



for all the SAINTS

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EARLY CHRISTIAN IMAGE OF
CHRIST AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD
(FOURTH CENTURY A.D.)



We're Christians, so we're supposed to like the Bible, right? Yet we may "like" it without paying it much attention. With all our Bible studies resuming, it seems appropriate to reflect now on what we know and believe about the Bible.

Let's start basic. The word "Bible" means "books." It is not one, but a collection, a mini-library. This library's content, what the books are generally about, is God. Or even better, about God in Christ. We read the Bible to meet Christ.

So the Bible is holy because Christ is in it. His presence makes it valuable. In Martin Luther's imagery, the Bible is the manger that holds Christ. Aside from him — like the straw in the manger — it has little significance.

The ELCA constitution puts it this way: "The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce *God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ*. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world."

The Old Testament, written originally in Hebrew, corresponds with "B.C." and the New Testament, written in Greek, features Jesus ("A.D."). Still, it's the same God, so there is not bad news in the old and good news in the new, not a mean God and good God.

"Canonical" is an old word for a measuring stick. We use it to compare how things measure up. In the Bible, we meet Christ, but not always to the same degree. So John 3:16 may be a good synopsis of what is most important: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." By that standard, Leviticus 3:16 doesn't measure up the same. ("...All fat is the Lord's.")

We make comparisons also by measuring books of the Bible against each other. I think Romans announces Christ especially well. (See Romans 8:31-39.) In Luther's famous estimation, James doesn't have much of Christ in it, and so amounted only to straw.

Our little library, our Bible, typically has 66 books. For this we thank John Calvin, another 16th Century reformer. Luther and Lutherans never defined which books were in and which were out. We don't count the whole thing as one holy mass. Rather than pass/fail, we use a sliding scale; some scriptures (or writings) are chock full of good news, others are less helpful.

Sunday readings work in a similar way. By using the Revised Common Lectionary ("reading list"), many ELCA, Episcopalian, United Methodist, Presbyterian, UCC, Roman Catholic and other churches have the same readings, the same Christ proclaimed. These readings stretch over three years.

the Bible?

Year A is Matthew, B is Mark, and C is Luke. (John is mixed throughout.) Usually, each week's Gospel reading has an Old Testament reading with a similar theme, and that in turn has a Psalm to reflect it. The 2nd reading from the New Testament either goes straight through a book (like Paul's letter to the Philippians these weeks) or pairs with the other readings.

By selecting highlights for a three-year cycle, we hear the best of the Bible. (And we read the 23rd Psalm three times this year alone!) Selections are chosen either for sharing the good news of God in Christ or for guiding our Christian living. This matches a Lutheran understanding that God speaks in two ways, Gospel and Law. Gospel is what God has done for us, while Law either tells us what we should do or makes us realize how good it is that God has done so much for us.

I hope that brief intro renews your reading and helps you listen well to the good news!

+nick

+ nick

PS - Pastor Sharing

For a radical, freeing look at Scripture and what we think of as authority, read the Sept. 2011 essay by my favorite Luther Seminary professor, Dr. David Fredrickson, in the free online Journal of Lutheran Ethics. www.elca.org/jle

Adult Forum

Expand the horizons of your faith in Sunday Adult Forums, 9:10 to 9:50 each week. On October 2, a representative from H&H Solar will present, followed by two weeks of a great Green Team video called Earthbound!™ October 23 will feature Facets of Faith.

Green Team Updates

St. Stephen's hallways and gathering areas sprouted displays about Green Team activities in September including beautiful garden photos, chemical-free cleaning, recycling batteries, home energy monitoring (Home Energy Monitoring Kits w/instructions can be checked out of the library), conserving water and our involvement in Lutherans Restoring Creation, Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light, the Synod Green Team, and MG& E's Energy Star Program.

The Green Team & St. Stephen's Gardeners also hosted the Permaculture Bike Tour on Sept. 25. While gardeners worked on fall clean-up tasks, bikers viewed our unique permaculture and berm construction and snacked on sandwiches and other treats.

