

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

12th Sunday after Pentecost 12th August 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.

John 6:35-51.

Hymns: 347, 361, 19, 308, 289, 197.

Introit: Psalm 34:1-8.

P Let me bless the LORD at all times!

C His praise will continually be in my mouth.

P My soul will boast about the LORD.

C Humble people will hear it and rejoice.

P Magnify the LORD with me,

C and let us exalt His name together!

P When I sought the LORD, He answered me,

C and delivered me from all my fears.

P People have looked to Him and have been radiant,

C and their faces should never be ashamed.

P This poor man called out. The LORD heard him,

C and saved him out of all his troubles.

P The angel of the LORD

C encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.

P Taste and see that the LORD is good!

All: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Collect: Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: 1Kings 19:1-8.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:17-5:2.

Gospel: John 6:35-51.

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, John 6: 35-51.

35 Jesus told them, "I am the Bread of life. The person who comes to Me will certainly not be hungry and the person who believes in Me will certainly never be thirsty. **36** However, I have told you both that you have seen Me and that you do not believe. **37** Everything that the Father gives to Me will come to Me; and I shall

certainly not cast out the person who comes to Me, 38 because I have come down from heaven, not that I may do My will, but the will of Him who has sent Me. 39 This is also the will of the One who has sent Me, that I should not lose anything of what He has given to Me, but that I should raise it on the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and that I should raise him on the last day.”

41 The Jews therefore grumbled because He said, “I am the Bread that has come down from heaven.” 42 They asked, “Is this not Jesus, Joseph’s son, whose father and mother we know? How can He now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

43 Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves! 44 A person can come to Me only if the Father, who has sent Me, draws him; and I shall raise him on the last day. 45 The prophets wrote: ‘God will teach everyone.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father. Only He who comes from God has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I tell you, the one who believes in Me has eternal life.

48 “I am the Bread of Life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the Bread coming down from heaven, so that anyone may eat from it and not die. 51 I am the living Bread that has come down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever, and the Bread that I shall give is My flesh, for the life of the world.”

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

Dear friends in Christ,

Peace be with you.

Theological Basis for Christian Response to hostility and persecution.

Hostility and persecution can impact us in many ways. Beneath the layers of physical and emotional challenges, though, are layers of spiritual issues that need attention. Many of these challenges and needs are situational; they vary from case to case and situation to situation. However, we find the answers we need in God's Word, which He uses to assure, comfort, and guide us. On the other hand, these are often general principles that may not speak to our situation as directly as we might like. To drill down to a more specific level of application, we need to know the how and why of things, to know how God would apply His Word to our personal situation. This means that we need to seek God's mind and heart. Knowing God is more helpful and more enlightening than all of the detailed instructions we could ever devise. We need to know His mind, in that we need to know His will,

"We find the answers

desires, and objectives. In other words, what would *we need in God's*

He like to see accomplished? And we need to know *Word."*

His heart, in that we need to grasp His love for us

and His love for all of humanity to be able to understand His motives. In other words, why would He like this accomplished? Knowing His love but not His will can lead to a

misdirected or inappropriate response; knowing His will but not His love can lead to a selfish or insincere response. It should be no surprise, then, that our best response to hostility will be one He designs in keeping with His objectives and His motives.

God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and God's ways are not our own.

1 He is omniscient and omnipotent, but we are limited. This means that we can never fully understand God or His plans, but that does not deter God, nor should it deter us from seeking His direction. As Paul describes in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, God puts His grace into jars of clay, meaning us, recognizing that we are limited and fragile.

2 As a friend once told me, we are all cracked pots! Of course, God already understands all this, so He takes steps to help us in our limited and fragile understanding. Rather than leaving us to figure it out on our own, as if we even had any hope of doing so, God reveals His heart and mind most clearly in Jesus Christ. God's mind revealed in Christ tells us what He would like to see done; God's heart revealed in Christ tells us why.

Living in Christ rather than by our own desires or intentions can liberate us from asking, "Why me?" as a paralyzing complaint. Instead, we take a deep breath, step out of ourselves, and ask, "*What would God like to accomplish by me being here at this place and time?*" Then, enlightened and refocused by God's grace, we take up our cross and step out on the path forward with God's impetus and perspective. Let us be clear: this is not anything we devise or generate to do for God; we have no power to accomplish or even initiate this on our own. This is something we ask God to do for us and through us, and He has a proven track record of making it happen. To begin to understand this dynamic, we need to look at how He uses us as His agents, uses our suffering, gives us resources, and gives our response meaning.

1 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

2 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh" (2 Corinthians 4:7-11).

3 By the way, if we do not have a sense of why we are here and for what purpose, why not put those questions to God? Psalm 139:16 and Ephesians 2:10 both suggest that God has things in mind that He would like to accomplish through us; why not ask?

Standing Firm A Christian Response to hostility and persecution.

Jesse Yow CPH.

>>Divine Service 19th August [Green]

Readings: Psalm 34:12-22

Old Testament: Proverbs 9:1-10

Epistle: Ephesians 5:6-21

Gospel: John 6:51-69.

9am ST JOHNS MINDEN HC

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Study Augsburg C

Hymns: 818, 696, 743, 689,625, 712,

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

>>Divine Service 26th August [Green]

Readings: Psalm 14

Old Testament : Isaiah 29:11-19

Epistle: Ephesians 5:22-33

Gospel: Mark 7:1-13.

9am Trinity Marburg HC

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Bible study Augsburg C

Hymns:386, 357, 149, 300, 287, 437.

>>Divine Service 2nd September [Green]

Readings: Psalm 119:129-136

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel: John 6:35-51Mark 7:14-23

9am Our Saviour Lowood HC

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Study Augsburg C

Hymns:

>>Study on the AUGSBURG CONFESSION -- directly after Church every Sunday

>>Next mid week Bible Study on Proverbs is on Thursday 16th of August at Lowood 10am.

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

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

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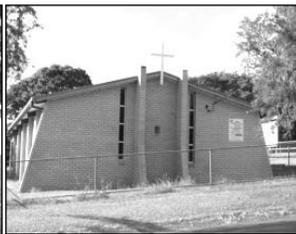
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