

WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF LUTHERAN ALTAR GUILDS

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NEWSLETTER – Spring 2016

WELCOME.....to another edition of the WFLAG newsletter. Previously we have focused our articles on the Advent Wreath, the Stripping of the Altar, the long season of Epiphany, the Pascal Candle, the guidelines of Flowers and Flags, and the information every Altar Guild Handbook should include. This newsletter is focusing on the Sanctuary or Eternal light. I

It is our hope that these articles help to educate and to clarify questions you may have as you serve the Lord, the pastor and the congregation. Please feel free to share these articles with your Altar Guild members.

SANCTUARY OR ETERNAL LIGHT

In the Old Testament God commanded that a lamp filled with the purest oil of olives should always burn in the Tabernacle of the Testimony without the veil (Exodus 27:20, 21). The Church prescribes that at least one lamp should continually burn not as an ornament of the altar, but for the purpose of worship to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ and is a profession of their love and affection.

In Judaism, the sanctuary lamp is known by its Hebrew name, **ner tamid**, which is usually translated as “eternal flame” or “eternal light”. Hanging or standing in front of the ark in every Jewish synagogue, it is meant to represent the menorah of the Temple in Jerusalem as well the continuously burning fire on the altar of burnt offerings in front of the Temple. It also symbolizes God’s eternal presence and is therefore never extinguished. It is also intended to draw parallels between God and fire, or light, which is emphasized throughout the book of Exodus in the Torah.

Traditionally in the Roman Catholic churches this was a protective light when people entered the church at all hours to worship at the altar where the reserved host was kept.

In Lutheran and other Protestant churches the Eternal Light recalls God’s abiding presence as the Light of the World.

A burning candle has symbolic value because it consumes itself in burning, it is a symbol of how our Lord spent Himself to redeem us and how we are to spend ourselves in loving service to God and man.

Continued....

What should we who serve in the Altar Guilds know about the characteristics of the Eternal Candle? This lamp or candle should be hung from the ceiling or be mounted on the wall and it should burn continuously throughout the year. Concerning the color of the glass of the sanctuary light it is most preferred to be white or clear glass. However many lamps today are red colored glass. There is no reason to make an issue of the color.

A Christian Protestant theological theory is that certain rites and actions are just matters of indifference in religion since they are not commanded or forbidden by the Scriptures. (Adiaphora).

WFLAG MEMBERSHIP LIST – 2015

Beautiful Savior	Milwaukee
Benediction	Milwaukee
Divine Savior	Hartford
Elm Grove	Elm Grove
First Lutheran	Rice Lake
Grace	Menomonee Falls
Immanuel	Westfield
Mt. Olive	Milwaukee
Oklahoma	Milwaukee
Our Savior's	Sheboygan
St John's	Glendale
St John's	Portage
St John's	Mayville
St John's	Sullivan
St Paul	Amherst
St Paul	Grafton
St Paul	Sheboygan
St Paul	Stevens Point
St Pauls	Union Grove
Peace	Neenah
Trinity	Sheboygan
Trinity	Wausau

THANK YOU.....ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PORTAGE WISCONSIN

For hosting our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 25th, 2015.

Everyone enjoyed coming together for worship, fellowship, information, and your gracious hospitality.

“the Board”

PRAYER...

LORD.

Grant us, we beseech you, almighty and most merciful God, to desire fervently all things that are pleasing to You.

In everything You ask us to do, grant us the knowledge, the will, and the ability to accomplish it, to the glory of Your holy name through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen