



# God's Word is Our Great Heritage

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

*The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.*  
Psalm 16:6

When the land of Canaan had been conquered under the leadership of Joshua it was divided and apportioned to the twelve tribes. I don't know what kind of negotiation might have taken place when the boundaries were set, but knowing human nature I am fairly certain there must have been some debate, conflict, and compromise involved in laying the boundaries. Location, location, location is probably not a concern exclusive to the modern age in setting real estate values. David speaks in Psalm 16 about the good fortune of having favorable boundaries set for his portion of the inheritance, but he is not speaking about real estate. Remember that there were really thirteen tribes in Israel, the tribe of Joseph

having been divided to his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. So what tribe was left out of the land apportioning? Levi did not receive a portion of land, but DID receive a unique inheritance. God Word says, "But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel is their inheritance" (Joshua 13:33). Levi was the priestly tribe which "possessed," administered, and cared for the holy things of God, like the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, and the furniture in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. This was considered a very high privilege and constituted the heritage of the tribe. God did give them cities and land scattered throughout the 12 other tribes. Though David was

not a Levite, he is speaking in the Psalm about a spiritual heritage, not land.

The New Testament Church is like that ancient priestly tribe, a holy people in the midst of the world. St. Peter calls us "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession" (1 Peter 2:9). It is the great heritage of Christians to possess God's Word and Sacraments, for these are far more valuable than anything in this temporal world. The Bible affirms the superior value of spiritual over temporal treasures. Jesus, for example, says "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). He therefore counsels His people

*(Continued on page 2)*



## 30th Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, October 16.

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

**8:00 A.M. AND 10:45 A.M.**

**GUEST PREACHER: REV. TODD WILKEN  
OF ISSUES, ETC.**

**CELEBRATORY BANQUET**

**CROSS TIMBERS WINERY AT 6:00 P.M.**

**RSVP : MESSIAHRSVP@YAHOO.COM  
BY OCTOBER 10.**



### Inside this issue:

Deaconess Christie Nelson	3
Youth News	5
C.F.W. Walther Bicentennial	7
MLCA News	7

*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*

to lay up treasures in heaven rather than treasures on earth which only rust and decay (Matthew 5:19-20). Isaiah the prophet also writes, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). St. Paul describes believers in Christ as being truly "rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

The question is, do we BELIEVE that "the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places"? Is "my heritage beautiful to me"? Do we fully understand how precious our heritage is? It is quite easy to overlook the value of our heritage and to yearn for inferior things. People do it all the time. The Old Testament story of Esau is a prime

example. As the eldest son of Isaac, Esau was the rightful heir of the inheritance God promised to Abraham and his children. Instead of the twelve tribes of "Israel" (Jacob), one would have predicted the twelve tribes of Esau at the birth of these twins. But this did not happen because Esau did not realize what he had. Esau sold his birthright for a single meal! All the promises that God had given his faithful grandfather Abraham, including the promise of land, the promise of a kingdom, and the promise of Messiah, were virtually given away to satisfy a growling stomach. For one bowl of lentil soup Esau traded away the spiritual treasure of all history. Can you imagine the collective gasp of the company of heaven when Esau made the deal with Jacob? This was utter contempt for God's blessings.

In this month of October we will celebrate our spiritual heritage. May God's Spirit open our eyes to see the surpassing value of gifts we have inherited as spiritual descendents of the Reformation. We have the Bible, readily available in printed form, with multiple translations in our own language. This was not a blessing Christians had in the centuries before the Reformation. The few Bibles that were published in those centuries were the Latin translation of Jerome (the Vulgate). These Bibles could only be read by the scholars. The Church did not allow translations in the languages of the people. It is not surprising that the common people knew almost nothing of the Bible in

those days, not even the Lord's Prayer. Luther broke ground when he translated and published the whole Bible in German and had it distributed widely to the people. What a labor of love for Luther to devote the time and energy necessary to complete such a translation in a short period of time. What a blessing he gave to Germany, and to the world! Even more importantly, Luther rediscovered the central message of Scripture, the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. He bravely and boldly contended with the powers of Rome to preach that "people are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight" (Augsburg Confession, Article IV). This Gospel message has opened the prison doors for millions of people who were trapped in a religious system of works, by which they were never assured of God's unconditional love or the certainty of salvation from death and hell. Furthermore, Luther and his followers perceived that the Gospel was the "cardinal" or "hinge" doctrine around which every doctrine revolves. The ministry was established by God for the sake of the Gospel (Augsburg Confession, Article V). Baptism is a visible manifestation of the Gospel, not a work of the law. The Lord's Supper is not a sacrifice we offer to God, but the free gift of forgiveness offered to sinners in the body and blood of Jesus. This Gospel is truly the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes, and it has borne fruit throughout the world

*(Continued on page 3)*

From  
generation  
to  
generation  
we will praise  
you,  
O Lord.

