

Spirituality in God's ongoing Reformation

Southwestern Minnesota Synod

**Mount Carmel & Luther Crest
Lutheran Ministries**

October 7-9, 2018

Shepherd of Souls

Faith Formed through
Trusted Relationships

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Judo Theology!

***A fresh look at “word and
sacrament ministry” to
nudge the church into new
directions***





Martin Luther (1483-1546) is usually thought of as a world-shaking figure who defied papacy and empire . . . It is **sometimes forgotten** that he was also—and above all else—a **pastor** and **shepherd of souls**.

Theodore Tappert, *Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel*, p. 13 (SoS, p. 34), 1961.



Jesus as Shepherd

Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd”

John 10:1-18

“The Good Shepherd”

Matthew 9:36


“sheep without a shepherd”

John 21:15-17

“Feed my sheep”

1 Peter 5:4

“Chief Shepherd”



As a monk, then a theologian, Luther had **prayed, meditated, studied** and lectured on the Bible for decades. He **knew Scripture intimately**. This biblical scholarship together with his deep **experiential knowledge** of Scripture enabled him **to pastorally apply** biblical texts with great insight, integrity and skill, especially to those whose melancholic struggles he himself shared.

Stephen Pietsch, *Of Good Comfort*, p. 216, (SoS, p. 35).





State of Grace vs. Fear and Doubt

“ . . . this matter is understood correctly only when it is transferred to practice, for without experience it is never learned.”


LW 26:379

“Therefore let everyone learn diligently how to distinguish the Law from the Gospel, not only in words but in feeling and in experience; that is, let him distinguish well between these two in his heart and in his conscience. For so far as the words are concerned, the distinction is easy.

LW 26:117

“But when it comes to experience, you will find the Gospel a rare guest but the Law a constant guest in your conscience, which is habituated to the Law and the sense of sin.”

LW 26:117



Experiential Luther: Galatians: law and
gospel. Galatians 3:23

“When you are terrified by the Law,
therefore, say: ‘Lady Law, you are not the
only thing, and you are not everything!
Besides you there is something greater
and better, namely **grace, faith, blessing**.
These do not accuse me; they do not
terrify or condemn me. But they comfort
me, command me to have hope and



Experiential Luther: Galatians: law and gospel. Galatians 3:23

“promise me sure victory and salvation in Christ. Therefore there is no reason for me to despair.”

Anyone who would know this art well would deserve to be called a theologian [a shepherd of souls].”

LW:26:342.



Examples from Luther's Letters:

- *Jerome Weller, p. 51*
- *Hans Luther, pp. 177-118*
- *Katie Luther, p. 119*
- *Bernard Von Doelen, p. 51*

