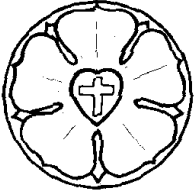


# The Pastor's Ponderings

**Pastor Erik's cell phone—(906) 364-1035 and email address—grayvolde@gmail.com**



We have finished the ten commandments, so we shall move on to some reflections on the Apostles' Creed. Feel free to dust off your old Catechism if you wish to read ahead or if you have a smartphone, you can

download a free version of it both from the ELCA and LCMS publishing houses. You can also find a copy of it within the ELW if you have one at home.

### **The Second Article: *On Redemption***

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead [or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use]. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What is this? or What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Historically speaking, the Apostles', Nicene, and

## **Zion's 2021 Council Members**

- Elder & President..... Jody Stanley
- Elder & Vice-President..... Mark Prout
- Secretary ..... Shay Clamme
- Deacon ..... Drew Walker
- Trustee..... Scott Clamme
- Treasurer ..... Libby Stroble

Athanasian Creeds' second article was the most hotly debated aspects of the Creeds. One of the original theological questions the early Church tackled was on the divinity of Jesus Christ. Was Jesus fully divine? Was Jesus fully human? Was Jesus more of one than the other? Ultimately the early Church settled that Jesus is both fully divine and fully human. The divine person of Jesus cannot be separated from the human person of Jesus, but both coexist in the very person of Jesus Christ. Why was this decision so important for the ancient Church?

Only God can create and redeem this world. Creation cannot save itself since all that is created bears the marks of sin. Yet Jesus of Nazareth is called the redeemer who actively taught that he was the one who would redeem all of creation from sin and death. The early Church had little doubt on the existence of Jesus of Nazareth and that he was a living and breathing human being. The ultimate question came regarding how and can God transcend into creation. God has no beginning or end and stands apart from creation. Therefore, nothing in creation could impact the being of God. However, the ancient world did not know if God could become a part of creation itself. God could undoubtedly visit creation, and there is plenty in scripture to demonstrate that. However, could God become a part of it?

Through a lot of prayer and arguing, the Church decided that God could indeed become a part of creation and did so in Jesus Christ. Jesus was God incarnate. Whenever we confess this part of the creed, we acknowledge these historical pondering that brought us to the conclusion of Jesus' identity. Further, we confirm Jesus' ultimate role in this world: to redeem it. Jesus Christ saves us from sin and death and, in turn, promises us eternal life. This eternal life is not something out of the ordinary but what God had hoped for creation since the beginning. In Jesus Christ, we come to see God's perspective towards creation is out of eternal love and mercy. God came to save creation to preserve and remain in a relationship with it through all eternity.

Some questions to ponder:

1. Who is Jesus Christ to you? What does Jesus Christ mean for the world?

*Pastor Erik*

# Report of Synod Assembly 2021

by Pastor Erik Grayvold

The 2021 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly took place June 11-12, 2021, with opening worship on Friday, June 11. All proceedings took place using Loudswarm, Slido, and Slack applications, making all activities done remotely. Official business began the morning of June 12. Minutes and Rules were accepted without any changes.

Our first report was from ELCA churchwide by the Rev. Dr. Javier Goitia. He spent his report acknowledging the generosity of congregations who were able to help other congregations who faced rougher circumstances from COVID-19. He also pointed out that churchwide worked hard to be on top of new developments due to COVID-19 because of how quickly they impacted our congregations. He reflected on the critical work of Lutheran Disaster Response which has been hard at work throughout the pandemic.

Elections followed Rev. Dr. Goitia. A few important notes are that this year was an election for Churchwide assembly in 2022 and Secretary of the Synod due to the unexpected death of Judy Bush.

The Vice President of Synod, Ted Miller, next offered a short report. He acknowledged the hard work of the Synod Council during the pandemic to make quick decisions, such as Synod Assembly going to an electronic format for this year. He also noted that this upcoming year would include an exploration process throughout the Synod to help prepare for the election or reelection of the office of Bishop. We will have an election for Bishop during the 2022 Synod Assembly.

After a short break, Bishop Gafkjen provided his verbal report. While Bishop Gafkjen acknowledged the difficulty of navigating ministry during the pandemic, he also acknowledged a few surprising things that shined through. He pointed out that the Synod Staff had much more direct communication through electronic means with people across the Synod. He also gave thanks for the financial generosity of congregations who gave to the Synod. That money provided various programs across the Synod. Finally, he also pointed out that we still welcomed many new rostered leaders into the Synod despite barriers due to the pandemic. He concluded

that while many experienced loss, there is hope due to resurrection events happening throughout the Synod. There will need to be a lot of conversations to process the Church's future, but he has confidence that the Holy Spirit will guide leaders to help us through this process. He ended his report by playing his ukulele as part of his tradition.

