

THE VIEW

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church and Preschool
2606 Chimney Rock Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

www.mtpisgahlutheran.com
828-692-7027
Email: mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Rightly Called

I am not a superstitious man, who looks to things as signs or omens (*Scripture warns us not to delve into such things—Lev. 19:26; Deut. 18:10*), but I do smirk at the fortuitous timing of coincidence that lets me ponder with the notion of a divine nudge. I comment on this as our monthly walk through the Articles of the Augsburg Confessions brings us to Article XIV: Of Ecclesiastical Order, which just so happens to coincide with the anniversary of my arrival at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church. Typically, discussion of this article does not come up in congregations until they are looking to call a pastor, but it is good for the congregation and the pastor to reflect on this article of the faith that neither half of the pastor/congregation relationship would be negligent in it. A right understanding of the Ecclesial Office is essential because it is a relationship that is prescribed and described by God, and it is vital for the distribution and reception of God's Means of Grace.

Article XIV says, "Of Ecclesiastical Order [Lutheran Churches] teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called." For such a short article, there is much to unpack. What is the office of public preaching and teaching? What are the duties of the office? If the church is the priesthood of all believers, then why is this a restricted office? Who is eligible to hold this office? What constitutes a "right" call?

While the Church, currently and throughout history, has had many ecclesial offices and sub-offices, this Article is expressly speaking in regards to the Pastoral Office. In the Bible, this office is referred to as the office of Overseer or Presbyter, which means Elder (**Note: this is not the same usage of the title as we use it today for congregational elders, who assist and support the pastor*). More commonly today, we use terms, like Bishop or Pastor, to refer to this office, alluding to the watchful care of the under-shepherds over Christ's flock. Bishop and Pastor are essentially the same office, but some traditions have made distinctions, as far as role within the hierarchical structure and degree of authority.

First and foremost, the office of public ministry is charged with duty of preaching and teaching the Gospel, in its fullness and purity, among God's people and before the world. This also includes the proper administration of tangible manifestations of God's Word and Promise through the Sacraments. These are not the only things a pastor does, since he serves as the spiritual head of a congregation and the public face of the congregation to the world, but all facets of the office of public ministry find their source in the call to handle God's Word and Sacraments.

This office was established by Jesus through the words and actions of his earthly ministry, and he entrusted it to his apostles, whom he appointed for bearing witness to all they had seen and heard (Matt. 28:16-20) and to whom he gave the authority to forgive and retain sins (John 20:19-23). As the church grew and the apostles waned, they also commissioned faithful men to carry on the public proclamation of Christ. In the pastoral epistles of St. Paul to Timothy and Titus, the Holy Spirit works through the Apostle to define the nature of the Pastoral Office and who is eligible to hold this office.

“If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:1-7).

The emphasis of St. Paul was to set a standard of character and ability for the man who holds the public office of ministry, and it is coupled with a warning against false teachers. No explicit procedure was given in Scripture was given for the appointment to the office, but Scripture strongly requires that the man who holds the office must be approved to rightly handle the Gospel (1 Thess. 2:1-11; 2 Tim. 14-19) and be confirmed into the office through the laying on of hands and prayers (1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 6-14). Only those who meet the biblically prescribed criteria and who have been approved through preparation for the proper handling of Word and Sacrament and confirmation of ordination can be considered “rightly or regularly called” to the office of public ministry. No one should be permitted to publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments who does to meet these criteria.

In response to this Article of the Augsburg Confession, their adversaries were in agreement, with one caveat: they wanted the Lutherans to submit to the approval of Rome's Bishops. This requirement for ordination is still a point of contention under the topic of Apostolic Succession. Apostolic Succession is the unbroken chain of public ministry where Jesus trained and ordained his apostles. They then trained pastors to continue the ministry, and those pastors did the same. Theoretically, this connects each pastor in a direct line back to Christ.

