

Confirmation, Pentecost and Other Things

William Sloan Coffin and Jaroslav Pelikan each wrote a book titled *Credo*. Each was an approach to one of the most important aspects of Christian faith. Our creeds are critical to the mission of the individual and the wider church.

Coffin's book was a much more personal look at his personal creed and how it developed through many years of Christian ministry and his faith journey. Pelikan, on the other hand, wrote an academic tome using the historic, ecumenical creeds to show how important creeds were for the development of orthodoxy and to stamp out heterodoxy (heresy).

As we approach Pentecost and have our confirmands read their creeds, we should take time to ponder both approaches to the credo. What is the personal creed and how have we reached this place? Has our credo changed over the years? What are the main places in our lives which have been formative to our creed?

And how have the creeds and confessions of the church formed our faith as we heard them, said them and perhaps even studied them? Does anyone even remember the Augsburg Confession, the Westminster Confession? Once on Trinity Sunday, I led the congregation I was serving in the Athenasian Creed. Now there is a creed. It attempts to cover all things of the faith.

Every year during confirmation classes, or discipleship classes, I review my personal creed and review the 30+ page Credo I wrote for my Systematic Theology professor. Just what do I believe?!

Credo is a powerful word as we celebrate the birthday of the church and recall our entry into the life of the church at baptism or confirmation.

Vacation Bible School

Dates: Sunday, June 14th through Thursday, June 18th

Time: 5:00 p.m. Dinner (free will offering)

Vacation Bible School starts at 5:30 p.m. (free) and ends at 8:00 p.m. It is open to 3-year olds to entering 5th grade. Registration forms can be picked up at the church or online at www.stlukeunion.org. Volunteers are needed. Please call Amie Keeton at (309) 827-8871.

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Another in a series of rainy days, I know because as I write this I am looking out at the rain come down. It is not the first, nor will it be the last rainy day I see, and yet it is different.

Dianne has recently noticed I look tired and frustrated so she put her foot down and is taking me away for a couple of days to a preaching seminars in Atlanta. Almost every year I sign up to attend the *Festival of Homiletics*, and this year was no exception - but I had decided not to go. Dianne noted that since I had signed up and paid for it last year, I would be going and she would schedule some face-to-face training for her new position with co-workers in Atlanta . . . so we are going.

Of the many preachers scheduled, two stand out, Barbara Brown Taylor, former Episcopalian priest and author of *Leaving Church* and Archbishop Desmond Tutu prelate of the Anglican Communion in Southern Africa.

I have heard and met Barbara Brown Taylor, so she might not have anything new to say, but what she says she says well. It is always uplifting to hear her challenge us to do our homework before we preach.

Desmond Tutu, I am certain, will have words of wisdom for the church as it confronts difficult issues. After all, he was one who stood up to apartheid and as it ended offered not judgment but forgiveness to those held accountable. However, he will have words of challenge as well. For him the complacent church is a dead church.

On this issue, he stands in the company of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Karl Barth. Members of the Confessing Church in Germany, Barth taught American theologians and Bonhoeffer died in a concentration camp to make the point that the church must be willing to confront evil in the world, or it risks becoming a part of the evil itself, or at least complicit in evil's activities.

Truly a festival of homiletics challenging preachers to tell the Good News. Making raining days different.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

Fall Group Sale Coordinator Needed

No experience required.

Step-by-step written instructions available.

Contact Terry Small or Charlene Beringer.

Money Matters

As of April 30, 2009

GENERAL FUND	JAN/APR ACTUAL	JAN/APR BUDGET
Receipts	\$74,465	\$78,510
Disbursements	\$63,971	\$74,396

5 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	JAN/APR ACTUAL	JAN/APR PLEDGE
Receipts	\$ 6,992	\$ 9,550

We are nearing the end of our 5 Year Capital Campaign. Are you current with your pledge?

A complete financial report is available on the Details Board.

Home Bible Class

The Home Bible Class will meet on Thursday, June 11th, at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The study will be Lesson #5 entitled "The Dead Are Raised" Luke 8: 40-56 in our study guide *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor*. Coffee will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Funk's Grove Worship, Picnic and Potluck

Please join us for worship at Funk's Grove on Sunday, June 14th at 10:30 a.m. Immediately after the service we will have our annual picnic/potluck.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Agape Committee will provide coffee, iced tea and lemonade.

Power cords will be available for those who wish to bring their food in crock pots.

Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

Exciting news coming to your mailbox soon!!

Charlene A. Beringer, Chairperson
Pastor Search/Nominating Committee

Prayer Chain

We are praying for these people by name:

Lynn Au Family	Teresa Modendricker
Jim Bicknell	Seanna Moyer
Ron Blankenship	Kris Muschel
Becca Burt	Marcia Nagy
Dan Fritcher	Judy Norton
Jeff DeBruine, Lisa, Anna, Emma	Ryan Palesh
Mary Desmond	Cassandra Putnam
Jane Edwards	Mark Redick
Chris Hammer	Leo Rennhack
Joyce Hastings	Pierre Roussey
John & Suzie	Linda Sellberg's brother-in-law Verne & Family
Gib Knapp & Family	Luke Slusarksi
Earl Kreinhop	Walt Sohrt Family
Laurie Larsen & Family	Sharon Stanford
Duncan & Jack Leichtenberg Family & Friends	Bob Thomas
Bob Little	Evelyne Thomas
Jennifer Locke	Lois Thompson
Chester Lyle	Steve Tiller
David Marquardt	Mary Jane Trower
Doris McFarland	Laurie Vial
Charlie Miller	Andrea Weyhrich
Kerry Modendricker	

Youth Ministry Leaders Training

Princeton Theological Seminary is sponsoring training around the country for Youth Ministry leaders. On October 17th, they will be in Bloomington. This is the kind of event where you can bring your leaders and the youth with whom they work.