*Messiah Lutheran Church*

1981 ✠ 30<sup>th</sup> ✠ 2011

## Heritage, cont.

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since the Reformation. This is the great heritage of the Lutheran Church.

In 1817 a Danish Lutheran pastor, Nikolaj Grundtvig, penned a fifth verse to Luther's famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress," but we never use it that way. Instead, it became its own hymn, and was put to a tune written by Rev. Fritz Reuter in 1916. We now know this hymn as "God's Word is our Great Heritage." It has been our theme hymn for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Messiah Lutheran Church which culminates on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. This anniversary is an excellent opportunity for us to reevaluate our priorities as a congregation. Is what we say matched by what we do? Is there evidence to confirm that we treasure God's Word and truly consider it our great heritage? Are

our families honoring the third commandment to hold God's Word sacred by faithful attendance in worship, by reading the Bible in our homes and personal lives, by faithfully bringing our children to Sunday School? Are we supporting the ministry of the Word by prayer, personal service (Sunday School teaching, etc), and financial support? Are the adults of our congregation generally well versed in Scripture? Do our children know the basic Bible stories? Are we serious about the command to preach the Word to all nations? Do our people show the power of God's Spirit in the fruits produced by faith in Christ? Are there any reasonable standards by which an objective observer would be led to say, "Wow! These people have a tremendous respect, love, and trust in God's Word!"????

God's Word IS our great heritage whether or not we have treated it as such. May God forgive our sins and move us to joyfully reclaim the gifts He has so abundantly bestowed upon us, as individuals, and as a congregation.

God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure.  
Throughout all generations

AMEN

Blessings and happy anniversary,  
Pastor Huebel



### *Shenzhen News by Deaconess Christie Nelson*

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My dear  
Messiah  
family,

Greetings  
from  
Shenzhen!

*My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

—Colossians 2:2,3

As a Lutheran Christian teacher at Buena Vista Concordia International

School in Shenzhen, China, the above passage is the spiritual goal of the school apart from the academics and English. It's a huge challenge in light of the fact that we are not allowed to blatantly share the Gospel with the students. However, their curiosity gets the best of them and students often inquire about our faith, lifestyles, etc. In instances where they ask, we are able to answer! Now isn't that great?

Classes began August 19 for half a day. There are a total of 43 students enrolled in the school. Of the 43, I see 40 every day, grades K-7! The 40 are 100% Chinese with the exception of 2 who are half Chinese and half Japanese. None of them are

at grade level in terms of their English ability. It's a huge challenge not only for me but also for the classroom teachers and even more so for our students! All of the teachers are involved in teaching ESL after school in addition to offering other after school classes in Music, Outdoor Games and Arts & Crafts as



Christie's apartment building





Fruit stands at the market

a regular part of teacher responsibilities. Please pray for quick language acquisition for the students so they will be able to advance in their overall studies more quickly. This first year will be one of learning the language for most of them.

The students are fun loving, though the majority of them are very much pressured by their parents to do well. Most of the children are involved in weekend, evening, and/or after school classes apart from the ones offered by our school, BCIS. Many are involved in piano, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, violin, cello, guitar, and

drums in addition to voice lessons and/or specialized art classes. In addition, many of the students are tutored in the academics from Chinese weekend and/or evening schools! Our students are pressured much at home. When they come to BCIS, they are able to let their guard down a bit and simply have fun both outside of class and in class. It's the "American" system vs. the "Chinese" system! ☺

I have included a few pictures for you to get an idea of what it is like here. Next week, I have a few days free due to a Chinese holiday and one of my goals is to make a few posts for my blog. Please check it now and then for pics and updates. It is [www.christienelson.blogspot.com](http://www.christienelson.blogspot.com) or



A view of Shenzhen from up the mountain near the school. It's beautiful up there when the weather is not so hot!



