

Issues, Etc.

JOURNAL



What Hearers Owe Their Pastor: Receive the Gift

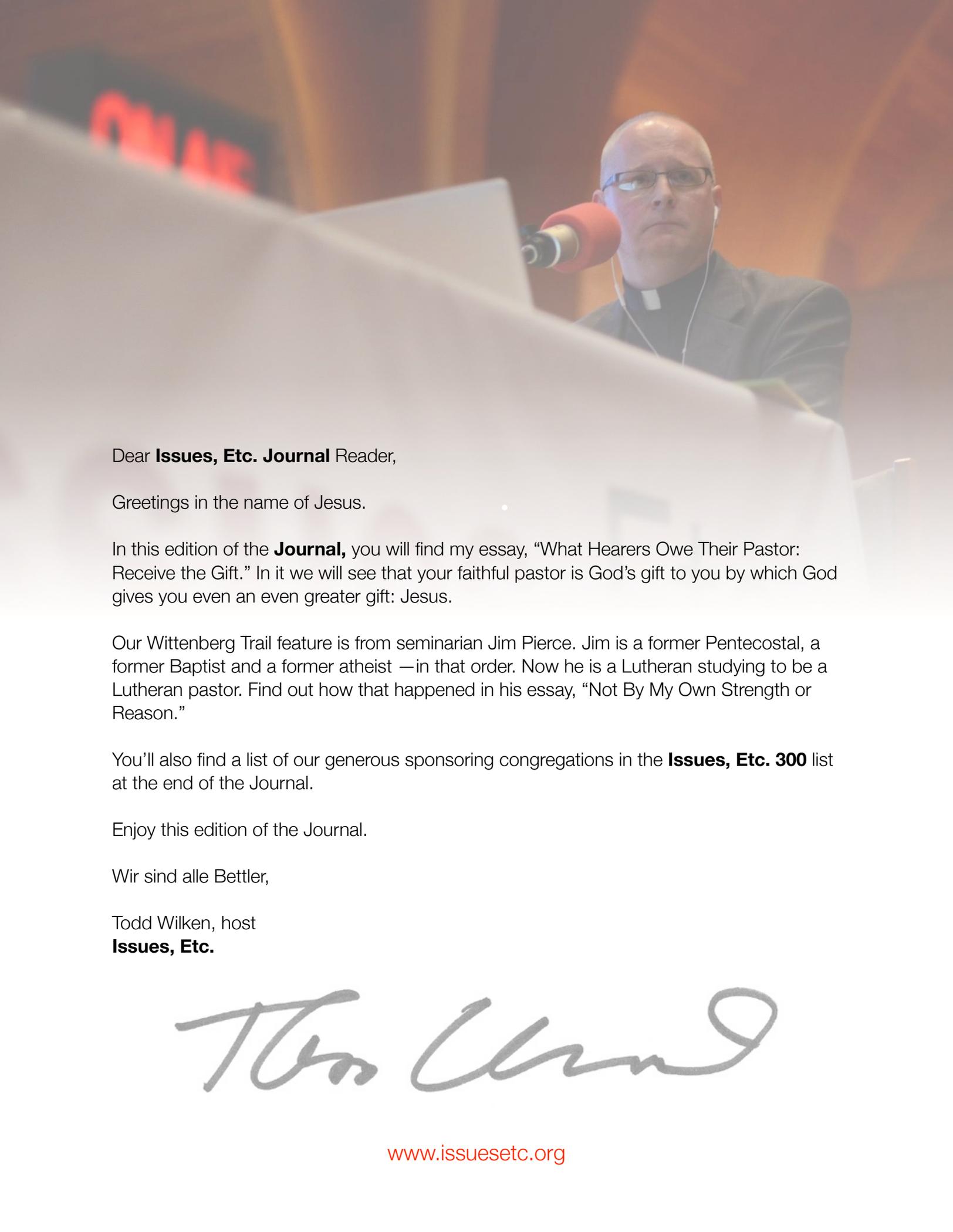
by Todd Wilken

Wittenberg Trail: Not By My Own Strength or Reason

by Jim Pierce

Spring, 2015

www.issuesetc.org



Dear **Issues, Etc. Journal** Reader,

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

In this edition of the **Journal**, you will find my essay, “What Hearers Owe Their Pastor: Receive the Gift.” In it we will see that your faithful pastor is God’s gift to you by which God gives you even an even greater gift: Jesus.

Our Wittenberg Trail feature is from seminarian Jim Pierce. Jim is a former Pentecostal, a former Baptist and a former atheist —in that order. Now he is a Lutheran studying to be a Lutheran pastor. Find out how that happened in his essay, “Not By My Own Strength or Reason.”

You’ll also find a list of our generous sponsoring congregations in the **Issues, Etc. 300** list at the end of the Journal.

Enjoy this edition of the Journal.

Wir sind alle Bettler,

Todd Wilken, host
Issues, Etc.





The **Issues**, Etc.

MAKING the CASE CONFERENCE

June 19-20, 2015

300 Beltline Road
Collinsville, IL 62234
(15 miles East of St. Louis)

FEATURING

Dr. Paul Maier of Western Michigan University
Making the Case for Biblical Archaeology and
Making the Case for the Historicity of the New Testament

Mollie Ziegler Hemingway of *The Federalist*
Making the Case for the Differences Between Men and
Women

Pr. Jonathan Fisk of *Worldview Everlasting*
Making the Case for the Church's Response to
Postmodernism

Pr. Will Weedon, Director of Worship, LC-MS
Making the Case for a Lutheran Approach to the Church
Fathers

Chris Rosebrough of *Fighting for the Faith*
Making the Case against Vision-Casting Leaders in the
Church

Dr. David Menton of *Answers in Genesis*
Making the Case against Naturalism

Register
www.issuesetc.org
For more information
(618) 223-8385

Attendance is limited to 400 people.



What Hearers Owe Their Pastor: Receive the Gift

by Todd Wilken

There are two kinds of theologians in the world. There are those who believe that theology is a series of complicated questions and even more complicated answers. And there are those who believe that theology is a series of mostly simple questions with mostly simple answers. The first kind of theologians make good PhDs; the second kind make good pastors.

I am a very simple-minded person. I prefer to have ideas presented in their “irreducible complexity,” that is, in their simplest possible form, with no more moving parts than are absolutely necessary. I believe that an idea —especially a theological one— should be only as complicated as it needs to be, but no more.

When a pastor is asked a simple question in Bible class, and his first response is, “Well, that’s a complicated question,” he’s either trying to buy time, or he simply doesn’t know the answer. Theoretical physicists, who deal with some of the most complicated ideas in the world, will tell you that if you can’t explain an idea to your grandmother at the kitchen table in 15 minutes, then you don’t really understand the idea yourself. Theology is not theoretical physics.

The theological question here is simple: What do hearers owe their pastor? The answer is simple and straight from the Bible: a paycheck, honor and obedience.

