

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

4th Sunday after Pentecost 17th June 2018.

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.

Mark 4:26-34.

Hymns: 577, 500, 601, 507, 618, 923.

Introit: Psalm 1.

P Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of wicked people,

C or stand in the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers!

P Rather, his delight is in the Instruction of the LORD,
C and on His Instruction he meditates day and night.

P He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which produces its fruit in its season,

C and has leaves that do not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

P The ungodly are not like that,

C but are like the chaff that the wind blows away.

P Therefore wicked people will not stand in the judgment,

C or sinners in the assembly of righteous people.

P For the LORD knows the way of righteous people,

All: but the way of wicked people will perish.

Collect: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all of Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Ezekiel 17:22-24.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1-17.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34.

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 the sermon is the Gospel heard before, Mark 4:26-34.

26 Then He said: “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, **27** and should sleep and get up, by night and by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, although he does not know how. **28** All by itself the ground produces grain, first the green blade, then the head, and then the full wheat in the head. **29** As soon as the grain is ready, he puts in the sickle, because harvest has come.”**30** Then He asked, “To what are we to compare the kingdom of God, or with what parable are we to present it? **31** It is like a mustard seed, which, when it is sown on the ground, is a very small seed among all the seeds on earth. **32** Nevertheless, when it is sown, it comes up and becomes the largest of all the garden plants. It produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can make their dwelling under its shade.”

33 He used many parables like these to speak the Word to them, as they were able to hear it. **34** He did not speak to them without using a parable. However, in private He used to explain everything fully to His disciples.

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us in your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

Why I Am A Christian

by Peter Krey

Christian News, June 17, 2013

Strange as it may sound, I am not a Christian by my own choice and volition. It is generally believed that becoming a Christian is a matter of one's own choice.

A person joins a church, any church, and thereby becomes a Christian. But is the matter as simple as that? Can one join the "one, holy, Christian church", as one joins a social club? Does membership in a church make one a Christian? A person decides with himself to live a better life, or to follow the example of Christ.

Does that volition make him a Christian? The answer is No. No one ever became a Christian by his own free choice and will. To become a Christian involves the believing acceptance of all that the Bible teaches about man and about God. But the Bible teaches that man is a fallen creature wholly unable by himself to turn to God, that is, to trust in God and to love him and do what is morally good in the sight of God. Man, the Bible teaches, is totally self-centered and hostile to God and to his fellowman.

The natural state of man's mind is one of opposition to God; a fact admitted by psychoanalysts today. But St. Paul stated it long ago in these words: "The carnal mind is enmity against God." Rom. 8:7. Because of this ingrained opposition to God man cannot by his own reasoning or volition turn to God in love and confidence. He can only have an abject fear for God. All non-Christians worship of

God flows from fear. Abject fear of the Deity is the basis of all pagan worship. Natural man because of the judgment of conscience either flees from God or defies Him. His whole form of worship, if he has any, is but an endeavour to appease the wrath of an angry God with “good works” or self-imposed punishments and privations.

He can proceed no farther in his approach to God. He cannot under any circumstances overcome his guilt-feelings toward God and make himself believe that God is merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

That God as a holy God and a God of love should Himself make atonement for man’s guilt by bearing the punishment of his sin and thus be free to justify man by grace does not occur to man’s mind. The very idea is so foreign to his thoughts and state of mind, that, when confronted with it, he rejects it as foolishness. 1 Cor. 1:18,23; 2:14. Yet, that exactly is the heart of Christianity “that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.” That is the essence of the Christian religion that the Son of God became man to be “wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities” and to die for our sins, and that therefore man is justified before God his Maker by faith in Jesus Christ his proxy and Redeemer. This divine truth, revealed to man in Holy Scripture, is a stumbling block to the Jews and the self-righteous and foolishness to the Greek and the worldly wise; and this; that God should die on a shameful tree for my sins is also foolishness to my natural mind. I am innately opposed to it.

That I now believe it is therefore not due to any decision of my own volition or reasoning it is the work of God in me. I am a Christian because God made me one.

