



THE FIRST WORD

CELEBRATING THE LIVING WORD
FOR A GROWING CHURCH.

AUGUST, 2015

The Ecclesia Augustana?

by Pastor Ian Reid

As we approach the 500th year of Luther's nailing the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, many people are asking questions about Luther and his disagreements with the church. It has brought about a renewed interest in not only discussing Luther's opposition, but what did he and other reformers say and propose as alternatives to the Roman Catholic Church's views? The good news is that we do not have to wonder long because we are blessed with several documents written by Luther and his colleagues that state their case. These documents have been compiled and can be found in *The Book of Concord*.

The Book of Concord holds the most important documents of the Lutheran faith and all pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at their ordination promise to hold them up as truth and use them in their ministry. In the Book of Concord one can find many different writings, but two of the most important ones are the Augsburg Confession and the Apology to the Augsburg Confession. These two writings are very important to the faith because they explain concisely what we as Lutherans believe about twenty-eight different aspects of the Christian faith.

The reason the early German reformers wrote the Augsburg Confession was because the Holy Roman Emperor Charles wanted to better understand the differences between Lutherans and Roman Catholics. It was Charles V's hope that he could end the infighting in Germany and

once again unify the Holy Roman Empire against their common enemy, the Turks, who had begun to invade the eastern territory. On January 21, 1530 Charles V wrote a letter inviting all the princes of the German territories to an Imperial Diet at Augsburg, which was to be a meeting to allow both sides an opportunity to share their religious convictions.

However, before the reformers attended the meeting they met at Torgau, Germany where the Elector John of Saxony commissioned Martin Luther, Justus Jonas, Johannes Bugenhagen and Philipp Melancthon to write a simple statement of the faith that would be shared at the Diet of Augsburg. These writings would be later known as the Torgau articles since on the way to Augsburg they would go on to perfect the writing which would later become known as the Augsburg Confession. Martin Luther would actually not attend the Diet of Augsburg because he was considered an outlaw according to the Diet of Worms and thus stayed in Coburg which was within a safe territory. The Augsburg Confession would be read aloud and given to Charles V on the 25th of August 1530.

As response to the Augsburg Confession, the Roman Catholic Church responded by giving the Pontifical Confutation of the Augsburg Confession. Charles V actually thought that the response was sufficient but gave the reformers till 15 April, 1531 to respond. In response, Phillip Melancthon wrote a lengthy and sustained argument both supporting the

Augsburg Confession and refuting the arguments made in the Confutation. This document became known as the Apology of the Augsburg Confession. Therefore, the Augsburg Confession and the Apology are considered to be the Lutheran Church's key confessional documents.

Once the diet ended and it became clear that the two sides could not come to agreement, those who sided with the reformers would take on the name Ecclesia Augustana (Latin) for the Church of the Augsburg Confession. It was not till later that the opponents of the reformation started calling disrespectfully the reformers "Lutherans". Luther scholars say that Luther would not have been happy with having his name be a part of the church and actually would have wanted us to be called the Evangelical Church, which means in Greek the Church of the Gospel.

Since the Augsburg Confession and the Apology are so important to the Lutheran Faith our Synod has challenged us to study them this year as part of our buildup to the 500th year of Luther. This has led me to begin to prepare a class on these two documents starting on Wednesday September 16th at 10am and an evening class on Thursday, September 17th. What I am sure you will find interesting is that many of your questions on what Lutherans believe and why will be answered in this class. I hope you might join us as we explore and are challenged by those who had to wrestle with their faith before us.

From Your Church Council

As I sit down at the computer to write this month's notes from your Council ... I am wondering what ever happened to the 'lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer' some of us remember from an old song!?! (Nat King Cole I think ...) Our summer has been anything but 'lazy' or 'hazy' ... but certainly 'crazy' with all of the activities and happenings here! And, we have celebrated the 4th of July ... which means school is soon to follow!

