

THE VIEW

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Augsburg Confession and Defense—Article IX: Pro-Baptism, Anti-Anabaptist

Hey! Don't put us in the same category as those guys!

In both the Augsburg Confession and its Defense, the Lutheran Confessors strongly react to their theological adversaries lumping them in with other protestant groups without any nuance or discernment. This is especially true with even the slightest suggestion of association with the Anabaptists. Why were the Lutherans so adamantly opposed to the Anabaptists? Well, there were several reasons, including:

- They promoted personal feelings and personal “revelations” rather than Scripture
- They had no doctrinal consistency
- They were anarchists, who stirred large portions of their ranks to terrible violence while some were absolute pacifists (eventually the pacifists won out, because the violent ones got themselves killed in mass numbers)
- They practiced extreme fanaticism that led to all manner of strange practices, including sharing their wives with the leadership and individuals claiming direct revelation from God apart from (and often contradictory to) Scripture
- They had no desire to reform the church of the man-made abuses. Instead, they desired to start their own based on their own man-made teachings.
- Aggressive Anabaptist leader, Thomas Muntzer, riled up the peasants by twisting protestant teachings and encouraging the Peasant's Revolt. Even the pacifists encouraged the revolt. Although Luther initially agreed with the peasant's complaints, when they began to riot and murder, Luther urged the princes to restore order. The princes took it as license to respond with intense violence. More than 100,00 peasants were killed.

All these things made the Anabaptists dangerous to society, but it was the one thing that bound the Anabaptists together that was the most detestable to the Lutherans: The Anabaptists rejected the

Scriptural and historical teachings on Baptism in favor of a new interpretation that recast Baptism as a personal work that people do as a cognitive assent to faith.

Scripture and the church fathers had taught the Baptism is a saving work of God (a sacrament) that was instituted and commanded by Jesus as a means of grace through which we die to sin and become alive in him. We are reborn as the unfailing promise of God washes away of our sin and unites us as one body in Christ and to each other through Christ.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:3-11)

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:3-7)

The Anabaptists rejected all of this, believing that baptism is man's acceptance of God, rather than God's acceptance of man. The one unifying thread of all Anabaptists was that they all called into to question the validity of baptism if it were not made by someone who was able to articulate their faith prior to the washing. They believed that people needed to be "re-baptized" as a sign of their commitment.

Since the Anabaptists taught that baptism was a sign of an individual's acceptance of Jesus, this meant that no one prior to some abstract notion of an age of accountability and a public declaration of faith could be baptized. Therefore, children could not be baptized, and anyone who was baptized as a child was invalid. This also had a ripple effect backward as people questioned whether their deceased loved ones were actually saved, since they were not rebaptized according to this new teaching.

Today, some theological inheritors of the Anabaptist teach that a person needs to be rebaptized multiple times if they had wavered in the faith or struggled with sin. They may even teach that every time they join a new congregation, they need to be rebaptized into that congregation. In America, the only "true" descendants of the Anabaptists are the Amish and the Mennonites, but the teachings worked themselves into also into American Evangelicalism. Despite the theology of the re-baptizers being contradictory to Scripture, it became popular because people like to boast that they chose Jesus as well as making faith about the individual's decision to have a relationship with Jesus rather than Jesus' redemption of the world and the Holy Spirit's call to faith in Christ.

During the reformation, all of Christendom, both Roman and protestant, was appalled by the theology and the actions of Anabaptists, and the Roman Church was quick to associate all these “protestants” together. When the Lutherans presented their Confession before Emperor and the world, their intent was to demonstrate from Scripture that the Lutherans were faithful in all their doctrines to the Word of God, and to show that these teachings were affirmed by the church fathers. But you cannot clearly define what you believe, unless you also narrow that definition by what is rejected. Therefore, in the ninth article of their Confession, the Lutherans wrote:

¹ Of Baptism they teach that it is necessary ² to salvation, and that through Baptism is offered the grace of God, and that children are to be baptized who, being offered to God through Baptism are received into God’s grace.

³ They condemn the Anabaptists, who reject the baptism of children, and say that children are saved without Baptism.

The Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession goes into even greater detail to affirm the Biblical and historical teaching on baptism while condemning the harmful teachings of the Anabaptists.

