



## From Pastor's Desk Ordering Our Days in His Peace: The Time of the Church

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

Three main sections make up the Church Year: the Time of Christmas, the Time of Easter, and the Time of the Church.

Each of these main sections of the Church Year tells us a part of the salvation story. In the time of Christmas, we hear the beginning of the story of Jesus, how the Father sent His Son to be born of the Virgin Mary in Nazareth. The Time of Easter tells us the story of what Jesus did for

us: He died on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead for our salvation. In the Time of the Church, we hear how the Spirit brings us into Jesus' story: in the Word, which creates faith that believes in Jesus as our Savior; in Baptism, which places us as members of the family of God, the Church; and in the Lord's Supper, which strengthens us with the Word that forgives our sins. This is the story of how God loves us and desires us to live in peace with Him. This is how God orders our days in His peace.

Each part of the Church Year has something new to offer, some new piece of the story to tell. The tools the Church uses to tell us the story and draw us into it in the Divine Service are many: Scripture readings, specific colors, various prayers, songs, and customs. This is designed to help you learn how to listen to the story the Church Year is telling. For this story is about God's love for you.

### **The Time of the Church: A Time of Growth**

Jesus told His disciples, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing: (John 15:5). We are grafted into Jesus and made a branch of the Vine by the power of the Spirit in Holy Baptism. We stay connected to Jesus, our Vine, by hearing the preaching of God's Word and by receiving Absolution and the Lord's Supper. This is how our life in Christ grows; by the power of the Spirit working in our hearts through Word and Sacrament.

The Sundays after Pentecost make up the longest portion of the Church Year. This is the Time of the Church—the time we focus on growing together in the life of the Holy Trinity.

### **How We Worship on the Sundays after Pentecost**

During the Sundays after Pentecost, we decorate the church with the color green and we focus on the teachings of the Lord for His Church.

Green is the color for the season after Pentecost. Green is the color of growing plants and life. As growing plants need water and nourishment, so we can only grow by living in our Baptisms and receiving the Lord's Word and Sacraments.

In this half of the year, the Time of the Church, we focus on the life of Christ in His Church as He guides us to grow in "faith toward [God] and in fervent love toward one another."

The appointed Gospels for the Sundays after Pentecost are full of Jesus' teachings, such as His parables, words of wisdom, and debates with the Pharisees. We also hear the Word of the Prophets (Old Testament), who were inspired by the Spirit to foretell Jesus' coming, and the Word of the Apostles (Epistle), sent forth by Jesus to preach in the power of the Spirit. The Time of the Church is a time to grow in godly knowledge. Through His Word, Jesus is still making disciples of all those who will follow Him.

# From the President Marriage and the Church

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

Someone quipped, "The world is moving **so fast** these days that the one who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it." I thought rather cynically about this quote as I listened to the Supreme Court argue over the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Just a decade and a half ago, this legislation was signed into law, defining marriage for federal purposes as the union of one man and one woman. DOMA came as a safeguard against individual states redefining marriage and forcing the federal government (the whole nation!) to treat same-sex marriage as legitimate.

Two sources tell us what marriage is. First, the Bible tells us that man and woman were created by God as the perfect match, and that marriage is to be a sacred, lifelong union of one man and one woman. The Bible universally rejects sex outside of this man/woman marriage. Second, we know from so-called natural knowledge, which is part of all human existence, and which has been codified by custom and law through the millennia, that marriage is for one man and one woman. It is Gods perfectly designed institution for the creation of new human life and for the nurture of civilized individuals. As Luther famously noted in his Large Catechism, If he won't obey his parent, he'll obey the hangman!

What has come with lightening speed is merely the summation of a long process of the devaluation of marriage in Western culture. In 1970, only one state had no-fault divorce. By 1980, 49 had it. Coterminously, marriage has increasingly come to be defined as an emotional

bond with a significant other rather than a fundamental building block of all society, religion and culture, based upon the fact that a man and a woman choose to enter a solemn life-long contract and bring new life into this world.



The Supreme Court will likely rule on the two cases (DOMA and Proposition 8) in late June. Like *Roe v. Wade*, which found a (fictional) right to abortion in the U.S. Constitution, the court could rule that the traditional definition of marriage of one man and one woman is unconstitutional. No matter how the court rules, the fight has just begun. Many in our own fellowship think, Whats the big deal? Isnt it just about widening the tent of tolerance a bit more? If that were it, it would a major relief. But its not. Whats at stake is our First Amendment right to the free exercise of our religious conviction in the way we act in society. As the same-sex marriage train gains steam, we find ourselves increasingly under attack, our social ministry agencies are forced to either capitulate to the state or lose funding and even licenses. All opposed to same-sex marriage for conscience grounds are and will increasingly be labeled bigots in line with slave-holders and those who were opposed to ending of legalized racism in this country. And know this: As traditional Christians are driven out of the public square, the door is also closed for the Gospel.

