

THE VIEW

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Note from Pastor

Stand or Fall

History attributes to Martin Luther the declaration that “Justification is the article by which the Church stands or falls.” This notion may cause many within the Church to bristle. In today’s era of the Church, doctrine is almost a dirty word, preferring the attitude of “What does it matter what we believe or do as long as we put our trust in Jesus?” Confessions and Creeds are considered antiquated remnants of a bygone time and are replaced with the emotionalism of post-modern sensibilities. But if all that matters is trusting in Jesus, we must ask the questions: “What about Jesus are you trusting in? Who is Jesus? Why should you have faith in him? What does it even mean to have faith?” Answering these questions is the purpose of doctrine. Without it, we fall into false beliefs that separate us from Christ and lead us into condemnation. It doesn’t matter how sincere you feel about a belief; if it is a wrong belief, it only makes you more passionate about the thing that leads to sin and death. And the key doctrine or teaching that separates life from death, salvation from condemnation, is the doctrine of Justification. If it is rightly taught, the Church stands firmly in Christ. If it is wrongly held or rejected, those who oppose this doctrine have everything they believe and teach called into question.

The doctrine of Justification addresses the issue of how sinful man becomes right with God. Is justification a work of man, God, or both? What must we do to be seen as righteous? Is this a gradual process or immediate? When, where, how, and why does the change from sinner to saint occur? Who is justified before God? In response to these concerns, the Lutheran Confessors stated in Article IV of the Augsburg Confession:

Also they [Lutheran Churches] teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, who, by

His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight.
Rom. 3 and 4.

The main areas of contention that the Lutherans clarified with this statement are: the role of man in justification, by what means man is justified, and how justification is delivered to man.

Relating back the old Pelagian heresy, four viewpoints on justification emerged that differentiated between two synergistic (cooperative) and two monergistic (singular) approaches. While everyone agreed that ultimately it is God who justifies, since to attribute salvation and justification solely to the work of man (human monergism) was the heart of the Pelagian Heresy, it was less clear whether or not man contributes or cooperates with God toward his salvation. Although no one directly took the Semi-Pelagian position, where man begins his own justification but God synergistically has to complete it, Rome and the Orthodox Church advocated a similar synergistic understanding where God begins a transformation in man by grace, but man must complete his own righteousness through obedience and good works. Protestant Churches favored divine monergism, in which God both begins and complete justification in man. By his own will and strength, man contributes nothing.

The following Chart may help understand the differing viewpoints. It should be noted that the Lutherans are unique in disguising justification from sanctification. **Anabaptists are not included because they did not have a unifying doctrine.**

	Is Justification a process or an event?	Synergism or Monergism?	Can it be lost?	Connection between Justification and Sanctification
Easter Orthodox	Process (Part of Theosis)	Synergism (God begins, man completes)	Yes. By rejecting the faith or unrepentant, willful sin	They are part of the same process, called Theosis (man becomes like God).
Roman Catholic	Both an Event (conversion/Baptism) and a Process (good works/Sanctification)	Synergism (God begins, man completes)	Yes. Through committing a mortal sin (a more serious sin that is done willfully. i.e. murder)	Part of the same process
Reformed	Event (at Conversion)	Divine Monergism (God alone)	No. The elect cannot lose salvation. (Calvin)	Both are a result of unity with Christ. (Seen as automatically part of salvation)

Lutheran	Event (conversion/Baptism) that is continually being renewed through Word and Sacrament	Divine Monergism (God alone)	Yes. By turning away from the faith.	Distinct from each other. Justification is God's declaration of man's righteous by grace through faith (imputed). This is also know as Forensic Justification. Sanctification is a process by which God makes us holy that begins from when we are justified.
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Rome wanted to elevate good works to promote order through a cause/effect dynamic. This also strengthened the Church as an authority to distribute praise and punishment. They taught that God has justified us in Christ by infusing us with his grace. A spark was injected into us, that we may now complete the good works that earn us favor in God's eyes. Essentially, Jesus began our salvation by making it possible for us to be justified or made right with God, and now it is man's duty to keep it. The problem with this is that it directly contradicts Scripture: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

Protestants, like Calvin, on the other hand, wanted to focus on the sovereignty of God in a predetermined, and somewhat fate driven, way. According to Calvin, God preordained who will be saved and who will not. He rejected the synergism of Rome because you cannot gain or lose what God has already determined from eternity. While this does remove a non-biblical reliance on works for salvation, it also negates faith and the apostolic command for steadfastness from the equation as well. Boiling the justification and sanctification of salvation down to once saved, always saved, leads the Christian dangerously close to sinning all the more that grace may abound, or even worse, a false assurance of salvation apart from faith.

