



Memorial Day Reflections

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

Memorial Day has been observed in America since about the time of the Civil War, when so many military graveyards were created on the battlefields of our country. President Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address, paying tribute to those who gave the "last full measure of devotion," helped make that battlefield the most famous of the war. It became a common practice in both the North and South to decorate the graves of the fallen. The last Monday of May began to be commemorated as Decoration Day in 1868.

The Christian Church has always endured tension and inner conflict over the question of whether it is appropriate for the Church to honor the military profession in general, or for Christians to serve in that vocation. By the 16th century, the concern was also expanded to include participation in making of weapons of war or supporting the military in any way. It is understandable that war itself should be so detestable to the Christian mind that some would consider it a sin to participate in anything that contributed to such misery and destruction of life. Is it right for a Christian to enter the armed forces, especially if he has to kill another human being in the line of duty? How does this square with the fifth commandment forbidding murder and requiring us to love and do good even to our enemies?

Martin Luther was compelled by the consciences of many men to apply the teachings of Scripture to the question of soldiering. Luther addressed a lengthy and

carefully reasoned letter on the subject to his friend, Assa von Kram, a knight with a tender conscience. The letter is entitled, "Whether soldiers, too, can be saved."

Many in Luther's day, as in our own, were naively opposed to war itself. They considered war an intrinsic evil that can never, under any circumstances, be justified under God. If war is intrinsically evil, then Christians cannot with good conscience participate in any supporting role of maintaining war. Luther saw from Scripture that this was a wrong-headed presupposition. He distinguished what Christians do as Christians and what they may and should do as citizens of the State, a temporal institution also instituted by God for the general welfare of the people. In answer to the objection that "Christians have not been commanded to fight" he wrote:

Indeed, Christians do not fight and have no worldly rulers among them. Their government is a spiritual government, and, according to the Spirit, they are subjects of no one but Christ. Nevertheless, as far as body and property are concerned, they are subject to worldly rulers and owe them obedience. If worldly rulers call upon them to fight, then they ought to and must fight and be obedient, not as Christians, but as members of the state and obedient subjects. Christians therefore do not fight as individuals or for their own benefit, but as obedient servants of the authorities under whom they live.



Luther referred to Romans 13:1-7 to show that the government has the right and responsibility before God to wield the sword in order to protect the good and punish the evil of the world. The government has the power to do this in administering the death penalty, and therefore in the wider arena of war. Luther writes: "If one punishes a thief or a murderer or an adulterer, that is punishment inflicted on a single evildoer; but in a just war a whole crowd of evildoers, who

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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

are doing harm in proportion to the size of the crowd, are punished at once. If, therefore, one work of the sword is good and right, they are all good and right, for the sword is a sword and not a foxtail with which to tickle people."

With the understanding that God has authorized the government to exercise the sword in justice, and that it does so as the very agent of God's wrath (Rom 13:4), it follows that anyone who serves in the office of the sword is doing a God-pleasing work. Christians may serve in this noble vocation as any unbeliever may, for by it the neighbor is being defended. He does, however, offer a few caveats. First, there is a distinction between the office and the man. The office is good and virtuous, but a wicked man may abuse his power through such office. That would be evil in the sight of God. Second, the good work that a faithful citizen performs in serving as a soldier or weapons-maker, is a matter of external righteousness, the righteousness of the law which does not account us as righteous before God and meriting eternal life. Christians are accounted righteous before God by faith in Christ alone. Third, this work of serving in war, even slaying the enemy, is a work of love even as it seems to be the opposite. A good doctor may find it necessary to amputate a limb or hand in order to save the patient. Though outwardly he may seem to be cruel and merciless, looking at it from a higher perspective he is a fine

man doing a noble work. Luther adds, "For if the sword were not on guard to preserve peace, everything in the world would be ruined because of lack of peace. Therefore, such a war is only a very brief lack of peace that prevents an everlasting and immeasurable lack of peace, a small misfortune that prevents a great misfortune."

As proof of this reasoning from Scripture, Luther used the counsel that John the Baptist gave to soldiers who came to him. When they came in contrition and asked John what they should do, he did not command them to leave the military or forsake their duty as soldiers. He only commanded that they be content with their wages and that they do not use their power to abuse the people. In other words, they were to be faithful to their superiors and not abuse their office. This is good counsel for soldiers of any age, Christians included.

