



This month I am sharing with you an article by Rev. David Petersen, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This article is excerpted from a longer essay which appeared in the Christmas, 2009 issue of the journal Gottesdienst.

The Inerrant Scriptures

*Rev. David Petersen
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Ft. Wayne, Indiana*

The Holy Scriptures are inspired and inerrant. That is a confession, a statement of faith. Inerrancy is not a matter of science or reason. It cannot be proven with observation, corroborated with carbon dating, fossils, or by philosophy and speculation. But neither can evolution. The cold, hard reality of evolutionary theory is that it cannot endure the scientific method. The theory rests upon the idea that it cannot be observed. All the "evidence" of evolution is circumstantial, and those who subscribe to evolution do so by faith.

Our acceptance of inerrancy as a matter of faith is not unreasonable. But reason belongs under, submissive to, and in service of faith. Where reason and the Scriptures seem to clash, such as at the miracles of our Lord, faith takes over and confesses that which is outside of or contrary to our experience or understanding. Even if we could observe it, we would not understand

how our Lord could walk on water. It is not unreasonable to submit to the underlying principle that creation belongs to the Lord and that He is free to manipulate it according to His will.

The Church has always held this view of the Holy Scriptures, and also of reason and faith. The Church has always confessed that the Scriptures are the infallible Word of God. Martin Luther did not invent a new standard when he bound his conscience to the Word of God. No one in the history of the Church ever argued that the Scriptures were corrupted by their writers and their prejudices, couldn't be trusted, or got any details wrong. It really can't be disputed: inerrancy is the historic Christian position.

The idea that the Scriptures couldn't be fully trusted and were erroneous in various spots was never held, or tolerated, in the Church until maybe one hundred years ago, and only gained traction among Lutherans in the last sixty to eighty years. This evil idea has wreaked great havoc on the Church.

That is not to say that mistrust of the sacred text never existed in history. Thomas Jefferson, for example, famously rejected things inconvenient. His version of the Scriptures, known as the "Jefferson Bible," was literally a "cut and paste job," compiled by cutting up a Bible and pasting it back together—minus anything he judged unreasonable.

But the idea was never held, or tolerated, in the Church until maybe one hundred years ago. The idea that the

Scriptures couldn't be fully trusted and were erroneous in various spots only gained traction among Lutherans in the last sixty to eighty years.

This evil idea has wreaked great havoc on the Church. Its consequences are greater and more terrible than the medieval corruption which led to the idea that a man could buy his way out of hell with indulgences. For the modern idea has led to the notion that men need not fear hell in any case, for there is no sin, no need of repentance, and nothing to fear.

Many of our brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are reeling from their churchwide assembly's decision to embrace same-sex unions as God-pleasing, give them the church's blessing, and also ordain men and women into the Ministry who are engaged in open and active homosexual lifestyles without repentance. For the most part, those unhappy with this decision express confusion and shock that the ELCA could take such an action and deny the danger of what the Scriptures clearly call sin.

I was laughed at when I tried, as gently as I could, to suggest to a few of them that it was no surprise, since they had willfully ignored or explained away the passages that prohibit women from serving in the Church as pastors. I was told, "Being a woman is not a sin." True. But that wasn't the point. The point is that picking and choosing which passages apply and which don't, which are God's Word and which are the prejudice and ignorance of the human authors, is a sin. To pick and choose which passages are right and which are not is to make oneself God's judge, and His Word is easily dismissed if it is inconvenient. If the prohibition against women pastors is unreasonable and therefore rejected, why not also reject the seemingly unreasonable (or at least

inconvenient) prohibition against homosexuality, fornication, lying, etc.?

It is not my desire to berate those hurting souls in the ELCA, but rather to call them to repentance. True repentance is more than sorrow over sin; it is also confession and hope in the mercy of Jesus Christ. As confessing the grace of Jesus Christ brings relief and freedom, so also does the confession that the Scriptures are inerrant bring relief and freedom. No longer must we struggle with the unfathomable riddle of what is God's Word and what are the human opinions injected into it, or whether or not such judgment is simply our opinion. We simply receive the mystery that God deigns to speak to us at all, even though we do not understand all of it.

Those struggling in the ELCA need to repent and return to the historic Christian doctrine of inerrancy. If the grace of God should have its way with them and lead them to do so, they will find the freedom and peace of being a servant, in submission, in being still and letting God be God.