The fact that a believer, who, at one point had faith and salvation in Christ, can lose it through falling into unbelief is made clearly very real and possible in Hebrews 6:

"For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt" Hebrews 6:4-6.

This also rejects the notion that justification can exist apart from faith. This is also why modern Calvinists have moved away from his original teachings on this.

Unlike both the Roman Church and their Protestant peers, Lutherans took an approach toward Justification that let God's work speak for itself. Lutherans taught a forensic or legal view of justification. We are made right with God through the perfect and sinless obedience of Christ being imputed (assigned) to us by God's gracious declaration because of Jesus' intercession. He is our substitute, the sacrificial Lamb of God. His blood pays for our sins that we may receive his righteousness in the exchange. Behold,

the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His atonement appeases God's wrath for our sins. He paid the penalty that we may be declared forgiven for his sake.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (Romans 3:21-28)

Justification resides in the faith that trusts wholeheartedly in Christ Jesus. Faith alone is counted to us as righteousness, yet even faith is a gift from God, given to us by His grace through the working of His Spirit. Justified by God's pronouncement of guilt being covered over by the blood of Jesus, the Christian responds to God's gracious gift with an embracing of the sanctification that is also at work in the believer through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.

But why is Justification the doctrine by which the Church stands or falls? The church stands or falls by this because if you have a right understanding of this, every other doctrine regarding the relationship between God and man, Christology, and Salvation fall into place seamlessly. If you do not have it, then the body of believers are doomed to struggle with unscriptural teachings that elevate man to a position where he can claim credit for his own salvation, either through works righteousness, emotional consent, or by sheer will of man. Therefore, Justification is the key by which the true comforting consolation of new life in Christ are unlocked for the believer. It is no longer about what we do to merit God's love, but the God's declaration that we are already loved and forgiven in Christ Jesus.

Message From the President

I offer thanks to those attending our semi-annual congregational meeting. It is important that the members take their responsibilities seriously by discussing and voting on business that comes before the congregation. As you can see by the reports, our committees have been busy and are ready to answer any questions you have about their activities. We are all blessed to serve our Lord through Mt. Pisgah.

At our May 15 church council meeting we:

- Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Appointed **Dietrich Fabricius to fill the unexpired term of Treasurer.**
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Heard that the **preschool graduation** will be June 16 at Jackson Park.
- Heard from Linda Licht that the **10 members helped with cleanup of the cabin at Camp Linn Haven** and that the **dedication of the new bridge** will be on June 3.

- Learned that the **Mission Committee plans to support** three missionaries and four seminary students in the future.
- Heard that **confirmation** for our one student (Zoe Christensen) will be held on June 18, with examination on June 11.
- Heard that utility lines had been located, allowing repair of **drainage problems** in the handicapped parking area to move forward.
- Agreed to construction of **mulch/compost bins** at the back of the upper parking lot to process our own yard waste.

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). Our next meeting will be Monday, June 12, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

Honor Air Park

Southside Gateway Park is now Honor Air Park to recognize the Blue Ridge Honor Flight and Honor Air programs that take veterans to visit the war memorials in Washington D.C.

City leaders and staff joined Honor Air representatives to unveil the new sign Thursday afternoon.



(Near Fresh Market at Spartanburg Highway)

Outreach & Community Concerns



The mission of the month for June is The Hope Center of Hendersonville. This organization, formally known as Hope Academy, is a day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It was founded in 2007 and is funded by donations from local churches. In early 2020, Hope Academy was rebranded as The Hope Center and purchased a larger facility to better accommodate their growing program. This facility is located on Ridge Road in Hendersonville. According to thehopecenterofhendersonville.org, their mission is as follows:

“It is our mission to nurture an environment where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are valued, provided opportunities, and treated with God’s love and compassion.”

Please consider donating to this mission of the month and helping the Hope Center continue to show God’s love to disabled people and their families in Henderson County.

Carolinas Dist. LWML Retreat Aug. 20-22, 2021

The Metrolina and Southern Zones invite you to the Carolinas District LWML Retreat August 20th—22nd at Camp Linn Haven. Pastor Christopher Stout from Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Center Grove Lutheran and Abundant Life Lutheran Churches in North Carolina, will be our dean for the weekend. Our theme for the weekend will be:

Happiness - What does our Lord's Word have to say about happiness?

How can we as Christians speak to others about the difference between shallow happiness and deep happiness? Are we even all that good at knowing what makes us happy? Our Lord cares greatly for us and desires for us to live a life of contentment and joy and confidence in Him, no matter what we are experiencing. By rejoicing in God's commands and promises, our Lord will bring us closer to Him during this retreat. In Him we have joy that no one and nothing can take away from us. And that is a reason to be happy.

