

## GOD'S WRATH ON THE WRONGDOER

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

The news this weekend about the death of Osama bin Laden was greeted generally with great joy here in America and understandably so. This evil man will be remembered in history along with other infamous mass murders such as Ivan the Terrible, Pol Pot, Stalin and Hitler. He was not only a fanatic but a bloodthirsty fiend who sowed hatred, violence, injustice and destruction of innocent human life. His destruction of innocent human life was NOT collateral damage. He TARGETED innocent and defenseless people with the intent to create as much social terror, instability, grief, and fear as possible.

It was refreshing and a bit surprising to see that most people in America still

have enough common sense to recognize the justice of the action that took his life, but I was not surprised to hear a few voices of unreason that prove that the minds of some are so incredibly muddled they have lost touch with even the most basic structure of truth. I also know that many Christians who certainly do not lament the death of bin Laden, nevertheless have a difficult time reconciling Christian precepts on love and forgiveness with celebrating a man's death, however evil he was. I can sympathize with that, and I'm not referring to that as muddled thinking. That is honest reflection.

Let's take a few issues apart and consider them individually in the brilliant light

of God's Word. Was it wrong for a team of special forces, under command of the President, to conduct a mission which end result was to kill Osama bin Laden? Absolutely not! In fact, if there were Christians on the Seals Team 6 we may go so far as to say they performed a "good work" in service to God and neighbor. On what basis can we say that shedding blood is ever a "good work"? We say this on the basis of Paul's inspired words about the institution of government in Romans 13:1-7. St. Paul writes, "he (government) is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer." When God forbids us to take personal vengeance (Rom. 12:19) many people foolishly assume that God forbids us to make even basic and obvious judgments that there is such a thing as injustice, or evil. How absurd is that? God does NOT deny that injustice is done in this sinful world, that it harms innocent people, and that it is EVIL and in blatant contradiction to His good and gracious will. Injustice angers even GOD ..... as it is so clearly revealed all through Scripture. It stirs His wrath! It is not wrong for us to call sin

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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*

## God's wrath on the wrongdoer, cont.

evil, to hate it and condemn it. Tell a person who has been sexually abused as a child that he/she should not feel anger ... right! How can moral people watch injustice happen and NOT be stirred to anger as God Himself is? Those who condemn such feelings as unholy or unworthy evidently imagine that holy people are stone blocks who live without emotion at all – as if this characterization applied even to our Lord who erupted in wrath on more than one occasion in the Gospels. I have no more use for these silly people as I have for those who assume that Christians are always happy.

What God DOES forbid is personal vengeance-taking. Instead of shaming us for FEELING anger and wrath – which He Himself does – He comforts us by letting us know that He Himself will take care of the matter in His own way and time. We can lay it in His hand, knowing confidently that He IS a just God and that He cares for us. “Vengeance is mine. I will repay, says the Lord” (Rom 12:19). Only when we KNOW there is a just God who establishes justice on the earth are we truly free to feed and give drink to our enemy and to overcome evil with good (Rom 12:20-21). This is the context in which the Sermon on the Mount says that we are to turn the other cheek and to bless those who curse us, etc. IMMEDIATELY following the instruction to let God repay our enemies the Spirit inspires Paul to set forth the institution and purpose of government. What we are forbidden to do individually, God has established government to do as HIS INSTRUMENT. This is often how God repays the vengeance that we feel. When government does what Team 6 did on Sunday, God's own wrath is manifested against evil. Those who

condemn that action condemn God's own revealed way to deal with evil in this world. The very same thing is true when heinous criminals are punished with prison and even death. They are experiencing the wrath of God Himself through the justice of our courtroom.

What do we do with the moral equivalence argument? Some ask how we can condemn bin-Laden and others for their bloodthirsty acts if we ourselves do the same in vengeance and retaliation to them? This argument seems to assume that punishing someone who commits vile injustice and sheds innocent blood is morally evil as what he has done. How does this make any sense? The original act was evil and unjust on the very face of it. The government response was a just and righteous punishment that God Himself established and commanded. Shedding innocent blood and shedding the blood of the guilty are NOT the same thing. How dare we compare the two as if they were morally equivalent?

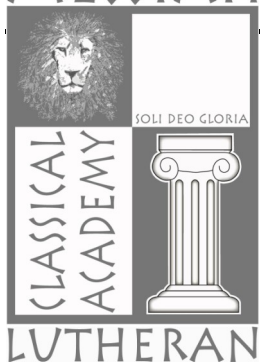
The fundamental error behind the muddled thinking is that there really is no right and wrong. Bill O'Reilly interviewed a priest who could not tell him that bin-Laden was evil. He didn't feel qualified to “judge” anyone. Brought to its natural conclusion that silly philosophy would result in utter lawlessness, chaos and anarchy in the world in which evil would triumph under the name of “Good.” When the Church leadership can no longer distinguish between good and evil we are in deep trouble. “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ” (Col 2:8).