Without question, ecclesiastical approval is a biblical practice, and Apostolic Succession secures another level of trust that comforts those under the authority of the pastorate. The Lutheran had no problem with following the long-held hierarchical traditions. Since Scripture prescribes the character and qualifications of a pastoral candidate, but does not prescribe a method of training and approval, one man-made process is as good as another as long as it is done with good order. However, there was a huge problem with the Lutherans conceding to Rome's request to be the one

who approve and ordain the Lutheran pastors. The Roman Bishops refused to ordain the Lutherans unless they abandon the Lutheran doctrines, and worse, when Lutherans sought to be confirmed by the Roman Bishops, some were simply put to death. The Lutherans understood the maintaining ecclesiastical oversight by a structured hierarchy, although not commanded by Scripture, was still a good method of training and ordaining men for the pastoral office. However, electing not to be murdered, the Lutherans continued the practice preparing men for the ministry through their own bishops, who, since they came out of the Roman Church, could also claim an Apostolic Succession, even if they could not claim the traditional process.

To be rightly called is not a matter of pedigree. A right call is where God works through the Body of Christ to call a man, who has been properly trained, examined, and ordained to properly handle the mysteries of God, into the pastoral office for the public presentation of the Means of Grace to God's people and to publicly represent the Church to the Word. This requires specific characteristics and qualifications that must be tested and approved. It is therefore inappropriate for someone to usurp that office by their own will or desire, and it is equally inappropriate for a congregation to appoint someone who does not qualify. This short Article from the Augsburg Confession is one of the greatest safeguards of the Church against false doctrine and wolves in sheep's clothing. This protects both the congregation and the individuals who may wrongly desire the pastoral office, for it comes with a warning: "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness" (James 3:1). Therefore, for the good of all and to maintain the purity of doctrine and practice, the Lutheran Churches "teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

At our March 18 church council meeting we:

- Reviewed the **financial reports** from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.
- Received **reports** of the boards and committees.
- Heard that the **youth** made Easter bookmarks for the poke bags and will be participating in a skit on LWML Sunday.
- Learned that the **acolytes** will be vested during their service and that **attendance numbers** will be reported in the Weekly Update and The View.
- Heard that the installation of a **smart TV in the kitchen** has been done. Following installation of the new waterline, **gutter drains** were checked and repaired as necessary. Disturbed areas will be **relandscaped**.
- Received reports on the **Missions of the Month**: The February MOM, the Souper Bowl of Caring for IAM, raised \$658 and 142 pounds of canned goods. March will be Special Olympics. April

will benefit the Community Food Pantry in Edneyville. In May we will be a sponsor of Open Arms Pregnancy Center's Run for Life.

- Approved the Treasurer and Financial Secretary to open an account at Telco and **purchase a CD** at rates more favorable than other institutions.

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

Barbara Volk

Outreach and Community Concerns

Mission of the Month

April's MOM will be The Community Food Pantry (aka the Edneyville Food Pantry). With the cost of groceries so high lately, the need for food pantries has greatly increased. This pantry also gives to anyone who stops by on their distribution day.

May's MOM will be Open Arms Pregnancy Center. Their annual Walk for Life is Memorial Day weekend, we would encourage members to walk and if they can't walk, donate so the church can issue one large check.

Mt Pisgah will be a sponsor for the Life Walk, this gets our logo on the back of the t-shirt that each walker receives.

BIBLE QUIZ

- 1) Who shut the door of Noah's ark?
- 2) Which apostle was a tent maker?
- 3) What book of the Bible mentions mowed grass?
- 4) What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?
- 5) According to the Bible, which one of Yahweh's servants was the most flagrant lawbreaker?

BONUS QUESTION) What area of the Promised Land was especially wealthy?

Local Senior Olympics

Calling all seniors (50+) for the local Henderson Co Four Seasons Senior Games. The opening ceremony will be on April 30th at the HCPRD Activities and Athletics Center, 708 S Grove St. They will serve breakfast at 9:00 AM to registered participants. They have a multitude of events during the month of May. It costs \$16 to enter (some events may have an extra fee such as Bowling). You can register at this website:

[FourSeasons — North Carolina Senior Games \(ncseniorgames.org\)](http://ncseniorgames.org)

Sports – including Bowling – Cycling – Road Races – Swimming – Basketball – Softball – Track and Field – Badminton – Pickleball – Corn Hole – Table Tennis (Ping-Pong) – Tennis – and more.