The task before us is monumental. We are called to repent of our lack of appreciation for marriage and family. We are called to confess Christ to all and call all to repentance. We must elevate marriage among us and educate, educate, educate. Even as we seek specific ways to care for those challenged by same-sex attraction, we must resist conforming to the culture.

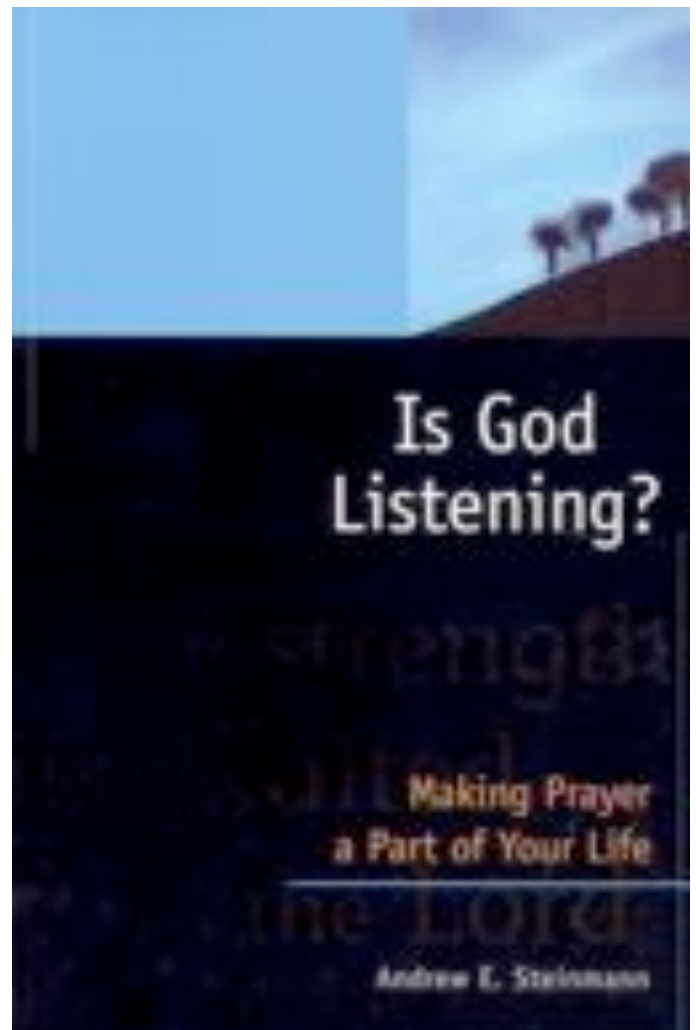
We know whose we are. We know what is in store for us. We know we will be severely tested in these last days, but this testing will abound in faithfulness and praise (1 Peter 1).

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### **The Book of the Month** **Is God Listening? Making Prayer a Part of Your Life**

- Prayer is in a state of confusion in Lutheranism.
- Does prayer bring God to me?
- Is prayer a means of grace?
- Is it a pipeline of communication between a believer and God?
- Is that pipeline a two way street?
- The more prayers that are prayed the better Christian I am?
- The more people that are praying the more likely someone will be taken care of by God?

Dr. Steinmann engagingly upholds the unique biblical Lutheran view of prayer in this book. Many books on prayer fall into the trap of making God so personal that prayer becomes a



psychological tool, a sacrament, or an act in which the believer trusts more than the work of Christ. Dr. Steinmann, in a pastoral, yet scholarly manner brings to the reader God's word and the simplicity of prayer.

He summarizes it this way:

1. Prayer does not begin with human effort to pester God until he listens. Prayer begins with God's promise of mercy toward us;
2. Prayer is not a way to manipulate God into answering all our questions or solving our problems in the ways we want them solved. Prayer is designed to help us transcend our problems and troubles by hearing God Himself through His word and Sacraments.

It is a book about prayer through the eyes of a pastoral scholar who uses the prayers in the bible to teach the reader about prayer and its place in the daily piety of the believer.

# Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

## Greeters List

2 Jun	Ruth Sims (West) Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
9 Jun	Donna & Gunnar Campbell (West) Harold & Irene Wattjes (East)
16 Jun	Jim Dyer (West) Joan Vukelich (East)
23 Jun	Laverl Byers (West) Ruth Sims (East)
20 Jun	Tim & Teri Pollock (West) Donna & Gunnar Campbell (East)
7 July	Ruth Sims (West) Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
14 July	Donna & Gunnar Campbell (West) Harold & Irene Wattjes (East)
21 July	Jim Dyer (West) Joan Vukelich (East)
28 July	Laverl Byers (West) Ruth Sims (East)

## Coffee Committee

Jun	Ronald W. and Judy M. Legg
July	Harold and Irene Wattjes

## Funeral Committee

Jun	Dolores Ford
July	Wanda Long

## Altar Committee

2 Jun	Ruth Bretz
9 Jun	Ruth Bretz
16 Jun	Sue Rothe
23 Jun	Sue Rothe
30 Jun	Sue Rothe
7 July	Holly Wikoff
14 July	Holly Wikoff
21 July	Holly Wikoff
28 July	Wanda Long

## Elder On Duty – Communion

2 Jun	Geof Danielson
9 Jun	Jack Appleby
16 Jun	Jack Appleby
23 Jun	Josh Whitson
30 Jun	Josh Whitson
7 July	Geoff Danielson
14 July	Josh Whitson
21 July	Jack Appleby
28 July	Jack Appleby

ATTENDANCE				OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Special	General	Missions	Building
5/5	21	79	0	\$2,976.50	\$10.00	\$0.00
5/9	0	0	21	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5/12	22	103	0	\$2,526.50	\$0.00	\$60.00
5/19	14	123	0	\$2,261.64	\$0.00	\$20.00
5/26	15	66	0	\$1,760.50	\$0.00	\$5.00
Subtotal	72	371	21	\$9,525.14	\$10.00	\$85.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>464</b>			<b>\$9,525.14</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$85.00</b>



## In the News

# Boy Scouts of America: What the Policy Change Means

By Rev. Bart Day

On Thursday, May 23, 2013, a vote changed history. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) voted yesterday to end its 103-year ban on allowing gay Scouts in the organization. Prior to the vote, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) spoke against this proposed policy change. We voiced our concern, not because we do not care for all people and not because we believe only certain individuals are known and loved by God. Instead, we spoke against the policy change because these uncharted waters, which now allow the BSA to supersede the authority of local scouting chapters, cause a crisis of conscience for our pastors, parents and congregation members.

For now, we ask your patience. LCMS leaders are already studying the implications of this policy change, but we will need some time to evaluate the decision and determine what it will mean for BSA troops in our LCMS congregations. We need to consider how this will affect our religious freedoms. We need to discuss how this may impact our ability, as confessing Lutherans, to continue to be bold about

what we believe, according to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, in the public square. Finally, we need to reflect on how we can better live and work in such a way that best cares for those — in this case, young men especially — who may struggle with same-sex attraction.

As we consider these implications in light of who we are uniquely as Lutherans, we remain focused on Christ and on His cross, confident that His plan and will are best. And as we evaluate, we continue to do what we do best: We bear witness to Christ at every opportunity, we show mercy to those who are struggling and suffering, and we live in confidence that our Lord richly blesses all His children in their life together.

For More Information

- [KFUO Radio “His Time Morning Show” interview with the Rev. Bart Day](#)  
May 21, 2013
- [Issues, Etc. Radio interview with the Rev. Bart Day](#)  
May 17, 2013



# Education Corner

## VBS: Mighty Samson

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

This year's Vacation Bible School is set for Sunday, June 9–Thursday, June 13, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. The theme is MIGHTY SAMSON, and we will focus on how God's victory is accomplished in unlikely ways, even as He accomplished our salvation through the cross of Christ.

Here is the schedule of the week's topics:

- Sunday—Samson's Birth and Destiny (Judges 13:1–25)
- Monday—Superman and the Riddler (Judges 14:1–20)
- Tuesday—Samson's Anger (Judges 15:1–20)
- Wednesday—Samson's First Haircut (Judges 16:1–21)
- Thursday—Samson's Last Stand (Judges 16:23–31)

We strive to provide both an enjoyable environment as well as a quality learning experience. Through craft and play, music, teaching, and

worship, your child will grow in their understanding of themselves, the world around them, and their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our prayer is that they will continue to be surrounded by God's Word through regular church attendance as well as daily prayer and devotion in the home. To this end, if there is a way that I may be of spiritual assistance to you or to your family, please contact me. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful thing, but continual growth in hearing God's Word and receiving His gifts is the ultimate aim and final goal of all Christian teaching and the Christian life.



