

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT: Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all God's world.

Grace and peace be yours in abundance, fellow sojourners!

This month we'll consider liturgical vestments as we continue our series on "Why We Do What We Do In Worship."

In our adult Bible Class study of Leviticus on Sunday mornings, we have learned about the elaborate garments worn by Aaron (the High Priest) and his sons (the Priests). One might think that our use of vestments in the church today is derived from these customs. Those who have studied the Greek mystery religions might also want to draw a similar comparison. However, neither is true.

... liturgical vestments developed out of ordinary civilian dress of the late Roman empire. Between the fourth and ninth centuries these items of clothing became ecclesiastical garments invested with specific liturgical meaning. Liturgical attire developed from two basic types of Roman clothing: an indoor tunic and an outdoor cloak. The indoor tunic survived as the alb, while the outdoor cloak became the chasuble. ... In addition to these two basic forms, other accessories ... were maintained in churchly usage long after they had become archaic as items of dress. Only after the clothing of Roman antiquity was in regular use in the church's liturgy was theological meaning assigned to the various garments. (Pless, John T. "The Liturgy and the Decorum of Its Leaders." *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice*, edited by Fred L. Precht, Concordia Publishing House, 1993. Pp. 219-220)

Dr. Pless also gives us the following history:

As the Middle Ages progressed, ecclesiastical vestments became more elaborate in design and reflective of the wealth and prestige of the clergy. The question of vestments had to be faced by the Reformers. The Anabaptists and the Reformed rejected vestments as detestable reminders of the papal church. For Luther, vestments belonged within the realm of Christian liberty. In his *Formula Missae* of 1523 he commented, "We permit them [vestments] to be used in freedom, as long as people refrain from ostentation and pomp. ... Article XXIV of the Apology states that the Church of the Augsburg Confession has not abolished the Mass but celebrates it every Sunday and on other festivals and maintains "traditional liturgical forms, such as the order of lessons, prayers, vestments, etc." The research of Gunther Stiller and Arthur Carl Piepkorn demonstrates that the historic vestments (alb, chasuble, and stole) continued to be used in many places within the Lutheran Church well into the 18TH century. For the most part these vestments were rejected by the proponents of Calvinism, Pietism, and Rationalism. It was under these alien influences that the black gown of the academy entered into liturgical usage in the Lutheran Church.

Piepkorn notes, "In 1839, while waiting to move to Perry County, the clergymen of the Saxon Lutheran immigrant party ministered at the Lutheran Services held in Christ Church Cathedral (Protestant Episcopal), St. Louis, in albs."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has wisely sought to follow the directive of Article XXIV of the Apology that vestments are retained in the church's liturgy. The continued use of vestments in the Church of the Augsburg Confession is important for at least two reasons: First, vestments are used as ensigns of the office of the holy ministry. These liturgical garments cover the man, reminding the congregation that their pastor speaks to them not simply as a fellow Christian, but as "a called and ordained servant of the Word." ... Secondly, vestments are a visual reminder of the continuity of the church's worship throughout history. Grisbrooke writes, "An essential element in the nature of Christian worship is its witness to the unchanging and abiding value and power of God's mighty works in Christ, and it follows that the vestments should reflect the continuity of Christian worship, rather than the discontinuities which at times have afflicted it." The use of the historic vestments signals our linkage with the church catholic in confession and life. Thus in the Evangelical Lutheran Church vestments are not merely aesthetic decorations, but are symbols of the historic continuity of our church with prophets, apostles, martyrs, and confessors of all times and places. (Pless 222-4)

In addition to contributing to an appropriate decorum of reverence, liturgical vestments, like the alb, remind us of Christ's righteousness.

The pastor speaks and acts as Christ's ambassador; that is His Office. Vestments help us realize this and confess and give thanks that through the gifts given Jesus is here serving us with His own Word and Sacraments. The white alb or surplice covers the man, and reminds us of Christ's clothing us with Himself at baptism." ("Introduction to the Liturgy." *Here I Stand-2017 Higher Things Conferences-Worship Booklet*, pp. 4-5.)

