



# CELIC Newsletter

2022 November

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. - Rom10:17

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## Chairman's Word



Chairman of the CELC Pastor Andrew Miao

What is the key to the revival of the church? Does the church have a sound organization, system, and charter? Or does it need to have many different ministry activities? These do sometimes attract people to the church and increase the number of people in the church. It looks like a revival, but is it really a revival? Didn't the medieval Roman Catholic Church have these? Then why did the teaching become depraved and corrupted, leading to the Reformation of the church?

According to the Bible (1 Corinthians 3:10-11), the only foundation of the church is "Jesus Christ.", which is the Word of Christ, that is, including the preached Word and the Sacraments (the visible Word). Next is the need for wise senior pastors, the servants of God, to build on this Christ the Cornerstone and expand.

When the CELC gradually establishes organizations, systems, and regulations, I hope that these will become helpful to our future pastoral staff.

So, on this day of Restoration (the anniversary of the Church Reformation), I would like to quote from Luke 19:1-10

The scriptures come to all pastoral staff as a reminder and encouragement to each other. Zacchaeus, the protagonist in this passage, can be seen like us as a servant of the Lord. He originally focused his life on money as his master, but when Jesus came, he also saw that it was salvation that came to his house, and he received Jesus (John 1:12). His life was changed, and he no longer recognized money as his master, instead, Jesus became his Lord. In Christ, his life changed, and his behavior changed, from sin to serving the Lord Jesus and others. He understood the will of Jesus, which was to ask him to trust in Jesus, obey Jesus, and do the will of Jesus.

This is a real servant and not a hired worker. The Lord promises and will certainly live with the shepherd, and the shepherd will also receive Jesus. Not just for a while, but often, for a lifetime. Otherwise, if you leave the Lord, you will become a hired worker, a lifetime of so-called "serving" in vain.

May the pastors and staff remember to always get close to the Lord and live in Christ. Let our labor in the Lord not be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

## Lutheran Pastoral Worker Training / On-the-job Training



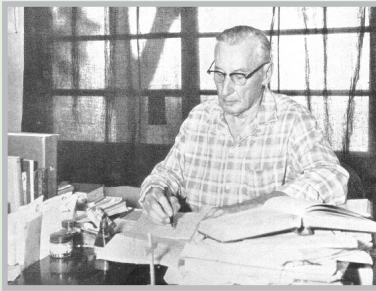
### The Meaning and Practice of Holy Baptism

Professor Rev. Dr. Gifford A. Grobien, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Deputy Provost at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (CTSFW).

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# Salvation Church Introduction

Pastor Alex Wu



Rev. Erhardt Riedel



The first Salvation Lutheran Church gathering was held in the 45th year of the Republic of China. Brother Miao JuRen conducted family worship and children's Sunday school. In the winter, an American missionary Rev. Erhardt Riedel, (who also did the first Chinese translation of the Book of Concord) began to take charge of the work and set up a missionary office. On April 28 of the following year, the first 13 adults and 12 children were baptized. One year later, Pastor Han WeiDe, an American missionary, took over the mission.

In June 1959, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod purchased about 100 pings of land in Shirakawa Town, West District, Chiayi City, to build a church. On December 6, the new building was completed and a dedication ceremony was held. At the ceremony, the congregation was officially named "China Evangelical Lutheran Church JiuEntang" At that time, most of the members of the church lived nearby. In the village were Air Force and other government-related personnel and their families. On April 10, 1960, Rev. Mei Xiaofeng was ordained as the first national pastor. Then, in the 51st year of the Republic of China, Pastor Mei accepted the call of Taipei Eternal Life Lutheran Church, and the local gospel work was conducted by Zhu Yushu.

Pastor Zhu pastored at Lutheran Salvation Church for about 36 years (he died in 1998). Every Sunday morning at 8:00 was Sunday school for children. Sunday service started at 9:00. At 10:00 was an English Bible class by American English teacher, Merle Golnick. The children's class was later organized as "Yiren Kindergarten." For a time, the LCMS helped our church preach the Gospel with the assistance of American "volunteers." Before the death of Pastor Zhu, the church body was weakening, and the church gatherings and activities gradually decreased. Chiayi's population was seriously decreasing, and many members moved away. The

kindergarten also ended in 1995.

In August 1998, Pastor Liu Kunchang took over as pastor of Salvation Church. There were four lay believer families committed to this church, and Pastor Liu also worked in the counseling office at Concordia Middle School. During this period, Miao Qihua, was pastor of the Lutheran Church of Eternal Life. Teachers and short-term mission teams assisted Salvation Church in regaining the ability to stand. The American "volunteers" of the American Mission Association assisted in various places. Their work transformed into a focus on teaching English at Chiayi Concordia Middle School. They established every Friday night English Bible study class at Salvation Lutheran Church.

In August 2007, Pastor Liu accepted a call from Hualien FuGuang church, so Pastor Michael Paul took over temporarily as pastor of Salvation Lutheran Church pastor and assisted the church in its liturgical services and Lutheran theological teaching. In April 2009, Pastor Alex Wu ended his pastorate at AnZhong Church in Tainan and accepted the call of Salvation Church to continue the work of pastors Liu and Paul.

During the 66 years of Salvation Church, there were often failures. It has been re-established, and God keeps giving Salvation Church faithful colleagues and family members to join. Thank God for the last several years in which through Chairman Miao, Vice Chairman Lu, and Pastor Steven Wang of the Lutheran Church. The pastors and this team continue to assist with church furnishings and decor and sharing of administrative systems, the reformation of liturgical worship and Lutheran theological teaching. It is our sincere wish that God fulfill His beautiful will in Salvation Lutheran Church! (Thank you, Pastor Michael Paul for providing the historical information.)

# Pastoral Theology of Luke and Acts— a reflection on the class

Pastor Steven Wang

Pastoral exposure to Gospels, for assorted reasons and available opportunities, the least research is really regarding the Gospel of Luke. Fortunately, an opportunity appeared in September. For three weeks in Hsinchu Lutheran Seminary, listening to lectures and reading piles of books, like a Land Rover breaks into the forest, crosses the height and width of the stream, and enjoys angles and facts that I have never thought about before. Of course, I must give heart-felt thanks to Professor Arthur Just for his incisive research and teaching. Thanks also for the church to support the time and opportunity the further education of the preachers, and more importantly thanks to the CELC for nurturing/ inheriting the Lutheran preachers' good intentions of suffering, so that the word of the Gospel is again clarified and illuminated.

Indeed, the purpose of Luke's Gospel in the first century focused on complete evangelism and regular catechesis, to introduce baptism to Jewish Christian converts and Gentiles leading to participation in the Lord's Supper.

Christians today continue to practice the Holy Sacraments through the same process of worship, baptism, and communion. It is not hard to see Luke being an evangelist and a doctor. This Gospel was written for the worship of the Church, whose theology is strongly expressed in Luke and Acts. Thank you, Lord, in faith, we hear the gospel!

Worship in the church and worship in heaven are the same, for I have heard the Gospel, and after hearing the Word, baptism enables us to enter the new life and participate in such Worship. The feeding of this new life requires the Word and the Sacraments. So, in the early church, believers called the Eucharist "the medicine of eternal life" because the sacrament connects Christ's body with us. And the perfectly holy body of Jesus, is the key and only cure, and the church is therefore the hospital where people's souls are sick and need Jesus' healing. The union of the believer with the body of Christ Jesus in the Eucharist. In this cycle, the presence of Christ in the progressive liturgical process gives the true assurance of healing, that is, the forgiveness of sins.

And we are like the Pharisees. The Pharisees accept grace, but continually stick to maintaining

and obeying the law. A common favorite verse for Christians is: Rejoice always, for by wanting or expecting joy; or by praying unceasingly—thinking prayer can change whatever you want (or you can change things through prayer); or even thanking God for everything—constantly speaking "praise the Lord." In the examples in this text, we find that we and the Pharisees are the same. The law in our situation and the old-fashioned law is the same.

Pharisees and sinners invited Jesus to eat with them, but not in the same way. The Pharisees' was a response to the law, the sinners heard the Gospel, turned to the Gospel, and received the Gospel! Lutherans never conclude with the Law. Coming to a Lutheran church is like coming to an early Christian church gathering. What we preach is Jesus Christ, the teaching of Christ, the full Gospel of Jesus' salvation, the assurance of true salvation as the free gift of Christ. It is the pure proclamation of the Gospel and the correct administration of the Sacraments.

Going back to the record of Luke's Gospel, the real peak of the Gospel is revealed when companions were walking before a certain meal after the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus was already a fact at that time, but it was also accompanied by a series of question marks. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were not sure, should we rejoice or be sad about this amazing news? It is joyful to hear that Jesus has risen, but it is sad that I don't know for sure what I should believe. It's just like many believers today, "I don't know what to say in terms of beliefs, I only know how many generations of Christians were in my family before me." Poor Christian...

Christ Jesus revealed how all the Scriptures pointed clearly to Himself, and He took bread and broke it at the supper. This holy teaching of the Word and administration of the sacraments were revealed to the Emmaus disciples by Jesus Christ Himself. In this way, Jesus modeled the gathering, the worship of the presence of Christ Jesus, the worship of Christ. Jesus offers the gift of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life.

As Jesus Christ did, so did the early Church, As we do now: in Jesus Life, in His teaching, in His grace!

# New Books Introduction by Sharon Hsieh

This is a weekly calendar booklet designed according to the "Church Year." The side of the book has tabs marked "Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost". There are green, red, purple, white (yellow border) and black blocks scattered among them, making people curious about the "Church Year." Then people can read "An Explanation of the Church Year". In addition to festivals, there are also national holidays announced by the Bureau of Political Affairs and Administration which are convenient for planning. The "Weekly Calendar" contains "Sunday Scriptures" to know in advance which texts the pastor will speak about on the Lord's Day. There are three "daily scriptures" to read God's word each day. There are festival-related "Meditation Essays". When new friends come to church, you can use the items in the back of the book: Brief Introduction to Lutheranism, "Simple Prayer Method," and "Sunday Worship Procedure", "The Significance of Church and Christmas Decoration" and "A Schedule for Speed Reading the Book of Concord". It can be said that this book is an informative book for new friends and familiar members of the church. This is a book to read and use together every day.



Understanding the Lutheran Faith - Fundamentals (Lutheranism 101) is a book that examines Lutheran faith positions and historical heritage. Whether you are a first-generation Christian, or grew up in the church, but longing to know what Christians believe in, this is an indispensable book. This book is suitable for lay Christians to read for themselves but is also useful for pastors. It can be read alone, or read one-on-one, or used to lead a group. The words in this book are simple and neat, citing the Bible, Book of Concord, and Luther's Works. It contains clear teaching and excellent application in life based on six themes: the relationship between God and man; faith; means of grace; Lutheran history; the Divine Service; and love of neighbor. Each theme is a key issue of faith and is also an issue that often troubles church brothers and sisters are often. This book provides basic teachings and can help pastors respond. The essays or materials in the appendix are all about understanding faith. They are good tools, including church history, Biblical events, Messianic prophecies, Lutheran literature, Christian libraries, and glossaries. This book will bring to you clear and rich knowledge about the Lutheran faith.

