



**February
2015**

Pastor's Page



Zion Lutheran Church

110 East Grand Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Website: www.cfzionlutheran.com

Hymns Teach the Word of Christ

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

There are many who claim to faithfully teach the Word of Christ, but we know there are major doctrinal differences among Christians. For example, those who deny the saving gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion--like non-denominational, Methodist and Baptist churches--claim to teach the Word of Christ. Also, Presbyterians claim to teach the Word of Christ, but they teach that Jesus didn't die on the cross for the sins of the entire world, but for only some people. While we Lutherans consider those in other denominations Christians, in accordance with Christ's Word, we certainly warn against the serious leaven.

Sadly, many have tainted the pure Word of Christ—that is, twisted or muddied the pure doctrine given in Scripture. It is sad that they teach that we Lutherans are wrong to believe the simple and clear Word of Christ. Therefore, we will continue to pray for them; and we should be cautious about singing their hymns. Naturally, a Baptist or Presbyterian will write and sing songs and hymns that reflect what they believe. You won't find taught in the total corpus of their hymns all the comfort that Christ gives in His Word that He wants us all to believe. You won't find the comfort of baptism washing away sins or communion really being the body and blood of Jesus giving us forgiveness, life and salvation. You won't find stanzas that teach that Jesus died for the whole world on the cross. When grading a hymn it isn't always about what is said, but also what is intentionally omitted.

As Lutherans, who really do believe, teach, and confess *all* of the Word of Christ undefiled—we sing hymns that teach that life giving Word of Christ. You will find our hymns dripping with the biblical doctrine of Baptism and Communion. You find hymns that proclaim the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world. These hymns teach us and our children the full comfort of Christ's Word. It is this full comfort that Christ wants us all—the whole world--other denominations included—to take comfort in.

Since faithful Lutheran hymns teach the full and pure Word of Christ, it is good to hear and memorize them—at church and in the home. To that end, so that you are comforted by the Word of Christ and guarded against wolves in sheep's clothing, I commend to you a list of faithful hymns to study, hear, and use. I modified slightly this list that I received from a Lutheran pastor who has a better ear for music. Certainly, this top hymns list is subjective, but the hymns most certainly teach the objective Word of Christ.

Enjoy!

Pastor

Hymn list continued on next page. (not-online)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

Samantha Heisinger	2/2
Linda Krarup	2/3
Butch Ewings	2/8
Jerry Clark	2/22
Helen Hempelman	2/22
Cody Taylor	2/22
Geneva Emanuel	2/24
Lynn Amundson	2/25
Ken Blake	2/25
Laurie Ewings	2/25



♥ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: ♥

Rev. James & Sam Norton 2/17/1973

Ed & Kathy Heidtke 2/26/1972

WE ASK YOU TO REMEMBER IN OUR
PRAYERS THE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Mavis Berry

Helen Hempelman

Isabel Lenz

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

The Women's Society meeting in January was cancelled due to the extreme cold weather. Our February meeting will be Thursday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. All women of the congregation are invited to join us. Hostesses will be Lyn Brace and Marge Thorson.

ZION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

By Transfer: Kathy Peterson and Sara Hinz

www.cfzionlutheran.com is our website and it always has new resources to read. Please check the "Resources & Pastor's Picks" links.

NEW CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in joining the choir or if you play an instrument please speak with Lyn Brace.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

If weather conditions ever become severe enough that worship services may be cancelled, please tune to WCFW 105.7 FM for announcements of any worship service cancellations. The Board of Elders will make the decision to cancel a service and send notification to WCFW at least one hour prior to the scheduled service.

Table of Duties Monthly Review: Of Civil Government

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. **Rom. 13:1-4**

Household of Faith Fund: *Gal 6:10 ESV 10* So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. This fund is for members with emergency financial needs. If you have a need, you may speak with pastor confidentially. The funds are overseen by the Church Council. To donate to this fund, please mark it, "Household of Faith Fund."

Organ News: An organ Committee is being formed to gather information to bring to the Congregation. Funds have been received, designated for an Organ Fund. Our present organ is in great need of extensive repair, including the need for a new console. Because of the high cost of repair, we are also looking at digital organs as an option. If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Brian Schweishtal at 715-529-8342. (email address: brians8881@gmail.com)

A New Adult Catechism Class: A New Adult Catechism Class has just started. It isn't too late to join. Talk to pastor for more information!

Unbiblical Removal of Pastors, and the Church

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (I Corinthians 4:1f).

“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, *“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,”* and, *“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”* Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses” (I Timothy 5:17-19).

Christ established the Office of the Ministry in the Church and for the Church, His Bride, **“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”**(Ephesians 5:26f). Christ's ultimate purpose in establishing the Office is to serve as His voice, hands, and feet in order **“that [His Bride] should be holy and without blemish.”** We know and acknowledge of course that only **“the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”** (I John 1:7), and thus it is Christ's accomplished work in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension which did the heavy lifting. Even so, in a sense not wholly separated from John the Baptist's role at Jesus' Baptism **“to fulfill all righteousness”** (Matthew 3:15), the pastor is placed in the Office to carry out his role through which Christ's Bride is **“sanctif[ied] (set apart) and cleanse[d] ... with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church ... holy and without blemish.”**

On account of this critical end result of having a **“glorious church”** which is **“holy and without blemish,”** Jesus' warning to **“beware of false prophets ... in sheep's clothing”** (Matthew 7:15) is of paramount importance to the Church. This warning comes directly

on the heels of His exhortation regarding the two ways of life which are distinguished by the narrow gate and narrow way – versus the wide gate and wide way. The difference between the two He describes respectively as the **“few who find it,”** versus the **“many who go in by it”** (7:13f). On account of this vast difference, and the damning nature of getting it wrong, when Scripture speaks of pastors **“as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God,”** it further qualifies this office when it adds, **“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful”** (I Corinthians 4:1f).

