

# THE VIEW

January 2021

vol. 65

NO. 1

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

### **The Liturgy of the Divine Service: Readings, Psalms, and Graduals; Oh my!**

In our examination of the Divine Service, specifically the Service of the Word, we have now come to the place where we explicitly read the Word of God. Despite the elements that have led up to this point in the service, the actual Service of the Word begins here with the first reading, which is typically from the Old Testament. It saddens me that some church bodies have shied away from the Old Testament. They see it as being fulfilled, which is for the most part true, but they wrongfully then declare it useless to the modern Christian. This could not be any more wrong-headed and has roots that trace back to the Marcion heresy of the ancient Church, which rejected the Old Testament because he concluded that the God of the Old Testament was too mean to be the true God, and being heavily influenced by Gnosticism, Marcion also rejected the humanity of Christ. (Yes, this is a real thing, and many still today drift toward this heresy.)

Lutherans, however, have always embraced the whole of Scripture, especially since Jesus encourages us to look for him there. “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life” (John 5:39-40). The Old Testament points to our Savior and reveals Jesus to be the true Christ, who has come to redeem humanity from sin and death. When churches neglect to teach the Old Testament, they empty the cross of all value. The Son of God has come to fulfill all righteousness and rescue lost humanity; removing the Messianic focus of the Old Testament, removes the very reason why the Eternal Son became man and gave himself as an atoning sacrifice.

The reading concludes with the reader declaring: “This is the Word of the Lord.” The congregation responds: “Thanks be to God!” This shout of acclamation is also a confession of

faith. The Bible, the whole Bible, is the Word of God. It does not merely contain the Word of God; it IS the Word of God that has been delivered to man through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We cannot pick and choose the parts we like; rather, we let God speak for Himself, and we, by faith, believe His word to be inerrantly true.

Following the First Reading, the liturgy presents the option of responding to the biblical text with either the Gradual or a Psalm. The “Gradual” comes from the Latin word “gradus,” which means “step.” Although the definite origin of this Proper has been lost to time, it is believed that it served as somewhat of a musical interlude as books were exchanged for the lectionary to shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The Gradual follows the season of the Church and can be sung by the choir or the congregation.

An alternative to the Gradual is the use of an appointed Psalm. Singing the Psalms has been a part of Church’s worship life since certainly the time of King David, and undoubtedly long before that. The Old Testament is full of songs of praise. This historical practice continued in Medieval monasteries, and is an element that Lutherans retained. Lutheran liturgy has held the tradition from its beginning as one of active participation and musically rich worship.

The Second Lesson for the Divine Service shifts the worshipers to hearing the New Testament. The early Church received and read letters of instruction and catechesis from the apostles. We join them in publicly reading the epistles because these divinely inspired are just as useful to Christians today as they were two thousand years ago. The Epistle Reading follow the tradition of having a continuous reading of the same epistle from week to week.

Generally, the Old Testament, Epistle, and Psalm try to fit the theme of the Gospel reading. This sets the tone for the day and assists the congregation to see how all Scripture interconnectedly points to Christ.

Next month, we will take a look at the Gospel in the Divine Service.

May God bless you in this new year.

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## The Lords Supper-By appointment



Faithful People of Mt. Pisgah

If I could, I would bring the sacrament to each of you directly, but my travelling from house to house would negate everything for which those in isolation suffered. Even worse, it could potentially create a “Typhoid Mary” scenario. But a long term solution must be found. Until something changes for better or worse, the best solution is as follows:

Individual Confession/Absolution with Communion will be offered at the church to any who desire to receive it. Congregation members can schedule an appointment to receive the sacrament at their convenience for any time on Mondays from 9 AM to 9 PM or on Wednesdays from 1 PM to 6 PM. During their appointed time, the communicant (or family) will be the only one entering the sanctuary. The sacrament will be sanitarily prepared and placed on a table ahead of time, and the pastor will meet with them at a distance with a brief liturgy and consecration. Sterilization will occur before and after the appointment. Yes, this still leaves out the communal aspect of receiving the sacrament with fellow believers, but unusual methods are required for unusual times.

Please call the church office during business hours (Monday-Thursday 9AM-3PM and Friday from 9AM-Noon) to schedule your appointment. We will make every effort to ensure that any interpersonal contact is minimal.

May God bless you with His mercy and grace.

Pastor Jon

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**Youth BIBLE STUDY at 9:15 AM!!! But there is not adult Bible study yet.**

Church IS open with 50 people restriction per service.

**SUNDAY SERVICES 10:45 AM will broadcast live on the website and additionally posted later for viewing on the web page.**

**A DVD is available outside church door in the red box.**

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## NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES

Information for accessing church service

Online: Video will be found on the home page at <http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com>

The service bulletin will also be available on the homepage.