Before we let the summer get totally away from us, Council has committed to hosting a "Community Garden Party" to celebrate our successful gardens and to invite our neighbors to an old fashioned 'social'. Details are being worked out for what promises to be a wonderful event – do put August 21 on your calendar so you can come and join in the fun!

The gardens are doing fantastic – in spite of some 'unwelcome night-time visitors' who are now infamous! Unfortunately, in an effort to deter such future happenings, our garden

leaders have determined that the garden by the Church will no longer have unlimited 'picking' and gates will be locked when unattended. Additional surveillance is also being incorporated. Vegetables will still, of course, be put into the shelves and cart so they can be accessed easily.

A reminder, the special service for Bishop Duncan's retirement is August 22. The Church will schedule a van for those wanting to sign up to attend this service at Wheeling St. Marks.

A few minor electrical items are being completed and the electrical upgrade will soon be history (except for the payments which will go on for several years ...) Please continue to pray for the financial success of this project and regularly contribute to this fund as you are able. And, have you noticed that – after being dark for years - we now have a light in the big sign on the corner of our lot?

We are not letting the momentum of summer subside ... there are many activities and events still to

come and you will be seeing details in the bulletin as they are finalized.

Pastor mentioned the Valley Gem cruise on September 2, and then there is the one-lady hand bell concert on September 12. We are planning transportation to go to our new Bishop's installation, the Rev. Matthew Riegel, on September 26 in Buckhannon. Planning is getting underway for our annual German Fest on October 17.

We are so blessed to have the many opportunities for participating in worship, education, fellowship and volunteering here at First Lutheran. Growing in our faith, helping others, making new friends, finding many ways and reasons to be thankful ... every day offers new opportunities. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Your Council wants you to be informed so please contact any member with your questions, suggestions and concerns. Don't hesitate to let us hear from you.

Andrea Brock
Council President

D.U.N. Committee

On Wednesday, July 15th, Chuck and Paula Beach moved to Colorado. Chuck, developer of the DUN Committee, also served for many years as the leader. The mission of the group is to provide activities that promote fellowship within the church family and with sister congregations. We plan to continue meeting.

Chuck and Paula have arrived safely and are get-

ting settled in their new home. Their address is 10158 Julian Way; Westminster, CO 80031. They are awaiting their second grandchild as well. We will miss them but wish them the best in their new home.

Christ Lutheran Church will be hosting the **Valley Gem Sternwheeler Cruise** this year. We are invited to join them on **Wednesday, September 2nd**. Arrive by 6:15 to board and

cruise the river from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Meet under the Washington Street Bridge on Front Street. Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. Call Delores Steege (304-428-2056) for reservations.

The next **DUN committee meeting** will be **Wednesday, August 5th, at 6:30 pm** in the Holy Grounds café. We need to discuss our fall plans. Hope to see you there!

SIGN UP FOR TRIP TO ATTEND BISHOP DUNCAN'S RETIREMENT SERVICE

AUGUST 22ND
WHEELING, WV AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

Thank You's

I would like to thank all of my church family for prayers, cards and the extra kindness after my fall that dislocated my shoulder.

God Bless,
Hazel Ray

I want to thank everyone for their visits, calls and cards after my surgery and during my recovery time at home. It is a blessing to be a part of a church that cares so deeply.

Thank you and
God Bless,
Marie Stanley



DUN Committee Updates

On Wednesday, July 15th, Chuck and Paula Beach moved to Colorado. Chuck, developer of the DUN Committee, also served for many years as the leader. The mission of the group is to provide activities that promote fellowship within the church family and with sister congregations. We plan to continue meeting. Chuck and Paula have arrived safely and are getting settled in their new

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Book Donation Request

First Baptist Church's annual fund raiser, Ice Cream Social, is Sunday, August 2, 4-8 P.M. This year, a book sale is added. We volunteered to help with this event again this year by selling the books. We went to yard sales and picked up some left-over books and will go another Saturday. WE NEED BOOKS! You may bring your donation to FLC or deliver to our table on the day of the

event--in front of the Masonic Temple on Market Street, corner of Ninth and Market, across the street from the church.