The Essence of the Question

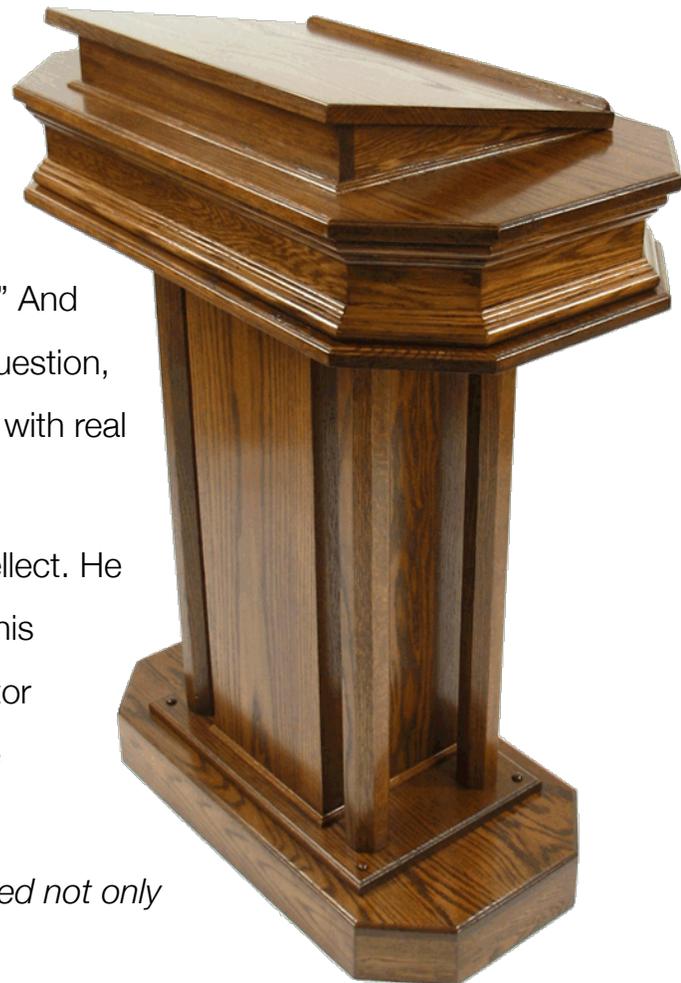
There are two things I love about Lutheran theology. The first is that I don't have to ignore or explain away a single syllable of Scripture to be a Lutheran. The second is that no matter what the theological question is, we never need to go any further than Scripture and our Confessions for an answer. If the answer isn't there, it's not important.

The first time Luther deals with the question of what hearers owe their pastor is in the Small Catechism under the subject of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. What does this mean?" Luther answers, "We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it."

Notice that Luther says nothing about the Sabbath, days of the week or even holiness. Luther finds his answer in the pulpit and the pew: It is about how hearers hear the preaching of their preacher. This is the simplest answer to the question, "What do hearers owe their pastor?" And if that alone was the only answer we had to the question, it would be more than enough. The answer starts with real hearers and real preachers.

Now, Luther was a man of truly historic intellect. He could have given a long, complicated answer to this question. But he doesn't. Luther is at heart a pastor and a preacher himself. Nonetheless, in the Large Catechism Luther explains a bit more.

Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only



about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word.

Likewise those fastidious spirits are to be reprov'd who, when they have heard a sermon or two, find it tedious and dull, thinking that they know all that well enough, and need no more instruction. For just that is the sin which has been hitherto reckoned among mortal sins, and is called [acedia, ἄκηδία,] i.e., torpor or satiety, a malignant, dangerous plague with which the devil bewitches and deceives the hearts of many, that he may surprise us and secretly withdraw God's Word from us. (LC, 98–99)

What is Luther saying? He is saying that it is a mortal sin, a sin that can rob you of your salvation, if you are bored with your pastor's preaching. To be tempted to boredom during the sermon on Sunday morning is one thing. All of us know this temptation. But the devil wants nothing more than to convince you that you ought to be bored with your pastor's preaching, that your pastor's boring preaching gives you the right to stop listening to God's Word. Luther warns that such a sin risks hell itself. Why? Because as Luther says, that is the means by which the devil will secretly take all of God's Word away from you. And without God's Word, you are lost.

This is the essence of the question, "What do hearers owe their pastor?" Will we hearers despise preaching and His Word, or will we hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it?

A Paycheck

Luther takes up the question, "What do hearers owe their pastor?" explicitly in his Table of Duties at the end of the Small Catechism. He lists four passages. The first two have to do with the pastor's paycheck:

In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel (1 Cor. 9:14).

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches (Gal. 6:6).

The principle is simple. The man who preaches the Gospel should be paid for preaching the Gospel. In the first passage, Paul likens the paying of preachers to the fact that the Old Testament temple priests were permitted to eat from the sacrifices made at the temple. "In the same way, the Lord has commanded" Paul describes the payment of preachers as a divine command. This is not optional. It is the holy obligation of the hearers to pay their preacher. A congregation that will not provide the preacher's living is violating a direct commandment of Christ Himself.

A very wise pastor once taught me that when a congregation collects the Sunday offering, they should not "spiritualize" the affair. The offering is not being taken to support the Platonic idea of "the Lord's work" or "the work of the kingdom." No, the offering is being taken to pay your pastor, plain and simple. The offering is also about paying the congregation's bills, but primarily so that there is a building, lights and heat for the preaching of the Word. A church can have all its bills paid and a warm building on Sunday morning, but if it has no pastor, that church is derelict in its divine obligation and is in danger of forfeiting the name "church."

The second passage, "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches," describes the paying of the pastor in intimate terms. It is the personal sharing of hearer with the preacher. The word Paul uses is the verb form of the often misunderstood "koinonia." It means to have something in common with someone else, a partnership, and in this case, a financial partnership.

Here also Paul adds a stern warning, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). The failure to share all good things with your pastors is to mock God Himself.

Here we need to make a distinction between what Christians are able to pay their pastor and what they are willing to pay their pastor. I served a very small Lutheran congregation for about a decade at the beginning of my ministry. That congregation was willing to pay me appropriately, but they were not able to do so. There was no sin in that.

However, when a congregation is able to pay her pastor appropriately, but is unwilling to do so, that is deeply sinful. Elsewhere, Luther addresses that very situation:

But in this matter every one refuses and resists, and all are afraid that they will perish from bodily want, and cannot now support one respectable preacher, where formerly they filled ten fat paunches. In this we also deserve that God deprive us of His Word and blessing, and again allow preachers of lies to arise to lead us to the devil, and, in addition, to drain our sweat and blood. (LC, 162–163)

Here Luther is speaking of hearers who are unwilling to pay their preacher out of concern for their personal well-being. What about a congregation unwilling to pay her pastor out of apathy or even malice? And what if the congregation simply wants her pastor to leave, to quit and go away? What if those hearers actually calculate thus: “If we cut or withhold our preacher’s pay, he will eventually get fed up and leave on his own”? Don’t think that this doesn’t happen. It does. I shudder to think of what judgment such a mockery of God deserves.

Pastors should be paid well. (Who but the stingiest among us would disagree?) So, why aren’t they? In every other realm of life, we pay for what we value. We say, “You get what you pay for.” Why not in the case of our pastors?

I recently was in the market for a used truck. I began my search with completely unreasonable expectations. I wanted a vehicle that has less than 200,000 miles on it; that will last me for the next decade without any major expenses for repairs or maintenance; and I want it all for \$2,500. After inspecting

and rejecting several of my prospective choices, my mechanic told me what I should have known all along: “You’re going to get what you are willing to pay for.”

I was not unlike many Christian congregations when it comes to their pastor. Why do we persist in the attitude that we are going to shortchange our pastors? Why do we even “piously” shortchange them, that is, with the allegedly good intention of “making a man out of him” or “teaching him to trust the Lord”?

Should it surprise us that we have so many poor pastors—poor, not only financially, but also in quality? We tell God what we really want and value by how we pay our pastors.

Honor

The next passage Luther cites to answer the question, “What do hearers owe their pastor?” sounds like it is about the preacher’s paycheck as well:

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages” (1 Tim. 5:17–18).



But there is more here than simply a paycheck.

Because, as we have already seen, the preacher’s paycheck is more than just a paycheck. It is a symbol of the congregation’s attitude toward their pastor and his task.

What is this “double honor” Paul mentions? This is not as much about what we pay our pastors as it is about how much we value our pastors. Paul says to let him “be considered worthy.” That small congregation I served early in my ministry was not able to pay me appropriately, but she nonetheless considered me worthy of this double honor. In spite of the low pay, never did I receive anything less in the decade I served them. In every other way, that congregation demonstrated its love, concern and honor for its young preacher.

Those to be considered worthy of the double honor are the “elders who rule well.” We don’t need to get hung up on the phrase “who rule.” It simply means “to oversee.” And Paul clarifies “those who labor in preaching and teaching.” These aren’t the guys who graduated at the top of their seminary class; these are just ordinary preachers who carry out the duties of their office well by preaching and teaching.

Obedience

The final passage Luther lists is the least popular today:

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you (Heb. 13:17).

Paul uses both passive and active verbs—“be convinced” and “yield”—translated “obey” and “submit.” This implies more than just outward obedience, but a relationship of trust with your pastor. As much trouble as we have paying our pastors as we ought and honoring them as they deserve, we have the most trouble with this last obligation, trusting obedience.