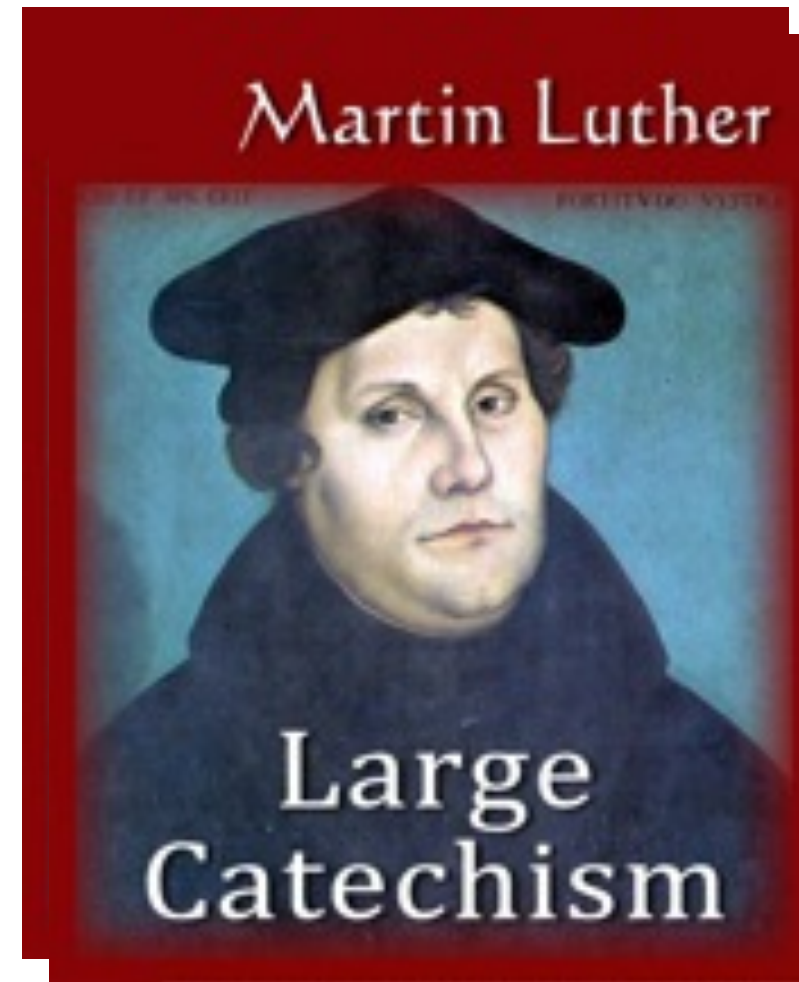


Spirituality in God's ongoing Reformation



An understanding
to Luther's
spirituality

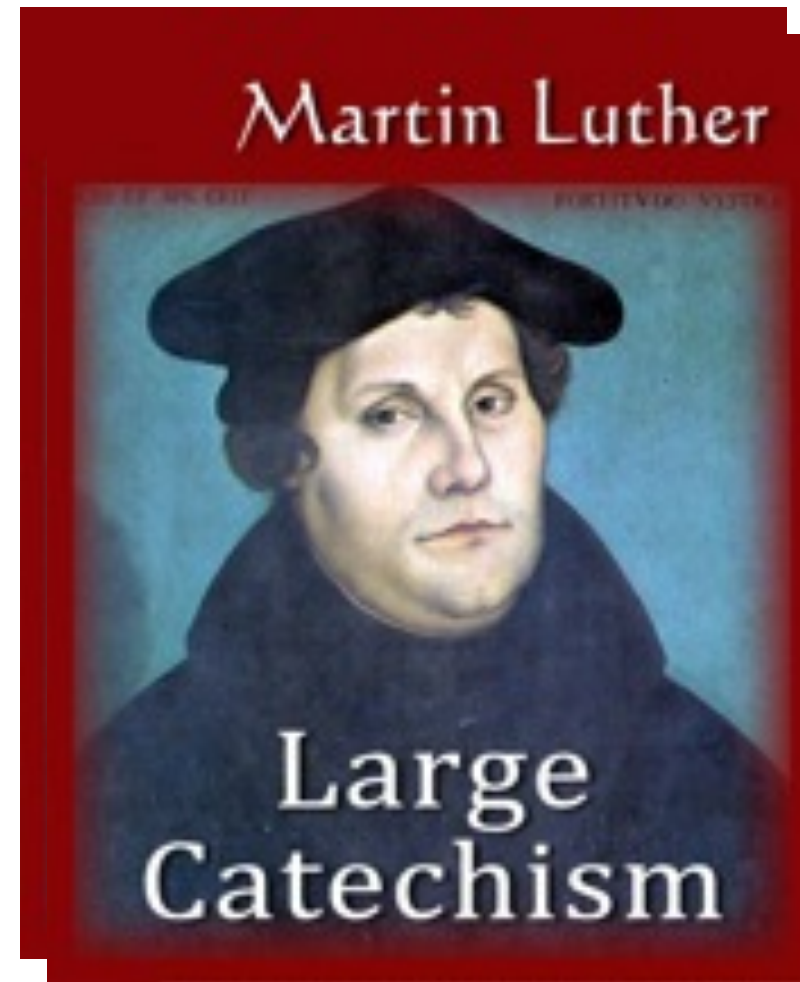
to “study and
practice” one's
baptism



On Baptism



“...we must practice the work that makes us Christians.”



On Baptism





A spirituality for daily life . . .