And since the Gospel is taught among us purely and diligently, by God’s favor we receive also from it this fruit, that in our Churches no Anabaptists have arisen [have not gained ground in our Churches], because the people have been fortified by God’s Word against the wicked and seditious faction of these robbers. And as we condemn quite a number of other errors of the Anabaptists, we condemn this also, that they dispute that the baptism of little children is profitable. For it is very certain that the promise of salvation pertains also to little children [that the divine promises of grace and of the Holy Ghost belong not alone to the old, but also to children]. It does not, however, pertain to those who are outside of Christ’s Church, where there is neither Word nor Sacraments, because the kingdom of Christ exists only with the Word and Sacraments. Therefore it is necessary to baptize little children, that the promise of salvation may be applied to them, according to Christ’s command, Matt. 28:19: *Baptize all nations*. Just as here salvation is offered to all, so Baptism is offered to all, to men, women, children, infants. It clearly follows, therefore, that infants are to be baptized, because with Baptism salvation [the universal grace and treasure of the Gospel] is offered.

The Lutherans go on to point out that if the Holy Spirit was not given by God to those who were baptized as infants, then how is it that the Holy Spirit has been present and working through holy men in the church throughout its history, since there is historical evidence that many of the church fathers were baptized into the Christian faith as infants, all the way back to the ministry of the Apostles. “Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’” (Acts 2:38-39) Thus, the Lutheran Confessors write: “For if this [infant] baptism would be in vain, the Holy Ghost would be given to none, none would be saved, and finally there would be no Church.”

The strong confession of Baptism’s necessity is still a foundational pillar of Lutherans today. They are encouraged to daily reflect upon their Baptism as the assurance of God’s grace and mercy for the sake of Christ Jesus. A Christian never needs to worry whether or not they have earned God’s love, because they can remember the unchanging Word of God that was declared to them in Holy Baptism. Baptism is God’s

promise to us of forgiveness and a guarantee of everlasting life, now and always. This we receive by faith (trusting in the word and promise of God), and we know that the promise will always hold steadfast because this is God's doing, not ours.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

As we enjoy the beauty of the fall colors, please remember to include in your prayers rain for our area. We are in a moderate drought and will need to be cautious of our water usage until our rivers are flowing freely again.

At our October 16 church council meeting we:

- Reviewed the **financial reports and draft 2024 budget** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Heard that the **children's Christmas program** will be December 20.
- Approved sending on to the congregational meeting a recommendation from the elders to **hold one service on Sundays** instead of two, due to lower attendance at both.
- Heard that there is a possibility of a Mt. Pisgah **mission trip to a village in Alaska** next summer, if enough people are interested.
- Received reports on the **Missions of the Month**: The September MOM, Patchwork Foster Closet, received \$215 and many packs of socks, underwear, and diapers. October's is Back on Track addiction ministry. In addition, four new **infant car seats** were purchased for Open Arms Pregnancy Center. We will have a booth at Hendersonville's Main Street "**Treat Street**" fair on Halloween and have been collecting candy.
- Learned that the **Christmas luncheon** has been scheduled for December 17.
- Heard that six people participated in **property cleanup** and that moles in one of the play areas are being discouraged through use of coffee grounds in their tunnel entrances.

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, November 13, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

Congregational Voters Meeting

Sunday Nov. 19th at 9:15 am, between the services. Everyone is encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

Outreach and Community Concerns



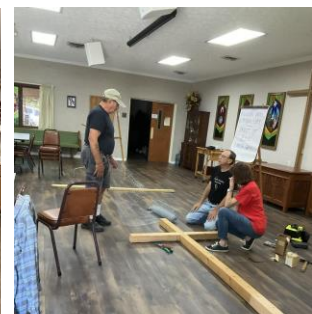
Our Mission of the Month for November is The Storehouse. This nonprofit organization provides food and hygiene items to people in need. Here is their mission according to their website:

It's been our vision and ongoing mission since 2000, that each person in Henderson County has sufficient food and hygiene items to live life with dignity and without hunger. Through our partnerships within the community, we can provide regular food boxes for individuals and families in need.

We serve approx. 325 families monthly and individuals of all ages. Most clients pick up their food boxes at 1049 Spartanburg Highway. Our countywide delivery routes assist 50+- seniors to fill the gaps *for those most in need*. These deliveries help seniors extend their budgets, filling in the gaps and assuring better nutrition.

