



**April
2015**

Pastor's Page



Zion Lutheran Church

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Good Communication and Good Use of Time

***15* Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, *16* making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. *17* Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. *18* And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, *19* addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, *20* giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *21* submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**
Ephesians 5 (ESV)

We have all heard the worn-out cliché that, “communication is key,” or something along those lines. How many times could hurt feelings or conflict have been avoided if there was communication or better communication? And, how great it is when you finally communicate and clear up something that was bothering you.

In today’s modern world there are so many ways to communicate. Think of how drastically ways to communicate have changed over the years? We have gone from letters that took a long time to be delivered to Pony Express to UPS. We went from rotary phones to cell phones, electronic mail, and text messaging.

In my opinion, face to face communication is still the best. You can see body language, hear tone, and clarify immediately any miscommunication. Yet, this doesn’t mean that there can’t be a good use of letters, email and cell phones. After all we have several letters in Scripture (epistle means letter). But, we should always think about the best way to communicate the subject at hand. While email is good to ask a question about a future meeting time, it isn’t the best way for a dad to communicate to his child that the family dog just died (No, I don’t know of this actually happening). And, if you are like me, you can think of times when you should have chosen a different medium to communicate. And, if you are sinner like me, you can think of times that you didn’t interpret tone in a charitable way and broke the 8th Commandment. In fact, the real breakdown or sin in communication isn’t whether it is by a letter or phone call, but because of our fallen nature. We don’t always explain the motives of others in the kindest way. For this we confess to God and each other and receive forgiveness. We should never let something fester, but communicate with the other person immediately and clarify, confess, and forgive.

One criticism I heard recently from a parent was that the younger generations don’t know how to communicate in person. They have their face glued to their cell phone texting and are unable to make normal eye contact and speak in complete sentences. This overall inability to communicate, in my opinion, does make teaching harder. Attention spans are often limited to what will fit in a Tweet, text, or TV commercial. Even sermons have gone from hours, to 30 minutes, to 15, and in some cases, even less to try to ‘reach people where they are.’ On this change in culture, I don’t know exactly what to say or do. I do know that it makes teaching more difficult, which I imagine is a concern that school teachers share with me. I think we should always examine our use of technology (TV, aimlessly surfing the internet) for ourselves and our kids.

Another issue that is a topic of conversation is the inability to unplug from communication. Some studies have shown an increase in stress and depression in those who have jobs where they can never have time completely off the clock. They may be home from a day at the office, but the calls, emails, and texts continue to roll in during dinner and after they have just fallen asleep. I imagine many of you who are still working understand this phenomenon. This also can take away from the very important family time and time to rest.

I say all of this above so that we can all continually take stock of our use of time, so that we make the best use of it. I also say all this to encourage good communication and quick reconciliation in all of our lives. Christ has died for our breaking the 8th Commandment, our idleness—all of our sins. In light of this Gospel may we take to heart the Holy Spirit’s words to us, ***15* Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, *16* making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. *17* Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

In Christ,
Pastor

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

Mandy Schoelzel	4/1
Rev. James Norton	4/2
Kathy Peterson	4/3
Lynn Erdman	4/7
Michael Potts	4/9
James Gale	4/13
Rachel Welke	4/15
Jacob Heisinger	4/16
Rosa Blake	4/20
Kaitlyn Heisinger	4/23
Dottie Neumann	4/25
Tom Benson	4/28
Carol Sundell	4/29

♥ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: ♥

Brad & Becky Blake	4/30/1994
Ken & Rosa Blake	4/12/1958
John & Geneva Emanuel	4/16/1949

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

Gertrude Boettcher
Erna Welke
Loretta Erickson

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Women's Society met on Thursday, March 12th. Members enjoyed a beautiful decorated table and a delicious dessert served by Lois Eichinger and Carol Evenson. Pastor Stark opened devotions with a prayer and he read passages from Isaiah 53:4-6, Luke 23:20-24, John 10:11 and Romans 12:1. Members read and discussed all verses from the hymn "O' Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken". A sinless Christ took all our sins upon Himself and died on the cross for our salvation. The verses described how Christ who was sinless, suffered the cruel mockery and anguish that led to His crucifixion for everyone. Pastor closed devotions with prayer. Arlene Hakes, Pres. opened the meeting with 13 members, 3 guests present. We thank Herman Sahr for making a crib for the stable that was given to the Women's Society by Sam Norton. Thursday, April 9th will be a work day instead of our regular meeting. Members and anyone from the congregation are invited to help. 9:00 a.m. is the starting time. If you can't come at that time feel free to come later. The chairs in the dining hall and other areas of the church will be cleaned. Please bring cleaning supplies (bucket, rags etc.) Women's Society will provide a pizza luncheon, coffee and tea. You can bring your own soda if you wish. After the meeting members enjoyed planning bunco. Please join us on April 9th.

TABLE OF DUTIES MONTHLY REVIEW: TO HUSBANDS

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. **1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. **Col. 3:19**

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."

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from Sun. July 26 thru Thurs. July 30 in the evenings. Our theme will be on the Lord's Prayer. We will be purchasing our curriculum thru "Higher Things" again this year. As time gets closer prayerfully consider how you may help in our efforts to teach the children of Zion and of Chippewa. Our annual Worship in the Park and Potluck Picnic will follow on Sunday, August 2nd.

MISSION SUNDAY APRIL 19

Vicar Richard Her will be preaching and presenting during Bible Class hour on Sunday, April 19th. Vicar Her is doing his vicarage (internship) this year at the Eau Claire Hmong Mission located at St. Matthew's. He is a third year student at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne Indiana.

He has told us that they have a great need for Hmong language Bibles. To assist with this we are planning to take a door offering after the April 19th worship service designated for the purchasing of Hmong language Bibles.

Following Vicar Her's presentation during the Bible Class hour everyone is invited to a Pot Luck lunch. Please bring something to share. Beverages will be provided.

Up-date from the Board of Education and Youth

#1. The Youth Room is nearly completed.

Approximate Expenses were \$600 ***Plus Blood, Sweat, Tears & Prayers.***

#2. Still to be done: purchasing two new Room-size Air-conditioners for the Youth Room and the Youth-Catechism Room across the hall.

[The money for this will be from the donation by Roseanne Welke, in memory of Earl

and in Honor of her grand-children.]

{Hoping to find an Octagonal Table and stack-able study chairs to seat 8 to 10 people at....this shape would hopefully take up less space as the big room has gotten much smaller with the wonderful donations of Couch & Love Seat; Ping-Pong Table; Air Hockey; Video equipment; Wide-screen TV}

Check out the room complete with murals depicting aspects of our faith.

#3. The Students LOVED the opportunity to pre-prepare the Lenten Supper for the congregation as a Thank-You for all the support given them in prayers, encouragement, and donations of time, goods and money.

#4. There is an on-going Bible Trivia Game for anyone under age 20. It is posted on the bulletin board in the new room.

Good morning Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation World!
Newsletters received March 9 & 10

1.)

Today we are in San Ignacio, Belize (find Belize and then Belize City and then head off almost due west and a tad bit south till you get almost to Guatemala). Arrived yesterday pm.

WHY? To check in on the progress at Carmelita Gardens – a self-sustaining “community” headed up by an LCMS bloke from the north part of Minneapolis, MN, a place where we are looking to support a Lutheran school and such on the property (CarmelitaBelize.com). That is what The CLEF has been asked to do. There is no Lutheran Church here – yet. This is a local initiative, not something generated from the outside of the country and that in my opinion is the best because there is so much less dependency on the outside – advice and such is what is needed and seems like I got the nod to get on it – just another plate on the table already filled with full plates!

2.)

Today (Saturday the 7th) we are STILL in San Ignacio, Belize (find Belize and then Belize City and then head off almost due west and a tad bit south till you get almost to Guatemala).

We have been twice to Carmelita Gardens checking out the future location for a Lutheran school – initially the Lutheran school will offer after school tutoring to children in the public schools who are in need of help.

Thursday we met with the Carmelita development group and much was accomplished relating to the needs and wants of the government of Belize.

Yesterday (Friday) while at Carmelita we watched the international Belize River canoe race from San Ignacio to the mouth of the river – at Belize City on the Caribbean.

The race ends on Monday.

Today I will spend the day working on “stuff” – notes, accounting, other out of USA projects and the upcoming Board meeting.

FYI: I HAVE NOT HAD TO EAT ANY RICE OR REFRIED BEANS!

Please continue to pray for us.

Rev. John Fehrman

CLEF 2-13 notes

I am sure you all remember that this past fall Zion’s mission speaker was Rev. John Fehrman, chairman of The Confessional Lutheran Educational Foundation. This month we are including here in our newsletter, the first half of his trip notes (Feb.2013) on the new CLEF project: The International Lutheran Kindle Project....It is truly exciting to hear of the work being done. Zion has voted this year to support CLEF with a hundred dollar a month donation. Anyone wishing to add to this may put a donation in our offering plate in an envelope marking the donation for CLEF and it will be sent in

addition to the congregation's monthly donation. The second half of his report will be in next month's newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD: As this is being written only two Lenten suppers are remaining. The Board wishes to thank all who have been attending the suppers. A special "Thank You" to those who have so graciously provided food for the meals, helped with the set up and the clean up. Your efforts and assistance are so much appreciated. This year the Women's Society will be getting a break as some of the men in the congregation will be providing and serving the Easter breakfast. Menu choices include French toast, pancakes, scrambled eggs, and a breakfast meat. Serving time will be from **7:30 a.m.** to **8:30 a.m.** with a free will offering taken. Please be sure to join us for some bodily nourishment before attending the special Easter service at **9:00 a.m.** when God's word will nourish our soul.



