

# THE VIEW

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## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

### Repentance

We are only a few weeks away from the season of Lent, and how fitting it is that our monthly examination of the Augsburg Confession has progressed to Article XII: Of Repentance. Lent is a 40-day period that remembers Christ's journey to the cross for our redemption. During which, we apply an introspective scrutiny of our daily lives. This personal inventory hopefully results in deep humility, repenting with sackcloth and ashes (at least figuratively, but perhaps even literally), and a determination to make lasting changes that deny the desires of our sinful flesh—the Old Adam—and seek to better manifest the New Adam in us. The Church has a long tradition of holding Lent as a time of repentance, but it may surprise you that the different divisions of the Church do not necessarily agree on what repentance is.

Unless a church body is way off base and making stuff up, repentance is derived from the Greek term *metanoia*, which meant to “change one’s mind” to the extent that they go a completely new direction. Although penitence is a component of repentance, it is more than a feeling of contrition (a deep sense of remorse); it is an active response that reforms both thinking and behavior. This complete change of heart is a foundational element of St. Paul’s chastisement of the backsliding Christians in the sixth chapter of Romans: “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it (Rom. 6:1-2)?” Having turned from the old path that only leads to death, the regenerated Christian would find it unthinkable to travel that previous direction again. The doctrine of repentance may seem self-explanatory, but divisions arose regarding the nature of repentance and whether or not it is necessary.

The Augsburg Confession states the following:

*Of Repentance [Lutherans] teach that for those who have fallen after Baptism there is remission of sins whenever they are converted and that the Church ought to impart absolution to those thus returning to repentance. Now, repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance.*

*They condemn the Anabaptists, who deny that those once justified can lose the Holy Ghost. Also those who contend that some may attain to such perfection in this life that they cannot sin.*

*The Novatians also are condemned, who would not absolve such as had fallen after Baptism, though they returned to repentance.*

*They also are rejected who do not teach that remission of sins comes through faith but command us to merit grace through satisfactions of our own.*

Before getting into the meat of the doctrine of repentance, analyzing the rebukes helps us to understand the need for Lutherans to clarify the beliefs held in this Article. The first condemned error was perpetrated by the Anabaptists. The modern theological equivalency is “once saved, always saved.” Despite repeated warnings in the Epistles for Christians to guard themselves from falling away or being lured into unbelief or heresy, there are those who teach that it is impossible for a true Christian to lose their faith, which would also result in a loss of salvation. Moreover, those who follow the traditions of the Anabaptists teach that a true Christian would be able to reach such a state of holiness in this life that they would no longer sin. The conclusion this draws is that since it is impossible for them to sin, it is therefore unnecessary to repent. This teaching is most popular among those who are deceived by a prosperity gospel, that looks to their status and wealth in this life as evidence of God’s favor and salvation. By denying their own sinfulness, they ignorantly deny their Savior.

The polar opposite of this are the Novatians. While this sect was deemed heretical in the third century and died out around the eighth century, it is still informally practiced by those who harden their hearts against forgiving their neighbor. Around the year 250 AD, there were some who refused to readmit repentant Christians back into the Church after they had denied their faith while under duress. Rome was executing Christians, and in order to save their lives, some Christians, not only publicly denounced Christianity, they also participated in pagan worship. They repented of this, but other Christians, who endured the persecution, would not reinstate them. If this refusal to forgive was taken to its logical conclusion, then this belief makes it impossible for anyone who sins after baptism to ever be forgiven. Granted, the Novatians were responding to the extreme sin of publicly denying the faith, but any sin could be considered an act of unbelief. Refusing to accept one’s repentance is a rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit to convict and convert the heart of man. It is also a limiting of the scope and power of Christ’s forgiveness.

Finally, the last of the rebukes are directed at those who teach that good works are required to secure the forgiveness of sins rather than being a product or result of God’s gracious salvation in

Christ Jesus. This is directly condemning Rome's requirement of Penance to make satisfaction prior to the declaration of forgiveness. Penances are works done to appease the wrath and justice of God. To be clear, Lutherans also teach that good works are an essential part of the Christian life and that actions should be taken that make amends to a wronged neighbor for the sake of reconciliation, but Lutherans flat out reject that we can ever restore ourselves before God by our own works. Our good works do not benefit God, but they do benefit our neighbor and the world around us. They are fruits of repentance that may reveal a changed heart, but they do not undo the sin, nor do they warrant forgiveness. Christ alone can redeem us, which he did with his completed work of atonement on the cross. Whereas Rome saw repentance as consisting of contrition and penance, which places our justification in our good works, the Lutherans identified the two parts of repentance as contrition and faith.