Throughout the year we also partner with Henderson County Public Schools to help with school supplies and snacks, Blessings in Boxes for local children at Christmas, and Thanksgiving groceries for 35-40 families.

Please consider donating funds to The Storehouse by placing a check in the offering plate anytime during the month of November.



Giving Thanks for the Apple Festival Float

Thank you everyone who helped make and ride on our Apple Festival Float in September! A special thank you to Marc Taylor (Preschool parent) and his family for lending us his truck, trailer, and several bales of hay! May the witness we gave about the “labor” Jesus did for all people bring many into His eternal home! (Bill Paris, Float Coordinator)

Prayer List

Long Term Illness

Cynthia M. (Lundquist)
Michael Terzian (Keeney)
Brian Keeney
Joyce (Kruse)

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

Annette & Jim Bodden
(Heaphy)

Surgeries and Illness

Sue Buttery (Rappley)
Marianne Bugner
Albert Bugner
Donald Young (Rappley)
Marjorie Zell
David Moore (Gonzalez)
Dewayne Grooms
(Gonzalez)

Kurt Dellutri
Jackie Fry
Madeline Biddle
Jan Tharp
Wally Rose Mincer
Joe Gabriel (Amato)
Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)
Joanne Blanchard (Clancy)

David Hawthorne
Vicki Fisher
Mary Hill
Betty Ude

Personal and Family Concerns

Roger & Kay Lund
(Heaphy)
John Renick
Nancy Stang
Joann Kapugi

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

Teresa Fisher & children
Colby & Audrey
(Kaufman)
Karen Ude

Homebound

Warna Berryman
Albert & Marianne Bugner
Kathleen Fox
Joann Kapugi

Suzie Karnatz
Dianne Luecke
Jan Nelson
Sue Smith

Nancy Stang
Betty Ude

Compassion and Sympathy

Ministry Concerns

Christopher and Nicole Duncan (preschool parents health issues with son)
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, Dominion Republic)
Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminararian)
Josiah and Hannah Schultz (Seminararian)
Jacob and Caroline Moede (Seminararian)

Birthday Blessings

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 11/07 Alan Clancy | 11/17 Dietrich Fabricius | 11/25 Herb Spies |
| 11/09 Paul Mincer | 11/17 David Hawthorne | 11/25 Kathleen Weege |
| 11/11 Philip Anderson | 11/20 Craig Escude` | 11/28 Nancy Stang |
| 11/11 Margi McLain | 11/24 Robert Morin | 11/30 Peter Kawa |
| 11/13 Carol Heaphy | 11/25 Lily Emerson | |

Thank You Notes

Just want you to know
how much everything you do
is appreciated.

MPLP Teachers & Staff
I can't even put into words the
gratitude I feel in my heart for
all of you. For the past 3+ years
you all have loved & cared for &
taught my children about Jesus.
I'm completely heartbroken that Jude
won't be attending here through pre-k.
We will miss all of your sweet
smiling faces & we will always hold
a special place for MPLP in our
hearts. Love to you all - Jenny Adams

The car seats are such a
help to our moms and
their little ones.
Thank you so much for
the generous gift, and for
being such a faithful
friend to Open Arms
Pregnancy Center!

I've been wishing this day away for a long time. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for loving Jensen, for keeping him safe everyday (& through a pandemic), getting him ready academically for kindergarten having him learn about the Lord, and for having patience as he grows.

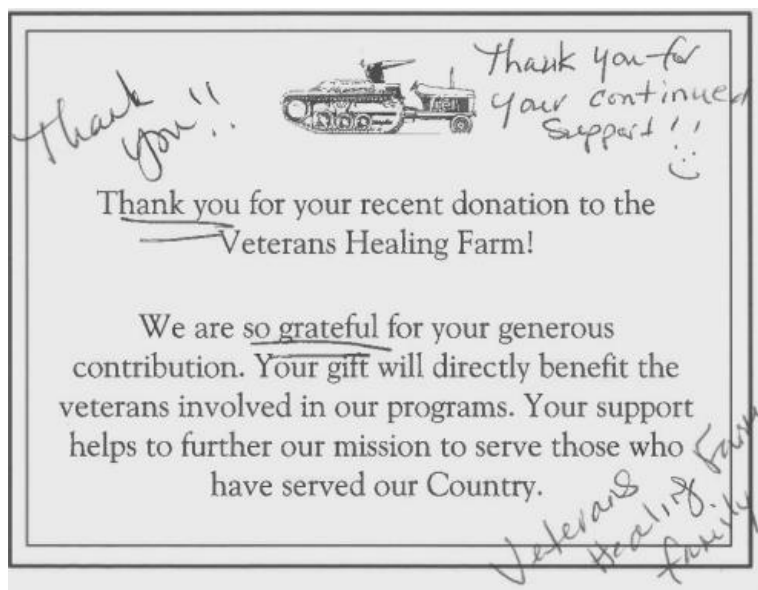
I always have felt that he was in caring arms here & I pray that he

