



## Understanding the Sunday Readings

This month I'd like to explain how the weekly Scripture readings are chosen and how they fit together. I hope this will make the Divine Service more meaningful to you.

You have probably noticed that every Sunday we hear three readings from Scripture. These are usually a reading from the Old Testament, a reading from one of the New Testament Epistles, and a reading from one of the four Gospels. During the fifty-day Easter season the Old Testament reading is replaced by a reading from the New Testament book of Acts, but for the rest of the year we have Old Testament readings.

You may have wondered how these readings are chosen. Ordinarily the pastor does *not* choose these readings. A cycle of appointed readings called the Three-Year Lectionary is currently used at Beautiful Savior; it is the same cycle that most of our sister LCMS parishes use. The weekly readings from this Lectionary follow the themes of the Church Year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Time of the Church).

What is perhaps not commonly understood about the three weekly readings is how they fit together. Of the three readings, the Holy Gospel has traditionally been regarded as the primary reading. In it we hear the very words of our Lord Jesus. (Note that this is the reading for which we stand.) The theme of the Holy Gospel determines the main “theme” of any particular Sunday. Then, connecting with this theme in some way is the Old Testament reading. The designers of our Lectionary gave careful thought as to which Old Testament passages would complement the appointed Gospel, reinforcing, adding depth to, or shedding light upon the theme of the Holy Gospel.

Some examples may be helpful. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Third Sunday after Pentecost, our Holy Gospel was the reading from Luke 7 about Jesus raising to life the son of the widow of Nain. Paired with Luke 7 was the Old Testament reading from 1 Kings 17 about the prophet Elijah raising to life the son of the widow of Zarephath. Heard together, these two readings underscore the power of God over death, and His resolve to defeat death for us—which He accomplished in the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Another example is the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 10<sup>th</sup>, when the Holy Gospel will be the Good Samaritan reading from Luke 10. Paired with this Gospel is the Old Testament reading from Leviticus 18 and 19—a rather lengthy reading of law and instruction for God’s people which happens to include the verse “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18). That very verse is what the lawyer in Luke 10 recites to Jesus, and which prompts Jesus to illustrate loving your neighbor with the Good Samaritan story. So, the connection between Gospel and OT there is clear.

You may be wondering how the Epistle fits into all this. The short answer is that it doesn't always fit in—not directly and obviously, anyway. Along the course of the Church Year we encounter two different kinds of Epistle readings. On the one hand, there are Sundays for which an Epistle is chosen that directly relates to and reinforces the theme set by the Holy Gospel. Palm Sunday is one such day, the Epistle being Philippians 2:1-11 about humility and the example of Christ. On the other hand, there are Sundays—and this is most of the church year—when the Epistle reading is part of what is called a *lectio continua* (Latin for “continuous or sequential reading”). This means that portions of a certain Epistle, for example Galatians, as we have been hearing in June, are heard week after week for a number of Sundays. Then, portions of another Epistle are heard. (On July 10 we begin a series of readings from Colossians. After that will come readings from Hebrews.) The purpose of this is to focus our attention on one Epistle at a time and help us learn its message well.

More could certainly be said, but this should be enough to help you make better sense of what may sometimes have seemed to you to be random or haphazard Bible selections. Now that you know the rationale for the readings in our Lectionary—especially how the Old Testament relates to the Holy Gospel—you can do your best to identify the relationship yourself. (It is always a good idea to read through the Scripture lessons sometime previous to Sunday morning. The upcoming Sunday's readings are provided for you in each week's bulletin. If you want to discuss the readings with me before or after the service, I would welcome that!)

Understanding more about the Divine Service makes worship more meaningful. I hope this explanation of how the readings are chosen and how they fit together has been helpful to you. To learn more about the why's and wherefore's of the Divine Service, consult the laminated insert in our pew hymnals.

*Pastor Groth*



### **Thursday Service Schedule Change—*JULY***

Please note and mark your calendars that there will be no Thursday evening worship at Beautiful Savior on July 21. Other than that, 7PM Thursday Divine Services will continue to be held weekly throughout the entire summer. Note that beginning July 28, the Thursday service will be the same (readings, hymns, sermon, etc.) as the previous Sunday. This represents a change, as Thursday services have until now been a “preview” of the *coming* Sunday.

