



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Fall, 2023

✧ In Nomine Jesu ✧

Issue 23, Number 1

Why Does it Matter?

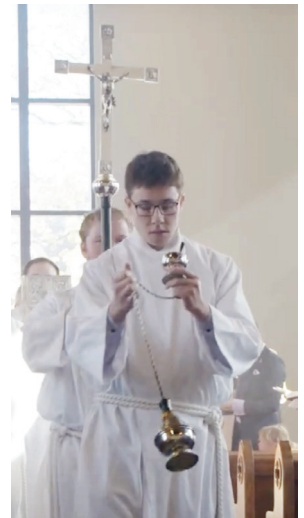
Years ago when I first wrote the book, *About Our Liturgy: Meaning, History and Practice*, I proudly presented a copy of it to my father, eager for his approval. When, a few weeks later, I asked if he had read it. He said that he had indeed read the book from cover to cover. But his reaction was not what I was hoping for. While he had thought the book well written, he also said, “Yes, but son... isn’t it all just man-made traditions?” His conclusion, evidently, was that if it was just tradition, it really didn’t matter all that much. And therefore I had really wasted time writing about it. His opinion about tradition and the church’s worship life is one that is shared by a great many of people.

Well, to be honest, a lot of what takes place in the liturgical life of the church is tradition, and is, technically speaking, man-made. The Lutheran confessors recognized this when in the Formula of Concord they said:

“Regarding genuine *adiaphora*, or matters of indifference, we believe, teach, and confess that such ceremonies, in and of themselves, are no worship of God, nor any part of it, but must be properly distinguished from such as are, as it is written: In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, Matt. 15:9.

Therefore we believe, teach, and confess that the congregation of God of every place and every time has, according to its circumstances, the good right, power, and authority to change, to diminish, and to increase them, without thoughtlessness and offense, in an orderly and becoming way, as at any time it may be regarded most profitable, most beneficial, and best for good order, Christian discipline, and the edification of the Church...”

So why do such things that are neither commanded nor forbidden by God (for that is what they meant by “matters of indifference”) matter? Aren’t they free to us to use or to dispose of? They are free. But we would do well to be very cautious about what we choose to do with our freedom. As I write in the preface to the new edition of *About Our Liturgy*, “almost nothing a person says or



continued on page 10

Chapel News and Notes

ULC Receives Second Vicar

Our first vicar, Sam Smith, finished his year long internship at ULC in August. Having a vicar was a good experience for our congregation. It helped us expand our campus outreach, helped us forge stronger relationships with our students, and gave us an opportunity to help train a future pastor. We were sad to see Vicar Smith depart.

But the very next day a new vicar arrived from Concordia Fort Wayne, Vicar Rod Stewart Jr. Moreover, the Minnesota South District has granted additional funding and will partner with us to support the vicarage program at ULC for three more years!

Vicar Stewart, who also serves in the Army Reserves as a chaplain candidate at Fort Snelling, was installed late in August and has been busy getting to know ULC and our students, and helping to extend our work at the U of

M. He has also been actively pursuing the extension of our campus outreach to other schools, like St. Thomas and Macalaster, and serving our students who attend CSP too, where he has been warmly welcomed by the administration and campus ministry staff. We are very happy to have Vicar Stewart with us for the 2023-24 school year and are delighted to be involved again in helping to prepare future pastors for the ministry.

New Videos in Production

Follow our YouTube channel @ULCMN. New videos on the liturgy are coming very soon! There will also be a new series of shorter videos on some of the more famous sayings of the early Church Fathers. Check it out @ULCMN.



ULC Hosts National Campus Ministry Staff Conference

Over fifty campus pastors and other campus ministry leaders converged upon Minneapolis this past summer for the LCMSU campus ministry staff conference hosted by University Lutheran Chapel. This was the first conference designed for those leading LCMS campus ministries in nearly two decades. The conference theme was “Engaging the Collegiate Mind” and featured several prominent theologians and campus pastors as speakers, including former ULC member Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, Dr. Adam Francisco, ULC alumnus Rev. Mark Preus and Rev. Erik Andrae. Pastor Kind was the conference coordinator and chief liturgist at the conference worship services.

