

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

1600 South Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Services: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 9:00 am

Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304
St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Benjamin J. Raddatz, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302
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WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE May God's Holy Spirit comfort us with the message of Christ's love and encourage us to share that love with others.

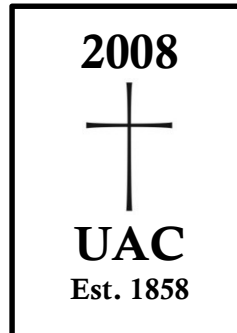
Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or how we do things, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or the pastor.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
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A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Lord, speak to us that we may speak in living echoes of your tone. As you have sought, so let us seek your straying children lost and lone. Oh, teach us Lord, that we may teach the precious truths which you impart, and wing our words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart. Amen.

SERVICE THEME *The Holy Ministry Proclaims the Unaltered Augsburg Confession*

Just to the left of St. Peter's front doors is a stone engraved with the following:



WHAT DOES THIS STONE MEAN?

- **2008** refers to our dedication of our new church building on September 28, 2008.
- **The cross** of Christ for us is the cornerstone of our preaching and practice.
- **UAC** stands for Unaltered Augsburg Confession that was presented to Emperor Charles V on June 25, 1530 in Augsburg, Germany.
- **Est. 1858** declares that St. Peter's was established in 1858.

The UAC was written by Philip Melancthon, one of the Reformers of the Church. The document, which laid out in 28 essays the key truths of Holy Scripture, was presented to the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (which controlled several portions of Europe, Spain and what would become Germany, to name a couple) by the faithful Christian laymen, not by pastors or theologians. Presented here meant that they hand delivered this document in person to Charles. They ran a mortal risk, since Charles could have had his Imperial troops arrest them and put them to death. Thankfully the events of that day in June 1530 did not turn violent (years later the Emperor would invade Germany with his army).

All pastors and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church subscribe themselves unconditionally with the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, including all pastors and churches of the Wisconsin Synod. This means that the pastors and the founding fathers of our congregations pledge themselves to preach and practice this confession of faith above all others because it is a true and faithful confession of God's Word. Unaltered refers to the fact that an altered version of the Augsburg Confession exists. This revised version waters down God's Word and is an inferior confession of faith.

Therefore, most of our congregations, including St. Peter's, declare their subscription to the UAC in their constitutions; many also display cornerstones and other artwork that feature the UAC and the year of their founding.

Today we will confess this timeless confession of faith in spoken word and song.

Today we commemorate the birthday of the Lutheran church. On June 25, 1530, the Lutheran princes of Germany presented to Emperor Charles V a confession of their faith, the Augsburg Confession. Today's service will include portions of the Augsburg Confession read to us by fathers of St. Peter's church council, reminding us that it was the German princes – laymen – who stood before the emperor and read this confession of their faith prepared by their pastors and teachers.

OPENING HYMN

Be Still My Soul | 847, st. 1-2

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article 9: Baptism

Concerning Baptism our churches teach that it is necessary for salvation, that the grace of God is offered through Baptism, and that children should be baptized. They are received into the grace of God when they are offered to God through Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article 2: Original Sin

Our churches teach that since the fall of Adam all human beings who are naturally born are born with sin, that is, without fear of God, without trust in God, and with the inclination to sin.

**And we teach that this disease is truly sin,
which even now damns and brings eternal death
to those who are not born again
through Baptism and the Holy Spirit.**

Article 25: Confession

Confession has not been abolished in our churches. For it is not customary to administer the body of Christ except to those who have been previously examined and absolved. The people are also most diligently taught concerning faith in the word of absolution, about which there was a great silence before now. People are taught to make the most of absolution because it is the voice of God and is pronounced following the command of God. The power of the keys is praised and remembered for bringing such great consolation to terrified consciences, both because God requires faith so that we believe such absolution as God's own voice resounding from heaven and because this faith truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins.

Article 12: Repentance

Now, properly speaking, repentance consists of two parts: one is contrition or the terrors that strike the conscience when sin is recognized; the other is faith, which is brought to life by the gospel or absolution. This faith believes that sins are forgiven on account of Christ, consoles the conscience, and liberates it from terrors. Thereupon good works, which are the fruit of repentance, should follow.

I now ask you before God: Do you heartily repent of your sins, believe in Jesus Christ, and sincerely and earnestly purpose, by the assistance of God the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life from this time forward?

Yes, I repent, and I ask God to help me.

Upon this your faithful confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article 4: Justification

Our churches teach that human beings cannot be justified before God by their own powers, merits, or works. But they are justified as a gift on account of Christ through faith when they believe that they are received into grace and that their sins are forgiven on account of Christ, who by his death made satisfaction for our sins. God reckons this faith as righteousness.