Silverarts – including Cheerleaders – Heritage Arts (such as Crocheting, Knitting, Jewelry Making, Stained Glass, Woodworking, Quilting) - Literary Arts – Performing Arts – Visual Arts (such as Drawing, Oil, Pastel, Photography, Watercolor)

Let us know if you are going to enter and we can get a Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church group picture after the events are over. You can show off your medals!

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

Alan Hicks
Greg Lundquist
Zoe Christensen
David Walters
Mark Bowen (Ryel)
Mikki Reinicker
Tom Berryman
Marianne Bugner
Albert Bugner

Marjorie Zell
David Moore (Gonzalez)
Dewayne Grooms
(Gonzalez)
Jackie Fry
Madeline Biddle
Jan Sharp
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

**Gabriel Escude` (safety
of his team while
deployed in Syria)**
Betty Ude/Karen 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)

Homebound

Warna Berryman
Albert & Marianne Bugner
Kathleen Fox

Joann Kapugi
Suzie Karnatz
Dianne Luecke

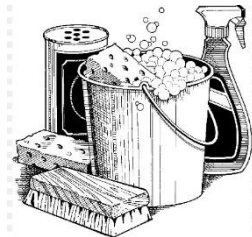
Sue Smith
Nancy Stang
Betty Ude

Compassion and Sympathy

Ministry Concerns

Our Preschool staff, children & families
Christopher, Nicole, James, Wyatt Duncan (medical issues)
Taylor McAbee (medical issues)
Cormany Family (dad injured)
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)

Board of Christian Education



Looking a little further ahead, work days are scheduled at Camp Linn Haven to get the grounds and facilities ready for another summer of Christian fellowship and fun. Those dates are April 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18. Mt. Pisgah is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the interior of Cabin 17. This year's efforts will probably include painting the bathroom. Offers to help with this particular project will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Linda Licht if you would like first-hand experience with this ministry.

Birthday Blessings

04/03 Logan Clancy
04/04 Marilyn Pittman
04/05 Sue Oetting
04/07 David De Graff

04/08 Blenda Luecke
04/15 Dailyn Rappley
04/17 Russell Rappley
04/17 Leah Ryel
04/21 Marjorie Zell

04/21 Mary Rappley
04/24 Alan Hicks
04/27 Karen Ude
04/28 Eva Hagedorn



April Blessings

LWML Sunday, April 21

LWML Sunday is an opportunity for the congregation to find out what the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is all about. Join us during the Sunday School hour for refreshments, information about the work of the LWML, and a special skit narrated by the ladies of our LWML and presented together with our Sunday School children as models entitled "A Resurrection Parade".

From the LWML website:

Easter parades have their beginnings with the first Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Walks were held by early Christians to commemorate Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and His walk to the cross on Good Friday. During the Dark Ages, early Christians held these solemn processions to demonstrate their unity in faith and to reach out to non-believers. Even back in these times, participants wore their finest clothes to show their respect to Jesus. ... Today, we have the privilege of hosting a resurrection parade with special Easter bonnets.

Please join us and learn more about the work of the LWML. Women will be serving during the service as lector and ushers and a special offering will be taken to support the various mission projects selected by the LWML this biennium. This will be a **NOISY** offering as we ask our members to bring their loose change for this special gathering.

Join us and find out more about how we "Serve the Lord with Gladness"!

LWML Project for March

Barbara Volk and I dropped off 48 Easter favors for seniors participating in the Sammy Williams



program offered by the Council on Aging at First United Methodist Church. The members of the LWML put the Easter favors together as a project for the month of March. The program includes lunch, social activities (live music once weekly, exercise twice weekly and other activities). It is open to residents of Henderson County. The hours are from about 10:30 am - 12:15 pm Monday - Friday. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Haylee Smith at 828-692-6693 to register.

THANK YOU

March 6, 2024

Rev. Jonathan Christiansen
Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church
2606 Chimney Rock Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Rev. Christiansen,

Thank you for your gift of \$586 to IAM on 2/26/2024. Your partnership in IAM's mission helps us assist children and adults in our communities who are experiencing crisis with basic needs in an atmosphere of compassion and respect.