A more detailed booklet on this topic is available in the Narthex. It includes treatment of the historical background and descriptions of liturgical vestments.

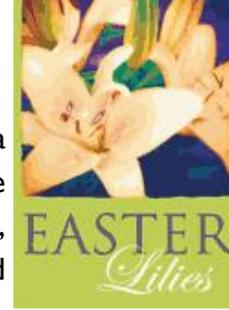
Next – "Rituals and Reverence in Lutheran Worship"



I look forward to seeing you each Sunday morning ... worshipping and studying with you ... lifting up and exalting our great God with you! Come with a

OUR CHANCEL FOR EASTER SERVICE

Pastor and Peggy Adler, Jeff and DeAnne Atkinson, Jody and Mary Bowden, Jim and Neva Broad, Gil and Mary Lou Daughtrey (2), Butch and Connie Eppeland, Burl and Debbie Gruetzner, Tonya Haddock, Devin and Melanie Jackson, Aaron and Matthew Jackson, Dot James, George and Betty Nelson, Chaplain and Betty Ristvedt, Lela Sands, Paul and Pat Stephenson, Paul and JoAnn Tugwell, Steve and Mary Unk and Anne Yarbrough.



- To all who came and helped on work day March 17TH. We got a lot accomplished!
- The youth who cleaned in the sanctuary on March 16TH.
- Tonya Haddock for organizing and replenishing our card rack.
- Ray Hughes and Paul Tugwell for working on the train for the Dogwood Trails Parade.
- Lana Bowden for the lovely cake for our new members fellowship.



"Thank you for the lovely welcome as I visited your church family. I come to retreats with friends in Palestine and hope to always drop in for service. Please give a special thanks to Kathy for taking me under her wing and keeping me in line." — Joy McHargue

ACTIVE SHOOTER SEMINAR SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH 10 AM TO NOON

If you are interested in attending this important seminar, please see Steve Unk.

MATTHEW JACKSON'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT APRIL 7TH

If you would like to help Matthew with his Eagle Scout project, please see Matthew, Devin or Melanie Jackson.

BIBLE JAMBOREE SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST NORTH SIDE HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

If you would like to help with the Bible Jamboree, please see



During the Divine Service on February 14th, Bethlehem welcomed new members into our congregational family.



Ron and Gloria have been in the Grapeland area for about 6 months. Ron is a retired Captain for Continental Airlines and Gloria is a lifetime homemaker. They have a daughter, Debbie, in Wisconsin and a son, Ron Jr., in Grapeland. They have 2 grandsons and 4 great grandchildren and one on the way. Ron loves the West, mountains and traveling. Gloria also loves to travel, as well as cooking, music and entertaining family. They want to serve Bethlehem by making new members and visitors feel welcome and helping with fundraisers and visiting shut-ins. They are happy to have Bethlehem for a church family and also having their own family closer to them.

Ron & Gloria Bloecher
13576 US Highway 287 N
Grapeland, Tx 75844 (262) 227-6952

WELCOME
New Members





How about technology mentoring, child care, painting, planting, raking, mowing, window washing or help getting ready for a garage sale? You name it, we have someone who can do it! **BELC Youth** group are ready, willing and able to do any and all odd jobs.

This project provides an opportunity for middle and high school students, (grades 6 through 12), to assist older adults in completing routine light-duty household chores. However the goal of the **Rent-A-Youth** project is not only to get an important job done, or to assist young people in acquiring a valuable sense of responsibility and self -confidence, but also to foster fellowship between older adults and the youth in our church.

If you have a job that you'd like to have done, please fill out this form and drop it by the office or give to Yanneth Harris.

Please specify the type of work, how many people you want, how long you think it will take, and when you would like to have it done (please give at least 1 week notice, but the further ahead the better.)

