



Fear Not— by Pastor Glenn Huebel

An important event happened 485 years ago on June 25, 1530. This event made a profound impact upon the world, and especially upon our lives as Lutherans – even if we don't realize it today. Philip Melancthon and his companions stood before the Emperor and other leaders at a Church Conference in Augsburg, Germany to declare before the world what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. The Augsburg Confession was read in German, but written in both German and Latin. It remains today as the most basic historical statement of the Lutheran faith. The eyes of the whole Western world were upon Augsburg that day because the absolute power of the Pope, who called himself the Vicar of Christ, was being challenged more seriously than ever before. It took great courage to stand and confess. Many reformers before them had died as martyrs, chained at a stake and consumed by fire. Luther himself could not attend because he had already been banned and outlawed by the Pope. He would have met with certain death. Our Church was forged in this furnace by courageous confessors of truth. Though this anniversary usually passes by unnoticed, it is probably time for us to renew its observance. It is time to remember who we are and where we came from.

Christians have been in the mainstream of

American culture for so long, it will take us a while to adjust to the “brave new world” on the horizon. In many ways the mainstream status of Christianity in America was a great trial for the Church, because our flesh is tempted by both prosperity and adversity. In prosperity, the Church tends to slip into spiritual drowsiness and accommodation to the world. The devil seemed to be having great success in our nation with that method, that it is somewhat surprising that he should reverse course just when the church was being lulled into a dreadful lukewarm spiritual state. We should not be ignorant of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). He has often patiently rocked believers to sleep for the very purpose of delivering the death blow in their weakened state. The fact that some of the sleepy ones may wake up when the devil shouts the battle-cry against Christ and His Church is a risk he is willing to take. He knows that he will reap a big harvest of lapsed Christians nevertheless.

We Christians should not find it surprising that our culture has turned around so quickly in the last decade to become an aggressive enemy against the Church. Many pastors, including yours, were warning through the past couple of decades that the superficial, pop-culture, “all style – no substance” Christianity is a farce that produces nothing but death. Jesus describes such religion as

a salt that has lost its saltiness and has become good for nothing but to be cast out and trampled under the foot of the world. The world will never outgrow its hatred for the Name of Christ, even if it delights in seeing Him dressed up like a foolish king, as some well-intentioned disciples are willing to do in order to entertain the masses.

(Continued on page 2)



Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 25 June 1530 before Emperor Charles V. 1617.

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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*

Fear Not, cont.

Entertaining the proud and self-centered flesh may attract crowds for a moment, but we have discovered to our sorrow that it does NOT make disciples. The crowds that sing "Hosanna" on Sunday can shout "Crucify Him!" by Friday morning. No wonder our Lord did not entrust Himself to man (John 2:24).

As the forces of evil amass against the Name of Christ and lead us toward the spiritual battle figuratively described in Scripture as "Armageddon," true Christians must prepare as earnestly as they ever have. We can no longer afford to be lukewarm or half-hearted. Our children and grandchildren will not be able to live unexamined lives, because calling upon the Name of Christ will be costly for them. They may have to forfeit friends, a job, approval of the world, or even more. They will have to be taught and trained as the 12 disciples of the Lord were trained, for it is not likely that they will live quiet and peaceable lives as Christians. They must be taught to EXPECT suffering for Christ's sake. They must know what they believe and be able to

articulate it in a hostile environment. They must know how to give answer for their hope. They must be able to stand alone, holding forth the Word of life in this dark and perverse world. And, most importantly, Christians of tomorrow must be courageous. We must be raising up spiritual warriors.

The weapons we must supply them are not the kind that destroy property and lives, but the armor of God by which we and they must battle spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:10-18). We must help them to become "strong in the Lord" and to live "in the power of His might." They must learn to wait upon the Holy Spirit, who is found only in the Word and Sacraments. They must learn the Word of God and internalize it. Ignorance will leave them defenseless before Satan, the World, and the Flesh. They must be able to use this sword of the Spirit. They must know how to defend themselves by the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. They must be prepared in our homes to be disciples of Jesus.