will get the same love and feeling of comfort as he has at this preschool

I also want to thank you all for the love you shown our family through our valley of death. The Lord blessed us greatly with this school and we are forever grateful. ♡ We will miss you all.

Love,
The Rogers, Taylor, Melissa & Jensen

Joann Kapugi would like to thank everyone for the cards and goodie bags that she receives. They mean so much to know she is thought of and cared about.



Dear Mt. Pisgah Family,

We are overjoyed to hear from you and thankful for the gifts you sent. Thank you for the quilt, blanket, sweater, and hat, they are all beautifully made. We are also grateful for the financial support, your help has been a great blessing to our family. Baby girl is due soon; we will send pictures once she is born. Thank you again for reaching out to us. God's blessings to you all!

In Christ,

Jacob, Caroline, and Baby Maude



For flowers that bloom about our feet, Father, we thank Thee. For tender grass so fresh, so sweet, Father, we thank Thee. For the song of bird and hum of bee, for all things fair we hear or see, Father in heaven, we thank Thee. For blue of stream and blue of sky, Father, we thank Thee. For pleasant shade of branches high, Father, we thank Thee. For fragrant air and cooling breeze, for beauty of the blooming trees, Father in heaven, we thank Thee. For this new morning with its light, Father, we thank Thee. For rest and shelter of the night, Father, we thank Thee. For health and food, for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness sends, Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

Thank you to our Military active-retired-veteran and unknown heroes

/Code Girl

July 26, 2019

FOR A FALL 2019 ISSUE

Word count: 984

TE's Own Code Girl

According to a book titled *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II*, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army recruited about 11,000 code girls during the course of WW II. Perhaps it's not too surprising, then, that one of them now resides at Tryon Estates. Her name is Iva Lee Rymer.

In fact, a second code girl—Margarite Runck—also lived at TE until her death in 2014. Sadly, Iva Lee never knew that Margarite was a code girl. In fact, until the book came out in 2017 and the TE library acquired a copy, Iva Lee had never told a living soul that she had been a code girl. Not her husband, not their two children, not their six grandchildren, not their eight great-grandchildren, no one.

"The first thing you learned was never talk about your job," Iva Lee says.

Each code girl was required to sign a secrecy oath, swearing that she would not discuss her work—ever. "To do so opened her up to prosecution under the Espionage Act," wrote Liza Mundy, author of *Code Girls*. The code girls were repeatedly impressed that speaking of their work could betray to the Germans or the Japanese that the United States was breaking their codes. A violation of the secrecy oath carried a fine of \$10,000 or 10 years in prison.

With the publication of a number of books about the cryptographers during WW II, and now the *Code Girls*, Iva Lee has come forward.

Iva Lee was born and raised in Asheville, NC, where her father worked for Southern Railway. She went to Biltmore Junior College—today the University of North Carolina at Asheville—and was a music major.

After the war started, she saw an advertisement in a local paper indicating that workers were needed in Washington, DC. The ad didn't say what kind of work.

"My friend and I applied and got the job right away. We took a test," Iva Lee recalls. Music majors were wanted because musical talent involves the ability to follow patterns and was considered an indicator of code-breaking aptitude.

Iva Lee and her girlfriend took a train to DC and moved into a boardinghouse. She thinks that her office was in an agriculture building. It might have been in Foggy Bottom, site of the U.S. Navy headquarters and the neighboring Munitions Building, where the U.S. Army's code-breaking operations were located for a time on an upper floor. Working in those temporary wartime structures that had been built during WW I was like working in a "multistory warehouse," according to *Code Girls*. Iva Lee recalls that she worked for the Air Force, which was part of the Army until 1947.