## THOSE SERVING IN July

### Ushers

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Dan Adams

Scott Davidson

Roger Ruff

Fred Brechbuhl

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### Elders

7/3 Rick Mericle & Cal Meisner

7/10 Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

7/17 Rick Mericle & Cal Meisner

7/24 Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

7/31 Rick Mericle & Cal Meisner

### Acolytes

7/3 Nicholas Little

7/10 Damien Dittrich & Katelynn Rose

7/17 Joey Weinstock & Corrie Rose

7/24 Nicholas Little

7/31 Damien Dittrich & Katelynn Rose

Altar Guild Twila Toliver & Sue Evans





*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:18-19a*

Many, many, many of Christ's disciples have taken this commission and supported it. We see their efforts both locally and abroad. They have reached out to many in their community and in the world.

We support missions in our Christian community at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. We support our Christian Day School which provides Christian education for our own children and for children in the outside community. We ourselves reach out by supporting Fish, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Denver Rescue Mission and other organizations which support the body and person in Christian growth.

Many disciples choose to leave behind their families and friends to reach out in our world. It is a large undertaking which takes commitment and outside support.

"The goal is to send and provide ongoing support to those who proclaim God's Word, rightly distinguished in Law and Gospel. Article V of the Augsburg Confession confirms that the ministry of Word and Sacrament was instituted for this very purpose, so that the Holy Spirit is given to work saving faith – the faith that God wants for Christ's perfect righteousness – in the hearers of the Word." How are they to believe in Him whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? Romans 10:14b – 15a

In the last several months we have been visited by a family that has taken the challenge. The Wolf family, John, Jenn and their five children will be going to Kenya, Africa. John will be regional manager. He will provide oversight and support for projects and grants across the region with a particular focus on mercy work. The elders have requested that some funds be made available to support the Wolf family. We have suggested one hundred dollars a month. Please help the Wolf family with your prayers and any other way you wish to support. Look for more information in the bulletin. God blesses Christ-centered missions and those who support missions. LET'S GET IT DONE WITH AND FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST JESUS.

Cliff Evans, Elder



**Suggestions for legally getting rid of unwanted computers, DVD players, VCRs, monitors, printers, fax machines or any devices with a display:**

**July Birthdays**

- July 2 Ginny Smith
- 6 Ruth Eisele
- 7 Art Albrecht
- 8 Patrisha Boniek  
Aaron Brechbuhl
- 13 Hubert Diedrichs
- 14 Emily Bower
- 16 Patricia Kubat
- 17 Jessika Smith
- 19 Aurhiela Rodriguez
- 21 Ali Cozad  
Nicholas Little
- 27 Kristi Bower  
Katrina Mbise
- 28 Lorraine Montoya
- 29 Gene Wilson
- 30 Rowena Davis  
Roger Ruff

**Best Buy Stores** – Their easy-to-use website details what they accept, what they don't and any restrictions that may apply. Most items are free, but there is a \$25 charge for TVs. The website is [www.bestbuy.com/recycle](http://www.bestbuy.com/recycle)

**Staples Stores** – Most electronics and e-waste are accepted for free. Limit of 7 items per day. Some items qualify for trade-in money. The website is [www.staples.com/recycling](http://www.staples.com/recycling)



1) Our refugee office in Colorado Springs is receiving lots of single moms with young children, so we are asking for gently used or new strollers to help the mothers get around town. Bicycles are also needed for our work readiness program and pots and pans for our housing assistance program. Please contact Laura at [laura.liibbe@lfsrm.org](mailto:laura.liibbe@lfsrm.org) or at 719.572.7397.

2) Our annual Backpack Drive is underway! We are collecting new backpacks and school supplies for our foster and refugee children for this next school year. All items are due by the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> (pick-ups can be arranged). Contact Blythe at [blythe.scott@lfsrm.org](mailto:blythe.scott@lfsrm.org) for a supply list and more info.

3) Lutheran Family Services is always in need of more diapers for our refugee families! Specifically, we are most in need of non-infant sized diapers, including pull-ups. If you or your church is interested in collecting diapers, please contact [jaime.blanchard@lfsrm.org](mailto:jaime.blanchard@lfsrm.org) for more information.



