THE VIEW

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Bodily Present

Sometimes life throws a happy coincidence our way. Although completely unplanned, our monthly walk through the Augsburg confession has guided us to Article X: Of the Holy Supper in the same month that we celebrate that our Lord has bodily come and dwelt with man in the incarnation. What do these things have in common? Both confess that the eternal Son of God is truly and bodily present in the midst of His people.

The Lutheran Confessors declare:

Of the Supper of the Lord [Lutheran Churches] teach that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present, and are distributed to those who eat the Supper of the Lord; and they reject those that teach otherwise.

On this article, both the Lutherans and the Papists (Rome) were in general agreement, even though they differed slightly in nuance. Rome ascribed to the doctrine of transubstantiation, which states that Christ's body and blood are truly present in the Sacrament because the very substance of the bread and wine ceased to exist in during the consecration (except for a superficial appearance) and were replaced by the physical body and blood of Jesus. Lutherans, while completely agreeing that the true body and blood of Jesus are bodily present in the Meal, refused to go through the unscriptural mental gymnastics as Rome does on this doctrine, and simply receive Scripture's testimony of Christ's presence as clear, simple, unadulterated truth—a miraculous working of God that is to be believed, not scrutinized. Jesus states this himself when he took bread, broke it, and said "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the wine and said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:19-20). The Apostle Paul later confirms that the Church unquestioningly believed Jesus' declaration of bodily present in the consecrated elements. "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Cor. 10:16).

Whether by the direct teaching of Scripture or by the tradition handed down through the Church, the end result was a somewhat-agreement between the Romans and Lutherans on Article X. But whereas this served as olive branch between these rivals, it also tore a chasm between the Lutherans and the other Protestants, and continues to divide today. Specifically, the doctrine of whether or not Jesus is truly and bodily presence became the breaking point between Lutherans and Zwinglians, who had hoped to stand together in their efforts to reform the Western Church, but despite finding common ground on every other article of faith, they could not agree on the Lord's Supper. While Rome went too far by injecting human innovation to create theories that explain how Christ is present in the Sacrament, Zwingli injected human philosophy to deny the presence of Christ as superstitious and dismiss the clear meaning of Jesus' words as preposterous. They preferred a symbolic interpretation of the Sacrament, which voided the Supper of its authority to forgive sins and transformed it into an empty ritual of man without any real purpose. This ruined any hope of unity with the Lutherans, because if the Zwinglians would not accept the words of Jesus as true, where else might this train of thought lead them?

Belief in a true, bodily presence in the Sacrament remains a litmus test for Christians. Calvinists, who are the theological descendants of Zwingli, while not quite going as far as Zwingli, see Lutherans as irrational because Lutherans take Scripture at face value and do not scrutinize it according to modern sensibilities. On the other end of the spectrum, transubstantiation, while not as offensive as the denial of the bodily presence of Christ in the Sacrament, also elevates nonscriptural human notions to an authoritative position that may require adherence to things beyond what God has said. Lutherans see those who deny or twist the real presence as playing a dangerous game that ultimately rejects the word of Christ. St. Paul warns that the denial of Christ's presence in the Sacrament leads to condemnation for unbelief: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world" (1 Cor. 27-32). A partial rejection of Christ's word in favor of human reason is still a rejection because of unbelief. Love and protection of one's neighbor is why Confessional Lutherans take belief in the true presence so seriously, even though this is misinterpreted by some as being standoffish.

Aside from the dangers of participating in an unworthy manner, why is confessing a bodily presence of Jesus in the Lord's Supper so important? Because the Sacrament connects us to Jesus, not only spiritually, but directly. In this season of Advent, we remember with great joy how our Lord has come to us in the flesh. The awestriking mystery of how God became man for our salvation leaves us speechless at His love for His creation. He, who created all things by speaking them into existence, chose to come bodily to dwell with us, to suffer with us, to touch our wounds and heal us, and to bleed and die as a man that we would be redeemed from death. That same

body and blood that suffered, died, rose, and ascended come to us in the Holy Supper. His body that hung on the cross to pay our debt of sin touches our lips, enters our bodies, and nourishes every part of us, just as it has redeemed every part of us. His blood that was shed for our forgiveness becomes united to us and flows through our arteries and veins in a union that transcends all understanding. The eternally living Christ, who has defeated sin and death for us, makes us one with him and with each other, as we become one body. "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor. 10:17).

