



St. Mark

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

The day was June 25, 1530. The place was Augsburg, a major city in the 16th century, located near Munich in modern Germany. The issue? A demand by the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V, that the Lutheran leaders of his German provinces declare and defend the teachings of their churches. Princes, theologians, and various government officials gathered at the city hall that day, although Luther, protected only by his own prince in his own territory, had to stay away.

Dr. Christian Beyer read in German 21 articles on which there was apparent agreement with the Church of Rome and seven over which there was great disagreement. Seven princes and representatives of two cities declared themselves in agreement with the document, as were, of course, the theologians who had prepared the document as well as thousands of Lutheran Christians who accepted it with their mouths and actions. And so was issued the first of the great Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Five other major documents followed: the Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord. Together they were published in the Book of Concord in 1580.

While ancient, these documents still hold a central place in the mission and ministry of our congregations and synod, for we confess that the Confessions are "a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church." It is this subscription to the Lutheran Confessions that makes us not only Bible-believing Christians but also confessional Lutherans. Today, we are commemorating the presentation of the Augsburg Confession, not because we cultishly follow our Lutheran forefathers, but because they stood firm on the truths of God's Word in spite of serious opposition and we want to follow their example. Through our worship this morning, the Holy Spirit will strengthen our faith that we might rededicate ourselves to standing firm on the truths of Scripture, regardless of any opposition we face.

HYMN: CW 529

Built on the Rock

St. Mark Lutheran Church and School

3930 S. 19th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502 www.stmarklincoln.org
School website—www.stmarkles.org (phone) 402-423-1497

Pastor

Joel Vogel
Cell (402) 238-5213

Administrative Assistant

Carolyn Schwede
Office (402) 423-1497

Teachers

Jeremiah Drews (6-8, Principal)

Cell (402) 480-1940

Jocelyn Vogel (2-5)

Cell (740) 350-3260

Stephanie Peitsmeyer (K-1)

Cell (614) 935-2190

This Week at St. Mark

- Sunday - Voters Meeting 10:15 am
- Monday - Worship Service 7:00 pm
- Wednesday - Bible Class Lexington Assisted Living Center 3:30 pm
- Thursday - Bible Class 6:30 am
- Friday - Mowing: Paul Dinges
- Saturday - Church Cleaning: Sec. 1 Remmers Sec. 2 Richert

Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for one regular **part-time Administrative Receptionist**. A comprehensive description of this position can be found at www.mlc-wels.edu/hr. Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12:00 pm (noon) on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at [507-354-8221](tel:507-354-8221).

St. Mark News and Notes

Nursery At St. Mark, we love children and encourage their worship, too! In the foyer, we have some children's busy bags hanging from hooks that you are most welcome to use in church. If your child becomes restless during the service and you feel you both could just use a little break, you're welcome to use our nursery. Ask an usher to lead you there. Most of us have or have had young children, so you're with caring people who understand what it's like to have little ones.

Building Addition Fund: If you would like to give specifically to the new building addition, please write "Building Addition Fund" on the envelope to be sure that the money is allocated correctly. Put the envelope in the offering plate.

Please remember in your prayers...

- Josh & Eva Van Egmond, who celebrate with thanksgiving God's grace of 5 years of marriage
- John Uecker, Tracy Jamison's father
- Shirley Zacherson
- Tammy Koepsell, Wendy Colson & Eric Richert's sister
- Sarah Brauer, Margaret Booth's daughter

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Elders: Tyson Martin, Curt Jamison

Usher: Chad Colson

Greeters: Tracy Jamison

Pianist: Jocelyn Vogel

Birthdays— Lisa Duffield 6/25, Lori Meyer 6/25, Nathan Kumwenda 6/27, Tom Bork 6/28, Maclain Beach 6/28

Anniversaries—Blake & Abby Baumann 7/1, Josh & Eva Van Egmond 7/1

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING DIALOGUE

Galatians and Psalm 119

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: **My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.**

M: The Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

C: **Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

M: You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

C: **May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

C: **I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.**

M: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

C: **I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.**



M: May we never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C: Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your Church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN: 203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 55:6-11

HYMN: CW 293 God's Word is Our Great Heritage

SECOND LESSON Romans 10:5-17

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. Alleluia. (John 17:17)

GOSPEL Matthew 10:32-39

HYMN: CW 199 (verses 1-5) In Trembling Hands, Lord God, We Hold
Sung to the tune "St. Luke" (CW 303)

SERMON

C: Concerning church regulations made by human beings, it is taught to keep those that may be kept without sin and that serve to maintain peace and good order in the church, such as specific celebrations and festivals.