Do your children know Jesus? Are

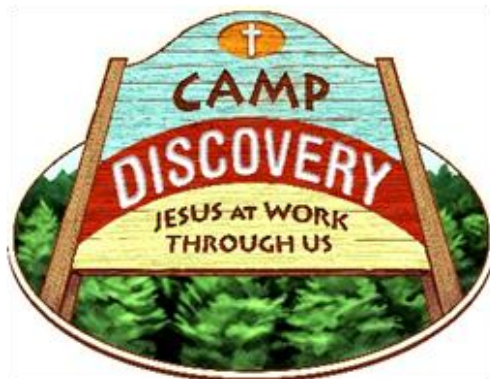
they familiar with His voice (John 10:27)? Are they deeply rooted and grounded in His love (Ephesians 3:14-19)? Are they learning to use the armor of God? Are they being taught to say no, to stand alone, to confess Christ when no one else will? Will they be able to say, like Luther did at the end of his eventful life, "These are the articles on which I must stand and on which I will stand, God willing, until my death"? "Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom" (Luke 12:32)

"So wield well your blade,
Rejoice in its pow'rs
Fight on undismayed
For Jesus is ours!
Your armor lay down,
To praise, ever glorious,
His cross and His crown."
(Hymn 665:5)

Blessings in Christ,



Pastor Huebel



VBS 2015

June 29 - July 2, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Ages 3 years - 5th Grade

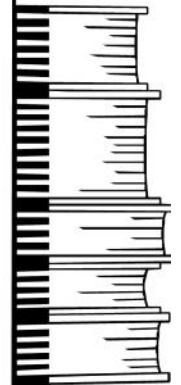
Register online at

www.messiahkeller.org

From the Library

Copies of the Augsburg Confession and the Book of Concord, which contains all of the Lutheran Confessions, are available in our library.

The library, located on the 2nd floor of the Academy wing, is always open to church members. We have a nice selection of theology books—check out the west wall, Dewey 238s.



What to Expect From Your New Pastor— by Pastor Tom Chryst

When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:1a-5)

Dear Friends in Christ at Messiah,

Thank You

First of all, my family and I wish to thank you all for the warm welcome we've received these past few weeks since our arrival. You made our move-in smooth, and you've greeted us with so many smiles and so much kindness, we already feel "at home". We appreciate everyone who helped out in so many ways with my installation, and even the honor of your presence with us to mark the beginning of my ministry in your midst.

Setting Expectations

I have been thinking quite a bit about my work here at Messiah, and how it's important to "set the precedent" just right on so many things. One, because I myself am a creature of habit – as most of us are – and I want to establish good habits. But also, I want you to know what to expect of your new Associate Pastor. What habits you can (and should) expect from me. Which reminds me of a story...

The New Pastor

There was once a new pastor who preached his first sermon at his new congregation. He climbed into the pulpit, cleared his throat, and deliberately began,

"The theme of today's sermon is, What can you expect from your new pastor? And I will answer this question with three points:

What can you expect from your new pastor? Not much.

What can you expect from your new pastor? More of the same.

What can you expect from your new pastor? Three point sermons."

Expect: Not much

Now, I can't promise whether I will deliver only three-point sermons (or more or less!) But I can tell you in one sense the first answer very much applies. What can you expect from Pastor Chryst? Not much. But in this sense: You have successfully called another man to serve as pastor who happens to be a sinner. And as a sinner, I can assure you I will sin even in the exercise of my duties as pastor. No pastor is perfect, and I too, am just a man, like my father Adam before me. I will almost certainly let you down from time to time. I will almost certainly fall short of someone's expectations here and there, and sometimes through no one's fault but my own.

So I ask for your patience with this poor sinner who has been called to forgive sins, but also brings his own sins. This shepherd who is also a sheep, keen to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. And bear with me as we share our lives together under the cross of Christ. For I too will seek Christ's forgiveness and yours, my fellow wandering sheep.

More of the Same - Gospel

But point two in the three-point sermon should also apply. What can you expect from Pastor Chryst? More of the same. That is, nothing new and innovative, but the same teaching and preaching, the same administration of God's Word and Sacraments that you have heard faithfully from your pastors at this congregation so far. The same that

has been given to the Christian Church of all ages and places. I bring no no message, no different teaching, no insight or wisdom of my own. But like St. Paul resolved among the church in Corinth, I pledge among you to "know nothing... except Christ Jesus and him crucified." I am here to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And I am here to preach it again, and again. More of the same. In season and out of season. In times of joy – weddings and baptisms, confirmations and festivals of all kinds. Christ crucified for sinners.

As you raise your children in the fear and knowledge of the Lord, Christ crucified for sinners. As you study the Word with other Christians, more of the same: Christ crucified for sinners.

And in times of trouble and trial – When you have sinned and guilt seizes you. When you are in trouble of your own making, or the troubles of the world find you. At your hospital bedside. At the funeral home, or the graveside. In your darkest hours the message is the same. Christ crucified for sinners.

More of the same, and then more and more of the same. That Jesus Christ lived and died and lives again. That he sets you free from sin and death. That believing in him, even though you die, yet shall you live.

