

ADVENT NEWS

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

On June 25th, the Church commemorates the "Presentation of the Augsburg Confession." The Church Year is divided weekly into the following categories: Sundays & Seasons, Feasts & Festivals & Commemorations. A helpful explanation of these observances can be found on pp. x-xiii in the front of our hymnal, the Lutheran Service Book. It is good, right and salutary for us to remember those who have come before us and follow their path of faith and good works. As our congregation and Pastors subscribe to the Unaltered (original) Augsburg Confession, it is also helpful to review the foundational nature of this historic document (and why it is part of our confession of the faith and included as a Commemoration in our Church Year). Lastly, it is imperative in our culture today to recognize and model those who stood their ground in the midst of a world that so quickly deserted God and His Word. Reprinted below is an excellent article by Dr. Kilcrease. May we find our voice and stand firm in the same faith. Enjoy!

Pr. Mackay

The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

by Dr. Jack Kilcrease



Throughout the 1520's, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V was deeply frustrated by the rise of the Lutheran Reformation. Although he wished to put an end to the various Protestant movements that had grown up in the empire, he nevertheless found it very difficult to do so in light of a variety of wars he was engaged in with the Ottoman Turks and the League of Cognac. For this reason, Charles was effectively forced to allow the Reformation to spread largely unchecked throughout the 1520's.

Nevertheless, by 1530, Charles had either defeated or made temporary peace with his enemies. Hence, he was finally able to turn his full attention to the religious issue that had plagued Germany since the Diet of Worms in 1521. Therefore, in January of 1530, the Emperor called an imperial Diet to meet in the German city of Augsburg in April of that year to decide the religious question.

As part of this imperial meeting, the Lutheran princes were asked to present their religious teachings. Wishing to present a unified front at the Diet, Luther, Melanchthon, and several other Wittenberg reformers met at Torgau in March of 1530 and drafted a
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June, 2019

"It is good, right and salutary for us to remember those who have come before us and follow their path of faith and good works"

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confessional document which came to be known as the “Torgau Articles.” Since Luther was still officially an outlaw under imperial law, he could not travel on to Augsburg to present these articles before the Emperor and the imperial Diet. Instead, a delegation led by Philipp Melanchthon traveled to Augsburg to present the confession of faith before the Emperor, while Luther remained at Coburg Castle. Once there, Melanchthon revised the articles drafted earlier at Torgau under the advice of a number of theologians and political leaders. The final draft was complete on June 23rd and came to be known as the “Augsburg Confession.” Luther was sent drafts of the revised document as it was composed and approved the revisions and the final draft as well. Although the petition of the Lutheran princes to have the document publicly read was initially refused, the Emperor finally agreed. As a result, Melanchthon read the confession in the presence of the Emperor on June 25, 1530.

The Augsburg Confession is comprised of twenty-eight articles. Of these articles, twenty-one represent a positive presentation of the Christian faith as taught in the Lutheran Churches while the last seven articles cover suggested reforms of certain practices of the medieval Church. Although the ultimate aim of the Augsburg Confession was to summarize the main teachings of the Bible, Melanchthon also wished to emphasize the “catholic” (that is, meaning “universal,” not “Roman Catholic”) nature of Lutheran teaching. Throughout the confession, Melanchthon quotes or makes reference to the theologians and councils of the ancient Church to demonstrate the Lutheran Church’s continuity with early Christian teaching.



Showing the catholicity of Lutheran belief was important, because many Roman Catholic theologians had claimed that the Lutherans had broken with the traditional theology of the Church going all the way back to Christ and the apostles. Contrary to this charge, the Lutherans sought to show that their faith was not only drawn from Scripture, but had been the basic teachings of the Christian Church throughout the ages. It was only later that the medieval Church had corrupted the true faith through unbiblical and uncatholic innovations. This argument also carries over into the last seven articles that deal with reforms. With a few exceptions, most of the reforms proposed by Melanchthon involved rolling back changes that had been made to Church teaching and practice in the eleventh century by Pope Gregory the VII and his followers during a period often called the “Gregorian Revolution” by Church historians.