Paying your pastor is easy; you just sign the check, and your heart doesn’t need to be in it. Honor can be faked in a similar way. But trusting obedience cannot

be faked, because behind our distrust of and disobedience to our pastors is our distrust of and disobedience to God and His Word.

In this passage, we find the Lutheran insight about “What hearers owe their pastor.” The answer is simple: a paycheck, honor and obedience. But the insight in Luther’s use of this passage is that everything the hearers owe their pastor they owe not because of the pastor himself, but because of what we receive through the pastor God has given us. Your pastor is God’s gift to you by which God gives you even greater gifts. Rather than one to whom we give a paycheck, honor and obedience, the pastor is one from whom we receive the gifts that God gives. So, we receive the pastor himself as God’s gift to us.

Again, I am a very simple-minded person. And it seems this simple to me: Wherever you find a faithful pastor poorly paid, dishonored, distrusted and disobeyed, at the very root of that sad situation are a people (and often a pastor too) who do not regard the pastoral office and the preaching of God’s Word as God’s gracious gift.

You say, “Wilken, yes, my pastor is faithful, but you don’t know how _____ he can be!” Fill in the blank: annoying, dense, forgetful, stubborn, etc. You might say, “He’s just not a good fit for our congregation. He would be much happier at another congregation.” In response, I suggest that you consider this analogy: All Christian parents know that their children are gifts from God. But isn’t raising children expensive, difficult and messy? Aren’t these little gifts from God expensive, difficult and messy themselves? Ask any Christian parent, and they will tell you that their children are still a gift from God. All Christian children know that their parents are gifts from God, but aren’t parents often difficult and messy as well? Ask any Christian child, and they will tell you that their parents are still a gift from God.

We should regard our pastors the same way. They cost a lot of money, and they sometimes make trouble or messes. Sometimes they are easy to love; sometimes they aren't. But every single one of them is still a gift from God to His people.

Of course, this parent/child analogy is more than an analogy. It is exactly what pastors are. Luther revisits the subject of what hearers owe their pastor in the Large Catechism, under the subject of "Fathers," in the Fourth Commandment, "Honor your father and mother:"

Besides these there are yet spiritual fathers; not like those in the Papacy, who have indeed had themselves called thus, but have performed no function of the paternal office. For those only are called spiritual fathers who govern and guide us by the Word of God; as St. Paul boasts his fatherhood 1 Cor. 4:15, where he says: 'In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel.' Now, since they are fathers they are entitled to their honor, even above all others. But here it is bestowed least; for the way which the world knows for honoring them is to drive them out of the country and to grudge them a piece of bread, and, in short, they must be (as says St. Paul, 1 Cor. 4:13) as the filth of the world and everybody's refuse and foot rag. (LC, 159–160)

You see, even in Luther's day, faithful pastors were not recognized as God's gift to the Church. Luther's response is that pastors are fathers —not of blood but of office. And like all fathers, pastors are owed honor of their spiritual office. Luther continues:

Yet there is need that this also be urged upon the populace, that those who would be Christians are under obligation in the sight of God to esteem them worthy of double honor who minister to their souls, that they deal well with them and provide for them. For that, God is willing to add to you sufficient blessing and will not let you come to want. (LC, 161–163)

Again as quoted earlier:

But in this matter every one refuses and resists, and all are afraid that they will perish from bodily want, and cannot now support one respectable preacher, where formerly they filled ten fat paunches. In this we also deserve

that God deprive us of His Word and blessing, and again allow preachers of lies to arise to lead us to the devil, and, in addition, to drain our sweat and blood. (LC, 161–163)

What is Luther saying? God's judgment on those who will not receive a faithful pastor as a divine gift is to take the gift away. Moreover, not only will a congregation not receive the gift, but it will be given a curse wearing a clerical collar (or, more likely, a designer t-shirt).

But those who keep in sight God's will and commandment have the promise that everything which they bestow upon temporal and spiritual fathers, and whatever they do to honor them, shall be richly recompensed to them, so that they shall have, not bread, clothing, and money for a year or two, but long life, support, and peace, and shall be eternally rich and blessed. Therefore only do what is your duty, and let God take care how He is to support you and provide for you sufficiently. Since He has promised it, and has never yet lied, He will not be found lying to you. (LC, 164–165)

Do you hear Luther's confidence in God and His promises? Luther is so bold as to assert that there are temporal and eternal blessings in store for a congregation that receives a faithful pastor as the gift of God. If hearers will give to faithful pastors what they owe them—paycheck, honor, obedience—God will repay them in this life and in the life to come.

I love Luther's optimism in God's gift and faithfulness. Remember: When Luther wrote these very words, 12 years into the Reformation, he had just returned from the infamous Saxon Visitation. While visiting the German congregations of the



Reformation, he found the condition of the pastors and the people “deplorable, miserable.”

Mercy! Good God! What manifold misery I beheld! The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach – so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it. (SC, Preface)

In the midst of this seemingly hopeless situation, Luther still trusted that God had given the Church the gift of pastors.

God makes no mistakes. He does not call a man to be a pastor unless He is prepared to give him as a gift to the Church. Of course, not every man who calls himself “pastor” is a gift to the Church (false teachers abound), but every man whom God calls “pastor” is. When a pastor forgets that he is God’s gift to his congregation, to do what God gave him to do, then it may be God’s will that the congregation remove him. That happens too.

Nonetheless, if we understood our pastors to be God’s gift through whom God gives even greater gifts, then we would have less trouble parting with money at paycheck time, honoring them even when we don’t like them and obeying them.

You may not like him. You may not understand him. You may want to trade him in for a different model. But your pastor is God’s gift to you by which God gives you even an even greater gift. That gift is Jesus.

The logic of Lutheran theology connects the very salvation of sinners with the gift of faithful pastors:

Men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4.

That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and

Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. (AC, V–IV)

Can a pastor forget this too? Sadly, yes. And when he does, what do his people do? They remember that he is still God's gift to them. They trust that God knew what he was doing when He gave them that gift. They remind their pastor of why God gave him to them: to give the greater gift of Jesus Himself.

What hearers owe their pastor isn't finally a question of paychecks, honor or obedience, even though all of these are owed. What hearers owe their pastor is finally a question of receiving the gift that God has given in and through your pastor. After admonishing us to provide for, honor and obey the pastors God gives us, and after reminding us of God's promise to bless us with, in and through faithful pastors, Luther concludes:

This ought indeed to encourage us, and give us hearts that would melt in pleasure and love toward those to whom we owe honor, so that we would raise our hands and joyfully thank God who has given us such promises, for which we ought to run to the remotest parts of India. (LC, 166)

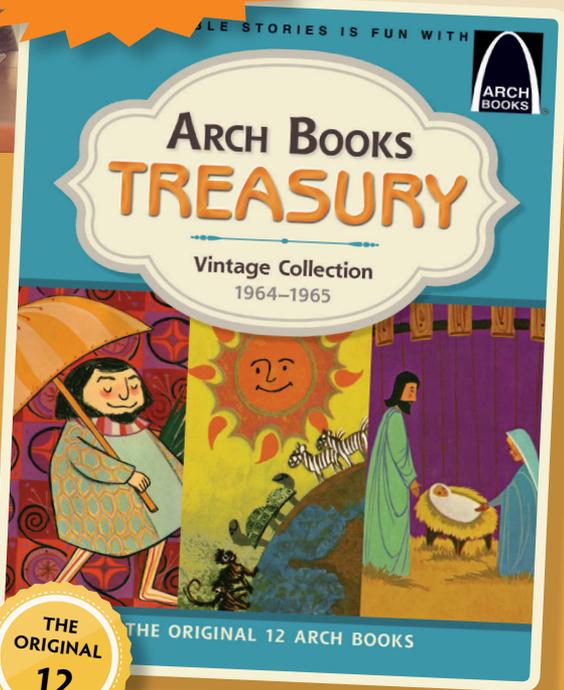
Perhaps Luther knew of no more distant land than India. Still, his point is clear. Rather than shortchanging, dishonoring or disobeying our faithful pastors, we should receive them as the gifts they are. A faithful pastor is among God's greatest gifts because this is how He brings His Word to us poor sinners. Through this gift, God gives us Jesus.