It was not my choice. He conquered my hostility and persuaded me. He made me willing and caused me to believe in Jesus Christ my Lord. With Luther I must confess: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." I am a Christian because the Holy Ghost has called me to faith by the Gospel, by the good news that God has forgiven me in Christ. This Gospel is the Word of God the Holy Ghost and therefore has the inherent power to call my heart out of unbelief to faith in Christ my Lord.

I am a Christian because the Holy Ghost has enlightened my mind with His gifts. He has by the Gospel given me the knowledge and assurance that Jesus is my Savior from sin, death, and damnation; and He has filled my heart with the joy and peace that accompanies such knowledge. I am a Christian because the Holy Ghost has renewed my heart. By bringing me to faith through the Gospel He has given me the power to hate and abandon evil and the strength to love and to strive for that which is good and pleasing to God.

I am a Christian because I came in contact with the Gospel, the glad tidings of God's redeeming love and forgiving grace in Christ Jesus, either in my youth through Holy Baptism

or by the instruction of my parents and teachers, or, if later in life, through the Gospel-ministry of the church or the reading of the Bible or Christian literature.

Somewhere along life's way I came in contact with the Gospel of the grace of God, and somewhere along this line of contact the Holy Ghost caused me to believe by breaking up the darkness of my unbelieving heart with the light of the knowledge that Jesus is my Lord and with the assurance of faith that He is the propitiation for my sins, and not for mine only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I am a Christian, not by my own free will or right reasoning, or good conduct; I am a Christian because God made me one of His dear children through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord.

As it is written: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." 1 Cor. 12:3. "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."... "We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Eph. 2:8,10.

Every believing Christian will confess with the great apostle, "By the grace of God I am what I am" -a Christian.

*I was made a Christian; When my name was given,
One of God's dear children; And an heir of heaven.
In the name of Christian; I will glory now.
Evermore remember My; Baptismal vow.*

*I must, like a Christian, Shun all evil ways,
Keep the faith of Jesus, Serve Him all my days.
Called to be a Christian, I will praise the Lord,
Seek for His assistance, So to keep my word.
All a Christian's blessings I will claim for mine:
Holy work and worship, Fellowship Divine.
Father, Son, and Spirit, Give me grace, that I
Still may live a Christian, And a Christian die.*

Devotions on the Apostle's Creed -Why I Am A Christian
and Other Writings. By Peter Krey.

>>Divine Service 24th June [Green]

Readings: Psalm 124

Old Testament : Job 38:1-11

Epistle: 2 Corinthians: 6:1-13

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41.

>>Divine Service 1st July [RED]

Readings: Psalm 96

Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-7

Epistle: Romans 10:11-17

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53.

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Bible study Augsburg C4.

LSB Hymns: 578, 524,341, 301, 289, 616.

10am Trinity Marburg HC

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Mission Sunday

Hymns: 219, 187, 216, 240, 287, 239.

Sunday School Children to sing.

>>Divine Service 8th July [Green]

Readings : Psalm 123

Old Testament: Ezekiel 2:1-5

Epistle: 2nd Corinthians 12:1-10

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

9am St John's Minden HC

7th Sunday after Pentecost

LSB Hymns : 904, 839, 836, 701, 630, 842.

Bible study Augsburg C 5.

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

>>Study on the AUGSBURG CONFESSION -- directly after Church every Sunday -- 1hour studies only -- for everyone, confirmation students and up; -- Bring your Bible. -- quick cuppa and biscuit.

>>Next mid week Bible Study Thursday 21st June at Lowood 10am.

>> Confirmation Class is on every Friday afternoon at MARBURG 4.15pm to start by 4.30 except on School Holidays.

>> Mission Sunday the 1st of July, join us with a bring and share lunch and Christian fellowship with our brothers and sisters from up on the Downs.

>> Next CoC meeting is on Saturday September 8th at Minden 10am.

Pastor Owen Ohlson. H: 5359 6802 M: 0409 169 991 E: ofdro@ozonline.com.au

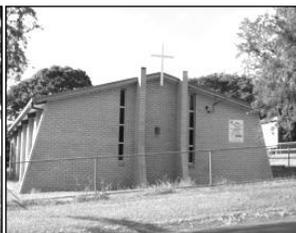
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