

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



The Parish News

Part 11: Worship – The Creed

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Pastor

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Dear friends and family of FELC, why do we say Creeds in our worship as Lutherans? Many churches refuse to use the Creeds because they claim to believe only what the Bible says, not what a Creed says. Our Creeds, however, are accurate reflections of the Scriptures. Therefore when we use them, we also confess the Scriptures. There are three creeds we use in the Lutheran Church. I'll briefly explain their origins.

The Apostles' Creed dates all the way back to the first century of the Christian Church. It gets its name not because the Apostles' wrote it, but because it succinctly summarizes the Apostles' teachings as drawn from God's Word. This creed has three articles confessing the truth that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Nicene Creed dates to 325 AD, during a time when the Church was fighting the false teaching that Jesus was not God, but only man. So, the Creed says of Jesus, "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God." In other words, Jesus is 100% human and 100% divine at the same time.

The Athanasian Creed was created just after the Nicene Creed. This creed was named after Athanasius (c. 297-373), bishop of Alexandria. Athanasius vigorously defended the Trinity and the human and divine natures of Christ and boldly stood in opposition against the Arian heresy, which denied the two natures of Christ. These errors were promoted by Arius, a priest of Alexandria. These errors plagued the Church for centuries despite the fact that Arianism was condemned by the Council of Nicaea in 325. Some believe that the Athanasian Creed may have been formulated by another Father and Doctor of the Church, Ambrose who was the archbishop of Milan from 374 until his death in 397.

The Athanasian Creed is a succinct summary of the doctrine of the Trinity and the Incarnation, making very clear by repeating statements in various ways the trinity of Persons in God, and the twofold nature in the one Divine Person of Jesus Christ. However, because of its length we do not use this creed very often.

So, we confess three very ancient creeds or confessions of the Church. But, why do we use ancient creeds for a modern Church? Think of it this way. What the Church taught and believed in the first four centuries of the Christian Church was rightly reflected in these Creeds from the earliest days of the Church. In the centuries that followed, the Church began to stray from what the Scriptures taught and what the earliest Christians believed.

By the time of the Reformation, the Church in many ways had swayed so far from its moorings that Martin Luther recognized something had to be done to bring the Church back in line with what the Apostles had taught in the Scriptures.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Services
8:00 & 10:45 A.M.

Fellowship
9:00 A.M.

Nursery 9:15-Noon

**Sunday School &
Bible Classes**

9:30-10:30 A.M.

1311 E. 18th Street
Spencer, IA 51301
(712) 262-5598 Phone
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www.spencer-church.com

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(712) 262-3699

Unfortunately, Luther's attempt to "reform" the Church failed. Instead of bringing the Roman Catholic Church back to the truth that we are saved **"by grace alone, through Scripture alone, by faith alone,"** the Protestant ("Protestors" of Roman Catholic doctrine) movement began. When Luther and other protestors were unsuccessful in reforming the Catholic Church, the protestant leaders began to create many different denominations (versions) of the church. The first denomination to separate from the Roman Catholic Church was the Lutheran Church.

We say the Apostles' Creed in worship today because we are the Church of the Apostles! We teach and believe what they taught. Think about what that means when you confess the Apostles' Creed during worship. It means we speak in unison with Christians from nearly 2000 years ago who believed just as we do. It means that you worship in a church whose theology is the same as the Apostles. You confess your faith with countless others who have believed the same as you --- that Jesus is indeed "God of God and Light of Light", that He is "the only-begotten Son of God", sent to be our Savior. It means that we teach, believe and confess the timeless truth of the Scriptures and of the Apostles --- the very people who were personally taught by our Savior.

Being a Church of the Creeds is no small thing when we realize we confess the same faith as Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul and all others through those 2000 years who have confessed the faith of the Apostles. I hope to hear your confession soon when we see you in church!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Paul Kaldahl

Living to Serve

Many of us take time around the beginning of a new year to reflect on the past year and its accomplishments and disappointments and to speculate on what our goals might be for the coming year. Most of us can come up with very worthy goals – many of which you can list in your mind right now – but how many of us have an earnest desire to live this new year with the goal of serving?