Because of your generosity, IAM's staff and volunteers can continue our 40 years of assisting local residents with basic needs – nutritious food, personal hygiene items, clothing, rent and utility assistance, gas vouchers, prescriptions, budgeting help and other services. All of this would not be possible without your support that shows compassion for our fellow neighbors.

As we celebrate IAM's 40th anniversary this year, we invite you to stay up-to-date about the impact of your gifts. You may visit our website at www.iam-hc.org, where you can sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram as you desire. We value your partnership and look forward to celebrating the year with you as we continue to provide for those in need.

Thank you again for your support and your heart for uplifting local children and adults who need us the most.

Blessings,



Elizabeth Willson Moss
Executive Director

*Thank you so
much Pastor
Christiansen
many children &
adults will
be blessed* ♥

I wanted to thank the ladies of the church for all they do for Mom, Dianne Luecke. She really enjoys the visits from Leah, the flowers and all the treats. It is truly a blessing to me to have your kindness and support.

Mike Luecke

I wanted to thank everyone who helped with the Poke Bags for the homebound. Members of the Parish Life Committee assembled 13 bags for 15 people and the bags were delivered during the week of March 18th.

Also, a big THANK YOU to everyone who brought food for the Easter Brunch and helped in any way with set-up, serving and clean up.

Debby Zagone

Seminary Notes

3/1/24

DEAR SAINTS OF CHRIST AT MOUNT PISGAH,

GREETINGS FROM FOUR WYND, WHERE IT'S 70° ONE DAY AND SNOWING THE NEXT. WHATEVER THE WEATHER IS DOING, WE'VE JUST FINISHED THE WINTER QUARTER AT THE SEMINARY. I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME TAKING DOGMATICS III, WHICH FOCUSED ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE PASTORAL OFFICE AND THE MEMB OF GRACE; PASTORAL THEOLOGY I, WHICH LOOKED AT THE SAME TOPICS BUT THROUGH A LENS OF CARING FOR PEOPLE IN VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES (THESE TWO CLASSES PERFORMED VERY WELL); AND MINISTRY IN PLURALISTIC CONTEXTS, WHICH WAS A SURVEY OF WORLD RELIGIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES. IT WAS A WONDERFUL QUARTER, AND AS EVER, I WISH IT COULD CONTINUE.

OUR MOST EXCITING NEWS IS THAT EMILY WAS ABLE TO VISIT HER FAMILY IN FLORIDA FOR A WEEK IN JANUARY (AND SKIPPED A WEEK OF SINGLE DIGIT TEMPERATURES HERE)! HER MEDICAL TROUBLES HAVE MADE TRAVEL ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE AND SHE'D NOT SEEN HER FAMILY IN NEARLY THREE YEARS. BUT, WITH A WONDERFUL TEAM OF DOCTORS AND SUPPORTERS WE WERE ABLE TO FIND A PLAN FOR HER TO BE ABLE TO FLY. WHAT A BLESSING!

I STAYED HOME WITH CLASSES AND OUR BUNNY, PETHUNIA. BUT, IRONICALLY, I ENDED UP GOING TO FLORIDA TWO DAYS AFTER SHE RETURNED FOR MY GRANDMA'S FUNERAL. SO, I ALSO GOT SOME WARMTH AND TIME WITH FAMILY.

WHILE EMILY IS DOING MUCH BETTER THAN SHE WAS A YEAR AGO, SHE STILL HAS A GREAT DEAL OF CHRONIC PAIN. WE'RE TRYING A FEW LAST OPTIONS, BUT IT'S

Likely that Smeil have another surgery at the beginning of summer. Please keep us in your prayers as we look toward that possibility.

In the mean time, her classes are going very well toward her Criminal Justice degree. She does amazing work and I'm very proud of her.

Our schedules are offset such that I have two weeks off while she has projects and finals, then she has a break when my spring quarter starts.

This will be my last before vicarage. We are slated to have a local vicarage here in Fort Wayne and are very thankful for that stability. We even have a very good idea of where we'll be, but nothing's final until placement night so we'll save that story...

