



Worship

Sunday Morning 9:30 am

at VOA Gathering Room

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

Sunday Morning Forums

10:45 am

at VOA Gathering Room

Our forums during the month of November will focus on the Augsburg Confession, the first in a series of forums on the topic ***“Why are we Lutheran?”*** This month’s edition of our newsletter will open up some of the topics that will be covered in these forums. Our Augsburg Confession sessions will use commentary from several sources, including *“The Augsburg Confession”* by Leif Grane (published by Augsburg). Purchase of this book is not mandatory, but it may be helpful to read prior to (and after?) coming to the sessions. These are presentation/discussion sessions, not lectures. It’s a good chance to explore these articles of faith, written in the 16th century, and to test their relevance for today.

Prayer Requests

Please include in your prayers these folks:

Harold Hoovey (suffering with lung cancer)

Jerry Rood

Dan Ronning

Nancy Kruse and Karl

the Arentz family and Linda, grieving the loss of

Troy

the Gjengdahl family and circle of friends,

grieving the loss of Carla

the LCMC organization and its member

congregations
those serving in the Armed Forces (especially
Karl, Eric, and Ralph) and their families
Dan and Sherry
Greg and Joe and Frank
the Chilean miners and their families
all those suffering from the "flu"
Gary Demont
Jeanne
the Smeby family, grieving the loss of Signe
Kenneth and Kathy and Comfort
the LUKE Bible study group
our congregation and its work in spreading the
Good News
for all who are in grief
Jeanne and Jenny and Thelma
Annette
Leroy
all those who haven't heard about Christ
Esther McDermid and her family
Cliff's sister and her family, who were involved
in an auto accident
Ed
the Hauge family, suffering through another
bout with cancer in the family
all the residents and staff of the Elder
Homestead
our country and our states and all their elected
officials

(Send your prayer requests to
info@LutheranCommunityGrace.org)

Bonhoeffer and Reformation

*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.*

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,

still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
Oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation,
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suff'ring, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world
you give us the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

By gracious powers so faithfully protected,
so quietly, so wonderfully near,
I'll live each day in hope, with you beside me,
and go with you through ev'ry coming year.

So writes the "faithfully protected" Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), living in the assurance that regardless of whatever comes the "gracious powers" of God will be present in each new day. A beautiful prayer for the morning hours, one you may want to use in your own morning devotions and prayer time.

Bonhoeffer also wrote in a letter penned on Reformation Day, 1943: *"One wonders why Luther's action had to be followed by consequences that were the exact opposite of what he intended, and that darkened the last years of his life, so that he sometimes even doubted the value of his life's work. He wanted a real unity of the church and the West—that is, of the Christian and of Europe; he wanted the 'freedom of the Christian man', and the consequence was indifference and licentiousness; he wanted the privilege, and the result was insurrection, the Peasant's War, and soon afterwards the gradual dissolution of all real cohesion and order in society. I remember from my student days a discussion between Holl and Harnack as to whether the great historical intellectual and spiritual movements made headway through their primary or their secondary motives. At the time I thought Holl was right in maintaining the former; now I think he was wrong. As long as a hundred years ago Kierkegaard said that today Luther would say the opposite of what he said then. I think he was right—with some reservations."* (from *Letters & Papers from Prison*, published by Simon & Schuster, 1971)

Open House on Shady Oak Road

An open house at our storefront on Shady Oak Road will take place on November 6, 2010. This is another opportunity for the neighborhood to drop in and see what sort of place this is—many wonder about a church with a storefront operation. The open house will run from 10 am to 6 pm on that Saturday. Refreshments will be served and there might be some surprise activities for the attendees.

Psalm 65

¹ Praise is due to thee, O God, in Zion; and to thee shall vows be performed,

That's the way to start out our communications with God, isn't it? **Praise**...whether it be a simple prayer, a worship service (the fancy and high church type, or the simple little loose structured gathering in a home), or a conversation with God in the middle of the night. Look at the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father who art in heaven, **hallowed be thy name**..." Praise thy holy name, may it always be kept holy by all that we do.

² O thou who hearest prayer! To thee shall all flesh come ³on account of sins.

Can you fathom how wondrous it is that our God *hears* our prayers, *listens* to our every word? What other god is there so attentive to his children? So ready to gather prayers, prayers of any kind: prayers of confession, prayers of joy...of sadness, prayers of anger (do you ever just get angry at God, and somehow think you can't pray up those words to Him). Listen to the Psalm 13: *"How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?"* It's like the Psalmist is saying: Lord, enough, I've had it—come and deliver me from this pain and sorrow.

And, even prayers of simple conversation..."Hey, God...how's it going? Beautiful day here, thank you. Going out for coffee, maybe some ice cream...come on along, be with me, take care of me again today."

When our transgressions prevail over us, thou dost forgive them.

When the burden gets too heavy we unload, we can unload...lay it all down at his feet. Lord, here they come...all those things I've done and thought and said...and all that I should have done and said...Lord, forgive me! He is here to **listen** and He is here to **forgive**...to cover over (literally is what the Hebrew speaks of) to cancel out, to atone for.