It is not our job to correct God or to find out His true meaning. He speaks in His Word. We listen. We do not always like what we hear. We do not always understand it. But we submit and wait. Because the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever.

Crossnotes

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February, 2010

Volume 8

Number 2

BUDGET UPDATE



As of January 24, 2010

Total Offerings Budgeted	
Year-to-Date	\$15,308
Total Offerings Received	
Year-to-Date	\$11,409
Total Budget Surplus/Deficit	
Year-to-Date	(\$3,900)



Sermons

February 7

"What Must You Leave Behind?"

Luke 5:1-11

February 14

"Down From the Mountain"

Luke 9:28-36

February 17 (Ash Wednesday)

*"Clanking Coins," "Kissing,"
"Lying" and "Crowing Rooster"*

Matthew 26:47-63, 69-75

February 21

"Satan's Temptation Triangle"

Luke 4:1-13

February 24 (Lent Service II)

*"Taunting," "Beating"
and "Slapping"*

Matthew 26:63-68

February 28

"Our Citizenship Is in Heaven"

Philippians 3:20



"The Sounds of Lent" is the theme for our 2010 Lent Services, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00pm and continuing each Wednesday during Lent.

Each week we will look at several different sounds that are part of the Lenten story, such as the "Clanking Coins," "Crowing Rooster," "Washing Hands," "Pounding Hammer," and "Pouring Wine."

Bring your family for these brief services—about 30 minutes—to meditate on our Lord's suffering for our salvation. (*During Lent Midweek Confirmation classes are from 6:15pm-7:00pm, with the students and their parents staying to attend the Lent services.*)



Altar Flowers

The flower calendar for 2010 is now on the table in the Gathering Room. Occasions to remember include anniversaries, birthdays, in memory of loved ones, etc.

Flowers may be obtained anywhere and you may provide your own vase or use one of the assortment in the Coffee Bar. They may be delivered during Office Hours, Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00am-11:00am, and placed in the flower cooler in the Sacristy west of the altar area. Or, you can simply bring them early on Sunday morning.

January 10

Teri Hageman
Birthday

January 24
Ron & Jeannette Yockey
In Memory of Eric

February 14
Steven & Susanne Stoeger-Moore



We are excited to announce the beginning of the Holy Cross Youth Group. Monthly activities will be starting Sunday, February 7, from 6:30pm-8:00pm. Please bring Sharpies if you have some for an activity that is planned. Youth in grades 5th-12th are encouraged to be involved.

We will be meeting in our new Youth Room, in the area upstairs above the Gathering Room. We have been painting and working on it, and it's starting to look great! We would appreciate donations of the following items to help make our Youth Room a kid-friendly environment, or monetary donations to purchase them:

Bean bag or other comfortable chairs

DVD player and/or VCR

TV (preferably a newer model that isn't too heavy to carry upstairs and won't take up too much room)

TV stand (unless the TV can be hung on the wall)

CD player/stereo

Floor covering (i.e. large area rug, carpet or carpet squares)

If there are any questions please contact Heidi Finkral, Larissa Kommes, Katie Freese, Tony Waybright, or Margaret Waybright. We hope this is the start of a very active Lutheran Youth Fellowship for our congregation!



2010 Lent Services ***Wednesdays, 7:00pm***

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

**"Clanking Coins," "Kissing,"
"Lying" & "Crowing Rooster"**

February 24 – Lent Service II

**"Taunting," "Beating"
& "Slapping"**

March 3 – Lent Service III

**"Mocking," "Flogging"
& "Spitting"**

March 10 – Lent Service IV

**"Washing Hands" &
"Cross Scraping on Back"**

March 17 – Lent Service V

"Sneering" & "Weeping"

March 24 – Lent Service VI

**"Pounding Hammer,"
"Spurting Water and Blood"
& "Confessing"**

March 28 – Palm Sunday

**"Donkey's Hoofs,"
"Cheering Crowds,"
& "Jeering Crowds"**

April 1 – Maundy Thursday

**"Singing,"
"Breaking Bread"
& "Pouring Wine"**

April 2 – Good Friday

"Dice" & "Death Cry"



Sunday Bible Class on "Speechless: Silencing the Christians"

Because of great interest in the video series we used last fall for Midweek Bible Study by those who are unable to attend in the evenings we are repeating this same interesting study in our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class.

Featuring real-life accounts of discrimination against Christians, "Speechless: Silencing the Christians" is a DVD series looking at current social and cultural changes from a Christian perspective.