She says her work consisted of filing, which probably involved sorting intercepted messages. Maintaining files of coded messages was the first step in code breaking so that a new intercept could be compared to one that had come in months earlier. During WW II, code breaking was "a gigantic team effort," according to *Code Girls*, involving the managing of vast quantities of information and spotting scattered coincidences.

Iva Lee admits the work was routine and boring. But then a change came.

"Four of us—three teachers I was thrown in with—were told we'd be sent somewhere," Iva Lee recalls. "But we didn't know where." She had hoped they'd be sent to Florida, but instead it

was Memphis, TN. The same thing happened to other code girls. One group hoped they would be sent to California, but instead ended up in Dayton, OH.

At the time Iva Lee went to Memphis, the Army had just sent her brother to Australia, where he survived the war in the Pacific and ultimately lived to be about 100.

The office in Memphis was in a locked hangar, and the code girls were dealing with coded messages about supplies and planes in the Atlantic. One girl worked on “machine coding,” Iva Lee recalls. IBM machines compared multidigit code groups. While in Memphis, Iva Lee took private flying lessons and learned to pilot a plane.

Eventually, the Memphis office was closed, and Iva Lee didn’t want to go back to DC. So she returned to Asheville and got a job at a radio station writing ads and then at an insurance company.

She met and married her husband, Frank, who worked for the Air Force’s weather service and after the war was stationed in Guam where he flew through hurricanes. When he was transferred to Tokyo, Iva Lee joined him and worked in a building across from a Japanese palace. Amazingly, TE resident Jean Goehner worked in the same building at the same time, although the two women never met back then.

Later transfers took Iva Lee and Frank to Nebraska and then Alaska at the time it became a state in 1959. After that, they spent four years in Illinois and finally were sent to the weather service in Washington, DC, where they lived for 20 years until Frank ended his career.

By then, their daughters Leslie and Stacy were grown, and Iva Lee and Frank retired to Fletcher, NC. Iva Lee had owned a music studio when they lived in Washington and served as president of the Music Teachers of Northern Virginia. She continued with her music in Hendersonville. The couple traveled extensively in retirement—Europe, the western United States, South America, and Russia—before moving to Tryon Estates in 2003.

Frank died about four years later. Today, Iva Lee is 98.

“During the war, I felt like I was doing something important,” says Iva Lee.

The author of *Code Girls* quotes military and congressional sources who said, after the war, that the cryptographers saved “many thousands of lives” and “shortened the war” by years.

“We are proud to have Iva Lee as a resident at Tryon Estates,” says Executive Director Dee James.



November 2023

October Meeting

Judy Edwards from Four Seasons Foundation gave a presentation about the services that Four Seasons provides, specifically Palliative Care and Hospice Care for those with a serious or terminal illness. We were all encouraged by the presenter to reach out to Four Seasons whenever we find ourselves or a loved one facing end of life issues due to serious or terminal illness. Sooner is always better in these situations. Thanks to Rose Steen for arranging for Judy to come to our meeting.

November Meeting

Planning time again! We will be talking about a December project, a Christmas party, and the possibility of a LWML Sunday in the spring. Join us for a devotion, refreshments, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ as we strive to “serve the Lord with gladness.” Our next meeting will be Monday, November 13.

Mission Board Update

Glory to our Heavenly Father for the abounding blessings to the Mission Work of Mount Pisgah! Highlights of our work:

Commitments received to fund the increased need for Lutheran education in Haiti as the country’s turmoil continues without resolution. Seven schools committed and payroll transparency procedures implemented in all. Staff required to provide evidence of individual signed receipt of payroll before next payroll funding. All funding through dedicated gifts. Please see Pastor Walta’s letter of thanks below.

Commitment made to fund increased need for medicine for school children in Haiti. Watch for the fundraiser this winter!

Support of Armenian Christians forced to leave 30-year home land by Azerbaijan with 50 family displacement kits through Samaritan’s Purse.

Alaska Missions for Christ Summer 2024 VBS opportunity – please see Bill Paris or Barbara Volk for more information

Quarterly financial support to LCMS missionaries in Czech Republic, Dominican Republic and Japan.

