

THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ
Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North
American Lutheran Church serving the
Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second
St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

*******May 2017*******

Dear Servants of Christ,

ISN'T THE BIBLE ENOUGH???? One might ask the question, Why are we presently studying the Lutheran Confessions in our Sunday Bible study?

Why do some Lutherans insist on man-made confessions? Isn't the Bible enough? It's a fair question. It deserves an honest answer. Surely your questioner realizes the many different denominations in our land that claim the Word of God as their guide to faith and life! And yet, we have all these different denominations. Why?

The Lutheran Confessions do not supplant the Bible, neither do they supplement it! They state simply and clearly, in the language of our day, how we understand the Bible's teachings. The Reformers faced a confused situation. Rome could not seem to hear or understand their teaching—often believing rumors and accusations about them rather than facts, while various sects were taking private teachings and running every which way with them. It was for them that Reformers prepared this first formal profession of what they believed and understood by the Bible's teachings—for them and for us.

Looking back, in response to an invitation by Emperor Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire, the Reformers gathered for a "showdown" convention in the city of Augsburg on June 25, 1530. Since 1517 the Reformation had been growing, spreading, developing despite the efforts of Rome and the Emperor to contain it. Several previous meetings had accomplished nothing. Now Charles needed a united Church and a united Europe to resist the threat of the Turks in the east. Many were tired of the constant strife and sought unity once again; thus the convention (Diet) at Augsburg was called. The emperor intended to restore the erring, "protesting" princes and theologians to the Roman fold by discussion, appeal, and confrontation. The Augsburg Confession was the definitive, formal presentation of the princes and theologians of the Lutheran persuasion of their understanding of the Christian faith.

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The text of the Augsburg Confession consists of two parts: Articles I through XXI was a restatement of the historic, catholic, apostolic faith as the Lutherans understood it; and Articles XXII through XXVIII deal with serious abuses in the Roman church that the Lutherans had corrected. We study the Lutheran Confessions to understand our history, understand our Christian faith in a rooted way, and to equip ourselves to share the faith in the world in which we live. Such study is worthy of our time and engaged thoughtful involvement.

In study with you,
Ron



The Augsburg Confession is the basis of our discussion in Sunday morning class. We will be focused on this through the end of June. Our May schedule is:

- ⇒ May 14: Article 4, *Justification*
- ⇒ May 21: Articles 7 & 8, *The Church, What the Church Is*
- ⇒ May 28: Articles 11 & 12, *Confession and Repentance*

Join us on Sunday mornings following worship as you are able.

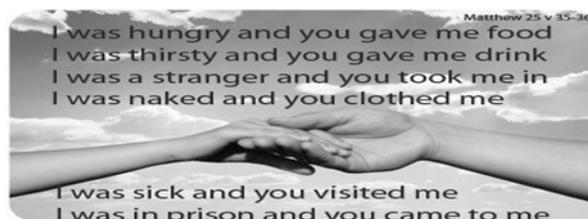
Water Mission was our Lenten Outreach Project. \$970 was sent to help further their work around the world. This nonprofit Christian engineering ministry provided sustainable, safe water solutions, through a Christian world view perspective, to people in developing countries and disasters. The work is approached with a sense of urgency and a commitment to excellence. Faith and belief in the sanctity of to develop and implement community development its work, God will be honored and glorified and lives will be transformed for serves all people, regardless of faith.



Faith life compel Water Mission the best technologies and programs so that, through ordered and glorified and eternity. Water Mission less of age, gender, race,

- ⇒ Responsible Stewardship of donor time, talent, and treasure: *1 Peter 4:10; Matthew 25:21*
 - ⇒ Integrity in our relationships and activities: *2 Corinthians 1:12; Psalm 41:12*
 - ⇒ Trust in God's sovereignty over all we do: *Proverbs 3:5,6*
- "Can Do" Attitude in all circumstance: *Titus 3:14; Philipians 4:13; Matthew 25:35b*

Our Mission is to be a best in class Christian Engineering Ministry that transforms lives through sustainable safe water solutions.



E A S T E R Images and Words

Easter: The English word Easter is borrowed from the name of a pagan spring festival and is related to the fact that the sun rises in the east.

“He is risen!” and the reply, “He is risen, indeed!” are the most ancient—and always new—shouts of Christian people at Easter. “Jesus Christ is risen today . . .” is the same shout in the form of well-known Easter hymn, a Latin carol from the 14th century, which was set in English by Charles Wesley in the 18th century.



Alleluia: a Hebrew word meaning “Praise the Lord,” which appears in the New Testament as part of the grand victory celebrations in the book of Revelation (chapter 19).

White is the color for Easter’s joyous celebration, although gold often accompanies white as the color for Easter Day and the following week.

Butterfly: The butterfly, emerging from its tomb-like cocoon, symbolizes Christ emerging from His empty tomb.

Easter lily: Of course the Easter lily is one of the most common signs of Easter with its heavy (funereal?) fragrance and trumpet-like appearance. This flower, shaped like the bell of a trumpet announcing victory, grows from a seemingly dead bulb which is buried in order for it to grow and bloom.

The crown is an Easter symbol that refers to our Lord, crowned as the triumphant Lord of life, and to the “crown of life” awaiting each of us.

The Easter (paschal) Lamb of God is now pictured, no longer in sacrificial death, but standing proudly with a victory banner.



May Servants

Greeter/Usher: Lyle Gerdemann
Communion Assistant: Dan Heckart
Snacks:
**May 7—Mary Collins
**May 14—Becky Cooper
**May 21—Ron Voss
**May 28—Lenore Heckart

Tag Along??

If you would ever like to go with Ron as he does door-to-door canvassing, let him know. You do not have to say anything, just observe the process.



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On **Sunday, May 7**, the Rev. David P. Lerseth, president of Friends of Madagascar Mission will speak at Servant of Christ at our 9:00 worship. He will also lead the adult forum following the service.

Pastor Lerseth is no stranger to the Cedar Rapids area as he served as an assistant to Bishop L. David Brown of the former Iowa District/ALC. He is graduate of Augustana University, Luther Seminary and has served parishes in South Dakota and Illinois. He also served as Director for Global Mission Support of the ELCA in Chicago.

Upon retirement he began the Friends of Madagascar Mission organization (7 years ago). He now serves as president of the board and manages raising funds for 8 programs in Madagascar. The organization has a tag line: "On the Front Lines of Mission" because they guarantee that 100% of a donor's gift goes to the mission project. Nothing is taken out to pay for administrative or operational costs.

Join us on May 7. Invite a friend.

****May is Seminary Month in the North American Lutheran Church****

The Mission and Vision of the Seminary: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we are forming pastors and church leaders for the North American Lutheran Church who will faithfully preach, teach, and live God's eternal truth, through Word and Sacrament, proclaiming Christ's cross and resurrection, making disciples who will renew and grow the church in Christ's name."



Seminarians are called to:

- ⇒ Take delight in the study of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
- ⇒ Live out the trust they have in God through daily prayer, regular reception of the Holy Sacrament, listening to proclamation of the Word.
- ⇒ Listen to the cries of God's people and respond with compassion, openness, and strength.
- ⇒ Give thanks to God.

Servants of Christ has designated \$1,000 for the Seminary in our 2017 Spending Guide. If you would like to make an additional gift, please note in on your donation envelope.

From Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenton, Virginia: Dear members of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, We are so grateful for your generous gift to our mission church near Washington, D.C. We recently confirmed five teens and added three new members. We are starting another new member class next month. We are also reaching out to our community with our Bible Reading Marathon, Pub Theology, Bible study, and other programs. God bless your church as you seek to share His Gospel.