But that still brings us to the honest Christian who agrees with everything said above, and who yet feels uncomfortable rejoicing that a man, evil as he was, was killed to prevent further evil from being done. I can actually sympathize with such feelings, so long as we do not confuse good for evil and evil for good, and so long as we do not fail to recognize that God's provision for us is for our temporal welfare, and that those who act as agents of the government to hinder evil are doing good works and to be commended and honored. We can and should lament that the world is so thoroughly corrupted by sin that the only way to hinder evil is by strong and violent means in the hand of government. And, of course, we can and should continue to pray for our enemies that God's grace may conquer their unbelief and His Spirit replace Satan in the hearts of those like bin-Laden. There is no evil person in the world today for whom Christ has not died and whose sin Christ has not covered with His holy innocent blood. While we rightly pray for justice, let us also earnestly pray for mercy as our Lord, Himself did.

Blessings,  
Pastor Huebel



“But let  
**Justice**  
roll on like a river,  
**Righteousness**  
like a never-  
failing stream!” ROM 9:1-24



The Gospel according to St. John begins with some of the most familiar words in all of Holy Scripture:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The word which we translate "Word" from the original Greek in to English is the word "Logos." One could make a good case for translating "Logos" with the alternative, "Communication." It is one of the names of Jesus.

God communicates with us through the medium of language. He caused His will to be known to us through the medium of language, to be written down in the words of Holy Scripture. The Living Word, Jesus Himself, comes to us through the medium (or, to use a more Lutheran term, the *means*) of the written and spoken word, in whatever language we speak. We evaluate and consider the world around us in words. Our thoughts are not shapeless or void, but are expressed in language. We see a flower, a dog, a mountain range, and words form in our minds as we consider them, even if those words are unspoken. We communicate with each other primarily through language, as well. I will sit here for a while, pecking away at the keys of my computer, causing electronic images of words to be displayed on the screen in front of me, then I will send them off electronically in an email, from which they will be extracted and transferred to paper and then you, dear reader, will look at the images formed by the combination of symbols and spaces and know what I mean, days or weeks after I sat here in silence,

talking to no one except my dogs as I wrote. Yet you will understand my meaning and be able consider it, to weigh and measure and evaluate it. You will either agree or disagree with it. You will apply certain rules to the process, rules which I tacitly apply as I write, though I don't have to think about those rules much anymore, even as you don't think much about them as you read. But if I am to send communication and you are to receive it and understand it as I have intended it to be understood, we must both understand and apply the same rules of language.

Language is extraordinarily important to our ability to understand each other, and perhaps more importantly, to understand God as He wishes to be understood. It is also extraordinarily important then that we teach our children to understand the rules, the grammar of language, so that they may understand what others say, and know how evaluate what is said, and to form precise, coherent rebuttals to what is said, when what is said is wrong or false. They

will be confronted throughout all their lives with ideas and arguments which are inimical to the faith into which they have been baptized. They will hear what the dominant culture which surrounds them believes to be true, that Creation is not Creation (that would imply a Creator), but merely an accident of time and space. They will hear that that they have not been created in the image and likeness of God, with a unique place among all other creatures, but that they are members of just another species, no different, higher, or better than any other. They will hear that there are no moral absolutes, no real obligations,





## The Word, continued

no path or way that is better than any other path or way. Even those who are careful with language may get pulled into the use of language that subtly chips away at a core principle. Those of us who are culturally conservative, for example, have by-and-large bought into the language of "family values," without stopping to consider the fact that a value is simply an arbitrary assignment of worth, that "values" are relative. Terms like "ethics" or "morals" or "Commandments" have much less wiggle room. Moses, however, wasn't given Ten Family Values.

We here at Messiah Lutheran Church have instituted the Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy. Turning back in time, we have adopted a

form of education that helps our children to understand language with more precision than has been commonplace for quite some time. Beginning with the Grammar stage, and proceeding then to the Logic and Rhetoric stages, we equip them (or should I say, our teachers equip them) with the tools to use and understand language precisely. Now, one could reasonably undertake to use this educational process merely to produce better thinkers, which, in and of itself, is not a bad goal. However, a quote from C.S. Lewis may be helpful here, "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man a more clever devil." Our ultimate goal should be not merely to produce better thinkers, but better *Christian* thinkers, who are

well equipped to deal with all the claims to truth that will come down the pike during the days of our children's lives. We want them to be able to do as St. John bids those who belong to Jesus, to "test the spirits and see whether they are of God."

