

Glory of Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

4040 County Road 101 No.

Plymouth, MN 55446

Office phone 763-478-6031

www.gloryofchrist.org

Pastor: Rev. Klemet Preus

Asst: Jo Ellen Braun

Assistant Pastor for Missions: Rev. John Fehrmann

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Dean Weibel

Organists: Carla Claussen, Zelda Malo, Maddie Marshall & Sarah Miller, Adult Choir Director: Carla Claussen

Bell Choir Director: Brenda Richards, Music Coordinator: Zelda Malo, Children's Bell Director: Ellie Leimer

June 2011

The Rapture

Yet again the public press has deemed an errant prediction of the world's ending worthy of report and inevitable ridicule. A California pastor and radio host named Harold Camping wrongly predicted that the rapture would occur on May 21, 2011 at 6:00. This was his second incorrect prediction having made the same prediction about fifteen years ago. When that did not happen he was understandably "Disappointed" and "Flabbergasted" but undaunted. He revised his predictions yet again and has now opined that the world will end on October 21 of this year (2011). So we can tell the same jokes this fall and the world can ridicule fringe Christians yet again. Lost in all of this is what the Bible really says about the second coming of Christ and the alleged "rapture." Back in 1999 a number of radical Christian groups thought the world was coming to an end and I wrote a little piece for the newsletter which (in all due modesty) got a lot of positive feedback. It explained why the rapture doctrine is false and dangerous. It is below for your enjoyment a second time. Klemet Preus

LEFT BEHIND: THE REAL STORY

Lately, a series of books entitled, Left Behind, by Tim LaHaye, has caught the interest of many Christian people. Full of questions about the coming of our Lord and what will become of planet earth, these Christians are intrigued by books which give answers to our heartfelt questions. One of the most popular, if also controversial, doctrines taught by the Left Behind series is the doctrine of the "rapture." According to the doctrine of the rapture, Jesus will come again silently and whisk away into the skies those people who are Christians. Following this silent "rapture" a period of intense tribulation will fall upon those who, because of their lack of faith will have been "left behind." The teaching of the rapture, it is claimed, is based upon Matthew 24:37-41 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The Matthew passage talks about some being "taken" and some being "left" when Jesus comes again. The 1 Thessalonians passage talks

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven"

Church Elders:

Bill Anderson
Carl Hartness
Dave Koosman
Garry McCreary
Mike Olson
Bruce Paradis
Jason Paradis
Ben Rolf

President of Congregation:

Roger Hargreaves

Treasurer:

Jesse Huber

Secretary:

Brenda Richards

Church Council:

Lori Beck
Travis Dorweiler
Eileen Esget
Marcus Olson
Mike Lindh
Russell McBroom
Chuck McGriff



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about the faithful being “caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord.” The events which supposedly surround the rapture are; mystery and bewilderment at the disappearance of so many Christians, driverless cars crashing and pilotless planes plunging to the ground, extreme persecution and hardship perpetrated by very evil men, courageous confession of faith and selfless acts of valor and the final triumph of good over evil. Actually the ingredients of this drama are what great novels and movies are made of. The books are every bit as exciting as the most popular action thriller. And the popularity of the books shows that people are reading them with almost as much devotion as Harry Potter. But are the books true? Are they Biblical? Do they promote the gospel of Jesus? Unfortunately the answer to these questions is “No!” The drama of Left Behind is not true and is actually quite dangerous.

Why do I say this?

First, the Bible is clear that Jesus has come once and will come a second time. The rapture theory says he will come a second time silently and then a third time gloriously. The passages cited above and virtually all the passages used to support the rapture theory are really talking about the glorious return on the last day of Jesus who will judge the earth. There is really no such thing in the whole Bible as a silent second coming of Jesus. When Jesus comes again he will bring with him all the angels and there will be the sounds of trumpets. The sun will stop shining and the moon as well. Stars will fall (Matthew 24:29-32). You will not miss it. And when people are whisked away from their cars or airplanes there will be no one “left behind” to wonder what happen. It will be very obvious what happened. The end will have come.

