



We Beheld His Glory by Pastor Glenn Huebel

*We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.*

When you look up into the sky at night, what do you see? Many of us who have been around a while almost instinctively say “moon and stars,” but do we? We can still see the moon, but are the stars still there? A few of the brightest still shine, but not nearly as many as the ones Abraham was challenged to count. All the stars are still there, of course, but the man-made lights on earth have hindered our vision of the skies. This was brought home to me during our marriage retreat in the wilderness of south-east Oklahoma. I was invited to walk out on the deck after dark and look up. I could see stars – many more stars than I’ve seen in a long time. It occurred to me that the more we see man’s glory, the less we are able to see the glory of God.

This is an analogy for a spiritual reality that the Bible constantly holds before us. God commanded the prophet Isaiah to “tell this people, ‘keep on seeing, but not perceive’” (Isaiah 6:10). Jesus discovered the truth of this judgment when He was rejected by the “wise men” of this world, the religious leaders of Israel. Confronted with an obvious

miracle of the healing of a man born blind, the Pharisees simply refused to see the truth. Jesus explained this rejection by saying, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may be made blind” (John 9:39). St. Paul indicates that human wisdom makes a person blind to God’s wisdom. He writes, “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God” (1 Corinthians 3:18-19). That is similar to saying that if you want to see the heavens which declare the glory of God you must get away from the man-made lights of the city. It is not that man-made lights are greater than the Divinely created lights, for the candlepower of sun and stars is almost infinitely greater than all the lights invented by men. Man-made lights simply distract from God’s light.

With that in mind, when you look at Jesus, what do you see? Your answer will depend on whether you are in man’s city or not. St. Paul tells us that he himself saw Jesus in two different ways, one before and the other after His conversion. He writes, “From now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer” (2 Corinthians 5:16). What does He mean by knowing Christ according to the flesh? He means that he only saw Jesus as a man, a disturber of the peace and a deceiver. That’s why he persecuted Christ. By literally

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue:

Christmas Music Notes	2
Angel Tree	3
Marriage Retreat	3
Call Committee Report	4

*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*

blinding him with his own glory Jesus showed Paul how blind he was until his eyes were opened again in baptism (Acts 9). After his baptism Paul saw Jesus in a completely different way. He saw the glory of Jesus shining through His human nature. Paul wrote to the Romans that Jesus is "His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom 1:2-4). He calls Jesus "the eternally blessed God" (Rom 9:5). Only the Holy Spirit can open one's eyes to see the true glory of Jesus under the veil of His humility.

Thus Christmas is celebrated in basically two different ways. Those who do not "see His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth," do not begin to see the true glory of the Christmas celebration. The eternally begotten Son of God, who is co-equal with the Father and the

Holy Spirit, descended from heaven to assume a true human nature in the womb of Mary, was born in a natural way, was wrapped in rags, and was laid in a lowly manger. His divine glory was completely hidden under the cloak of humility. His glory was not visible to the human eye, but it WAS seen by those to whom God revealed it through His Word. Mary and Joseph knew exactly who this baby was because of the message given through the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:31-33). The Shepherds knew who this child was through the message of the angelic choir and the sign they gave to find Him (Luke 2:12). The wise men knew who this child was by the leading of a miraculous star and probably from knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. Still today, only those who have been enlightened through faith in the Divine Word can see the glory of the only-begotten Son of the Father who has come from heaven to earth to save us poor sinners. Christians know and confess that Mary is, indeed, "the

Mother of God," that God fulfilled the Law for us, and that God died for us on the cross – all through His human nature. Because Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, His life and His death are sufficient to take our sins away and cover us in His righteousness so that, through faith, WE become the sons of God and heirs of the Kingdom. The only way we can "see" that saving glory is to renounce man's wisdom and righteousness, to come out from man's city into the darkness of repentance. Isn't it interesting that the less this Divine glory shines, the more "polluted" the Christmas celebration becomes with artificial lights, worldly revelry, and spending on bread which perishes (commercialism)? Or, maybe it's the other way around. It does little good for us to scold the world, but we lead the world by our own humble example. O come, let us adore Him!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Huebel



Music Notes by Vicki Main

What a delightful time of year as we anxiously anticipate the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem. And what an incredible amount of music is available for this season as well. We are so blessed to have such an abundance of musical talent within our own congregation - and a willingness

to share it. I especially urge you to take advantage of the music that will be presented on **Christmas Eve** starting one half hour before the five and seven o'clock services. Plan to come early and spend that time listening, reflecting and preparing your heart to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Our annual **Sunday of Carols and Lessons will be Dec. 14th**

at both services. It will be a glorious offering of music between special readings as we prepare for Jesus' coming. This is a musical gift to you from the Music Ministry of Messiah.

Blessings to you and yours as we worship together this Christmas season!

Vicki Main
Kantor

Angel Tree Christmas 2014 by Laralynn Conaway, Coordinator



The Angel Tree season is in full swing and we had a great start! Angel Tree Sunday on

November 23rd was a tremendous success. Thank you to all the congregation members and visitors that chose an Angel from the tree. This year we partnered with Holy Shepherd in Haslet, allowing us to serve even more children than last year. Between our two congregations, we will be able to serve 93 children this season. To God be the Glory!

