



The *GOOD NEWS*

To provide hope by Reaching out and Connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Encouraging them to share the same Good News.

March 2019

A Message from Pastor Brewer . . .

St. John Lutheran Church
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Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Lenten Services

Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

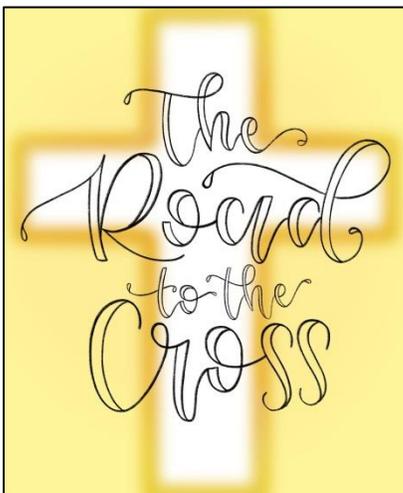
L.I.F.E. Hour

Sunday at 9:15 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

A critical skill/tool that the Holy Spirit must develop in every Christian in order to draw them closer to Christ and help them in instructing others in faith in Christ is Hermeneutics, otherwise known as Exegetics. Hermeneutics is a branch of Theology that focuses on the study of how to properly interpret, apply and understand the Holy Scriptures. I began this conversation in the sermon on February 24 in discussing the need for a proper hermeneutical approach to the scriptures for all believers to understand what the scriptures actually say and to guard against false teaching that can develop in the church because of poor or false hermeneutics. As I discussed in this sermon which is available for you to watch on the church website Adam and Eve's original sin was caused in part because of poor hermeneutics which allowed the Devil to deceive them into believing a lie.

Development of proper hermeneutics is based on prayer that the Holy Spirit would lead us into a proper understanding of what the Scriptures say and how they are to be applied to life. In order to **understand what the Scriptures say we must learn to understand what their original meaning was in the context of when and where they were given**, basically what God was saying to the people then, and then **properly apply that to our current situation today**. **Understanding what it meant then comes from understanding the literal and allegorical meaning of what was being said, the references to other places in the Scriptures being talked about, and properly defining the idioms, parables and any other examples that were used in their cultural context.** For example if I said, "It is about to hit the fan," or "It is getting deep in here," in correspondence to someone from a different culture, they would probably not get the underlying meaning of those two idioms, and therefore not properly understand the intent of what I had said.

Closely connected to understanding the meaning of what we are reading in its context is the principles that Scripture is the rule and norm of what it means, said differently **Scripture must interpret Scripture**. To do this we must first understand what presuppositions we bring to the reading of the Bible so as to check them at the door and allow the Scriptures to be the rule and norm for what they say. I may have a particular political or social ideology that I have been taught or have come to believe. If I do not recognize these presuppositions they may improperly influence how I interpret the Word as I teach it to others, and thereby lead them into a false



teaching. We see this misinterpretation done all the time today when people read into the Bible a belief they have from outside of it.

An example of this today that will avoid the hot button topics of politics hopefully is sex. A common presupposition that is read into the Bible is that any sinful desire of the flesh is bad. This presupposition does not have its roots in the Scriptures but instead in the philosophy of Plato. Platonic philosophy has been handed down to us today in the believe that anything of the flesh is bad and anything of the spirit is good. But we are creatures made in the image of God of both flesh and spirit. God made us both male and female, and created us in such a way that we were meant to leave our parent's homes and join in a one flesh union with one another. This was God's original design for humanity. He told us to be fruitful and multiply in the garden. How was that going to happen if sex was bad? Proper exegesis of the Scriptures would understand and teach that in the context of marriage sex is a good thing. Platonic philosophy infiltrated the Christian church and influenced bad hermeneutics that caused the church to go to extremes of not allowing dancing, or swimming together of the different sexes so as to avoid inflaming the desires of the flesh. We see these poor hermeneutics today in many puritanical beliefs within Christianity involving clothing and such. A proper hermeneutical approach to the topic of sex in the Holy Scriptures would be to seat the discussion in the creation account and what God's design for it was in the context of marriage because this is exactly how it is defined and taught throughout the scriptures.

