

# THE VIEW

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## Note from Pastor

### Why State the Obvious?

The Third Article of the Augsburg confession affirms:

Also they [our Churches] teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, did assume the human nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, so that there are two natures, the divine and the human, inseparably enjoined in one Person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, that He might reconcile the Father unto us, and be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

He also descended into hell, and truly rose again the third day; afterward He ascended into heaven that He might sit on the right hand of the Father, and forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify them that believe in Him, by sending the Holy Ghost into their hearts, to rule, comfort, and quicken them, and to defend them against the devil and the power of sin.

The same Christ shall openly come again to judge the quick and the dead, etc., according to the Apostles' Creed.

If you are wondering why this even needs to be confessed, since it is the most basic, straight-forward repetition of the Apostles' Creed, then say a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithful catechist who instructed you. When the early Lutherans confessed

this in the Augsburg Confession, this was one of few places where Lutherans and Rome were in absolutely complete agreement. So then why state it? This article serves as a litmus test to prove the orthodoxy of the Lutheran confession. They were not teaching anything novel or strange. They were not some heretical sect but faithful Christians, who held tightly to the clear word of Scripture and the Apostolic teachings. As surprising as it may seem, these foundational elements of our Christian faith that confess the person, nature and work of Jesus Christ have been the source of great controversy throughout the history of Christianity.

Most heresies either deny or overemphasize some Scriptural component of who Jesus is. The Gnostics, who were influenced by Greek philosophy, rejected of the material world as evil, and therefore, they denied the humanity of Jesus. In their estimation, a perfect God could not have any association with the material world or soil himself with a physical form. The Arian heresy took an opposite approach. In order to preserve the majestic sovereignty of the Father, the Arians, while still believing that Jesus the Son of God, denied his full divinity and his equality with the Father. Every facet of the creedal confession has been involved in controversy at some historical point. Strange teachings called into question whether Mary is the mother of God (theotokos), whether Jesus actually died on the cross, whether he was a real person or a mythological symbol, and the list goes on and on. This is not even to mention the soteriological controversies that debate the who, what, where, when, why, and how of salvation.

The Third Article of the Augsburg Confession exists to root Lutheranism deep into the bedrock of the clear, historic, Apostolic Christian faith, as it is found in the unchanging Word of God from Holy Scripture. It is the faith that has held fast to the truth handed down from generation to generation and weathered the storm of controversy and the bombardment of heresies. We know our Savior, and we will confess him as our incarnate Lord and God though threatened by persecution and schism. While the temptation arises to gloss over this article because it is so basic, historically the enemies of the Church have struck hardest to undermine our confession of Jesus Christ, and the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh continue the assault.

In our post-modern, post-truth era, all of the long-settled heresies spring up new again. Shockingly, they are now being received as a normal expression of “a” Christian faith. We even have Christian Atheists; as though that makes any sense whatsoever. We may scoff at these things, but the populous is so biblically ignorant,

and so intrigued by fanciful tales of hidden or suppressed truths, that the most obvious and contradictory heresies are championed. But none are so dangerous as the ones we create for ourselves. We fabricate our own version of Jesus to suit our preferences. Suddenly the Jesus we worship in our hearts, who tells us that the sins we personally struggle with are actually not so bad, looks very little like the biblical image of Christ, who was so grieved by mankind's sin, that he chose the humiliation of the incarnation and the ransom price of his own suffering and death to free us from those sins we fail to bat-an-eyelash over.

Therefore, confessing the fundamental elements of Scripture, such as the Third Article of the Augsburg Confession and the Creeds, becomes even more important and relevant to our faith and worship as it articulates the basic Scriptural tenets, unites the universal Church in doctrine, guards against heresy, and restrains our own sinful natures that crave the idols we fashion for ourselves rather than the true Christ. To those who elevate the Word of God as the true rule and norm, to which everything else must conform, this may feel like stating the obvious, but in a fallen world that perpetually rebels and wanders its own way, a strong confession anchors us in the truth of God's Word.

God had commanded the Israelites to commit the doctrines of the faith to their memories and hearts. He repeatedly instructed this, saying: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deut. 6:4-9). Young and old were commanded to never cease renewing their confession of the doctrines they have received, that they may remain steadfast in the face of temptation and falsehood. We also commit them to our hearts, minds, and lips that we may continue to walk in the truth and to equip the next generation for the battles they will face.