Women of the Church

PLEASE NOTE: Zion's Women's Society is planning to host another salad luncheon on Thursday, June 11th. All of Zion's ladies are invited to attend. We will also be inviting several other LCMS church ladies. Please mark this date on your calendar. More information will be in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

What about Communion in other Churches?

I've preached the 6th Chief Part of the Catechism every 4 years for 25 years. Yet I still hear the same questions that I believe I have answered time and again. I can't very well be aiding your faith or answering your life questions with the Sacrament of the Altar if I'm not adequately answering: What about Communion in other churches? Some mean what is it? Others mean what if it's the only church available, may I commune there?

What is Communion in other churches? We heard last week that in some it's not the Body and Blood of Jesus given to Christians to eat and drink. Even though they use Jesus' Words of Institution, those words aren't a magical incantation which as long as you say them correctly they produce what they say. They are the Words of Jesus that instituted, started, the Meal of His Body and Blood. No Protestant church wants His Body and Blood on their altar let alone in their mouths. They don't believe those Words mean what they say. And woe to them if those words did work like magic. Then they would have the Body and Blood of Jesus without recognizing it, so according to St. Paul, they would be eating and drinking condemnation.

When I say that the Protestant churches don't have, can't have the Body and Blood of Jesus on their altars, I'm not saying that they don't have a Means of Grace. Because they do use the Words Jesus gave us, they are hearing the Gospel preached to them. That's what we say in our Explanation tonight. The benefit of Communion is shown in these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These "show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness, life, and salvation are given *through* these words."

What Jesus accomplished in 30 A.D. by giving His Body over to death in payment for sins and by shedding His Blood to cover them is declared in 2015. The Baptist, Church of Christ, Methodist who hears these words and says, "Jesus gave His Body and shed His Blood for me" has the forgiveness of sins even though he doesn't have the Body and Blood of Jesus present on his altar or in his mouth.

Other Christian churches *do* have the Body and Blood of Jesus, but only while they are using it according to Christ's institution. Jesus instituted this Meal for eating and drinking. He says, "Take Eat; this is My Body. Take drink; this is My Blood." He didn't give His Body and Blood to be paraded around in a festival, to be displayed in ornate receptacles, to be reserved in Tabernacles, to be offered up for the sins of the living and the dead, or to *not* eat and drink of them in Private Masses. Jesus doesn't give His Body and Blood for any other reason than for eating and drinking.

Should I partake of Communion in other churches if there is no confessional Lutheran church around? First recognize, contrary to what you're thinking, it is not Lutherans but Catholics and Reformed who posit "have to" situations for Communion. For the Catholic, a

"have to" situation is the deathbed; for the Reformed it's any emergency. That's funny to me. The Reformed *don't* believe it is the Body and Blood and yet think an emergency warrants it being celebrated by a layman. The Reformed don't, however, think there's any emergency warranting Baptism by a layman. For us, there is an emergency *Baptism*, but no emergency *Communion*.

Remember where Paul says to the Corinthians that because of the present circumstances the weepers, rejoicers, and buyers shouldn't weep, rejoice, or buy? I say because of how few churches do actually celebrate the Lord's Supper according to His institution, don't live as if you're not fully Christian or saved without Communion.

First, you can commune all day every day at an altar that doesn't have the Body and Blood of Jesus and your faith can't put there what is not there. All you will get from a Protestant altar is bread and probably grape juice. Second, Catholic and Orthodox do have the Body and Blood, but you're getting a whole lot more than that. You're getting a compromised conscience. Actually, you get that at a Protestant altar too.

Whatever altar you receive Communion at you profess to be in Communion with the Jesus preached at that altar. You commune at a Baptist altar and you testify your Jesus doesn't want babies baptized. You commune at a Catholic altar and you testify your Jesus wants His mother prayed to. You commune at an Episcopal altar and you'll get the smells and bells of high liturgy, but you'll come away without the Body and Blood of Jesus having testified that Jesus embraces abortion, homosexuality, and other ways to heaven apart from Him. You commune at a Catholic or Orthodox altar, and you'll come away with the Body and Blood of Jesus having testified that Communion is a bloodless sacrifice of Jesus to appease an angry God.