Phone: Service will begin at 10:45 am, dial in direct with no access code to (508) 924-5662 or call toll-free (844) 802-6666 and enter access code 889956

Podcast: Search for "Mt Pisgah Lutheran" in your mobile device podcast app.

YouTube: Recording link will be published on the home page once it is available.

A DVD is available outside church door in the red box on the wall.

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# Prayers and Concerns

## Surgeries and Illness

Nancy Bargar	Brian Keeney	Mary Hill
Helen Hutson (Montgomery)	Neil Motyka (Fry)	Joann Kapugi
Katrina Roland (Doster)	Maureen Duemig	Mike & Delilah (Perkins)
Robert Hamilton, Jr.	Mary Coffman (Rev. Coffman)	Joyce Boss (Kruse)
Ben Kirchoefer	Nicholas Head (McAbee)	Agapia Dragan (Luecke)
Jackie Fry	Melanie & family (Kaufman)	Sally Hardy
Stacy Scovanner (Fry)	Glenn Karnatz	Suzie Karnatz
Wally Rose Mincer	Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)	
Jax Warren (Henderson County Deputy Sheriff son)		Grace Floyd (Fry)
Elizabeth Kaufman	Ellen Trinka (Montgomery)	Tim Kelly (Licht)
Betty Ude	David Walters	

## Homebound

Ann Cheadle	Kathleen Fox	Joan Ginter
Dorothy Lehman	Dianne Luecke	Jan Nelson
Dave & Lee Marquardt	Glenn & Suzie Karnatz	Eleney Selius
Louise Bauer	Warna Berryman	Judy Fuchs
Joann Kapugi	George Fuchs	Nancy Stang

## Compassion and Sympathy

For the family of Randall Quinn, Louise Bauer's son-in-law

## Other Prayers and Concerns

Our Preschool Staff, Children & Families  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti*

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## **Trusting in Christ, But Also Being Prepared**

We are called to walk by faith and not by sight. Human logic and reason are of no avail when it comes to salvation because God's grace and the Good News of the Gospel are love beyond understanding. If human love baffles us, how can we ever fully understand God's love. However, this does not mean that we toss aside the logic and reason God has given to mankind. He wants us to use all our gifts. But they must be in accord with God's Word and will, and not in contradiction to them or in denial of God's providence.

In times of hardship or danger, our primary response as Christians is to turn to God and trust Him. We are not to be carried away by every fear or worry. We stand steadfast and immovable in our faith that God is with us, and nothing can take away His love for us in Christ Jesus, not even death. But this does not mean that we act carelessly or put God to the test. If you were to have an accident and fall off a bridge, we trust that God will either see us through it or call us to eternal safety. If you intentionally jump off the bridge, well... He may choose to use you as an example of why you should not jump off a bridge. This is why our response to COVID has sought to be a balanced one. Our primary response is to trust that God will see His Church through this, but we also do not act recklessly. We follow their recommendations of those to whom God has given authority, but we do not put our faith in them instead of God.

As of the writing of this, God has most certainly kept us from harm during the pandemic. Will we remain that way? Only God knows. And I'm ok with that, regardless of outcome. I hope you are too. But understanding that we should not neglect to use the logic and reason God has blessed us with. Therefore, the following is how we plan to handle things, should there be a case of COVID among those who worship in-person:

- We ask that anyone who learns that they have contracted COVID voluntarily, out of love for their brothers and sister in Christ, alert the pastor. If you want to remain anonymous, we will respect your wishes, but we would prefer to begin praying for you immediately.
- Contact with someone who has COVID does not mean that you have contracted the disease or even will contract the disease. However, we will alert the congregation that a positive test has occurred in the church and getting tested is advised.
- To prevent accidental spreading of the illness, the church will switch to online only for two weeks. Worship will continue, but restricted to only the distance forms, temporarily. The two weeks gives us the chance to sanitize the facility and protect against potential person to person contamination during the asymptomatic incubation period.
- If we must temporarily suspend in-person Sunday worship, private communion will be available every day, at any time needed, upon request to the church office.

Our methods may adapt to fit the circumstances, but nothing will stop our proclamation of the Gospel.

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## **FINANCIAL NEWS**

On December 27th, we received \$6,529 in general offerings. In December, we received a total of \$21,973. Offerings for 2020 totaled \$265,130. Our offering budget for 2020 was for \$298,846. Offering statements will be mailed out in January. We will report out our annual income and expense for 2020 in January after we close out the accounts for the year. Thank you for your continued support of our church.



# Birthday Blessings

01/08 Mary Kaufman

01/12 Jim Wing

01/16 Adell Keeney

01/19 Rick Sanborn

01/20 Bill Weege

01/21 James Stoltenberg

01/24 Mary Mckinney

01/25 Michele Maloney

01/26 Sarah Christensen

01/26 Eleanor Claycomb

01/29 Joann Kapugi

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## Thank you

Thank you for the poke bags. The recipients of the poke bags were very surprised and grateful for the goodies. They contained fruit and goodies. Thank you- Lydia Cassidy, Kathy Kirchoefer, Debby Zagone, Jan Tharp, Leah Ryel, Vickie Amato, Sylvia Gonzalez, Marilyn Bertram and anyone I missed (sorry).

We opened our door this afternoon to an unexpected and wonderful surprise. We found a Christmas bag filled to the brim with all kinds of "goodies". It made us very aware of how much you care about your Church family and go out of the way to let them know. Phil and Faith Anderson

I can't even begin to guess who the folks are who put this together. Please pass along my heartfelt thank you to them. I will take the goodies to share with Judy when I go tomorrow. George Fuchs  
Many thanks for the surprise poke bag of goodies. Louise Bauer

Thank you all so much for the goodies. Kathleen Fox

Thank for the wonderful goodies. Jan Nelson

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## From the Preschool

The Preschool Staff would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gifts. We feel especially blessed to part of Mt. Pisgah.

Katherine Montgomery and the staff

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The meals that were prepared at Christmas time were a wonderful surprise for those who received them. Thank you, preschool staff for being a blessing to those who were alone.

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## Thank You

Your staff at Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church wishes you a blessed holiday season and wonderful 2021. We want to thank you for the generous Christmas gift.

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## ***Community Concern Outreach***

Mission of the month for January is Hendersonville Rescue Mission. The general purpose of the Hendersonville Rescue Mission shall be to minister to needy persons by way of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them and helping to provide for their spiritual and physical needs. HRM no longer just serves delicious hot, balanced meals to the public, but also provides shelter, guidance, education, support and hope to those looking to better their lives.

We are always open for suggestions for Mission of the Month and Outreach & Community Concerns.

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Baptism of Samuel Remington Harold Christensen

Thank you to everyone who prepared food for the celebration and attended live or online.

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### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Via Telephone Conference

November 12, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Paul Mincer opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Council members present: Paul Mincer, Steve Kirchoefer, Robert Hamrick, Sylvia Gonzalez, Homero Gonzalez, John Zagone, Vickie Amato, Jan Tharp, Diane Sanborn, Wendy Maloney, Wendy White, and Leah Ryel

Others present: Bob Morin

Absent: Pastor Jon Christensen, Debby Zagone

Vickie Amato offered the devotions. The Vision Statement was read by Paul Mincer.

Minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting were approved.

Sylvia Gonzalez presented the November Financial News, and the Financial Reports as of October 31, 2020 (attached).

The Income Statement showed a net loss of \$3,298 for October. The Church had a loss of \$4,685, and the Preschool had a gain of \$1,387. YTD, the Church has a loss of \$26,419 & the Preschool's loss is \$13,481. The combined net loss YTD is \$39,900. Financial information has been in the Wednesday e-mails, to inform members. October had 4 Sundays and 2 payrolls. Offerings were \$7,827 below budget. \$7,884 in State supplement money was posted to Preschool dedicated account to be used if needed at end of year.

YTD report is included. Total income compared to budget is short \$79,263, but we have reduced expenses (as compared to budget) by \$38,318. Any adjustments needed will be made at year end, before closing the books.

2021 Budget was sent to members. Finance Department has received no questions from members. Wednesday's e-mail reminded members to respond, but we need questions before the meeting, in order to properly respond.

Altar Flowers: this subject had been discussed with Adell Keeney. She was open to suggestions, but stated that cut flowers were a symbol of having given their lives to be on the altar. She suggested allowing the congregation to purchase smaller bouquets (perhaps from Ingle's). That would involve determining when the flowers could be brought to Church. If no one signs up to bring flowers, the Altar Guild book says that the altar should be bare. (We had been using Church funds when no flowers were ordered.)

Elders will take care of that subject, & get back to Council.

Wedding donation: Pastor performed a wedding on 11/7, for which the Church received a nice donation. John Zagone made a motion, seconded by Jan Tharp, & approved.

Motion #1:

To ask Pastor if he were compensated for the wedding, and, if not, to give him the entire amount.