The belief in the true bodily presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar is no trivial thing. It is the source of joy and hope that gives comfort and peace to those burdened by sin through the forgiveness it offers. A symbol cannot do that. The true bodily presence assures us that Jesus, who came to us as true man in the incarnation for our redemption, is still fulfilling his promise to be with us always. A spiritual or iconic presence is a poor substitute. A true bodily presence unites us as one body in Christ as He binds himself to us and to each other. How could mere bread and wine do this? Therefore, the Lutheran Confessors boldly upheld the mystery of Scripture, rejoicing that under the bread and wine, Jesus keeps His promise that His very body and blood are truly and substantially present in Holy Communion for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of His Church.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

I give thanks for all of you who attended our November 19 congregational meeting. We had a serious issue to discuss—moving to one Sunday service instead of the two we are used to and comfortable with. I appreciate that people felt free to express their concerns, which we will need to address. However, the vote to approve the motion from the elders was a strong majority. As we look to the proposed changes, we will need to hold each other up in prayer, understanding this will be difficult for many of us. We pray for God's guidance as we make plans for the transition.

At our November 13 church council meeting we:

- Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Heard that the **preschool children's Christmas program** has been changed to December 8 and the **children of the congregation** will be participating in the Christmas Eve service.
- Received reports on the **Missions of the Month**: The October MOM, Back on Track addiction ministry, received \$415. November's MOM is The Storehouse's food and hygiene pantry. A gift of \$200 was sent to the **Edneyville Fire Department** as support for their efforts in combating the Poplar Road wildfire. Our booth at Hendersonville's Main Street "**Treat Street**" fair on Halloween was a big success with over 3,000 pieces of candy distributed. It was decided not to have an entry in the **Christmas parade.**
- Learned that 60 people attended the **Reformation dinner**.

• Referred to the congregational meeting the bid of \$10,000 to **repair the electronic sign** due to the cost being over the amount that the council can approve. (It was approved at the meeting.)

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). Out next meeting will be Monday, December 11, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

Outreach and Community Concerns



The mission of the month for December is Housing Assistance Corporation. The goal of Housing Assistance is to provide sustainable solutions and outreach programs for families in Henderson County. They are committed to providing safe and affordable housing for persons of limited income. Sometimes this looks like helping someone save for a down payment on a house and sometimes this means using funds and volunteers to make home repairs for an elderly or disabled person. With the ever-rising cost of housing in WNC, the services they provide are even more vital. Check out their website at www.housing-assistance.com for more information and please consider donating to this worthy organization.

Prayer List

Long Term Illness

Robert Kish (Mincer) 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

Mildred Sarchioto (Ryel)
Betty Ude
Daniel Bush (Kaufman)
Carol Walters

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

Joe Gabriel (Amato) Agapia Dragan (Luecke B) Joanne Blanchard (Clancy) David Hawthorne

Mary Hill Betty Ude

Wally Rose Mincer

Personal and Family Concerns

Vicki Fisher

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

Suzie Karnatz

Warna Berryman Albert & Marianne Bugner Kathleen Fox

Dianne Luecke Jan Nelson Joann Kapugi Sue Smith

Nancy Stang Betty Ude

Compassion and Sympathy Ministry Concerns

Our Preschool staff, children & families

Christopher, Nicole, James, Wyatt Duncan (medical issues)

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 (Seminarian) Josiah and Hannah Schultz (Seminarian)

Jacob and Caroline Moede (Seminarian)

Birthday Blessings

12/15 David White 12/05 Larry McKinley 12/06 Elise Cavicchio 12/16 Laura Reinhold 12/06 Wendy Maloney 12/21 Jonathan 12/08 Jananne Nelson Christensen 12/11 Troy Mckinney 12/22 Mikki Reinicker 12/23 Christopher Cornille 12/26 Remy Christensen

MEMBERS NEEDED

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 am.

We will have cookies and hot coffee for the volunteers. Come and join us.

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Fellowship Hall was well attended by 38 people including church members, guests and preschool staff. Thank you all for coming! We had enough food to feed an army! No one left hungry.