God isn't the only one to tries to communicate with us, or who approaches us with words. Satan is called "the father of lies" (intentionally uncapitalized) for a good reason. Words that come to us can be true, or they can be false. There are many false christ's who are to come into the world to deceive us, and to deceive our children. When our children have been equipped to properly understand the meaning of words, especially of *the* Word, and how to recognize errors in logic, such as the use of circular reasoning, they will be better equipped to withstand and provide rebuttal to errors and lies, and better equipped to defend the Gospel, even as Scripture bids the Church, "Always be ready to give a defense of the hope that is in you." They will not easily be fooled or led astray. They will have command of that two-edged sword, the Word of God, with which to fight against the verbal assaults of the devil and the world.

Once again, I ask your continued prayer for MLCA, that you lift up to the Lord of the Church our students, faculty and staff, that the Word of Truth be taught to and learned by our children, and the children of those are from outside our church family. We can bequeath no greater gift to our children than a firm, faithful, and orthodox understanding of the life giving Gospel of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Stephen Inglehart  
Chairman, School Board



Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy  
**SUMMER SCHOOL**

**Two General Sessions:**  
June 6 - 10  
June 13 - 17  
**Latin Camp:**  
June 20 - 24

Call 817-431-5486  
[www.mlcatexas.org](http://www.mlcatexas.org)

Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. You choose! Come one, two, or all three weeks.



## Catechesis Corner

### *The Second Article: REDEMPTION*

**EVANGELISM** is declaring Christ's salvation to unbelievers, announcing forgiveness of sin, beckoning them to repent and convert and inviting them to become members of Christ's family to serve others through the Holy Spirit"

For this Easter season refresh your belief to share with others and proclaim His glory in the Second Article of the Apostles Creed.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Here we learn to know the Second Person of the Godhead, so that we see what we have from God over and above the temporal goods aforementioned; namely, how He has completely poured forth Himself and withheld nothing from us that He has not given us. Now, this article is very rich and broad; but in order to expound it also briefly and in a child-like way we shall take up one word and sum up in that the entire article, namely (as we have said), that we may here learn how we have been redeemed; and we shall base this on these words: In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If now you are asked, What do you believe in the Second Article of Jesus Christ? answer briefly: I believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, has become my Lord. But what is it to become Lord? It is this, that He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and all evil. For before I had no Lord nor King, but was captive under the power of the devil, condemned to death, enmeshed in sin and blindness.

For when we had been created by

God the Father, and had received from Him all manner of good, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil, so that we fell under His wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, as we had merited and deserved. There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God in His unfathomable goodness had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness, and came from heaven to help us. Those tyrants and jailers, then, are all expelled now, and in their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation, and has delivered us poor lost men from the jaws of hell, has won us, made us free, and brought us again into the favor and grace of the Father, and has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection, that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.

Let this, then, be the sum of this article that the little word Lord signifies simply as much as Redeemer, i.e., He who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and who preserves us in the same. But all the points which follow in order in this article serve no other end than to explain and express this redemption, how and whereby it was accomplished, that is, how much it cost Him, and what He spent and risked that He might win us and bring us under His dominion, namely, that He became man, conceived and born without [any stain of] sin, of the

Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, that He might overcome sin; moreover, that He suffered, died and was buried, that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owe, not with silver nor gold, but with His own precious blood. And all this, in order to become my Lord; for He did none of these for Himself, nor had He any need of it. And after that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father's right hand, so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet, until finally, at the last day, He will completely part and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.

But to explain all these single points separately belongs not to brief sermons for children, but rather to the ampler sermons that extend throughout the entire year, especially at those times which are appointed for the purpose of treating at length of each article-of the birth, sufferings, resurrection, ascension of Christ, etc.

Yes, the entire Gospel which we preach is based on this, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rest, and which is so rich and comprehensive that we never can learn it fully.  
(*Large Catechism II 25-33*)

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*Paul Kohlmeier*  
*Board of Evangelism*





## Spring Concert

**Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy**

**6th Grade Strings  
School of Logic Handbells and Strings**

**Wednesday, May 11th 7:00 p.m.**

**Messiah Lutheran Church  
1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX**

**www.mlcatexas.org 817-431-5486**

**The Students in the 3rd - 6th Grades  
of  
Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy  
present their annual**

# Piano Recital

**Thursday, May 19th, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Messiah Lutheran Church  
1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX  
www.mlcatexas.org 817-431-5486**



**1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248**

**817-431-6139**

**Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

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3 days per week: \$90.  
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5 days per week: \$120.

Drop in rate: \$45 per day

Special pricing is available to families  
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Please call 817-431-6139 for details.