The Life of Faith Initiative

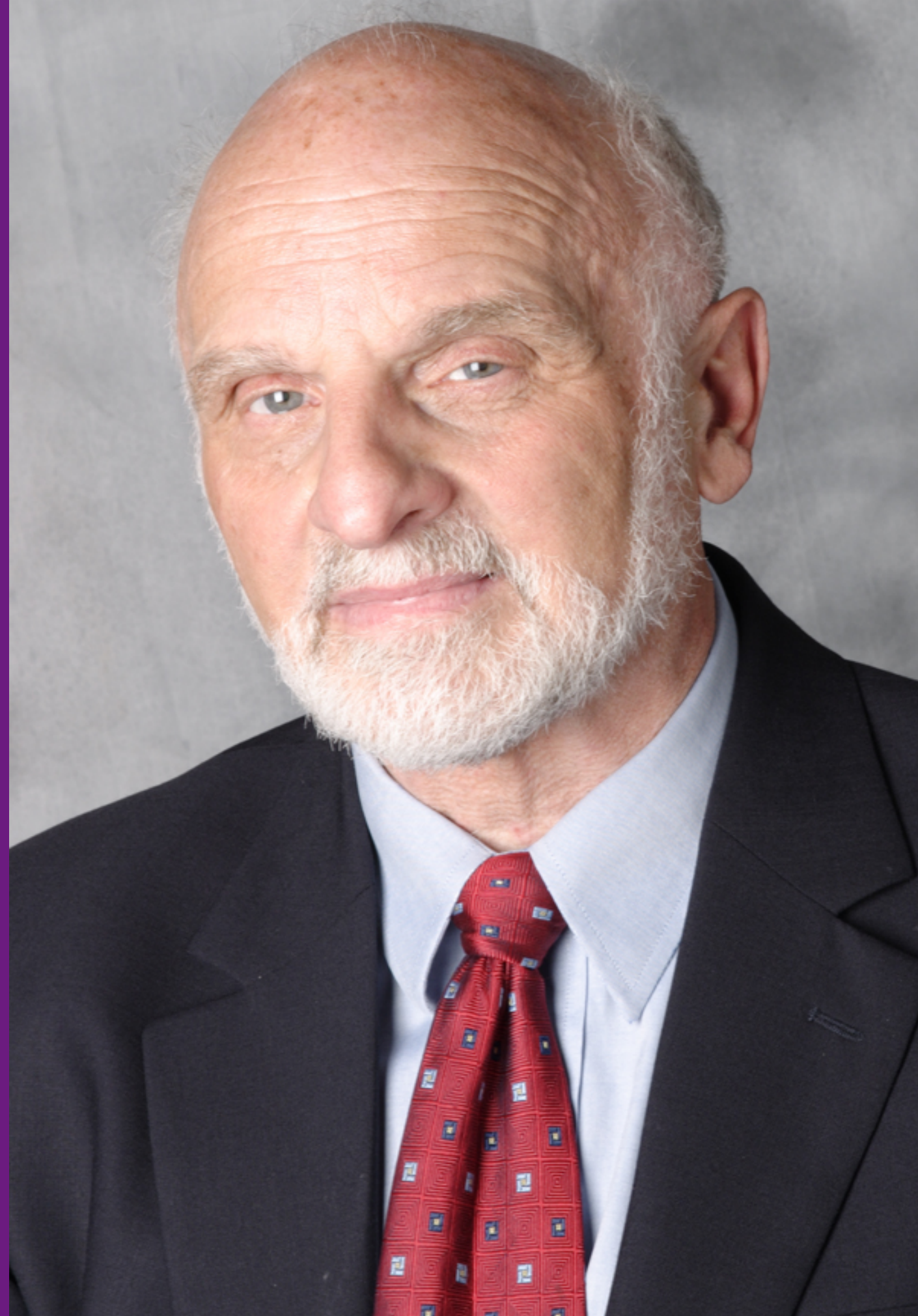


“Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deut. 6:6-9)