Rent-A-Youth Coordinator: Yanneth Harris email: yatoruiz@yahoo.com

Rent-A-Youth Worker Request



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Description of job:

Number of workers needed: _____

Tentative Project Start Date: _____ Confirmed Project Start Date _____

Tentative Project Completion Date: _____ Confirmed Project Completion Date: _____

Workers assigned to this church project: _____

Registration: \$12.00, includes trip to Oil Museum

“My Cup Overflows”

Psalm 23:5b – “You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

Feel God’s Love in song, Bible study, snacks, lunch and breaks, fellowship.

Bring a coffee mug with your info on bottom, to exchange. Questions? Contact JoAnn Tugwell

All ladies of Bethlehem are invited! We will carpool from the church.



LWML is continuing to collect Personal Care items for this year’s Lutheran World Relief effort. (See the list of items in last month’s newsletter.)

Deadline is Palm Sunday, March 25. The following Thursday, at 6pm, items will be packed into boxes to be sent on to the collection point in Dallas. From there, they will be directed to locations all over the world.



Lutheran World Relief



LWML 40TH Biennial Convention, Texas District, will be held at the Waco Convention Center in Waco, Texas, July 5-8, 2018. Theme: “Filled to Overflow ... serving, sharing, telling” (based on St. John 7:38). Sandy Smith has agreed to be our delegate.

See the March issue of *The Lutheran Witness* for information about 9 Enrichment Sessions, and 5 onsite Servant Events. Other items of note include: Registration form, Hotel info, travel notes, convention t-shirt, Prayer Room, Meet-and-Greet event, meals and costs, Friday evening Worship Service, Choir participation, and the “Mission in Motion” Prayer Walk.



Remember to use your **Kroger card** as part of Kroger’s “Community Rewards” Program which is linked to Bethlehem’s LWML. We appreciate your efforts as we use these funds for our various projects. Find out how you may participate by going to **Kroger.com** to link your card to this program.

Thank you for continuing to donate your **CARD FRONTS**. St. Jude’s Ranch for Children recycles these to create new holiday and all-occasion greeting cards which are sold to support their programs and services for abused, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families. (*Please note: Because of copyright laws, Hallmark, Disney and American Greetings cards will NOT be accepted.*)

Only the card front is required, and it must measure 7” by 5” or smaller. Make sure there are no personal, written messages on the front or the back. Place them into the collection box in Garber Hall. (OR you may bring whole cards and someone will trim them.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ✦ Sunday, April 8, 2018 - LWML meeting, immediately following church service
- ✦ Saturday, May 5, 2018 – East Texas Zone Spring Event, Pilgrim, Kilgore, 10 am-2 pm.
- ✦ July 5-8, 2018 – LWML 40TH Biennial Convention, Texas District, Waco, TX



Our society is open to all women of Bethlehem. . We usually meet after church on the second Sunday of the month. There are



\$3421.10 from our 11th annual Chili Friday proceeds was presented to Paul Jones of the Palestine Community Food Pantry during the Divine Service on March 4th.

FROM THE EVANGELISM BOARD

We look forward to a very busy spring; come join us!

We held our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on March 3. We had 12 participants and picked up 19 bags of trash. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough people to finish, but we did manage about 75%. Thanks to all who helped!

On Sunday, March 4, Mr. Paul Jones, Minister of Court Drive Church of Christ met with the congregation after the Divine Service. He talked to us about the Palestine Food Pantry and gratefully received a \$3,421 check from Bethlehem for the proceeds from Chili Friday this year.

On Saturday March 24, we will be participating in the Dogwood Festival parade. We (Ray Hughes and Paul Tugwell) have finished refurbishing 3 cars for our train; thank you. Lori Fortner will head up decorating the cars. Please check with her, if you can help. We are inviting small children to participate by riding on the train and so far we have 3. The maximum will probably be 4.

On Sunday, April 29 we will host Reverend Doctor Yohannes Mengsteab, Mission and Ministry Facilitator, who will lead the Adult Bible Class that morning. After church he will be talking to us about "starting a church within our church". The intent being to look at methods to insure Bethlehem congregation will persist into the future. Please plan on attending.

On Saturday, April 21 we will have another Bible Jamboree. It will be held at the North Side Heights apartments. The program will be similar to the one we had last year. Details will be forthcoming.

