

# THE VIEW

MARCH 2021

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NO. 3

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

### **The Liturgy of the Divine Service: The Creeds**

The Divine Service consists of two parts: the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament. So far in our monthly examination of the components that make up our worship, we have been building momentum toward the climactic focus of the Service of the Word, which is the sermon. In the first setting of the Divine Service, the Office Hymn and the Sermon immediately follow the reading of the Gospel, but this is not the case for the other settings. Typically, a trinitarian creed is nestled between the Gospel Reading and the Sermon.

The ecumenical Church (ecumenical—from the Greek, meaning “inhabited world”—are the doctrines and traditions that pertain to all Christians and are required of the Church as a whole, regardless of denomination) has throughout history held to three major confessions of faith that unite all Christians under the same umbrella, even though they may differ in other areas of doctrine, practice, tradition, and culture. The three ecumenical creeds are the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian. The use of a creed (from the Latin “credo”, which means “I believe”) forces a congregation to adhere to the basic tenets that are essential to all Christians and distinguishes a biblical and confessional Christian community of believers from the various sects and cults that have sprung up. These confessions of faith are often recited, but they may also be chanted, sung as hymns, or spoken responsively.

Each of the three ecumenical creeds developed independently from each other with their own specific emphasis to address issues that arose in the Church. The oldest and shortest of the creeds is the Apostles’. Despite the name, the Apostles’ Creed was not written by the Apostles’, nor was it used by them. Historically, it was developed in the earliest days of the Church, allegedly in the area of Rome, for the purpose of preparing converts for baptism with a clear and concise summary of what the Apostles believed, taught, and confessed about the Christian faith. This creed is still used in baptismal rites as well as in the instruction of catechumens.

The youngest and least used creed is the Athanasian Creed, which is primarily reserved for Trinity Sunday. The reason for its scarce use is because it contains 656 words in 40 verses. Scholars debate whether this

creed was ever really intended to be a spoken part of Christian worship. Based on St. Athanasius' defense of the doctrine of the Trinity, but not penned by him, the Athanasian Creed affirms the historical and biblical Christian beliefs about the divinity of Christ and the equality of the persons of the Trinity. While this creed is retained by the Church, it was never formerly adopted as the other two creeds were. The clear and accurate teaching of the Athanasian Creed, however, has kept it as an expression of the Christian faith since 5<sup>th</sup> century.

There is no question, however, for the authoritative voice of the Nicene Creed. The Christocentric focus of the Nicene creed makes it the most commonly used creed for the Divine Service. As more congregations move toward celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar every Sunday, the Nicene Creed's confession of Christ also increases in prominence. Interestingly, the Nicene Creed is both the most unifying and simultaneously divisive of the creeds.

The need for the Nicene Creed presented itself as the Christian Church stopped meeting in secret for fear of persecution by the Roman authorities. Emperor Constantine's rise to power changed Christianity from being hated to being the official religion of the empire practically overnight. Worshipping publicly, however, made it clear that not every congregation believed, taught, and confessed the same things, especially when it came to the doctrine of the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus. Church leaders from all over Roman Empire came together in Nicaea in 325 AD to clarify what Christians believe. Phrases like: "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made" allowed Christians to declare, with one voice, their faith that Jesus is true God.

This unity of this creed's drafting is ironically one of the points of contention that would divide the Eastern Church from the Western Church. There were many reasons for why the Great Schism occurred, most of which were political, but a symptom of the division also manifested in the confession of the Nicene Creed. Although written as the whole Church, when a theological point was brought up in the Roman Church that the Holy Spirit proceeds (sent forth) from both the Father and the Son, Rome changed the language of their confession without even speaking to the Eastern Churches about the change. Although most Eastern priests and worshipers would agree with the theological point Rome was trying to make with addition of the words "and the Son," the disrespect that Rome had shown by circumventing the East and the potential heresy that could arise because of the linguistic differences between Latin and Greek were unacceptable. This became known as the Filioque controversy and was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Five hundred years later, Lutherans would also modify the language of the Nicene Creed. Originally the creed confessed the Church as "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic." The word "catholic" means "universal." Rome, however, referred to themselves as the Roman Catholic Church. Still to this day, denominational issues lead to misunderstandings when we confess to be part of the Church catholic. Luther, therefore, substituted the word "Christian" for "catholic" in the German churches. Lutherans from other places retained the word "catholic." Those who migrated to North America predominantly followed the German practice of calling the Church "one, holy, Christian, and apostolic."

Regardless of which creed is spoken or which of the approved variances of verbiage is used, God's people unite as one in doctrine by the confession of the Church. People of every time and every place are made one as we stand steadfastly on the faith handed down by the generations and revealed in Holy Scripture. But perhaps even more importantly, the creeds declares to us and to others the good news of the Gospel by giving us clear understanding of salvation God has prepared for us in Christ Jesus.