Article 6: New Obedience

Our churches teach that this faith is bound to yield good fruits and that it ought to do good works commanded by God on account of God's will and not so that we may trust in these works to merit justification before God. For forgiveness of sins and justification are taken hold of by faith, as the saying of Christ also testifies: "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty" The fathers teach the same. For Ambrose says: "It is established by God that whoever believes in Christ shall be saved without work, by faith alone, receiving the forgiveness of sins as a gift."

In the peace of our justification and new obedience, we glorify the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

God, Father, Son and Spirit

Tune: Now Thank We All Our God

Text: J. Fabricius (d.1654); translation Matthew Carver (2010)

**By nature, we are born As slaves to our transgression,
Since Adam's grievous fall, And we are death's possession,
Till in Baptism's flood God gives us life anew.
That man is born with pow'r Must therefore be untrue.**

**No human since the fall, Thus dead in sin unsightly,
Can trust his worthless works. By faith he must cling tightly
To what Christ Jesus did, Who reconciled our race
To God, and by His death Earned us both life and grace.**

**As trees adorned with fruit, And vines their clusters giving,
So are good works produced By faith divine and living,
Such works are dear to God. So see His pleasures through,
Yet be it all by grace, And not by merit due.**

Let us pray. O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your Church, that being instructed by the doctrine taught by the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article 5: The Ministry

So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and the Sacraments as through instruments the Holy Spirit is given, who effects faith where and when it pleases God in those who hear the gospel, that is to say, in those who hear that God, not on account of our own merits but on account of Christ, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace on account of Christ.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found! Call on him while he is near! ⁷Let the wicked man abandon his way. Let an evil man abandon his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will show him mercy. Let him turn to our God, because he will abundantly pardon.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF THE REFORMATION

A Mighty Fortress is Our God | 863 st. 4

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:32-39

[Jesus said:] “Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven. ³⁴Do not think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶A man’s enemies will be the members of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Priceless Treasure | 823 st. 1-2

MEDITATION

Matthew 10:32-39

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article 1: God

The churches among us teach with complete unanimity that the decree of the Council of Nicea concerning the unity of the divine essence and concerning the three persons is true and is to be believed without any doubt.

**That is to say, there is one divine essence which is called God and is God:
eternal, incorporeal, indivisible, of immeasurable power, wisdom, and goodness,
the creator and preserver of all things, visible and invisible.
Yet, there are three persons, coeternal and of the same essence and power:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

Article 3: The Son of God

Likewise, our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, took upon himself human nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary

**so that there might be two natures, divine and human,
inseparably joined in the unity of one person, one Christ,
truly God and truly a human, being “born of the Virgin Mary,”
who truly “suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried”**

**that he might reconcile the Father to us
and be a sacrifice not only for original guilt
but also for all actual sins of human beings.
He also descended into hell, and on the third day he was truly resurrected.
Thereafter, he ascended into heaven in order to sit at the right hand of the Father,
and he will reign forever and have dominion over all creatures.
He will sanctify those who believe in him
by sending into their hearts the Holy Spirit,
who will rule, console, and make them alive
and defend them against the devil and the power of sin.
The same Christ will publicly return to judge the living and the dead.**

Article 17: Christ's Return to Judgment

Our churches also teach that at the consummation of the world Christ will appear for judgment and will bring to life all the dead.

**He will give eternal life and endless joy to the righteous and elect,
but he will condemn the ungodly and the devils to endless torment.**

Article 7: The Church

Likewise, our churches teach that one holy church will remain forever.

**The church is the assembly of saints
in which the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly.
And it is enough for the true unity of the church
to agree concerning the teaching of the gospel
and the administration of the sacraments.
It is not necessary that human traditions, rites, or ceremonies
instituted by human beings be alike everywhere.
As Paul says: "One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all."**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord of hosts, throughout the centuries you have led your Church into battle against the forces of this dark world. All that we are and all that we want to do as your people would come to nothing if you were not the one who granted success. In the midst of the battles we wage as your Church militant, lead us to cry with confidence:

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Psalm 46

Savior of the nations, centuries ago you graced this earth with your divine presence. The life you lived, the death you died, and the new life to which you arose defeated the power of sin, death, and the devil. With joy we remember your mighty deeds, and in faith we announce to the world:

**This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

Psalm 118

Holy Spirit, light divine, you are the one who called us to faith through Word and water. Enliven in our hearts a desire to share our faith with the world around us and with the children you have given us. Lead us to confess with the psalmist of old:

**O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.
We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.**

Psalm 78

Lord God, ever since you ushered in the New Testament, you have provided abundant blessings and gifts to your Church. You commissioned the apostles to go into all the world with the Word you had taught them. You gave to them and to us the keys of the kingdom of heaven, the waters of Baptism, and the Holy Supper of your body and blood. Though these means you have fed and nourished your people at all times and in all places. Five hundred years ago you shattered the darkness of the medieval age with the light of your Word, held in the heads, hands, and hearts of the reformers. One hundred sixty-five years ago you inspired faithful Lutherans in Fond du Lac to walk together in a united effort for the spread of the gospel. As we mark these various milestones, direct our hearts toward you as we proclaim:

**Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Psalm 100

Gracious Lord, bless us this day. Direct us away from any pride or glory that we might assume for ourselves. Lead our minds to remember clearly the mercy you have shown us over the years. Inspire our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth. Guide our hands in thankful response for your many gifts. Lead us to repent of our many sins

and shortcomings. Use the fulfillment of your promises in the past to bring us confidence for the future. In the midst of your mercies we glorify your name, saying:

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; *Psalm 150*
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Keep in your care, O Lord, all those we love, those who are close by and those who are far from home. Protect them from temptation and every spiritual evil. Watch over those among us who are lonely or distressed, those who are afraid and facing danger, those who hold offices of high trust or who risk their lives to defend our country, those who have pain of body or mind, and those who are at the hour of death. Hear the prayers your people bring to you this day, O Lord, and answer them according to your wisdom and grace.

Special Prayers & Intercessions

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN *God, Father, Son and Spirit*

**Christ's body and His blood, Are in the Supper taken,
Which on the cross He gave And shed, by God forsaken,
His body with the bread, And His blood with the wine:
All doctrines otherwise Deny the Word divine.**

**The Sacraments are not Mere tokens of profession,
But are the pledge whereby God makes us His possession:
So let those who partake This promise rightly own.
Salvation comes by faith, And not by use alone.**

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION *Article 13: The Use of the Sacraments*

Concerning the use of sacraments our churches teach that sacraments were instituted not only to be marks of profession among human beings but much more to be signs and testimonies of God's will toward us, intended to arouse and strengthen faith in those who use them. Accordingly, sacraments are to be used so that faith, which believes the promises offered and displayed through the sacraments, may increase.

Article 10: The Lord's Supper

Concerning the Lord's Supper our churches teach that the body and blood of Christ are truly present and are distributed to those who eat the Lord's Supper. They reject those who teach otherwise.

Article 22: Both Kinds in the Sacrament

Both kinds are given to the laity in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper because this usage has the command of the Lord: "Drink from it, all of you." Christ here clearly instructs concerning the cup that all should drink.

HYMN *With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord | 658*

OUR AUGSBURG CONFESSION *Article 24: The Mass*

The people have grown accustomed to receiving the sacrament together—all who are fit to do so. This also increases reverence and respect for public ceremonies. For people are admitted only if they first had an opportunity to be examined and heard. The people are also reminded about the dignity and use of the sacrament—how it offers great consolation to anxious consciences—so that they may learn to believe in God and expect and ask for all that is good from God. Such worship pleases God, and such use of the sacrament cultivates piety toward God. So it does not appear that the Mass is held with greater devotion among our adversaries than among us....

Paul severely threatens those who treat the Eucharist unworthily, when he says: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord."...

But Christ commands that it be done in memory of him. The Mass, therefore, was instituted so that the faith of those who use the sacrament should recall what benefits are received through Christ and should encourage and console the anxious conscience. For to remember Christ is to remember his benefits and realize that they are truly offered to us.

Article 20: Good Works

Our people teach that it is necessary to do good works, not that we should count on meriting grace through them but because it is the will of God. It is only by faith that forgiveness of sins and grace are apprehended. Moreover, because the Holy Spirit is received through faith, consequently hearts are renewed and endowed with new affections so as to be able to do good works...

For without the Holy Spirit human powers are full of ungodly affections and are too weak to do good works before God. Besides, they are under the power of the devil, who impels human beings to various sins, ungodly opinions, and manifest crimes. This also may be seen in the philosophers, who, though they tried to live honestly, were still not able to do so but were defiled by many obvious crimes. Such is the weakness of human beings when they govern themselves by human powers alone without faith or the Holy Spirit.

Hence it is readily apparent that no one should accuse this teaching of prohibiting good works. On the contrary, it is rather to be commended for showing how we can do good works. For without faith human nature cannot possibly do the works of the First or Second Commandments. Without faith it does not call upon God, expect anything from God, or bear the cross, but seeks and trusts in human help. Consequently, all kinds of urges and human designs rule in the heart when faith and trust in God are lacking. That is why Christ said: "Apart from me you can do nothing."

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:5-17

Indeed, Moses writes this about the righteousness that comes by the law: "The one who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes by faith speaks like this: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,"

that is, the word of faith that we are proclaiming. ⁹Certainly, 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. ¹⁰For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and it is with the mouth that a person confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹For Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹²So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him.

¹³Yes, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴So then, how can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news of peace, who preach the gospel of good things!" ¹⁶But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who believed our message?"

¹⁷So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You | 871



ORGANIST

Brent Nolte

GREETERS

Tom & Joan Mrazek