

Trinity



Volume 41, No 11 & 12

November & December, 2020

There They Go Again!

Now that the Christmas season is fast approaching, there will be an increasing number of media pundits all in a dither once again about a “new” discovery that Jesus was married to a prostitute and had two children with her. This, of course, is really nothing new, as this isn’t the first time this has been reported, and almost every year someone comes up with a sensational “new” scandal in an attempt to derail pious Christians from their faith.

In 1980 when Ronald Reagan was running for President of the United States, he repeatedly questioned the validity of his opponents’ opinions, especially the increasingly desperate President

Jimmy Carter, with the now-famous phrase, “There you go again.” The same could be said of the volume of atheistic propaganda which is being bandied about in our culture today. Two

well-known atheist writers, Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, have been keeping up the virulently atheistic screed that arises from the academic world with their books, “The God Delusion” and “Is Christianity Good for the World?” respectively. And this atheistic drumbeat has also given rise to echoes in the general culture especially in the modern entertainment media, which has

course, mocks Christian believers because, according to him, they are irrational. In an article in the Wall Street Journal, Molly Ziegler Hemingway (whose father is an LCMS pastor and friend) reported on the penchant for atheists to believe all manner of nonsense, such as Bigfoot and psychic healing. Those who stand against God will fall for anything. Maher boldly says, “The plain fact is religion must

die for man to live.” Yet, Maher himself holds some very strangely irrational opinions. Hemingway pointed out: “It turns out that the late-night comic is no icon of rationality himself. In fact, he is a fervent advocate



never shown much sympathy for religion generally, or for orthodox Christian belief in particular. There they go again.

One of those echoes was sounded by Bill Maher in his 2008 movie, “Religulous.” Maher, of

course, mocks Christian believers because, according to him, they are irrational. In an article in the Wall Street Journal, Molly Ziegler Hemingway (whose father is an LCMS pastor and friend) reported on the penchant for atheists to believe all manner of nonsense, such as Bigfoot and psychic healing. Those who stand against God will fall for anything. Maher boldly says, “The plain fact is religion must die for man to live.” Yet, Maher himself holds some very strangely irrational opinions. Hemingway pointed out: “It turns out that the late-night comic is no icon of rationality himself. In fact, he is a fervent advocate of pseudoscience. The night before his performance on Conan O’Brien, Mr. Maher told David Letterman – a quintuple bypass survivor – to stop taking the pills that his doctor had prescribed for him. He proudly stat-

ed that he didn't accept Western medicine. On his HBO show in 2005, Mr. Maher said: 'I don't believe in vaccination ... Another theory I think is flawed is the Louis Pasteur [germ] theory.' He has told CNN's Larry King that he won't take aspirin because he believes it is lethal and that he doesn't even believe that the Salk vaccine eradicated polio.

"Anti-religionists such as Maher bring to mind the assertion of G.K. Chesterton's Father Brown character that all atheists, secularists, humanists and rationalists are susceptible to superstition: 'It's the first effect of not believing in God that you lose your common sense, and can't see things as they are'" (Molly Ziegler Hemingway, "Look Who's Irrational Now," Wall Street Journal [19 September 2008]).

We may easily chuckle at this less-than-rational critic of the rationality of the religious, but Maher presents a problem for the propagation of the

faith. Many people will chime in with Maher's mocking humor and never give the Christian Gospel a thought. They will have been told that it's all just lunacy and clap-trap by Maher, at best,

worthy only of a good belly laugh, or, at worst, worthy to be persecuted and rooted out of civil society by fire and sword. In any

case, many people will be led into ignorance of the teaching of the Christian religion with its

promise of eternal salvation through the work of Christ Jesus, who dies for sinners like us. As Christmas draws near it ought to remind us that we should not merely laugh at Maher for his many gaffs, but as Christian people we should pray for

his conversion. After all, Christ died for Bill Maher, too.

We have a response from a gracious God who redeems even those who hate him, including Bill Maher, whether He likes it or not. It is nothing new for Christianity to be rejected and reviled, therefore it is incum-



bent on the church and her children to defend the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). There they go again.