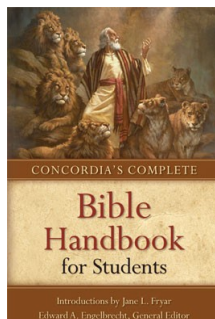
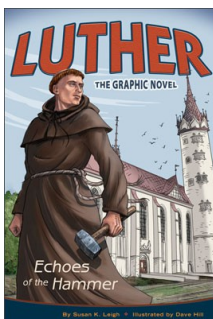
Shenzhen, before work and after work street frenzy. Goodness does it get crowded! The part of the city where I live is not so "posh" or upscale.

go to [www.facebook.com/bangkokjoy](https://www.facebook.com/bangkokjoy) and ask me to accept you as a friend if we are not yet connected.

Please know that I pray for Messiah, the pastors, teachers, and staff as well as for my Messiah family over all. It would please me very much to be able to be with you all for the celebration on October 16! The meal and festivities at the winery in Grapevine sound "divine". How we have much for which to be thankful!

May the Lord continue to bless each one of you in the coming days and weeks.

Love in the Lord Jesus,  
Christie



**Check the  
COPY ROOM DOOR!**





## Youth News by Sanghwa Park

Messiah Lutheran Church's annual Rally Day picnic was a success! We had a great turnout and enjoyed a sunny afternoon playing games and eating food. A special thanks to the parents and pastors! The youth group participated by helping to set up the play area, hosting the game stations, and leading the young Sunday school children. Above all, we are happy to serve and hope to continue to use what we have learned from our devotional studies as we enter the world as young adults.

"Keep your heart with all diligence...Ponder the path of your feet." Proverbs 4:23-26

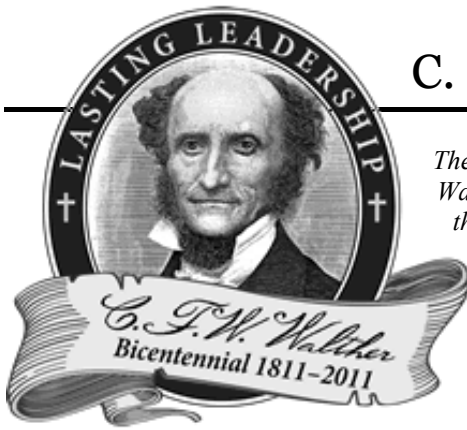
### October Events:

- Bear Creek Volleyball with Holy Shepherd Youth (4-6 pm) October 2nd
- Braille Workshop (2-4 pm) October 9th
- Butter Braid Fundraiser
- Senior Youth Handbell Rehearsals 7 pm (third Wednesday)

Last month, when the youth met for their regular monthly Braille workshop, they also finished a baptism chain, which was be-

gun ten years ago. It contains one link for every person baptized from Messiah Lutheran Church, from the first, Amy Scuff, on Oct. 2, 1980, until the latest (#343) Molly Lemmon, baptized September 25, 2011. The first part of the chain, 1980-2001, was constructed by Katie Huebel Fiene for our 20th anniversary in 2001. It hung in the fellowship hall for a while, but was taken down during the Academy wing construction and forgotten about. It will be hung again for our 30th anniversary. Many thanks to our youth group!





## C. F. W. Walther Bicentennial

*The LCMS is celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of C.F.W. Walther this year. Walther, born on October 25, 1811, was the primary founder of our Church body, serving as the first Synod President, St. Louis Seminary President, and pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis. He was a profound theologian, well read in Luther's Works, and a great organizer, writer, and pastor. He especially left his mark on the Missouri Synod and American Lutheranism by a series of lectures, later published under the title, "The Proper Distinction of Law and Gospel." The following article on Walther appeared in the May 7 Cyberbrethren blog of Rev. Paul McCain. ([www.cyberbrethren.com](http://www.cyberbrethren.com))*

Walther was born the son of a pastor in Langenchursdorf in the Kingdom of Saxony (part of modern-day Germany). In October 1829, he enrolled at the University of Leipzig to study theology. He had to take six months off from the university due to a nearly-fatal lung disease; during the time off he acquainted himself with the works of Martin Luther, and became convinced of their theological rectitude, especially in regards to his position on the confessional.