Thank you so much for your kindness and prayers. Your generosity, support, and reminders of home mean a lot to us. Know that you are in our prayers as well. God bless you and sustain you in all faith and love.

JESUS KEEP YOU,
Adam & Emily
Ariety

Outdoor Property

Gardening with Luther

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. . . And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:11-12

There is a quote on the wall at the Blue Ridge Mall: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." Martin Luther

This quote does not appear in writing until 1944 in Germany. It may be from a Lutheran Pastor trying to shore up the hopes of the people who were defying the Nazi government at the peak of World War 2. But it is consistent with what Martin Luther believed about the connection between God and all that He has created.

Pastor Matthew Hosier writes:

Martin Luther discovers his enthusiasm for gardening in 1527, two years after his wedding. He asks his friend Wenzeslaus Link to send him seeds from Nuremberg: “Send as many as you possibly can...No matter how much Satan is raging, I will laugh at him and watch the gardens, the Creator’s blessings, and enjoy them to His praise. Just get me even more seeds for my garden, if ever possible many different varieties because if I am going to stay alive, I would want to become a gardener!”

This one brief description serves as a summary of all that might be said about Luther:

1. That he was a man of enthusiasms. There is nothing dry about Luther – he is all in whatever it is he gets into, whether it be theological dispute or growing vegetables. Not just a few seeds for Luther– no, as many as possible!
2. That he sees every aspect of life as an arena for spiritual warfare. Not many of us do our gardening as a means for laughing at Satan but there is something inspirational about Luther’s deliberate delighting in God through the things God has made. He turns mundane tasks into jokes made at the expense of the devil, and worship to God.
3. That he makes the most of life knowing that life is vulnerable. One of the miracles of Luther’s story is that he escaped execution. After seeing the museum in Wittenberg, we visited the Wartburg Castle to which Luther was famously kidnapped to save him from death. It is magnificent, but austere and cold. However, Luther’s Wittenberg garden must have offered him a much fuller taste of the goodness of life.

Ten years after nailing the 95 theses to the Wittenberg church door, Luther was growing a Wittenberg garden – with flowers and herbs, vegetables and fruit trees – to fill his eyes and stomach with good things, and pour scorn on the devil. That’s the kind of Reformation we should celebrate!

And I add: That is the kind of life we should live every day. Bill Paris

Prayer: Father, let us always remember that Jesus came into His creation, His garden, to defeat the enemy of our souls. Then Jesus became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep when He was raised from the dead. Help us to continue planting the seeds of this Good News so that one day, many will be in Heaven to worship You.

(1 Cor. 15:20, Rev. 7:9-12)

Board of Missions Update

Train a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

US Missions

The Board voted to send \$1,000 to Shepherd's Heart Ministry (the Disaster Pastor, Pastor Braiser in Alabama) and \$1,000 to LCMS for disaster response relief. Please pray for those impacted by natural disasters, including the recent tornados and storms.

International Missions

We are providing a special financial blessing of \$500 per missionary to our LCMS missionary partners in the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic and Japan. They also request our prayers as they work in each of these countries with unique needs.

Looking ahead to supporting the growing attendance at the seven Lutheran schools in Haiti we will be fundraising for the 2024 – 2025 school year.:

- On May 5th we will serve strawberry short cake to the congregation after worship. Freewill donations will be accepted. This fundraiser was very popular, okay delicious, a few years ago. And the young ladies of the congregation will make a repeat performance by assisting with the baking.
- The Mission Committee will prepare hot soup and cookies to serve at the Voters' Meeting on May 19th with a freewill donation accepted for Lutheran Schools in Haiti. Always great to savor some food while discussing Church business.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Glossop

The Situation in Haiti – Changing Daily

By Wendy White

One of our established mission projects is Christian education in the Central Plateau of Haiti. As you see on the news, the situation continues to deteriorate to greater levels of misery for the eleven million people of Haiti trapped on the island of Hispaniola.