We have started a congregational "help" service for congregational members needing help around their residences. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. For questions, please talk to Paul Stephenson and also about your willingness to help in the endeavor.

We will be helping Megan with the proposed church picnic on May 6.

Just a reminder; please don't forget to continue handing out the small Gospels of John and also our hospitality bags for those you see asking for help along the roads.

REPORTS:

VP - Albert reported he and Ray got pipe ready to go along driveway, holes and painted, will get installed as soon as possible.

Financial Secretary - Lea reported February income \$14,632, expenses \$15,667. Loan balance \$43,479 & CEF report.

Treasurer - Gil gave account balances and income report. Budget report for February and year-to-date. \$20,000 Emergency fund listed. **Motion by Albert, 2nd by James to accept financial reports. Motion carried.

Elders - James reported average attendance for February was 68. Added by profession of faith Ron & Gloria Bloecher & Tonya Haddock & Lexie, transfer Perrin & Brenda Roller & girls. Discussed ordering vestments for duty elder.

Christian Education - Melanie reported Mid Week classes resume April 4th. No Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Have coloring books for younger children. Matthew's Eagle Scout project planned for April 7th. Will have fundraisers for Higher Things.

Evangelism - Jerry reported entry in Dogwood Trails parade March 24TH; location for sign on Hwy 19 south not working out, Rev. Dr. Mengsteab will be here on April 29TH giving us ideas on how to renew aging churches. Bible Jam-boree April 21ST, have received \$250 from Thrivent for expenses.

Stewardship - Steve reported Active Shooter Seminar will be Saturday April 14TH, 10 am to noon. Checking with Church Mutual insurance concerning adding liability coverage for members carrying.

Properties - Jim reported on work accomplished on Work Day March 17TH, vents installed, filters changed, insulation, cabinet drawers fixed, cleaned chairs; will install larger rain vent guards. Thanks to all who helped.

Social Concerns - Megan reported new member fellowship nice; presented \$3,421 check to Paul Jones for Food Pantry, picture in paper. Fundraiser for Higher Things selling "Yankee Candles." Easter Breakfast- serving from 8:30 to 9:30, youth will take pictures and help with breakfast.

Youth - Yanneth reported youth unable to attend summer camp. Thanks to the youth who helped clean in sanctuary on March 16TH. They will choose one member to help with whatever needs to be done each month.

Pastor - expressed thanks to James Taylor who so willingly fills in and makes visits any time he is needed. Passion Reading on Palm Sunday. Looking into adding noon services for Lent and Advent in future.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pipe organ available for \$1,000 from First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, will need work. Talked to Aaron Jackson over Facetime. Will bring to voters at special meeting on April 8 for decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

Megan reported that she and Sandy Teets entered our Chili in Palestine Healthcare Chili Cookoff and won first place of \$100 gift card. Thanks to Megan and Sandy. Will purchase food for Easter Breakfast.

**Motion by Jerry, 2nd by Steve that Bethlehem join local Chamber of Commerce for \$89/year. Motion carried.

**Motion by Lea, 2nd by Steve to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned and Pastor closed with the benediction.

Present: Gil Daughtrey, Jim Broad, Jerry Hartenberger, Yanneth Harris, Megan Taylor, Steve Unk, Lea Rosier,

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the firstfruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack.

I can almost hear it now: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” But our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (St. Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can

serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (St. Luke 16:10-13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (St. Matt. 6:19-21).

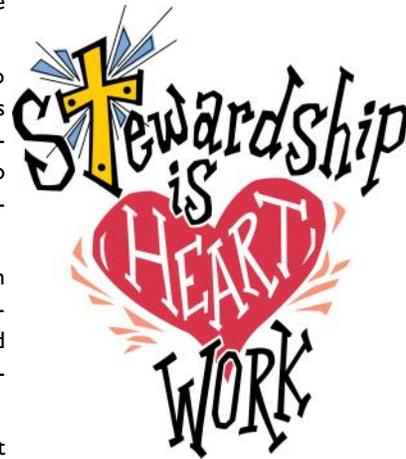
We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offer-

ings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things” (Rom. 8:32)?



