

Education Service 2017

“No story is complete without knowing the order of things. You cannot have a story without order and time. If the prince kisses Sleeping Beauty in chapter 1, but the evil spell that put her to sleep does not come until chapter 5, well, that story just does not make sense.

“The Church has a story to tell as well. Indeed, Martin Luther said that the Church is a ‘mouth house’ (AE 68)—a place where the true story of Jesus is the main event. This is one story we do not want to get wrong, and that is why the Church uses the rhythms of the festivals and seasons of her year to teach the story of Christ (Lutheranism 101, p.207).”

For that reason, we will use our Education Service this year to look at the seasons of the Church year. Some of this service you may recognize from my service a few years ago; with the rest I’m using something a pastor friend of mine developed.

With that in mind, we pray to the Lord God who gave us the seasons of the Church year:

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

Stand

(“(T)he Invocation confesses that God has put His holy name on His people in Holy Baptism and so has promised to remain with them (Maschke, p.117).”)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the +
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who
is faithful and just, will forgive our
sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

(“After the invitation to confession,...a time for silent reflection, a nearly lost art in Christian corporate worship. Especially among North Americans, silence is rare. Music typically surrounds us at work and in most public settings...(But) Luther spoke of meditation (*meditatio*) as a second element in the making of a theologian (Maschke, p.119).”)

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our
Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that
we are by nature sinful and unclean.
We have sinned against You in
thought, word, and deed, by what
we have done and by what we have
left undone. We have not loved You
with our whole heart; we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We justly deserve Your present
and eternal punishment. For the sake
of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have
mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,**

**and lead us, so that we may delight
in Your will and walk in Your ways
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

(“The Office of the Keys is given to the Christian church. A Christian congregation by the command of Christ calls pastors to carry out the Office of the Keys publicly in His name and on behalf of the congregation...Through these statements, the pastor clearly speaks the word of forgiveness on God’s behalf (Maschke, p.120).”)

P Almighty God in His mercy has given
His Son to die for you and for His sake
forgives you all your sins. As a called
and ordained servant of Christ, and by
His authority, I therefore forgive you
all your sins in the name of the Father
and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Pastor: If you are visiting with us this morning I want you to know that what we are about to do today in worship is different, and it is special. We don’t normally worship in this manner, but on this day, Sunday, the day our Lord Jesus rose again from the dead, we are going to “re-live” the past year, in message and in song. Before a new church year dawns in November, we are going to remind ourselves of what the Church Year means and why we celebrate it. There’s just no sense in changing the colors of our paraments and the themes of our worship and following the Church Calendar unless we know what it means. It just can’t have meaning for us unless we understand its rhythms and emphases. So sit back, and get ready for the journey – a year in about an hour. It’s a lot to take in, but it will be well worth it.

Now some people say it’s too confusing, or hard to understand the Church Year. Well, I want to give us a simple orientation at the start – a navigation guide if you will. The truth is, all churches, at least to a limited degree, participate in the Church Year. And that’s because all

churches, Christian churches that is, celebrate the two most important days, regardless of what they do the rest of the year. And of course these days are Christmas and Easter. These give shape to the entire rest of the year. We celebrate a season of Christmas and of Easter to commemorate our Lord's birth and resurrection. And then, because these dates are so important, we have seasons of preparation to get ready for them. To get ready for Christmas, we have the season of Advent. To get ready for Easter, we have the season of Lent. Lent always begins with the temptations of Christ; and then ends with His crucifixion, celebrated on Good Friday. We are then left with this "in-between time," between these seasons, and since Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, and Lent and Easter the end of His earthly life, it is natural to have the season in-between celebrate the rest of His life. We call this "Epiphany," the appearing, for the appearing of our Lord in the flesh. We begin it by celebrating Christ's baptism which begins his ministry and end it with His transfiguration, just before He journeys to Jerusalem and to His death, the theme of Lent. The Easter season begins with the Resurrection celebration and ends with Christ's ascension into heaven. And so, this first half of the Church year is focused on the life of Christ and so we call it the time of Christ

But then, on Pentecost, Christ gives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the Church is born. And so the rest of the Church Year, the Sundays after Pentecost, we call the time of the Church. But it's not like Christ is left behind. In the first half of the year we focus on the life of Christ and His works, but in the second half of the year, the church focuses on His teachings. We'll begin to prepare the way for our coming King with an Advent Hymn.

