



# ST. JOHN-ST. PETER NEWS

## April 2008

### Worship: Why do we do what we do when we do it?

I know that I've used this story many times before, but it bears repeating. A young man was just recently married and he offered to host his family's annual Easter dinner. His young bride was rather nervous about cooking the Easter ham already, and as she was ready to put it in the oven, her husband said, "You better cut off both ends first." "Why?" she asked. "I don't know," her husband replied, "but that's what my mother always did." And so the young bride cut off both ends and in the oven it went.

Later, after everyone had enjoyed the meal and the compliments were abounding for the young bride, she got up the courage to ask her mother-in-law, "Why do you always cut off both ends of the ham?" Her mother-in-law thought for a moment and replied, "I don't know, that's why my mother always did." And so the bride's mother-in-law called her mother into the room and asked, "Why do you always cut off both ends of the ham?" The grandmother smiled and quickly said, "Because I didn't have a pan big enough for the ham!"

It seems that sometimes we find ourselves doing things just because that's the way they've always been done, even if we don't have any idea why they were done in the first place. If you've grown up Lutheran or even Roman Catholic, more than likely you've grown up in a liturgical church. But what exactly is the liturgy? Why do we as Lutherans choose to follow it? Does it still mean something today or are we simply cutting off both ends of the ham because that's what our forefathers did?

Those are the questions that we will strive to answer in the next months as we discuss the topic of worship. And as we look at our worship service, we want to answer the question, "**Why do we do what we do when we do it?**"

Perhaps a good place to start in this opening article is to define what the word "liturgy" means in our circles. Professor James Tiefel, the professor of worship at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, recently defined liturgy this way: "**The liturgy is an order of service formed in the Christian church of the West that consists of the Ordinary, the Proper, and the Meal**" (Worship the Lord, Volume 1, May 2003).

The Ordinary is a group of un-changing song texts that give an every Sunday review of Christ's work of salvation. Worship on the Lord's Day usually included four song texts: Kyrie (Lord have Mercy), Gloria (Glory Be To God), Sanctus (Holy, Holy Holy), and Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), that repeated essential truths of the Christian faith. A fifth text was added later, Credo (Nicene Creed). These five texts came to be known as the Ordinary of the liturgy. The Proper offers lessons,

psalms, prayers, and hymns that retell the story of the life and ministry of Jesus in coordination with the Church Year. And now that the Gospel was clearly proclaimed in the Word, the Christian Church proclaimed the Gospel through the meal, the Lord's Supper, according to Christ's command and institution.

Essentially, the liturgy combines the texts of five great songs that review the plan of salvation and a set of lessons, prayers, psalms, and hymns that review the life of Christ with the meal instituted by Christ in a pattern that has been consistently the same for fifteen centuries. Why do we "do the liturgy?" It proclaims the Gospel. And history has shown that it works!

*By: Pastor Nathan Berg, Cataract Wisconsin*

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**LENTEN SUPPERS** Thank you to all our organizations that hosted Lenten Suppers. What a great way to fellowship with our church family.

**THANK YOU** to everyone that bought Easter Lilies to help beautify our church. Also a big thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter breakfast, and to the people that donated food.

**BIBLE CLASS Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** the Monday evening Bible study began a series on the "Minor Prophets". They are often overlooked and mispronounced, but the minor prophets have plenty to say to us. Join us as we take a look at Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, and much more.

**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** the Sunday morning Bible study began a series on "What they didn't teach you in Sunday school." We'll take a look at those Bible stories that have a good lesson to teach us, but generally aren't taught to children.

**LADIES AID CRAFT DAY** is **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9:00am**. We'll make quilts, place mats, picture books for shut-ins, cutting cards and cutting squares for quilts. Ladies Aid will serve lunch. **The April meeting will be held after lunch at 1:30pm**. Everyone is welcome for the whole day. We will also get together for Craft Day on **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am**.

**QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING** All voters are encouraged to attend our Quarterly Voters' Meeting on **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm**. If you have items you would like discussed at the meeting, contact President Allen Kracht (726-4642).

**TEEN BRAT FRY** will be held at church **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> right after the service until 1:30pm**. We will be serving brats/burgers with coffee, soda, chips, etc. **Food will also be available as carry-out**.

**PIONEERS** The District Pine Car Derby will be held at First German in Manitowoc on **Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Registration starts at 11:30am. Races will start at 1:00pm or shortly before.

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** the Pioneers will take a trip to a garden center. A time will be announced in the bulletin.

**CHURCH CLEANING** To get enough help to clean our church, we will clean twice. Those working during the week can come **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**. Others may help on **Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**.

**ENDOWMENT MEETING** Is scheduled for Monday, **April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**.

**CHURCH YARD CLEAN-UP** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am**. Come and stay as long as you can. Rain date is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**CLEVELAND GARDEN CLUB** Is inviting our members to go on a spring garden bus trip to Eberts Garden Center & Greenhouse, in Ixonia WI on **Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>**. **The bus will leave Bondes at 7:00am sharp!** The cost is between \$28 and \$30 – this includes bus cost, tip and lunch. For reservations or questions, please call Sandy Brost at 693-8624. There is room for 8 to 10 people. Please see poster in entry.