Currently, Haiti is a failed state with no functioning central government. Armed gangs control of 80% of the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince, (PAP). Gangs overtook and control the national airport and seaports, thus controlling the food, fresh water, and fuel supplies. Gangs control the roads into and out of the capital. The United States closed their embassy in Port-au-Prince and ordered all non-essential citizens to leave the country. Most educated Haitians left the country months ago as they witnessed kidnappings, extortion and murder from controlling gangs which created dangerous security crisis. Now there are millions of vulnerable people, many of whom are children, who have no protection, food, or water.

How did the situation come to this? Haiti is located on the Caribbean Island of Hispaniola between Cuba and Puerto Rico. Hispaniola used to be the richest island in the Caribbean. Today the island

is made of two nations, the Dominican Republic (DR) to the east and Haiti to the west. In the past, many Haitians immigrated to the DR to find gainful employment. Due to the current situation in Haiti, the DR is deporting all Haitians back to Haiti and have closed their borders.

Historically, corrupt leaders in Haiti used gangs as their private thugs to exploit and control the population. Now the well-armed gangs have turned on corrupt leaders to create havoc. Gangs organized a concerted prison break at two large prisons and over 4,000 convicted criminals escaped. Gangs demanded the current Prime Minister, Ariel Henry, who was appointed, not elected, after the 2021 assassination of Prime Minister Jovenel Moise, leave office immediately. Prime Minister Henry agreed to do so if a transitional government is appointed. There is little hope the new transitional government will bring relief to the people. It is comprised of seven appointed leaders who come from a long history of corruption, bribery, and exploitation. Another handicap will be the new formed government has no army or strong police force capable of enforcing law and order against the well-armed gangs.

Haiti is made of ten departments, similar to our individual states. While gangs controlling most of PAP, they do not control the entire nation. The areas free from gang control and violence are protected by citizens working with the local police to keep gangsters out of the area. This is how some areas outside Port-au-Prince remained free from gang control including the Central Plateau where the Lutheran churches and schools operate.

Please be confident the Mission Committee takes seriously the accountability for the gifts you give toward this ministry. Our financial transparency procedures are reviewed frequently with our mission partners to assure that your gifts are used for the purpose they were given. Our mission partners are providing objective evidence for the funding they receive. We frequently review how funding is transferred through the banking system in Haiti to ensure to the best of our abilities these gifts are used exclusively for the intended purpose given. We thank God for your trust and generosity that supports this ministry.

In such a cruel and hopeless situation, how can the love of God exist?

First, God is in control! No matter how bad the situation becomes, we know God is in control of all things.

Second, with God all things are possible! Just as God used the cruel Roman Empire to spread the Gospel, God will use the terrible situation in Port-au-Prince for His glory.

Here are some of the ways we see the love of God in Haiti:

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the churches in the Central Plateau are exploding in membership. In the Central Plateau there are approximately 7,000 Lutherans: 2,000 adult and 5,000 students. There are now 12 organized Lutheran churches, 19 preaching stations, and 12 Lutheran schools operating daily. There are thousands of people attending the Lutheran churches in the Central Plateau. All of these churches started from the mission in Laotchikit.

Trinity Hope, a recognized charity of the LCMS, in Mt. Juliet, TN continues to provide a hot lunch to all our students in the Lutheran schools.

There are 144 adult students attending the Lutheran Seminary based in Laotchikit. Students from nine countries attend in-person in Laotchikit or login to take classes each week online. There are 79 seminary students who live in the Central Plateau. These students are responsible for the preaching stations, and work as superintendents and teachers of the small catechism in the Lutheran schools.

Nurse Rene Roboul provides medical treatment and care for the students in all seven Lutheran schools. He recently diagnosed life threatening conditions which he was able to arrange for the students to be transported and treated for surgery at the hospital in Hinche.