Another hermeneutical principle that is absolutely necessary to properly interpret and apply the Scriptures is that all scriptures find their true meaning in Christ, said differently the Bible is Christocentric or centered in Christ. Indeed John inspired by God defines the Word of God exactly this way when he calls Christ the Word of God. Back to the presuppositions discussion again, the vast majority of Christianity does not read the scriptures through the lens of Christ, but instead through the lens of humanity, or as I called it the sermon on February 24th the lens of personal responsibility for salvation. Christ is the fulfillment of everything in the Holy Scriptures, so to understand and apply them we need to look at them in light of Him. I can either read the Bible based on myself, or I can read it based on Christ. If I read it based on me it will lead me to a false understanding that may cause me to trust not in Christ for salvation and give the Devil room to fool me into false belief, or I can read the Bible based on Christ's work of salvation on my behalf and believe the truth unto salvation.

The last major hermeneutical principle is to properly interpret the literal and allegorical meaning of the scriptures. The literal meaning takes president in proper interpretation, but we must also understand that there are places in the scripture that were written in the allegorical sense. The art of Hermeneutics is learning to understand the difference in our interpretation led by the Holy Spirit.

Now if I have done my job so far I have thoroughly confused you, which was my intent, to challenge you for some further reading. The following links give further explanation of what hermeneutics is and how they are properly done. This list is by no means exhaustive but meant to give you a beginning direction for proper hermeneutics.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/01/deeper-understandings-hermeneutics/>

<http://globalchristiancenter.com/bible-and-theology/biblical-theology/24179-lutheran-and-wesleyan-hermeneutics-a-comparison-and-contrast>

<http://www.ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/SurburgSummaryLutheranHermeneuticalPrinciples.pdf>

I have a book by James Voelz called, "What Does This Mean?," that does the best job of explaining this topic in depth and yet in a way that we can understand easily. The reason I felt the need to discuss hermeneutics is that many well meaning Christians are leading others astray because they don't interpret the Scriptures properly. We all can learn how to do this, but it takes work. Too many Christians today don't take the time to thoroughly read the Word in its context and correctly apply it today. Sadly it can and does happen in our own congregation.

Here is a simple tool that we all can use to properly interpret and apply the scriptures today.

1. Read a passage in the Bible.
2. What does that passage talk about? What does it mean in its context (the verses and chapters around it)? What did it mean in the context of the time and place that it was written? How can that apply to our situation today?
3. Where else do the scriptures talk about these same things? (Hint: Study Bibles gives these references in the middle columns between the readings. Look up in the front of the bibles on how they do this or ask me if your curious.)
4. How does all of this relate to Christ?
5. What ideologies are you trying to read into the Bible that aren't there?
6. How does it all relate to Christ and what He has done for our salvation?
7. Now discuss what you discovered with others and be prepared for them to bring up other scripture references that may also impact the current topic. Ultimately what did the Holy Spirit do to point you to Christ as your Savior.

✠ *In Christ, Pastor Brewer*



**Online Pre-Registration
AVAILABLE for March 9**

\$20 Share Donation + \$1 Processing Fee

Use Your Debit or Credit Card On-line

www.rubyspantry.org

**Select a Time Slot / Arrive 15 Minutes Before Your Time
Minimal Waiting on the Day of the Pantry**

**Pre-Registration is Available Until 3:00 pm Day Before Pantry
(Re-opens Next Day for New Month)**

NEWS & EVENTS

Ash Wednesday: Lenten Soup Suppers will be starting on Ash Wednesday, March 6th: Please join us on Wednesday evenings prior to our worship service for supper served from 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Lenten worship services will start at 7 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Want to be a soup chef? Sign up in the Narthex!

Make Your Amazon.com Purchases Through AmazonSmile and Help St. John Lutheran Church. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price on your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support St. John by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7040573>

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for the celebration of Easter! We are accepting monetary donations toward the Easter Flower Fund. Donations can be made "in memory of", "in honor of", "in celebration of" or "anonymously". **Please be sure to designate your wishes.** There are order forms and envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your donations! Any Questions? Contact Jackie Glander at (920) 655-7047.

"Please Take One!"

In our Lobby you will find a new display filled with booklets on various topics. These booklets are designed to meet the needs of today's adults and families. Please feel free to visit the display and grab a booklet that might help and share them with your family and friends.

These booklets are available through Lutheran Hour Ministries "Project Connect" and cover real-life issues written from a Christian perspective. Many more topics are available over & above what we could fit on our rack, including booklets written in Spanish. Please contact an Evangelism Team Member or the Church Office if you are in need of a topic that you are not finding. "Project Connect" is a way to reach out to our local community with the living message of God's eternal love for us.