# Mighty Samson

## VBS Registration Form

(One Per Child—Additional Forms Available at Church)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings at VBS: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance:      1      2      3      4      5

Please Return to the Church Office



June 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00 Monthly Women's Camp (CLCA)                      9:00 AM Church Service/Communion                      10:30 AM Bible Class                      11:30 AM Accession Class                      John Arthur                      7:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      8:00 PM Elders Meeting</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      Jacob Hignindot                      Kathy &amp; Tammy Kavan</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      Dolores Ford                      David &amp; Maria Saughey</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      George &amp; Candy Crasford</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Michael Hudson                      Byron &amp; Maycie Jorgensen                      David &amp; Dolores Ford                      Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion                      10:30 AM Bible Class                      11:30 AM Accession Class                      2:30 PM Nursing Home                      Children's Service Day</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      11:00 AM Circuit Pastor's Conference                      8:00 PM 2:30 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      Gerald &amp; Joyce &amp; Alexander</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      Secretary's Office Closed</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion                      Leon &amp; Mary Ellen Sumst</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion                      10:30 AM Bible Class                      11:30 AM Accession Class</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      6:00 PM Board of Education Meeting                      Daily Lector                      Secretary's Office Closed</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      Division Fellowship</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Gary &amp; Marilyn Mann                      Steve Hignindot                      Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion                      10:30 AM Bible Class                      11:30 AM Accession Class                      Angela &amp; Mary Jane Jones                      1:30 PM Circuit Pastor                      Steve &amp; Ann Hignindot</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      Ann Carroll</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      Sue Snyder</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      11:30 AM T.A.M.A. Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Matins                      8:00 AM Staff Meeting                      1:30 PM Ladies Aid                      Ruth Lewis                      Wade Cronstorka</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Byron &amp; Deborah Reiback                      David &amp; Michelle Starnes                      Mackenzie Boyles                      Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion                      10:30 AM Bible Class                      11:30 AM Accession Class                      2:30 PM Nursing Home                      7:00 PM Youth Group</p>						

July 2013 Church Calendar

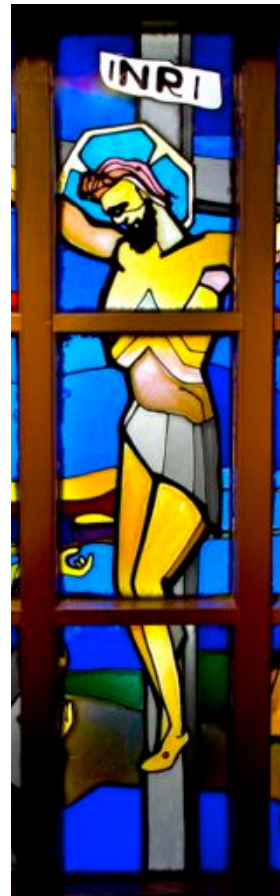
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:30 PM Elders Meeting John & Dawn Stokes Teresa Pollock	<b>2</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:30 AM Matins Eric Alonzo Mark Whitson	<b>4</b> Church Offices Closed Ryan & Jami Bowles	<b>5</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>6</b> 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Jack & Mary Appley
<b>7</b> 8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:15 AM Church Council 11:30 AM Awareness Class	<b>8</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Elders Meeting Bruce Rubin Hermin Oye	<b>9</b> Marlyn Mann	<b>10</b> Highway Through Youth Conference/Pastor Goss	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Chad & Haley Ely Rita Welton Pastor's Day Off	<b>13</b> 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Gunnar Campbell Jack & Mary Appley
<b>14</b> 8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class Children's Seminar Day	<b>15</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM Visitors	<b>16</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Thomas Fields	<b>17</b> 7:30 AM Matins Tonia Timin	<b>18</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Richard & Jill Zarbar	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Jason & Dede Everside LOMS Conviction/Pastor
<b>21</b> 8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Cody & Thomas Fields Wayne Arthur LOMS Conviction/Pastor Goss	<b>24</b> James Harbaugh	<b>25</b> 1:30 PM Ladies Aid Lutvina Hony David Wondell Nicholas Appley	<b>26</b> Michelle Stummer Pastor's Day Off	<b>27</b> 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Cindy Ekstrom John Stokes
<b>28</b> 8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class Megan Hopkins 7:00 PM Youth Group	<b>29</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Jason Rubin	<b>30</b> 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Roland Spomer	<b>31</b> 7:30 AM Matins Evan Hochback Glen Stummer Jason Everside			

# Congratulations On Your Confirmation, Breleigh, Cassandra, Caleb, and Ethan!



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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.

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