**July Anniversaries**

- July 5 Craig & Jessika Smith
- 9 Pastor & Dawn Groth
- 19 Scott & Deann Davidson



Our Church & School donations for the 2016 HEART to HEART,  
LWML district mission project, supporting active duty military and veterans:

15 Sunday Newspaper Funnies, 15 Sunday News Sudoku puzzles,  
15 Sunday News word Jumble puzzles, 15 Sunday News NY Times Crosswords,  
15 Sunday News LA Times Crossword puzzles, 7 Boxed Jigsaw Puzzles,  
10 Word Game books, 4 Wood Puzzle Games, 6 packs of playing Cards,  
5 packs Wet Wipes, 7 tooth brushes, 19 tooth pastes, 1 mouth wash, 2 lip balms,  
2 body powders, 6 deodorants, 17 soaps, 17 shampoos, 13 packs of candies,  
14 individual packs of cracker snacks, and 12 individual packs of popcorn.

225 total items, from Beautiful Savior, to be shipped overseas.

All the thousands of items gathered at the convention, from many different  
LWML churches, were evenly distributed into individual post-office boxes. An  
active duty service person will receive a surprise box filled with love.

Our Beautiful Savior family also donated a total of 10

Blanket/Lap-robies for the VA rehab locations.

Thank you.

God Bless everyone for your support.



### ***In Christ, for the Church and the World***

*“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”* (LCMS Mission Statement – 2010)

### ***Dear Family in Christ:***

Greetings in Christ! As a follow-on to last month’s article entitled “*Engaging The Issues – We Can No Longer Stay Silent*”, I found the following information to be very helpful in understanding a very common question many of us ask during an election year. I pray that this month’s article will assist you also with the answer to this question.

## **ELECTIONS and Our Christian Faith**

(By: Rev. Christopher I. Thoma – The Lutheran Witness, April 2016 – Page 12)

***Question:*** “When it comes to voting in this fall’s elections, how should I as a Christian view the faith (or lack thereof) of the candidates? Do I vote based purely on that?”

***Answer:*** This is an interesting coupling of questions, and perhaps it serves us well to consider the topic in two parts.

***First,*** in one sense, these questions attempt to probe the heart of man and discern that which only God truly knows. And yet, it is tough to argue against the fact that the Scriptures do say rather clearly that true faith produces fruits (**Matt. 7:15-20, Eph. 2:8-10, James 2:14-26**) and these fruits are often-times discernible.

This means that no matter what one’s vocation may be – whether an ironworker, a teacher or even a race car driver – the fruits of the Christian faith worked by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel will, from time to time, be visibly discernible in word and deed. It is an inseparable design in order that the world may “see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (**Matt. 5:16**)

With this in mind, I dare say that we are currently being governed by elected leaders who may have made the Christian claim and yet have with great fervency pressed political agendas (same-sex marriage, pro-choice and the like) that are anything but aligned to the Christian faith. And in addition to this, I would surmise the likelihood that Christian voters unconcerned with the contours of these candidates’ Christian confession probably helped put these candidates into office. This is a multifaceted tragedy and unfortunately, the Christian church here in America is now experiencing abrasions inflicted by these elected officials that more than challenge the rule of law, good government, life and religious liberty as never before seen in the history of this great nation.

***Second,*** it is very possible that elections will be held in which none of the potential candidates are Christians. When this is true, what are we to consider?

(Over)

No matter the electoral circumstance, it is always profitable for Christians to have a good understanding of the doctrine of the two kingdoms; that is, the kingdom of the right hand and the kingdom of the left hand. The kingdom of the right hand is the power and command of God given to the Church to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments for the forgiveness of sins. It is by the rule of this kingdom that we, as Christians, are re-created to exist as citizens who recognize and are concerned for the rule of another kingdom – the kingdom of the left hand. The kingdom of the left hand is the institution and ordination by God of temporal government for the sake of good order. **(Rom.13:1-7)** In this kingdom, no matter who is serving in the seats of authority, Christians have been given clear instruction by God to pray, intercede and give thanks “for kings and all who are in high positions” **(1 Tim. 2:1-2A)**.