On January 15, 1837, he was ordained as a pastor in the town of Bräunsdorf, Saxony. However, he became increasingly at odds with the government of Saxony, whose interpretation of Lutheranism he saw as a deviation from the original vision of Luther. In November 1838 he joined with another Pastor of similar views, Martin Stephan from Dresden, and left Saxony for the United States, along with 800 other Saxon immigrants, to gain the freedom to practice his religious beliefs. The ship arrived January 5, 1839 in New Orleans, and most of the immigrants (including Walther) settled in the area of St. Louis. Stephan was initially the religious leader (and self-proclaimed bishop) of the new settlement, but he soon became embroiled in charges of corruption and sexual misconduct, and was expelled from the settlement, leaving Walther as the senior clergyman.

During this period there was considerable debate within the settlement over the proper role of the church in the New World: whether it was a new church, or remained within the German Lutheran hierarchy. Walther's view that they could consider themselves a new church prevailed, and in May 1841 he became Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, a position he held until his death.

On April 26, 1847, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was founded. Walther served as its first president, a position he held from 1847 to 1850 and again from 1864 to 1878.

Several years earlier, on September 21, 1841, he had married Emilie Buenger; they would have six children.

During his forty years of involvement in the church, Walther held several positions, including president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, (founded at Perry County, Missouri in 1838), founder of the St. Louis Lutheran Bible Society (1853), and founder and editor of several periodicals. He also wrote several important books on theology, including *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*.

Walther also vigorously resisted the influence of the major secular philosophies and movements of his day. Concerning Humanism, he wrote:

"It is an irrefutable fact that humanism has not only supplanted Christianity among a large part of the current population, it has also infected Christian theology in its very inner core, has poisoned and weakened it. We define humanism as the belief in a human ideal, a belief that man within himself has the ability to develop into a state of completeness and achieve happiness." ["Slavery, Humanism and the Bible"]

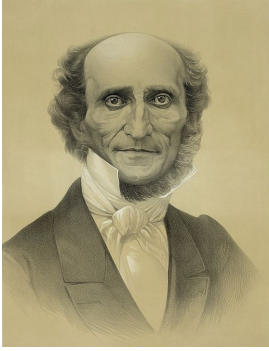
He died in St. Louis on May 7, 1887, and was buried at Concordia Cemetery, where a mausoleum was later built in his honor.

Walther's goal was to strive to be faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. He was constantly aware that he was standing on the shoulders of the giants who had come before him. Those who oppose the Lutheran Church and reject its teachings, or are merely curious and interested in understanding it better, will often ask: "Where was the Lutheran Church before Martin Luther?" Here is the answer that C.F.W. Walther provides in his superb essay, "Concerning the Use of the Name Lutheran," printed in serial form for the first several issues of his newspaper *Der Lutheraner*, that is, *The Lutheran*.

*So long as there has been an orthodox church on earth, there has*



## Walther, cont.



*also been the Lutheran Church. She is (as strange as that sounds) as old as the world, for she has no other doctrine than the patriarchs, prophets and apostles had received from God and preached. Certainly the name Lutheran first arose 300 years ago, but*

*not what is signified by the name. So as often, therefore, as the question is to put to us: 'Where was the Lutheran church before Luther?' it is so easy to answer: She was everywhere that there were Christians, who believed in JESUS Christ and his holy Word from their hearts, and would not let themselves be dissuaded from this faith, which alone saves, by any human institutions or who finally in their tribulation in death still also took their refuge in him.\**