This year there will be an opportunity to just spend one day at the Retreat; if that works better for you, let Kathy Kirchoefer know. More information and registration forms are on the Ladies Guild bulletin board. Registration is due by August 4.

Ladies Guild/LWML News

June Events

Saturday, June 10, annual rummage sale. Set-up will be on Thursday, June 8 starting at 10 am. Proceeds from the sale fund numerous mission projects throughout the year.

Tuesday, June 13, 11 am, meet for lunch at the Book and Bee Café.

At our May meeting, Bill Paris was our special guest and shared some of his story about the long impact the LWML has had on his life. He shared Native American music with us and told us about the Lutheran Indian Ministries, specifically about his work with the Haskell LIGHT Campus Ministry in Kansas. We chose this ministry for our monthly mission to support with a donation.

Annual elections were held, and the following will serve as Ladies Guild/LWML officers starting in September: President, Kathy Kirchoefer; Treasurer, Lydia Cassidy; Secretary, Debby Zagone.

We will be breaking for the summer after our lunch event. Meetings will resume on the second Monday of the month at 1 pm starting in September. Hope you can join us!

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

Michele Escude`
Dietrich Fabricius
Jackie Fry
Madeline Biddle
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
Karen Ude
Nancy Stang
Joann Kapugi
Kaufman Family

Debbie Leger
Sandi Rivers (Ryel)
Wayne & Karen Mathis
(Steen)

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 (Seminarian)
Scott and Veronica Missling (Seminarian)
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminarian)



Birthday Blessings

06/05 William (Bill) Paris
06/06 Arianna Maloney
06/09 Theresa Doster

06/10 Sue Glossop
06/18 Jenny Emerson
06/19 Diane Sanborn

06/25 Daniel Kirchoefer
06/26 Betty Ude
06/27 Janie McKinley



Baptismal Blessings

Jerry Kaufman 6/1
Barbara Hotaling 6/4
Judy Fuchs 6/17
Jackie Fry 6/20

Wendy White 6/20
Diane Sanborn 6/21
Lindsay Middleton 6/24
Jenny Emerson 6/25

Lydia Cassidy 6/26
Sue Glossop 6/26
Ben Kirchoefer 6/28
Bill Weege 6/28

June Mission Trip

I have the honor of representing our congregation on a trip with Alaska Mission for Christ during June 17-24. I will be joining a team from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado. This "Work & Witness" team will be doing several projects in Anchorage for a variety of ministries. These include the Lutheran Social Services Mobile Food Pantry, the Community Pregnancy Center, another food pantry, a homeless shelter, and perhaps Anchor Lutheran School. We will also be helping at the RAIS (Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services) World Refugee Day event on June 22nd. We will be staying at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak, Alaska.



Since I helped Lutheran Indian Ministries in Fairbanks for 3 months in 2018, I am familiar with the many aspects of missions in Alaska. Most of the 20 distinct Alaskan Native cultures are represented in Anchorage. All of the personal and social problems caused by sin and historical trauma are found among these people. All of the spiritual barriers experienced by missionaries are present. The collision between the traditional indigenous ways and various non-indigenous customs is also alive and well. And yet, there are many examples of cooperation, reconciliation, the spreading of the Gospel, and celebration of the people and the land. I am looking forward to all of this and the events associated with the start of summer on June 21st in Alaska

Please pray:

- ❖ That Jesus would be at the center of all we do
- ❖ For God to grant opportunities to share the Gospel
- ❖ That the Holy Spirit would prepare people to hear and understand the Gospel
- ❖ For safety and good health when traveling and working
- ❖ For good weather and no environmental situations (fires, earthquakes, etc.)

- ❖ For each AMC team member to grow in their faith
- ❖ For the AMC team to work together in Christ's wisdom, love, and forgiveness

Thank you for your prayers!

Bill Paris



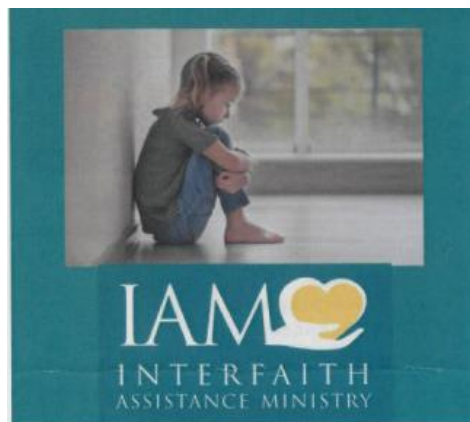
Thanking God up



Midnight sun at



Teen Camp baptisms



Thank You for Your Support!
Faith communities are the heart of service to our neighbors in need.

