

Good Shepherd News & Notes

Fifth Sunday After Trinity: June 30, 2024

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KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org

Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



1 CORINTHIANS 1:25, NRSV

THE HERESY OF CONSTANT CONFLICT By Gene Edward Veith

As secularism grows and theological literacy declines, it's little wonder that ancient heresies are rushing into the void. For example, 65% of evangelicals agree with the Arians that Christ is a created being, and the Gnostic repudiation of the physical realm and the significance of the body runs rampant in our postmodern culture.

Today, as our politics grow increasingly polarized and as our society risks being torn apart by ideological conflicts, we need to be on guard against another heresy: Manichaeism.

Founded by a third-century Persian teacher named Mani, Manichaeism started off as an independent religion, like Gnosticism, and later insinuated itself into Christianity. Manichaeans believed that reality consists of a continual conflict between two equal and opposite forces, between light and darkness, good and evil, spiritual and material. In this cosmic dualism, human beings liberate themselves from the material darkness to attain enlightenment.

Heresies generally start with an element of truth. The Arians rightly taught that Jesus Christ is true man, and the Gnostics correctly taught that the spiritual realm is supreme. The Manichaeans rightly recognize a conflict between good and evil, God and the devil, light and darkness.

But evil is not a "force"; rather, it is a transgression of God's law. The devil is not equal to God; rather, he is a defeated fallen angel. Christ is the "light of the world" who has overcome Satan's darkness (John 1: 5; 8:12).

The Manichaeans believed that Jesus is God, but they denied that He is man, since the "flesh" is evil. Like other heretics, they believed that Jesus only *seemed* to have died and to have risen physically from the dead. Jesus merely symbolized the principle of spiritual light. The Manichaeans also rejected the creator God of the Old Testament, teaching that the universe was a byproduct of the cosmic conflict.

Today many people see good and evil as "forces" rather than manifestations of sin and righteousness. They interpret the world and their lives in terms of conflicts between these forces and care deeply about being on the right side.

Manichaeism's dualism shows up in the current political scene. The political left sometimes emphasizes a dualistic, primal conflict between the oppressors and the oppressed, between economic classes or sexual orientation. Conservatism falls into this temptation sometimes too. For example, conservative Roman Catholic Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano' described the 2020 election as a battle between "the children of light and the children of darkness." This demonizes the opponents,

(see page 2)

seeing them as monsters rather than pitying them as lost souls.

Such dualistic thinking, a staple of all conspiracy theories, is dehumanizing. It is easier to sin against those you do not view as human beings, even sinful humans, but as expressions of an intrinsically evil “force.”

This is not to say that oppression is not real. Moral issues — such as abortion and racism — are indeed matters of political conflict. But, for Christianity, they are more than just power struggles.

Augustine, who was once a Manichaean but turned to refute this heresy, made the case that everything God has created is good. Sin perverted God’s good creation.

And so today, power is *not* always oppressive and thus intrinsically evil. Sinners will misuse their power for their own benefit. But those who cling to Christ’s forgiving and atoning work seek to use their power in the service of justice, to love and serve the neighbor.

Christianity alone offers a constructive way forward. Christ does not offer an uncertain response to evil and wickedness, but having drawn all sin to Himself, He defeated our sin on the cross. In Him and through Him, there is only forgiveness and life. There is not dualism here; There is one God “who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4: 6).

The Lutheran Witness (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) December 2020 issue, pgs. 4-5

CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION

In one of our previous newsletters, you read about the ballot initiative being promoted by a group of abortion advocates. Recently a counter initiative was unveiled that proposes to protect the lives of babies in the womb in the second and third trimesters, as well as the mothers who carry them. Both sides are currently collecting signatures to put their proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. **IF** enough signatures are collected, they will be assigned amendment numbers later this year.

Those supporting the pro-abortion initiative will use language that sounds like they are fighting for a woman’s right to receive healthcare and for bodily autonomy. However, the baby in the womb is not a body part of the woman but a separate human being with completely distinct DNA from the moment of fertilization; it only needs time, nutrients and a safe environment in which to grow and develop — the same as the infant, toddler and grade school child. They will use scare tactics and misleading statements about the dangers women face because their doctors will be prevented from providing care for situations like miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies. This simply isn’t true. Abortion is not healthcare.