Hymn 331 The Advent of Our King (vv.1-2)

Pastor: Prepare the royal highway. That's what the prophet Isaiah calls on the people of Israel to do. The promised Messiah is coming, and the people need to get ready. He'll be here soon, Isaiah told them. And Jesus did arrive, as promised, so long ago as a baby in a manger that first Christmas. So to get ready for Christmas, we prepare the way for our celebration of that birth. But in doing so, we also remind ourselves that the task of preparing the way of the Lord is not over. As we look

forward to our celebration of His first coming, we do so by keeping in mind the promise that He has told us He will come again, soon, at a day and an hour we do not expect. And so *we* need to be ready! The King is coming again to bring justice, and truth, and love, and to gather His sheep into His arms forever. That's what Advent is about, getting ready. Through repentance and eager expectation, we ready ourselves to meet our coming King. The color of the season is hopeful blue, and it raises our eyes up to the blue sky, from whence we expect His hasty return. In that day, we'll sing hosanna to our Lord, the one who alone fulfills God's word! Following the Advent of our King, we have His entrance into humanity through His birth. We sing a Christmas hymn.

Hymn 387 Joy to the World (vv.1-2)

Pastor: I hardly need to tell you what Christmas is about. You know it's about the birth of Christ. But when you picture this babe lying in the manger, with Joseph and Mary and cattle around, do you picture Him as a king? Christmas is a celebration of the birth of the King of the Universe. The King who is present everywhere, at all times, deigns to enter human flesh as a tiny newborn baby boy. I guess that's why the angels announced His coming with the glory of the Lord shining all around. This is good news the angel told the shepherds, the King is here! Go find Him, wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger. This was the sign Isaiah had told would be given, so long ago, and now it was happening before their very eyes. This was the one who would govern with peace without end—that would sit on the throne of David forever and rule His kingdom – the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The King Jesus. No wonder the herald angels sing with loud voice: “Glory to the newborn king!” We place white on the altar during two seasons of the year – during Christmas, and later during Easter, the two most important events in the history of the world, and it symbolizes the purity and holiness of our King Jesus. As Jesus matured, growing in favor with God and man, we have the time of His Epiphany—His appearing among humanity. With this, we have an Epiphany hymn.

Hymn 412 The People That in Darkness Sat (vv.1-2)

Pastor: The one thing about coming to earth and proclaiming to be a King is that the other kings and rulers of the world get jealous, especially if you have a following. Herod was so jealous he ordered all the children under two to be killed, hoping to get Jesus in the plot. And as Jesus' fame and popularity spread, so too did His opposition. The religious leaders of the day felt threatened and plotted His death. The Roman Empire, with Pontius Pilate ruling in the region of Judea, wanted to know, "Are you the King of the Jews or are you not?" "It is as you say," Jesus told them. "Crucify Him then!" was their response. This is the humiliation of the true King. He's mocked. They placed a purple robe on Him and a crown of thorns and they beat Him and laughed, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews." Their actions were wrong, but their words were right. Did they know they were killing the King of the Universe, God Himself, and treating Him like a common criminal? We recall both their mockery and Jesus' true Kingship when we place royal purple on the altar during Lent. It's a somber season. It's when we reflect on what sinful man, and, hence, we, do to our God who comes to save us. We kill Him. And in humble obedience, Jesus, King of the universe, not only goes forth willingly, not only allows it to happen, but even, in that hour, prays for us, that we would be forgiven. Here is a True, Servant King. In the words of the Roman centurion at the cross: "Truly this man is the Son of God" – our humbled and crucified King. Remembering how our Lord humbled Himself, even to the point of death, dying on the cross of Calvary, in your place and mine, we sing a Lenten hymn, recalling Jesus' footsteps to the cross and His death upon it, from which He would state, "It is finished."

Hymn 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (vv. 1-2)

Pastor: You know the good news about God is that He is life. The True King just can't stay dead. A dead king wouldn't do anyone any good anyway. But this is the Christian faith: we proclaim that Jesus is no longer dead, in fact He has risen, defeated sin, conquered death, and proclaimed victory over Satan and evil. He now reigns over all things. This is the King's exaltation. After His humiliation through death on a

cross, God exalts Him by raising Him from the dead. Then God goes on to give Him a name that is above every other name. And now, having pondered the meaning of this exaltation and victory, let us sing the Easter proclamation of victory in song – for you indeed are sons and daughters of the risen King!

Hymn 457 Jesus Christ is Risen Today (vv.1-2)

Pastor: Not only are you and I sons and daughters of the King, through baptism we also become His loyal subjects. That's what Pentecost and the giving of the Spirit is about. Red on the altar recalls the giving of the Spirit in flaming tongues of fire that first Pentecost. But this is more than a one-time event that comes and goes. Rather, it's a calling. Baptism in the spirit is your lifelong enlistment into this risen King's service. You go about His work. You represent His cause on this earth. You fight for Him! And how do you do this? You pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. You make the good confession of your Lord until He appears again. You live each day knowing you serve none other than the King of kings to whom belongs all honor and eternal dominion. And you worship the King all glorious above, and graciously sing of His power and His love.