Be Prepared For Anything - Self Defense Class **Learn the basic skills necessary to protect yourself.**

Class taught by Kim's Tae Kwon do Center – Green Bay.

Learn how to be Street Smart.

- How to be aware of your surroundings.
- How to deal with strangers, bullies.
- How to talk, walk or run away from a bad situation.
- How to defend against attackers.
- How to use simple Tae Kwon Do Techniques for Self-Defense.
- How to use your hands and feet to defend and attack.
- How to strike targets.
- How to get out of grabs, chokes, etc.

Saturday, April 6, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Road | Luxemburg, WI

\$5 per person ages 12 and up / Payable to St. John Lutheran Church

Ages 12-16 must be accompanied with participating parent or guardian. Registration & waiver form must be filled out.

Space is limited – Reserve your spot by March 31!

Registration & waiver forms are on the table in the Narthex or online at stjohnlux.com.



Lakeshore Lutherans for Life Thank You: We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to our Life Sunday observance with monetary gifts, food and clothing. We would also like to offer a special thank you to all who assisted in food preparation, kitchen help or general participation for the porkie/ pancake breakfast.

Please Join Us at Our Next Lutherans For Life Meeting!
St. Paul's Church and School- Luxemburg
Wed March 13th 6:30pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elder Minutes

Date: February 6, 2019

Open with Prayer

Elders Present:

Marv Perleberg, Mike Lambert, Eric Nelson, Dan DeGrave, Chris DenHeijer, Larry Jorgenson, Pastor Carl Brewer

Transfers In/ New Members: None

Released from Membership: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Welcome new Elders: Paul Derenne, Eric Nelson, Mike Lambert
- Thank you to outgoing Elders: Chris Hanmann, Dan DeGrave, Frank Dorn
- Discussion of Lenten Services and Holy Week
 - Ash Wednesday is March 6th with Lenten Supper at 6:00 pm followed by Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 pm (will continue every Wednesday during Lent)
 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm (April 18)
 - Good Friday at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm (April 19)
 - Easter Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am (April 21)
 - NO Monday Worship Service (April 22)

Closed with Prayer

Submitted By: Marvin Perleberg

Next Meeting: TBD

Board of Education Minutes

February 13, 2019

* Pastor informed us Confirmation has been set for Sunday, May 19th.

* We welcomed new members, Kathy Nelson & Loren Vandenberg.

* We began planning the Teacher Appreciation Dinner...it has been set for Sunday, April 7, 2019 beginning at 5:30 pm.

* Next BOE meeting will be Weds, March 13th.

Trustee Meeting Minutes-

February 18, 2019

Meeting called to order 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Jeff Dart, Todd Krueger, Lloyd Loberger. Pastor Brewer also was present.

Items discussed included:

- 1) Duties and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees as put forth in the Constitution and By-laws.
- 2) Review and change made to the "Request for Use of Facilities" form.
- 3) Approve hiring a wheel loader to provide more parking space by moving existing snow banks.
- 4) Sliding shelves in lower cabinets in kitchen.
- 5) Retrieval and transfer of keys.
- 6) Possible purchase of more land.
- 7) Look for guidance for the proper way to audit the church books.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Lloyd Loberger

Evangelism Committee Meeting Minutes February 8, 2019

Attendance: Myles Behling, Jenny Shaw, Jean Loberger, Heidi VandenBush, Jodi Kinnard, Nancy Loberger

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with a meal, fellowship & prayer

- The committee finalized the "Evangelism Committee Job Description". Jenny will submit the revised description to the church office.
- A Lutheran Hour Ministries Booklet rack was purchased and is set up for installation. Jeannie will talk to Pastor about the best place to place the new rack. The committee discussed ways to promote & use the new resource. Jenny will maintain the brochure rack and order more as needed. We will present the new resource to the congregation by use of a power point displayed on the screens prior to services, a notice in the weekly bulletin and a brief verbal announcement after each Sunday service.... Jenny, Nancy & Heidi will assist.
- Jean recently met with the St. John & St Louis Ruby's Pantry Leaders, Sue Raduenz & Pat Webster. Jean updated our team on our role of organizing & coordinating the list for the Blessing Boxes each month and how our team could assist further with the Ruby's Project. A prayer room & prayer cards were discussed. Jeannie will meet again with the Ruby's leaders to discuss further ideas about the prayer room & prayer cards in March.
- The committee discussed the upcoming "Mother's Day Diaper Drive" event scheduled for May. Jenny shared there is an immediate need for supplies for a few mom/babies in the county. Jenny & Nancy will coordinate a donation with the Kewaunee County Birth to 3 Coordinator this month, to assist the babies in need with some diaper/clothing supplies that are already purchased for the upcoming drive.
- The Committee next discussed the upcoming "SHAPES" program. A timeline/checklist for preparing for the event was discussed. The Committee will meet in March to discuss options for teaming with Northwoods Vineyard Church, Tomahawk to assist with promotion of the event at St. John's.