On Oct. 1 St. Stephen's will host the WI Interfaith Power & Light Cool Congregations training event. Members wishing to make a conscious effort to decrease home energy use and support WIPL may sign an Individual Covenant. (Check the information tables in the hallway.) Take a reminder card with you since covenants need to be mailed in.

Our Life Together

The Stone Soup Kitchen *We Nourish, Teach & Serve*

There's a chill in the air and our thoughts have turned to warm satisfying foods, like soups and stews. Try this recipe to use those winter squash and pie pumpkins from your garden. To get pumpkin or squash puree, just cut in half, scrape out seeds, and put in a microwavable bowl with a couple of inches of water. Cover, and cook for 15 min. on high, check to see if it is soft, and repeat in 5 min. increments until it is soft enough to scrape out. Mash by hand or puree in a food processor or blender.

Stone Soup Kitchen Recipe of the Month Curried Pumpkin Soup

1 clove garlic, minced	1 bay leaf
1 large onion, sliced	1/2 tsp. sugar
3/4 c. scallions, sliced	1/2 tsp. curry powder
2 T. olive oil	1/8 tsp. nutmeg
2 c. mashed pumpkin (may use 16 oz. can) or winter squash	2 c. half and half (can use fat free half and half or evaporated skim milk)
4 c. chicken broth	Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Sauté garlic, onion, and white part of sliced scallion in olive oil on med. heat until golden brown. Stir in pumpkin or squash, broth, bay leaf, sugar, curry and nutmeg. Bring to a simmer. Simmer, uncovered, for 15 min., stirring occasionally. Transfer soup to blender or food processor in batches and puree. Return to pan. Add half and half, salt and pepper. Simmer 5-10 min. Garnish with sliced scallions (green portion). Makes 6 servings.

CROP Walk



On Sunday, Oct. 16, we will again join the ecumenical event around Madison of walking to fight hunger. Meet at 1st Congregational (near Camp Randall) at 1:00 and walk 1, 3, or 5 miles. 25% of all money raised stays in Dane County – including for our own Pantry – and the rest does important work around the world. If you need more info or want to participate, call Becky Mitchell (222-4325).

Help the Homeless

Mark your calendars for our next evening to host families transitioning from homelessness. We host The Road Home at Lake Edge UCC (on Buckeye Rd.) the evening of Thursdays, Nov. 3 and Dec. 8. You have the chance to prepare and serve a meal, to spend evening time with families, and to be an overnight host.

Our Life Together

Women's Spiritual Formation

This women's group is moving its meetings from Wednesday to Thursday. Starting in October, we will begin meeting at 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of every month.

Lutheran Women Today

Join other women on the 3rd Thursday each month beginning at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This year's topic is Mark, the earliest of the Gospels and a source for Matthew and Luke. Contact Jane Dohler at 222-3794 for more information.

Boo!



Don't be a Hallo-weenie. Join Wednesday Morning Bible Study in a look at the ghosts, spirits, and Spirit of the Bible. 9:00-10:00 each week.

Holden Village 2012

St. Stephen's will again offer a train trip to Holden Village, a fabulous Lutheran retreat in the mountains of Washington. The dates are August 5-13. Total cost, based on coach train fare, will be around \$700. Deposits are due before Jan. 1, 2012 and reservations for sleeper cars are best made ASAP.

Prayer Vigil for Peace

The next Prayer Vigil for Peace will be on Thursday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m.



Women's Kayaking Trip!

We are planning a great women's event for next summer – an Apostle Islands sea kayaking trip! Join us Aug. 17-20, 2012 in exploring sea caves, sandy beaches, and historic lighthouses in addition to spending time with awesome women. This trip is great for beginners and experienced paddlers alike. Brochures are available. Your deposit of \$110 is due by Nov. 30. Space is limited to 10-16 kayakers. If you have questions after reading a brochure, please call Lisa Hansen at 838-7929.