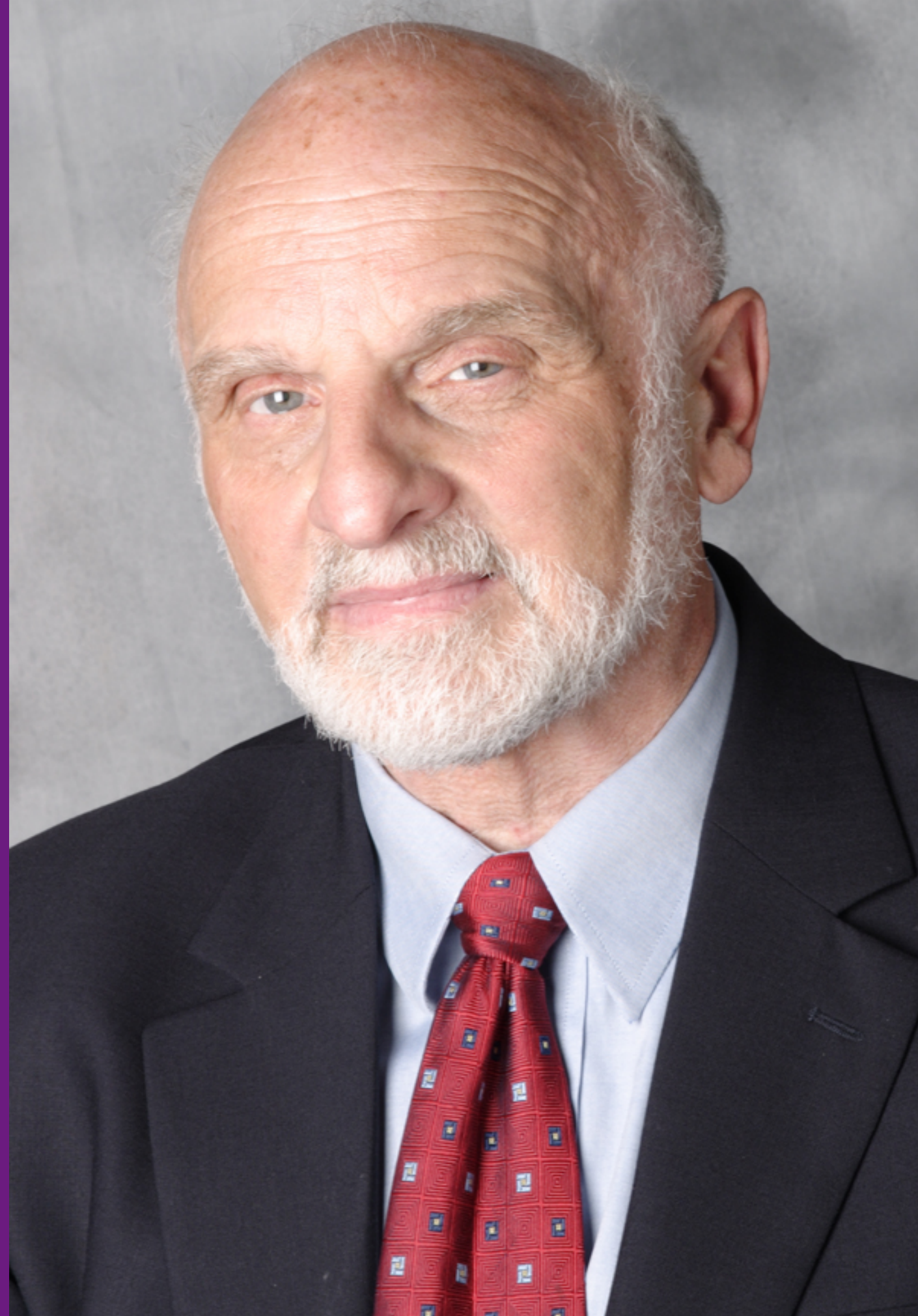
“Although the Bible has other agendas that are more central than that of family, it does drop hints along the way about the family that are worth considering. It is clear that in the world of biblical faith, the family is the primary unit of meaning which shapes and defines reality.”

Walter Bruggeman
The Covenanted Family



“One major function of intergenerational life is to transmit the stories and the promises which identify the family, so that each new generation has an inheritance that gives both identity and roots and purpose and vocation.”

Walter Bruggeman
The Covenanted Family



Effective Christian Education

“Of the two strongest connections to faith maturity, family religiousness is slightly more important than lifetime exposure to Christian education.”

Reported in *From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith*, p. 49.

Effective Christian Education

“ . . . The frequency with which an adolescent talked with mother and father about faith, the frequency of family devotions, and the frequency with which parents and children together were involved in efforts, formal or informal, to help other people.”

Reported in *From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith*, pp. 49-50.



“No one understands Scripture unless it is brought home to him [her], that is unless he [she] experiences it. Bring your experience . . . at work, at play, at school, with family, friends, and neighbors.”

Lutheran Study Bible, p. 1553



Luther brought it home

“Though I am a great doctor, I haven’t yet progressed beyond the instruction of children . . . I still learn and pray these every day with my Hans and little Lena.”