For more info, go to Princeton Theological Seminary - <http://princetontheologicalseminary.com/>

June 2009 Lectionary

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
June 7	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
June 14	I Samuel 15:34-6:13	Psalm 20	II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
June 21	I Samuel 17:32-49	Psalm 9:9-20	II Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
June 28	II Samuel 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 130	II Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43

Christian Education Assistant

Help wanted! Christian Education Assistant - College students welcome.

For complete job description go to www.stlukeunion.org

Approximately 15-20 hours per week.

Send resume and cover letter to mail@stlukeunion.org or mail to: St. Luke Union Church, 2101 East Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

Deadline for applications: May 31, 2009

June Anniversaries

Matthew & Heather Von Holton - June 1

Joe & Lori Harroun - June 2

Joe & Miwako Norton - June 2

Doug & Sanae Ferrier - June 8

Ryan & Megan Murray - June 9

Scott & Sarah Luna - June 15

Glenn & Sharon Stille - June 22

Phil & Marion Fleetwood - June 23

Tom & Linda Sellberg - June 27

Ed & Tammy Desmond - June 29

Chuck & Carol Parlette - June 29

General Presbyter's Perspective

Rev. Susan Krummel

Does your Sunday paper include the Parade magazine? (I wonder if that question will make any sense in a few years - do you think we will still have Sunday newspapers at all?) I was surprised by the headline of a short article: "Who Should Help Struggling Churches? I thought, "Wow, do the editors of the Parade magazine realize what is going on in so many of our churches? Do they know that many of our congregations find themselves trying to live in the 1950's when, fifty years later, the world has changed so much? Do they understand that we have, in many cases, somehow gotten stuck in thinking about our own survival so much that we are not thinking about our call to go into all the world and make disciples? How could they possibly realize that we sometimes find ourselves trapped in old buildings that hold many fond memories for us and into which we pour so much time and money and effort, but which are really not helping in any way in our current ministries, and have become a drain on our budgets and our efforts to reach new people with the good news of the gospel?"

But then I read the article and I was even more surprised by its content and by what it says about the way people think about churches. This article does not refer to the struggle of shrinking numbers of members or of being tied to old ways of doing things that make no sense in the 21st century or being trapped in outdated buildings that limit our ability to do ministry. Instead the struggle to which the article refers is the struggle of trying to feed the hungry and clothe the naked and teach the toddlers when contributions to churches are shrinking.

Think about it. When you think or talk or pray or fight about the struggles that your own congregation is facing, do you think first about the way you reach out to your community and the world beyond it in concrete ways? When you agonize at budget meetings and session meetings, is your first concern that you cannot do the kind of ministry about which Jesus talks in Matthew 25? Or, do you worry about "keeping the doors open" so that you and other church members will still have a place to worship and have someone to lead worship for you; do you worry that the church will close before your funeral can be held there or before your daughter can be married there?

The way this article reflects a vision of the church is heartening to me. Perhaps the world really sees us as the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing the good news of the gospel into our neighborhoods and the world in such a concrete way that it makes a huge impact on people's lives - such a huge impact, in fact, that government help for food and clothing and educational outreach will be shared even with churches. Now, if we could only begin to see ourselves in the same way.

Shepherding Ministry

Dear Members and Friends of St. Luke Union Church:

The Shepherding Ministry provides avenues through which communication can take place more frequently and easily. We need to get to know each other more fully, so that various needs and joys can be shared as Christ intended for his people to “Care and Remember Each Other As God First Cares and Remembers Us.” Too often we hear about each other’s concerns after the crisis or difficulty has passed. Some of our community of faith have fallen through the cracks and some have felt hurt that their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ have not responded to them or their families in their hour of need or celebration.

In the Shepherding Ministry, each trained Shepherd will be assigned a flock - approximately 6-7 family units. At this point in time, the Shepherds are caring for 10-12 families - this is more than some can handle. Each family unit may consist of one single member, a couple or a family with children at home. Care will be taken to balance the family clusters as equally and as diversely as possible. Attempts are being made to keep all of our congregation “connected” and well informed of issues pertaining to the church and its members and friends. As new people join our community of faith they will be assigned to a flock. This will help them to learn more about our community of faith and opportunities to serve God through the ministry within the life of the church and beyond.

Please prayerfully consider becoming one of our St. Luke Union Church “Shepherds.” Contact Pastor Bob for further information.

As Peter instructed, “I appeal to you to be shepherds of the flock that God gave you and to take care of it willingly, as God wants you to, and not unwillingly. Do your work, not for mere pay, but from a real desire to serve.” - *II Peter 5:2*

June Birthdays

Annette Kelly - June 1
Brad Koopman - June 2
Debora Gottschalk - June 3
Christine Kubiak - June 4
Ron Scott - June 4
Mathew Clark - June 6
Mary Scott - June 6
Laurie Larsen - June 7
Joe Norton - June 7
Gina Tarter - June 9
Lucille Mason - June 10
Steven Harroun - June 15
Spencer Shipley - June 15
Sandy McKinney - June 17
Nicole Simons - June 18
Barbara Boehmer - June 19
Adam Erickson - June 19

Rebecca Schaefer - June 19
Bill Kummer - June 20
Joe Harroun - June 21
Rod Hawkins - June 23
Lori Harroun - June 25
Judy Norton - June 26
John Boerner - June 27
Carrie Kubiak - June 27
Michael Walton - June 27
Gigi Simmons - June 28

St. Luke Union Church

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