We also collected \$288 in donations to purchase medicine for the Haitian Children. Thanks to those who contributed!

Quilters

The quilters have given 24 quilts to the Foster Kids program, 40 quilts to The Storehouse program and 1 baby quilt to a Seminarian.

Craft and Bake Sale

The **craft sale** tables will be available for shopping up to December 10th. This is a great opportunity to find a homemade gift for someone on your list!

The **bake sale** will be on December 3rd only. If anyone would like to donate baked goods, please let me know. Bring your items to the church wrapped and ready for sale by December 1st., or you can put them on the table before early service is finished on the 3rd.

All proceeds for both the craft sale and bake sale will go toward Mt. Pisgah's budget. Your support will be a great help, since we are a little behind on our budget numbers. Thank you in advance for supporting Mt. Pisgah.

Ladies Guild

Again this year, the Ladies Guild is helping make Christmas merrier for the residents at Safelight, Henderson County's shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. If you are able to help, the items requested are hats, gloves, socks for adults and children, mini hand sanitizer, deodorant, body lotions and bath gels, nail polish, chapstick, hair brushes, hair ties and barrettes etc., journals and pens, pocket calendars, word puzzles and coloring books for adults, fuzzy slipper socks, candies and treats, puzzles for adults and children, and children's coloring books, crayons, stickers, books, etc. There will be a bin for donations in the narthex, with a deadline of December 22. Thank you for any help you can give.

Ladies Guild Luncheon

Take some time from the "Christmas Crunch" and join us for leisurely lunch at A Day in the Country. We will be meeting there at 11 am on Monday, December 11. Please sign up on the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway so we can save you a seat! Questions? Talk to Kathy Kirchoefer (301-535-0129).

OUTDOOR PROPERTIES

"I thank my God every time I think of you." Philippians 1:3 Yes, I thank God for everyone who has helped with caring for the buildings and grounds at our church this year!

Some have volunteered many hours; some have donated items and materials; some have given good ideas and advice. In these ways, and more, all have contributed in helping take good care of what God has given to us. I look forward to working with you next year as we complete some building repairs and improve the grounds.

With a thankful heart, Bill Paris

Parish Life

Please join us on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at noon for a Christmas luncheon hosted by the Parish Life committee. A signup sheet will be in the narthex. A free will offering will be collected to cover the cost of the food.

Thank You Notes

Greetings and many thanks to all at Mt Pisgah for remembering me on my milestone birthday. It would be remiss of me not to point out the significant amount of help that was provided during my wife's illness and incapacitation at the same time.

Vicki Amato and Lea Ryel took charge of the household entirely. Gary Amato took charge of the transportation. Pastor Jon offered to come by every time we asked him. Many others from the church family also helped me through these difficult times. Most recently I had difficulty handling the grieving process. There too I received the most help from the Pisgah family. Bill Paris and Kurt Delhutri encouraged me to meet with them at Denny's with a set of bibles that helped a great deal.

Just wanted you all to know what a wonderful church family we have here at Mt. Pisgah.

A grateful Tony Selius

Den Paster Jor. Stoff, and consugation of MH. Pissal, We wanted to express our you really made appreciation to your church a difference. for all of the * loving of your congregation in * Kindness extended to our attelding the service, providing the Samly as we celebrated the life of our dear hosie May Miling. The service was sweet and pergectdelicious ment, and gellowhipping will us all will never be forgotten. There you again Rosie May would have loved it. everything that you all dil. The kindress and thought places Will since appreciation, Ray and Janes miken





Dear Friends and Family,

Happy Thanksgiving! It has been a LONG time since I have written. There is much to share.

New Contact Information

Our address for the 2023-2024 school year is:

8559 STELLHORN ROAD FORT WAYNE, IN 46815

Say Hello to Elanor!

On June 22 we welcomed Elanor Lorine Saunders into the world, weighing 9 lbs 7 oz. She looks a lot like her big brother!

Vicarage Complete

Vicarage ended on July 9. It was a wonderful year in Montana and we were sorry

to say goodbye. I preached a total of 35 sermons



Elanor as a newborn



Stephen loves his new sister

and learned a great deal. We will always treasure our time there and the memories we made.