Last year we received several letters and cards from the

prisoners and caregivers with words of thankfulness and gratitude. Here are some words written by the prisoners:

"I would like to thank you for giving me the joy and love I needed this Christmas. I thank you for providing my kids with gifts on my behalf ... thank you Brothers and Sisters in Christ." - Wilmer, prisoner

"Thank you all, my earthly angels, for giving me the opportunity to reach out to my children from behind the cell walls of this prison ... May God bless you all!" - Amber, prisoner

There are still more Angels on the tree and more are expected to arrive over the next week. Prayerfully consider choosing an

angel if you haven't already, or choosing another one if you already have. Some volunteer opportunities are coming up as well. If you haven't been involved with this ministry but would like to experience the joy of serving, we will need drivers to deliver gifts and helpers to write Christmas cards to the prisoners. The tentative dates for gift delivery are Saturday December 13th and Sunday December 14th. Look for updates in the Sunday bulletins.

This ministry of reconciling prisoners with their children during the Christmas season is helping to reconnect the families by sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus this Christmas season.

Marriage Retreat News



Messiah Lutheran held its first marriage retreat on the weekend of November 14-16, 2014 with seven couples in attendance. The course videos for "Marriage 101" were offered to Messiah through a special grant. Each participant in the retreat had a workbook to use with the video presentations. Eight topics are offered in the program, but we only had time for four. We talked about Expectations, Personality Differences, Conflict, and Money. We enjoyed many long and substantive discussions with lots and lots of laughter. Through games, meals, hiking, four-wheeling, Bible reading, hymn singing, prayer, worship and communion, the couples bonded beautifully, and made plans to do it again soon to complete the course. We are deeply appreciative to Mike and Carol Lemmon who offered us the use of their beautiful farm house



located on over 600 isolated wooded acres in Southeast Oklahoma. It was a wonderful and refreshing weekend for all. We agree that every marriage could use such a boost.

Would you like to attend one of these retreats? We are gathering names of interested couples for our next Marriage 101, part 1 retreat. The Lemmons have offered their farm house for this ministry. If you would be interested in taking part in a future retreat, please contact Carol Hibbs in the Church office. We will work together with all parties to set the next date.



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (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. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Erika Mildred, MLCA Headmaster

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mrs. Shirleen Simek, Financial Director

www.messiahkeller.org

Messiah Call Committee Update

Call Process Steps:

1. Notify the District President, Area Vice President, The Circuit Counselor of vacancy
2. Establish Call Committee
2.1. First Call Committee Meeting held on May 7th, 2014
3. Call Committee Develops a Pastoral Profile and Church Self-Study
3.1. Completed: July 2014
4. Receive Nominations for the Office of Associate Pastor
4.1. Deadline: July 27, 2014
5. Forward Nominations to the District President's Office
5.1. Submitted August 22, 2014
6. Receiving Call Packet from the District
6.1. Received week of October 6, 2014
7. Call Committee Identifies Candidates who fit Pastoral Profile criteria
8. Finalists are Identified and Interviewed by Call Committee
9. Voters Meeting Established: Congregation Elects Candidate to extend a Call to
10. Called Pastor accepts or declines the Call
11. Installation of new Associate Pastor



Messiah Lutheran Church began the process of calling an Associate Pastor to join our church family earlier this year! Shortly thereafter, the Call Committee was formed and held their first meeting on May 2014. The Call Committee members are Joy Aguilar, Sandy McDougal, Carol McGrath, Pamela Buhler, Frank Simek, Herbert Hermann, Rick Liddle, Pastor Huebel, Peter Hibbs (Co-Chairman) and Luis Munoz (Co-Chairman). Since May, the Call Committee has met on a regular basis.

The Committee's first job was to prepare a Pastoral Profile as well as a Church Self Study. The Pastoral Profile is a comprehensive document which details our church's unique needs as well as detailing the specific gifts, talents, abilities, skills, pastoral qualities, experience levels and personality characteristics that we believe are important for our new Associate Pastor to possess. The Self-Study details our congregations' life and dynamics, our missions, goals and challenges. These two documents along with the names of the candidates which are

nominated by the congregation are submitted to the Synod's Texas District President. The District President evaluated the list of candidates, the Pastoral Profile and the Self Study and added names of additional qualified candidates which he felt fit to the congregation's Call List. In total, we had a list of 15 very qualified Pastors. Our next task was to carefully evaluate each candidate's information and make a difficult determination to choose candidates that more closely fit the criteria set forth in our Pastoral Profile.

During the month of October and November, the Call Committee worked very hard to narrow the list of candidates further. We are pleased to announce that we have narrowed our list down to 3 to 5 strong candidates. We are now beginning the interview process with the finalists and once the interviews are complete, the Call Committee will release the names of the finalists and in accordance with our constitution; a special Voters Assembly Meeting will be called. The Congregation will then have the opportunity to vote for the candidate to which we will extend

a Call as Messiah's new Associate Pastor!

The Committee is very open to input from the Congregation and asks only that Congregation members understand that the call process is sacred work, carefully guided by the Holy Spirit, and often requires the strictest confidentiality but we will continue to provide the Congregation updates on a regular basis. For updated information, please check the Call Committee Bulletin Board located in the Pre-school hallway. We are in the final steps of the Call Process, but there is still much work to be done, so we ask everyone to continue to pray that God places the right candidate for our Congregation before us and that He will give us the wisdom to call the right candidate.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3

—Messiah Call Committee