Earlier we defined repentance as to change one's mind—we turn from one direction to another. The root of sin is rebellion against God that is comes from unbelief. The Old Adam desires to go his own way, to be his own god. To repent is to humble ourselves before God, submitting to His authority, and to look to His grace and mercy as the only means to absolve us of our sin. A contrite heart recognizes our need for a Savior to rescue us from the condemnation we deserve. Faith then looks with whole-hearted trust to Christ, who has fulfilled that salvation, and who frees our consciences that we may confidently live a holy life in Him. Relying on Chris instead of ourselves, our good works spring forth out of a repentant heart as a bold display of gratitude for the grace we have already received instead an inadequate attempt to gain favor. Turning away from sin and turning toward Christ, our hearts and minds find peace in His absolution, and our lives are given a new direction as we live in Him, and He in us.

The life of a Christian is a life of daily repentance that continually remembers the grace and mercy of Christ our Lord. Properly understanding the severity and consequences of our sins, we rightly lament our brokenness and the damages our sins have caused, but we also know that victory in Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, is even greater. Trusting in Him alone, our repentant hearts are set free. May this upcoming season of Lent strengthen your resolve in Christ as you approach Him with a contrite heart and a steadfast faith.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

We are in our new calendar year and have begun the new schedule of Sunday services. I find it hard to change my routine, but it is good to worship with more members of the congregation. Thank you all for adapting to this change. The elders and council would be happy to hear suggestions on how our worship and fellowship can be made even better.

At our January 15 church council meeting we:

- Appointed **property chairs** Bill Paris (outdoor) and Judy Morin (indoor) and heard that Debbie Zagone will be handling all **Parish Life** activities rather than just funerals.

- Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Appointed Paul Mincer to another term as **elder** and heard that Rick Sandborn will be **head elder**. **Elder assignments** have been updated and elders are noted by each family's mailbox.
- Received reports on the **Missions of the Month**: The November MOM, The Storehouse's food and hygiene pantry, received \$515 and 45 quilts from the Quilting Group. The December MOM, Housing Assistance Corporation, received \$250. The MOM for January is the Rescue Mission.
- Were blessed to receive a **bequest** from the Frederick and Marilyn Young Trust in the amount of \$387,803, which is being invested with LCEF pending a decision on the best use of these funds.
- Called an **emergency congregational meeting** for January 28 to approve the expense for a new water line to replace the current line, which is leaking severely.

If you ever have questions about anything we covered at the council meeting or any suggestions, please contact me (828-693-5692 or [bgy@ioa.com](mailto:bgy@ioa.com)). Our next meeting will be Monday, February 19, at 7:00 in the church library.

Barbara Volk

## *Outreach and Community Concerns*

### Mission of the Month

# SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2024



The mission of the month for February is the “Souper Bowl of Caring” which will benefit IAM’s food pantry. Please place soup cans (wrapped with a dollar) and/or monetary donations in the large soup pot in the narthex and help feed the needy in our community. The collection will last the entire month of February.

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## **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**

**Lyn Heiple**  
Sarah Christensen  
Tom Berryman  
Daniel Bush (Kaufman)  
Carol Walters  
Marianne Bugner  
Albert Bugner  
Donald Young (Rappley)

Marjorie Zell  
David Moore (Gonzalez)  
Dwayne Grooms  
(Gonzalez)  
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**

Betty Ude  
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**

Our Preschool staff, children & families

Christopher, Nicole, James, Wyatt Duncan (medical issues)  
Vaughn Family (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 (Seminararian)  
Josiah and Hannah Schultz (Seminararian)  
Jacob and Caroline Moede (Seminararian)  
Adam and Emile Nieting (Seminararian)