Serving is something we fit into our schedules when we have the time. Serving is an obligation we fulfill as part of a family, a community, or a job. Serving is usually not what we live to do; it's not what we consider our purpose in life.

As God's people, we are urged to *"fix our eyes on Jesus"* (Hebrews 12:2). The writer to the Philippians asserted, *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). What is that attitude? When we *"fix our eyes on Jesus,"* what will we see?

We see the Suffering Servant about whom Isaiah wrote. The One Who *"took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows"*; the One Who was *"pierced for our transgressions . . . crushed for our iniquities . . . and by [Whose] wounds we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:4, 5).

We see the Son of Man Who, in His own words, *"did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28). This is the Son of Man Who lived a childhood in obedience to His Father and to the earthly parents who were chosen for Him. This is the Son of Man Who preached and taught, Who healed the sick, confronted the wicked, and comforted the despairing. This is the Son of Man Who showed us what serving is all about and Who has directed us to *"deny [ourselves] and take up [our crosses] and follow [Him]"* (Matthew 16:24).

What would happen if each Christian steward made serving a priority, rather than an obligation? How might the Kingdom of God grow and be strengthened if we put into practice the Apostle Paul's command to have the "attitude of Christ"? Let these thoughts serve as a challenge to us to serve others even as our Lord has served us.

January, 2012

Youth and Family Life

Dear FELC Family,

Welcome to 2012!... A New Year!... A fresh start!... A closing on this past year's chapter and blank pages for the months ahead... Thank heavens last year is done... Oh great, now that Christmas & New Years are over, it will be a long stretch until the next paid holiday from my job... This will be the last year that that we can have a 10-10-10 or a 12-12-12 for a date until we hit the next millennium... I sure hope this next year is better than the last...whoop-de-do who cares?...

As the above phrases can show, the beginning of a new year means different things to different people. Some people look forward to the new year as a time of new beginnings, a blank slate full of opportunities in life. Others may look upon it with a generalized apathy for life. Ho hum...

For me personally, I love the beginning of a new year. It's like Spring; I know that beauty and warmth lies ahead. I see it as a time and opportunity to make some needed changes, review my priorities, and trudge forward toward my goals with new determination. The holiday rush is over and hopefully some much needed rest has been enjoyed and batteries have been re-energized.

As Christians, we can always have much HOPE in our future. Not only hope for our future here on earth but in heaven one day where we will sing with all the angels and our loved ones who have already passed from this earth into eternal life with Christ.

So what is this HOPE that we can Christians can proclaim? The dictionary defines hope as, "confident desire – a feeling that something desirable will happen or be possible" or "trust." For fun, look up the word HOPE or trust in the Concordance of your favorite study Bible and see the great list of passages for yourself. Here are a few of my favorites:

- † *"But those that HOPE in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Is. 40:31*
- † *"The Lord is good to those whose HOPE is in Him, to the one who seeks Him." Lam 3:25*
- † *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*
- † *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the HOPE that you have." 1 Peter 3:14-15*

As Christians, we are privileged to have HOPE both here on earth and HOPE in eternal life. One of my favorite depictions of heaven is a picture I first saw in Pastor and Leona Busserts' room at St. Luke's. I believe it might be named, "The Invitation" but without the words. It is a great reminder of what awaits us someday when we too get to rejoice with the angels. In the meantime, we are blessed to have a "foretaste of the feast to come" every time we commune with our Lord. May you have HOPE in a blessed 2012.

In His Service, Bonnie



January, 2012



G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together

The GIFT Program is looking for Substitute GIFT teachers, please contact Lori Gamble at 712-320-3364 if you are interested in being on the list.