# The Lords Supper-By appointment



Faithful People of Mt. Pisgah

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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## Faithful People of Mt. Pisgah

Broadcasting our services and bible studies has been a great benefit during this quarantine, but there are flaws. We may not be able to fix the isolation we all feel, but we have found ways to worship and pray together as the Body of Christ. Unfortunately, a terrible problem lies before us: we may have been able to reintroduce the Lord's Supper to our in-person Sunday worship, but a large section of our congregation has been kept from it. This cannot go on this way. Receiving the body and blood of Christ is far too important and necessary for the believer's wellbeing to continue without it. But neither should we afflict the consciences of those who have sacrificed so much to remain isolated for good of their own health and also for their neighbor. **Please consider making an appointment for individual communion.**

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

Brian Keeney	Jackie Fry	Sally Hardy
Helen Hutson (Montgomery)	Neil Motyka (Fry)	Joann Kapugi
Katrina Roland (Doster)	Maureen Duemig	Joyce Boss (Kruse)
Mike & Delilah (Perkins)	Agapia Dragan (Luecke)	
Melanie & family (Kaufman)	Elizabeth Kaufman	Stacy Scovanner (Fry)
Jax Warren(Hville County Sheriff Deputy's son)		Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)
Grace Floyd (Fry)	Tim Kelly (Licht)	Mary Coffman (Rev. Coffman)
Lois T. (Sister/ Elaine F)	Sharon DePoi(Gonzalez)	Ellen Trinkka (Montgomery)
Raymond Chang (Kirchoefer)	Jim Cowan (Preschool)	Gretchen Sweetser (Mincer)
Laddie Smith(Montgomery)	Becky Piatek (Armstrong)	
Steve & Julie Nofisnger(Kirchoefer)		Dennis & Nancy Guth (Kirchoefer)

#### 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

#### Other Prayers and Concerns

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

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

On February 21st, we received \$3,136 in general offerings. In February so far we have received \$23,464. Year to date we have received \$48,347. Budget YTD would be \$43,520. The new budget amount needed for 2021 is \$5440 per week to cover expenses.

The Kitchen Committee would be grateful for donations towards the purchase of new countertops. If you would like to help support this project, please mark your offering "Kitchen".

Portals of Prayer books are 2.41 per book per quarter. Offering envelopes are 3.45 per box per year. Lutheran Witness is 12.95 per year. Thank you for your continued support of our church.

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*Birthday Blessings*



03/03 Sharon Gertken

03/14 Tara Lumley

03/24 Mariana Luecke

03/3 Lyn Heiple

03/19 Lindsay Middleton

03/28 Lois Schweinler

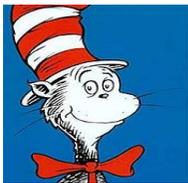
03/09 Zoe Christensen

03/20 Harold Zell

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## Mt. Pisgah Preschool News

The school experienced a coronavirus outbreak and was closed for the last 2 weeks of January. Everyone is back and regular operations have returned. Please be sure to keep all school staff and children and families in your prayers, that all stay safe and healthy.



The school will be celebrating Dr. Seuss week the first week of March with fun activities for each day.

Memory verse for the month of March: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Ms. Barbara shares the following:

*Ainsley just turned 2 and is a very determined and smart little girl. She wants to do EVERYTHING by herself. She won't let Mom or Dad help her. Recently she picked up one of the toy phones and "called" her mom and said, "Hey, Mom I am a big girl, just pooped in the potty."*

For a two-year-old, that clearly defines "success"!

**Souper Bowl** was a great success. Mt. Pisgah donated 150 pounds (100 cans) and \$135.00 to feed families. This was taken to IAM for our local community.

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## Ladies Guild/LWML Project

Donations for the Ladies Guild/LWML are needed to make kits for homeless men and women.



The kits will contain the following items:  
Men's work socks/Women's colored socks  
Nail clipper, comb/brush  
Colored wash cloth and hand towel  
Large bar of soap  
Toothbrush (in wrapper)/ toothpaste  
Hand lotion  
Deodorant  
Note pad and pen  
Stamped Envelope

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## Community Concern Outreach

### THRIVE



Thrive focuses on assisting individuals who are experiencing mental health and housing instability get back on their feet.

Our [programs](#) provide opportunities to learn coping, social, independent living, and vocational skills. We assist in obtaining jobs and giving back to the community.

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### Easter Lilies

Lilies have been ordered for the Easter Service. The lilies will be used for decorating the cross on the altar. If anyone would like to donate funds in honor of a person or donate toward the purchase of a lily, please mark your donation for lilies. The church purchased them at a cost of \$6.50 each.