- You'll meet citizens who have been arrested for speaking at a public rally.
- You'll hear from students who have been required to learn verses from the Koran (while Bible reading is banned).
- You'll learn about activists pushing social tolerance to such an extreme that the Bible is being labeled "hate speech."
- A mother in Pennsylvania is told that reading a passage from the Bible to her son's kindergarten class is against the law. Instead, she is encouraged to read a book about witches.
- A Canadian pastor faces a hate crimes tribunal for writing a letter to the editor of his local newspaper: a chilling precursor to what Americans will face if similar laws are passed.

Each week we will begin with an episode from this series as a springboard for discussion, with a look at the Biblical principles for us to follow. Our thanks to Carroll and Janet Gustman for donating this DVD series. Join in Sunday mornings at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall for an interesting study of this contemporary topic!

Upcoming topics include:

February 7—Public school students in Texas are told they can't mention Jesus in discussions about Christmas or Easter! A superintendent in Plano admits his plans to "shut down religious speech" in school. The myth of separation of church and state is exposed. The state of Texas becomes the first in the nation to pass a law designed exclusively for the protection of students' religious liberties.

February 14—Opponents of free speech work to silence the voice of radio and television programs with a traditional perspective.

February 21—Can a mother's faith be used to take away her children? In this episode you'll experience the real-life story of Lisa Miller and her battle to maintain custody of her daughter, Isabella. Watch how Lisa's former lesbian partner reached across state lines (into a state where civil unions are not legal) and used Lisa's faith as a weapon against her. The result is a precedent-setting custody battle that pits state against state and puts our religious freedoms on trial. Find out the facts, and what the outcome of this case might mean for you.

February 28—Could "Christians Need Not Apply" really be happening in our country? All across the land, Christians are being hounded out of jobs, simply because of their beliefs. In this episode you'll learn: why two women were fired from The University of Texas at Arlington for praying for a co-worker after hours; how a counselor lost her job for sticking to her religious convictions; why a receptionist at a family services agency was harassed for her Christian faith; and what this intensifying battle means for you and your freedoms.



We list members' birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each week. However, our records are not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the church office at 232-9117 or email holycross@longlines.com.

Jacqueleen Baker, February 4
Mary Mettenbrink, February 14
Caden Dial, February 17
Mike Bargstadt, February 20
Mary Rosene, February 23
Jon Dorr, February 25
Carol Smith, February 25
Vaughn Finkral, February 26

Robert & Karen Brock
February 13

Jon & Gail Dorr
February 25

Ryan & Angela Dial
February 27



Our congregation has designated a tithe of 10% of our general offerings to support the work of our District and Synod. Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services specific missionaries around the world who are supported in this way by our congregation.

February 7
Julia Wehrenberg
South Africa

February 14
Rev. David and Rachel Baker
Kazakhstan

February 21
Bryn Welcenbach
Macau

February 28
Bruce and Sarah Wall
Panama

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Elders for February
Earl Biggers and Rob Finkral

Ushers for February
Mike Bargstadt, Doug Jansen,
Joey Schroeder

Chancel Care for February
Janet Martin, Gail Dorr

Acolytes for February
February 7 Kaleb Martin
February 14 Kasey Michels
February 17 (Ash Wed) .. Kathleen Soukup
February 21 Bryce Schroeder
February 24 (Lent) Nathan Soukup
February 28 Anna Vogts

Crucifers for February
February 7 Anna Vogts
February 14 Tiara Selby
February 17 (Ash Wed) Myron Bose
February 21 Jace Waybright
February 24 (Lent) Megan Winborn
February 28 Emily Steemken



Isn't it nice to have snack time after worship? We need volunteers to help! In the Gathering Room there is a new sign-up sheet to bring snacks for fellowship time after worship in 2010. Why not sign up for a birthday or other special event?

You are welcome to bring whatever snacks you wish. Those serving snacks are also asked to prepare the coffee and juice, which along with cups, napkins, plates, etc. are available in the Coffee Bar. Thank you to all those providing snacks!

Snacks for February

February 7 Dial
February 14 Kuhn
February 21 & 28 Need Volunteers



Sunday School Topics for February

February 7—Today in Sunday School the Bible story is Jesus calling His first disciples (Luke 5:1–11). The children learned that Jesus chose ordinary, sinful men to follow Him and be His disciples. In Baptism, Jesus chooses us to be His children.