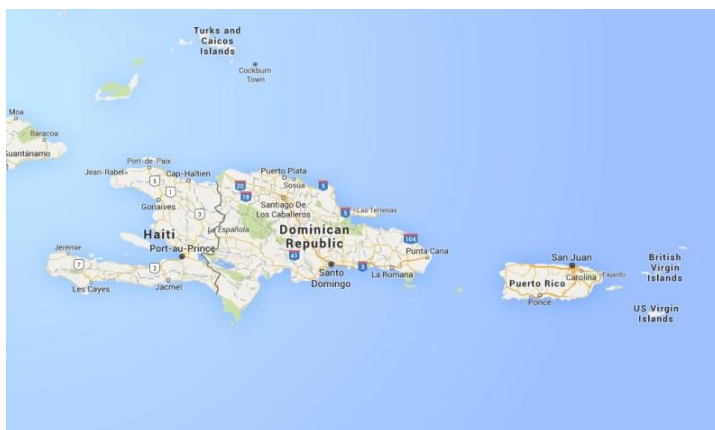
Wildjesse, a nine-year-old boy who fell off his donkey, is now recovering after his broken arm was set by an orthopedic doctor. Wildjesse can move his arm again and is able to play soccer.

Balthazar, a five-year-old student in Savann a Palmes had successful surgery to repair a hernia.

Because of the farming projects in Laotchikit, people are able to grow food for their families. Crop production may be impacted if the fuel situation is not resolved soon. Some fields depend on irrigation pumps which use gasoline to operate. These farms truly help sustain the people in Laotchikit who are cut off from any supply of food from Port-au-Prince as there is no communication or travel between Port-au-Prince and the other departments of Haiti.

The Lutheran Leaders in the Central-Plateau believes that, after the proclamation of the Gospel, education plays the most important role in the healthy development of our children. Boys involved in school have a significantly reduced chance of being drawn into a gang. Girls involved in school have a reduced chance of becoming pregnant while still young teenagers. That's why scholarships are so welcome!

We thank each of you for your prayerful support of the mission work in Haiti. Let us continue to pray that God will bless this nation with a safe and stable government where Haitians can live and worship in peace and prosperity.



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>

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1) God (Genesis 7:16)

2) Paul (Acts 18:1-3)

3) Psalms 72:6

4) Yahweh drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury, an automobile produced by Plymouth from 1955 to 1989.

Israel's Triumph (a British automobile produced from 1921 to 1984) could be heard after the death of Goliath (2 Samuel 17:52).

Honda... because Acts 2:12 says Jesus' followers "were all in one Accord," an automobile.

God may favor Dodge pickup trucks since the Israelites were warned not to follow Moses up on the mountain "until the Ram's horn sounds a long blast." -- Exodus 19:13.

5) Moses, he broke all Ten Commandments at once!

BONUS ANSWER) The area near the Jordan River where the banks kept overflowing.

SERVICE ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY 4- 75 ATTENDEES

FEBRUARY 11- 63 ATTENDEES

FEBRUARY 18- 68 ATTENDEES

FEBRUARY 25- 71 ATTENDEES

MARCH 3- 70 ATTENDEES

MARCH 10- NOT COUNTED

MARCH 17- 69 ATTENDEES

MARCH 24- 75 ATTENDEES

MARCH 28- Maundy Thursday

MARCH 29- Chief Service-

MARCH 20- Tenebrae Service-

MARCH 31- Easter Service-

Proverbs 18:21 NIV

²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

What is the meaning of Proverbs 18:21?

This Bible verse means to use wisdom when you speak and to choose your words carefully. Your words have consequences. You can cause hate or love by your tongue. The things you say effect you and others. Use wisdom in what you speak to build up, rather than pull down.

In the Children's Sunday School class, we studied various stories in Genesis and how words were used to tear people down or to build them up. We call these 'put downs' and 'lift ups.' Please consider how you use 'put downs' or 'lift ups' with your tongue. Bullets or bombs destroy but the damage or benefit of words can last forever in the memory of those who are hurt or encouraged by them. Let us all be encouraging of one another and lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Hoping you will share some of your ideas,
warmth and creativity to our social media.
A great way to interest our neighbors in Scripture,
Sunday School, Worship Services, Parish Life,
and your experiences as a Christian!**

Social Media is a powerful tool reaching millions of people and it's free to use.

Please contact me with your ideas for a video,
a church photo opportunity, Music or
a Scripture you'd like to share or...????

Blessings to you!

Karen.Lundquist@yahoo.com
904.377.6076

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