

**BULLETIN FOR TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN,
OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD**

7th Sunday after Epiphany 19th February 2017

Closed Communion

The A.E.L.C upholds the historical, biblical and Lutheran practice of closed communion. Therefore we ask that only A.E.L.C members come forward for communion.

Matthew 5:38-48

Hymns: 355, 431, 356, 357, 285, 454.

Introit: Psalm 119 : 33-40.

P Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your Prescriptions,

C that I may keep it to the end!

P Give me understanding, that I may observe Your Instruction,

C and that I may keep it with my whole heart!

P Lead me on the path of Your Commandments!

C For I have been taking pleasure in it.

P Turn my heart toward Your Testimonies

C and not toward dishonest gain!

P Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things!

C Preserve my life through Your Ways!

P Confirm Your Word to Your servant,

C so that I may fear You!

P Take away my disgrace, of which I have been afraid!

C For Your Decisions are good.

P Look! I have been longing for Your Directions.

All Preserve my life through Your righteousness!

Collect: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament: Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon this morning is written in the book of Matthew 5: 38-48, which was our Gospel reading before.

38 “You have heard that it was said: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’
39 However, I tell you, do not resist an evil person! Rather, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him also! **40** If someone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat as well! **41** If anyone forces you to go two kilometres, go four kilometres with him! **42** Give to the person who asks you for something, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you!
43 “You have heard that it was said: ‘You shall love your neighbour, and you shall hate your enemy!’ **44** However, I tell you, love your enemies, and pray for those who are persecuting you, **45** that you may be the children of your Father in heaven! For He makes His sun rise on evil people and on good people, and sends rain on righteous people and unrighteous people. **46** For, if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?
47 If you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others are? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect!

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your word is truth. Amen.

Jesus' Healing of a Man who had been an Invalid for Thirty-eight Years

John 5:1-18

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** In Jerusalem there is a pool near the Sheep Gate, which in Aramaic is called “Bethesda.” It has five porches. **3** In them there used to lie a great number of people who were sick, blind, lame, and paralysed, [waiting for the water to be stirred. **4** At a certain time the Lord’s angel used to come down into the pool and stir the water. After the stirring of the water, the first to step in was healed from whatever disease he was suffering.] **5** A certain man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **6** Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been sick for a long time. He asked him, “Do you want to be made well?”
7 The invalid answered Him, “Lord, I do not have any person to put me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am going, someone else gets down ahead of me.”

8 Then Jesus told him, “Get up! Pick up your mattress and walk!”

9 Immediately the man was made well, picked up his mattress, and began to walk. It was a Sabbath that day. **10** So the Jews began to tell the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath. It is not lawful for you to carry your mattress.”

11 He answered them, “The One who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mattress, and walk!’”

12 They asked him, “Who is the Man who told you, ‘Pick it up, and walk?’”

13 However, the man who had been healed did not know who He was. For Jesus had withdrawn from the crowd that was at the place. **14** Afterwards Jesus found him in the temple, and told him, “Look! You have been made well. Do not sin any more, that something worse may not happen to you!”

15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 Because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews began to persecute Him. **17** However, Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I also am working.”

18 Therefore the Jews were trying even more to kill Him, because He was not only breaking the Sabbath, but was also calling God His own Father, making Himself equal to God.

Writing

[A multitude of invalids lay on the porches under the five-roofed. colonnade,] and yet only one was healed, while He could by a word have raised them all up. . . . The real health of bodies, which is looked for from the Lord, will be at the end, in the resurrection, of the dead. - What shall live then, shall never again die-, what shall be healed shall never again be sick; what shall be satisfied shall never again hunger and thirst; what shall be made new shall never, again grow old. But at this time, however, the eyes of the blind, that were opened by those acts of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, were again closed in death; and limbs of the: paralytics that received strength were again loosened in death; and whatever was for a time made whole in mortal limbs came to nought in the end, But the soul that believed passed to eternal life

That water, then—namely, that people— was shut in by the, five books of Moses, as by five porches. Those books [of the Law] brought forth the sick, but-could not heal them. The Law convicted, but could not acquit the sinner. Accordingly the letter [of the Law], without grace, made men guilty, whom on confessing grace delivered. For this is what the apostle said: "For if a law had been given which could have given life, surely righteousness should have been by the law". Why, then, was

the Law given? He goes on to say, "But the Scripture has concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.... The five porches are the Law. Why did not the five porches heal the sick? Because, "if there had been a law given which could have given life, surely righteousness should have been by the law." Why, then, did the porches contain those-whom they did not heal? Because "the Scripture has concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

Augustine of Hippo

Valentine's Day. 14th February.

