

Pastor's Report Summer 2015

As we pass the summer months, there is still much ministry being accomplished. Adult instruction continues; wedding counseling continues and will be completed by this autumn; visits continue; and the like.

Over the last couple weeks prior to vacation, I had been leading another round of Lutheranism 101 adult instruction/refreshment. We have one new confirmand from these classes; and two who agree that taking the course is worth it for the refreshment of things once learned learned again, and for a few new things they have come to know. Shortly after tonight, another round will begin as more people continue to ask for the course. Feel free to join us for refreshment in God's Word and our church history!

I feel blessed to announce that the counseling sessions and/or services for all five of our wedding couples for this year have gone or are going smoothly. In a world in which premarital cohabitation is taken for granted and the very definition of marriage has been challenged by the decision of the Supreme Court, this is a wonderful thing—in fact, a God-ly thing, as it is only through God's work that good happens in our world. Thanks be to God for our wedding couples!

It has also come to my attention that I have never announced that my sermons are printed in full. You may already know this as I do look down to read quotes from Scripture, the Book of Concord, and the like, but you may not know when disaster may strike you or a loved one. If you have a loved one enter the hospital, return from the hospital with weeks of recuperation to go, or you yourself do, I am more than willing to give you my manuscript to take home for them/you. (I do only have one copy with me any given Sunday, but I'm willing to print off more

as needed. In addition, please remember that the sermons are always recorded and uploaded online for your listening as well—in sickness or in health!)

As noted above, times are a-changing, and some people in our nation are no longer practicing God's ways. But, I will pass along to you the Good News delivered to me over the Convention last Sunday through Tuesday: Jesus is *still* in control. Jesus *still* loves you because it is *still* true that He died on the cross for your sins so that you may know that you are forgiven—and not just you, but the world. All the world's sins have been forgiven in Christ Jesus' death and resurrection. So we continue to preach publically and privately that Gospel so that God may create the growth from the seeds which He plants through us.