This article may be reproduced and distributed, unaltered and attributed, free of charge.



REMEMBER YOUR FIRST ARCH® BOOK?

Coming in June!



CELEBRATE 50 YEARS of Arch® Books with the new **Arch® Books Treasury: Vintage Collection, 1964–1965**. This nostalgic compilation features the original twelve books of our beloved series. Discover the words and memorable 1960s artwork from the series debut.

Embrace the Arch® Book legacy, promoting Biblical literacy to generations of God's children! Take a walk down memory lane—or make new memories—with the *Arch® Books Treasury*.

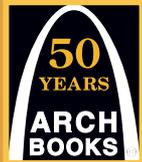
Learn more!

Only \$14.99!

Hardcover. 416 pages.
59-2281LIS

Teach Bible truths to children in your life with the stories that started it all!

Order today at **cph.org/vintage**
or call **(800) 325-3040**



Do you want to learn more about serving God's people as a pastor or deaconess? Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Prayerfully Consider Visit

March 19–21, 2015

www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

Christ Academy High School

June 14–27, 2015

www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy

Phoebe Academy High School

July 9–12, 2015

www.ctsfw.edu/PAHS



Concordia Theological Seminary

6600 N. Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
www.ctsfw.edu

Contact Information

1-800-481-2155
Admission@ctsfw.edu
www.ctsfw.edu/Admission

Wittenberg Trail

Not By My Own Strength or Reason

by Jim Pierce

How does one go from being a Pentecostal to being a conservative Baptist to an atheist only later to become a Lutheran? The question is more than a little bizarre, and the answer to it is filled with twists and turns and gets somewhat tangled in places. Nevertheless, the following is a short, true story of how God works through His Word to bring life to a particular dead man: me.

If you have ever watched Jimmy Swaggart or Pat Robertson preaching on one of the several Christian broadcasting stations, then you have seen a Pentecostal preacher in action. Pentecostals believe that a water Baptism is not enough to make one a full-blown Christian. According to the Pentecostal, you must also be baptized with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues. Some Pentecostals dogmatically assert that unless you have spoken in tongues, then you aren't a Christian. I was one of those Pentecostals for much of my childhood and young adult life.

At a young age, I started preaching and eventually became a licensed minister in the United Pentecostal Church, which is a denomination that rejects the teaching of the Holy Trinity. I was a youth pastor at a local congregation and was soon to be promoted to assistant pastor. It was at that point I thought I should increase my understanding of the Bible, so I took a course in biblical Greek offered at a Reformed congregation. The class worked together to translate the first chapter of John, which is some of the easiest Greek to learn. John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John later tells us in the same chapter that the Word was "made flesh" and is the

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world. Right there in the opening chapter of John, the teaching of the preexistence of God the Son is unmistakably clear. I had completely misunderstood the Scriptures. Shortly after this, I had to resign my position as youth pastor and departed the United Pentecostal Church. A couple of friends of mine, who worked me through the teaching of the Holy Trinity, pointed me to a neighborhood Baptist congregation where I was re-baptized and publicly confessed my faith in the one true God.

I hadn't been a Baptist all that long when my story spread out into the local evangelical community. Soon I was asked to preach, teach and to give presentations about the United Pentecostals. It was at one of these speaking events that I was invited to give an apologetics presentation to a small group of Lutherans. I knew little about Lutheranism, and what I did know of it made me wonder if Lutherans weren't part of a cult, since they taught infant Baptism and baptismal regeneration, among many other teachings I thought unscriptural at the time. However, my curiosity got the best of me, and I accepted the invitation.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that I was to speak in a home and that after the presentation we would have dinner. Our hostess was a very kind woman whose husband was a Lutheran pastor. We weren't too far into our meal when the pastor's wife, whose name is Greta, queried me concerning my faith, and soon we were talking about what she termed "justification through faith alone in Christ." In short order, I was told I couldn't have possibly made a decision for Christ while dead in sins, words I automatically resisted. Of course I made a decision for Christ! I had publicly confessed Him after much soul searching and investigation into the truth of His Word. I looked at the evidence, weighed it, and the verdict came back in Christ's favor. That I decided Jesus was my Savior made perfect sense to me; my will was free to choose Jesus. How else could I have come to God except through my own free will?

My Lutheran interlocutor would have none of it. She walked me through the Scriptures and showed me how I had been dead in sin and how faith was given to me as a free gift through the hearing of God's Word. According to her, I couldn't have made a decision for Jesus; Christ had to give me faith that I might receive the truth of the Gospel. For the very first time in my life, I was confronted with the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, but at that time I didn't understand it as such.

My desire to know the truth above all things drove me not only to study theology but also into the study of philosophy. I loved philosophical studies and, in particular, discussing issues regarding how we come to have knowledge and why human language works the way that it does. I was in college at this time, and it was in my junior year that I took a course about the Enlightenment philosophers. I fell head over heels in love with the philosophy of the Scottish philosopher David Hume. Now, this isn't the article to discuss Hume's views in any depth, but suffice it to say that he was quite inclined to doubt the truthfulness of any talk about God or the supernatural. Hume's ideas can be summed up into the motto of "Seeing is believing!" Hume was most certainly a skeptic, and I quickly became enchanted by skepticism.

One day, Greta called me on the phone and asked if I could come over for dinner to talk with a new friend of hers who had been a Pentecostal but rejected Christianity to become an agnostic. I talked with Greta's new friend for many hours, and it was during one of our long discussions that we talked about atheism. This man wasn't sure that he could remain an agnostic. He presented several arguments that seemed to logically disprove the existence of God. I wasn't able to interact successfully with the arguments presented, since they also appealed to me. Indeed, they sounded much like something Hume would have presented, and he was my favorite philosopher at that time! My faith was shaken. What if I was wrong about Christianity as I had been wrong about Pentecostalism?

After having my faith challenged to its core, I started digging into my studies much deeper. My entire focus turned to ideas concerning the nature of being and how it is we come to have knowledge. I wanted to know the truth about God. Was He real? My resolve was to find the truth at any cost, even if that meant God didn't exist. Indeed, human reason became the object of my faith. As I worked my way through the many philosophical issues I thought critical, I had forsaken Jesus. He became an intellectual exercise found in a pile of apologetic books collecting dust in my library. In fact, I started questioning the truth of the Scriptures, listening to the great lie of the devil, "Did God really say?"

Predictably, my faith died, and I became an atheist. I spent 18 years in atheism. During that time, I went from being a militant, evangelical atheist who wanted every Christian de-converted and set "free" from his or her delusional faith to being a "spiritual atheist," grasping at any belief that could silence the nagging of the Law of God, which told me I was in trouble with the Being whose existence I denied. For 18 years, God's Law tormented me day and night. I hated God!

Eventually I collapsed under the weight of my sins; the Law of God had done its work. Remembering the Gospel Greta had shared with me, I cried out to God, repenting of my unbelief and knowing my sins were forgiven me for the sake of Christ.

At this point, I was well aware that I needed solid teaching. I needed a church that taught salvation was by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus. For that reason, I couldn't return to the denominations I had been part of, but I didn't know where to go other than to find the one person I had lost contact with over the years who could help me: Greta.

Finding her phone number, I called Greta and told her the wonderful news and asked if she could help me find a church. Eagerly she sent me to a friend of

hers, and I eventually found myself in an LCMS congregation that was close by house: Messiah Lutheran in Seattle. I promptly called the pastor there, the Rev. Ernie Lassman, and he extended to me and my family a warm invitation to the Divine Service.

I was excited to attend Sunday service for the first time in 18 years, but at the same time, I was nervous. What was to happen to me? Would church members seek me out and try to convert me? Would they lay hands on me and start praying over me? Was I to be the object of the preacher's altar call? I arrived early to the church and quietly slipped into a pew, but not unnoticed. A man wearing a clerical collar and vestments approached me. Oh, dear, had I mistakenly walked into the wrong church? Maybe this was a Roman Catholic Church. Well, it was too late now to leave without embarrassment, but to my relief it turned out to be Pastor Lassman. After a warm greeting, he invited me to chat with him after the service.