The pro-life ballot initiative attempts to provide true healthcare to both patients — mother and child. Rather than taking away “rights” of women, we work toward supporting them in numerous ways including referrals to pregnancy help centers.

The “Protect Women and Children” initiative says, “Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimester.” Nebraska Right to Life supports this incremental step toward its goal of protecting all life from conception to natural death.

If you would like to sign the petition to have this initiative on the ballot in November, please contact either Sandy Langemeier or Lyn Heng.



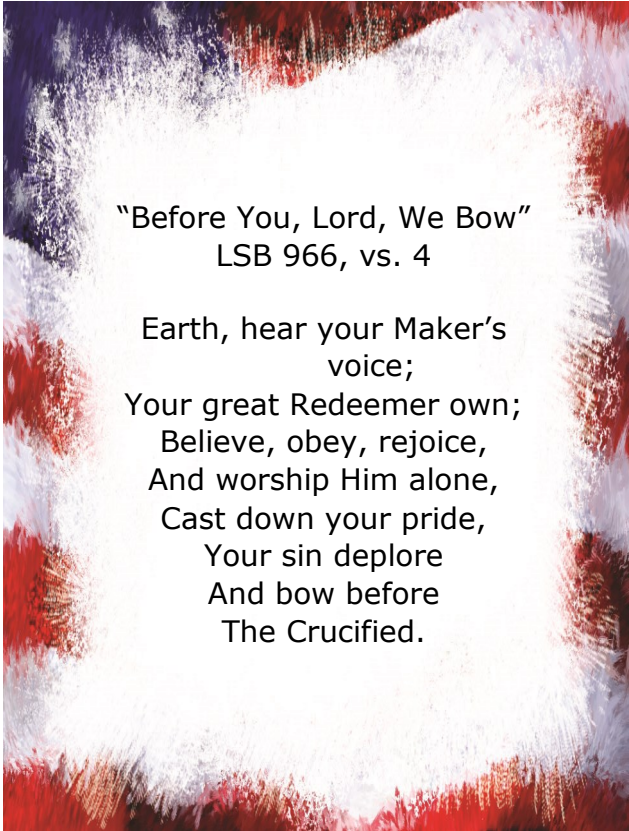
PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639. Your request will appear for 6 weeks. If you would like to keep it on the prayer list, you may

call during the 6th week to renew it.

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues (3)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with continued medical issues (6)
- **Elaine Egner**, that her maintenance treatments would be successful (4)
- **Jerry & Lori Sidlo**, dealing with continuing health problems (4)
- **Irma Brandt**, in hospice care (3)
- **Nancy**, sister of Ken Knaus, for healing of a broken ankle (3)
- **Karen**, daughter of Barb Kumm, dealing with health issues (6)
- **Georgia Deubler**, recovering from shoulder surgery (3)
- **Cherie Travis**, dealing with heart issues (2)
- **Rachel Wells**, sister of Hannah Swor, with ongoing health issues (2)
- **Pearl**, sister of Loraine Harnett, with ongoing health issues (1)
- **Sarah Stepp**, thanksgiving that her most recent endoscopy was clear. Meds and a gluten-free diet are working. Her next scope is not likely for 2 years. Follow-up will be in Dec. 2024. She is currently having some joint pain likely due to side effects of meds (6)
- **Ellie Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with an upcoming medical procedure (4)
- **Grady Schutz**, great-nephew of Linda Clark, with continuing medical issues (4)
- **Mike Rogers**, husband of Linda Clark's co-worker, who had a stroke (5)
- **Kelly Hanson**, friend of Karen Kammann, hospitalized in Kearney due to health concerns. (1)