M: This is a summary of what is preached and taught in our churches for proper Christian instruction and the comfort of consciences, as well as for the improvement of believers.

C: This teaching is clearly grounded in Holy Scripture and is, moreover, neither against nor contrary to the universal Christian church.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN: CW 535

Our Fathers' God in Years Long Gone

- M:** To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments.
- C:** **Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who hear the gospel.**
- M:** It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.
- C:** **For it is enough for the true unity of the Christian church that the gospel is preached harmoniously according to a pure understanding, and the sacraments are administered in conformity with the divine Word.**
- M:** Concerning baptism it is taught that it is necessary, that grace is offered through it, and that one should also baptize children, who through baptism are entrusted to God and become pleasing to him.
- C:** **Concerning the Lord's Supper it is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there.**
- M:** Concerning confession it is taught that private absolution should be retained and not abolished.
- C:** **However, it is not necessary to enumerate all misdeeds and sins, since it is not possible to do so.**
- M:** Concerning repentance it is taught that those who have sinned after baptism obtain forgiveness of sins whenever they come to repentance and that absolution should not be denied them by the church.
- C:** **True repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow, or terror about sin, and yet at the same time to believe in the gospel and absolution that sin is forgiven and grace is obtained through Christ.**
- M:** Concerning church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper call.

HYMN: CW 199 (verses 6-7) **In Trembling Hands, Lord God, We Hold**
Sung to the tune "St. Luke" (CW 303)

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

- M:** Heavenly Father, your Word is able to make us wise to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Without the gospel message of your forgiveness we would still be lost in unbelief and sin, doomed to everlasting damnation.
- C:** **What a precious treasure your Word, the blessed gospel of Christ, is!**
- M:** And yet for centuries this treasure was all but lost from mankind through the lies and deceptions of Satan. With great blasphemies he diverted men's minds from the truth, convincing them that they must trust in their own loving works for everlasting life.
- C:** **O Lord, we praise your loving kindness that brought about the Lutheran Reformation and uncovered once again the gospel treasure, hidden so long from the minds and hearts of men.**
- M:** Because you intervened in history by guiding the reformers to the Scriptures, sinners throughout every age can learn of their Savior Jesus Christ, and enjoy the salvation won for them.
- C:** **We are especially thankful that your Holy Spirit has removed spiritual blindness and self-righteousness from our hearts and led us to place our trust only in the shed blood of our Savior, Jesus.**
- M:** As children of the Lutheran Reformation, yes, as your children through faith in Christ, may we never depart from the rich heritage of your Word. Keep us faithful to the truth that Jesus Christ loved us and gave himself for us on the cross. Allow nothing that we believe, teach, defend, say, or do, be contrary to your precious Word.

C: May we be ready to make all sacrifices necessary for the preservation and promotion of your saving truth in our midst and throughout the world. Give a double measure of the Spirit to the pastors and teachers of this congregation, that they may be kept from false doctrine.

M: Inspire fathers and mothers to teach the pure Word to their children and to set a good example of loving obedience to all that you command. May your saving Word as taught at church and at home powerfully work in our hearts a solid growth in knowledge and faith. With your Word of truth raise the fallen, reclaim the straying, restore confidence to the doubting, and comfort the troubled.

C: Forgive us wherever we have transgressed, and by your Spirit enable us to serve you in faithful obedience to your Word all our days.

M: We pray it all in the name of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ, through whom we also join 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.**

HYMN: CW 202

If God Had Not Been on Our Side

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Augsburg Confession Excerpts

M: It is with one accord taught and held that there is one divine essence which is named God and truly is God. But there are three persons in the same one essence, equally powerful, equally eternal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

C: **All three are one divine essence, eternal, undivided, unending, of immeasurable power, wisdom, and goodness, the creator and preserver of all visible and invisible things.**

M: It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God.

C: **Moreover, this same original sin is truly sin and condemns to God's eternal wrath all who are not in turn born anew through baptism and the Holy Spirit.**

M: Likewise, it is taught that God the Son became a human being, born of the virgin Mary, and that the two natures, the divine and the human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ.

C: **He is true God and true human being who truly "was born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried" in order both to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to conciliate God's wrath.**

M: Moreover, the same Christ "descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, is sitting at the right hand of God" in order to rule and reign forever over all creatures, so that through the Holy Spirit he may make holy, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, also distribute to them life and various gifts and benefits, and shield and protect them against the devil and sin.

C: **Finally, the same Lord Christ "will come" in full view of all "to judge the living and the dead."**

M: It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

C: **For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight.**