Sanctuary Heating: A large heating unit that heats half of our sanctuary isn't functioning. It was installed in 2000, and needs to be replaced before colder weather arrives. It is a huge Lennox HVAC gas unit, so the replacement will be costly. Haynes has quoted a price, which includes using a crane to lift out the old unit and everything involved in installing the new one. Their total bid is \$17,280. A second quote is expected from Mountain Air Mechanical in Arden, on

Monday. This unit needs to be replaced quickly. Cost will come from the dedicated account Asset Replacement, with a current balance of \$50,645. We will take the lower bid, if all else is equal.

Sylvia made a motion, seconded by Leah Ryel, and approved.

Motion #2:

To approve the replacement of the nonfunctioning heating/air conditioning unit in the sanctuary.

Motion was retracted, & a new motion was made by John Zagone, seconded, & approved.

Motion #2 replacement:

To have the Board of Property determine which quote is the best, & to go with that.

Sylvia said that the second Vendor will be there at 10 Monday. As Inside Property Chair, Vickie Amato will attend, too.

John Zagone gave an oral report for Elders, that there will be a Christmas Eve Service. 2/3 of the Salary group met (Pastor, Paul Mincer, & John Zagone being the three, with Pastor not attending). There was no discussion of Christmas morning Service.

Jan Tharp's report is attached. Mission of the month of October was the Storehouse. A check for \$315 was presented to them by Mikki Reinicker. MOM for November is the Quilters' Group at Mt. Pisgah. December's will be Safelight. Cards have been sent to shut-ins, and to those on the sick/surgery list. Thanksgiving cards will be sent. Ladies' Guild addressed 110 Christmas cards for Service people, to be sent to the Synod Chaplain in Kuwait. 46 pounds of food and school supplies were donated to IAM.

Revised cookbooks are available for \$10 each; turn in the copies you've purchased. There will be an area set up this Sunday, for people to purchase the cookbooks outside of Church.

Diane Sanborn gave an oral report. She has been meeting every Sunday. The children will be doing something special in the way of a card or insert for a card, rather than going to visit the homebound as we normally do before Christmas.

Steve suggested that we have caroling to the shut-ins via the same system we use, & we'll call each homebound person. Robert will play on the piano, and carolers will be social distanced.

Wendy Maloney had an oral report. Current enrollment is at 50. People are calling, but we don't have enough staff to keep in ratio, if we take on more students. Katherine is even calling other preschools to try to find homes for the students.

Debby was absent and had no report.

Vickie Amato's report (attached) is of the Kitchen Renovation Committee Meeting 11/9 @ 2 p.m. Funds for Kitchen Renovation have reached \$10,625. Benson Electric is to submit a new bid. She & Sylvia looked at countertops & handles, and Sylvia is checking on people to install cabinets. Electrician is checking all that is necessary in the kitchen & fellowship hall. Vickie will check into hiring a plumber. Vickie mentioned needing to send a thank-you to Herb Spies, but Leah had done that right after the cabinets arrived here.

Homero had been confined for 10 days, so Pastor was the one speaking with contractors during that time, because there's no reception at Homero & Sylvia's home. Afterward, Homero spoke w/a company about drainage problems, & they will put in a trench at the sign site. As soon as that is done, the sign company says they will be sending someone from Houston. Now, we aren't hearing from that company, nor is Pastor. It sounds as if legal help may be needed.

Wendy White's report was oral. They are strongly supporting missionaries, Haiti, etc. Her report for the Annual Meeting was referenced.

#### Old Business:

1. Paul & Vickie & Sylvia had given the update on the kitchen cabinets.
2. Homero's oral report gave an update on signage, but he stated that he has been unable to install the posts in the memorial garden, due to other commitments.
3. The 2021 Budget was discussed in Sylvia & Robert's report.

#### New Business:

Updated Ballot of Nominees for Church Council 2021 will be given to all on Sunday. Also, as suggested by Wendy White, there will be a short form for each to sign, indicating that he/she was in attendance.

The next scheduled meeting will be held December 17. Steve expects that it will be held via Telephone Conference.

Jan Tharp will offer devotions.

At 8:17 p.m., Paul closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Ryel  
Recording Secretary

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# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day-Office & Preschool closed	2
3 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM	4	5	6 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Prayer Shawl 1 PM Evening Bible Study 7 PM	7 Quilter's Ministry 9 AM	8 Mission Board Meeting 1 PM	9
10 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM	11 Ladies Guild 1 PM	12 Elder's Meeting 7 PM	13 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM	14	15	16
17 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM	18	19	20 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM	21 Quilter's Ministry 9 AM Council Meeting 7 PM	22	23
24 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM	25	26	27 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Evening Bible Study 7 PM	28	29	30
31 Communion 8 AM Children Sunday School 9:15 AM Communion 10:45 AM						