Faithful pastors, then, are essential to the Triune God's work on earth, not so much because He needs them on His part, but because His pilgrims and sojourners on earth need the services provided through **“the elders who rule well ... especially those who labor in word and doctrine”** (I Timothy 5:17). Why? Because the Triune God has bound His Church to His rightly proclaimed Word as the means by which He delivers pilgrims and sojourners out of their sin into eternal life with Him. This essential correlation between God, pastors, people, and the Word is so important that St. Paul sets forth two admonitions in the next two verses which are given as a safeguard to prevent wrongful mistreatment of God's instruments. **“For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.”** (I Timothy 5:17-19).

First, it is most important to God that pastors be paid a livable wage in order that they can carry out their **“labors in Word and doctrine”** without being hindered with temporal concerns which the hearers are able to alleviate through their combined firstfruits giving. After all, it is to the hearer's temporal and eternal benefit that their pastor be unhindered in his God-given vocation. Second, because of the nature of their office being a divine institution, and because of the importance of their work for the sake of the Church and the world, no one is to **“receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.”** Why? The rules of evidence require at least that many witnesses to establish guilt for any sin or iniquity (Deuteronomy 19:15), and in the case of pastors this is doubly important because they are Christ's instruments given to the Church as gifts **“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God”** (Ephesians 4:11ff).

Scripture is clear, the agenda of the devil – the father of lies – is to destroy and obscure the glory of Christ and the salvation of the Christian. Because this is true, there is no office which is more under attack from the father of lies than the office of pastor – for the one who is placed into this office is given the public authority of the Keys, which opens and closes “**the narrow gate**” and administers the means for believers to remain in “**the narrow way.**”

For this reason, the LCMS has always (at least on paper) held to the “accepted practice” in the Church, which lists three reasons – and no other – for the Church, working as God's instrument, to publicly remove a pastor from his office. These reasons are: **1)** teaching false doctrine (Titus 1:9); **2)** offensive conduct (I Timothy 3:7); and **3)** willful neglect of official duties (I Timothy 2:2 & I Corinthians 4:1f). Deposal of a pastor for any other reason is to remove what God has put in place through rightly ordered means, and is thus an offense to Christ and intolerable to His Bride, the Church. Much more from Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions regarding this topic of [unbiblical removal of pastors](#) may be found on the ACELC website, but suffice it to say that the Synod's historical record in upholding this divine office, especially over the past couple generations, is sad, shameful, and in serious need of review by the Church.

To aid in bringing the light of Scripture and the Confessions to bear witness in this important matter, the next ACELC Conference is titled: “Office of the Holy Ministry, Part II (Unbiblical Removal of pastors).” This Conference will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri from February 10-12, 2015, and you may [register online](#) or [learn more about this Conference](#) at our [website](#). Also available at the website are all the [papers from last year's conference](#), which was Part I of this topic.

The writer to the Hebrews gives us sound advice in this matter regarding the treating of pastors according to God' intention: “**Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you**” (Hebrews 13:17).

Pastor Bruce G. Ley
Documents Chairman, ACELC

NEW COLLEGE AGE BIBLE STUDY:

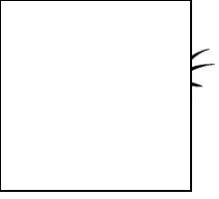
I have started a new Bible study aimed for those around the college age range (anyone may attend). We are meeting in Eau Claire to be close to both colleges. Please contact me for more information. Pastor

LWML QUARTERLY MEETING:

At our quarterly LWML meeting on Tuesday January 20th, 2015 we approved By-laws to operate our Society. We are sending \$100 to Ft. Wayne Seminary in support of the students. We have dedicated the money in our mite box outside the sanctuary doors to APPLE Pregnancy at Eau Claire this time in an effort to show mercy to those involved with un-expected pregnancy issues. This mite box funds are set aside to help local missions. We appreciate any extra cash you'd like to contribute knowing that there money will be used in our local communities. We voted to change the time of meetings to 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday each quarter. We are eliminating serving desserts to allow more time for Bible Study, without going so late in the evening (Ladies feel free to bring along a beverage to quench your thirst.) Our next meeting will be April 21, at 6:30 p.m. Join us please.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD:

Although we are just past January, it already is time to start thinking about Easter. The Lenten season is fast approaching. This year Ash Wednesday occurs on February 18th. As in past years, the board is planning to serve suppers on Wednesdays before the worship service. Serving time will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a freewill offering taken. The church service will follow at 6:30 p.m. The Women's Society will be providing the Ash Wednesday meal. The remaining suppers will need to be provided by members willing to volunteer their services to do so. Hopefully we will have enough support from the congregation to be able to continue the meals through the Lenten season. Bars will also be needed. A sign up sheet will be posted by the office for the meals and the bars. You may sign up for the meals as an individual, family or go together with others as a group. Please include the menu being served. The boards can help our providing items if needed. If you have any questions you may



contact: Carol Evenson 715-723-2718, Lois Eichinger 715-723-4471 or Jan Blair 715-720-2899.