Thus we Christians join with all the citizens of our great nation to remember with thanksgiving those who laid their lives down in service to this country and its people. We know full well that we would not have the precious liberties we now treasure without their blood. Our temporal heritage is not a right to be squandered, but a treasure to be cherished with a thankful heart. Author Anthony Esolen, in a plea for us to teach our children what sacrifices were necessary for our way of life, writes: "For a man with a

past may be free; but a man without a past, never."

As Christians we are also citizens of another Kingdom, the Kingdom of God, and that citizenship transcends all other loyalties on earth. We are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession." This Kingdom has come to us in this place and time because many brave Christians through the centuries have given their lives in confession of Christ. We honor them with thankful hearts as faithful servants of God and of us. The Church has set aside special Saints Days during the year to keep the memory of these faithful martyrs alive. We are not worshipping and praying to saints any more than we worship or pray to fallen soldiers on Memorial Day. The Church father, Tertullian commented that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. We are people with a heritage. May we never forget our past.

The greatest memorial for the Christian is the memorial blood of our redemption shed by the Christ. God reconciled us to Himself through the death of His Son. We have no tomb to adorn with flowers because Jesus conquered death for us all by His resurrection on the third day. By His death and resurrection Jesus has set us free and has given us a memorial feast of His body and blood that we may remember His death until He comes again. "A man with a past may be free; but a man without a past, never.



Rising 3rd graders and up are invited to our Next Sunday School Adventure.

Sunday School Adventure

Sunday School Adventures take place on the Sunday of the Congregational Voters' Meeting.

Children play indoor and outdoor games. Lunch is provided. Wear play clothes. Bring a friend.

Next Sunday School Adventure: Sunday, July 24, 2016, Beginning: 11:00am or noon until end of Congregational Voters' Meeting

Contact Vera Sweet for permission forms: vsweet2000@verizon.net

A Brief Latin Glossary for the Lutheran Armchair Theologian — by Pastor Tom Chryst

Lex semper accusat -----	"The Law Always Accuses"
Lex orandi, lex credendi -----	"The Law of Prayer, The Law of Belief"
Simul justus et peccator -----	"Simultaneous Saint and Sinner"
Ex nihilo-----	"Out of Nothing"
Sola scriptura-----	"Scripture Alone"
Sola gratia-----	"Grace Alone"
Sola fide -----	"Faith Alone"
Fides qua, fides quae -----	"The Faith That Believes; The Faith That Is Believed"
Ex opere operato -----	"By The Doing of the Action"
Quia and quatenus-----	"Because" and "In as much as"
Oratio, meditatio, tentatio -----	"Prayer, Meditation, Testing"
Soli deo Gloria	

Oratio, meditatio, tentatio, or "Prayer, meditation and testing" is the three-fold process Martin Luther identified as the way God forms one into a theologian. Luther sets forth this method in his *"Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther's German Writings, 1539"*, in which he draws these 3 rules from Psalm 119.

Oratio

For Lutherans, prayer is grounded in the Word of God. It is the simplest and often the easiest way to employ that Word, by saying back to God what he first says to us. We can pray the Psalms, for instance. We can speak and recite various sacred texts of scripture. Even when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are being formed into theologians, that is, students of the Word.



Lutheran theologian Adolph Koeberle writes, *"Prayer escapes the danger of disorder and confusion only when it is enkindled by the words of Scripture. From the Word proceeds its inner justification, as well as its life-giving power and the clearness of its petitions. A prayer that does not stick to Scripture will soon become poor in ideas, poor in faith, poor in love and will finally die"*

So we see in this first of the three rules, a very personal and spiritual application of the Word of God. The Word forms the very language of our prayers. And from here, we have a solid footing from which follows study and testing.

Meditatio

This is not "meditation" in the sense of a Buddhist monk, who sits and ponders in a trance-like state. It is not an emptying of the mind, but a filling of the heart and mind with God's Holy Word. It is not, therefore a focus on one's inner being, or inner self, but outside of ourselves toward God, who sends us the external Word.

"Meditatio" entails a broad study and attention to the Word God set before us. But not simply a scholarly study (although that falls under this idea as well). Meditatio includes the daily grappling with, reading aloud, reading silently as well as learning by heart. It would include receiving the Word in corporate worship as well as the Word attached to the sacraments. It could even mean singing the Word!