Talk about how sin causes us to want to hide from Jesus and doubt that He is who He says He is. Underscore that in Jesus' forgiveness we find peace and favor with God, whose Word testifies repeatedly and consistently that Jesus is God's Son.

February 14—Today we celebrate Transfiguration Sunday, and the account of Jesus' transfiguration is the Bible lesson (Luke 9:28–36) in Sunday School. On the Mount of Transfiguration, God showed that His Son, Jesus, is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, declaring that we should listen to Jesus, our Savior.

In discussing this Bible story, ask family members to consider how they are like Peter, not always understanding Jesus' ways and purpose. In His Word, Jesus patiently instructs me about Himself by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask the children to recall their favorite Bible stories about Jesus.

February 21—Today in Sunday School the children will study the temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1–13). Like us, Jesus was tempted by Satan to sin. Yet, for us, He overcame all temptation because we cannot.

In your family discussions, consider how we are tempted to rely on ourselves and trust in our powers. Provide examples. Assure your children that God lovingly provides all that we need for this life and eternity, doing all things for us and ordering our days and life in His peace.

February 28—In Sunday School today, the children learned that as Jesus healed the ten men with leprosy, Jesus forgives and heals us from the sickness of sin and death (Luke 17:11–19).

Discuss with your children how in faith we respond with thankful hearts, praising Him for His love for us. Talk about what it means to be healed of our sin-sickness. How do we thank God for His grace? As a family, consider the words of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed.



It was decided at our January 13 meeting that a brief summary will be published in the bulletin for those unable to attend. Also, there are six rough draft (subject to approval) copies of the minutes on the table in the Gathering Room if you are interested.

Future meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am. Those interested in helping with the Siouxland Humane Society Fundraiser making Gourmet Caramel Apples, should contact LaVon at 712-252-2614, ext. 16 for more details.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 10 at 9:30 am. We will have a guest speaker from the Red Cross who will give a talk about fire victims and how we can best be of service to them.

Deb Stein, WIM Secretary



February Commemorations

You may have noticed on our church calendar that in addition to members' birthdays and anniversaries there are also listed historic commemorations commonly observed in the Lutheran Church.

Purification of Mary and The Presentation of Our Lord (February 2)

Thirty-two days after Jesus' circumcision and seventy weeks after the announcement of John's birth to Zechariah by the angel Gabriel, the Lord comes to His temple to fulfill the Torah (Luke 2:22-38).

The days are indeed fulfilled with the presentation. Jesus' parents keep the Torah and fulfill it by bringing Jesus to His true home. Also, Jesus' parents offer the alternative sacrifice of two turtledoves or two pigeons. Leviticus 12:8 allows this instead of a lamb, since not everyone could afford a lamb (showing the poverty and humility of Joseph and Mary). Yet no lamb was necessary because already here at forty days old, Jesus is the Lamb brought to His temple for sacrifice.

Simeon's Nunc Dimittis is a beautiful example of the immediate response to this inauguration of God's consolation and redemption in the Christ Child. Speaking to Mary, Simeon also prophesies about the destiny of the child.

St. Matthias, Apostle (February 24)

St. Matthias is one of the lesser-known apostles. According to the Early Church Fathers, Matthias was one of the seventy-two sent out by Jesus in Luke 10:1-20. After the ascension, Matthias



DISASTER NEWS Haiti Earthquake

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is working to respond to the 7.0-magnitude earthquake in Haiti. Early reports indicate extensive property damage and terrible suffering among people trapped in collapsed buildings in a country already challenged by longtime political strife and poverty. Haiti is widely known as the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

"The unfolding drama in Haiti calls for unlimited mercy on the part of the people of the LCMS. The needs are urgent and overwhelming right now," said Glenn F. Merritt, LCMS World Relief and Human Care director of disaster response. "I appeal to God's people to respond as generously as possible during this most difficult time."

LCMS WR-HC is working cooperatively with Lutheran World Relief, LCMS World Mission, Haitian missionaries, partner churches, and the LCMS Florida-Georgia District to provide relief in a timely fashion. Funds are urgently needed to help Haitians who have lost loved ones and homes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray! Please pray for those in harm's way, who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. Please pray that Lutheran disaster response efforts touch many lives with God's hope and mercy.

Connect! To learn more, visit www.lcms.org/worldrelief.

Give! Donations are urgently needed! Your gifts will allow disaster response efforts in Haiti.