As the pastor went into the sacristy, the organ began warming up and the pews started to fill with people. I heard glorious singing of hymns and the chanting of Psalms. It was if I had come to the intersection of heaven and earth. I fumbled, bumbled and stumbled through the liturgy, but as the congregation joyfully sang hymns, confessed their sins and received absolution, I was comforted by the words I was hearing. It was during the pastor's sermon, though, that I knew I hadn't gone to the wrong church, for I heard the Gospel of Jesus as it was told to me by Greta. After that Divine Service, I started attending the adult catechism class, and months later, I had my first Holy Communion, receiving the true body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Now I would be remiss not to mention something about my family. What happened with them? Well, at first they didn't know what to make of my conversion, and none of them were immediately receptive to the idea of following

me to church. For several months, I prayed, agonized and invited my family to join me. My son was the first to attend church with me, and he was eventually baptized. Shortly after my son began attending services with me, my wife began to come along, and hearing solid Law and Gospel preaching, she received through faith the forgiveness of her sins. My daughter was the last "hold out," so to speak. She had been an avowed atheist, which broke my heart, since I had taught her to be such. However, God had something else in mind for her, and she, too, was eventually baptized, catechized and received her first Communion kneeling with me at the altar. Thanks be to God!

How does one go from Pentecostalism to atheism and finally to Lutheran Christianity? The answer is really simple. One only needs to be a sinner who destroys his faith through hatred for God. However, what I could not do by my own strength or reason was find God. Our God is faithful, and while I had turned against Him, He came and found me and, taking pity on me, He gave me faith to receive the forgiveness of sins on account of what His Son, Jesus Christ, has done for me.



Jim Pierce is a seminary student working on his Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.. He is the author of "Wittenberg Confessions: Testimonies of Converts to Confessional Lutheranism" and a blogger. Jim's previous career was in networking engineering.

Connecting Lutheran high school students to Jesus as they move to college.



Connect them to an LCMS Campus Ministry at
www.lcms.org/LCMSU/findcampus

Visit us online: www.lcms.org/LCMSU

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LCMSU

Or call us: 888-THE LCMS (843-5267)



Find a Church

ALABAMA

[Hope Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. R. Daniel Carlson
Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith
4800 Montevallo Rd
Birmingham, AL 35210
205-956-1930

[St. Paul Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. John Bussman
513 4th Ave SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3575

[Redeemer Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. William Parsons III
200 S Section St
Fairhope, AL 36532
251-928-8397

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. P. J. Moore
1885 Rainbow Dr
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-546-1712

ARIZONA

[Calvary Lutheran](#)
Rev. Michael Kessler
711 7th Ave
Yuma, AZ 85364
928-783-3024

CALIFORNIA

[Mount Calvary Lutheran](#)
Rev. R. John Perling
436 South Beverly Dr
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
310-277-1164

[Faith Lutheran](#)
Rev. Ronald Hodel
Rev. Jeremy Rhode
34381 Calle Portola
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624
949-496-1901

[Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran](#)
Rev. Donald Jordan
750 Moss Ave
Chico, California 95926
530-342-6085

[St John Lutheran](#)
Rev. Don Wiley
820 North La Cadena Dr
Colton, CA 92324
909-825-2395

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Matthew Payne
16050 E San Bernardino Rd
Covina, CA 91722
626-337-2971

[Lutheran Church of Our Savior](#)
Rev. Dennis Bestul
Rev. John Bestul
5825 Bollinger Rd
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-252-0345

[Messiah Lutheran](#)
Rev. Peter Ledic
2305 Camino Tassajara
Danville, CA 94506
925-736-2270

[Peace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Gregory Young
4672 North Cedar Ave
Fresno, CA 93726
559-222-2320

[The Good Shepherd Lutheran](#)
Rev. Bruce von Hindenburg
902 Maple St
Inglewood, CA 90301
310-671-7644

[St. Paul's Lutheran](#)
Rev. Brandon Jones
2283 Palo Verde Ave
Long Beach, CA 90815
562-596-4409

[Our Savior's Lutheran](#)
Rev. Dan Kistler
4400 Cabrillo Hwy
Pacifica, CA 94044
650-359-1550

[Our Savior Lutheran](#)
Rev. Mark Stenbeck
6404 Pentz Rd
Paradise, CA 95969
530-877-7321

[Our Savior's Lutheran](#)
Rev. William Lindemeyer
725 N Fairview St
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
706-375-7921

[Holy Cross Lutheran](#)
Rev. Todd Peperkorn
4701 Grove St
Rocklin, CA 95677
916-624-8185

[The Lutheran Church of Our Savior](#)
Rev. Scott Klemsz
1230 Luther Way
Salinas, CA 93901
831-422-6352

[Prince of Peace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Paul Willweber
6801 Easton Ct
San Diego, CA 92120
619-583-1436

[Grace Lutheran](#)
Rev. David Mark Carver
2825 Alameda De Las Pulgas
San Mateo, CA 94403
650-345-9068

[Pilgrim Lutheran](#)
Rev. Nathan Kilian
1730 Wilshire Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-829-4113

COLORADO

[Risen Christ Lutheran](#)
Rev. Joseph Brennan
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Williams
14850 W 72nd Ave
Arvada, CO 80007
303-421-5872

[Redeemer Lutheran](#)
Rev. Donal Widger
2221 North Wahsatch Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719- 633-7661

[University Hills Lutheran](#)
4949 E. Eastman Ave
Denver, CO 80222
303-759-0161

[Christ Our Savior Lutheran](#)
Rev. Geoffrey Wagner
4022 Park Ln
Elizabeth, CO 80107
303-646-1378

[Peace with Christ Lutheran](#)
Rev. Ralph Patrick
1424 West Swallow Rd
Fort Collins, CO 80526
970-226-4721

[Gloria Christi Lutheran](#)
Rev. John Frahm
1322 31st Ave
Greeley, CO 80634-6328
970-353-2554

[St. John's Lutheran](#)
Rev. Terrence Buethe
405 S Albany St
Yuma, CO 80759
970-848-2210

DELAWARE

[Concordia Lutheran Church](#)
Rev David Kummer
3003 Silverside Road
Wilmington, DE 19810
302-478-3004

FLORIDA

[Grace Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. Keith Lingsch
860 Banyan Blvd
Naples, FL 34102
239-261-7421

[Immanuel Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. Randy Blankschaen
24 W Wright St
Pensacola, FL 32501
850-438-8138

IDAHO

[Good Shepherd Lutheran](#)
Rev. Tim Pauls
Rev. David Hrachovina
5009 Cassia St
Boise, ID 83705
208-343-7212

ILLINOIS

St Paul Lutheran
Rev. Joel Brondos
Rev. Kevin Koester
9035 Grant
Brookfield, IL 60513
708-485-6987

St. John Lutheran
Rev. Mark Elliott
Rev. Jeff Caitthamer
509 S Mattis Ave
Champaign, IL 61821
217-359-1123

St. John Lutheran
Rev. Richard Heinz
4939 West Montrose Ave
Chicago, IL 60641
773-736-1112

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. Michael Walther
Rev. Paul Hemenway
1300 Belt Line Rd
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-3151

Prince of Peace Lutheran
Rev. Larry Rubeck
932 McHenry Ave
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-455-3200

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Gary Wright
17618 Hubbard Road
East Moline, IL 61244
309-496-2186

Calvary Lutheran
Rev. Mark Bestul
535 N McLean Blvd
Elgin, IL 60123
847-741-5433

Bethany Lutheran
Rev. Jeff Hemmer
5600 Old Collinsville Rd
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618-632-6906

Christ Our Savior Lutheran
Rev. Bruce Keseman
612 N State St
Freeburg, IL 62243
618-539-5664

Hope Lutheran
Rev. David Fielding
3715 Wabash Ave
Granite City, IL 62040
(618) 876-7568

St. Paul Lutheran
Rev. Ben Ball
6969 W. Frontage Rd
Worden, IL 62097
P.O. Box 247
Hamel, IL 62046
618-633-2209