God’s Share First

Question: Does the New Testament teach tithing?

Answer: The New Testament teaches full response to the love of God in Christ. Jesus said that He came not to destroy the Law but to fulfill it. *St. Matthew 5:17.*

Jesus does say that we should tithe (*St. Matthew 23:23*). But His teaching goes beyond

GENEROUS GIVING:

- Makes Glad the Heart;
- Lifts the Spirit;
- Fills the Life with Love

We recommend percentage giving to its members as a starting place for financial growth in the Lord. We believe that regular systematic giving is called for in the New



“Store up for yourselves treasures
in heaven, where moth & rust do
not destroy & where thieves do not

HEALTH NEEDS—MEMBERS:

- Mary Lou Daughtrey - leg and hip problems
- Albert Harris
- George Nelson - recovering from a stroke

HEALTH NEEDS—FRIENDS:

- Living Savior/Pastor & Cheryl Bailes [Mary Unk's son in law & daughter] - unspoken
- Dalton Durbin [officer Durbin's son] - encephalitis
- Alyeea Jadusingh [Tammy Pike's great-niece] - heart valve problem
- Betty Leago [Dorothy Jackson's friend] - in rehab hospital
- Steve & Katie Lund [former members] - ongoing health concerns
- Laura Miller [Dorothy Jackson's friend] - recovering from stroke
- Joan Smith [Dorothy Jackson's niece] - cancer
- Pam Stovall [Hughes neighbor's daughter] - stroke
- Kenneth Taylor [James Taylor's brother] - advanced pancreatic cancer
- Marlene Thompson [Tammy Pike's mother] - heart valve replacement surgery March 28th
- Gene & Patsy Worsham [Tim's parents] - ongoing health concerns

**Please
help
us
keep
this
list
updated.
Thanks**

HOMEBOUND:

- Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver

COMFORT:

- family and friends of Derrick Taylor [James Taylor's nephew]
- family and friends of Les Hutton [Jeff's father]

THOSE PREPARING FOR CHURCH WORK:

- Aaron Jackson— attending Concordia University, Seward, NE

THOSE SERVING IN OUR NATION'S ARMED FORCES:

- Members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.





6:30 AM on 91.9 FM KAVX Lufkin, TX

Sunday at: 10:30 AM on 97.5 FM KTTB Tyler, TX

Sunday at 12:30 PM on 91.5 FM KHCB Madisonville, TX

Online at www.lutheranhour.org

DATE: April 1, 2018
TITLE: "They Were Afraid, You Know?"
TEXT: St. Mark 16:1-8
GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

It takes a lot to overcome fear, a lot of words, in fact a lifetime of words. Let this Easter Day be a new beginning of trusting Jesus' words of resurrection and life!

DATE: April 8, 2018
TITLE: "It's Really Real"
TEXT: I John 1:1-3
SPEAKER: Emeritus Speaker of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Here's the deal. If Jesus actually rose from the dead, it would be wise to believe in Him because there will be salvation in no one else. If He didn't rise, we're all toast. Tune in to today's message and hear why you can be confident Jesus' resurrection is really real.

DATE: April 15, 2018
TITLE: "Peace to You"
TEXT: St. Luke 24:36-49
GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Christians often say, "The Lord be with you." What does that look like? And how do you know Jesus is indeed with you? Jesus' visit to His first disciples shows us the how and what of confidence in Christ.

DATE: April 22, 2018
TITLE: "What's in a Name?"
TEXT: Acts 1:42
SPEAKER: Emeritus Speaker of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

We live in a disposable age. If something wears out, breaks down or is lost, we replace it. But who or what can replace Jesus? Who else can save us?

DATE: April 29, 2018
TITLE: "The Answer to Unhappiness"
TEXT: Acts 8:26-40
GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Michael Newman

What do you really want? What does your heart yearn for most? A blogger recently asked her readers the question: "If

Lucas Cranach (1472-1557), a close friend of Martin Luther, was a celebrated painter of portraits and altar pieces and a producer of woodcuts of religious subjects. Albrecht Duerer (1471-1528), a native of Nuernberg, Germany, was one of the most learned of Renaissance artists and also an ardent admirer of Martin Luther. His paintings and woodcuts include examples of the splendor of creation and skilled portrayals of biblical narratives. Both Cranach and Duerer are remembered and honored for the grandeur of their works of art that depict the glory and majesty and the grace and mercy of the triune God.

April 20 - Johannes Bugenhagen

Johannes Bugenhagen (1485-1558), from Pomerania in northern Germany, was appointed pastor of Wittenberg in 1523 through the efforts of Martin Luther and thus served as Luther's own pastor and confessor. One of the greatest scholars of the Reformation era, he helped translate the New Testament into Low German and wrote a commentary on the Psalms. He also worked to organize the Lutheran Church in northern Germany and Denmark, journeying to Copenhagen where he crowned both King and Queen and consecrated seven men to the offices of superintendent and bishop.

April 21 - Anselm of Canterbury

Born in Italy in 1033, Anselm is most closely associated with England, where he served as Archbishop of Canterbury for many years. A brilliant scholar and writer, Anselm used his political skills with the British kings on behalf of the established Christian church, affirming that it is the leadership of the church and not the state which has the responsibility of establishing structure and maintaining order among the clergy. Anselm is especially remembered for his classic book, *Why God Became Man*, which taught that the reason for the incarnation was that Jesus, the Son of God, would suffer and die in place of sinners.

April 24 - Johann Walter, Kantor

Johann Walter (1496-1570) began service at the age of 21 as a composer and bass singer in the court chapel of Frederick the Wise. In 1524, he published a collection of hymns arranged according to the church year. It was well received and served as the model for numerous subsequent hymnals. In addition to serving for 30 years as kantor (church musician) in the cities of Torgau and Dresden, he also assisted Martin Luther in the preparation of the *Deutsche Messe* (1526). Walter is remembered as the first Lutheran kantor and composer of church music.

July 24-27, 2018

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS



Sanctified
2018 HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCES

“I’m the Lord God, Who brought you out of Egypt. I have saved you. I’ve saved you from slavery in Egypt. I’ve saved you from your sins. You will be holy to me. You are Holy to me because I’m holy.

You’ll have no other gods before my face. You will not misuse my Name or despise My Word. You’ll keep my Sabbath Day holy. You will honor your father and your mother. You will not murder. You will not commit adultery. You will not steal. You will not bear false testimony against your neighbor. You will not covet—not your neighbor’s house, nor his wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything

Lutherans place their faith in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who has made us, redeemed us, and empowers us for Christian living.

We believe Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, who came to earth as a man, suffered and died in our place to win for us forgiveness of sin, and who rose again to life, assuring us that we, too, can live with Him eternally.

We teach that we come to stand in right relationship with God not through our own goodness or righteousness, but through our faith in Jesus as Savior. Faith alone receives the full promises of God.

We believe that the two Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, were instituted by Christ and offers forgiveness of sin to all who receive them in faith.

Concerning Baptism, we teach that infants should also be baptized, since they, too, are sinful and need God's grace. God can work faith in them, even though they are too young to intellectually grasp the Gospel.

We believe that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper through miraculous means, and that only Christians who are in full agreement with our all our beliefs should commune with us.

We believe that God speaks to the world through His Word in the Bible.

We believe that God loves every person and intends for all a life of dignity and meaning.

We believe that Marriage is a life-long union of one man and one woman. We reject any other “union” called “marriage” as immoral and contrary to God’s will.

We assert the vital importance of the Christian congregation as the community of believers in which the Gospel is correctly preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered.



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

1515 South Loop 256

Palestine, Texas 75801-5857

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, would you be so kind to simply write “Refused” and then place it unopened in your mailbox. That way, we’ll be certain to remove your name from our mailing list, and you will be helping us to use very precious resources most wisely.

Thank You!



APRIL 2018