Valentine Martyr.

A physician and priest living in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius,. Valentine became one of the noted Martyrs of the third century. The commemoration of his death, which occurred in AD 270, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the Early Church of the West. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregular shape piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's day in many nations.

Treasury of Daily Prayer.

"What Does the Bible Say

About Homosexuality:"

Lutheran Spokesman - Vol 59 No 7- January 2017

It maybe surprising to learn that the Bible doesn't say a lot about homosexuality. It is mentioned specifically in just a handful of places (such as Leviticus 18: 22- 24, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, and 1 Timothy, 1: 9 - 10) However, what the Bible says about this topic is clear and pointed homosexuality is an abomination a thing hated by God. It is also a sin against society and against one's own body. Any argument in favour or support of homosexuality cannot stand in the light of God's Word

Unfortunately, what is most certainly a moral issue has, in our society, also become a political issue. Thumbing their noses at God, godless politicians, sociologists, and socially minded clergy, have argued in favour of homosexuality to keep themselves in favour with those who desire to fulfill the lusts of their flesh. In an attempt to appear non judgmental, they wilfully ignore the judgment which God

Himself makes against those who suppress the truth (see Romans 1)

This article, though is not meant for those who use their-positions to influence others. Rather, it is for those who have been influenced, to one degree or another, by them. Sadly, it is not just the avowed atheists who have bought the lie of homosexuality; many professing Christians are also being influenced into thinking that this lifestyle is nothing more than a personal choice that is morally neutral. Let it be said up front that while homosexuality is a sin, it is a sin for which Jesus suffered and died on the cross. Many individuals who have been tempted-by this sin; and even those who have engaged in homosexual relations, have found comfort and forgiveness from God for Jesus' sake. God is not shocked by the corruption that flows forth from our hearts and minds, but has mercy on us and continues to desire our repentance and salvation.

Homosexual behaviour is rebellion against God (as is defending or excusing it). It is rebellion in a number of ways: it mocks the marriage relationship that Scripture specifically says is a reflection of Christ and the Church, it disdains God's blessing of life in that no human being ever resulted from a homosexual union, it seeks first and foremost the fulfillment of one's own fleshly desires, and it ultimately results in calling God a liar for accusing one of sin and for pointing out his need for Christ who is the Saviour from sin.

Any and every argument in favour of homosexuality must reject God's own testimony and replace His Word with One's own foolish opinions.

God's Word through the Prophet Isaiah finds application here: **"For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts** (Isaiah 55:9 ESV). It is interesting to note here that when God spoke the words of Isaiah chapter 55, He wasn't just speaking about what is and what is not sin. He was speaking about how to deal with sin. Sin isn't dealt with by ignoring it, justifying it, or defending it. Sin is dealt with by bringing it to God in repentance. And this is His promise: **"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon** (Isaiah 55:7 ESV).

>Divine Service 26th February (White)

9am St John's Minden
Transfiguration Sunday

Readings: Psalm 2:6-12

Old Testament: Exodus 24:8-18

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-21

LSB Hymns: 523, 417, 821, 537, 618, 923.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9.

>Divine Service 1st March (Violet)

7pm Our Saviour Lowood
Ash Wednesday

Readings : Psalm 51:1-13

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Hymns: 431, 310, 346, 153, 281, 493.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9.

> PARISH MEETING REMINDER FOR SUNDAY THE 26th OF FEBUARY AT ST JOHN'S MINDEN AFTER SERVICE.

> New re printed copies of God's Eternal Word Bibles are now available for purchase at \$65 each. Please see Pastor.

>Mid week Bible Study Thursday 16th March at 10am Our Saviour Lowood
Bring and Share morning tea.

>THE NEXT CoC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY THE 8th OF APRIL AT TROYS Rd TOOWOOMBA AT 10AM.

>Mid week Bible Study Thursday 16th March at 10an Our Saviour Lowood
Bring and Share morning tea.

> New re printed copies of God's Eternal Word Bibles are now available for purchase at \$65 each. Please see Pastor.

> For those who have asked for a bank account to place their offerings electronically:

Trinity Marburg BSB: 633000. Account No: 146106893.

St John's Minden BSB: 633000. Account No: 135053577.

Our Saviour Lowood BSB 633000. Account No: 159171487.

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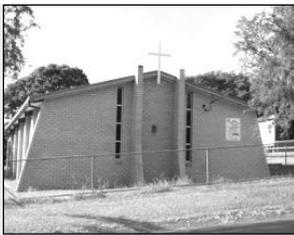
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