Stephen still talks about going "up on the mountain!" Here is a picture of one of his last

trips, with his Grandpa Olson, up the 12,000-foot

Beartooth Pass on the southern border of Montana. We drove there while waiting for baby sister to be born. She took her time coming out, and by the time she was born, it was time to pack up and move!



Summer Madness

Erik's dad helped

us move back to Fort Wayne after vicarage ended. But we couldn't actually move into our house until August. Erik had to do a lot of work cleaning up the house, including repairing and restoring most of the plumbing fixtures. While this took place, we traveled to North Carolina to see one set of grandparents (Erik spent some time there helping his father-in-law rebuild an old deck), and to Minnesota to see the other set of grandparents (Erik preached a sermon there and helped an old friend build a roof).



At one point Katie had to ask Erik if he planned to take any time off while he was on vacation. It was a fair question to a man with a newborn baby. It was a mad summer.

Fall Quarter



Mother and Daughter in their fall outfits

The Fall Quarter came and went faster than we thought possible. Katie started a new job teaching writing online for the Memoria Academy. She has also been teaching a private writing class to four home-school students, and has been consulting with a nearby Lutheran startup school on curriculum and teaching practices. She is very busy! But it has been wonderful to

find ways to get back into teaching despite her very full schedule at home.

Erik was eager to get back in the classroom but had forgotten how quickly a ten-week quarter with five

classes moves. It was intense! He took his last preaching class, studied the major prophets of the Old Testament, and learned about the history of LCMS missions.

Stephen's language skills improve daily. He is a chatterbox and never stops moving. Elanor just grows and grows. She is already



Our curly little redheads

20 pounds! And her hair is even redder than her big brother's. Soon she will be crawling.

What's Next

Erik only has two quarters left before he graduates. He is working through the candidate call process for first-time pastors and pondering life after seminary. He would like to stay in school somehow and has started a few applications to graduate programs. Some of them would involve moving to a specific place for Ph.D. study. Another option is to take a call and continue education via distance learning.



I think Elanor likes reading best!

Either way, life will be changing again soon.

Katie will continue teaching throughout the school year. She enjoys reading to our little ones and watching them grow and learn to interact with each other.

The children continue to grow and grow. Elanor is determined to start moving like her brother. She will enjoy her first Christmas soon. Stephen is speaking more and more in full sentences. He will be 3 years old by the end of the school year.



"Mommy, I want to MOVE."

Farewell

We miss you and remain ever grateful for your love, prayers, and generous support. God be with you all.

Love, the Saunders



Dear Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church Mission Board,

Vicarage is over and classes are in full swing! As I write this to you, I have three classes that are ending this Friday 10/13. And with that I have about five assignments all due on Friday. I wanted to say thank you for supporting me in my final year at Seminary, your generous donations make it possible for me to be here learning how to be a pastor in Christ's Church. While I miss the duties of being a Vicar it has been a wonderful transition back to the Seminary. I am blessed to have great classes and professors this semester. I was dreading the classroom in many ways, but it has been awesome to learn from these scholars once again. I am taking Systematics 2, John, Psalms, Roman Catholic Reformation, Narrative Preaching, Theology of Ethics and Human Care, and Faith, Film, and Fiction. I am enjoying all of these classes, but I am looking forward to call day which is in exactly 197 days (I am a little excited)!

My wife Hannah has returned to work after staying home for the last year, she is a teachers aid at Christ Community Lutheran School in the first-grade classroom. She continues to amaze me every day by how she cares for Simeon and me. She is a wonderful support system to me, and I thank God for her every day. God has blessed me with more than I deserve in this life with her and my son. Simeon is 21 months old and is continuing to grow and learn new things every day. Simeon gets to hang out with my sister-in law and her son Stephen while Hannah works, and I have class. This has worked out so well for us. God continues to bless us with more than we deserve. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you have shown me and my family! It really makes a difference in our life. May God bless you and keep you always.

In Christ,

Josiah Schultz

Joseph Schulig

Jeak you so huch Our your donation to back on hack.
Their cless us to sowe the Commenty.

Then your flesh you flesh you given believer

Shank you so much for your danaticin of \$200.

Doing forward this will certainly help us cover some of the expenses incurred during the recent wildfire.

