/checks are accepted as well at the school office or click this link here—[MLCA Turkey Trot.](#)





What is GriefShare Ministry? GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. GriefShare meets weekly for seminars and support groups, designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

A **"Grief Share"** workshop is being offered at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Haslet. Our own Deaconess Buhler is co-facilitating. The sessions meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm and have just begun, but you can still join. Each week the meeting will focus on a different challenge. For more information contact Deaconess Buhler at deaconess.buhler@gmail.com.

Pro-life Conference for College Students

Vera Sweet



From Fertilization to Forever, a pro-life conference for LCMS college students and young adults sponsored by Memorial Lutheran Church.

Conference information: Check-in will run from 8:00 am to 9:00 am in the MLC Commons (adjacent the MLC Sanctuary). A schedule of the day's events, plenary and break away sessions, etc. will be provided at that time. The Conference will begin at 9:00 am and conclude at 5:30 pm. The primary speaker is Mrs. Michelle Bauman, director of Y4life, campus and youth outreach of Lutherans for Life.

Lunch will be provided: by MLC (free of charge) at 12:00 pm. Breakfast and Dinner will not be provided. Please note: we are not be able to accommodate any special dietary requests.

Conference location: Memorial Lutheran Church. 5800 Westheimer Road, Houston TX 77057. Office phone: 713-782-6079.

Conference date and times: 01/08/2022 from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Registration information: Registration opens up on 11/01/2021 and closes on 01/01/2022. There is no charge for the conference. [Click here to register.](#) Questions? Please contact Pr. Ian Pacey at: ipacey@mlchouston.org.

Over 70 young adults, ages 18 – 35, from Texas and Oklahoma attended the "Spiritually Woke or Biblically Enlightened" Wolfmueller II annual conference. We had Ice Breakers, Bible Study, Hymnody Study with organ, Open Gym, Brain Games, Confession and Absolution, Vespers and Matins were all part of this event. We had a wonderful time !



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT ANNUAL WOLFMUELLER III CONFERENCE!

WHEN: Conference October 2022 in Austin.
We will return to Austin on Saturday, January 22, 2022 to participate in the "March for Life" at the Texas Capitol in Austin. This event is open to all ages. Bring the family and join us. Questions? lcms.u.tx@gmail.com.

Young Adults meet at the Sweet's home after late church on different Sundays.
Text 817-988-3521 if you are interested.



YOUNG ADULTS!

