

# THE VIEW

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## Note from Pastor

### The Augsburg Confession and the Trinity

I have never been a gambling man, but I will take the occasional risk. Essentially, that is what my plans are for the newsletter articles. Knowing that we just finished a series that examined the Ten Commandments, I am taking a risk and hoping that you will perhaps stick with me as we jump into another set of installments on another topic. My intention is to briefly address each of the Articles from the Augsburg Confession. (This is also a sly attempt to have people read the Confession)

But first, a bit of historical context... The Reformation was more than a disagreement about theology. It called into question the authority and practices of the Roman Church, which was so entangled in the religious, social, and political life of Western Society, that the fractured unity of the Church also threatened to unravel the tenuous hold of the Holy Roman Empire as a whole, which already was plagued with infighting within its borders and the attacks of Islamic forces from outside. Attempting to restore unity, Emperor Charles V permitted Lutheran princes from the Germanic territories to present their religious positions for discussion in a peaceful forum, but it was also pretty clear undertone that Charles was also willing to send troops to force unity. The Augsburg Confession is the summary of the Christian Faith as taught by Scripture and held, even unto death, by Lutherans.

Eager for the opportunity to present what they believe, teach, and confess according to the Word of God, the Lutherans formulated a series of Articles that were composed of an affirmative statement of what they believe and clarified it against other teachings that they disavow. As any good confession should, they began with a declaration of who God is.

#### ***Article I: Of God***

*Our Churches, with common consent, do teach that the decree of the Council of Nicaea concerning the Unity of the Divine Essence and concerning the Three Persons, is true and to be believed without any doubting; that is to say, there is one Divine Essence which is called and which is God: eternal, without body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, the Maker and*

*Preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and yet there are three Persons, of the same essence and power, who also are coeternal, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. And the term "person" they use as the Fathers have used it, to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.*

*They condemn all heresies which have sprung up against this article, as the Manichaeans, who assumed two principles, one Good and the other Evil: also the Valentinians, Arians, Eunomians, Mohammedans, and all such. They condemn also the Samosatenes, old and new, who, contending that there is but one Person, sophistically and impiously argue that the Word and the Holy Ghost are not distinct Persons, but that "Word" signifies a spoken word, and "Spirit" signifies motion created in things.*

This article has a double intention. First, it upholds the Lutheran position that Holy Scripture is the rule and norm of all doctrine and faith. Unlike some other groups that came out of the Reformation, who approach the principle of Scripture Alone as meaning that something must be explicitly stated in the texts to be authoritative, Lutherans examine the whole counsel of God's Word to also include the mysterious things of God that are clearly taught by Scripture but may not have a direct statement in the text. The First Article confesses the Triune God, who exists in three distinct, but completely equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but who is also one in Divine Essence. While the word "Trinity" does not appear in Holy Scripture, the doctrine of the Trinity is repeatedly confessed throughout its entirety.

This also leads into the second intention within this Article: Lutherans are not introducing any new doctrines to the Christian faith; they merely uphold the Biblical confession of the Church. Agreeing with the Church Fathers and the Council of Nicaea, Lutherans do not throw out the wisdom that has been handed down through the Church. It could be argued that Lutherans cling to it even more fervently because we believe that the Creeds of the Church are simply a summary of Scripture and, therefore, carry the authority of it. Lutherans only separate themselves from the historic teachings and traditions of the Church when there is a clear contradiction between Scripture and tradition. In those situations, God's Word always wins the debate.

After confessing the historic, Scriptural doctrine of the Church concerning the Trinity, the Lutherans also clarify also what they do not believe regarding false beliefs. Some may see this unnecessary and wonder why the Lutherans point out the false teachings of others, but sometimes adding a negative clarification helps to avoid confusion or to silence accusations from opponents who may not want to paint our beliefs in a favorable light. In our day and age, with things like 24 hour news cycles and the joys of social media, being precise in what you believe and what you do not is a good tactic for us to adopt.

This First Article of the Augsburg Confession found no opposition by the Roman Church, who agreed wholeheartedly with it. Additionally, it set the standard by which the Lutherans would present their case for Grace Alone by Faith Alone in Christ Alone according to Scripture Alone.