Baby gift of handmade quilt, crocheted sweater and knitted blanket as well as cash for nursery needs to Seminarian Jacob Moede and his wife.

Please talk with any member of the mission board to learn more and pray for those in need, known and unknown.

Letter Dated October 6th, 2023

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Mount Pisgah Lutheran Church

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus-Christ, the incarnate One, the only Hope of this world.

We give thanks to God for His continuous blessings and especially for the gift of His Son Jesus who came to set us free from the bondage of the evil one. This is to thank you for all you do on behalf of our brothers and Sisters in Central-Plateau Haiti. You are a blessing for thousands of children there. You are a blessing for our twelve Lutheran churches/schools and our eight preaching stations in the Central-Plateau.

PAYROLL IN THE SCHOOLS

The Seminarian Herman Augustin thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer of Savane Haleine (*This school is sponsored by Mt. Pisgah at \$500 per month for 10 months per school year.*)

The Seminarian Renan Michel thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer of Savane A Palmes *(This school is sponsored by Mt. Pisagah at \$500 per month for 10 months per school year.)*

The Seminarian Ronald Dumercier thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer of Nan Tidjo Maissade *(This school is sponsored by an adult Sunday School class of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at \$400 per month for 10 months per school year.)*

The Seminarian Eugène Tijeune Thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer of Lagwanm II Wannikete *(This school is sponsored by a private donor at \$300 per month for 10 months per school year.)*

The Seminarian Wilna Jeannith thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer in Laotchikit *(This is the original and largest school which is sponsored by Mt. Pisgah at \$1,767 per month for 10 months per school year for the elementary grades. Additional support is sent in the summer for the staff who work year-round and to feed the children living at the church in the children's shelters. Education for the middle and high school students is through individual scholarships.)*

The Seminarian Lipson Fabien thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer in Nan Fombrun *(This school is sponsored by a private donor at \$300 per month for 10 months per school year.)*

The Pastor Almage thanks you for the payroll in the school Reformer of Savann Platt *(This school is sponsored by Mt. Pisagah at \$500 per month for 10 months per school year.)*

All the other Seminarians and principals thank you so much for all you do for the churches and schools in Central-Plateau, Haiti. Pastor Samuel and the Seminarian Accilien Louithène thank you very much for the payroll of Reformer of Pass Bonbon that they receive from Eternal Lutheran Church monthly.

With these payrolls and scholarships for students you arrive to:

Make the difference in the lives of thousands of children;

Create at least 84 jobs in these schools in Central-Plateau. That's your participation to contribute to reduce poverty;

Help to preach the Gospel. Some Seminarians are working in these schools as principals or teachers. So, they receive something now from these schools.

So, with the payroll, you are helping the schools, the community, the country, and the world. The best way we can help the country now for the future is education. Thank you very much.

FULL TRANSPARENCY. The Seminarian Dimitry Clercius is taking pictures of all the persons who are paid by you. So, you will receive a document where you can see the pictures of all the principals and the teachers. Pictures of the students will arrive daily, weekly, monthly.

You will receive report payroll. No doubt in this process. We have full transparency in what they are doing there. All the teachers sign when they receive the money. They will scan the payrolls and I will transfer them to you.

Also, you can continue to pray for them. You can talk to them also, when possible, for you. Dimitry visits regularly all these schools now, for me. He has good telephone with internet. He can help us to see and greet the students, the principals, and the teachers directly too.

THE SEMINARY

As you know that in Central-Plateau, we are training Leaders for our churches. We receive support from you. Soon, we will have 20 Lutheran ordained pastors for 12 churches and preaching stations in Central-Plateau. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Luke 10:2). That's why we are currently training more than 90 seminarians through online classes there. Also, we have other students in 8 countries in the world: Burundi, Togo, Senegal, France, USA, Canada, Dominican Republic, and Haiti. Our professors are Canadians, Americans, Haitians and Frenches. The small Seminary of Laotchikit becomes an international one now, with your money. Praise Lord. Thank you very much. I invite you to greet online, when possible, for you the Seminarians one Saturday while they are in class or while they are eating in the Seminary. You can meet them via Microsoft Teams.

OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Haiti

Please pray for uniforms for one thousand students

Please pray for medicine for one thousand students (3 schools)

Please pray for a three cycle

We want to reinforce our thanks to you. What you are doing is a blessing for the people there and your work is not vain in the Lord.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Laotchikit is expressing once again its gratitude to you for all you do.

May God's continuing blessings be yours through all the year ahead!

Brotherly yours in the Resurrected One,

Pastor Walta Clercius

First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Laotchikit, Haiti

Sponsors Needed for 116 Middle & High School Students

Please consider sponsoring a student to attend middle or high school for the 2023-2024 school year. Tuition, books and uniforms for the year is \$120 per student and we need your help. There are 116 students who need a sponsor for this school year.

With all the crises that occurs in Haiti, we are delighted to share the success of the students attending middle and high school at the Lutheran School of Laotchikit. Students in middle and high school take classes in math, biology, science, history, French, English, Spanish, Creole, chemistry, and health sciences as well as attend chapel each week. These classes require teachers who are well trained in their subject matter. The staff salaries for the elementary school are

sponsored by dedicated gifts. But once students reach middle and high school, they need individual sponsors.

We have learned much over the last six years that the scholarship program has existed. We learned it is dangerous for young teens to walk two hours to attend middle school in Hinche. We learned the students are more successful if they attend school in Laotchikit where the principal knows each student and their parents. Because the students are more successful attending school in their own village, the Lutheran School in Laotchikit started adding a grade level each school year and now a student can attend high school in Laotchikit through the 11th grade.

We learned that students in school are less likely to join gangs or get pregnant at a young age. We learned that when students learn about the love of God through Jesus Christ, they teach their parents and siblings what they learn at home. Students are taught about sexual purity in school and they strive to sanctify themselves by remaining sexually pure. We learned that paying the school staff a fair wage keeps qualified people teaching at the school. Many dedicated, talented high school teachers have moved to Laotchikit because of their work at the school.

The Lutheran School of Laotchikit has proven their success. National law requires students to take a national exam in the 9th grade to be allowed to continue to 10th grade. Of the 23 students from Laotchikit who took the national 9th grade exam, 22 students passed! This is an excellent pass rate compared to the national pass rate of other high schools in Haiti.

Students are required to take the National Philosophy exam or Philo exam to graduate high school. The Philo exam is taken after 13th grade. Each student must pass the Philo exam to graduate high school. Of the ten students who took this exam, only six were successful. We believe the success of the students to pass the Philo exam will improve with more grade levels being taught at the Lutheran school in Laotchikit.

To be eligible for a scholarship to attend middle or high school a student must promise the following:

- Work hard in school
- Remain sexually pure
- Be active in church

Meetings are held with the students and their parents so everyone understands the expectations. There is achievement with this program because in the last school year there were no students who



dropped out of school because of pregnancy! This is a wonderful indicator of success! We ask students to remain in school until the end of the school year but some experience great hardships and quit school to work and earn money for their family. This year the staff in Laotchikit will monitor each student's success at the first trimester and send us a report before the second portion of their scholarship is sent.

We give thanks to God for people who will sponsor students in Christian education. We give thanks to God because in this upcoming school year, the Lutheran School of Laotchikit will teach students through the 11th grade. Now only the 12th and 13th grade students will have to walk to school each day in Hinche about two hours away.

Please if you are able, will you give a student an opportunity to earn a Christian education? Without support, their education is not possible. Public schools are not available and their parents are too poor to pay for their child's education.

To God be the glory! We have learned Christian education changes everything and it gives these students and their families hope for their future! Thank you for giving these students hope for a brighter future.

Your Sister in Christ,

Wendy White

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church Mission Board

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>



Please contact
Karen.Lundquist@yahoo.com

*statista.com

We are actively reaching out to our neighbors through Facebook & Instagram. Social media is a little bit like soup. Most times it's tastier and more nutritious with added spices & ingredients. I'd like to encourage more 'cooks' at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran to add flavor to our 'social media soup'. You have much to share! Please write a few sentences about what's happening in your committee, Sunday School class or as you get together to quilt or sing in choir.



All we need is one paragraph & one photo /video from each committee in the church.
*In 2023 there are 243.5 million Facebook users in the United States.**
It's a powerful, vast, virtual mission field,
a free-to-use tool where we can shine the light of Christ every day!
Please ask adults for permission to use their photo on Social Media