FALL BIKE RIDE W/ FRIENDS

Join us for Bold Café on Sunday, Oct. 2 for a bike ride! We will start out from church at noon and pedal to Olin Park, where we will eat lunch and discuss our topic: what Jesus teaches us about what it is to be called a "friend" (hot topic for Oct. at www.boldcafe.org). Some of us will head back to church, with the option of continuing around the lake. We'll be done before the Packers game at 3:00. Bring your bike and a bag lunch and dress for the weather!

Our Life Together

Building & Property Report (July—September 2011)

The window washers were: Tom & Lois Offerdahl, Jim & Marsha Klinke, Curt Mork, Glen Schubert, Jim & Teri O'Connor and Lu Schroeder. Thanks to all of you, plus any silent workers, for a job well done. Curt Mork, Roger Kinson, Tom Moran, Tom Speranza, and Dale Scovill (along with Dale's handy bobcat) have been working on the landscaping around the church and will plant shrubs in the spring. We've had problems with the outside lighting and have finally found a source to order the correct bulbs and ballast replacements. Dale Scovill, Curt Mork and Shirley Worl will work on this project as soon as the materials come in. Thanks to Curt Mork, Tom Offerdahl, Jim Wiskowski, Roger Kinson, Dale Scovill, Tom Speranza and Terry Tiffany for removing one front pew to make more room for the choir. Last but not least, thanks to Alys Murphy, Kris Moldenhauer and Terry Fuller for pruning shrubs.

Ron Schroeder, Chairman



Facets of Faith

Growing in the Spirit. Taking Action.

2011 Stewardship Events

Paul prayed that the Colossians might "bear fruit in every good work, and grow in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10). How have you grown in the past year? Through success or challenges, our faith sustains us, while our community of prayer helps us grow. And we are grateful for that!

In the coming months, the St. Stephen's community will draw together to discuss stewardship as a facet of our faith. How do gratefulness, knowledge of God, and spiritual and personal growth help us bear fruit and share it with those around us? We'll reflect on these themes as they move us into action for the year to come. Look for more stewardship messages during worship and at special events, culminating with Pledge Sunday on Nov. 13.

ELCA National Youth Gathering Deadline!

If 8th-12th graders would like to be part of the journey to New Orleans next July 17-23, the deadline to sign up is Oct. 2. The nearly 40,000 slots will be filled on the first day of registration, so we need to have \$150 deposits right away! The gathering, costing \$650 (plus some food), includes service work, great worship, and much more!

Lay School of Ministry Discernment Day

The synod's Lay School of Ministry Discernment Day will be held Oct. 8 from 8:45 to 11:35 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church in Verona. It includes an explanation of the purpose and details on the in-depth courses offered. To register, please email Peg Ekedahl, Lay School Coord., at ekedahlp@charter.net with your full name, congregation, phone # and email. Past St. Stephen's students have included Barb Kepler, Meg Nielsen, Christa Fisher, and Karen Baier.

Our Life Together

Wil-Mar Center

Help St. Stephen's Prepare a Meal

For many years now St. Stephen's has been involved with Wil-Mar Neighborhood Ctr. and the free meals they provide for the community. Wil-Mar Center is a non-profit based in the Williamson neighborhood that seeks to enhance quality of life by fostering life enriching programs and providing opportunities and services to the community. Every 3rd Saturday of each month, volunteers from St. Stephen's head to Wil-Mar to give their time and talents. From 9:30-1:00 we cook, serve and clean up a homemade, free meal for anyone who shows up. We make quick work of it, have fun, drink coffee, eat treats, share fellowship, meet some new friends and leave them with happy, full bellies! Guests are very, very appreciative. We are so thankful for the core group of volunteers we have to do this important work and we are always looking for new volunteers (kids or adults). Please consider sharing your gifts with this great program! If you would like to help serve the meal some Saturday, please contact John Esser: 244-3088 or jresser@charter.net.

Confirmation

Our program year is up and running. A big class of 6th graders are sinking their teeth into Pre-Confirmation. 7th-9th graders are eating pizza and watching a new DVD curriculum. The first family/mentor meal night is Oct. 5.