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## President's article for The View

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

We are now well into the repentant, reflective season of Lent. I urge you to remember your fellow believers here at Mt. Pisgah in your prayers. We need to lift up one another at all times.

At our February 13 church council meeting we:

- Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Discussed the request from the Early Childhood Ministry Board to **remodel classrooms** 7 and 8, with funding coming from state economic assistance grants which must be used for capital improvements. A vote on this was postponed until the March meeting in order to get details of costs and timeline. Final approval must come from the congregation, due to the cost of the remodel.
- Are taking suggestions for **capital improvements** as some funds are also available for the church portion of the building.
- Heard from Parish Life that they will serve a **brunch** between services on Easter Sunday.
- Heard from Outdoor Property that members and preschool parents will be invited to assist with a **spring cleanup** on Saturday, March 18 (rain date March 25).
- Discussed **community outreach efforts** and approved being a Bronze Sponsor of the United Way's Days of Caring on May 12 & 13, at a cost of \$1000. We are looking for other opportunities to let the community know who we are so if you hear of any let us know.
- Approved \$2,000 for **new mattresses** for the cabin we sponsor at Camp Linn Haven. Members who wish to help with this can make contributions to offset the cost.
- Heard from Wendy White that she will take **Sunday School students to Linn Haven** for a retreat weekend.
- Selected May 21 as the date for our mid-year **congregational meeting**. Further details will follow. As a reminder, we still do not have a Chair for the **Board of Stewardship**. This board assists the members in identifying their God-given gifts and talents, promotes ways they can use their gifts in service to others, and encourages first fruits giving. We hope someone will step up to fill this position or be willing to serve if asked. Please pray about this opportunity to get better acquainted with your fellow members.

If you ever have questions about anything we covered at the council meeting or any suggestions, please contact me (828-693-5692 or [bgv@ioa.com](mailto:bgv@ioa.com)). Our next meeting will be Monday, March 13, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

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### Spring Church Garden Clean Up - Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>:

Please join us for some outside fun as we take care of the little piece of creation God has given to us. We will be together from 9am to Noon. Bring your own gloves and tools (rakes, shovels, trimming tools). Wheel barrows would help too. Some food and drinks will be provided. Please contact Bill Paris if questions. (828-595-5622)

*Ah, Lord God! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for You. Jeremiah 32:17*

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## ALTAR GUILD

Volunteers are needed to assist in stripping the altar at the 7 PM Maundy Thursday service. Please call Lyn Heiple at 828-698-7459, if you can help.

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### **Special Announcement:**

The annual church rummage sale will be held on **Saturday, June 10**. This is a great opportunity to clean out your basement and garage for a worthy cause! All proceeds from the sale are used to financially support mission projects throughout the year. Please start putting aside items now. If your items are packed in a box or plastic tub, you may bring them any time, but loose items will not be accepted until closer to the sale date. We don't want to clutter up the Fellowship Hall! Boxed items can be stored in the storage shed until sale day.

Remember—no clothes or large furniture items. If you wish to bring boxes of items early, please contact Debby Zagone at 891-2416 so we can get them into storage right away. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **Ladies Tea**

The Ladies Guild traditionally doesn't meet over the summer months, so we will be having a special luncheon during our June meeting on June 12 before the summer break. This will be open to all women of the congregation (as are all of our activities!), so make plans now to attend. More details will be available in next month's View and in Weekly Updates.

### **March Meeting**

Join us for our next meeting, Monday, March 13 at 1 pm. Hope to see you there!

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# Carolinas District LWML Western Zone Rally!

**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023, from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

**Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church 220 Carson Road Seneca SC**

***Theme: "I Can See Clearly"***

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00   | Registration and Refreshments                |
| 9:00 – 9:30   | Opening Devotion                             |
| 9:30 – 9:45   | Welcome / Introductions                      |
| 9:45 – 10:30  | Bible Study                                  |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | (Break)                                      |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | "Ice Breaker" Fellowship                     |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Foothills Pregnancy Center - Oconee County   |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | LWML Mission Grant to Concordia Ft. Wayne IN |
| 11:45 – 12:30 | (Lunch)                                      |
| 12:30 – 1:10  | Business Meeting / Roll Call / Announcements |
| 1:10 – 1:30   | Closing Devotion                             |



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**Registration Form** for mailing or you may pre-register online, **by March 15<sup>th</sup>**:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Mrs. Kathy Bergeson at [bergesonemail@gmail.com](mailto:bergesonemail@gmail.com) by **March 15!**

Or mail to 204 W. Church St. Greer, SC 29650 (or send text to 901-508-0936)

Registration fee: **\$10.00 payable to ESLC LWML**, or pay cash or check on site.