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## Birthday Blessings

02/03 Hank Clancy

02/04 Bill Kruse

02/05 Gabriel Excude`

02/05 Debbie Leger

02/06 Kurt Dellutri

02/09 Peyton Alford

02/10 Dianne Luecke

02/13 Homero Gonzalez

02/20 Madeline Biddle

02/20 Mary Matthews

02/20 Zachary White

02/24 Wally Rose Mincer

02/25 Kay Leyrer

02/25 Allison De Graff



February 2024

Thanks to all of you who donated items for Safelight's annual Christmas Brunch gifts for their clients. Kelly Cook from Luna Blue and her mother Sharon put together stockings and other gifts to present at the brunch. She recently posted the following thank you:

### **Thank you ALL for another great year for our Safelight Stockings Project**

Every year for the past 10 years the Luna Blue family has joined together to make a wonderful Christmas morning for all of the residents at Safelight. This year topped it all. We had many folks bring in gifts and goodies this year and several of you donated funds to help purchase both gifts as well as the food for the Christmas morning meal. We raised \$820 to help with the shopping and this combined with the gifts you brought in helped to make the most beautiful gift bags for these women and children.

We still say "stockings" but several years back we had to go to gift bags because the stockings just wouldn't hold it all. What an amazing problem to have. Thank you each and every one for what you do to help make this special for these folks. We could not do this without you ALL.

#### Future Projects:

- Put together a table favor including uplifting Gospel messages for the attendees at the Senior Lunches for community members at First United Methodist Church.
- Serve a “thank you” lunch for our Mt. Pisgah Preschool staff.
- Host a LWML Sunday in April with a brunch and presentation during the Sunday School hour.
- Inventory the church banners.
- Prepare for the June rummage sale.

We work on these projects at our monthly Ladies Guild meeting on the second Monday of the month at 1 pm. Can't join us? You can still help out—just contact one of our Ladies Guild officers, Kathy Kirchoefer, Debby Zagone, or Lydia Cassidy.

#### Mighty Mites!

Thank you so much for your monthly donations to fund LWML projects. A write-up about one of their grants for this biennium is below.

#### **2023–2025 Mission Grant No. 5**

#### DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Texas | \$50,000

The Disaster Response Team of Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler, Texas, responds to help victims of natural disasters. They are called to serve, have a presence on the ground, and assist with cleanup. While providing help, they listen to the victims and share the love of Jesus and bring hope, encouragement, and healing through God's Word and prayer. To learn more, visit [www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-5](http://www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-5).

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## **Board of Missions Update**

... Feed My Lambs .... Tend my Sheep ... Feed my Sheep (John 21:15 - 17)

#### LCMS Ministry Support

We currently support three LCMS ministers with their global missions, providing prayers for fruitful efforts and a quarterly donation of \$500 each. Please see below the latest efforts and prayer requests from these servants:

Pastor Dale Kaster, Czech Republic - Several months ago a group of Lutherans in Krakow, Poland asked the LCMS to help them find a pastor to minister to them. Pastor Kaster and Pastor Martin, who share English and Czech speaking congregations at St. Michael's Church in Prague, are taking

turns traveling to Krakow now for a once-a-month service, but it is a seven hour train ride and neither have any Polish language speaking skills so the service is being translated into Polish as they speak. Please pray with them that God will soon send a special person to be a shepherd to these believers and spread the Gospel in Poland. (Ruth Kugler)

Pastor Daniel Conrad, Dominican Republic-This semester Dan is teaching two courses: Homiletics III and Greek II at the Seminario El Reformador . The seminarians in his two classes represent the countries of: Bolivia, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. Please keep these future pastors in your prayers as they prepare to serve the Lord in their respective countries where there are many cultural and structural obstacles. Also, please keep Pastor Conrad in your prayers for continued healing from his brain surgeries. (Judy Morin)

Pastor Daniel Jastram, Japan - Pastor Jastram gives thanksgiving for God’s continual blessings at their three worship sites: Shinjuku, Yokosuka, Okinawa. Work continues on translation project of Engelbrecht, The Lutheran Difference (CPH 2014) (about 30% completed). Please pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of a culture with little exposure to Christianity. Also, please keep Pastor Jastram in your prayers as he recovers from an illness contracted during his January travels. (Sue Glossop)

Haiti Sewing Update- It is such a joy to see the seeds of faith grow. In 2015, Barbara Volk and Mikki Reinicker taught the basics of sewing to a group of Haitian young ladies (see picture A). This mission was begun to provide dual benefits – training these ladies in a marketable skill and supplying uniforms to the school children. We were so happy to see picture B this month, as two seamstresses sew uniforms to support the starter schools. One of the young ladies pictured was one of Barbara and Mikki’s original students! Thank you for your financial support to this mission, including the recent donations for sewing materials.