Feedback from the event was uniformly positive, leading the LCMS to plan another conference which will be held in the Milwaukee area in May 2024. Pastor Kind has been asked to be one of the main speakers.



Dr. Bruss speaking about “The Wittenberg Mind” at the conference.





Our group helped out at Feed My Starving Children, packing meals for the hungry.



Playing cricket has become a favorite reason for students to get together this term.

Jesse and Kristina Greenhagen were wed at ULC in August. Jesse is now in his final year of seminary.



Samantha Kennelly and Alex Hurben were also wed at ULC in August



Theology Pub and Trivia Night. We've had a great turnout for these events at which we discuss the various ethical and doctrinal questions of our day.



Our annual "Parlour Game Pentathlon" where contestants must compete in pool, darts, foosball, air hockey and ping pong.



"Wurst Lutherans" outreach event during Welcome Week. We handed out brats, hotdogs and sausages to new freshmen and other students on Northrup Mall to introduce them to ULC's campus ministry.



Rev. Scot Missling (husband of ULC alumna, Veronica Missling) was ordained into the Holy Ministry on July 23. Pr. Missling is now serving as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota.



ULC sponsored a ladies' retreat in August with Pastor Travis Berg who spoke on the topic of the sabbath. The retreat was organized by our own Nancy Bynum and was held at Camp Omega.



Thursday Matins

We have added a weekly Matins service to the regular schedule for worship at the chapel. Matins is at 6:30 AM on Thursday mornings and is led by Vicar Stewart.



Advent at ULC

This year's Wednesday Advent services will follow the theme "God Dwells With His People," focusing on different aspects of the presence of Jesus among us. Services are at 7:30 PM.



Christmas Services

Our final Advent service will be on the morning of the 24th. Christmas Eve service will be held that evening (7:30 PM) and Christmas Day service will be held on the 25th (10 AM). There will be no Bible Study on the 24th.

We've had lots of baptisms lately! From top left to bottom are the baptisms of Matthew Aarsvold, Klaus Wagner, Elizabeth Hynes, and Timothy Aaberg



Pastor Kind and Vicar Smith built a Little Free Library which has been installed by the entrance to the chapel.



Christmas Decorating

Come help us put up the tree and decorate the chapel for Christmas on Thursday, December 7 at 7 PM. Afterward, we'll hang out at Luther House for a cozy fire, egg nog and Christmas cookies.



Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz spoke at our annual Fall Retreat which was held September 30–October 1. The topic this year was “The Martyrs’ Faith.” Students learned much about confessing the faith in hostile culture.

About Our Liturgy Again Available

The little book on the Lutheran liturgy of the Divine Service written by Pastor Kind back in 2003 has been revised, expanded, and published anew for 2023. If you are looking to deepen your understanding of the history, meaning and practice of Lutheran worship, you will want to read this. You can find it on Lulu.com or through other online booksellers.

Patristics Seminar

ULC is once again hosting our monthly study of the Church Fathers. This year we are reading *On the Incarnation* by St. Athanasius the Great. Geared toward the clergy, anyone who is interested is invited to join us. Patristics meet the third Thursday of each month at 1 PM in the fireplace room of Luther House. We begin with prayer and then dive into our discussion of Athanasius!

For Your Contemplation

From the “*Meditationes piissimae*” by an unknown author, formerly attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux

We should love God because He loved us first and made us to His image and likeness, something He wished to bestow on no other creature. We are made to the image of God, that is to the understanding and knowledge of the Son, through whom we understand and know the father, and are able to approach Him. Such knowledge exists between us and the Son of God because He is Himself the image of God and we are made to His image. But the likeness itself also testifies to this knowledge, for we are made not only to His image, but also to His likeness. It is only appropriate, then, that what is made to the image should reflect the image, and not merely share the name image to no purpose. Let us, therefore, show for His image in ourselves in a desire for peace, a regard for truth, and a love of charity. Let us hold Him in our memory, carry Him in our conscience, and worship Him who is present everywhere.