10th graders will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 30. They and their parents are meeting Sunday mornings to discover the Holy Spirit. In these important times, please pray for Brock Offerdahl, Lydia Lalor, Anders Hansen, Kelsey Gerl, Max Ethridge, Javier Clifcorn, and Josh Banda.

Job Transition

Did you know St. Stephen's helps sponsor a Job Transition program? The purpose is to provide the skills to help find opportunities faster and support during transition. The meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at Good Shepherd Lutheran and are free and open to everyone. Many times, an attendee talks about learning from a job search. Also, professional resource personnel meet with attendees on such areas as financial and legal questions, resume writing, and interviewing techniques. First timers are welcomed at a "First Timers" table where trained individuals provide an overview of our program and all the material at our Resource Table.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!



Please help support and meet the Girl Scouts of our church. These girls promise that...On their honor, they will try: To serve God and our country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The girls will be taking cookie orders on October 2nd and 9th after the 10:00 a.m. services. You can support the girls in their cookie sale goals and also have the opportunity to support our food pantries with the Girl Scout Cookie Share program.

Come meet our future leaders, talk with the girls and see what their goals are and how they are planning on helping in the community this year.



Recently Hospitalized

Roger Gunderson, Lydia Lalor, Bob Evans,
Betty Wilson, Lexie Teschan, Rod Helmke

Hospitalized – It is not automatic that we know when somebody has been hospitalized. If you or a loved one is planning on going into the hospital, please let the office know so a pastor can pray with or for you.

Prayers for Deployed Military

Please keep in prayer the following people currently serving in the military:

Jim Bahler deployed to Iraq

Chris Hudson deployed to Kosovo

Greg Post deployed to Germany

If you know of others to add, please call the church office.



Wedding Congrats –

Darren Denzin/Kersten Rosberg - 9/4

Michael McCaskill/Sarah Gerke - 9/10

Jeffrey Niblack/Megan O'Meara - 9/24



Sympathy – to those who mourn the

death of Andrew Morris (grandson of Roger & Nancy Morris); James Elert (Mary Jo Elert's father)

Community – For upcoming **HospiceCare** events, call (608)276-4660; for upcoming **Alzheimer's Assn.** events, call (608)232-3400.

New Mortgage Information

Original Balance (10/1/2010)	\$1,361,512
Interest Paid to Date	47,659
Principal Paid to Date	21,265
Remaining Balance	\$1,340,247

Preparing the Way

(thru 6th quarter – November 2009
thru April 2011)

Pledged to Date	\$ 214,039
Received to Date	\$ 204,652



Birth Congrats –

Allen James Payton, son born to Sarah & James Payton on 9/7

Ned Thomas Redmann, son born to Rebecca & Stephen Redmann on 9/22



Baptisms—

Scarlet Mae Thomas and Rowyn Shea Donegon, children of Christina Klehfoth and Nick Donegon

Wyeth Eloise Gladuestoltz, daughter of Megan Stoltz and Mark Gladue

Please continue to pray for these children who have new life in Christ.

Food Pantry Need – The Pantry is in need of the brown grocery bags .

With a Thankful Heart

- to Heide Powers and Karen Baier for leading us in song as cantors during the past month.
- to Alex Whitaker, for his thoughtful and beautiful preludes and postludes.
- to the members of Steadfast for their tireless work with the Emerging service, as well as for their additional playing on Homecoming Sunday with guest artist Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and at the picnic.
- to all the musicians who will be filling in and stepping up while Rebecca gets ready to take a short maternity leave, especially Heide Powers, Kristen Davies and Lisa Hansen.
- to Christopher Hudson, who shared his musical gifts with us so freely. We look forward to his (and his trombone's) return next year after his year-long deployment to Kosovo ends.
- to everyone who has so generously gifted lovely baby items--new and used--to Rebecca and Stephen. We appreciate your love!
- to all those who gave supplies for the school kits and those who sewed the bags. We came up with a total of 103.

Thank you Sanctuary Choir

Thank you, dear Sanctuary Choir friends, for the beautiful stroller and generous gift card. We were so surprised and touched by your kindness and generosity, and we are thankful to have each and every one of you in our lives. We are thrilled to know that our baby already has a built-in extended church family who loves and supports him long before he even gets here.