Messiah Lutheran
Rev. Brian Holle
801 N Madison St
Lebanon, IL 62254
618-537-2300

St Pauls Lutheran
Rev. Mark Hein
1500 S Briggs St
Lockport, IL 60441
815-838-1832

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Kirk Clayton
101 South Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258
618 566-7345

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Apostles
Rev. Ralph Tausz
10429 W Fullerton Ave
Melrose Park, IL 60164
847-455-0903

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Todd Wilken
503 E Washington St
Millstadt, IL 62260
618-476-3101

Holy Cross Lutheran
Rev. Wilfred Karsten
4107 21st Ave
Moline, IL 61265
309-764-9720

Bethany Lutheran
Rev. Timothy Rossow
Rev. Stephen Schumacher
Rev. Jonathan Fisk
1550 Modaff Rd
Naperville, IL 60565
630-355-2198

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Robert Niehus
607 Harvard St
Oak Park, IL 60304
708-386-3306

Zion Lutheran
Rev Donald Pritchard
525 N. Cartwright
Pleasant Plains IL 62677
217-626-1282

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. Michael Schuermann
Rev. James Stuenkel
500 South Sherman Blvd
Sherman, IL 62684
217-496-3149

St. John Lutheran
Rev. Mark Brockhoff
1800 S Rodenburg Rd
Schaumburg, IL 60193
847-524-9746

Immanuel Lutheran
Rev. Craig Meissner
12 West 34th Place
Steger, IL 60417
708-754-2345

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. David Balla
331 George Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-1175

INDIANA

Faith Lutheran
Rev. Todd Riordan
6000 W State Rd 46
Columbus, IN 47201
812-342-3587

Grace Lutheran
Rev. John Armstrong
3201 Central Ave
Columbus, IN 47203
812-372-4859

St John Lutheran
Rev. Michael Mueller
12308 E CR 1160 N
Evanston, IN 47531
812-547-2007

Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. David Peterson
202 West Rudisill Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
260-744-2585

Lake George Lutheran
Rev. Jeff Springer
1540 W 800 N
Fremont, IN 46737
260-833-6208

St Paul's Lutheran
Rev. David Shaddy
3932 Mi Casa Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46237
317-787-4464

St Peter Lutheran
Rev. Seth Mierow
2525 E 11th St
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-638-7245

St. James Lutheran
Rev. KC Denning
430 Ninth St
Logansport, IN 46947
574-753-4227

St. Paul Lutheran
Rev. Peter Speckhard
8601 Harrison Ave
Munster, IN 46321
219-836-6270

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Adrian Piazza
10055 E 186th St
Noblesville, IN 46060
317-773-3669

Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. Andrew Currao
Rev. Daniel Lepley
504 N. Walnut St
Seymour, IN 47274
812-522-1837

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran
Rev. Jacob Sutton
645 Poplar St
Terre Haute, IN 47807
812-232-4972

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer
4413 South State Rd 135
Vallonia, IN 47281
812-358-3225

Heritage Lutheran
Rev. Joseph Ostafinski
308 Washington St
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-464-2810

Advent Lutheran
Rev. John Fiene
11250 N Michigan Rd
Zionsville, IN 46077
317-873-6318

IOWA

Holy Cross Lutheran
Rev. Kevin Johnson
1100 Market St
Carlisle, IA 50047
515-989-3841

Our Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. Michael Knox
904 Bluff St
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-266-2509

St Paul Lutheran
Rev. Nathan Dudley
2463 State Hwy 2
Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-1505

St Mary Evangelical Lutheran
Rev. Jeff Siegel
505 Euclid Ave
Des Moines, IA 50313
515-244-4018

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Jeffrey Keuning
309 Marshall Street, P.O. Box 127
Dexter, IA 50072
515-729-2977

Faith Lutheran
Rev. David Daumer
710 8th St SE
Orange City, IA 51041
712-737-2112

Immanuel Lutheran
Rev. J.R. Wheeler
101 E View Pl
Osceola, IA 50213
641-342-3121

St John Lutheran
Rev. David Klinge
1956 Durham Ave
State Center, IA 50247
641-483-2578

Faith Lutheran
Rev Edward Killian
1555 W Ridgeway Ave
Waterloo IA 50701
319-236-1771

KANSAS

Risen Savior Lutheran
Rev. Robert Weinkauff
14700 Leavenworth Rd
Basehor, KS 66007
913-724-2900

Our Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. Troy Slater
802 E Trapp St
Herington, KS 67449
785-258-3122

Grace Lutheran
Rev. Dale Dumperth
800 E 1st St
McPherson, KS 67460-3614
620-241-1627

Augsburg Lutheran
Rev. J. W. Watson
13902 W 67th St
Shawnee, KS 66216
785-331-3890

St John's Lutheran
Rev. Peter Lange
901 SW Fillmore St
Topeka, KS 66606
785-354-7132

Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. Geoffrey Boyle
Rev. Michael Brockman
3310 E Pawnee St
Wichita, KS 67218
316-685-6781

Trinity Lutheran Church
Rev. Geoffrey Boyle
611 S Erie St
Wichita, KS 67211
316-685-1571

KENTUCKY

Our Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. Michael Huebner
2255 Eastland Pkwy
Lexington, KY 40505
859-299-9615

Resurrection Lutheran
Rev. Curtis Peters
4205 Gardiner View Ave.
Louisville, KY 40213
502-458-4451

Risen Lord Lutheran
Rev. Steve Gettinger
5138 Taylorsville Rd
Taylorsville, KY 40071
502-477-6557

LOUISIANA

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Rev. Aaron Stinnett
1905 Highway 59
Mandeville, LA 70448
985-674-0377

MASSACHUSETTS

Our Savior Lutheran
Rev. Robin Hintze
1 Hagar Park Rd
Westminster, MA 01473
978-874-2504

MARYLAND

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Robert Riebau
209 N Main St
Accident, MD 21520
301-746-8170

Calvary Lutheran
Rev. Quentin Poulson
2625 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21214
410-426-4301

St. Paul Lutheran
Rev. William Stottlemeyer
3738 Resley Rd
Hancock, MD 21750
301-678-7180

St. James Lutheran
Rev. J. Thomas Foelber
8 W Overlea Ave
Overlea, MD 21206
410-668-0158

MICHIGAN

Peace Lutheran
Rev. Thomas Messer
325 E Warwick Dr
Alma, MI 48801
989-463-5754

Grace Lutheran
Rev. David Reed
303 Ruth St
Auburn, MI 48611
989-662-6161

Emmanuel Lutheran
Rev. Joel Baseley
800 S Military St
Dearborn, MI 48124
313-565-4002

Resurrection Lutheran
Rev. Scott Benjamin
20531 Kelly Rd
Detroit, MI 48225
313-372-4902

Redford Lutheran
Rev. Raymond Parent II
22159 Grand River Ave.
Detroit, MI 48219
313-535-3733

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Mark Braden
4305 North Military Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210
313-894-7450

Epiphany Lutheran
Rev. Jonathon Krenz
4219 Park Ln
Dorr, MI 49323
616-681-0791

Our Savior Lutheran
Rev. David Fleming
Rev. North Sherrill, Jr.
2900 Burton St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-949-0710

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Roger James
135 W Green St
Marshall, MI 49068
269-781-8982

St. John Lutheran
Rev. Edward Steeh
62657 North Ave
Ray, MI 48096
586-749-5286

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
c/o Lutheran High Northwest
Rev. Allen Lunneberg
1000 Bagley Ave
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248-930-0173

St. Paul Lutheran
Rev. Michael Allen
6356 Center Street
Unionville, MI 48767
989-674-8681

MINNESOTA

St. Paul Lutheran
Rev. Preston Paul
128 Filmore St SE
Chatfield, MN 55923
507-867-4604

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Rev. Steven C. Briel
Rev. Matthew P. Johnson
9141 County Rd 101
Corcoran, MN 55340
763-420-2426

Mt. Olive Lutheran
Rev. Robert Franck
2012 E Superior St
Duluth, MN 55812
218-724-2500

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran
Rev. Jonathan Rusnak
10583 US Hwy 169
Garrison, MN 56450
320-692-4581