- **Dale**, brother-in-law of Tish Loomis, recovering from a double knee replacement (3)
- **Arthur**, brother of Elaine Van Valkenburg, for healing of his broken ribs (3)
- **Greg Kurtzer**, home from the hospital (1)
- **Reva Von Busch**, recovering from surgery (3)
- **Lois Kirchhoff**, recovering from the removal of a kidney stone (4)
- **Glenna**, sister of Helen Snook, having health issues (3)
- **Bryan Prenosil**, recovering from hip surgery (3)
- **Amy Fitzsimmons**, recovering from surgery (1)
- **Thanksgiving as we celebrate the first anniversary of Pastor Goodroad's ordination(1)**
- **The family of Barb**, a friend of Loraine Harnett, Shelley Kurtzer, and Barb Proescholdt, who was taken to her eternal home this week (2)
- **The family of Harold Schmidt**, father of Rev. John Schmidt, who was taken to his eternal home recently (2)



"Before You, Lord, We Bow"
LSB 966, vs. 4

Earth, hear your Maker's
voice;
Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice,
And worship Him alone,
Cast down your pride,
Your sin deplore
And bow before
The Crucified.

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT— Luke 5: 5 "And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.'" Here Peter's words express both exasperation and trust. He's tired. He tried his best and failed. But he is still ready to trust the Lord's Word and act on it. Our stewardship is also a matter of trusting the Lord's Word . . . And acting on it.

So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (June 30 thru July 5)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Paul Keeney Luke Walker
Elle Stolcpart Pastor Lance Berndt

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

Marc & Beth Huff
Adam & Angela Von Busch

LIFE MOMENT

Have confidence in God. Jesus Christ died for you, and Jesus Christ lives for you ...By faith in Christ, enjoy real life without that constant covetousness which makes life a living hell for so many people. But faith in Christ, know once and for all what this means: A man's real life in no way depends upon the number of his possessions. A man's life does not consist of the abundance of the things he possesses.

OLDER WISER LUTHERAN SENIORS

The OWLS fun and fellowship group will meet again on **Friday, July 5th at 2 pm** in the fellowship hall. Bring a snack to share and a drink or beverage for yourself. Some of the games we may be playing are:

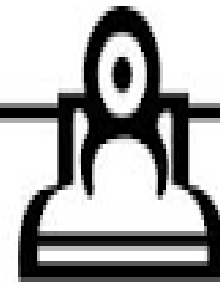
Mexican Trains — a game using dominos
Pitch or other card games

Hand and Foot — a card game similar to
Canasta with more rules and more
decks of cards

Marbles and Jokers — a strategy game
similar to Sorry but with a bigger
game board and more rules

Or, bring your own favorite game to share. It is a great way to get to know some of the people in our congregation a little bit better. You are welcome to bring a friend if you like. Hope to see you on Friday.

Marilyn Meyer and Linda Reigle



FINANCIAL INFORMATION JUNE 23, 2024

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED, JUNE 19: 57
THURS: MATINS: 30
SUN. JUNE 23: 202

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:
\$ 12,978.00

OUR OUTSTANDING MORT-
GAGE: \$ 1,636,542.68

Our goal is to pay off the mort-
gage by 2030. We need \$2,300
per week donated in principal
only payments to accomplish this.

Between Jan 1 & June 23, 2024
We have received
\$ 32,903.04
in principal only gifts.

Vicarage Fund Jan 1 — June 23
2024:
\$ 25,051.00

Painting Fund May 26—June 23
\$ 2,310.00

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Sun., June 30): 8 am:
10:30 am:
(Wed., July 3):

ELDER TODAY: (Sun., June 30): Mark Reinke
(Wed., July 3): Mark Reinke

USHERS: (Sun., June 30) 8 am: Brodbeck, RJ Huff, Kaldahl, Stehlik
10:30 am: Novaks, Eckhoff, Perrin
(Wed., July 3): Civic, Kaldahl, Klutzes

ACOLYTES: (Sun., June 30): 8 am: Brantley Reinke
10:30 am: Nolan Keller
(Wed., July 3): Kyler Cover

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Sun., June 30): Brittani Jackson
(Wed., July 3): Ingrid Ehrich

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Sun., June 30): Deb Burow
(Wed., July 3): Arlene Nelson

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Sun., June 30): Christine Brugger
(Wed., July 3): Arlene Nelson

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., June 30): Dale & Marilyn Meyer



JUNE MISSION PROJECT: VBS IN VENEZUELA

Our project for the month of June will be to collect funds to purchase materials and food for Vacation Bible School in Venezuela. The children will be provided with materials to learn about Jesus and food to nourish their bodies. For more information, talk with Ramon Marcano. It is hard for us living in American to imagine how difficult life can be in some other countries. Please pray about this opportunity to share what we have with others who are not so fortunate and to teach them about a God who loves them.