LW, 54:9

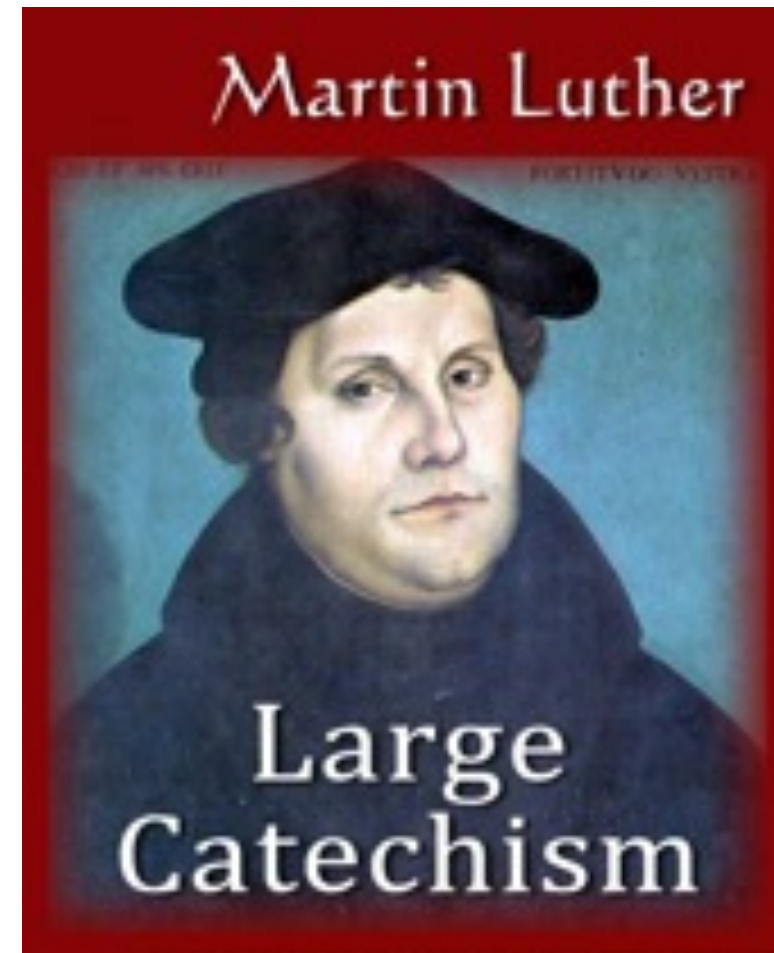
The Historic Catechism



“...conversation,
conduct, and
concern”

“...able to counsel,
help, comfort, judge,
and make decisions in
both spiritual and
temporal matters.”

-Martin Luther



On the Ten Commandments

An Approach to Martin Luther's Spirituality:

**to “study and practice”
one's baptism**



Four Key Faith Practices

Caring Conversations

Devotions

Service

Rituals and Traditions



“Faith formation is the common denominator of congregation, home, and school.”

Five Principles of Faith Formation (Shepherding)

1. Faith is formed through relationships.
2. Church is partnership of home and congregation.
3. Home is church, too



Five Principles

- 4. Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- 5. Faith is formed cross+generationally



AAA Christians/Shepherds

Authentic

Available



Affirming



“The Shepherd of souls is the personal care of others through caring conversations, faith-filled reflections, and prayerful engagement”

**“Shepherd
of Souls”**

Seelsorge

***cura
animarum***



John T. McNeill,


*A History of the
Nature of Souls,*

1951.



“What is potentially the most important phase of the Lutheran personal ministry has been the cultivation . . . of the mutual cure of souls on the part of laymen. Each man was his brother’s keeper in a spiritual fellowship. . . This is the implementation of the doctrine of the spiritual priesthood of all Christians—a doctrine often erroneously interpreted in an individualistic sense.





“There are still undisclosed possibilities in the application of this principle in the Church, both in the direction of brotherly correction and of mutual enrichment.”

John T. McNeill, *A History of the Cure of Souls*, p. 190. (SoS, p.15-16)




“Perhaps the most distinctive Lutheran contribution to the modern development of *Seelsorge* [the care of souls] is the mutual cure of souls of Christians for one another.”

John T. McNeill, *The History of the Care of Souls*, p. 190.