Sponsorship of Haiti middle and high school students Update -Thanks to all who have helped us with prayers and donations for the middle and high school students. All students have now been blessed with a sponsor! Please continue to pray that all students work diligently in their studies and honor their pledge to attend church and remain chaste.

Alaska Mission June 2024 – Please see Bill Paris or Barbara Volk to discuss this excellent opportunity to share Christ’s love with an Alaska village.

Sue Glossop



Haiti Sewing Class 2015 (A)

Haiti Sewing in Action 2024 (B)





## Mission Report

Please hear my confession and join me in prayers of thanksgiving.

Each month the Mission Committee reviews the financial accounts for which we are responsible. From these accounts are funds which bless various missions and missionaries around the world. Three of these accounts are dedicated funds specifically given for the mission work in Haiti. When I look at the amount in the accounts, I know, we will not have enough to meet the critical needs of the children in Haiti.

One of these needs was the seven schools who desperately need support for the school staff. No one on staff was getting paid except for the Lutheran schools at Laotchikit and Pas Bon Bon. In August we did not have enough money to meet the needs of Laotchikit, let alone six other small schools. But God is the God of 'all things are possible!' Throughout the year God provided donors and now all seven schools are fully funded for this school year. Thanks be to God!

In October after reviewing the list of middle and high school students who need scholarships for this school year, I knew there would never be enough sponsors for 144 students. Last week, that need was met when a donation for 65 scholarships was received. To God be the glory! Again, God showed me with God all things are possible!

When someone approached me about possible funding for classes for adult church workers to learn to serve God's people, I had no idea that God was using that donor to start something bigger than we could imagine. Pastor Walta began organizing classes in Laotchikit for men and women who want to be church workers. When COVID hit he added classes on the internet supported through cell phones and a gasoline generator, so professors in Canada and the United States could teach various classes. He installed a big screen so the professors could be seen and see their students. Pastors who speak French from The Lutheran Church of Canada volunteered to teach and now their synod is sending books to the seminary students. As of Saturday, January 20, 2024, there were 112 students from countries like the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, France, the United States, Canada, Senegal and various locations in Haiti. The seminary is providing college level courses, free of charge, to French speaking adults all over the world who want to learn more about God and how to serve His people. Once again God reminds me that He is able to bless better than we ask or imagine.

Please keep praising, thanking and praying. Pray for peace and stability in Haiti. Pray the seminary in Laotchikit will train church workers to meet the needs of all the preaching stations and new congregations all over the world. Pray a hedge of protection around these new believers and their leaders. Pray they do not allow any corruption to come into their dealings. Pray gangs have no influence over young teens. Pray that clean water, medicine, and food are available to meet the physical needs of the people. Pray Pastor Walta will continue to lead and teach. Pray God's Holy Spirit fills each person with overwhelming faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Pray for Pastor Conrad in the Dominican Republic, Pastor Jastram in Japan, and Pastor Kastor in the Czech Republic. Pray for our seminary students in the United States.

Pray that I remember, we serve a God where all things are possible!



This is a picture of Wildjesse Joseph. He is a nine-year-old boy who attends school in one of the new Lutheran schools sponsored for the first time this year in the village of Savann a Palmes.

Wildjesse is quite miserable in this picture. The school nurse from Laotchikit went to the school at Savann a Palmes to do a medical check and treat sick children. All the children need medicine for internal parasites. Many have ringworm and scabies. Some children have typhoid fever or dengue fever.

But poor Wildjesse fell off his donkey three days before and could not move his arm. It was broken and there was no medical treatment his parents could afford. Nurse Rene from the Lutheran school in Laotchikit took Wildjesse to an orthopedic doctor in Hinche who set his broken arm.