## Seeds for Haiti Project Huge Success

The Lutherans in the Central Plateau of Haiti identified families with one hectare of fenced-in land. A hectare is about 2.5 acres of land and a fence is necessary to keep goats out of your garden. These people are planting gardens through the Seeds for Haiti project. With a Thrivent grant and support from the extended Church family of Mt. Pisgah, many people received seeds, plants and fertilizer. Now beautiful fields of tomatoes, Congo beans and bananas are growing in the Central Plateau. These crops help Haitians feed their families and provide a source of income.



Congo beans

We received many pictures and videos of individuals in the Central Plateau whose gardens are growing beautifully. Large fields are dug by hand and planted. Insects are removed by hand. Water from a local river is used to irrigate the crops through ditches all dug by hand. People who live away from the river have to carry water to their fields. These crops will provide food for the farmers' families and a small harvest to sell. Pastor Walta says 'the people

who are growing crops will never stand in line again to buy a bag of rice. Their families will not starve.

We want you to meet some of these wonderful, hard-working people.

Meet Chevalier...



Chevalier joined the Lutheran Church of Laotchikit as a teenager when Pastor Walta first began preaching ten years ago under a ragged tarp in the village of Laotchikit. As the church grew Chevalier became a church leader. He and his wife Nadine were the first pure couple to marry in the church without living together first. Nadine is a gifted seamstress and runs the sewing school at the church. Chevalier is now a teacher in the school and after school, he is farming growing bananas, tomatoes and Congo beans in the field he dug by hand. Did I mention Chevalier's left hand was amputated when it was caught in a corn grinder as a small child? Yes, he hand-dug his field. That's impressive.

Chevalier Prophete standing in his banana field

Brother Watson is another youth who grew up in the church and is now an assistant teacher in the school. Watson planted Congo beans and tomatoes. He keeps the water flowing to the fields with a hoe through hand-dug irrigation ditches.



Lolo and his wife Anacia live on the church grounds and both work for the church. Lolo is the gatekeeper, security guard, and maintenance man for the church and school. Anacia is one of the school's cooks. Through their combined salaries, Lolo and Anacia were able to buy their own home near the school. Now they have a big garden growing crops to provide for their many children. With the extra fruits and vegetables, they will have a small cash crop to sell.

Lolo Jean digging in his banana field

Ichnider is a teenager who plays drums in the church praise band in Laotchikit. He attends high school on a scholarship from Mt. Pisgah. Now he is growing tomatoes for food to eat and a crop to sell. After he completes school, Ichnider hopes to be an engineer or builder.

At the moment the community of farmers are praying for water pumps to bring water to families who have gardens located away from the river. Haiti is a hot country and water is needed to make the gardens grow.

Please continue to pray God will bless all these hard-working people with good crops which will provide a bounty of food and resources for their families.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
Via Telephone Conference  
January 21, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Steve Kirchoefer opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Council members present: Steve Kirchoefer, Barbara Volk, Robert Hamrick, Sylvia Gonzalez, Homero Gonzalez, Judy Morin, John Zagone, Jan Tharp, Diane Sanborn, Kathy Kirchoefer, Lydia Cassidy, Wendy White, and Leah Ryel.

Others present: Pastor Jon Christensen, Bob Morin

Absent: No one

Barbara Volk offered the devotions. The Vision Statement was read by Steve Kirchoefer.

Minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting were approved.

Sylvia Gonzalez presented the January 2021 Financial News, and the Financial Reports as of December 31, 2020 (attached).

Before End of Year Adjustment, the Income Statement showed a net loss of \$4,715 for December. The Church had a gain of \$1,635, and the Preschool had a loss of \$6,350. YTD, the Church has a loss of \$23,831 & the Preschool's loss is \$15,265. Before adjustments, the combined net loss YTD was \$39,095. Financial information about offerings has been in the Wednesday e-mails, to inform members. December had 4 Sundays and 3 payrolls. Offerings were \$1,127 below budget. State Supplement money for the Preschool for December totaled \$3,878, & was posted to Preschool-Other Income dedicated account.

The approved 2021 Budget will be entered in Shepherd's Staff for reporting comparison after the end of year reports are completed. The 2020 books will be left open until Council has had time to review EOY reports.

During Summer, when we received additional State Supplement Funds for the preschool, some excess funds were posted to the dedicated ECMB account, to show actual income and expenses. To balance at year end, we did a journal entry to pull \$15,300 from ECMB dedicated account, and posted it to Preschool - Other Income. For Church, we did an entry of \$24,000 from Equity, to Church-Other Income, to balance the year; that was part of the PPP funds. No CD's will be cashed now. After adjustments, the EOY income over expense for Church is \$169 and Preschool is \$36, for a total of \$205.