How many of you would attend a testimonial dinner where by eating and drinking you pay tribute to someone or some cause you *don't* believe in? Would you attend a testimonial dinner for Jihad John? Of course, not he butchers Christians. How about for the head of the Nation of Islam, Louis Farrakhan? Probably not. If you're a Democrat would you attend a testimonial dinner for a Republican? I don't think many of you would even attend a tribute dinner for the star of an opposing sport's team. Yet you think there could be an emergency that would warrant you testifying to a *Jesus* you don't believe in? You know that attitude not's so far away from Pilate and Herod. These enemies came to be friends over compromising Jesus.

The sticky wicket in this sermon is the question about communing with *other* Lutherans. If Jesus had said in our text, "My kingdom is of this world, and My servants will fight for it," you would have an argument that for the sake of a united front in this world, we ought to commune at least other Lutherans. Through the 50s that was the position of the Liberal Lutherans: Lutheran altars were for Lutherans only. Now these Liberal Lutherans commune any baptized Christians and many commune anyone who wants to be baptized or not Christian or not. But let's start with Confessional Lutherans.

Not all Confessional Lutheran churches will commune you. We're still part of the Missouri Synod and other Confessional Lutherans recognize what even the secular press has. In 2004

the LCMS lurched to the theological left. We accepted praying with pagans, denied the Order of Creation applies in all creation, and accepted open Communion practices. In addition we don't discipline those who believe in evolution or the ordaining of women.

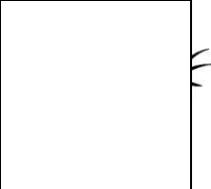
Don't think ill of the Confessional Lutherans who won't commune you. They're defending what Jesus died for: the truth. While the rest of the world believes as Pilate did that truth can't be known, they believe as we do that truth is revealed by God. Jesus is on trial though proclaimed innocent because we are *truly* guilty for our sins. Jesus suffers all God's wrath and all hell's damning because that is what our sins *truly* deserve. Jesus is able to pay for the sins of the world because He *truly* is God the Son. Communion gives forgiveness of sins to those who receive it in faith because it *truly* is the Body and Blood Jesus gave 2000 years ago.

There are Confessional Lutheran Churches where you will hear the Gospel truly preached, but who won't commune you. They're testifying to you that your soul, my soul, is truly in danger as long as it remains in communion, even on paper, with error. ELCA Lutheran churches and those that have splintered off because of the homosexual issue will commune you. But I told you last week once they declared fellowship with church bodies that have always denied the Body and Blood of Jesus is in Communion, they ceased to have the Real Presence. If you believe otherwise, know you are saying that these churches are giving the Body and Blood of Jesus to people who don't believe that and so are giving them condemnation not salvation.

The stickiest wicket of all is the open Communion churches in the LCMS. Sure they will commune you as they will commune most everyone else. The best of them don't invite all but only those who agree with a published brief confession of what Communion is and why a person should come. At the end of the day, their altar is open to anyone who believes he should come. At the end of the day, they reduce what is truth to only the truth about the Sacrament. Those who are for abortion end up kneeling beside those who aren't. Those who support gay marriage are opening their mouth and receiving the same Jesus with those who believe in God's institution of marriage. Those who believe truth can be known and must be confessed are in Communion with those who don't believe either.

If you do commune at open Communion LCMS altars, you shouldn't commune here. You are either being a hypocrite here or there; it's not the right thing to do. You know Passion Reading 4 could be titled "Do the Right Thing." You see how desperately Pilate *wanted* to do the right thing and release an innocent man. You see how God helped him to do the right thing. He gives Pilate the opportunity to get Herod's judgment, and Pilate finds to his amazement his enemy agreed that Jesus is innocent. Then God sends to his wife a clear dream: "Leave this innocent man alone."

In the end Pilate didn't do the right thing with the Body and Blood of Jesus. Will we? When we eat His Body and Drink His Blood for the forgiveness of our sins, we are. When we don't give His Body and Blood to those who don't know it's the Body and Blood of God, we're doing the right thing. When we don't give Jesus' Body and Blood to those who don't believe in the same Jesus we do, we're doing the right thing. When we don't commune where Jesus is not or a Jesus is proclaimed contrary to the true Jesus, we're doing the right thing.



When we give His Body and Blood to sinners who know what it is, why they come, and bow before the same Jesus we do, we're doing the right thing.

But guess what? We're not saved by doing the right thing. We're saved by Jesus doing all things perfect and dying to pay for our doing wrong things. This Jesus - the forgiving, giving, suffering, saving Jesus is the Jesus who has empowered men and women to even *die* for the right thing. I think He has empowered us to commune in the right way. Amen.

Rev. Paul R. Harris

Trinity Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas

Midweek IV (20150311); Communion II, Passion Reading 4