Psalm 119 explores this "meditatio" in soaring poetic fashion:

*Teach me your statutes.
Make me understand the way of
your precepts,
and I will meditate on your
wondrous works. [...]
I implore your favour with all my
heart;
be gracious to me according to
your promise.*

Furthermore, here we can see the "mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren". Christians speak God's Word to each other, wrestle with it together, and grow more deeply rooted in the Word. In Ephesians 5, Paul urges Christians to speak to each other *"in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart"*



Luther also described "meditatio" as when a cow chews its cud: *"To chew the cud, however, is to take up the Word with delight and meditate with supreme diligence, so that (according to the proverb) one does not permit it to go into one ear and out the other, but holds it firmly in the heart, swallows it, and absorbs it into the intestines"*

Tentatio

This means "Testing" or "Temptation" or "Trial". The Christian who has prayed the Word and studied and meditated upon the Word is often called to be tested according to that same Word. It is the trial by fire, or rubber-hitting-the-road Word of God in action in the believer's life.

(Continued on page 4)

A Brief Latin Glossary, cont.

You've heard that Christ is with you always (Matthew 28)? Now remember and apply this promise when you feel alone. You've heard that in Christ, death has no sting (1 Cor. 15:55)? Now encourage each other with these words as you mourn the loss of a loved one. Jesus promises forgiveness to all who would call upon his name, and endows his ministers with the very keys of heaven (John 20)? Now you confess the sins which oppress you, and hear the sweet words of absolution.

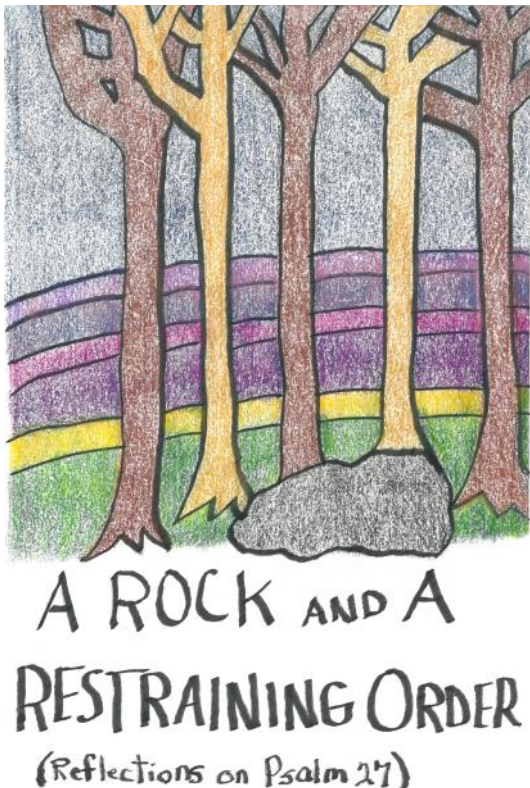
Sometimes the Word of God is refined in us by the opposition. When we are called to stand up against the lies of the enemy, faith learns the truth all the more. When we are subject to persecution and suffering and despised for the sake of Christ, Jesus says, "Blessed are you, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5).

Luther writes, *"For I myself...must be very thankful to my papists for pummeling, pressing, and terrifying me; that is, for making me a fairly good theologian, for otherwise I would not have become one..."*



The Christian life is a life of struggle and cross-bearing, as we follow the One who bore His cross for us all. It should never surprise us, therefore, when trial and testing challenge the Word that we have heard. It should, rather, drive us ever more and more deeply to trust the One who saves us by that Word. For God works for good in all things for those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Our Newest Author at Messiah



Messiah Lutheran Church has been blessed with a few members who have significant writing skills and have published articles and books. Rhoda Brewer, one of our shut-ins and a former MLCA teacher, recently published a small book entitled "A Rock and a Restraining Order." Written under a pseudonym, this book applies the verses of Psalm 27 to an autobiographical account of her own experiences as a survivor of domestic abuse. In the Prologue she writes,

I'm a grandmother now, retired from teaching. It was a Wednesday when pastor asked me to write my thoughts about Psalm 27. I opened my NIV Bible and began to memorize verse by verse. In the evening I would say my prayers and contemplated the psalm one more time. One morning I woke up and knew I had to draw pictures to help me memorize the verses. So, I began

to draw. Within a week I had drawn all 24 pictures. The Prismacolor pencils went to work next. Coloring, relaxing, loving the light. May God bless you as you read through this picture book. My prayer is that it brings hope and encouragement to your journey.