And why is this? So that the Christian “may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” **(v.28)**. The text continues that this “is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior” **(v.3)**

But to what end does it please God that His Christians live this way while exercising a concern for prayer and intercession that seeks to establish and maintain godly government? Because God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” **(v.4)**. Knowing this, Christians actively intercede in the midst of the kingdom of the left through elections, prayerfully and mindfully praying for and speaking for the repentance of those in authority who violate their vocation when they brazenly oppose God’s Word and will.

In summary, then, it is good for Christians to be concerned with the faith (or lack thereof) of the candidates, in the sense that believers, having been re-created in Holy Baptism, now have a “kingdom of the right” inclination to desire public servants – Christian or otherwise – who parallel the Word of God, or at least, work with eyes set upon good governance, which serves to provide for the Christian Church to exist in peace and quietness while enjoying an unhindered freedom to communicate the Gospel truth to all.

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God Bless You Always!

Your fellow servant in the Lord;  
Mike Brown, President  
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*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7)*

***HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!***



## *“The Lutheran Hour”* Sermon Schedule for July 2016

LHM produces and airs radio and TV programming around the world in more than 80 languages. *“The Lutheran Hour”* began in 1930 and is the world’s longest-running, continually broadcast Gospel radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1 million people every week on 1400+ North American radio stations!

Please tune to **850 KOA (AM)** at **6:00 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings OR go on-line to hear and/or download the current or any of the previous messages at: **[www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)**

- July 3<sup>rd</sup>**    ***“Freedom in Action”*** (Galatians 6:1-18)  
In Christ, you are free from being ruled by your burdens, free to serve others for the glory of God. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- July 10<sup>th</sup>**    ***“Extreme Neighborliness”*** (Luke 10:25-37)  
Through His love and sacrifice, Jesus is the extreme neighbor to you and all people. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- July 17<sup>th</sup>**    ***“The One Thing You Really Need”*** (Luke 10:38-42)  
The story of Mary and Martha is not so much about Mary or Martha – or us. It’s really about Jesus. (Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Gregory Seltz**)
- July 24<sup>th</sup>**    ***“Never to See Them Again”*** (Luke 9:51-62)  
Opportunity knocks; Christ invites us to receive the gift of faith. (Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)
- July 31<sup>st</sup>**    ***“Bullies”*** (Acts 5:27-34)  
When bullies pressure Christians to keep quiet, we can retreat, push back, or choose to endure. (Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or [mbrown\\_llrmd@comcast.net](mailto:mbrown_llrmd@comcast.net) with any questions you may have about *“The Lutheran Hour”* or any of the numerous **Outreach Resources** available from **LHM**.

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LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
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## *Our Stewardship Message*

(July 2016)

**I**n our Lord's parable of the vineyard workers, the vineyard owner says to those who worked the longest, "Or do you begrudge my generosity" (*Matthew 20:15*)? It's an unfortunate translation. It's not wrong, but it doesn't give us the full picture. What the vineyard owner actually says is this: "Or is your eye evil because I am good?" Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness" (*Matthew 6:21-23*).

**T**his statement comes right in the middle of our Lord's teaching about giving. He said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (*Matthew 6:19-24*).

**H**aving an evil eye does not let in the light. Having an evil eye means that we are so focused on what we don't have, that we are unable to rejoice in what God has given. An evil eye makes us distressed when we see others prosper. It makes us rejoice when others suffer. An evil eye makes us so love ourselves and our money, that we don't want to share with others; we don't want to give of what we have because we are so focused on keeping what we have and getting what we don't.

**W**hereas a good eye is an eye that lets the light in so that our lives are filled with it. This light shines upon all that we have and reveals that it comes from our Father's divine goodness and mercy. A good eye that lets in the light, unencumbered by the darkness, so that we have a good will, a benevolent disposition, and a genuine happiness to see others prosper and the desire to be part of it.

**J**esus came to give you a good eye and to take away the darkness that fills your life. Christ our Lord, through His death and resurrection, has forgiven your sin, removed your evil eye and given you new eyes that let in His light and truth. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (*2 Corinthians 8:9*).

**T**he reality is that you have all that you need and more. You have the love of God in Christ Jesus. You have the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. You have house and home, all that you need for this body and life. So, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy. And you will see that your hearts will follow, just as Jesus promised.

*We are "Consecrated Stewards" to the Glory of God!*