Smalcald
Articles,

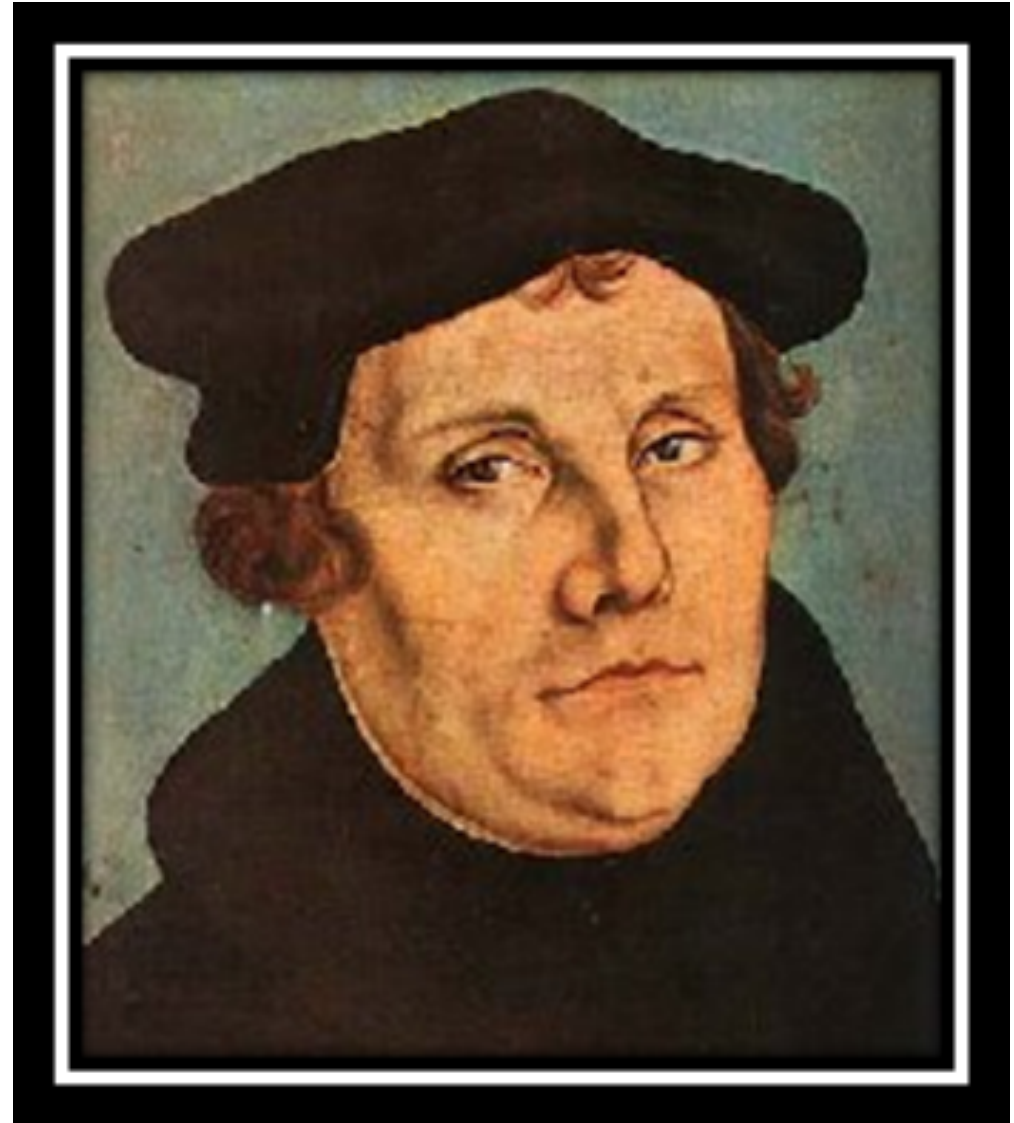


“We now want to return to the gospel, which gives guidance and help against sin in more than one way, because God is extravagantly rich in his grace: first, through the spoken word, in which the forgiveness sins is preached to the whole world . . . fourth, through the power of the keys and also through the **mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters.**”

Smalcald Articles, [4] Concerning the Gospel. Kolb, Wengert
p. 319.



“...my living
voice.”



Five Principles, Four Keys, and AAA Christian of Faith Formation (Shepherding)


Word and Sacrament Ministry



**The church in the home,
congregation, and world:**

A Spirituality for Shepherds





Father and mother are “apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal.”

M. Luther, “The Estate of Marriage”
(1522), *LW* 45:46.

Great Omission, p. 73





Luther brought it home

“ . . . I still learn and pray these every day with my Hans and little Lena.”

LW, 54:9



Luther brought it home

Luther's letter to his four-year-old son
Hans.

Shepherd of Souls, pp. 117-118

Luther's Small Catechism:

“Handbook for the Household”

Heading for each sheet:

“ . . . in a simple way in which the head of a house is to present them to the household.”