People with medical issues are rarely seen by a doctor in Haiti. People cannot afford to pay for medical care. That's why the work of Nurse Rene is critical to the wellbeing of the school children. We give thanks Nurse Rene is able to visit all the Lutheran Schools to help the children.

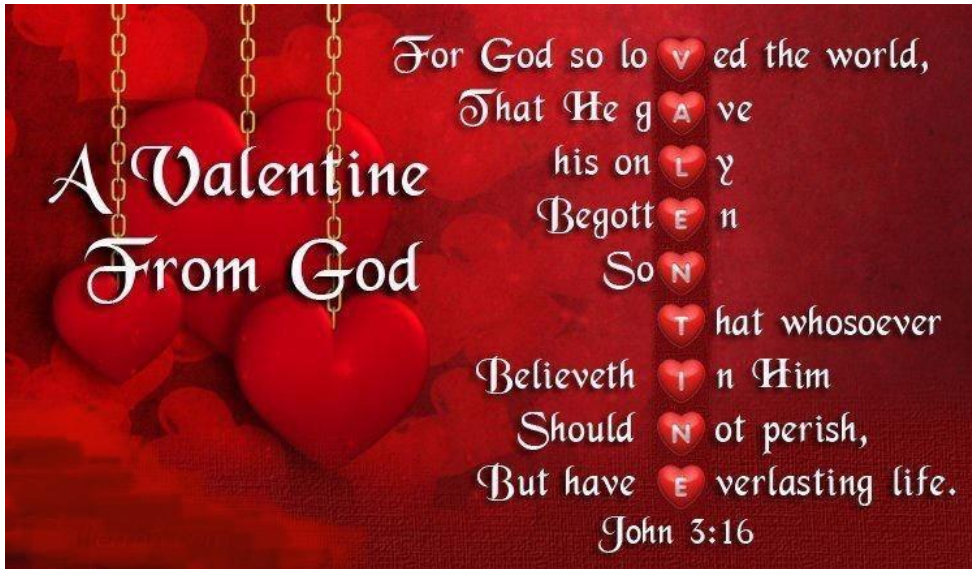
Hello supporter,

I greet you in the name of Jesus. Hope you are well. I'm using this time to thank you for the way you use to support my school.

I like a lot the food because it gives me more power and energy to work very well at the school.  
No food, no work.

God bless you.

Jessica Jean  
7<sup>th</sup> grade



**For nothing will be impossible with God.** Luke 1:37

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**Thank you**



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January 11, 2024

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church  
2606 Chimney Rock Rd.  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

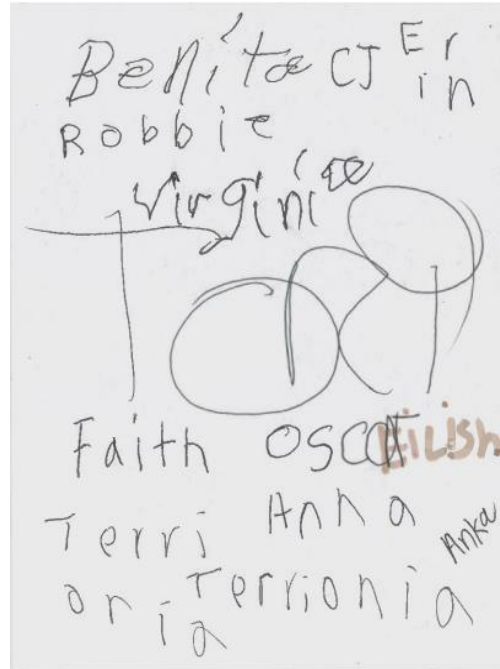
Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of \$515.00 to The Storehouse. Your generous gift went toward providing clothing, toys & other gifts for local children during our Blessings in Boxes event. We appreciate your desire to help those in our Henderson County community.

Blessings in Boxes was a huge success in 2023 with again serving over 2,000 children. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Lynn H. Staggs  
Executive Director



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## NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES OR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Information for accessing church service or evening Bible Study

Online: Video will be found on the home page at <http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com>

The service bulletin will also be available on the homepage.

Phone: Service will begin at 10:00 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.

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

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