

PASTOR'S PAGE

Lamenting in Our Hymnody

Today many do not understand our hymnody. Being married to a church musician and raising a church musician is humbling. I have my lack of knowledge of Lutheran hymnody. Nathan's fellow master student at CUW was Matthew Macheimer. Matthew is the Associate Kantor of Concordia Theological Seminary; Fort Wayne, Indiana. He wrote an article in "For the Life of the World" entitled "Leaning Into the LAMENT In Our Hymnody."

In 1518 Martin Luther wrote: "A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is." The theology of glory teaches that man's will can control one's life, pain, and suffering. The theology of the cross teaches that pain and suffering is beyond our human will. Pain and suffering sprouts from sinfulness. Humanity is sinful. Sin penetrates us physically and spiritually. Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death..." And when our lives become tragic, this inherited sinfulness is brought to bear. In a sense COVID has done all of us a favor by showing us that our attempts to solve the world's problems and usher in a perfect society are futile. Kantor Macheimer writes: "So with Luther we learn that we live as those under the cross. We are broken people attending broken churches, living within broken communities. Some of this is our own doing. Some of this has been done to us."

COVID has allowed us to lament. Lamenting is a passionate expression of grieving. Many live with the idea that Christians are not to grieve or lament. That's for the unsaved. True believers do not lament! If one is grieving one must have failed in his/her trust with the Lord God. If bad things happen, one must have done something wrong, to allow the bad to happen. They need to make a correction. (That's the Theology of Glory)

The Bible teaches that even the righteous suffer. Look at Job. He loses everything. Even his wife tells him: "Curse God and Die!" Job's response: "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Kantor Macheimer enlightens us with the words from the Psalter (Book of Psalms), the Bible's hymnal:

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? (Psalm 13:1-2)

David, the author of this Psalm, is not interested in having a polite and rational discussion with God regarding the evil that has befallen him. David is aggravated with such suffering and sings this Psalm. God has allowed this to happen to His faithful servant. God imposes suffering. This is so not the God which many hear from pulpits today...God imposes suffering...Again look at Job!

Or look at Paul: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." This thorn was imposed on Paul by God. It's hard to phantom.

Consider these words from our hymnal: "What God Ordains is Always Good." The hymnodist emphasizes that God ordains the bitterness of our lives. He does this not because He delights in our trouble, but so that He might comfort us in our sorrows.

What God ordains is always good:
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors bitterness.
For after grief...God gives relief.
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling (LSB 760 v5)

There are several more hymns and Psalms that describe what God is ordaining in the Christians life. David, Job, and Paul know where their help comes from. They lament over their troubles, but they do not sin with their lips. They sing with their lips: "Our help comes from the Lord the maker of heaven and earth!" (Psalm 124:8)

Kantor Macheimer concludes his lamenting article this way: Right now, we find ourselves in times of uncertainty. As our nation rages and our kingdoms totter, we desire that God would utter His voice into our broken lives. COVID has left many feeling alone and unloved. Careers that we have spent years building up have come toppling down. And while God may seem silent. He is not inactive. He uses our suffering to bring us closer to Him, to focus our eyes on His Son, the One who ended all suffering, and He anguishes on the cross gives our suffering meaning. The Lord has ordained a time for all things. So even now, while we suffer, we sing to Him in faith. We know that, in His good time, He will alleviate our misery and bring us into the joy of eternity.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Robert Steele

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 - Elsie Reinbacher
Cindy Fisher
5 - Richard Johnson
Lois Schmideler
7 - Peggy Keller
14 - Thomas Yang



15 - Andrew Kraus
16 - Colin Mengel
17 - Steve Perry
18 - Caleb Cox
23 - David Prange
Noah Fibiger

25 - Joe Wychesit
28 - Madison Fibiger

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8 - James & Barbara Herzog
15 - Ken & Liz Buesing



If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and let us know.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Orphan Grain Train

During the months of January and February, all money collected from your "Designated Offerings" contribution envelopes will go **Orphan Grain Train**. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. For more information, visit their website at www.ogt.org

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The strain of Covid for the last two years have been trying, to say the least, but we can have courage and hope in our future. Romans 8:28 says; "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose". This time of year tends to be especially hard for us Wisconsinites with the cold weather and cabin fever (unless you are into ice fishing...brrr). However, the warmth of the Lord is always with us, and your church friends are always there for a word of encouragement. We need to lean on each other and pray for each other during these difficult times too.

We had two more members who were called home by the Lord in January. Tom Berlin passed away on January 3rd. May he rest in peace. A week later on January 10th, DuWayne Froh was also called home. Please keep their families in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

As of writing this letter, we are still looking for a Trustee, an Elder, and a Council Secretary. If you are not already serving in some capacity in the church, please consider volunteering for these roles. We would like to keep the church running smoothly.