After the Bishop's Report, the 2021-2022 Compensation standards for both sets of rosters were accepted. Chris Walda then provided the Treasurer's Report. Despite the pandemic, the Synod congregations have been very generous to the Synod to continue the work and provide extra programming to aid pastors and congregations. Zion took advantage of this by occasionally using the sermons delivered by the Synod when Pastor Erik took a Sunday off. The resources provided by the Synod, such as Sunday School videos and lectionary reflections, have provided extra support to all people.

After lunch, we received the elections report and entertained a discussion on Synod constitution changes. Changes can be found on the Synod website, but for the most part, they are streamlining different aspects and cleaning up the language. Conversation occurred regarding language concerning how proposals to constitutional amendments are handled. Suggestions were made for consideration to the Reference Committee. Since there was no Synod Assembly in 2020, we needed to approve both this year's budget and next year's budget as required by our Synod Constitution. Both passed.

Synod Assembly officially closed around 2:45 pm on June 12 with the installation of new Synod Deans and a resolution of thanks.

## Semi-Annual Meeting



Zion's Semi-Annual Meeting will be held following the worship service on Sunday, July 18, 2021. I hope you plan to attend.

## May Council Minutes

Congregation council met May 17, 2021.

Council president Jody Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Devotions were given by Mark Prout.

Present: Pastor Erik Grayvold, Jody Stanley, Mark Prout, Shay Clamme, Libby Stroble, Drew Walker, Scott Clamme, Guest Speaker-Michelle Walker and Neil Stroble

Opening: Call Committee chairman Michelle Walker provided information about a candidate for a new pastor.

Discussion: a.) Biggest concern was what needs to be done to update the parsonage and how much will that cost. And will she really want to live there. If she doesn't what do we do with the parsonage. b.) Interim pastor does not need full 30 days to depart.

Secretary's Report: Drew made a motion to approve minutes of the last Council meeting. Jody 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved by all.

Correspondence:

One License renewal notice.

Discussion: Getting our music from this. If we do not renew we will need to remove all videos from online.

Mark made the motion we pay the bill. Drew seconded. Vote approved by all.

Add items to agenda: Masks for services?

Things that need to be redone in the parsonage

Interim Pastor's Report: Pastor visit with no mask done today.

Committee Reports: There were no Parish Education or Mission & Ministry reports.

Worship/Music/Memorial: Jody reported that Nyla is choosing music.

Council Reports: Elders had nothing new to report.

Deacons: Attendance and Holy Communion report—April 4, 59 attended, 57 communed; April 11, 42 attended; April 18, 56 attended; April 25, 52 attended

No requests from the deacon fund

Trustees: Scott Clamme

1. Parsonage Roof Estimate - See attached estimate

a.) Pete Dall from Sherriff-Goslin in Muncie came and looked at the roof. He said it looked like it was about 30-35 years old. He has been there 25 years and doesn't remember them ever working on it. There may be damaged boards beneath the shingles which would add additional cost. Sherriff-Goslin replaced part of the church roof in the past few years.

b.) Mark stated that if new pastor would like to use the parsonage then we go ahead and do the Sherriff-Goslin, but if new pastor doesn't want the parsonage then we get a cheaper estimate with a different kind of roof. Once we know this we will take it to the congregation. Scott will check to see if we

can get another estimate before we take it to the congregation. This will need to be revisited next month at the council meeting.

2. Narthex Entry Caution Paint —The caution paint on the step beside the handicap ramp has been given a fresh coat of paint.

3. Attachment to East Sign—The attachment to the sign on the East side of the church has been removed. It has the wrong times. We need the large sign changed and have service time posted there.

4. Boiler Room Concerns—Tom told me that the materials have been moved.

5. Stump Removal—The stumps have been ground up. Do we want to get grass seed to reseed the spots? Yes, Scott will buy grass seed and apply it to the areas in need.

6. Lights behind Stained Glass Windows—Several bulbs have burned out. Should we consider switching to LED light fixtures?

7. Leaks in Roof—There were 3 noted leaks on Sunday morning, May 9, after rain and wind throughout the night. One above the pulpit. One in the hallway outside the library. One in the narthex on the north wall above the coat racks.

The first two have been problems in the past. This was the first time I was aware of the narthex leak.