We must keep stating the obvious, so that it remains obvious.

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## Message From the President

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thank you to all who were involved in our Easter celebration—Pastor Jon, the choir, Parish Life for a delicious breakfast and the poke bags for our shut-ins, and the Altar Guild and Property Committees and helpers for beautifying our sanctuary and grounds. Many hands=many thanks!

At our April 17 church council meeting we:

Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

- Received a note from **Treasurer Robert Hamrick that he would have to step down from those duties** for personal reasons. He kindly said he would not relinquish his responsibilities until the church council had appointed a replacement. Thank you, Robert, for your faithful service.
  - Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
  - Discussed the need for **replacement/upgrade of our security systems** (cameras, motion sensors). Pastor Jon will review and recommend the appropriate equipment, which we will probably be able to install ourselves.
  - Heard from Linda Licht that the **workday for our cabin at Camp Linn Haven** will probably be May 6.
  - Heard from Parish Life that 53+ enjoyed the **Easter brunch** and **12 poke bags** (some double) were delivered to out shut-ins.
  - Learned that money for children's books was being sent to the Laotchikit, Haiti, school as a **memorial for God's Hand Clericus. Pastor Campbell** from Gary, Indiana, has accepted a call and is leaving that congregation in so he is no longer eligible for support as a missionary.
  - Heard from Outreach and Community Concerns that \$230 was raised for the **Medical Loan Closet**. As a sponsor for the **Open Arms Life Walk**, we will place brochures and pens in the bags given to the walkers. \$500 was sent to the Atkins family to help with **funeral expenses** for the son of one of our preschool teachers.
  - Heard that there will be another **cleanup/planting day** on April 29. The **handicap parking spot** with drainage problems will be repaired after utility lines are located.

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, May 15, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

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# Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the altar cross with the lilies. Thank you to all who sponsored the lilies for Easter Services.

Rose Steen- in memory of Don Steen	Jackie Fry- in memory of parents
Betty Ude- in memory of Bill Ude	Jan Tharp- in memory of Larry Tharp
Kathy Ude- in memory of Bill Ude	Bill Kruse- in memory of Maryann Kruse
Barbara Volk- in memory of Jim Volk	Debbie & Bill Leger- in memory of parents
White Family	Bob & Judy Morin- in memory of parents
Lyn Heiple- for family memories	John & Debby Zagone- in memory of Sally Hardy
Linda Albright- in memory of my brother Robert Leech	
Rappley Family- in memory of uncle Harold Timlick	
Sylvia Gonzalez- in memory of brother Andy Mc Kinney	
Craig & Michele Escude`- in memory of mother Brenda Price Cookston	
Homero Gonzalez- in memory of grandmother Julia Mejorado	
Zoe Christensen- in memory of Matthew Christensen	

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## Outreach & Community Concerns



The mission of the month for May is Open Arms Pregnancy Center. This organization is located on Haywood Road in Hendersonville. They provide free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, abortion pill rescue support, and counseling. In addition to those medical services, they also give new moms any baby equipment, clothing (for mom and baby), diapers, wipes, formula, etc. that they may need. The moms who choose life for their babies also get to come back once a month until their child is 18 months old to pick up diapers, wipes, clothing, and any equipment they may need.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Open Arms will host their annual Run for Life held in Flat Rock Park. Several members from Mt Pisgah will be participating. We would love to have a large group represented. Go here to register:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/FlatRock/Run4for5k> If you are unable to walk with us, please consider putting a check in the offering plate this month for the ladies of Open Arms and their amazing ministry!

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### LWML Rummage Sale, Saturday, June 10th

The annual church rummage sale is coming up. 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, **packed in a plastic tub**. Put your name on the tub if you want it back after the sale. If you have things packed in a plastic tub, you can bring it to the church any time prior to the sale. **If you do not have a plastic tub, please don't bring your donations until 1 week prior to the sale. We are not accepting clothing or large furniture.**

Contact Debby Zagone at (828) 891-2416 if you have any questions.

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## Ladies Lunch



795 Mountain Road, Hendersonville

We will meet there at 11 am Tuesday, June 13.

Sign up to let us know that you plan to come so we can save you a seat! Questions?