Motion #1:

Leah Ryel made the motion to accept the adjustments to balance the books for 2020. Motion was seconded by Jan & approved unanimously.

**Church Cleaning Services:**

"Clean As A Whistle" cleaning services will work every other week, for a 3 month trial, beginning 12/26/2020, at \$100/cleaning, for Preschool, and Church. We'd appreciate feedback, pro or con. After the trial, we'll review to see if we can extend the contract as is.

**Dun & Bradstreet:**

We have tried to get our account updated with current personnel, since it had Carol Everhart as the contact. We updated our contact to be Robert Hamrick, Treasurer. There was no charge for that. Additional updates would incur a service charge of \$1,999/year, so we will postpone other changes.

Pastor Christensen had no report.

Elders Report (attached) was given by John Zagone, elected 1/12 as Head Elder for 2021. Paul Mincer rejoined the Elders in January. Paul was assigned to Community Concerns, John to Education and Council, Rudy Eidam to Memorial Gardens, and Pastor Jon to ECMB & Missions. Rudy will be Worship Assistant at 8 a.m., and John at 10:45 a.m. Paul is taking Steve Leyrer's contact group. Elders' concerns about members were discussed.

Outreach & Community Concerns report (attached) was presented by Jan Tharp. A check for \$220 was sent to Safelight, December's Mission of the Month. January's MOM is Hendersonville Rescue Mission. The Board's balance of \$224.52 is being carried forward. Cards are sent to shut-ins, & to those on the sick/surgery list. For Easter, we will put together "pokes" (bags) for shut-ins and members unable to attend in person. Janie Mae McKinley wrote a Times-News article about Christmas "pokes," which Kathy Kirchoefer suggested as a project that we did in December. Cookbooks are for sale. We meet by e-mail.

Education report was oral by Diane Sanborn. No guests Christmas Eve (due to COVID-19 & weather). Diane's leading a new class for young girls, that has been well accepted.

Early Childhood report & Katherine Montgomery's report (attached) were by Kathy Kirchoefer. Enrollment is at around 50, and new staff is being recruited and hired. Preschool is shut down for 2 weeks, due to COVID exposure, & (per the State) will reopen to staff 1/25 & to students 2/1. One parent tested positive, as did an infant. Pastor & Katherine recommended 50% tuition reduction during shutdown. Staff continued deep cleaning. Salaries & staff education were discussed, as well as how to celebrate staff birthdays. Homero Gonzalez is doing some property work for the Preschool. Meeting was held virtually, at 3 p.m. on 1/13.

Stewardship report (attached) was presented by Wendy White. Board Members are Pastor Jon, Robert Hamrick, & Wendy. On 1/12, the Board met via teleconference. They made several suggestions to keep members connected, which will be referred to the appropriate Board Chairmen.

Missions report (attached) was presented by Wendy White. Sylvia Gonzalez discovered an accounting error in favor of the Haiti General fund and it was corrected in Shepherd's Staff. Robert Hamrick completed a wire transfer the week of 1/3, sending the students' scholarship funds to Haiti. One Seminary Student is being married Saturday, & 2 other Seminary Students' wives are having babies.

Parish Life report was oral. Lydia Cassidy e-mailed that there had been no activity, but Parish Life is working with Outreach Community Concerns on the "Pokes" for Easter.

Board of Inside Property report was oral, presented by Judy Morin. HVAC unit on the North side of the Church was replaced. Windows were cleaned. Cabinets are being installed. Installation of flooring is ongoing.

Outside Property report was also oral. Homero Gonzalez stated that he is waiting for a part for the Church sign.

Since it is incumbent upon Church Council, rather than the Congregation, to approve the nomination of the Property Chairman (now Chairmen), a motion was needed.

Motion #2:

Leah Ryel made the motion to accept Judy Morin as the Chairman of Inside Property, & Homero Gonzalez as Chairman of Outside Property. Motion was seconded by Sylvia Gonzalez, & approved by all.

Steve Kirchoefer will ask Donna Clancy & Sue Glossop to serve on the audit for Church.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business:

**Second Round of PPP Loans/Grants:**

Sylvia stated that there will be a second round of Payroll Protection Loans/Grants. Since we qualified and received forgiveness for the 1st loan, we can apply for the next round. United Community Bank began accepting applications 1/19. The Economic Aid Act provides additional PPP funding for small businesses. It also provides simplified forgiveness applications for current PPP loans of \$150,000 or less. Rules continue to be updated. Sylvia is investigating the process.

Next meeting will be held February 18, 2021. Steve said that it will be held via Teleconference. Jan Tharp will offer devotions.

At 7:40 p.m., Steve closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Ryel

Recording Secretary

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# MARCH

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