Hymn 497 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (vv.1-2)

Pastor: As the sun begins to set on another Church Year, and as a new Advent draws near, we focus our hearts and minds on the end of our lives, and the end of time. We know that Christ our King is coming again, and this time He will bring salvation without remainder. He will set the whole world to rights and rule over the new heavens and new earth forever and ever. God has appointed Him the coming judge over the living and the dead. He will sit on His royal throne and separate the sheep from the goats. Those on His left He will cast out into utter darkness, but to you, those on His right, He will welcome into His royal banquet hall for the Feast of Victory. We will be among the countless throng that will watch the elders cast down their golden crowns before His throne. For in that day, no earthly subject will dare wear a crown, rather Christ the King alone will be worthy of all honor, and power, and

praise. He will rule in that day with an iron scepter – the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, will in that day be crowned with many crowns. And so on this Sunday, the day of our Lord’s resurrection in the year of our Lord, two-thousand seventeen, we His loyal subjects who await His coming, rise together to confess our faith in Him. (“The Apostle’s Creed is the baptismal creed of the gathered guests and summarizes the Christian faith in the most simple, scriptural, and apostolic terms (Maschke, p.133).”)

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from
the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Sermon

(“God’s gathered guests respond to God’s Word with grateful hearts and with their lives (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:9) (Maschke, p.135).”)

Offering

(“After the offering has been gathered, the congregation joins in a hymn of praise (Maschke, p.136).”)

Stand

Offertory



☐ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



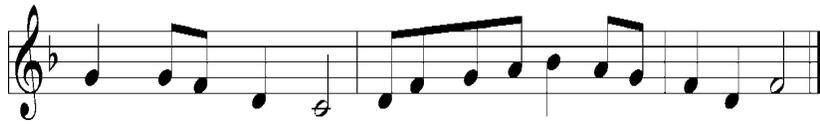
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:22-27

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon
you and + give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing **Hymn** 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Prayer (In the front of the hymnal)

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshipped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Prayer List – Arleen Sasse, Mary Dierks, Madison Lash, Viola Knecht, Phil Richards, Jackie Willis, Julie Rothe, Treston Wall, Bill Wasmuth, Dennis Schukar & Allen Sasse

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today 9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class
 10:00am Divine Worship

Next Sunday 9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class
 10:00am Divine Worship
 Greeters: Janice Torbeck
 Ushers: Alex Kleinik

Fayette County Cancer Fund – Is looking for donations of cakes for a cake walk to be held on Sept. 23rd in Rogier Park from 4-9 pm. Cakes can be dropped off at the park at 3:00 pm. They are also looking for someone that would like to donate some time doing face painting on the night of the event. Contact Amanda Torbeck with any questions at 618-791-2366.

Pastor Ryan Meyer--has accepted the call to St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Peter. We pray prayers of thanksgiving as he prepares to come; but we also continue to pray for God to send out laborers and to fill the vacancies throughout the country, including the one which will be started when Pastor Meyer leaves his congregation at Tobias, NE.

Pastor Michael Feldmann--will be installed Sunday, October 1, at 4pm, filling Salem Lutheran Church's vacancy from Pastor Donald Antor's departure a year and a half ago.

Do you have an hour to stand in support of all human life? Join us on Sunday, October 1st from 2-3 PM at the corner of Kennedy and Gallatin Streets in Vandalia for a silent, prayerful stance in support of all life. Thank you in support of life! Debbie Hobbie "LIKE" us on Facebook: LIFE CHAIN Vandalia

Celebrate LWML Sunday with us on October 8th. Building on God's promises, we know that this is our time to be distinctly Lutheran. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each women's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ, encouraging Christian women to live their lives in active mission ministries, and support missions around the world. We encourage all ladies of the congregation to support the work of the LWML by taking part in our MITE offering on LWML Sunday.

In honor of the 100th celebration of the building of our church the Ladies Aid will be preparing a wonderful custom cookbook featuring recipes from our members. The cookbook will be professionally published, and is certain to become a treasured keepsake. Please submit your favorite recipes (as many as you wish) so you can be represented in our cookbook.

Recipes must be submitted by Oct. 15th. Information on submitting will be handed out after worship service, with more information to follow. We look forward to your contribution.

September Camp Cilca Lowdown is posted in the Narthex.

SERVANTS OF OUR LORD

OUR ORGANIST: Lisette Ehrat

OUR USHERS: Brad Courson & Alex Gramlick

OUR GREETERS: Brad & Sherry Courson