Edneyville Suie & Rescue

Haiti Sponsors

November 21, 2023

Dear Sponsors,

This Thanksgiving Day we are thankful to God that you are giving a student in Laotchikit the opportunity to attend middle or high school in Christian schools where they hear the Word of God

every day. This is a wonderful blessing to each of these students and to their families who do not have the ability to pay for their child's education.

Here is the current situation. All students in 7th through 11th grade attend school at the Lutheran School in Laotchikit. All 9th grade students are required to take a national exam to be allowed to continue school in 10th grade. The Lutheran School in Laotchikit is preparing the students well because of the 23 students that took the National Exam, 22 students passed the test. This is an exceptional pass rate.

The students in 12th through 13th grade attend school in the town of Hinche at Bethel Christian School. We visited this school in 2019. After 13th grade, students are required to take another national exam called the Philosophy Exam or Philo. If they pass the Philo exam, they receive a high school diploma. The pass rate this year for the Philo exam was not as good as the 9th grade National Exam but we are hopefully the students will continue to work hard and study to earn academic success.

This year there are 144 students who need scholarships.

Grade	Number of
	students
7 th	42
8 th	20
9 th	20
10 th	19
11 th	15
12 th	16
13 th	12

You can see from the numbers many students drop out of school after 7th grade.

Students quit school in the middle of the school year because they find paying jobs and their families need the extra income their teens can earn working.

Sometimes the family moves to another town, hoping for better living conditions and seeking jobs.

When you donate a scholarship, we assign you a student's name and ask you to pray for the student frequently as their lives are very difficult. If a student stays in school, we keep that student with the same sponsor year after year.

While we are delighted there are so many students who want to attend school, we struggle to find enough sponsors. We currently have about 55 sponsors but there are 144 students who need scholarships. Please pray with us that God will provide additional sponsors for these students.

You are welcome to write your student a letter of encouragement. Just put it in my mailbox at church or email it to me at wendyhoustonwhite@gmail.com. A picture of the letter will be sent to Laotchikit after it is translated.

We use a phone app called WhatsApp to communicate with Pastor Walta. It is a free app and we would love to share with you the pictures received of mission work in the Central Plateau. Reach out to me on WhatsApp if you would like to be included. My cell phone number is 864-354-4085. We thank God for your help to provide Lutheran Christian education to students in Laotchikit. By doing so, you fight disease, hunger, and violence. Through Christian education students learn the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Savior with blessings into eternal life. Thank you for working with us in this mission field.

To God be the glory! Your Sister in Christ, Wendy White

Board of Missions Update

...Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (Mark 10:14)

Prayers of thanks for our congregation family for passionately supporting our mission outreach. In November we worked on the following projects:

<u>Haiti Cloth for school uniforms</u> of \$3,800 from dedicated donations. These donations will cover enough fabric for approximately 250 uniforms. These locally sewn uniforms both allow the students to attend school and grows the skills of the seamstresses.

<u>Haiti Medicines</u> request by Nurse Rib for the growth of the seven schools from 800 to 1,200 students. The list of requested medicines was reviewed and approved by a local Nurse Practitioner. Examples of medicines include antibiotics, antifungals, skin and scalp treatments, fever reducers, dietary supplements etc. \$2,610 has been funded, including the \$210 love offering at the Thanksgiving Potluck with \$880 remaining of the requested funds. Please prayfully consider helping with this project.

<u>Partnership with Trinity Hope Feeding program</u> \$2,000 provided to renew the sponsorship of the feeding program for a Lutheran school in Nan Rocher near Hinche, Haiti. Trinity Hope requested \$3,400, due to inflation and supply chain issues with entry into Haiti, but we held the sponsorship at 2022 levels for the time being as we consider our overall mission levels.

<u>Sponsorship of Haiti middle and high school students</u>. Keeping these young adults (adults by Haiti standards) in school reduces the odds of immoral and illegal activities. This education also serves as a basis for strengthening the citizenry with Christian faith and academic skills. Each scholarship recipient pledges to work hard in school, remain sexually pure, and be active in Church. Praises to our Heavenly Father that sponsorships total 64 students and \$7,680. There are still another 52 students requesting sponsorship. A donation of \$120 provides for the expenses of one student for the entire school year.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these students. Sue Glossop



And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

"Dear Lord, Don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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



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 <u>one paragraph & one photo /video</u>
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!