With much love,
Rebecca & Stephen Redmann

Donations to the Homeless

As cold weather approaches, the homeless have need of men's warm jackets and non-bulky sleeping bags. Please bring donations to the church and put in the container in the narthex labeled "Homeless." They will be taken to the homeless ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church. Thank you!



New Staff Emails

Please Note the Changes

With some IT upgrades, the St. Stephen's staff has new email addresses. You can find them on the back of this newsletter.



Leaving Telephone Messages

If you need to leave a message for the staff after the office closes at noon on Fridays, be sure to enter that staff member's "specific" extension as any messages left on the "office" extension aren't retrieved until Monday. Pastor Tim is ext 13, Pastor Nick is ext 12 and Rebecca is ext 16.

The Learning Continues

One of the reasons why we confirm students in the fall of their sophomore year is that there is a noticeable growth in their thought patterns at this time in their young lives. Because of this, we have an opportunity to spend a little time having conversation with them about what this faith means in their life at the present moment.

For many years, Confirmation was commonly understood as a graduation from having to go to education classes at church. Students were fired up to be done and parents were glad they were done. Confirmation was seen as something to be endured. While we would never admit this publicly, it was for all practical purposes simply true. Because of this we have seen student after student walk away from the church at a time in their lives when they needed to lean on their faith more and more to get through the teenage years.

So we have begun to try to find ways that keep a tether to our youth, through additional educational opportunities and possibilities for activities for developing peer relationships. We are excited about what this might mean for our students as they go forward on their journey. Being able to ask tough questions about what their faith might mean for daily living is something that can make a difference even now in tenth grade.

The Program

Tenth grade Confirmation will have a different look about it this year as we seek to do some new things together with students and families to enhance this last part of their Confirmation journey. There will be an opportunity for both students and parents to learn more about their faith and what it means in their everyday life as we study together the third article of the Apostles' Creed on Sunday mornings leading up to Reformation Sunday. Secondly, the students will be asked to develop a theme or Bible verse that speaks to where they are at as a class and that theme will be used to honor that day through artwork and the worship plan. Thirdly, the students will be asked to write a short paper on their faith. Through conversations with the pastors and their parents, they will begin to articulate what faith means for them right now. Finally, we will be having a Confirmation banquet for the students and their parents and mentors on Wednesday evening, October 26th. We will be having a special guest speaker, as well as having an opportunity to worship together and take Confirmation pictures. As you see these youth around the church this month, encourage them, engage them in a discussion, pray for them, and reflect on your own faith and what it means for your journey. What might you discover along the way?

Peace to you!

Pastor Tim



the Journey



Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2012

We are heading back to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness next summer as we seek to continue to grow in our knowledge and wisdom and awe of God's good creation. We are planning on leaving on Sunday, July 1st and return on Friday night, July 6th. While the dates may make it a bit difficult for some, we are hoping that the lack of school programming will make this trip available to others. Because of the popularity of the BWCA trips, we are asking for a down payment of \$100 to be paid to the church by January 15th. Please mark the dates on your calendar. If you have any questions, please see Pastors Tim or Nick.

Men's Bible Study

Tully's II is the place for our monthly Men's Bible Study. We meet for a brew and some good discussion about how the Bible impacts our lives today. Bring your Bibles and come and enjoy the evening. Our next gathering will be October 13th. We usually go from 8 to 9 pm. Come as you are!

Is Anybody Listening?

The new recording project from the Tim Hansen Project is almost complete and we are looking at a CD release party to be held at St. Stephen's on November 12th! We are excited about the new music and sharing it with you. As always, you will have an opportunity to help support the work of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. We will have information available for you to see how you might get involved with their on-going work throughout the world and at home. I thought you might like to see Anders' artwork on the CD.



Pastors at Bishop's Convocation

One of the annual gatherings for our pastors and other synod leaders is the autumn Bishop's Convocation, on Lake Geneva. This time away, Oct. 16-18, includes theological speakers and worship, plus plenty of important collegial time.

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