Martin Luther wrote:

"Therefore you who devote yourselves to Holy Scriptures

should above all be sure of what you must believe in the Christian religion – that you may have the articles of faith defended with good texts of Holy Scripture and have considered them well. Then when either Satan or his instruments, the

heretics, wish to dispute with you, hold these texts up to them and let them go, saying: 'I do not wish to hear your sophistries and speculations. For this is what the Holy Spirit says. He has warned me to hear and incline my ear. A new and powerful teaching is coming, at which many will be offended: that we must let all righteousness go and simply trust and depend on Christ alone and His righteousness; moreover, that this Christ is by nature God and must be adored. So I am certain I do not err, and the argument is refuted that is raised from the First Commandment and the Prophets regarding one God.' If they object: 'Then you make many gods,' I reply: 'I do not make another or many gods, but I say that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one and the same God.

There is a unity of substance and one essence though there



are three persons.

I do not want to have many gods, because many gods compete among themselves. Nor can there be many gods. But here is unity. If I do not understand how the persons are differentiated, it is enough for me that Holy Scriptures say this and call Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by name (Mt 28:19). If I could grasp this with my reason or senses, what need would there be for faith? Of what use is Scripture revealed by God through the Holy Spirit? If I believe nothing but what I can comprehend by my reason, I must reject Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar, the Word, grace, original sin, and everything. Reason understands none of these things.'

Therefore, this should be the first concern of a theologian that he is a good textualist, as it is called, and that he hold fast to the first principle of not disputing or philosophizing about sacred things. If reasonable or apparent arguments had a place in this, I could distort every article of faith. But in theology one must simply hear, believe, and hold



firmly in his heart: 'God is faithful, no matter how absurd what He says in His Word may appear to our reason.'"

Martin Luther, Commentary on Psalm 45

Lord Jesus, Your compassion for the world is displayed in

Your willingness to give Yourself up to death for those who despise and hate You. Turn the hearts of all who despise and hate You, as You have turned ours. Grant that we might speak Your Word to those who know You not. Make us able defenders of our holy faith, that You might be honored and glorified. Amen.



Advent/Christmas Schedule

Due to the Coronavirus we will only be having midweek worship services during Advent this year. That is, we will not be having any meals beforehand as has been our custom these many years. The service will begin at

7:00 on December 2, 9 and 16, with the Christmas Eve Candle-light Communion Service also at 7:00. On Christmas Day the service will be at 10:00 to allow more family time before coming to Church on the day of our Lord's birth.

Birthdays

Ken Meier	12/1
Mallory Swain	12/1
Mary Ellett	12/5
Gretchen Mayes	12/8
Norm Sowell	12/11
Amy Davis	12/14
Penny Harris	12/15
Dorothy Riley	12/16
Linda Newman	12/16
Julian Goodroad	12/17
Natalie Carty	12/20
Debra Rhea	12/22
June Lueckert	12/25
Rebekah Chapman	12/26
Jonah Korondi	1/3
Carlee Luppess	1/6
Ellen Propst	1/8
Eli Ramer	1/10

Baptisms

Tom Clemens	12/1
Diane Schmidt	12/6
Bill Moore	12/9
Anthony Propst	12/10
Zackery Schmidt	12/11
Ken Meier	12/12
Sullivan Korondi	12/12
Erma Altis	12/13
Mallory Swain	12/17
Julie O'Neal	12/19
Kay Sowell	12/22
Sophia Fairhurst	12/23
Gretchen Mayes	12/25
Julian Goodroad	12/25
Colleen Jackson	12/29
Conner Mayes	12/30
Nancy Oldag	1/1

Mark Young.....	1/1
Leslie Young.....	1/1
Natalie Carty.....	1/1
Rebekah Chapman.....	1/3
Tanner Mayes	1/5
Dorothy Riley	1/8
Linda Newman	1/8
Matthew Cuba.....	1/8

Anniversaries

Ian & Blythe Larson
12/11/2004



David & Deann Benningfield
12/20/1986

Rob & Ardyth Stone
12/23/1978

Ken & Brenda Meier 12/26/1970

Ryan & Laura Schmidt
12/27/2003

Jonah & Audrey Korondi
12/28/2018

Craig & Shari Schley
1/1/2011

Elders

Larry Goodroad
Dallas Hoffman
Bill Moore
Allen Harris
Tim Brammeier

Acolytes

Dec. 2..... Colton Harris

Dec. 6	Simon Korondi
Dec. 9	Andrew Swain
Dec. 13	Sam Wornson
Dec. 16	Colton Harris
Dec. 20	Simon Korondi
Dec. 24	Andrew Swain
Dec. 25	Sam Wornson
Dec. 27	Colton Harris
Jan. 3	Simon Korondi
Jan. 10	Andrew Swain
Jan. 17	Sam Wornson
Jan. 24	Colton Harris
Jan 31	Simon Korondi