Although it is highly unlikely that modern Christians will ever be called upon to give an account of their faith in quite the same manner as the Wittenberg reformers did at Augsburg, the presentation of the Augsburg Confession may still serve as an important model to the Christian life of faith. Paul teaches us: “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9). For this reason (although Christians do not earn their salvation by confessing Christ publicly), faith necessarily gives rise to a public confession of faith through words and actions. If we believe in Jesus and the salvation he offers, we will confess that faith publicly, knowing that whatever the negative social, political, or personal consequences, the forces of this world do not have the power to control our ultimate fate. Christ has already overcome the world (Jn. 16:33) and we need not fear confessing the faith boldly.

<https://lutheranreformation.org/history/presentation-augsburg-confession/>

Highlights of the Annual Voters' Meeting

Thank you to the members who attended this year's Annual Voters' Meeting. Below are key Advent statistics shared by Pastor Mackay for the fiscal year 2018-2019?

Advent has 633 Baptized members, 488 who are Communicant members. Official acts included six baptisms, 12 Confirmations, 1 Affirmation of Faith, and 14 Transfers.

Pastoral highlights:

The transition to Zionsville has been going well for Pastor Mackay's family and he thanked all for the warm welcome! Pastor plans to visit every household within the next 12-18 months. There will be online signup sheets to facilitate this. He will be exploring new options for Bible Studies and Fellowship opportunities. Pastor Mackay is planning to complete his Doctorate in the Ministry spring of 2020.

Pastor Grady will continue to preach a third of the services. He has also been focusing on shut-ins, hospital visits, and youth ministry. Pastor's background in nursing has been very helpful in shepherding those suffering from illnesses. Diane Sturek read a very moving letter from one family thanking Pastor for his Pastoral care of their mother in the last days of her life. Thanks be to God for Pastor Grady's gifts in this area!

Pastor Fiene has graciously offered to plan our next Youth Heritage Tour planned for 2021. We look forward to his sharing our rich Lutheran heritage with the youth.

Mission Reports:

The school and mission boards provided an uplifting report on our local and foreign mission work. Deb Trewartha discussed our growing Pre-School with 124 young souls receiving the good news of Jesus's atoning death for their sins. Jon and Linda Silverberg provided an update on our Lutheran Child and Family Service support as well as the support for Dr. Preus in the Dominican Republic. (See pg. 4)

Trustees:

The trustees continue to maintain our facilities. This is not an easy task at times as the building has seen 25 years' worth of wear and tear. We have received a good quote for new carpet and we will be replacing sections showing signs of wear this upcoming year. David Kopeschka shared some good news about the LED lighting installed a few years ago. We saved \$4500 on our annual electric bill as a result of this change! A building fund has been established to cover major facilities expenses as they occur.

Elders:

Monte Weimer read a resolution from the Board of Elders to create a LCMS school assistance fund to encourage Advent parents to enroll their children in LCMS schools. A committee would be established to oversee this activity. The Missouri Synod provides the largest Protestant school system in the world. The Voter's approved the resolution and a \$10,000 line item in next year's budget for this endeavor.

Financial Reports

Year to date operating expenses were exceeded by giving and we currently are \$89,000 in the black. The current mortgage debt is just over \$700,000 so we have paid down half of our debt. We should be debt free in roughly 6 ½ years!

Voters' Meeting Highlights (continued)

A new budget was proposed. This included a 3.0 % increase in average salary for our church staff. Inflation last year was 2.0 %. Health Spending Account contributions to Church Staff was set at 50% of the workers deductible. Other budgeted amounts were pretty much on track with historical spending. The budget for Advent and the Pre-school were unanimously approved. For those not aware, the Pre-School is financially self-sustaining.

Election of Board Members and Officers

Eric Hubert, Advent Vice Chairman, introduced an election slate of volunteers for boards and officers. This proposal was approved by the Voters. Many thanks to Eric for all his efforts in finding qualified members to serve in all of the various roles!