New Business: An idea was presented to sponsor a Men's Ministry event. Further research, program ideas and discussion will be continued for the March Evangelism meeting.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Jenny Shaw

Church Council Meeting

February 20, 2019

Members present: Pastor Brewer, Edward Treml, Rob Funk, Norene Giese, Mike Lambert, Larry Jorgenson, Marv Perleberg, Wendy Havel, Lloyd Loberger, Nancy Loberger

Pastor Brewer opened the meeting with prayer.

There were no minutes to be approved for January, 2019, as the meeting was canceled due to weather conditions.

Pastor reported there was no change in membership.

Rob Funk provided the budget for January 1 through January 31, 2019:

- Church Revenue - \$24,489
- Total Expenses - \$25,765
- Total Assets - \$238,469
- Difference minus Operating Expenses = negative \$1,001

Rob shared that the budget is normally in the negative at this time in the budget year due to payout of benefits.

Elders –

- More trays have been ordered for communion cups, paid by the Alter Fund, to help when continuous communion takes place. A new larger bread distribution bowl has also been purchased.

Trustees –

- Lloyd share he is working with past and new Council members regarding the transfer of building keys. If any new member receives a key from a former member directly to please share this information with Lloyd for Key Distribution Records.
- Lloyd suggested an audit of church financial books take place to be in compliance with the bylaws. Rob shared the books are always available for review.

Stewardship Committee –

- They are looking at compiling a church cookbook with the sales to be used to possibly purchase shelving for the Library.

Board of Education –

- The Board is working on the staff appreciation dinner taking place in April.

Evangelism Committee – Nancy shared information from their February 8 meeting.

- Finalized the “Evangelism Committee Job Description.”
- A Lutheran Ministries Booklet rack has been purchased and set up in the Narthex.
- Working with Ruby’s Pantry regarding the Blessing Boxes.
- Mother’s Day Diaper Drive
- The “SHAPES” program. More information in March.

Old Business:

- Future Needs Assessment – Will be reviewed at the March Council meeting.

New Business:

- Constitution and By-Laws – suggested that the date of the latest update be added to the documents which is 2012. Candy will be asked to do a link for these documents on the church web site.
- All committees have been asked to update a Job Responsibilities sheet. New members will be given a copy and it was suggested to place this information on the web site.
- Information was shared on the proposed purchase of land discussed at the Voters’ meeting on February 3. Additional parking space is going to be needed so Jerome Jadin was approached about the possibility of purchasing land west of the present parking lot. Mr. Jadin is going to have the plot of land the church is interested in surveyed and will get back to us with an exact cost. It is expected to have additional information available at the April Voters’ meeting.
- It is planned to establish a Future Needs Committee. Looking to have 4-6 members on the committee and the committee would work with and report back to the Trustees. They will help the trustees with obtaining bids for projects and design five- and ten-year plans with expenses. There was a question of whether the number of trustees should be increased but this would require a change in the bylaws. Suggested to establish a “Maintenance Committee.” Anyone interested on being part of such a committee should contact one of the Trustees.
- Information was shared about the Vimeo Subscription Service which would assist in providing church services/weekly sermons online. By using Vimeo the cost of data to provide this service would be reduced for the church. The cost is \$20/month and \$240/year. Requests to provide the service have been received. Our present system would accommodate this. Nancy Loberger moved to hire Vimeo Subscription Service at a cost of \$20/month and \$240/year to make church services available online. Seconded by Rob Funk. Motion carried. The Council will revisit these services in a year to determine if the subscription should be continued.
- A paper copy of the monthly Church Council minutes will be maintained in a specified binder in the church office.
- The church secretaries will be working on transferring past meeting records to a jump stick so that those minutes can be deleted from the office computer to free up space on the hard drive.

The next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Rob Funk moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lloyd Loberger. Motion carried.

Closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Giese, Council Secretary