LSM, Study Edition, p. 9

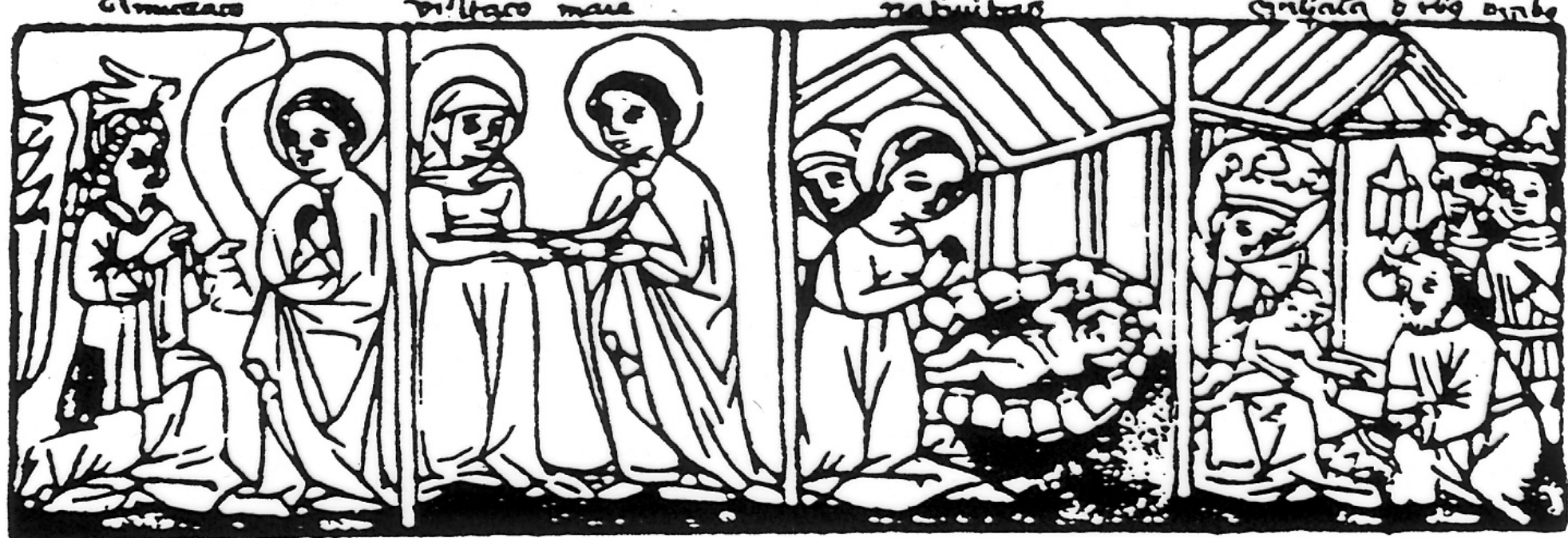


Effective Christian Education

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OCTOBER 14, 2018
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Approach God with boldness and receive mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad
Monday	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Seek good and not evil
Tuesday	Hebrews 4:12-16	Jesus is the great high priest
Wednesday	Proverbs 31:8-9	Defend the poor
Thursday	Luke 18:18-30	A rich man
Friday	Leviticus 19:2-37	God's commandments
Saturday	Psalms 90:12-17	Teach us wisdom
Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to serve

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you give and you require both justice and mercy. As we receive your grace, lead us to others with your never-failing love. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Lord, help us to share the food we receive and give gladly to any who are in need. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's word be at work in you. May the Lord give you strength in times of weakness and mercy in times of need. (Hebrews 4:12-16)



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OCTOBER 14, 2018
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Canticle of the Turning



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Mercy is for those who need forgiveness. Tell about a time you showed mercy and kindness to someone.
- Talk about a time someone forgave you.
- The Bible makes it clear how our lives fall short of loving God (seeking the Lord) and loving our neighbor (justice for those in need). How have you experienced God's forgiveness and grace (grace means "undeserved kindness")?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15.

Amos is critical of the worship life of Israel. Bethel was a primary place to worship God, to "Seek the Lord" (v. 6). However, the worship life there is threatened because of a lack of justice that is described in verses 7 and 10-15. Where do you see around you Amos' (and God's) concern for corruption, mistreatment, and neglect of the poor, and lavish lifestyles? Amos wants the faithful to see that seeking God in worship includes seeking the righteous God in just treatment of others, especially the poor. How does your worship experience lead you to care for the needs of others?