**Ingathering** = **baby formula for sensitive tummies + diapers (especially size 5).**

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUNNY SOUTH CAROLINA! OUR BOTANIC GARDENS IN CLEMSON WILL BE IN FULL BLOOM....WE CAN HELP YOU PLAN YOUR ROAD TRIP!

## Outreach & Community Concerns



The mission of the month funds for March benefit the Medical Loan Closet. This organization provides Henderson County residents with low cost rentals of medical equipment. Many people, including our own church members, use their services when they find themselves injured and in need of a knee walker, wheelchair, hospital bed, or other medical equipment. You can give via the offering plate with a designated offering envelope or electronically through the church website.

February's "Souper Bowl of Caring" raised \$283 and 218 pounds of soup for IAM's food pantry. Thank you!

You are welcome to check it out at this link. [Home | Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church and Preschool \(myvanco.com\)](https://myvanco.com)

You can click on the GIVE button on the MOM tile and read about it. You can close out the window without giving online if you prefer to give with your regular church offering. This is updated monthly according to our MOM selection.

If you have any suggestions please let us know. Or if you want to share this web link with non-church members, please feel free to do so.

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### FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking ahead to our April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter celebration, we will be preparing treat bags for our children and youth as well as planning an Easter egg hunt and other activities. If your Easter plans include young family members and visitors, please provide us with their names and ages so that no one goes home empty-handed. We will gratefully accept offers to help supervise the activities. And...we will be happy to accept any contributions for the treat bags.

Looking a little further ahead, work days are scheduled at Camp Linn Haven to get the grounds and facilities ready for another summer of Christian fellowship and fun. Those dates are April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 20. Mt. Pisgah and two other congregations share the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining Cabin 17. Offers to help with this particular project will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Linda Licht if you would like first-hand experience with this ministry.

In the meantime, we have contacted the Camp Manager to seek permission to paint the interior of Cabin 17 and will let you know what the board members decide.

Next up...summertime and Vacation Bible School. Remember those days? I do, and VBS was one of the highlights of my summer! Let's share that experience with our Sunday school and preschool children. So, we'll need all hands on deck to help teach, lead singing, and supervise recreation. Please contact Linda Licht so that we can get a head start on planning an exciting, Christ-centered adventure for our children.

Thank you!

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## **Prayer List**

### **Long Term Illness**

Adrienne Paris (Paris)  
Michael Terzian (Keeney)  
Brian Keeney  
Joyce (Kruse)  
Stacy Olson (Ryel)

Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)  
Gretchen Sweetser  
(Mincer)  
Mary Coffman (Coffman)

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

### **Surgeries and Illness**

Tricia Heiple  
Patty Metcalf (Luecke)  
Ron Caldwell (Schmook)  
Juana Maria Vela  
(Gonzalez)

Jan Tharp  
Wally Rose Mincer  
Joe Gabriel (Amato)  
Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)  
Joanne Blanchard (Clancy)

David Hawthorne  
Vicki Fisher  
Mary Hill  
Louise Bauer  
Betty Ude

### **Personal and Family Concerns**

John Renick  
Leah Ryel  
Linda Rice (McAbee)  
Sue Oetting  
Karen Ude  
Nancy Stang

Joann Kapugi  
Kaufman Family  
Debbie Leger  
Sandi Rivers (Ryel)  
Wayne & Karen Mathis  
(Steen)

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

### **Homebound**

Betty Ude  
Albert & Marianne Bugner  
Sue Smith  
Kathleen Fox

Dianne Luecke  
Jan Nelson  
Louise Bauer  
Warna Berryman

Judy Fuchs  
Joann Kapugi  
Suzie Karnatz  
Nancy Stang

## Compassion and Sympathy

### Ministry Concerns

Our Preschool staff, children & families  
Preschool student  
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 (Seminararian)  
Scott and Veronica Missling (Seminararian)  
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminararian)

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*Birthday Blessings*



03/02 Louise Bauer

03/03 Sharon Gertken

03/03 Lyn Heiple

03/09 Zoe Christensen

03/14 Donna Watkins

03/14 Tara Lumley

03/19 Lindsay Middleton

03/24 Mariana Luecke

03/28 Lois Schweinler

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## **Lent Prayer**

Lent is a time that calls for our return to God in prayer (Joel 2).