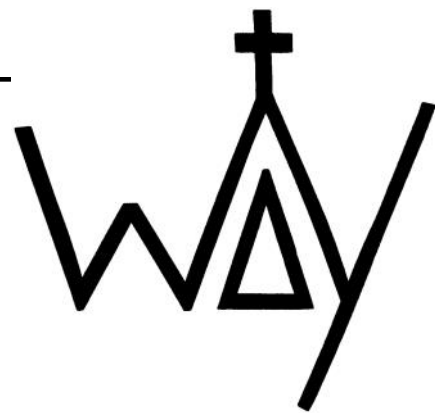
Rhoda's reflections show the deep heartfelt struggle of a Christian who suffers the pain and anguish of abuse and wonders where God is. Her hope is that the experience she shares might be able to comfort and strengthen those who are enduring or recovering from similar situations and asking the same questions. The book is available on Kindle and from Amazon, but we have posted a sign-up sheet on the copy room door for those who wish to order a copy for \$9.95 with no shipping fee. Please share the availability of this book with people you know who might be comforted by it.

Youth Group

Willing Active Youth Group (WAY) Events:

- Sunday June 26 Braille at MAC with Movie, Contact Barbara 682-552-3622.
- Monday June 27 VBS Volunteers meet at 8AM, Contact Stephanie 314-952-3363.

If you have Youth Group questions, concerns, ideas, contact WAY Coordinator Daniel Sweet 817-454-7057. Event Calendar will be published and distributed



Youth Need Your Help: Pregnancy Help 4U is in need of more sonogram frames. Our youth made about 45 of these precious frames earlier this spring. We are ready to make some more! We have plenty of embellishments, but we are in need of about 100-200, 3x5 or 4x6 clear frames (bent any way or magnetic~\$1 each) if you would like to make a monetary donation or purchase frames, you can place them in the Buhler mailbox. Thank you, Pamela Buhler 972.342.7697.

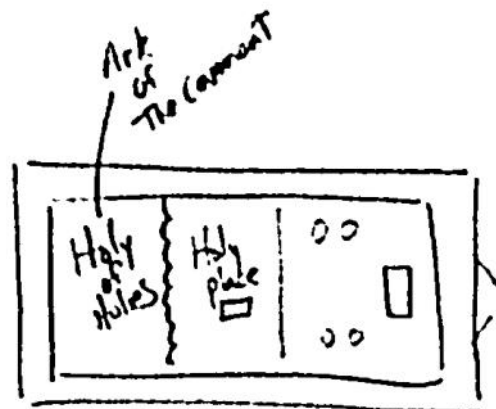
Young Adult Group

This month in the Young Adult Group (YAG), Pastor Cholak explained the instructions given to the Israelites for sacrifices and worship in Exodus. We visualized the immense procedure of bringing animals to the Tabernacle and the elaborate craftsmanship on specific items in the Holy Place and Holy of Holies.

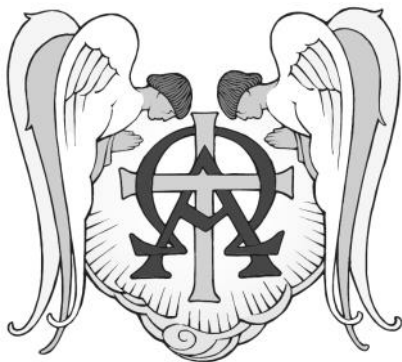
"And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, and

we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

College students and Visitors, come join the YAG down the hill in the MAC building on Mondays at 7:00pm. We are hosting a BBQ Social on Monday, June 6, at 5:00pm before Bible Study. Contact Daniel Sweet 817-454-7057.



Messiah VBS 2016



VBS COUNTDOWN! "Angels: God's Messengers" will start Monday, June 27, 9:00am—noon, through Thursday, June 30

A supplies list has been created to outline the remaining items and decorations needed. Please bring all

supplies, donations and decorations to the VBS Breakfast Fundraiser June 19 at 9:00AM. If you would like to contribute, volunteer or donate, please email Messiah.VBS@messiahkeller.org; Contact Tamarra Liddle and Stephanie Cholak.