THE DAVID PREUS FAMILY HOME-SERVICE RECONNECT VISIT

If you would like to reconnect with Pastor David Preus, Jenny and their family, they will be in the USA for a visit during mid-June—mid-July. Visit <https://locator.lcms.org/church> to contact the pastor or church about details for the time and location for the following opportunities closer to Lincoln, NE

July 7: St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, NE (308) 262-0424

July 9: Mission Central in Mapleton, IA at 1 pm

July 21: Trinity Lutheran Church in Vinton, IA (319) 472-5571

JULY MISSION PROJECT: LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The LHF translates, publishes, distributes and introduces Lutheran materials for the church around the world. LHF is at work in more than 80 countries, providing pastors and teachers with Lutheran materials that they need like Luther's Small Catechism to teach and evangelize those who do not yet know Christ. And they provide these materials in languages such as Thai, Khmer (spoken in Cambodia) and Bahasa Indonesia. Give and/or pray for these people who need this foundation to reach those who do not know the God who loves them.

GOOD SHEPHERD SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Several of our shut-in members have requested to be listed in the News & Notes in order that members might pray for them.

Ron Amack (at home)	Anita Armitstead (at home)
Betty Bluhm (at The Grand Lodge)	Irma Brandt (Yankee Hill Village)
Joe Burke (East Lake Flats)	Jim & Marilyn Carr (at home)
Jim & Peggy Cather (Bailey's Pointe)	Georgene Duer (at home)
Elaine Egner (at home)	Verneda Gerdes (at home)
Shirley Kalina (address unknown)	Arlyss Ketelsen (at home)
Janet Kniep (at home)	Jerry Kohl (The Woodlands)
Tish Loomis (at home)	Lynda Mahloch (Legacy Estates)
Dorian Merritt (address unknown)	Brent & Cherie Travis (at home)
Cindi Olson (Country House)	Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Dean Posner (Good Samaritan, Beatrice)	Marvin & Joyce Thompson (Moved to PA)
Alice Urbach (at home)	

On the tall table next to the pro-life display is a way for you to send birthday and anniversary greetings to our shut-in members. There are cards to sign or you may write a short note to those having birthdays and anniversaries in the current month. Beginning on **June 26th** there is a card available for **Joyce Thompson** as she celebrates her **birthday** and **Dean & Darla Posner** as they celebrate their **anniversary**. There is also a card available for **Pastor Russert** as he celebrates **his birthday and the anniversary of his ordination**. These cards will be available to sign until **Sunday, July 7th**. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.



MEET TREVOR FLANICK & FAMILY

Trevor Flanick was raised on a small farm in Maryland along with five brothers. He was baptized, catechized, and confirmed in the LCMS and was homeschooled throughout high school. After graduating, he attended Messiah College in PA, where he studied Criminal Justice and Psychology. Trevor also participated in Army ROTC to prepare for a military career; he met his bride, Rebekah, in college.

After marrying and graduating college, Trevor was commissioned as an active-duty Infantry officer in the Army. In the following nine-and-a-half years, they traveled and lived throughout the country. Stationed in Georgia, Alaska, and Kansas, Trevor spent some time overseas for deployments and training. In 2022, he left military service, moved the family to Ft. Wayne, IN and began the MDIV program at CTSFW. Trevor was blessed to serve as fieldworker at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School the last two years.

The Flanicks have 3 sons: Gideon (6), Theodore (Teddy) (4), and James (2) and just welcomed twin girls — Constance and Caroline (7 months) — this past November, bringing the family up to 7.

Trevor will be completing his vicarage at Good Shepherd during the Aug. 2024 — July 2025 year. Please include Trevor & Rebekah and their family in your prayers as they transition to Lincoln, NE and Good Shepherd.