Immanuel Lutheran
Rev. Donald Klatt
510 Olivia St
Holloway, MN 56249
302-394-2452

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Donald Klatt
1746 30th St NW
Holloway, MN 56249
302-394-2308

St. Paul Lutheran
1324 9th St
International Falls MN 56649
218-283-8642

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Brian Thorson
47334 132nd St
Lewisville, MN 56060
507-435-2201

Our Saviour's Lutheran
Rev. Jon Olson
1102 7th Ave SW
Pipstone, MN 56164
507-825-4124

Glory of Christ Lutheran
Rev. John Fehrman
4040 Hwy 101 N
Plymouth, MN 55446
763-478-6031

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Scott Schilbe
2904 20th St SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507-289-0271

St Johns Lutheran
Rev. Christopher Horton
14385 Blaine Ave E
Rosemount, MN 55068-5929
651-423-2149

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Jeffrey Kuddes
29972 570th Ave
Waltham, MN 55982
507-567-2272

Our Savior's Lutheran
Rev. Paul Sajban
1157 3rd Ave
Windom, MN 56101
507-831-3522

MISSISSIPPI

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Dr. James Holowach
4423 I-55 North
Jackson, MS 39206
601-366-2055

MISSOURI

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. Warren Woerth
2211 Tenbrook Rd
Arnold, MO 63010
636-296-1292

Beautiful Savior Lutheran
Rev. David Bretscher
12397 Natural Bridge Rd
Bridgeton, MO 63044
314-291-2395

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Keith Ellerbrock
3765 Mc Kelvey Rd
Bridgeton, MO 63044
314-739-0022

Lord of Life Lutheran
Rev. Mark Below
15750 Baxter Rd
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-532-0400

St Paul Lutheran
Rev. David Smith
Rev. Glen Thomas
12345 Manchester Rd
Des Peres, MO 63131
314-822-0447

Mount Calvary Lutheran
Rev. James Gier
1215 Baldwin St
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
816-637-9800

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Rick Pettey
601 Kingsbury Blvd
Fredericktown, MO 63645
573-783-2405

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Rick Pettey
601 Kingsbury Blvd
Gravelton, MO 63645
573-783-2405

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Tyler Arnold
Rev. Brandon Froiland
6700 NW 72nd St
Kansas City, MO 64151
816-741-0483

Holy Cross Lutheran
Rev. Frank Frye

Rev. Mark Stirdivant
2003 NE Englewood Rd
Kansas City, MO 64118
816-452-9113

Immanuel Lutheran
Rev. James Dunn
4203 Tracy Ave
Kansas City, MO 64110
816-561-0561

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
Rev. Richard Futrell
103 Kimberling Boulevard
Kimberling City, MO 65686
417-739-2512

Village Lutheran
Rev. Kevin Golden
Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
9237 Clayton Rd
Ladue, MO 63124
314-993-1834

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. David Oberdieck
1300 Kent Dr
Lebanon, MO 65536
417-532-2717

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb
1075 E Urbandale Dr
Moberly, MO 65270
660-263-3256

Holy Cross Lutheran
Rev. Keith Wachter
8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
O'Fallon, MO 63366
636-272-4505

Immanuel Lutheran
Rev. Thomas Handrick
Rev. Matthew Marks
453 N West St
Perryville, MO 63775
573-547-8317

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Tyler Arnold
Rev. Brandon Froiland
6700 NW 72nd St
Platte Woods, MO 64151
816-741-0483

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Doug Gaunt
4795 N Hwy 94
Saint Charles, MO 63301
636-250-3350

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran
Rev. Lawrence Bradt
200 Market St
Saint Genevieve, MO 63670
573-883-5361

Reformation Lutheran
Rev. David Pelsue
7910 Mackenzie Rd
Saint Louis, MO 63123
314-352-1355

[Peace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Kastens
Rev. Jon C. Furgeson
737 Barracksview Rd
Saint Louis, MO 63125
314-892-5610

[Prince of Peace](#)
Rev. Dr. Mark Smith
8646 New Sappington Rd
Saint Louis, MO 63126
314-843-8448

[Hope Lutheran](#)
Rev. Randy Asburry
Rev. Daniel Preus
5218 Neosho St
Saint Louis, MO 63109
314-352-0014

[Concordia Lutheran](#)
Rev. Alan Wollenburg
836 Park Ave
Sikeston, MO 63801
573-471-5842

[Grace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Luke Wolters
528 W Hudson St
Wellsville, MO 63384
573-684-2106

MONTANA

[Christ The King Lutheran](#)
Rev. Ryan Wendt
759 Newman Ln
Billings, MT 59101-4742
406-252-9250

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Gerald Paul
1226 1st Ave. N
Great Falls, MT 59401
406-452-2121

NEBRASKA

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. James Moshier
1005 9th St
Arapahoe, NE 68922
308-962-7667

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Jonathan Rathjan
34 Alden Dr
Auburn, NE 68305
402-274-4210

[St. Paul's Lutheran](#)
Rev. Allen K. Strawn
506 Main St
Bridgeport, NE 69336
308-262-0424

[Zion Lutheran](#)
Rev. David Kahle
1305 Broadway
Imperial, NE 69033
308-882-5655

[Good Shepherd Lutheran](#)
Rev. Lance Berndt
Rev. Clint Poppe
3825 Wildbriar Ln
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-423-7639

[Redeemer Lutheran](#)
Rev. Mark Ebert
510 S 33rd St
Lincoln, NE 68501
402-477-1710

[Immanuel Lutheran](#)
Rev. Jon Sollberger
36712 Church Rd
Louisville, NE 68037
402-234-5980

NEVADA

[Grace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Douglas Barnett
2657 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy
Henderson, NV 89052
702-492-4701

NEW HAMPSHIRE

[Immanuel Lutheran](#)
Rev. Donald Colageo
673 Weston Rd
Manchester, NH 03103
603-622-1514

NEW JERSEY

[Holy Trinity Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. Ronald Stephens
340 Palisade Ave
Garfield, NJ 07026
973-478-7434

NEW YORK

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Wade Miller
9020 3rd Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-745-0130

[St. John's Lutheran](#)
Rev. Brian Noack
48 Greene Ave
Sayville, NY 11782
631-589-3202

NORTH CAROLINA

[All Saints Lutheran](#)
Rev. Jeffrey Ware
17030 Lancaster Hwy
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-752-4287

[Our Savior Lutheran](#)
Rev. Kevin Martin
1500 Glenwood Ave
Raleigh, NC 27608
919-832-8822

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Thomas Olson
3353 US 176 North
Tryon, NC 28782
828-859-0379

OHIO

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Stephen Lutz
412 Fremont St
Elmore, OH 43416
419-862-3461

[Immanuel Lutheran](#)
Rev. Michael Phillips
2120 Lakewood Ave
Lima, OH 45805
419-222-2541

[Gethsemane Lutheran](#)
Rev. Brett Cornelius
219 E Church St
Marion, OH 43302
740-375-0599

[St. John Lutheran](#)
Rev. Stephen Niermann
16035 County Rd U
Napoleon, OH 43505
419-598-8961

[Bethlehem Lutheran](#)
Rev. Robert Green
7500 State Rd
Parma, OH 44134
440-845-2230

[Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran](#)
Rev. John Rutz
13101 Five Point Rd
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419-874-6939

OKLAHOMA

[St. Mark Lutheran](#)
Rev. Mark Erler
1501 N Bryant
Edmond, OK 73034
405-340-0192

[Grace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Christian Tiews
2331 E 5th Pl
Tulsa, OK 74104
918-592-2999

OREGON

[Holy Cross Lutheran](#)
Rev. Bruce Ley
2515 Queen Ave SE
Albany, OR 97322
541-928-0214

PENNSYLVANIA

[Prince of Peace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Michael Podeszwa
60 Rochester Rd
Freedom, PA 15042
724-728-3881

[St. John Lutheran](#)
Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
25 E Scenic Rd
Springfield, PA 19064
610-543-3100

[Grace Lutheran](#)
Rev. David Young
1169 W Street Rd
Warminster, PA 18974
215-672-8181

