

THE VIEW

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church and Preschool
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Note from Pastor

Sexuality and the Sixth Commandment

As we continue our examination of the Ten Commandments, it always amazes me just how insightful Luther's Small Catechism is. He knew when to interpret Scripture without any variance to even an iota and when to interpret according to the spirit of the what is being taught in accordance with other biblical texts. This later approach could either lighten the Law in favor of our freedom in the Gospel, or it could expand the scope of the Law to further restrict the wickedness of man. A good example of this is the Sixth Commandment, which says, "You shall not commit adultery."

Luther rightly understands that this commandment speaks to more than the sin of adultery. The nature of the sin of adultery is directly tied to the larger topics of human sexuality, marriage, procreation, family, gender roles, etc. The command not to commit adultery is a placeholder for much more than the act of violating the marriage vows of faithfulness because, in the breaking of, it also defiles so many other aspects of sexuality and human relationships. Otherwise, if someone truly wanted to justify sinful behaviors, he could excuse all kinds of deviancy by twisting Scripture with an over-literalism. A degenerate could easily say to themselves: "Well, it says 'adultery', and I'm not married, so therefore, I am not breaking this commandment when I fornicate." Regardless of how we justify sin in our own minds, God doesn't play the loophole game, and thankfully Luther understood this

as he recognizes that in this context, “adultery” serves as a placeholder for all the teachings of Scripture concerning sexuality and marriage.

From the beginning God made us male and female. Our sexuality is a part of who we are and was given as a gift in the perfection of the newly created world. A woman’s femininity, according to how she was made, is something to uphold as good and wonderful, and likewise, a man’s masculinity is also something to rejoice over. These were given as complimentary—biologically, functionally, relationally, and socially. As every child knows, but somehow, we forget as we “mature” in worldly things, that men and women are equal yet different. But with most things, this gets confused and muddied by mankind’s now corrupted heart, mind, and desires by rejecting what God had made and redefining it. At times, the equality of dignity and respect has been threatened by darkened minds, and at other times the threat has been directed toward the honorable differences. Yet we, as those created and redeemed by God, must hold fast to that which was from the beginning, especially in regards to human sexuality, because if the foundational elements of humanity are eroded, our very existence becomes irrelevant and vain. This isn’t a slippery slope; it is a sheer cliff.

Lutherans, theoretically, have an advantage to resisting the devastation that inevitably comes from pulling the rug out from humanity’s foundational elements. We have the clear teachings of God’s Word and their right exposition in our confessional writings, most notably, the Small Catechism. Addressing this Luther expands the command not to commit adultery by explaining what this means. He writes, “We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.”

Living a life that is sexually pure and decent applies to more than whether or not we cheat on a spouse. A sexually pure life holds the highest regard for our bodies and how we are created that we would not defile them in any way. They are not mere objects to fulfill our selfish desires or to do with them whatever we wish; they are entrusted to us that we may be good stewards of God’s rich creation, which includes our bodies. By honoring our bodies, we honor God who gave them to us. Regarding this very thing, St. Paul writes:

The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do

you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (1 Corinthians 13-18)

Luther, however, also understood from God’s Word that what we believe in our hearts and confess with our lips can also bring honor or defilement to us, thus he says that being sexually pure and decent in life is also tied to what we say, and not just what we do. In simplest terms, this can be applied to an admonishment against crude or vulgar language regarding sex, but it is also rightly applied to how we speak and teach about God’s gift of sexuality. Excusing unbiblical things that teach falsely concern marriage or human sexuality by openly opposing God’s Word or failing to speak favorably about what God has said, sins against God and our neighbor. This does not mean that we make ourselves a hindrance to God’s Word by speaking harshly, but neither should we hinder God’s Word by timidity or omission. The best witness is by we, ourselves, leading a sexually pure and chaste life and speaking favorably about biblical masculinity, femininity, marriage, and procreation.

Luther concludes his explanation of the Sixth Commandment with a proper application of the roles of husband and wife in marriage because it is here that we see God’s intended purpose for the gift of sexuality. Loving and respecting each other in their bodies according to the uniqueness of our roles that are rooted in masculinity and femininity are what makes the two halves of humanity, one. These roles also reflect God’s relationship to us for the husband and wife are a mirror of Christ and the Church.

Therefore, keeping the Sixth Commandment requires a husband to live in the image of Christ’s love for his Bride, the Church. Therefore, love in a marriage is not founded in erotic attraction but in sacrificial service. He devotes himself to her completely. He places her needs above his own; suffering without complaint that she may be sustained, even unto his death. He is to love her unconditionally and greater than he loves himself. In return, she is to put her complete trust and confidence in his love as the Church trusts in Jesus. Her life is devoted to being his helpmate to support and honor him as he serves her. These roles are hardwired into the male and female aspects of human sexuality. Silly details, like who does the dishes or who mows the lawn, are inconsequential to the biblical male and female

roles. Instead, the daily routines only serve as outward expressions of the husband and wife loving and honoring each other.