Funds generated from this sale will support Project Good Samaritan of Camden Clark Medical Center by providing transportation and food vouchers to families who have patients in long-term care.

Unsold books will be given

to Trinity Episcopal Church for their November book sale which also supports local charities. Bring your friends and join us for hot dogs, cake walk, free clothes, popcorn, ice cream, and kids games and help someone in need by donating books. Little kids will have a great time!

Thank you in advance for your support. Effie Ayers and Patti Golden

Choir Preparations

The start of the fall season for the FLC Senior Choir is approaching quickly. The choir will start practicing Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30, and will start singing for the 10:45 church services Sunday, Sept. 13. The Senior Choir is open to all those who want to worship by singing, and will present a

wide variety of music during the church year. We are always looking to add voices, and can use you even if you can only participate part time. Instrumentalists are also encouraged to attend choir practices, as there are often opportunities for accompanying instrumental parts.

To get things ready for fall, there will be a work day to clean out and clean up the choir room in August. Watch the church bulletin or contact Mike Lockney for further details. Plan to be a part of the choir this fall, and I'll see you soon.

Mike Lockney

COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTY
AUGUST 21
(WATCH FOR DETAILS)

Challenges, Thorns, Lights, A Lamb, Two Pennies and A Card

(...a continuation of the video history of Pastor Jim and Martha Kinsler)

I asked Martha how a southern girl felt about coming to Parkersburg, WV. The tears flowed freely such that a "new" New River was formed from South Carolina to West Virginia. Her view on life had been you live in the same house with your parents until you marry, then you stay with your husband in the same place and raise your family. She could go nearly anywhere in Augusta, and someone would know her or her family. After marriage to Jim, they moved to Elloree, SC, where they were two hours away from each of their families, had three daughters, and she thought she'd be there the rest of her life. But in reality, she knew 3-4 years was average for a first pastorate. She just didn't want to think about it.

They arrived in Parkersburg in 1985. WV was in a deluge, floods over many parts of the state, and it was still raining. Martha, who knew no one, was inside with three small girls who wanted to be outside. Mary would put her little face against the inside door, looking out, and pitifully say, "Outside, outside!"

So Martha kept praying, "Lord, you have to stop this rain!" He did, but she explained to Him it wasn't how she meant. It soon began snowing!

Although Pastor Jim wanted to be in the church where his dad had been, it also offered some challenges. It seems Pastor David's pedestal had grown a bit higher in the years since he left. A large article in the newspaper about the two Pastors Kinsler paved the way for his arrival. Another former pastor, Pastor Schwegler, was also held in high esteem with quite a high pedestal. The Educational Building is named for him and average attendance on Sunday was 300. When Pastor Jim arrived, it was 180. His goal was to encourage attendance and utilize the church facility more for the community, as in having a Girl Scout troop meet there. His emphasis in the ministry has been in building and nurturing relationships. Some members were a little concerned about his youthful age of 30, making comments such as "I have kids older than him!" His solution was to grow a mustache! He tried to encourage them by saying, "I'm getting old as quickly as I can. You're helping me out!"

As anyone does, he feels he made mistakes. He explained this to the Council with this philosophy.

"If you mess up, it's only a mistake if you don't learn from it. If you learn from it, it's a lesson. You're paying for my education, so you have two options. If I'm getting too much education here, you can ask me to leave. I can use that education somewhere else, or I can use it here. What's your preference? You've already paid for it!" Good philosophy! He was with us 23 years!