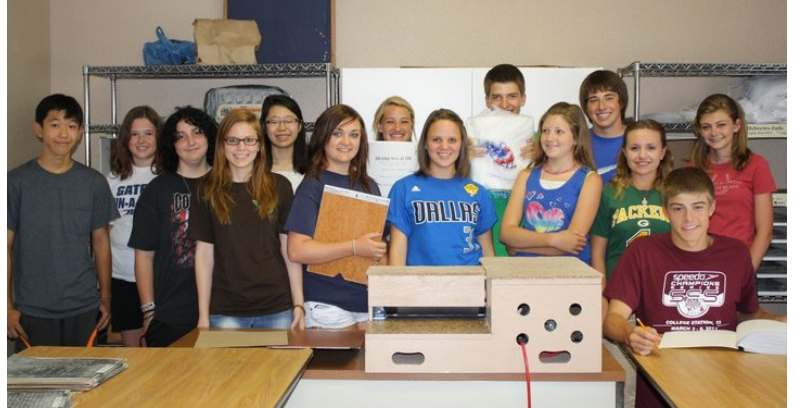
Walther's point is simply that the name "Lutheran" is what we use to distinguish the faith and confession of the one, catholic, apostolic church, from all its other forms in erring churches. In a sense there is no such thing as a "Lutheran Church" but when pressed to make clear what it is that God's Word teaches and proclaims, we therefore, to distinguish it from other options, refer to it as the Lutheran Church, but it is actually is nothing other than the good, old, faith once delivered to the saints.

\* Source: CFW Walther, "Concerning the Name Lutheran" in *Der Lutheraner*, Sept. 23, 1844, (Vol. I, No. 2), p. 6. Translated by Joel Baseley.



Mrs. Main took our 7th grade hand bell choir to a hand bell work shop at Prestonhollow church on Sept 10, where the students got to ring several songs.

## More from Our Youth...



Rachel Reich and her family would like to thank all the youth and members of Messiah who put in countless hours to help her earn her Girl Scouts Gold award.

200 Braille books, "Hebrews - Jude" have been completed through Messiah Lutheran Braille center here in Keller TX. Without all of you, this could not have been accomplished.

Thanks again to each of you, and for also committing to continue this awesome service all throughout the year.

Rachel Reich with troop 2507 G-STOP.



## MLCA News

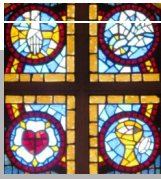
The Annual Keller Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing was held on Wednesday, September 21 at Sky Creek Ranch. We sponsored a hole at the tournament and had several inquiries as to the location of the church and school.

The Messiah Parent Council will be hosting a major Fund Raising event – a **Wine Tasting/Auction** on Thursday, November 17. The event will be held in the unfinished section of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Look for more information about ticket sales soon!

### MLCA Lions Soccer schedule of home games\*:

- Oct. 3 – versus Hill School of Grapevine at 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 10 – versus Fellowship Dallas at 5:00 p.m.

\*All home games are played at BISD park in Watauga, located on Midcities Blvd. by Chapman Rd.



## 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. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

1981 ❖ 30<sup>th</sup> ❖ 2011

## October Events in our History

**1981:** On October 18, 1981, we held a special Charter service at 4:00pm in our facility on N. Main St. Rev. Robert Hill of Faith Lutheran in Plano was the guest preacher. A reception was held after the service.



5th Anniversary cake in the multipurpose room

**1986:** our 5th anniversary was celebrated with an evening service and congregational dinner. The buffet line was in the multi-purpose room (now the overflow area behind the sanctuary) and the tables were set up in the wings.

**1989:** Nick and Rose Teresso, charter members and for many years our only senior citizens, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows in the Sunday morning worship service and hosting a reception afterwards.

**1991:** Rev. Bryan Sullivan of Grace Lutheran, Elgin, preached on the morning of our 10th anniversary. A special dinner and program were held in the evening. This necessitated the removal of all of the pews from the sanctuary.

**2001:** Our 20th anniversary was celebrated in one Sunday morning service and a banquet at the Colleyville Community Center.

**2002:** The Voters' Assembly voted to purchase the property



10th Anniversary: above and left- morning worship service; below- set up for the evening dinner



10th Anniversary food prep—in the original kitchen, now the music office.

to our north. Our original property boundary was just past the fire lane that runs along the north side. The new property held a derelict house by the metal shed, several car chassis, a pile or two of old tires, and other assorted trash. After extensive clean-up, we gained a nice recreational space for the church and school and discovered a water well, which has saved us countless of dollars in landscape watering.

*It has been a lot of fun looking back on our 30 year history this past year. A lot memories have been made at Messiah. God has blessed the lives of many people through the ministry here. We pray that Messiah will continue to be blessed to be a blessing for many more years to come.*



For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations. --Psalm 100:5