Luther was right. The Sixth Commandment is much more than a mandate that prohibits sexual violation of the marriage vow; it is a call to uphold the goodness of human sexuality that God created in the beginning.

Prayer List

Long Term Illness

Sally Hardy
Pastor Larry Rabon
Pastor Dale Kaster
(Kugler)
Brian Keeney
Joyce (Kruse)

Stacy Olson (Ryel)
Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)
Gretchen Sweetser
(Mincer)
Mary Coffman (Coffman)
Kathleen Fox

Mike & Suzie Characky
(Steen)
Annette & Jim Bodden
(Heaphy)
Judy Fuchs

Surgeries and Illness

Homero Gonzalez
Tony Selius
Juana Maria Vela
(Homero's sister)
Jan Tharp
Mary Hill
Wally Rose Mincer

Joe Gabriel (Amato)
Jostine McGlynn
(Luecke's)
Grant (McLellan)
Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)
Joanne Blanchard (Clancy)

David Hawthorne
Vicki Fisher
Louise Bauer
Betty Ude

Personal and Family Concerns

Leah Ryel
George Fuchs
Troy Mckinney (Rappley)
Karen Ude
Nancy Stang
Nancy Hinshaw
Don Steen
Joann Kapugi

Kaufman Family
Debbie Leger
Sandi Rivers (Ryel)
Wayne & Karen Mathis
(Steen)
John Characky (Steen)
Mark & Julie Rorie
(Armstrong)

Melissa Shipman-Bates &
sons Will & Cooper
(Amato)
Teresa Fisher & children
Colby & Audrey
(Kaufman)

Homebound

Sue Smith
Ann Cheadle
Kathleen Fox
Lee Marquardt
Dianne Luecke

Jan Nelson
Louise Bauer
Warna Berryman
Judy Fuchs
Joann Kapugi

Suzie Karnatz
Nancy Stang
George Fuchs
Albert & Marianne Bugner

Compassion and Sympathy

Prayers for the Blythe family at the passing of Peggy Blythe

Ministry Concerns

Our Preschool staff, children & families
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti
Pastor Dale Kaster (Missionary, Czech Republic)
Pastor Daniel Jastram (Missionary, Japan)
Pastor Daniel Conrad (Missionary, Mexico)
Pastor Delwyn Campbell (Missionary, Indiana)
Jacob and Marie Sipes (Seminarian)
Scott and Veronica Missling (Seminarian)
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminarian)

Mission of the Month

Outreach & Community Concerns



The mission of the month for November is Only Hope WNC. This is a local nonprofit that works to help homeless youth in Henderson County. Their mission is to promote the value of education, nurture respect for self and others, and provide hope for young people in need. They help to supply basic needs like pantry and toiletry items and will even help with emergency housing so no one is left out in the cold. During the month of November the OCC board will be hosting an ingathering

of things that Only Hope can use to help these teens and their families. See below for a list of needed items:

Popular Items

Gas Cards, Feminine Products, School Supplies, Bodywash/soap, Backpacks, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Air Mattresses, Deodorant, Non-perishable Food

General Needs

Hand Soap, Lotion, Chapstick, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Sunscreen(spray on/tear free), Sanitizing Wipes, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Paper Plates, Plastic Cups/Silverware, Snack Foods

Gift Cards

Chick-Fil-A, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Jimmy Johns, Subway, Bojangles, Ingles, Publix, Harris Teeter, Walmart, Target

Clothing (New, Please)

Socks, Underwear/Boxer Shorts, Hoodies/Coats, Blue Jeans

NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES OR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Information for accessing church service or evening Bible Study

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

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.

Thank You

Tommy Hart with All American Asphalt did the striping in the church parking lot free of charge. Tommy is a customer of Bea Luecke and when he heard Bea talking about Bill doing it by hand, Tommy offered his services. The paint was provided by Bea & Mike Luecke. What a blessing to have servants in Christ.

Birthday Blessings



11/07 Alan Clancy

11/09 Paul Mincer

11/11 Philip Anderson

11/11 Margi McLain

11/13 Carol Heaphy

11/17 Dietrich Fabricius

11/17 Ann Cheadle

11/17 David Hawthorne

11/20 Craig Escude`

11/24 Robert Morin

11/25 Lily Emerson

11/25 Herb Spies

11/25 Kathleen Weege

11/28 Nancy Stang

11/30 Peter Kawa

FINANCIAL NEWS

On Oct 23rd, we received \$2,968 in general offerings. So far in October, we have received \$17,174. Year to date, we have received \$231,740. The budget YTD would be \$228,244. The amount per week is \$5,308.

HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDS: In order to help those recently impacted by Hurricane Ian, your Missions Committee will be collecting your donations for the LCMS Disaster Response Team over the next month. You can make designated donations to MPLC with memo for "Hurricane Relief". Please help our neighbors as they do massive cleanup and start to rebuild. Your prayers are also needed for the safety and health of those on the disaster team. So far, we have donated \$3,700 including \$2000 from your Mission Committee, \$200 from the Ladies Guild and \$1500 from member offerings.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

40 Years of Service to Our Community
HENDERSON COUNTY HUNGER COALITION
PO BOX 6151
HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28793

October 3, 2022

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church
Attention: Missions
2606 Chimney Rock Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

A Big THANK YOU to the Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church congregation!

The Henderson County Hunger Coalition deeply appreciates your contribution to our efforts making sure no one need go hungry in Henderson County.

In that spirit of support, we acknowledge receipt of your 2022 Hunger Walk donations in the amount of \$1,675:

- \$310 as your Mission of the Month (check #9146).
- \$1,365 in Hunger Walk sponsorships collected by seven of your congregation members who "did the Walk" on September 17.

No goods or services were provided in return for these donations.

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church has been a faithful partner in supporting our work and the Hunger Walk for many years. We hope your congregation might be interested in working even closer with the Coalition, perhaps through active membership on our Board of Directors. Please visit our web site for more information.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Ranges
Treasurer/Financial Secretary
Henderson County Hunger Coalition

P.O. Box 6151
Hendersonville, NC 28793

E-mail rroost@bellsouth.net
Telephone: 707-0329

Cc: Ms. Joyce Jolly, HCHC Board of Directors



November 2022

Monday, December 5 at 11 am, all Mt. Pisgah women are invited to a Christmas luncheon to be held at A Day in the Country. It will be “Dutch treat” with each person placing an order and paying for their meal. There will be games with prizes and an ingathering of items to help support Safelight, a local nonprofit agency that provides support for survivors of interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. A list of items will be provided on the sign-up sheet in late November on the bulletin board in the hallway.

We always have a good time at this Christmas celebration. The picture below was taken at last year’s celebration. Plan on joining us this year!

Thank You’s

Thank you to all who wrote notes of appreciation and encouragement for Pastor Jon. It’s so important to let him know how much he is appreciated and valued by his flock!

Another thanks for all of you who donated feminine care items for Kathy to take for the ingathering at the LWML Zone Rally held in Anderson on October 29.

Many of you have signed up as LWML Mailbox members. Thank you! If you haven’t signed up, it’s not too late. Just contact Kathy Kirchoefer and she’ll get you started. It’s a great way to keep up with an organization that has been faithfully serving Jesus by supporting mission projects for over 80 years.

November Meeting

Our November meeting will be held November 14 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making items to include in the goodie bags that we will provide to our homebound in December. Busy hands are happy hands! Hope you can join us for this fun activity.

--Submitted by Kathy Kirchoefer





**2022 END-OF-SUMMER
PICNIC & HYMN FEST**

MT. PISGAH PICNIC AND HYMN SING

In the afternoon and evening of Sunday, September 25, 2022 over 40 members of our church and preschool enjoyed a wonderful picnic at the home of Sylvia and Homero Gonzalez. The weather was perfect. As usual Chef Pastor Jon was at the grill cooking up burgers and hot dogs. There were plenty of salads, side dishes and desserts that were enjoyed by all. The kids had a great time splashing and swimming around in the swimmer and spa. The adults that got too close did not remain dry. The hymn sing started just around sunset and it was a beautiful sight as we looked out at the mountains and sang praises to our God. Parish Life would like to thank all who participated in this wonderful event especially Sylvia and Homero for opening their home to us. We were able to donate our leftover hot dogs, buns, cheese, and chips to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission for their cookout later this week.

A 10 year old little girl was asked by another classmate, "what is it like to be a Christian?". The girl replied, "it's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."



Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

+ + + KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE + + +



Why is there a rail in the front of the church?

That railing you see up near the altar is the altar rail. Some churches might even have a chancel rail a few steps away from the altar rail nearer to the congregation. **Does your church have both of these rails?**

What are these rails used for?

The chancel rail divides the church into two important parts: the "nave," which is the largest part of the church where the congregation sits; and the "chancel," which is the part of the church where the altar is located. The altar rail separates the altar from the rest of the chancel. It used to be, back in the Middle Ages, these rails were important for separating the congregation from the pastor or priest. As our understanding of the Lord's Supper changed, the rails began to be used for more practical purposes. They became helpful places for God's people to kneel and receive His wonderful gifts. They are also used for confirmation, marriages, and other events in the church.

For complete information on church events, please visit the website:

<https://mtpisgahlutheran.360unite.com/calendar>