Pray: God of justice and mercy, we thank you for the undeserved kindness you extend to us each day. Forgive us when we do not seek you in worship or in the needs of others. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

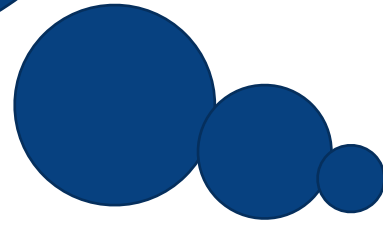


Mark 10:17-31 is a tough passage about salvation and human wealth. Our wealth can clearly get in the way of God's mission (v. 23). God's gift of salvation is something that only God can accomplish for us (v. 27). Wealth and the power that goes with it challenge our ability to understand and care for others. Service requires a compassionate heart that feels the hurts and pains of others. Reflect on how your influence and power can get in the way of caring for others. Reflect on how a compassionate heart leads you to do acts of kindness.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 10:29-31 Jesus points out that his followers prosper with many family members and family possessions. Being part of the church gives us a large, even global family that presents us with a wealth of relationships to do God's work and will. Practice home hospitality, welcoming fellow neighbors and friends into your dwelling as a way to share your possessions and wealth with them. Offering a simple meal is a way to share the wealth of the kingdom of God. Use the *Mealtimes Prayer* as part of your time of breaking bread together.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



**“What have I
been doing
these past 23
years?”**

Parents
Grandparents
Spouse/Children
Sponsors/Mentors
Elders
Staff



ELCA Sample Congregational Constitution under Statement of Purpose



“Nurture its members in
the Word of God”



Challenge, equip,
and support all
members.



Taking Faith Home

Milestones Ministry

Preschoolers receive
a picture Bible

Graduation mentors

Exit interviews

**Faith Formation
and outreach
through Mentoring
Relationships**

Confirmation with
parents and other
mentors

Council and staff

Prayer and action
partners

**Faith Formation and
outreach through
Mentoring Relationships**

Parents

Friends

Older kids

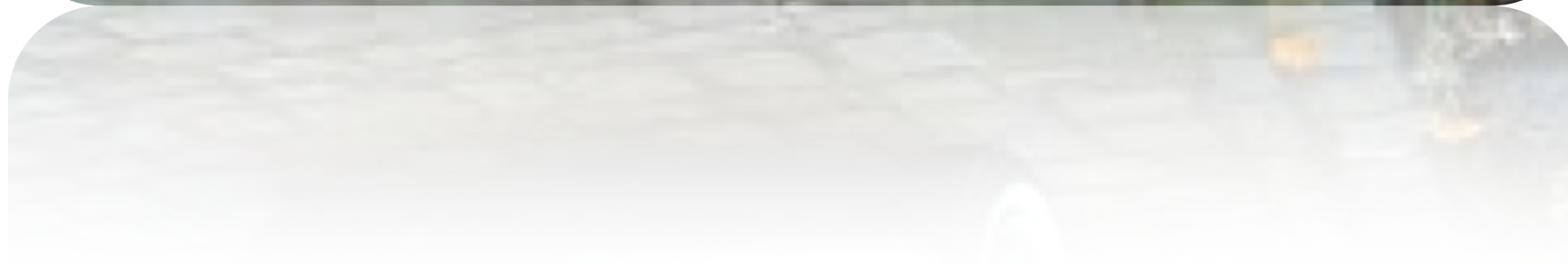
Older men and
women

Let it also work the
other way around

Community of
shepherds of souls

**Faith Formation
and outreach
through Mentoring
Relationships**







“...the spiritual love
will speak to Christ
about a brother
more than to a
brother about
Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Life Together



CHURCH HISTORY

Origen: 185-254

*Ancient Christian Commentary
on Scripture, volume VI,
Romans*



Origen: 184-253

Romans 6:19

“For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.”



Caring Conversation

“Your tongue, which was accustomed to bad language, cursing and swearing has now turned to praising the Lord at all times; it produces healthy and honest speech, in order to give grace to the hearers and speak the truth to its neighbor.



Devotions

“Your ears used to delight in hearing empty talk or in attacking good people; now they have turned to hearing the Word of God, to the exposition of the law and to the learning of the knowledge of wisdom.”



Service

“Once your hands were stretched out to steal what belonged to others; now they are stretched out for you to be generous with what is your own . . . look at the poor, the weak and the helpless.”



Rituals and Traditions

“Once your feet ran to the temples of demons; now they run to the church of God. Once they ran to spill blood; now they run to set it free.”