Many thanks to all of the various board members and officers who are generous with their hours of service to our Lord and the members of his Church! I look forward to the upcoming year and all that God has in store for our congregation. A complete list of board and committee members is below.

God's Blessings,
Chuck Long, Advent Chairman

Chuck Long, Chariman
Eric Hubert, Vice Chairman
Rick Cramer, Financial Secretary
Diane Sturek, Treasufer
Heidi Thayer, Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Dave Kopeschka
Lisa Brown
Diane Schaff
Craig Anderson
Evan Bergman

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bethany Jackson
Orlene Burlison
Erin Mayer
Jennifer Cummings

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Judi Hillmann
Ann Hauser Harris
Holly Barrineau

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Jon & Linda Silverberg
Carol Ryan
Charles & Janet Crane

SUNDAY SCHOOL Co-SUPERINTENDENTS

Amanda Probst
Amanda Harris

BOARD OF ELDERS

Andy Fordice	Mark Harris
Neil Alldredge	Pete Dooms
Steve Vogtman	Pete Miller
Bob McCain	Ned Ryan

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

Kim McCain
Joann Whorwell
Jannson & Marnie Engleman
Denise Long
Brian & Maria Schubert
Joel & Mary Davis

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Gene Kondradi
Tim McFarlane
Joel Pruis

SCHOOL BOARD

Gloria Bredehoeft
Bliss Magill
Tierney Williams
Linda Harris
Catherine Casciani

TECH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jim Dowling

LONG-RANGE PLAN COMMITTEE CHAIR

Eric Hubert

New to the Advent Website

Coming this Fall— Advent is gradually undergoing a change in its volunteer sign-up process for various church activities. The first online sign-up forms were launched by Pastor Grady and revolved around food preparation for Easter breakfast.

Parents of **acolytes and crucifers** (those who are actively in a confirmation class or who have been confirmed) will soon be able to sign-up their youth to serve at Sunday and holiday Divine Services.

And in keeping with Pastor Mackay's desire to visit all households, there will be a sign-up sheet for members to use to select a date and time for his visit.

Watch our weekly e-mails for more updates! And if you do not receive our e-mails and would like to, you may do so on our website . Thank you!

Mission Board Summary

At the recent Annual Voters' meeting, it was approved for the Mission Board to support the following missions.

1. The 1+1+1 program is to fund the English District's missions, both existing and new ones. \$1 per member per week can be put into either of the two white mailboxes.
2. The foreign mission continues to be that of Dr. David Preus in the Dominican Republic. \$3000 was approved in the budget for his support. Additional support for him can be made by designated contributions in offering envelopes.
3. The local mission is Lutheran Child and Family Services, which we are supporting by collecting various donations of items they need for their children and families. \$1000 was approved in the budget for support of the Spiritual Engagement Education and Development program, their weekly chapel services, Bible studies, and individual counseling. This program can use no public funds.
4. In support of Lutheran Public Radio's Issues, Etc. program, \$1000 was approved in the category of Mission Support Other.

VBS Volunteers

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with Advent's vacation bible school program this year! Without them, it would not have been a success.

Linda Silverberg	Mary Bouyett
Jean Hackman	Bethany Rife
Isabel Casciani	Christy DeCamp
Celia Casciani	Ann Quinn
Jim Kranich	Heidi Fordice
Sandra Rotondaro	Angie Dykstra
Halle Vogtman	Cathy Middaugh
Tierney Williams	Heidi Schuitman
Allison Hubert	Shannon Della-Penna
Lauren Hubert	Malachi Mackay
Ally Pickering	Matthias Mackay
David Kopeschka	Micah Mackay
Natalie Grady	Marc Mackay
Marlee Phillips	Jena Mackay
Becky Baker	Erin Mayer



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

And a very special thank you to Pastor Mackay and Pastor Grady for their fun-filled and inspiring chapel time presentations!

For the Kiddos—on those rainy days!



I CAN DO ALL THINGS

through
Christ

WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

HouseMixblog.com