

The Shield of Faith

APRIL, 2022

*Be strong in the Lord and
in His mighty power...Take
up the shield of faith.
Ephesians 6:10, 16*

The Foolishness of the Cross **(AKA the Wisdom of God)**

There has been many times in history (just as recent as the last three years) when the confessional/visible Church on earth has been at odds with the wisdom of the world. The world will tell us that *this* or *that* is important while the Church will say the very opposite. Now to be clear, when I say the confessional/visible Church on earth, I am referring to the wisdom of God that is recorded and preached for us in holy writ (the scriptures). The true visible Church on earth preaches God's inerrant Word purely. It is by this authority that she speaks and teaches. And so when the wisdom of God comes face to face with the wisdom of the world, there will of course be conflicting reports. It can make us wish that instead of the bible, God in all his glory and obviousness would just come down here and tell us everything we need to know face to face.

And it is regarding this topic I wish you to be equipped. The fact is, we have, all of us as sinners through the fall and original sin, rejected the visible God. We have rebelled against him and made ourselves our own visible god. Also, because we are fallen and evil, we cannot be in the presence of the visible God in all his glory. The experience would destroy us. So, God has now entered into salvific covenant relationship with us in a different way; a hidden way.

The following excerpt from a magnificent book called, **Luther's Theology of the Cross**, pulls from Luther's many writings and begins to paint us a picture of what it means to be a beloved and saved creature of the hidden God. I hope you enjoy this introductory thought on a grand topic, and encourage you to track down a copy of this book and discover the treasure trove of insight it contains.

Continued on page 2.

...Men have failed to honor the God who was manifest in his works. And so God now chooses a different way to reveal himself to man. The cross now becomes the revelation of God.

But what do we see when we see the cross? There is “nothing else to be seen than disgrace, poverty, death, and everything that is shown us in the suffering Christ.” These are all things that in our opinion have nothing divine in them but rather point to man's trouble, misery, and weakness. There especially no one would of himself look for God's revelation. Into such a concealment God enters in order to reveal himself. If there is to be revelation of God, the visible God must become the hidden God. God becomes “hidden in sufferings.” As God hides himself, the “visible things of God” become manifest: “His human nature, weakness, foolishness.”

Thus God becomes visible as he conceals himself, and only in this concealment does he become visible. “Now it is not sufficient for anyone, and it does him no good to recognize God in his glory and majesty, unless he recognizes him in the humility and shame of the cross.” Hence, even if the theology of glory should arrive at a knowledge of God, it is of no value. God wants to be recognized only in the humility and shame of the cross.

If God himself is hidden in sufferings, it is clear that also the works of God, in which his activity confronts us, bear the same character. The “works of God are always unattractive”, deformed. They are so deeply hidden that they only appear “under the opposite form.” God's power reveals itself in weakness. God's help remains invisible to man who considers himself most forsaken by God when God's help is nearest. God's wisdom is indeed wisdom, but it seems like foolishness to us. It is “God's wisdom in concealment, a wisdom which is in secret things.” As such we must seek to know it, we must receive an eye for the hidden character of the divine properties and works, for God will never disclose himself to direct, metaphysical contemplation. If man is not to go astray here, the wisdom of the cross must be granted him. This wisdom, however, is considered foolishness by the world. Therefore, “he who wishes to become wise does not seek wisdom by progressing toward it but becomes a fool by retrogressing into seeking folly.... This is the wisdom which is folly to the world.”

Continued on page 3.

The wisdom of the world would tell us that it's just water, that's it's just bread and wine, that the bible is just a man-made story to comfort our fears and soothe our sorrows. The wisdom of the world said that Christ was just a man. The wisdom of the world tells you that you are alone and only you can help you.

However, the foolishness (wisdom) of God tells us just the opposite. It is salvation in the righteousness of Christ that we find in that water combined with God's Word. It is the body and blood of Jesus to forgive our sins that we eat and drink from his altar. Jesus is human, yes, but also the author and redeemer of all. He is God! The foolishness of God promises you that you are never alone. The foolishness of God assures you that only Christ can help you; that he has, that he is doing so right now, and that he always will.

-Pastor

Sat., April 16th

10 AM - 12:30 PM

Easter Saturday
Sunday School.

Please come for an
Easter lesson, craft,
music, lunch and
egg hunt!

VBS will begin on
Monday, June 6th.

(Details forthcoming)



“Hope For the Future”
Psalm 46: 10a

•LWML Spring Rally

- **Saturday, April 30, 2022**
- **Faith Lutheran Louisville**
- **9:00 am to 1:30 pm**
- **Registration: 9:00 – 9:30**
- **Fee: \$10**

Speaker: Rev. Matt Woods,
Grace, New Albany.

- **He will speak on the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT).**
- **Ingathering: Gift Cards for LERT**

 **LWML**
Lutheran Women in Mission

Servants For April

April Birthdays

Assistant

4/3 Darrell Pryor
4/10 Greg Sullinger
4/14 Steve Anderson
4/17 John Roehrig
4/24 Jose Beaton

Reader

Addison Beaton
Linda Lewis
Pastor
Greg Sullinger
Jose Beaton

3- Donna Elder
6-Darrell Pryor
11-Robert Helmbrecht
13- Dan Sullinger
19- Mike Duffy
21-Edith Fugate

26-Brenda Roehrig
28-Daniel Fickes
29-Lilly Gabhart

Ushers

Darrell Pryor
Dan Fickes

Greeters

Lucas Toye

Financial Report

<u>Receipts (February 27 - March 23)</u>		<u>March Expenses</u>		<u>Difference</u>	
Plate	601.03	Salaries	4,683.02		
Current	7,495.00	Utilities & Property Maintenance	1,976.05		
Ash Wednesday	75.00	Office	365.24		
Lent	475.00	Van Insurance	103.83		
Altar Guild - Flowers	130.00	Portals of Prayer	53.25		
Use of Fellowship Hall	100.00	Altar Supplies	108.00		
Thrivent Mutual Fund Donation	1,000.00	Concordia Plan	2,943.52		
Vanco	318.70	Vanco Fee	1.28		
Total General Fund Receipts	10,194.73	Total Spent	10,234.19		(39.46)
Building Fund Envelopes	975.00	Loan Payment	1,544.43		(569.43)

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Swahili Service: 12:45 PM

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