[Mount Calvary Lutheran](#)
Rev. Scott Kuntz
285 Highland Ave
West View, PA 15229
412-931-4500

SOUTH CAROLINA

[Faith Lutheran](#)
1812 Boundary St
Beaufort, SC 29902
843-379-3081

[Holy Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Christopher Burger
2215 Devine St
Columbia, SC 29205
803-799-7224

[Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd](#)
Rev. Steven Saxe
1601 N. Pleasantburg Dr
Greenville, SC 29609
864-244-5825

SOUTH DAKOTA

[Peace Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. David Lindenberg
219 E Saint Anne St
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-721-6480

[Christ Lutheran](#)
Rev. Matthew Nix
4801 E 6th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
605-338-3769

TENNESSEE

[Redeemer Lutheran](#)
Rev. Philip Young
800 Bellevue Rd
Nashville, TN 37221-2702
615-646-3150

[St. Paul Lutheran](#)
Rev. Robert Portier
1610 Pullen Rd
Sevierville, TN 37862
865-365-8551

TEXAS

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Paul Harris
1207 W 45th
Austin, TX 78756
512-453-3835

[St Paul Lutheran](#)
Rev. Mark Nuckols
Rev. Sherman Stenson
3501 Red River St
Austin, TX 78705
512-472-8301

[Bethel Lutheran](#)
Rev. Thomas Baden
1701 N Broadway
Ballinger, TX 76821
325-942-9275

[Our Redeemer Lutheran](#)
Rev. Brent McGuire
7611 Park Lane
Dallas, TX 75225
214-368-1371

[Grace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Carl Roth
801 W 11th St
Elgin, TX 78621
512-281-3367

[Mount Calvary Lutheran](#)
Rev. Thomas Baden
12358 Country Rd 5500
Eola, TX 76937
325-942-9275

[Redeemer Lutheran](#)
Rev. David Grassley
4513 Williams Rd
Fort Worth, TX 76116
817-560-0030

[Memorial Lutheran](#)
Rev. Dr. Scott Murray
Rev. Ian Pacey
5800 Westheimer Rd
Houston, TX 77057
713-782-6079

[Our Savior Lutheran](#)
Rev. Dr. Laurence White
Rev. Thomas Glammeyer
Rev. Paul Williams
5000 West Tidwell Rd
Houston, TX 77091
713-290-9087

[Messiah Lutheran](#)
Rev. Glenn Huebel
Rev. Tom Chryst
1308 Whitley Rd
Keller, TX 76248
817-431-2345

[First Lutheran](#)
Rev. Michael Monterastelli
1001 Atkinson Dr
Lufkin, TX 75901
936-634-7468

[Bethlehem Lutheran](#)
Rev. Randall Smith
5084 Church Ln
North Zulch, TX 77872
936-399-5563

[Faith Lutheran](#)
Rev. Thomas Baden
801 1st St
Ozona, TX 76943
325-942-9275

[Faith Lutheran](#)
Rev. James Woelmer
Rev. Robert Hill
Rev. Jacob Sutton
1701 E Park Blvd
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-7447

[Lord of Life Lutheran](#)
Rev. John Lindner
3601 W. 15th St
Plano, TX 75075
972-867-5588

[Trinity Lutheran](#)
Rev. Allan Eckert
Rev. Randall Wehmeyer
3536 Lutheran Way
San Angelo, TX 76904
325-944-8660

[Mount Calvary Lutheran](#)
Rev. Kim De Vries
308 Mount Calvary Dr
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-824-8748

[Hope Lutheran](#)
Rev. Thomas Baden
417 E 2nd St
Sonora, TX 76950
325-942-9275

[Living Word Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. Daniel Quinn
9500 North Panther Creek Dr
The Woodlands, TX 77381
281-363-4860

VIRGINIA

[Immanuel Lutheran](#)
Rev. Christopher Esget
1801 Russell Rd
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-549-0155

[St. Athanasius Lutheran](#)
Rev. James Douthwaite
114 Kingsley Rd SW
Vienna, VA 22180
703-455-4003

WASHINGTON

[Peace Lutheran](#)
Rev. Daniel Freeman
2071 Bishop Rd
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-748-4108

[Faith Lutheran](#)
Rev. Timothy Winterstein
171 Eastmont Ave.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509-844-7623

[Immanuel Lutheran](#)
Rev. Kyle Heck
2531 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98201
425-252-7038

[Messiah Lutheran](#)
Rev. Kurt Onken
9209 State Ave
Marysville, WA 98270
360-659-4112

[Messiah Lutheran](#)
Rev. Ernie Lassman
Rev Trevor Mankin
7050 35th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115-5917
206-524-0024

[Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran](#)
Rev. Kerry Reese
Rev. Warrens Berger
9225 212th St SE
Snohomish, WA 98296
360-668-7881

WISCONSIN

[St. John's Lutheran](#)
Rev. John Neugebauer
E 5221 Church Rd
Algoma, WI 54201
920-487-2335

[Grace Lutheran Church](#)
Rev. Matthew Ruesch
409 West Willow St
Bear Creek, WI 54922
715-752-4855

Trinity Lutheran Church
Rev. Matthew Ruesch
E8010 State Rd 22
Bear Creek, WI 54922
715-752-3601

Zion Lutheran
Rev. T. Clint Stark
110 E Grand Ave
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715-723-6380

Elm Grove Lutheran
Rev. Larry Myers
Rev. Eric Skovgaard
945 N Terrace Dr
Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-797-2970

Mount Zion Lutheran
Rev. Aaron Koch
3820 W Layton Ave
Greenfield, WI 53221
414-282-4900

Saint Stephen Lutheran
Rev. Daniel Seehafer
Rev. Jonathan Szczesny
505 N Palmatory St
Horicon, WI 53032
920-485-668

Peace Lutheran
Rev. Ricky Schroeder
1228 S Park Ave
Neenah, WI 54956
920-725-0510

St. John Lutheran
Rev. Daniel Torkelson
312 N Main St
North Prairie, WI 53153
262-392-2170

Grace Lutheran
Rev. Randal Poppe
3700 Washington Ave
Racine, WI 53405
262-633-4831

St. John's Lutheran
Rev. Jacob Gilbert
510 Kewaunee St
Racine, WI 53402
262-637-7011

St. Jakobi Lutheran
Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt
W 8089 County Rd A
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347

Luther Memorial Chapel
Rev. Dr. Ken Wieting
3833 N Maryland Ave
Shorewood, WI 53211
414-332-5732

Peace Lutheran
Rev. Peter Bender
W240 N6145 Maple Ave
Sussex, WI 53089
262-246-3200

Pilgrim Lutheran
Rev. Joseph Fisher
Rev. Christopher Raffa
462 Meadowbrook Dr
West Bend, WI 53090
262-334-0375

Our Savior Lutheran
Rev. Michael Henrichs
6021 N Santa Monica Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-332-4458

WYOMING

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Daniel Holthus
1240 S Missouri Ave
Casper, WY 82609
307-234-0568

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Paul Rosberg
601 S 9th St
Douglas, WY 82633-2704
307-358-2810

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Scott Firminhac
Rev. Jared Tucher
1001 E 9th St
Gillette, WY 82717
307-682-4886

Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. David Bott
175 N. Willow St
Jackson, WY 83001
307-733-3409

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Shawn Kumm
406 S. 19th St
Laramie, WY 82070
307-745-9262

CANADA

St. Matthew Lutheran
Rev. Michael Keith
5021 52 Ave
Stony Plain, AB T7Z1C1
780-963-2416

Redeemer Lutheran
Rev. Garry Heintz
13 Marion St
Kakabeka Falls, ON P0T 1W0
807-473-9164

Bethel Lutheran
Rev. Jamie Bosma
264 Wilson St
Thunder Bay ON P7B1M9
807-344-8322



Issues, Etc. is a registered
trademark of Lutheran Public Radio
1600 Golfview Dr, Suite 230
Collinsville, IL 62234
Studio Line (877) 623-MYIE
Comment Line (618) 223-8382
Office Line (618) 223-8385
talkback@issuesetc.org
© 2015, Lutheran Public Radio