- **Mail checks** to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, noting "Haiti Earthquake Relief" to:
LCMS World Relief and Human Care
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis MO 63166-6861
- **Phone toll-free** 888-930-4438
- **Online** at <http://givenowlcms.org>

In Christ,

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

Executive Director
LCMS World Relief and
Human Care



The symbol for St. Matthias is an open Bible and an axe, to represent his missionary preaching and the tradition that he was martyred by being beheaded.

was chosen by lot to fill the vacancy in the Twelve resulting from the death of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:16-25).

Early Church tradition places Matthias in a number of locations. Some historians suggest that he went to Ethiopia; others place him in Armenia, the first nation to adopt Christianity as a national religion.

Martyred for his faith, Matthias may well have met his death at Colchis in Asia Minor, around AD 50. The Church of St. Matthias at Trier, Germany, claims the honor of being the final burial site for Matthias, the only one of the Twelve to be buried in Europe north of the Alps.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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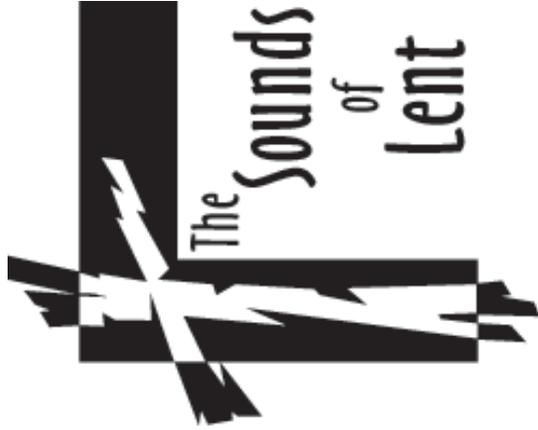
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. <i>(Collect for the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany)</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Presentation</p>  <p>of our Lord</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30pm Midweek School</p> <p>7:30pm Board of Education</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00pm Board of Elders</p>	<p><u>Preschool Schedule</u> Monday-Friday Mornings Chapel Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:00am</p> <p><u>After School Care</u> Monday-Friday, 3:15pm-6:00pm Both Follow Dakota Valley Calendar</p>	
<p>7 5th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:45am Choir Warm-Up 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 1:00pm Adult Information Class 6:30pm Youth Group</p>	8	9	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm Midweek School</p>	11	12	<p>13</p>  <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Robert & Karen Brock</p>
<p>14 Last Sunday after the Epiphany The Transfiguration of Our Lord</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 1:00pm Adult Information Class</p> <p><i>Mary Mettenbrink</i></p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> 	<p>16</p>  <p>Philipp Melancthon Born, 1497</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:15pm Midweek School</p> <p>7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p><i>Caden Dial</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Martin Luther Died, 1546</p> 	19	<p>20</p> <p><i>Mike Bargstadt</i></p>
<p>21 1st Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:45am Choir Warm-Up 9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 1:00pm Adult Information Class</p> <p>First SUNDAY IN LENT</p> 	22	23	<p>24</p> <p>6:15pm Midweek School</p> <p>7:00pm Lent Service</p>  <p>St. Matthias</p> <p><i>Jon Dorr Carol Smith Jon & Gail Dorr</i></p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p><i>Ryan & Angela Dial</i></p>
<p>28 2nd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:15am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Class 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 1:00pm Adult Information Class</p>	<p>Church Office Hours</p> <p>Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-11:00am</p> 		<p>Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p><i>(Collect for the Festival of St. Matthias, Apostle)</i></p>			

Deadline for Calendar Submissions or Changes is the 15th of the Prior Month
 Email to holycross@longlines.com or Leave Voicemail Message at Church Office
 This Calendar May Not Reflect Late Submissions or Changes



The Sounds of Lent

2010 Lent Services Wednesdays 7:00pm

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

"Clanking Coins," "Kissing,"
"Lying" & "Crowing Rooster"

February 24 – Lent Service II

"Taunting," "Beating"
& "Slapping"

March 3 – Lent Service III

"Mocking," "Flogging"
& "Spitting"

March 10 – Lent Service IV

"Washing Hands" &
"Cross Scraping on Back"

March 17 – Lent Service V

"Sneering" & "Weeping"

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"Pounding Hammer,"
"Spurting Water and Blood"
& "Confessing"

March 28 – Palm Sunday

"Donkey's Hoofs,"
"Cheering Crowds,"
& "Jeering Crowds"

April 1 – Maundy Thursday

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"Breaking Bread"
& "Pouring Wine"

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"Dice" & "Death Cry"