Contact Kathy Kirchoefer 301-535-0129

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## **Prayer List**

### **Long Term Illness**

Cynthia M. (Lundquist)  
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**

Madeline Biddle  
Robert Hamrick  
Nona Schmook  
Tricia Heiple  
Patty Metcalf (Luecke)

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  
Linda Rice (McAbee)  
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**

Louise Bauer  
Warna Berryman  
Albert & Marianne Bugner  
Kathleen Fox

Judy Fuchs  
Joann Kapugi  
Suzie Karnatz  
Dianne Luecke

Jan Nelson  
Sue Smith  
Nancy Stang  
Betty Ude

### **Compassion and Sympathy**

### **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)  
Jacob and Marie Sipes (Seminararian)  
Scott and Veronica Missling (Seminararian)  
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminararian)

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## Outdoor Properties

Dear Family in Christ, may the garden of your life bear much fruit for our Risen Savior Jesus. Bill Paris, Outdoor Properties

For the Garden of Your Daily Living  
Plant Three Rows of Peas (Peace)

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce (Let Us)

1. Let Us Be Faithful
2. Let Us Be Kind
3. Let Us Be Patient
4. Let Us Really Love God & Each Other

Plant Three Turnips (Turn Ups)

1. Turn Up for Worship
2. Turn Up for Service
3. Turn Up to Help One Another

Plant Some Thyme (Time)

1. Time for Prayer
2. Time for Family
3. Time Bible Study

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love  
When you do these things, your garden will bear much fruit.  
(Source Unknown, edited by Bill Paris)





Blessed is the man (Godly person) who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law (instruction) of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3 (ESV)

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## Birthday Blessings



05/03 Suzie Karnatz

05/03 Ben Kirchoefer

05/05 John Zagone

05/14 Barbara Hotaling

05/14 Barbara Volk

05/18 Jerome Kaufman

05/19 Lydia Cassidy

05/20 Wendy White

05/26 Jan Tharp

05/29 Erica Genaw

05/30 Donna Clancy

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Barbara Volk - Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church -  
Thank you so much for your very  
kind donation of \$230.00. We are  
pleased that you chose the  
Medical Loan Closet as your Mission  
of the Month. Due to your donation,  
we are able to continue to serve  
our community with durable  
medical equipment.

Most Sincerely,  
Dusty Featherfield  
Executive Assistant

4-5-23  
Dear Friends of Mt. Pisgah,  
What a wonderful  
Easter basket you gave me!  
The children's portion  
were given to families of  
our residents.  
It is wonderful to be  
remembered. Especially the  
copies of Pastor's sermons  
every week. He is very  
special. As our dear friends.  
To Christ -  
Jan Nelson

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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.

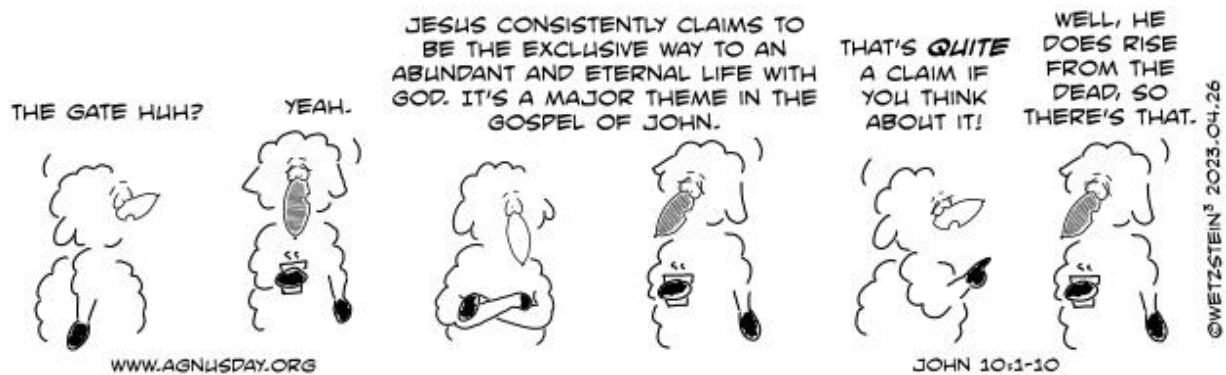
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**For complete information on church events, please visit the website:**

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

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**BIBLE PASSAGE** — “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. — *Fourth Sunday of Easter, Series A*



*You're  
Invited!*

to share your good news!

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Send your story, photos, ideas to  
Karen.Lundquist@yahoo.com

*We can also record your story on video!*