There were five Hawthorn trees planted on the church lawn. As they grew, children were getting injured by the sharp thorns as they played on the lawn and ran into them. Martha trimmed them high so the kids could be thorn free. Some parishioners explained the trees were planted there to discourage kids from playing on the lawn. They feared for the stained glass windows close by. Martha believed that the church should encourage children to come and play. One of the dearest, sweetest men she knew came and talked with her. He said it was his and many others' belief that the

Continued on next page

church ground was part of the Sanctuary and should be used reverently. He included, "If something happens to those trees, I will leave the church." She respected this man so much that she stepped back from the situation and thought about how his generation was brought up; to always have respectful and reverent behavior inside and outside a church. Though she respected this sentiment, when it came Bible School time, she would carefully trim any branch that touched her as she walked past. One year lightning struck one of the trees and split it in half. It had to be removed. Later, a huge snow storm bent two over so badly that they snapped. The man could accept that it was not by man's hand the trees had fallen, but by God's. He didn't leave the church. Now there are two trees left.

Dr. Robert Fankhouser planted a fir tree in the front yard of the parsonage. He was a well known physician in town and a very popular Sunday School teacher for the senior high class. The tree was 12' tall when the Kinslers arrived in Parkersburg. That Christmas of 1985, they decorated the tree with 1,000 lights, one for each member of First Lutheran! Pastor Jim included in his newsletter a question for those 1,000 members. "Is

your light for Christ shining as brightly as your light on the tree? They continued each year with the tree being something everyone in the area looked forward to. As Martha described, "It was breath-taking as you drove along 19th St." That tree grew...and grew! It grew so tall that Jim couldn't reach it with his extended ladder. He told Martha that was it. She retorted, "Then I'll do it myself!" So he purchased a taller extended ladder and they decorated the tree until it rivaled the height of the church and became unreachable. Ryan Beach even climbed the tree to try and help. The tree began to show signs of being unhealthy. When told by the mayor that Christmas trees for the city were donated by residents, Pastor Jim readily volunteered, "We have one!" The city cut down the tree and removed the stump for \$1,000 -at no cost to the Church. It was indeed in its death throes, as they discovered it was very hollow inside. Dr. Fankhouser's tree had made many people happy and graced our city square with a spectacular view for its grand finale!

Dr. Fankhouser had passed away, but another tree was planted and dedicated in his honor with his grandson and a former regular Sunday School attendee, Jeff Lantz, there to help plant it. This

tree, unfortunately, has met its demise.*

Another memorable time for the Kinslers was when Pastor Jim decided to bring a cuddly live lamb to the Children's Sermon to help explain Christ as the Good Shepherd. It was brought into the church in a pet crate. He decided wisely to keep it in the crate. He didn't elaborate on how far he was into the sermon when the lamb had an "accident!" The lamb was no longer white and a pungent odor began to infiltrate the church. No more live animals for Children's Sermons.

There was a time when Pastor Jim felt as if his ministry at First Lutheran might have reached a lull. He wished so much that he could talk with his dad, who had passed away. Martha was putting up new wall paper in their bedroom. Being very precise, she did not want to bring the edge to the mantle board. She wanted the edge *under* the mantle board, so she unhooked it from the wall. Jim had just repeated he wished he could speak with his dad. Three objects fell out as the mantle board came down. Here were two pennies with dates of 1935 and 1936, years his dad was at First Lutheran. Pastor David had an expression he used often when someone was expressing their view on a subject.

Continued on next page

"You've had your two cents worth. Now let me give you my two cents worth." A small piece of worn, tattered paper turned out to be his dad's business card. Printed on the card was, "We invite you to make First Lutheran your church home." A message from his dad - with God's help? Pas-

tor Jim had his answer.

**If anyone happens to have any article in regard to either of the trees, could the Archives have an extra, or copy your original? Pictures of either event would be welcome. Please place in Gerry Kohler's mailbox in the church office with your name, any information you*

have on photos - names of people, date, etc, and whether or not you need it returned. Also, if you remember any of these events, and have additional information or comments you'd like to make, please place in the mailbox or email to gerry.kohler@gmail.com. Thank you so much. gk

Back Pack Blessing on August 9th!! Pastor Ian will be blessing backpacks, students, teachers and anyone involved in education.