Treasurer's Report: April 2021

Checking Balance - \$25,907.66

Money Market Balance - \$59,571.25

Benevolence - \$828

Food Pantry - \$1550

Easter Offerings went to Grace Village and Helping

Hands - \$1190

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Transition planning (what practices do we want to bring back and what practices do we want to let go?)

2. Again, interim pastor does not need 30 days before letting new pastor take over.

a.) Pastor Erik has vacation planned for August.

b.) 40GB of data that needs to be given to the church from Pastor Erik

c.) The farewell liturgy will need to be used on Erik's last day.

d.) Semi-annual meeting might be a good time to do the last day for Pastor Erik? We will see how things go with candidate.

(continued on following page)

## May Council Minutes continued

3. Council looked at examples of a compensation package.
  - a.) Exercise in compensation packages.
  - b.) Parsonage/housing, furnishing allowance, housing equity, insurance package, and vacation time allowance are all things to consider when coming up with a compensation package.
  - c.) Portico will also play a roll in the compensation package
  - d.) We will need to remember that she has had a previous job and that should increase the compensation package.
  - e.) Need to use all vacation time each year to help prevent burnout?
  - f.) Do we allow a sabbatical?
  - g.) How much continuing education time and allowance?
  - h.) How many years do we want to allow for work experience? Mark suggested 50% of previous years to count.
  - i.) Will we have a pastor's discretionary fund? How much and how can it be used? Bookkeeping will be needed if we decide to use this.
4. Masks for services?
  - a.) Suggestions are that the congregation could take them off once in your seat. Only masking up when walking around.
  - b.) It's only an hour. Should we keep the masks on to keep the ones that can't vaccinate safe?
  - c.) Pastor Erik will make statement saying, for the goodness of our congregation we will be continuing to wear our masks. We will revisit this each month at council meetings.
5. We will continue to wait for using assistant ministers
6. Things that need to be redone in the parsonage.
  - a.) Possible kitchen remodel
  - b.) New carpet
  - c.) New paint
7. What would she like to be redone?
  - a.) Leaving this open until we have walked through the place with the new pastor.
  - b.) Then we would need to see what the congregation would like to do about this.
  - c.) Some of this work might need to be done after she moves in.

Closed by all praying the Lord's Prayer at 8:45p.m.

Next meeting will be June 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. with devotions by Libby Stroble.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shay Clamme*

Recording Secretary

## July Lectionary Readings

### 6 Pentecost - July 4th

1st Reading - Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Gospel - Mark 6:1-13

### 7 Pentecost - July 11th

1st Reading - Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

2nd Reading - Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel - Mark 6:14-29

### 8 Pentecost - July 18th

1st Reading - Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

2nd Reading - Ephesians 2:11-22

Gospel - Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### 9 Pentecost - July 25th

1st Reading - 2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

2nd Reading - Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel - John 6:1-21

## July Birthdays

Ashley VanDevender	7-1
Linda Walker	7-1
Debbie Walker	7-5
Eldon Willmann	7-5
Tryce Hendricks	7-7
Kevin Miniear	7-8
Merrill Nottingham	7-8
John Hendricks	7-9
Paige Walker	7-15
Trenton Grile	7-21
Nancy Cortright	7-21
Alison McCammon	7-21
Kim Winningham	7-22
Bill Hiday	7-23
Jessica Avant	7-30
Kean Coy	7-31
Sandy Langdon	7-31

# July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <b>6 Pentecost</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <b>7 Pentecost</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <b>8 Pentecost</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion <b>Semi-Annual Meeting</b> following worship	19 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>9 Pentecost</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

# The Zion Herald

## July 2021

*"Happy are those whose strength is in God, in whose heart are the highways to Zion." (Psalm 84:5)*

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
308 S. Monroe Street  
Hartford City, IN 47348



✠ Serving the Lord in Gladness ✠



**Erik Grayvold, Interim Pastor**  
Church Office: 765-348-3157  
zionluth.hc@gmail.com  
www.zionhc.org

**Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

## July 2021 Lay Ministry Servers

### Worship Leaders

July 4 Pastor Erik Grayvold  
July 11 Neil Stroble  
July 18 Pastor Erik Grayvold  
July 25 Michelle Walker

### Ushers

July 4 Drew Walker  
July 11 substitute  
July 18 substitute  
July 25 Drew Walker

### Lectors

July 4 Kathy Sharp  
July 11 Neil Stroble  
July 18 Carolyn Goetz  
July 25 Paige Walker