We are grateful for the congregations that donated food and/or clothing to IAM in March. Your support makes our mission possible. Thank you!

Immaculate Conception Catholic	Emanuel Baptist
Mt. Pisgah Lutheran	Providence Baptist
Fletcher Seventh Day Adventist	St. Barnabas Catholic
Pinecrest Presbyterian	St. John in the Wilderness
Grace Lutheran	First Congregational
Hendersonville Presbyterian	Zion Hill Baptist
Mt. Pisgah Lutheran	Moore's Grove United Methodist
Trinity Presbyterian	Arden Street Ministries
West Hendersonville Baptist	

Thank You!!

Dear Saints at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran,

Greetings to you! This is a new update from Scot Missling, the 4th year MDiv student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis that you have offered to support through the Adopt-A-Student Program. I am profoundly grateful for the continued financial assistance you provide toward my education as I continue in my final year at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. I humbly continue to ask for your continued prayers and assistance as I work towards finishing my class work this spring and entering into full-time parish ministry this summer!

I am delighted to announce that on Call Day 2023 I received a Divine Call to serve the Lord's people as their pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota! Praise God!

I am thrilled with my call and very much looking forward to my ordination and installation later this summer. Returning to Minnesota was something that my wife and I hoped would be possible one day but to be able to return so soon after completing seminary is a joy and a privilege that we feel extremely lucky to have received.

As my time at Concordia Seminary comes to an end, I have been taking a course on Lutheran hymnody and church music which has been an extremely fun class. I am also taking an exegetical course on Revelation which has been a theological beast to wrangle with but also a lot of fun. I am also taking a course on Pastoral Theology and Leadership. My readings and paper assignments will continue to keep me very busy right up until Commencement on May 19th and the conclusion of classes.

I have enclosed two photos with this letter. One is of Veronica, Sophia, and I on Call Day. The other is another picture from Call Day but is a group of my seminary classmates and their wives who I am very happy to call dear friends. We will be very sad when we all must move away to take our calls to serve the church in various states.

I want to again thank you for your prayers and support throughout this final semester. As my family and I look towards our future in parish ministry, specifically now as we look towards serving the saints at Bethlehem, we have nothing but thanksgiving and gratitude for how you have blessed us and supported us on our journey.

I wish you and yours a blessed Easter! Christ is risen! As always, I would love to hear from you via mail, e-mail, or phone call and I hope that you continue to be well and enjoy good health. God is gracious and generous to have provided me with supporters like you and I give thanks daily for all your support.

In Christ,



Camp Linn Haven



Thanks to you who donated your time, talents, & treasures to add that special sparkle to Cabin 17—Pastor Jon, Sarah, Zoe, & Remy Christiansen; Sue Glossop; Homero Gonzalez; Mike & Belinda Luecke; & Bill Paris.

I am so very grateful for our Saturday outing at “my slice of heaven!”

Love to you all! Linda Licht

NEW DONATION STATION

Mt. Pisgah will be adding a Donation Station to the Narthex. Three collection bins will be located to the right as you enter the church. For many years, we have been continuously collecting food items for Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM). Instead of having the receptacle down a side hallway, we will be moving the drop-off location into the Narthex and adding two other reception bins to it.

One of additional bins will receive gently used clothing items for IAM. Instead of making a special trip, you can bring items with you to church, and we will deliver it for you.

The third receptacle is for donating used sneakers. Instead of sending your old tennis shoes to a landfill, the GotSneakers? Organization provides a fundraiser that partners with non-profits to either reuse sneakers in second-hand markets or to ecologically recycle those that cannot be used again. The organization will donate funds back to our Youth accounts for the shoes (Sneakers Only) that we contribute.

If you have food, clothing, or sneakers that you do not need and others may benefit from, please check out our Donation Station in the Narthex.

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.

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.

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

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

*You're
Invited!*

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

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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

We can also record your story on video!

June 18th at the 10:45 AM service



Please Join the Christensen Family as Zoe Christensen is being confirmed

Congratulations



Taylor McAbee, Dailyn Rappley, Peyton Alford have finished High School

Congratulations

We thank God for another school year completed. We look forward to their next school year.

Michele Maloney, Arianna Maloney, Tyler Maloney, Gracie Maloney, Remy Christensen, Zoe Christensen, Anna Emerson, Garrett Hawthorne, Troy Mckinney, Jessica Luecke and our Mt. Pisgah preschoolers.