Ushers

Dec. 2 & 6

Jim Wornson, Mark Young

Dec. 9 & 13

Tony Alshouse, Darrin Abend

Dec. 16 & 20

Tim Brammeier, Don Mayes

Dec. 24 & 27

Richard Buesing,
Derek Chapman

Dec. 25

Vic Edwards, John Diaz

Greeters

Until the Coronavirus issue is resolved and we can resume our normal worship activities we are suspending the Greeter program for the time being. In the meantime, continue to greet once another spontaneously!



Altar Guild

Dec. 6

Mary Ellett, Pat Owens

Dec. 13

Leslie Young, Dee Hoffman

Dec. 20

Kari Goodroad,
Deanna Korondi



Dec. 24

Phyllis Clemens,
Sharon McCubbin

Dec. 25

Pat Owens

Coronavirus Update

The Clay County Health Department has updated their recommendations, but for the most part it won't affect anything that we're already doing as we attempt to remain faithful to our calling as Church to proclaim the pure Gospel of Christ and distribute His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation – all

the while also trying to honor the Fourth Commandment in respecting and not disobeying our leaders.

I want to reiterate that we

are doing all we can to protect the health and safety of our members while trying to be Church for the spiritual welfare of those whom Christ has entrusted to our care. I just recently reviewed the new Clay County Health Department Guidelines for Churches, and what it says is that when you are inside a public building you should wear a mask. Since it is quite difficult to sing and participate in the Divine Service we ask that you use your own discretion and adhere to your own comfort level when in Church. We believe that all our members are quite capable of following these guidelines and so we are not going to try and act as if we are the “social distancing and mask police.”



For clarification then, while you are in the Nave for worship (if you are comfortable doing so) you may remove your face mask. Families and people who are together during the week anyway may sit together, but we are asking that when you come in you sit at either end of pews marked with the yellow dot on the arm, or in the middle of the pews not so marked.

The Board of Elders and the leadership of the Congregation feel that we have reached a good compromise for the time being, and we ask for your support as we move forward, hopefully putting this whole mess behind us before too long.

We are all adults and we know everyone will do whatever they need to do to ensure that our fellow members are neither exposed to Covid-19 nor made to feel like they might be in danger by coming to worship services.

Board of Directors

10/12/2020 – 7 p.m.

Attendance: President (Mark Fairhurst), Vice President Darrin Abend), Elder (Larry Good-



road), Properties (Melvin Altis), Evangelism (Sam Goodroad), Education (Michelle Fairhurst), Services (Dee Hoffman), Treasurer (Connie Brammeier), Secretary (Erma Altis)



Call to Order: President Mark Fairhurst called the meeting to order.

Scripture and Prayer

President Mark Fairhurst presented a recording from Higher Things.

Reading of the Minutes: Secretary Erma Altis

Motion was made by Michelle Fairhurst to approve the minutes, seconded by Darrin Abend. Vote taken to approve the minutes. Passed

Admission and Dismissal of Members: No report.

Report by Treasurer Connie Brammeier: Update on PPP loan

Motion was made to approve the treasurer report by Sam Goodroad, seconded by Michelle Fairhurst. Vote taken to approve the treasurer report. Passed

Report by Directors:

President Mark Fairhurst: Several updates to bring up under

Unfinished Business and New Business.

Vice President Darrin Abend:

Nothing at this time

Elders Larry Goodroad:

Elders had a meeting on September 21. Larry stated that Vic Edwards retired as Elder. The Elders are still checking on everyone in their zone.

Properties Melvin Altis: Roof update, Elevator update, Sidewalk, Election Board - Received a letter from the Election Board thanking us for the use of our building.

Evangelism Sam Goodroad: Sam will be replacing the sign at Porters with a new one. He will be checking on putting a sign out front of the Church about our live services on line every Sunday.

Education Michelle Fairhurst:

Michelle stated that she had ordered books for the kids.

Services Dee Hoffman:

The basket was ready for Jonard Goodroad for November 15th.

She will be working on the next basket.

Secretary Erma Altis: Erma stated that the Church should

have a retirement party for Ken Meier and Vic Edwards for their years they serviced as Elders. Date was set for November 8th to have cake and punch after Church.

Unfinished Business

LWML Service Projects

LWML requested that the September 14, 2020, board minutes be amended to change

the word "recycling" to "service projects." Dee Hoffman moved. Seconded by Michelle Fairhurst. Passed by vote. Marlo Howard sent a letter from LWML Society about when they would be able to continue their service projects. Mark Fairhurst will contact Marlo with the Board's recommendations.

cy.

Tabled for next Board Meeting.

New Business: Scholarship Request (Shearer Memorial Fund) –Tom & Joe Goodroad. Motion was made by Melvin Altis to send Tom & Joe Goodroad \$2000.00 each for scholarship funding, seconded by Dee Hoffman. Vote taken, Passed.

It Is To Laugh

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: 6 years

Teacher: What? How is that possible?

Kid: He only became a father when I was born!

—

Teacher: Maria, please go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: So, who can tell me who found North America?

Class: Maria!

—

Teacher: Glenn, how to you spell crocodile?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong.

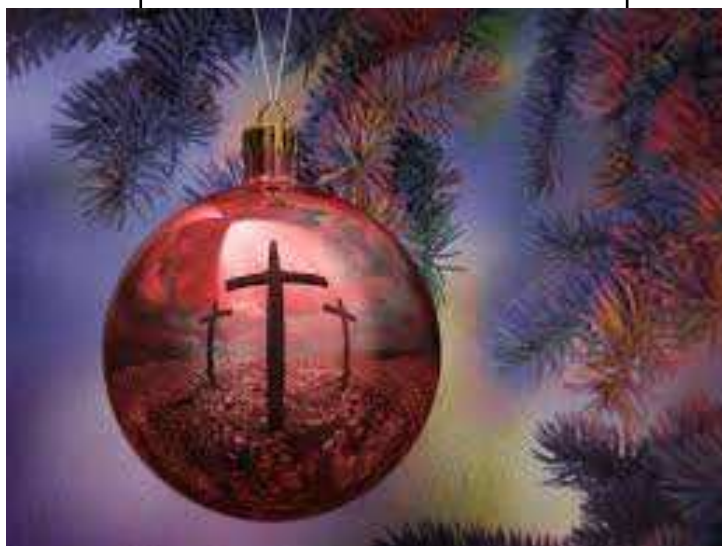
Glenn: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how I spelled it!

—

Teacher: Donald, what is the formula for water?

Donald: H I J K L M N O

Teacher: What are you talking about?



Contracts: President Mark Fairhurst passed out information about updating Contracts Poli-

Donald: Well, yesterday you said the formula for water was H to O.

—

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking even though no one is interested?

Harold: A teacher

Voters Meeting 11/22/20 - 12 p.m.

Approval of the proposed 2021 Budget

Elections: Vice President, Education, Youth, Stewardship, Services, Head Elder.

Adjournment

Sam Goodroad made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Melvin Altis

Prayers

President Mark Fairhurst closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Erma Altis, Secretary

† † †

Board of Directors, November 9, 2020

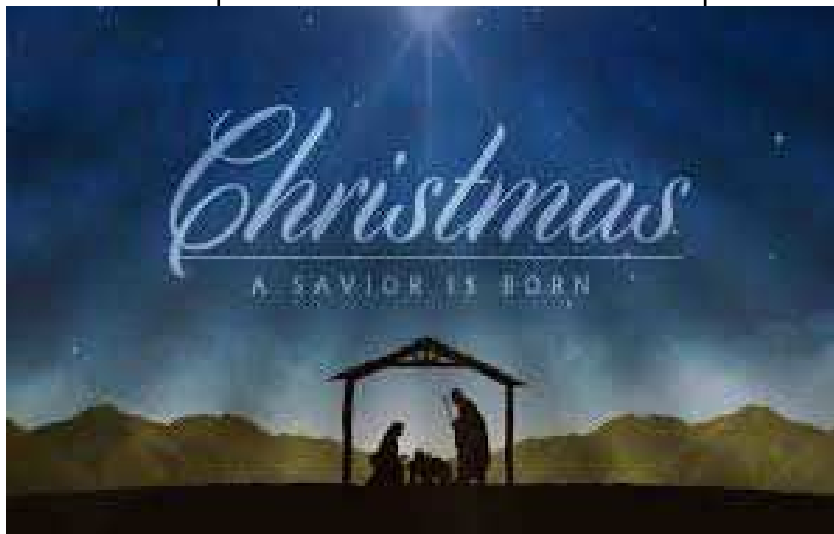
Attendance: Pastor (Drew Newman), President (Mark Fairhurst), Vice President (Darrin Abend), Elder (Larry Goodroad), Properties (Melvin Altis), Evangelism (Sam Goodroad), Public Relations (Derek Chapman), Planning (Tim

Brammeier), Services (Dee Hoffman), Education (Michelle Fairhurst), Treasurer (Connie Brammeier), Secretary (Erma Altis)

Call to Order: President Mark Fairhurst

Scripture and Prayer: Pastor Drew Newman

Reading of the Minutes: Secretary Erma Altis: Motion to approve the minutes by Sam Goodroad, seconded by Tim Brammeier, Passed



Report by Pastor: Admission and Dismissal: Sylvia Herrell was received into Christ's heavenly kingdom. Baptism on November 15th, of Jonard Goodroad.

Report by Treasurer: Connie Brammeier: The approval on the PPP loan is forgiven. Motion as made to approve the Treasurer Report by Dee Hoffman, seconded by Michelle Fairhurst. Passed.

Report by Directors:

President Mark Fairhurst: See unfinished business and new business.

Vice President Darrin Abend: Nothing at this time.

Elders: Larry Goodroad: No meeting last month.

Properties: Melvin Altis: Roof is around 99% done, second group will be to finish up. Elevator, still waiting on the motor. Cleaning will be done on Thursdays

Evangelism: Sam Goodroad: The sign at Porter has been replaced with a new one. Working on get a new sign for the front of the church about the on line live services.

Education: Michelle Fairhurst: The books came in and getting them out to kids.

Public Relations: Derek Chapman: We had a live stream on Sylvia Herrell funeral. Pastor's mic not working it need to

be replaced. Melvin Altis made a motion to buy a new mic, seconded by Tim Brammeier. Passed

Planning: Tim Brammeier: Purchased an 87" TV.

Services: Dee Hoffman: Baptism on November 15th, the basket is finished for Jonard Goodroad.

Secretary: Erma Altis: Nothing at this time.

Unfinished Business: LWML Service Projects, Mark will talk to Marlo. Voter Meeting 11/22/2020

2021 Budget, Elections: Vice President (Darrin Abend), Education (Becca Chapman), Youth (Deanna Korondi), Stewardship (Need a candidate), Services (Dee Hoffman), Head Elder (Larry Goodroad). Contracts Policy. Motion was made by Tim Brammeier on the Contract Policy, seconded by Sam Goodroad. Passed.

New Business: Building Use Request: Chris and Kimberly (Meier) Hower. Motion was made by Michelle Fairhurst for the building use request, seconded by Tim Brammeier, Passed.

Hanging of the Green: Pastor stated that the hanging of the greens will be on November 29, 2020.

Adjournment: Larry Goodroad made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tim Brammeier.

Prayers: Pastor Drew Newman closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Erma Altis, Secretary

Top of the Hill

The Top of the Hill group is still in limbo. We'll let you know when we decide to have our first lunch and game day. Watch for more details as we know more.

Thank You

Dear Friends, "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mention you in our prayers." 1 Thessalonians 1:2. On behalf of Concordia Theological Seminary I thank you for your recent donation of \$810. Gifts such as ours, allow us to provide the finest theological education to the future pastors

deaconesses, and missionaries who will serve The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod and our partner churches worldwide I thank God for you and ask for your continued support. Together we partner in an essential mission of forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.,
President, CTS

Christmas Hymnfest

This year we will be having our annual Christmas Hymnfest on the afternoon of December 20th. Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic we will not be having cookies and punch following, but we pray many of you will be able to join us at 5:00 to sing together the well-known hymns of Christmas

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*