Sponsored by Messiah Lutheran Early Childhood Center • [www.mlcatexas.org](http://www.mlcatexas.org)

\* Closed June 20-24 for Vacation Bible School and on Monday, July 4.

## Weekly Themes

### *Under the Sea*

May 31—June 3

### *Mini Monet*

June 6—10

### *Terrific Texas / Marvelous Mexico*

June 13—17

### *—No Session—*

Join us For Messiah's Vacation Bible School  
June 20—24 (visit [www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org) to register)

### *Creepy Crawlers*

June 27—July 1

### *Out of This World*

July 5—8 (No classes on July 4)

### *Jurassic Fantastic*

July 11—15

### *European Express*

July 18—22

### *Let's Play Ball*

July 25—29

### *Silly Safari*

August 1—5

### *Everybody Dance Now*

August 8—12



## The Messiah Evangelist: *Lift High the Cross*

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The Board of Evangelism has adopted "Lift High The Cross" as the

Evangelism and Missions hymn. It will be no easier to understand than during this Easter season which is a fifty day long season of joy extending from Easter to Pentecost. During this time the Church celebrates the end of Christ's struggles and proclaims His victory over death and the reception of the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection as gracious gifts of love and mercy for all those who believe in Him.

Christ suffered on the cross for us and became the curse by accepting the accursed death. "Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree" (Galatians 3:13). The death of the Lord was ransom for all and by it "the middle wall of partition" is broken down and the call of the Gentiles comes about. How could He have called us if He had not been crucified, for it is only on the cross that a man dies with arms outstretched. Those outstretched arms draw His ancient people with one, the Gentiles with the other and join both together in Himself. "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32).

On Easter morning we declared victory for our Lord that Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and Angels rejoice.

Christ is risen, and life reigns. During this Easter season we will celebrate the Ascension when He is "lifted up from the earth". We are indeed drawn to Him. We should also let the Holy Spirit work through us to help draw in others. To help others. To live God pleasing lives.

Also on Easter morning when He rose from the dead, you did too? That's what your baptism accomplished according to Paul, "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

The Evangelism call is in the hymn. Read the beautiful words of LSB 837.

### Lift High The Cross

#### *Refrain*

Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore  
His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow  
where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious,  
Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]
- 2 Led on their way by  
this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in  
conqu'ring ranks combine.  
[Refrain]
- 3 All newborn soldiers of  
the Crucified  
Bear on the brow the  
seal of Him who died. [Refrain]

- 4 O Lord, once lifted  
on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised,  
draw us all to Thee. [Refrain]

- 5 Let ev'ry race and  
ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives  
from death and hell. [Refrain]

- 6 So shall our song of  
triumph ever be;  
Praise to the Crucified  
for victory! [Refrain]

By Lifting High the Cross the church preaches Christ crucified, His mercy, our salvation. We share that good news with those who do no know Christ or need help remembering the Savior. We tell others that we are God's children, that if they believe and are baptized they too can be saved. ***Till all the world adore His sacred name!***

### Please Pray

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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*Paul Kohlmeier  
Board of Evangelism*

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MLCA will have their Closing Program on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We invite the congregation to attend this wonderful event which is a summation of the year in recitation and song.





## 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. Heather Heitmann, Director, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

Mrs. Kathy Blaschke, Financial Director

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

1981 ✠ 30<sup>th</sup> ✠ 2011

## May Events in our History

**1981:** On May 3, 1981, our first church constitution was ratified.

**1982:** Dawn

Holden and Lisa Alfeld, the two members of Messiah's first youth confirmation class, were confirmed on May 30, 1982

**1985:** A few years later, the Friday night confirmation exams were introduced. Previous classes were invited to come and participate, so they wouldn't feel left out. There were no takers.

**1994:** *Plant a Seed...Reap the Harvest*, a capital fund drive for what we now call the ECC wing, began. It culminated in a celebratory banquet on May 15—held in our sanctuary.

**1999:** Christina Vogelsang (now Roberts), our music director, was given the job to Administrate a Christian School and establish grades 1-4 in the fall of 2000. With some dedicated helpers, she successfully accomplished this, while remaining our music director. Christina is now the music director at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI. She and her husband, Jerry, a teacher at Our Savior's school, have five children.

**2000:** Our long-awaited handbells arrived and practice began for Confirmation Sunday. Later, a regular handbell choir was established.

**2008:** On May 31, 2008, we held the commencement exercises for MLCA's first graduating class: Kirra Booth and Laura Foltz.



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



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011

## JUNE 20 - 24

## 8:45 A.M. TO NOON

### AGES: 3 YEARS TO 5TH GRADE (COMPLETED)

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## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 5TH