The Law, Too

This is not to say that I won't ever preach the law. In fact, that's part of the whole counsel of God that goes along with the Good News of Christ.

(Continued on page 4)

It is the law that prepares our hearts to hear the Gospel. It shows us our sin, and need for a savior. Without the law, we would find the Gospel an answer to a problem we don't have. But the law alone can not save us. We can never fulfill its demands. It brings only death. The letter kills, but the Spirit brings life.

That same law, though it always accuses, also instructs. And so it guides and trains the man of God in righteousness. Having heard and believed, how then shall we live? Not by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Love God, love your neighbor. Keep the commandments. Yes, the preacher of Christ crucified also encourages the believer toward godly living.

Not Just Preaching

So the preacher of Christ crucified for sinners preaches Law and Gospel. But that's not to say that I will ONLY ever preach. For the Gospel promises of Christ crucified for sinners are not only audible, but he makes them tangible. He fuses his forgiving word to water. He delivers his body and blood in, with and under bread and wine. And these Holy Sacraments are also where we "get the goods" of Christ crucified for sinners. Here these gifts are publicly given from the Good Shepherd, through the under-shepherd, to the sheep. He feeds us and makes us lie down in the green pastures of his grace. He washes us by the still waters of peace in Christ. Christ crucified for sinners. In Law and Gospel. In Word and Sacrament.

Other Tasks?

And there are many other things a pastor will do – visiting the sick and the homebound, counseling the troubled, answering phones and writing newsletters, reading and studying, going to meetings and gatherings, and maybe even a Texas barbecue here and there. I

look forward to getting you know you all (or "y'all". Or even "all y'all") especially so that I may better serve you and bring you the gifts Christ freely gives. For none of these things matter without the message of Christ crucified for sinners. But to the extent that these help and support that central task, they are good and proper to do.

"To Know Nothing"

And maybe it's an occupational hazard, that we pastors tend to be (or can at least come off as) know-it-alls. Maybe you expect your pastors to have all the answers. Or maybe you expect them to think they do. But St. Paul, for his part, resolved to be the opposite – a "know-nothing", that is to know nothing except Christ and him crucified. I hope I can help you with the answers you may seek, but if I'm not ultimately pointing you to Christ, then all that knowledge is for naught.

Likewise, pastors are careful to be somewhat "agnostic" about those things which have little or nothing to do with the preaching of Christ crucified. From the carpet color to what kind of soap to use in the bathrooms, many decisions about our life together are best made by others. Likewise, your life in the world – a pastor is outside of his God-given authority if he tells you whom to marry or how to vote. Where God's Word speaks, we speak. And where God's Word is silent, we remain silent. This is a handy and helpful rule of thumb.

Nor should you expect from me fancy gimmicks and dynamic programs that will serve as a magic wand to solve all the church's problems. Stewardship, Evangelism, Education – these are always areas of growth and struggle for a congregation of sinners in a sin-filled world. Messiah is like any other Christian congregation in this: the church's real problem is sin, and the only answer is repentance and faith in Christ... Christ and him crucified.

One Thing

Perhaps what Paul is encouraging is that Christians, the Church and her preachers keep focus, and do not become distracted by 3 or 100 points, but only one – that Jesus Christ and his cross are kept central to all we do and say.

There was a scene in the movie "City Slickers" in which the old cowboy, Curly, tells Mitch (Billy Crystal) the meaning of life by holding up one finger:

Curly: You know what the secret of life is?

Mitch: No, what?

Curly: This.

Mitch: Your finger?

Curly: One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and everything else don't mean...

Mitch: That's great, but what's the one thing?

Curly: That's what you've got to figure out.

Christians, we know what the one thing is. It's Jesus Christ, and him crucified. That's the one thing, the only thing, ultimately, that matters to us all. It is the Gospel, and our faith in it. It is our salvation in Christ. And it's the one thing you can expect to hear, again and again, from your new pastor. Not much, but more of the same: Jesus Christ for you.

In His Service and Yours,

Pastor Thomas Christ

Pastor Christ





The closing hymn we will be singing for the month of June will be our next new hymn of the month, *Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go*, LSB 920.

- 1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.
- 2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
Kingship with Him His servants gain;
With Christ the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
- 3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
This world of time to consecrate,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to re-create.
- 4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;
Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim
Christ's truth in love that we may be
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
- 5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show
That in His Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
True peace, true love to all mankind.