SERVING THE LORD IN
GHANA

NEWS FROM THE MCDERMOTT FAMILY



June 2016

Mcdermottsinghana.wordpress.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Preach/Present at Cross of Christ, DeSoto, TX – 5 June
- Time with friends/supporters in Austin, TX – 6-20 June
- Ryan at Higher Things, Nashville, TN – 27 June – 1 July
- Home in Wisconsin – 23 June – 0 August
- Preach at Grace/Messiah, Stockton/La Crescent, MN – 24 July
- Farewell Party, Onalaska, WI – 0 Aug
- Church Send-off at Messiah, La Crescent – 7 Aug
- Depart from Minneapolis – 0 Aug
- Arrive in Ghana! – 10 Aug



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to nan.mcdermott@lcmsinfo.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

“Let not your hearts be troubled”



On Pentecost Sunday, at St. John Lutheran Church in Clarksville, TX, with Pr. Mike Kimmel

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27 ESV)

The Gospel lesson for Pentecost Sunday is a powerful message of comfort for the weary soul. “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

So many things in our world serve to make us afraid, each and every day of our lives. Terrorism, warfare, floods, famine, disease – the list goes on and on. Even our own hearts and minds give us cause to fear, because of what comes out of them.

But Jesus says, “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

As you will read on the next page, this last month has been a busy one for us, with a lot of big events. It has been tempting at times to be ill-at-ease, to worry about what will happen next. In the midst of all this, the Lord tells us not to be troubled.

This is not because bad things won't happen in this life; quite the opposite, in fact. But Jesus gives us His peace, that peace which the world cannot give. In Him, our hearts find rest and comfort.

So, whether it is children growing fast, moving around the country, or taking off across the globe, the peace of God in the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of eternal life in Christ is with us all!

Are you receiving this in print, and you could get it via email? Or could your church print copies for you? Please help us save postage and resources, and send an email to the address to the left. Thanks!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Safety and sanity as we finish the last week of classes and make another transition*
- *Our continuing support-raising process, and all our missionaries out raising their own support*
- *God's blessing upon our visa application process and the rest of our packing and preparations*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The time we have enjoyed these months in Texas*
- *Getting our "green light" and our tickets*
- *Our colleagues in Ghana who are making preparations on their end to receive us in August*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *This first year of Kaj's life in our arms, and as a baptized child of God*
- *The friends we have made and the lessons we have learned here at GIAL*

Lots of news this month



We're Leaving Soon!

Shortly after our last newsletter, we received word from the Office of International Mission that we received the "green light" to officially take the next steps toward deployment to Ghana.

After that, we conferred with the missionaries who will be there to greet us when we arrive. Then we worked with the Synod's travel agent to book our tickets. We now have confirmed tickets to get us to Ghana, leaving the evening of 9 August from Minneapolis!

Now, the next step is to apply for visas, which will allow us to legally enter the country. Once there, we will apply for residence permits.

Oh, and we now have all our travel immunizations completed, too!

We have a house!

Just this past week, we signed the pre-lease agreement to secure the house that our colleagues have selected for us. It is exciting to have arrived at a place which we will call home soon! Pray that the Lord would make it a healthy and happy place for us.

Kaj turned 1!

Also this week, our youngest son, Kaj, celebrated his first birthday! Grandma Carol came from California, and godparents Kyle and Shannon came up from Austin to help us celebrate.

You can go to [our YouTube channel](#) to see a video of us singing "Happy Birthday" to him!



Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you. – 2 Thessalonians 3:1

- The McDermott Family

Ryan	Emily
Rhys	Evangelina
Joshua	Kaj



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. & Mrs. Ryan McDermott, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 00801
St. Louis, MO 63100-0801

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E10
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of McDermotts - Ghana." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/mcdermott.



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

www.messiahkeller.org

*A truly rich
man is one
whose children
run into his arms,
even when his
hands are empty*

Happy Fathers' Day!

Youth Training For Summer Adventure Camp

Some youth are currently working to be assistants for the Summer Adventure Camp to be held August 8 - 11, 2016 from 8:00am-1:00pm. Some spots are still available.

Our next formal training session will be on Sunday, July 24, 2016 at noon.

All youth are invited to apply for a

training position. This might be of special interest for those who are considering becoming a teacher, camp counselor or simply want to serve others.

Hours will count toward Community Service or Honors Society Credits. All funds will be donated to the Youth Account.

For more information, please contact Vera Sweet at vsweet2000@verizon.net



Plentiful Pentecost Potluck

(Can you see flames next to the cross?)



We had 100 pieces of fried chicken and about that many people came with loads of fabulous fruit and fun side dishes.

A big THANK YOU to the cooks and generous donors. We also THANK the many families who helped with set up, serving and clean up.

Join us for our next potluck this fall!