THEME / SNACK

January 4	No GIFT	Happy New Year			
January 11	Breakfast Club	Wear Pajamas	Muffins	Trudy Hallgren	
January 18	Happy Birthday	Wear Bright Colors	Banana Bread	Trudy Hallgren	
January 25	Picnic Night	Wear Red & White	Party Mix	Darlene Allen	

EARLY FOOD PREP

	<u>MENU</u>	<u>PREP ITEM</u>	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>
January 11	French Toast w/ Syrup Little Smokies Fresh Fruit	No Early Prep	
January 18	Pizza Lettuce Salad w/ Dressing Angel Food Cake	Angel Food Cake	Cinda Halverson (4)
January 25	Bologna Sandwich Chips, Carrots / Dip Scotcheroos	Scotcheroos	Lesley Culver (4)

KITCHEN ASSISTANTS

	BEFORE (5:00-6:30)	AFTER (6:30 – 8:00)
January 11	Melissa Krukow, Vinh Lovan	Charles & Tabatha Peterson
January 18	Melissa Krukow, Lora Elsenbast	Charles & Tabatha Peterson
January 25	Melissa Krukow, Vinh Lovan	Charles & Tabatha Peterson

Discipleship

Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total		Kids/Adults	Offering
December 4	115	127	242	105	89	194	\$ 8,293.75	45 / 68	\$ 41.50
December 11	156	126	282		—		\$ 6,418.00	/	\$ 4.75
December 18	148	287	435	123			\$ 10,131.00	54 / 76	\$ 2.30
December 25	10:00 a.m. only		137		—		\$ 12,900.00	None	

January, 2012

What is Happening At Your Camp?

Camp Okoboji



1531 Edgewood Drive—Milford, IA 51351

Phone: 712-337-3325 Fax: 712-337-3318

e-mail: camp.okoboji@1idwlcms.org Website: www.campokoboji.org

Calendar of Events

January 1-3 Office closed

January 27 Winter Games Chili Cook-off

January 28 Camp Okoboji Board of Directors/Auxiliary Meeting

Winter Hours Now In Effect!

Camp office hours for the winter are Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The **Camp Okoboji 2012 Schedule** and a list of cabin openings for the Summer of 2012 effective January 1, 2012 will be posted on the Camp's website at www.campokoboji.org. There is something for just about everyone so mark your calendar and save the dates for your favorite activities in the coming year! Please contact the Camp office at 712-337-3325 to make your reservations.

Camp Okoboji is a Winter Wonderland!

Camp Okoboji has several comfy and cozy family cabins, six Weber units, and larger winterized facilities available for winter weekend getaways, Bible study group retreats, congregation board retreats, or for a weekend of Christian fellowship and ice fishing, or at the 2012 Okoboji Winter Games held the last weekend of January. Check with Lorene in the Camp office (712-337-3325) or visit our website at www.campokoboji.org.

A new Employment opportunity is available at Camp Okoboji

For five months of the year you could have the experience of a lifetime - working with the most awesome college aged adults and high school youth. Watch for the position description at www.campokoboji.org. The dates of employment are May 1 to September 30, 2012

Summer Employment

We are actively seeking our summer staff crew! Opportunities are available for college aged students who want to work on general staff, lifeguarding, and our traveling VBS teams. Applications can be found at www.nloma.org or by calling the camp office.

2012 Volunteer Counselors

Each year we are in need of college aged students to volunteer for counseling during Cub Week, Jr. High Week, and Youth Week. The applications are on the Camp Okoboji Website, www.campokoboji.org

2012 Camp Okoboji Theme

"Anchored in Christ" – Hebrews 6:19 says "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." In this passage the writer to the Hebrews is speaking of Christ. In 2012 Camp Okoboji is once again promising to keep our focus on Christ – our Anchor!

Updating Ginny DeWall Dining Hall

The Camp Okoboji Board of Directors, under the advisement of the Facilities Committee, is in the process of planning updates in the Ginny DeWall Dining Hall. The updates will make that facility available for use during the entire year.