

*The Voice of
Canaan Lutheran Church
10851 Friendsville Rd.
Creston, OH 44217*

February

2020

PASTOR'S PEN

In the December 2019 Voice Pastor's reflections, I said I would explain why I cannot in good conscience encourage our adoption of the now 13 yrs. old "ELW" HYMNAL (jokingly referred to as the "Cranberry hymnal to distinguish it from the old red "SBH" from my youth as a Lutheran.)

I already mentioned by finding it offensive that this new ELW hymnal rudely just dumped "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Stand UP, Stand Up for Jesus" because the hymnal committee was offended by their being 'militaristic'. Come to think of it, another reason they may have ditched "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" might be out of thinking it was insensitive to worshipers who are physically unable to stand up, or some other such thing.

And that leads me to my overall objection to the ELW: as near as I can tell, pretty much everything about it has been determined and dictated by the 'political correctness' agenda, specifically and particularly the 'radical feminist' aspect of the political correctness movement.

What I mean is, virtually every use of any male pronoun that previously was used to refer to God the Father in both the hymns and the psalms in previous Lutheran hymnals have been omitted. Only Jesus the Son is permitted to be referred to with "He," "Him," or "His", but never God the Father, or for that matter the Holy Spirit.

But even references to Christ are no longer safe when it comes to the psalms. Take Psalm 20 v. 6 where it used to read: "Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed (emph. Mine); he will answer him out of his holy heaven." The ELW has it as: "Now I know the Lord gives victory to the anointed one; God will answer out of holy heaven" (answer what? Answer who?) This completely butchers the original text and distorts how it points to Christ as the Lord's "anointed". Likewise Psalm 91, clearly pointing exclusively to Christ, by removing the male pronouns makes it seem as if the psalm is referring generically to all believers as "the anointed". Christ as the Messiah receives no special singling out or importance in this emasculated version of the psalm.

In all honesty when the committee for this new hymnal was originally being put together, many of us pastors feared they would omit "hierarchical" and (allegedly) "racially insensitive" references to "the Lord", "Christ the King", "Master" as in "O, Master, Let Me Walk With You." Even though they didn't completely omit those I can almost guarantee that they omitted as many of those occurrences of supposedly insensitive titles for God they felt they could get away with.

Beloved, it's practically the same babbling gobbled-gook the ultra radical feminists have tried with Bible texts like John 3:16; "For God so loved the world that God gave the world God's only-begotten Child, so that whosoever believes in the Child should not perish but have everlasting life." Kinda missing something, don't you think?

Beloved, I refuse to practice what I believe is deliberate mis-reading of the Scriptures in my church. I will certainly try my best never to be deliberately terribly offensive or insensitive. But I also refuse to 'walk on eggshells' when it comes to my preaching and teaching and leading of worship. Besides, to (somewhat abbreviated) quote Luther: "Prove me wrong through Holy Scriptures and I'll listen. Otherwise, here I stand; I can do no other, so help me God!"

See you in church,

Pastor Paul

P.S. Since the printing of last month's Voice I have just learned from one of the D.J.'s from local Wooster radio station WQKT 104.5 FM, that they no longer announce on the air church service cancellations. They will put them on their website however. So, all the more reason that we depend on our "Call list" of phone numbers for when we're forced to cancel. Thank you for giving us your most updated numbers!

RECENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL

Dixie Huffman

Larry Manges

WE REJOICE AT THE BAPTISM OF

Thomas Workman, Sunday, January 12th. Praise God!

LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY

Wed., February 26th

6:00 pm Choir resumes!

7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion
and Imposition of Ashes

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOBOGANNING

Sunday, Feb. 2nd at The Chalet in Strongsville.

Following a church luncheon, all will go to the Chalet.

Join us!!!

Canaan Lutheran Council Minutes

January 12, 2020

Chairman Chris Letzelter called the meeting to order and Pastor led us in Devotions, meditation and prayer. Minutes of previous meeting were read and Mike Miller moved they be accepted as read, Bill Moss seconded this motion and minutes were accepted.

Pastor's statistical report was reviewed. He then noted to the trustees that there doesn't appear to be a connection to the front door light at this time. Heather Bittinger moved that we accept his report with Lotta Sommers seconding. Motion passed.

Treasurer Tim Tegtmeier gave the treasurer's report. He reported that we gave the Campus Crusade an additional \$300 as we had increased our monthly donation from \$150 to \$175 and he had only been sending the \$150 each month. We received a donation of \$265 toward the septic system. Valerie Jordan motioned that we put \$500 of the Christmas Eve services toward the donation to send to ELCA World Hunger and Bill Moss seconded the motion. Motion passed. Dan Tegtmeier motioned and Jim Letzelter seconded that the remainder of our Christmas Eve offering be put into our Emergency Fund. This motion carried as well. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was given by Jim Letzelter and seconded by Jim McDermott and that motion carried.

Deacons – no report

Trustees – Jim Letzelter volunteered to look at the light at the parsonage.

Sunday School – Heather Bittinger announced that they will be taking the youth to see Noah's Ark and spend a day at King's Island. There will probably need to be a fund raiser with more information to come.

Elders – No report

Old Business – Bill Moss took the beige hymnals to be recycled. He found someone to take the old upright piano; they just can't get to it right now. He is still looking into the sound system.

Virginia reported that the light on the sign is working; it was just that the timer had not been reset to daylight saving time.

New Business – Pastor was asked to leave the meeting as we discussed the salary committee's recommendation for pay raise. We were given three options to review and it was recommended by Mike Miller that we choose option C which was a 3% increase along with a one time \$300 bonus in honor of his 30th year as a pastor. After much discussion a motion was made by Mike Miller that we recommend to the congregation the 3% raise with the one time \$3,000 bonus for Pastor with Christ Letzelter seconding the motion. Motion carried. We then discussed the secretary's pay and it was decided to ask the congregation to raise her hourly pay of \$9.75 to \$10.00 for the coming year.

Cleaning team would be recommended for a \$10 a week raise. Campus Crusade would remain at \$175

per month and Music and Choir Director would remain at the same pay. Motion was made by Mike Miller to recommend the above listed pay changes and seconded by Heather Bittinger. Motion carried.

Tim reminded everyone the purpose of our endowment fund and that we had not used any of the growth to the fund in the past two years. He made a recommendation that we need to take some out this year. He moved that we make a recommendation to the congregation that 25% of our general fund balance at the end of the year; along with \$7000 from the endowment fund be used to help fund a new septic tank for the parsonage and pay our monthly mission of the month for the coming year. Mike Miller seconded the motion and this motion carried.

There being no further business to conduct, Heather motioned and Mike seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Jordan

Secretary

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7th Chris Raber

**8th Michele Pamer
Vienna Reese**

9th Amelia BrodWolf

14th Gwen Arnold

17th Jase Yost

19th Gloria Pamer

**John Reese
20th Courtney Kent**

21st Joe Wolf

23rd Rob Robinson

24th Ed Pamer

29th Bob Bricker

