

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

3rd Sunday after Pentecost 25th June 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.

Today is the anniversary of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession 25th June 1530. Author Philip Melancthon. Viewed as the chief Lutheran Confession; it was presented by the Lutherans to Emperor Charles 5th at the imperial Diet of Augsburg as a statement of the chief articles of the Christian Faith as understood by Lutherans; also contains a listing of abuses that the Lutherans corrected.

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

Hymns:400, 349, 127, 169, 293, 392.

INTROIT: Psalm 91:1-10

P The one who lives under the shelter of the Most High
C **will stay for the night in the shadow of the Almighty.**
P I shall say to the LORD, "My Refuge and my Fortress,
C **my God, in whom I trust."**
P For He Himself will rescue you from the fowler's snare
C **and from the destructive plague.**
P He will cover you with His feathers, and you will take refuge under His wings.
C **His truth will be your Shield and Buckler.**
P You will not be afraid of the terror of the night,
C **or of the arrow that flies by day,**
P or of the plague that stalks in darkness,
C **or of the pestilence that lays waste at midday.**
P A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand,
C **but it will not come near you.**
P You will only look with your eyes
C **and see the retribution on wicked people.**
P For You, O LORD, are my Refuge.
C **You have made the Most High your Dwelling-place.**
All **No harm will happen to you. No plague will come near your tent.**

COLLECT: O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Epistle: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

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 for this morning is written in the book of Matthew 10:5a, 21-33 which was our Gospel reading before.

5a. Jesus sent these Twelve out with the following instructions: ²¹ One brother will betray another to death and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² You will also be hated by all people because of My name. Nevertheless, he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When people persecute you in this city, flee to another! Truly, I tell you, you will certainly not finish the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴ A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and for a slave to be like his master. If people have been calling the master of the house ‘Beelzebul,’ how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “Therefore do not be afraid of them! For there is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ Speak in the light what I tell you in the dark, and proclaim on the housetops what you hear in your ears! ²⁸ Stop being afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul! Rather, be afraid of Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell! ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father. ³⁰ As for you, even the hairs on your head have all been numbered. ³¹ Therefore stop being afraid! You are worth more than many sparrows. ³² I shall confess before My Father in heaven whoever confesses Me before others. ³³ I shall also deny before My Father in heaven whoever denies Me before others.

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

Caught in a Storm (1504-1505)

Written by Professor Joseph Lau | March, 2017

Have you ever been caught in a severe storm? It can make one feel alone and helpless. It can bring home the reality of mortality. Martin Luther experienced this when he was caught in a thunderstorm as he journeyed back to Erfurt after visiting his family in Mansfeld, a short distance away. The lightning struck so close to Luther that it may have knocked him down and injured his leg. To whom did he turn for help in this

imminent danger? “Help me, St. Anne, I will become a monk.” Luther uttered these words on Wednesday, July 2, 1505. They were to change his life forever.

It wasn't the first time that Luther had turned to a “saint” in time of need. A few years earlier he had accidentally cut an artery in his thigh with his own sword. As he waited for help to arrive, it was St Mary in whom he placed his trust. Later in life he remarked, “There I would have died trusting in Mary.” Luther had a lot yet to learn.

Doesn't his vow to St. Anne seem a bit rash? It seems like the desperate act of someone who is afraid to die, who feels that his best chance to pacify an angry god is to promise St. Anne that he will devote his life to the church. However, evidence seems to suggest that instead of this being a spontaneous decision, Luther had felt a strong need to change his life path in the months leading up to the storm. He had been caught in a spiritual storm for quite some time already.

Why not become a lawyer? It would have been the popular decision for him to continue with his university education. He had received his bachelor's degree in liberal arts in just three semesters. He went on to receive his master's degree in philosophy, ranking second in his class of seventeen. A law degree is what his father wanted for him. He was popular at school, with many good friends. The Erfurt law school and faculty had a good reputation.

Conversely, his decision to enter the monastery, which he carried out just two weeks after he had taken his vow to St. Anne, was unpopular with many. His father was bitterly disappointed, and conveyed his anger in a letter to him. He also publicly announced that he disowned his son. Their relationship would be damaged for years. His schoolmates were also shocked and dismayed by what they viewed as a hasty decision. Nevertheless, on July 17, 1505, Luther bade them farewell: “Today you see me, but never again!”

The real storm that drove Luther to the monastery was an inner crisis. He was keenly aware of his moral shortcomings. An old Eisenach mentor, Johannes Braun, once admonished Luther to beware that in gaining temporal wisdom he not lose that which is eternal. Luther took that to heart, for when he entered law school he also began to study the Bible more ardently. The copy available in the Erfurt library allowed him to search for answers to his spiritual crisis. Luther was finding no such answers in his study of law. He feared losing his salvation.

After selling his law books, Luther joined the Order of Augustinian Hermits in Erfurt, where monastic rules were strictly followed. He thought that through prayer and fasting and obedience he would find comfort and assurance of meriting eternal life. The top of his head was shaved and he occupied a 10'x8' cell. He would later reflect how his monastic experiences shook him to the core, but were essential for his eventual attack on the papacy. God was moulding him for the work that lay ahead.

500th Anniversary celebrations of the Lutheran Reformation 2017

* AELC MISSION SUNDAY bring/share lunch 2nd July at Minden from 10am Service. "Reformation trivia" after Service before lunch.

> Divine Service 2nd July (RED)

Readings: Psalm 96

Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-7

Epistle: Romans 10:11-17

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53.

10am St John's Minden

4th Sunday of Pentecost

MISSION SUNDAY

Hymns: 398, 823, 838, 829, [618, 622,] 819.

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

> Just a reminder to those who have copies of the LSB hymnal to bring them to all Minden Services to help out with numbers.

> Divine Service 9th July (Green)

Readings : Psalm 145:1-14

Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9-12

Epistle: Romans 7:14-25a

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30.

9am Trinity Our Saviour Lowood

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Hymns: 119, 306, 308, 346, 285, 411.

> Mid week Bible study on July the 20th at Lowood 10am bring and share, Trivia on the book of Zephaniah

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

> Family BUSHDANCE Greenwood Church Hall Friday 7th July at 7pm You are welcome to invite friends as well Please bring a plate for supper
Phone Jane Sippel for more information 0488722074

> 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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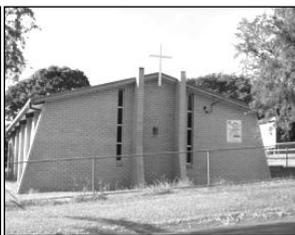
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