The following is a penitential prayer based on the “Jesus Prayer”: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**LCMS Worship** offers it in the hope that it may be a blessing to anyone who chooses to use it. It may be used in family devotions by having family members join in on the words in bold.

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Word of the Father,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, the Word through whom all things were made,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, foretold by the prophets in signs and words,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, in the fullness of time conceived by the Holy Spirit,



**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Holy Virgin,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, hymned by the angels,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, adored by the shepherds,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, worshiped by the Magi,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, held by St. Simeon,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, praised by St. Anna,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, obedient to Your parents,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to a sinner's Baptism,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, fasting in the wilderness,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, driving out demons,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, cleansing the lepers,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, giving sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, teaching the precepts of the Kingdom,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, raising the dead,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, walking on water and changing water into wine,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, praised by the little children,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, riding into Your city as the sacrifice appointed,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, giving Your body and blood to be eaten and drunk,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, praying in the garden,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, bound and mocked,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, stripped and beaten,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, innocently condemned to death,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, opening Your hands upon the cross to embrace the world,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, knowing the loneliness of our exile and our sin,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, trampling down death by death,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, pouring forth water and blood to save the world,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, sanctifying our graves by lying in a tomb,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, harrowing hell and releasing the prisoners,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, rising in victory over death and corruption,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, appearing to the disciples in the broken bread,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ascending in triumph,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, High Priest who ever lives to intercede for us,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, coming on the clouds of glory to renew all things,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, dread Judge at the Last Day,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**have mercy on me, a sinner.**

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*You're  
Invited!*

**Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church**

*Follow on Facebook and Instagram!*

EVENTS - MISSIONS - LWML  
CAMP NEWS - PERSONAL STORIES  
and YOUR IDEAS!!



**to share your good news!**

Send your story, photos, ideas to  
[Karen.Lundquist@yahoo.com](mailto:Karen.Lundquist@yahoo.com)

***We can also record your story on video!***

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## **Have you noticed the table in the Narthex?**

There are books on the table in the Narthex. One is a funeral guide that explains the procedures of a funeral. Inside of that booklet is a planning guide for members to give family or loved ones and a copy to be returned to the church office for members official record within the church.

The other booklet changes periodically with information about subjects within the church.

Please feel free to take both. Should you need more copies of the funeral guide leave a message with the church office. One can be placed in your mailbox for you to pick up at any time.

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## **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.

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

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

## How did Jesus reply to Nicodemus?

Write the letter that is missing in each sequence.  
Then use the code to fill in the blanks.



- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1) LMNP = ____  | 7) IJLM = ____  |
| 2) RSUVW = ____ | 8) EFH = ____   |
| 3) LMOPQ = ____ | 9) JKLN = ____  |
| 4) BCEF = ____  | 10) ACDE = ____ |
| 5) BCDFG = ____ | 11) HJKL = ____ |
| 6) PQST = ____  | 12) WXZ = ____  |

Jesus replied, "V<sub>5</sub> <sub>6</sub> <sub>12</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>12</sub> I <sub>2</sub> ell  
<sub>12</sub> <sub>1</sub> u, <sub>3</sub> <sub>1</sub> <sub>1</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>5</sub> ca<sub>3</sub> s<sub>5</sub> e  
<sub>2</sub> h<sub>5</sub> <sub>7</sub> <sub>11</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>8</sub> <sub>4</sub> <sub>1</sub> <sub>9</sub> <sub>1</sub> f  
<sub>8</sub> <sub>1</sub> <sub>4</sub> u<sub>3</sub> l<sub>5</sub> ss <sub>2</sub> h<sub>5</sub> <sub>12</sub> a<sub>6</sub> <sub>5</sub>  
<sub>10</sub> <sub>1</sub> <sub>6</sub> <sub>3</sub> a<sub>8</sub> a<sub>11</sub> <sub>3</sub>."