⁴ Blessed is he whom thou dost choose and bring near, to dwell in thy courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, thy holy temple!

How blessed shall we be, chosen to be near to him, to **dwell** (not just for a visit—but to dwell, to settle in and to settle down...in his courts). And we shall be satisfied...with all that goodness...**satisfied!** How long do we spend in our lives trying to satisfy our wants and desires, to fulfill our desires, to live out those dreams we have, constantly moving on to the next dream and the next...on and on, but here in the courts of the LORDS, finally **satisfied**, at ease, happy and content for all time to come.

⁵ By dread [awesome] deeds thou dost answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation, who art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of the farthest seas;

By awesome and fearful and Godly deeds He delivers us. We can't even imagine his programs, his deeds that bring us into salvation, they are so far beyond our imagining...and they cover the whole earth....to the farthest of the farthest seas. Highly personal, this God who listens to our simple prayer yet brings righteousness to the whole earth. Hope is nowhere else to be found but in this awesome and terrifying and powerful, yet personal, God of ours, who sent His Son for us.

⁶ who by thy strength hast established the mountains, being girded with might; ⁷ who dost still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples;

And listen to what he has done...establishing the

mountains...calming the roarings of the seas, making peace and contentment out of chaos and fear...and transforming war-torn peoples into those living in communion with each other

⁸ so that those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are afraid at thy signs; thou makest the outgoings of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

And our God announces these awesome, these powerful deeds with the joys of sunrise and the extravagant and colorful sunsets, the thrills of viewing the skies light up with the stars, the soft and friendly moon rising in the night sky....

⁹ Thou visitest the earth and waterest it, thou greatly enrichest it; the river of God is full of water; thou providest their grain, for so thou hast prepared it. ¹⁰ Thou waterest its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Here is God the farmer, the waterer, the grower of grain, the preparer of the harvest....he's at work in the furrows, setting up ridges for irrigation, sending in the gentle rains so that the young buds can gather some strength and reach into the sunlight.

¹¹ Thou crownest the year with thy bounty; the tracks of thy chariot drip with fatness. ¹² The pastures of the wilderness drip, the hills gird themselves with joy, ¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

All the earth, the pastures, the hills, the meadows, the valleys, the places reaching into the skies, the lowest of the valleys...the whole earth is singing...singing—what does the earth sound like in singing? I heard some last night, the rain pouring down, the thunder accompanying...jumping in here and there. And there was a cycle to the rain...a ramping up and heavy downpour....then a tapering off, maybe one last roar from the thunder, then the dripping of the wetness from the trees: a song of the earth, one of many. [*js contributing*]

Cliff's Notes

During the past Sunday forums, our Bible study has involved the book of Acts of the Apostles and its missionary journeys of Paul. His last journey was as a prisoner on board ship heading for Rome to appear before Caesar. But the ship was caught in a tempestuous wind that shipwrecked off the island shore of Melita in the Mediterranean Sea.

Coincidentally, we have sung the two hymns, "*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*" and "*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*", during recent worship services. Both hymns have the same tune, composed by John B. Dykes (1823-1876) but different texts, written by William Whiting (1825-1878) and Edward Mote (1797-1874), respectively.

The original words for "*Eternal Father*" were written as a hymn by Rev. Whiting, a schoolmaster and clergyman of the Church of England. He was inspired to write after surviving a storm in the Mediterranean and as a poem for a student preparing to sail for America. These words were adapted in the following year, 1861, to music composed by another English clergyman, the Rev. Dykes. He had originally written the music, as "Melita", about a Biblical shipwreck near the island that the Apostle Paul reached after his ship went down (Acts 28:1), the island now named Malta. Dykes also composed the hymn tune Nicea for "*Holy, Holy, Holy.*"

Edward Mote, a Baptist pastor and hymn writer, was trained as a cabinet maker. Perhaps his best known hymn, "*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,*" refers to the "*Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders.*"

As a Navy Boot, I sang in a 1,000-voice choir Christmas Eve of 1944 on a NBC broadcast from the U.S. Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, IL. Besides singing Christmas carols, we of course sang the Navy hymn, "*Eternal Father, Strong to Save.*"

This hymn is sung by the Sea Chanters of the U.S. Navy Band and was prominently featured in the movie "Titanic." It was the favorite hymn of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was sung

at his funeral in April, 1945. This hymn was also played as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the Capitol to lie in state in November, 1963.

I am very familiar with what others have experienced on an angry and surly sea. I too survived aboard a LCI (Landing Craft Infantry) through a typhoon to our destination in the Pacific in October 1945 and again returning stateside on a AKA transport ship through another typhoon in August 1946. I don't know how many on board had "*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*" in their minds through the tempestuous waves, but I do know that many had "*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*" vividly in their mind. Thanks be to God! *[ch contributing]*

Contributing

cliff hill, joel smeby

Your ideas and contributions to this newsletter are always welcome.

Locate Us



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(Traveling west on Hwy 7, make a U-turn at Shady Oak Road and take the first right exit)

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