Donations are needed for the Back Pack Ministry. They are needing individual sized snacks of pudding, peanut butter, pop tarts, mac & cheese, etc.

Please call Lawrence or Lyndall Hasbargen for more information.



**HANDBELL CONCERT
BY THE REV. RUTH BULLWINKLE**

SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 2:00 P.M.

Lay Readers for Sunday Worship

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
Aug 2	Don Fosselman	Tim Archer
Aug 9	Wendy Fosselman	Ashley Wiltsey
Aug 16	Lawrence Hasbargen	Cheryl Hasbargen
Aug 23	Adeline Smith	Bill Kohler
Aug 30	Barbara McDowell	Marcia VanDeVelde

Communion Bearers for Sunday Worship

Date	10:45 service
Aug 2	Chip and Barb Rodgers
Aug 9	Sharon Buzzard and Becky Guice
Aug 16	Warren and Carole Carter
Aug 23	Brian and Penny Green
Aug 30	Don and Marie Stanley

Door Greeters 10:45 (contact church office to volunteer)

Date	
Aug 2	Cindy and Michelle Fouse
Aug 9	Karen and Lewis Creel
Aug 16	Penny and Brian Green
Aug 23	Norma Phillips and Mary Parrish
Aug 30	Jean Riggs

Phyllis Loudon is always looking for door greeters to welcome people as they come to the 10:45 service on Sunday mornings. Please contact the church office if you are interested in greeting.

Altar Guild Servers

8:30 a.m.	Debbie Marks/Marti Miller
10:45 a.m.	Carole Carter
6:30 p.m.	Barbara McDowell

Paraments—Marcia VanDeVelde

AUGUST, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 , 10:45 & 6:30 First Baptist Church Ice Cream Social 4:00-8:00 Invitation to Prayer 5:00	3	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	5 Bereavement 6:30 p.m. D.U.N. Committee meeting @ 6:30	6	7	8 Faith Link Color Run 4:00 p.m. @ City Park
9 Sunday School 9:30 Blessing of Backpacks during services Praise Team at Worthington 2:00 Worship 8:30 , 10:45 & 6:30 Invitation to Prayer 5:00	10 Praise Team at Eagle Pointe 7:00	11 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Parkersburg Homecoming	15 Parkersburg Homecoming
16 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30, 10:45 & 6:30 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Parkersburg Homecoming	17	18 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	19 Church Council 6:00 p.m. Bereavement 6:30 p.m.	20	21 Community Garden Party 6:00 p.m.	22 Bishop Duncan's Retirement Service, Wheeling First Word Articles Due
23 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30, 10:45 & 6:30 Invitation to Prayer 5:00	24	25 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30, 10:45 & 6:30 Invitation to Prayer 5:00	31	Upcoming Sept. Events: Sternwheeler Cruise Sept 2nd, 6:15 Handbell Concert Sept 12th, 3:00 FLC Senior Choir practice Sept 2nd, 7:30 start singing for services Sunday Sept 13th				



First Lutheran Church

PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE

Jill A. Flinn

304-428-6174 (email: flcsec@yahoo.com)

OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 and 10:45
a.m.

Invitation to Prayer Sunday Evenings 5:00
p.m.

Evening Worship Service 6:30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED:

All Sunday Services

WEBSITE: firstlutheranparkersburg.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, **Andrea Brock**, 304-485-5162

Vice-President, **Betty Smith**, 304-422-5935

Secretary, **Julie Davis**, 304-863-0084

Treasurer, **Angie Smith**, 304-422-5935

Youth Representative, **Ethan Farinash**

Lori Butler, 304-863-5156

Barb Carpenter, 304-295-9527

Keith Curry, 304-482-0147

Chris Davis, 304-210-7631

Robert Fluharty, 304-485-3484

Bill Kohler, 304-483-7810

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