For the Trustee position, we need someone who can meet with contractors at the church during the day when occasional maintenance is needed. Ryan Brooks who is a returning Trustee works during normal business hours. He also attends the monthly Council meeting so it is not a significant amount of time required for the open Trustee position.

The Elder position is necessary to maintain both Saturday and Sunday services. If we are unable to fill these positions we will likely have to make changes in how we do things at Bethany.

The Council Secretary position is taking notes one meeting per month and during the November Voter's meeting. The meeting notes have a consistent format and agenda, and we can even provide a laptop for the notes.

Please reach out to Pastor, Andy Fibiger or me if you have questions about any of the open positions.

Dori and I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

God Bless and to God be the Glory!

Todd Matte - Council President

**** HELP NEEDED FOR SOUP SUPPERS ****

Ash Wednesday is March 2. We would like to host our Lenten Soup Suppers again but need help! We are looking for people to host a meal. Hosting means you would be in charge of making sure everything gets done on your week. There will be sign up sheets for helpers and any money collected that week can go to a charity or group of your choice. If you are able to host a meal, please contact Gina in the church office. Watch the bulletin for the Soup Supper schedule. We will only have a meal on the days we have someone to host it. Hopefully, with enough help, we will be able to have one each week of Lent. See Gina with any questions.



VALENTINE BREAKFAST FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Sunday, February 13, the Sunday School children will be enjoying a breakfast prepared by the Sunday School teachers while they create Valentine cards that will be given to Bethany's shut ins.

Blessings Friends at Bethany,

On February 15th Love INC will celebrate our 7th Anniversary in Sheboygan County. God has been so good to our mission here and continues to BLESS us. Along with our Anniversary, we celebrate "Love in February", partnering with some of our area businesses that have been so kind to us in the past and we are always looking for a few new ones. Please watch for the flyer to be posted soon and participate if you can.

So much to do and so many prayers needed as 2022 also marks the start of a 3-year Strategic Plan to make sure we become strong and have a plan in place to strengthen and maintain our goals to be there for our neighbors in Sheboygan County.

God Bless and keep us in your prayers
Sue Prange - Love INC



LOVE INC – HELP NEEDED

The New Way program is held at Calvin Christian Reformed Church: 2313 Saemann Ave. on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm— 7:30pm with dinner each week at 5:15pm. We are calling all servant hearts that are willing and able to assist in important roles for our program operation:

Childcare Team — Please help us provide childcare to local infants and children 0 - 12 y.o. while their parent/guardian participates in life-changing classes! We have fun structured activities and supplies for each week!

Kitchen Crew — Join us to serve up a great meal for students, children, and program volunteers each week! 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Class Facilitators —

- Affirming Potential - Goal setting, dreaming, discovering your inherent value in Christ to actualize your potential
- Faith & Finances - money management, values, debt, savings & spending plans
- Boundaries - create/maintain healthy relationships with different people
- Tasting Grace - Bring nutrition into awareness for the glory of God, budget-friendly meals, cooking demonstration

Seeking help for upcoming session 1/13—3/31, help when you can! Contact Jenna to get started! 920-783-6701 x. 5107



PREPARE ye the way of the Lord!

Our Word of the Year for 2022 is **PREPARE** with our Scripture of the Year from Psalm 20:4 which states "May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." We look forward to working with you to fully prepare for what God has in store for Love In the Name of Christ in Sheboygan County!

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022

Saturday, February 5

4:00 p.m.

w/Holy communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Gerry Luebke

Steve & Diane Marotz

Elanore Faucher

Barb & Lee Gumm

Sunday, February 6

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Andy Fibiger

Mattes

Aidan Brooks

Mary Ann Fibiger

Patrick Johnson

Saturday, February 12

4:00 p.m.

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Brian Faucher

Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman

Maggie Faucher

Barb & Karl Kaeppler

Sunday, February 13

10:00 a.m.

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Lee Gumm

Hazens

Isaac Hasler

Sharon Werner

Ken Thompson

Saturday, February 19

4:00 p.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Shua Yang

Ray & Shirley Ottman

Katelynn Regutis

Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson

Sunday, February 20

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Jason Mengel

Dave & Sue Prange

Ryan Mengel

Lee Gumm

Andy Fibiger

Saturday, February 26

4:00 p.m.

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Gerry Luebke

Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie

Colin Mengel

Shirley & Ray Ottman

Sunday, February 27

10:00 a.m.

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Andy Fibiger

Fibigers

Winston Hasler

Steve Hazen

Dan Fibiger

February 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	03 Dartball – Bethany @Panthers	04	05 4pm Worship w/HC
06 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	07 6:30pm Elders	08	09 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	10 Dartball – Lancers @Bethany	11	12 4pm Worship
13 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School (Valentine Breakfast) 10am Worship	14 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	15	16 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	17 Dartball – Bethany @Mustangs	18	19 4pm Worship w/HC
20 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	21	22	23 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	24 Dartball – Tigers @Bethany	25	26 4pm Worship
27 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	28					