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The text not only gives us our identity as a chosen race and holy nation but also our "marching orders" in spreading and proclaiming Christ's name. Note the scriptural references used with it –

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Colossians 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Revelation 5:10; 20:6 (ESV)

¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

The text of the hymn was written by Father **James Quinn**, a Scottish Jesuit priest, theologian, and hymnwriter born in Glasgow, Scotland on April 1919. At the time of the publication of our *Lutheran Service Book*, he was still living. Since then, he died on April 8, 2010 at the age of 90. He was described as "one of the finest writers of hymn texts of our time." His hymns are said to be found in almost every contemporary English language hymnal and continue to be reprinted and republished. *Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go* is found in 15 different hymnals .

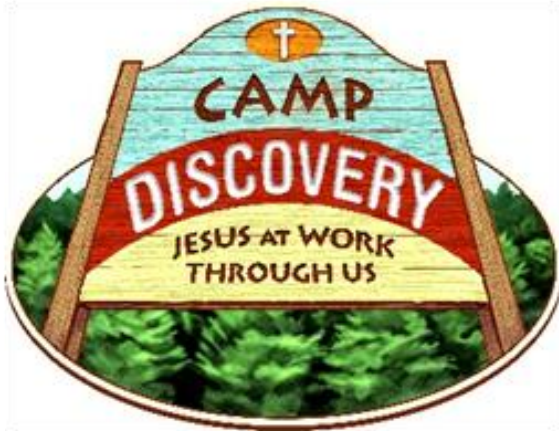
The hymntune ("Angelius") was composed by **Georg Joseph**. He was born probably circa 1630, Breslau, Silesia (now Wrocław, Poland) and died circa 1668. Little is actually known or documented about him except that he was a musician in the service of the Prince-Bishop of Breslau in last half of the 17th Century.

The actual hymntune, "Angelius," appears in some 90 hymnals under many various names. You may feel you already know this melody, rightly so, it is the tune we use for the *Agnus Dei* ("Lamb of God") in our Divine Service, Setting Four (see page 210). It is also the tune for LSB 831 (*"How Shall They Hear," Who Have Not Heard*) and LSB 844 (*Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*). It is an "old friend" to acquaint ourselves with using different words.

. . . . Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts (stanza 1) true peace, true love to all mankind (stanza 5). Sing forth with joy!

In Christ,
Vicki L. Main, Kantor

VBS 2015 Needs YOU!



Our VBS is filling up, and we still need volunteers:

- 5 Preschool aides
- 1 1st Grade aide
- 1 2nd Grade aide
- 1 Aide for Bible Challenge rotation
- 2 Aides for Snack rotation

If you have any questions about these positions, please contact

Stephanie Cholak at stephcholak@yahoo.com. We also need a few other items, some donated and some loaned for VBS week.

The following items are needed as non-returnable donations:

- 6 cans of Green spray paint (any tint)
- 6 cans of Blue spray paint (any tint)
- 6 Queen size flat sheets
- Empty Gallon jugs

We would like to borrow the following items:

- Camping tents (1-2 person)
- Canopies
- Camping Chairs

Please be sure to label the item with your last name so we can be sure to get your item back to you at the end of the week. If you have any

questions about the items listed, please contact Tamarra Liddle at fremantleaussie@gmail.com or 817/751-2247.

VBS Dates to Save:

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 a.m.:
VBS Decoration Creation Day—
Come, help us create some reusable back-drops.

Sunday June 21
VBS Fundraiser Breakfast

Saturday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.:
VBS Decorating Day—Join us as we decorate our VBS spaces.

Sunday, June 28:
Member Registration Day—Skip the lines on Monday morning by filling out registration forms on Sunday! There will be a table in the narthex between services and after the second service.

THANK YOU for your support



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**Come to the MLCA Kindergarten - 9th Grade
CLOSING PROGRAM
Thursday, June 4, 7:00 p.m.**

Sign up on the Copy Room door for a 4-issue subscription to GOOD NEWS magazine. The cost is \$10.00 for 4 issues, delivered to your church mailbox, starting this fall.



**Annual Youth Retreat
JUNE 8 - 11 near Wimberly, Texas**

**The property has not been affected by the flooding, and is safe.
A couple of spaces remain. Call the church office to sign-up.**



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

Rev. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Erika Mildred, MLCA Headmaster

www.messiahkeller.org

The Installation of Pastor Tom Chryst

May 17, 2015.



The Chryst Family: Pastor and Brenda Chryst, Helena, Morgan, and Bailey

The wonderful service was followed by a wonderful Texas bar-be-que, with plenty of food for all!



Many thanks to Toby and Elaine Hall and Vera Sweet for organizing the dinner, to our chefs, Bill Brandt, Brian Sifford, and Jason Allen, and to all those who brought side dishes and helped with set-up and clean-up.