Our mind itself, in fact, is His image, insofar as it has the capacity to receive Him and is able to participate in Him... There is nothing so similar to that Supreme Wisdom as the rational mind, which by memory, understanding, and will, dwells in that ineffable Trinity; nor can it dwell therein unless it remembers it, understands it, and loves it. Let [the mind] remember God, therefore, to whose image it is made, understand and love Him, and also worship Him, with whom it can be forever blessed. O blessed soul, with whom God finds rest, and in whose tabernacle He rests. Blessed is that soul that can say, “And he who created me rested in my tabernacle.” For He could not deny [that soul] heavenly rest... It is by faith that I reflect on God the creator, adore Him as Redeemer, and await Him as savior. I believe that I see Him in all His creatures and that I have Him within myself, and what is indescribably more joyful and blessed that all these things, that I know Him in Himself! For to know the Father and Son, together with the Holy Spirit, is life eternal, perfect bliss and supreme delight! ✠



ULC alumnus Peter Wagner was ordained into the Holy Ministry on June 25. He is now serving as pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Latimer, Iowa. One of the liturgists at the ordination was Pastor Paul Beisel (pictured behind Pr. Wagner and next to Pr. Kind) who is the grandson of former ULC pastor, Rev. Rueben Beisel (1954-59)!

The Poet's Corner

by Pastor Mark Preus

Our Savior soon as Judge shall come
And call His sheep to take them home,
May we believe His gospel true
Nor trust in anything we do.

No soundness in our flesh abides,
And for the sinner who confides
In His own works to save from death
There waits God's vengeful,
righteous wrath.

For Jesus came all flesh to save.
He proved this when His flesh He gave
For all the world upon the tree
That there we may His glory see.

The proud and boastful shall not stand
When they with their own working hand
Would deign to earn God's love and grace
Or dare to meet Him face to face.

To all who do not work but trust
In Him who reckons sinners just,
Their faith God counts as righteousness
Since all the poor and meek are bless'd.

"Come unto Me," the Savior speaks,
He with these words us sinners seeks
To take away our load of sin
And yoke our hearts to live in Him.

All glory be to Thee, Lord Christ!
All glory since Thy sacrifice
Has earned what we could never pay –
Redemption from the devil's sway!

Do keep us in Thy gracious care,
Since Thou our cares and sin didst bear,
Lead us, Lord, with Thy shepherd's rod
To eat Thy flesh and drink Thy blood,

That when Thou com'st again to judge
Our hearts Thy call shall not begrudge,
But hurry to Thy loving breast
Forevermore our souls to rest. Amen. ☒



ULC Halloween costume party at Pastor's house.

Blast from the Past

Why Does It Matter, continued from page 1

does is truly indifferent. Words and actions usually mean something."

Note how the Lutheran reformers spoke of our use of this freedom to change, diminish or increase the ceremonies of the liturgy. It is clear that they think the way they worship is quite important. And so they rightly put certain limits on that freedom they uphold, limits drawn from the teachings of the Holy Apostles. First, we are not to change anything without a great deal of thought, and we are to avoid unnecessarily offense to the faithful. Second, we are to consider what is best for maintaining order and promoting reverence. Third, we are to consider what is most edifying to the faithful; in other words, what will most build them up in Christ Jesus and in the Faith.

Everything we do teaches or confesses something. The liturgy and ceremonies of the Lutheran Divine Service teach us about Jesus and His Gospel, and are intended to draw us to Him as He presents Himself to us through Gospel and Sacrament. This is what good order is all about. It is an order that leads us to Him who is good and is centered on His good gifts. It is an order that is dignified and reverent giving recognition to His presence among us sacramentally. It is an order that edifies the Church by assisting her in grasping those things that have Divine power to build up faith, and by giving voice to the confession



Students always seem to be on their phones - even in the 1950s!

of her children. This corporate confession is not only spoken by, but also heard by each person confessing it, and in turn builds us up and confirms us in our own faith and individual confession in the world. These are but a few of the good things the traditions of men help accomplish.

In the case of the Church's worship, you see, the traditions of men actually matter. For they can either help us recognize, adore, reverently receive and confess Christ Jesus, or they will do something else. And something else simply won't do. ☒



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL
316 10TH AVENUE SE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Serving the University of Minnesota

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 91053

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED