



**THE BOOK OF CONCORD**  
(Tappert Edition)

**APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION**

ARTICLE XV.  
HUMAN TRADITIONS IN THE CHURCH

<sup>13</sup> What need is there of a long discussion? The holy Fathers did not institute any traditions for the purpose of meriting the forgiveness of sins or righteousness. They instituted them for the sake of good order and tranquility in the church. <sup>14</sup> If somebody wants to institute certain works to merit the forgiveness of sins or righteousness, how will he know that these works please God since they do not have support in God's Word? How will he inform men of God's will without the command and Word of God? Does not God throughout the prophets forbid the establishment of additional ceremonies without his command? In Ezek. 20:18, 19, it is written, "Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their ordinances, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I the Lord am your God; walk in my statutes, and be careful to observe my ordinances." <sup>15</sup> If men are allowed to establish new rites and if by such rites they merit grace, we shall have to approve the religious rites of all the heathen, as well as the rites established by Jeroboam and others over and above the law. Where is the difference? If we are permitted to establish rites that serve to merit grace or righteousness, why did not the heathen and Israelites have the same privilege? <sup>16</sup> Yet the rites of the heathen and the Israelites were condemned precisely because, in their ignorance of the righteousness of faith, they believed that by these they merited the forgiveness of sins and righteousness. <sup>17</sup> Finally, what assurance do we have that religious rites established by men without God's command can justify since we can affirm nothing about the will of God without the Word of God? What if God does not approve these acts of worship? How, then, can our opponents maintain that they justify? They cannot maintain this without the Word and testimony of God, and Paul says (Rom. 14:23), "Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin." Since these rites have no testimony in the Word of God, the conscience must doubt whether they please God. (¶13-17)

Last week:  
Attendance: 23  
Offering:  
Ash Wednesday, 2/18: \$128.00      Sun, 2/22: \$307.00

March 1, 2015

WELCOME to Apostles Lutheran Church! This congregation is a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). We believe and teach that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, and the only means by which God has revealed the way of salvation, which is in Jesus Christ. We pray that this hour will refresh your heart as God draws you closer to Himself.

**LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM**

**Christian Questions with Their Answers**

*Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament*

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these <sup>(20)</sup>questions:

4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins? *His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21, 23.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Norm Buechler (Dale's Father); Robert Lowery (Friend of Gregg Lemke); Al Heimsoth, Virgil Bennett, Betty Hynes; Gerald Klemp (in Texas); Chris Balvanz (Pam Wenndt's brother); Pastor Klingbeil; Pastor Davison (St. Luke-Richland Center); Serving in our military: Owen Jacobson, Joshua Weisensel, Keith McDonald

**THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES**

Sunday, 9a: Divine Service with Holy Communion  
~10:30a: Adult Bible Class & Sunday School  
Tuesday, 9a: Study of Lutheran Theology  
Wednesday, 5:30p Study of *The Lutheran Confessions*  
7p: Midweek Lenten Vespers  
Friday, 4p: On-Campus Bible Study: Survey of the New Testament Computer Conference Rm  
Sunday, 9a: Divine Service with Holy Communion Reception of new members  
~10:30a: Adult Bible Class & Sunday School

Wednesday Lent Midweek Vespers throughout this season penitential season of *Lent* (through March), beginning @ 7p. Theme: *The Passion of our Lord*

Next Sunday, we welcome Sarah Kirschbaum & Jeff Meyer into membership at Apostles as they seek to confess the Christian faith with us.

Sunday, March 15: Meeting of Apostles' Voters

"Scripture most emphatically protests against every regarding Scripture as an obscure book, as do not only unbelievers, but also some within external Christendom; at times even devout Christians are disturbed." (F. Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics, Vol 1, 320*)

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE  
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Old Testament: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. . . .

<sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Epistle: Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Gospel: Mark 8:27-38**

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

<sup>28</sup>And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>34</sup>And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? <sup>37</sup>For what can a man give in return for his life? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