Second, the doctrine of the rapture is wrong because it makes it seems as though the tribulation is limited to a specific and very short period of time. Further it suggest that Christians will not have to experience this tribulation. But the Bible says the tribulations takes place from the time of Christ’s first coming until he comes again (1 Peter 1:3-9). We are in the tribulation right now. How else can you explain the wickedness of the world and the lukewarmness of so many Christians? How else can you explain the wars and rumors of war which surround us? How else can you explain the mourning and unhappiness that is so often part of our lives in this “veil of tears.” Jesus does not promise to come get us before things really get bad. He promises to comfort us with the positive assurance of his love and forgiveness no matter how bad things get. And Jesus does not tell us to anticipate how he will make things easier for Christians. He tells us that His grace will be sufficient because things are tougher for Christians.

Third, as just stated, the faith of every Christian is not in things to come for planet earth. Rather, Christians need to learn to look to the cross of Jesus for relief of this world’s troubles. “I have determined to know nothing among you except Jesus and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2),” says Paul. The greatest danger of the rapture theory is that it gets Christians to focus their devotion in the wrong direction. God wants us not to be exercised about the mysteries of the future. That’s why he makes it so simple. “This same Jesus who has been taken from into heaven, will return the same way as you see him go into heaven (Acts 1:11).” He is coming back.

That's really all we need to know. And we are saved only through Jesus who, 2000 years in the past, died that we may live. Many of the advocates of the rapture theory will boldly assert that if you don't believe in the rapture then you will be left behind. They clearly give the impression that the rapture doctrine is the single most important teaching of the Bible. All this even though the doctrine of the rapture was not invented until the late 1800's. But true Christians have always known that the central Bible teaching is that God forgives our sins for Jesus sake. You are saved through the blood of the lamb even if we don't fully know are even ponder the mysteries of the end times.

Fourth, the doctrine of the rapture teaches that people are saved by witnessing dramatic events. According to the rapturists those left behind can be converted by the dramatic events of the rapture and subsequent tribulation. The Bible teaches that people are saved only through the word and sacraments. In one of Jesus' parables a rich man went to hell. In hell he begged that he be allowed to go back to earth to warn his brothers that they should believe. But, God told him. "They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to the Bible (Luke 16:29)." The rich man insisted that if someone came back from the dead then unbelievers would certainly listen. "No," said our Lord. "Faith comes from hearing and hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17)." God does not convert "left behind" people by scaring the living daylights out of them when driverless busses plunge off cliffs. He saves through baptism, the proclamation of the Gospel and the Blessed Sacrament. These means of salvation are rarely mentioned in the books by rapturists.

Finally, the Bible clearly teaches that there will be no second chance. "It is given for a man once to die and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27)". Yet the rapture doctrine says that those who are left behind will have a second chance. If there is one thing that the Bible is certain about it is this; when Jesus comes again then all chances for salvation are over. "Work while it is day," says our Lord. There will come a time when it is too late for mission work. That is why the Bible says that when the nations see the coming of the son of man. "they will mourn (Zechariah 12:10-14)".

John Stephenson, a leading theologian of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, says that "the secret rapture." "displaces Christ as the center of Scriptures and deflects Christian hope from the humble awaiting of His coming in glory to the macabre reckoning on the occurrence of a series of intermediate lurid events whose dating becomes the object of feverish speculation." The rapture is a false doctrine and it is a bad doctrine. It teaches a secret coming of Christ when the bible does not. It points us in the wrong direction when confronted with tribulations. It detracts us from Christ crucified. It suggests that faith comes from dramatic events rather than the word. It teaches a second chance. As Stephenson says, "It displaces Christ." Read the books if you must, but for heaven's sake. Do not trust them.





Services in the month of June



June 5 and 6, 2011: Seventh Sunday after Easter: As has been our custom for the last few years we will celebrate the Ascension of Christ on this Sunday. Luke 24 and Acts 1 tell the story of the Ascension. This holiday stresses more than the mere fact that Jesus is not visibly present among us right now. The Ascension also tells us that Jesus is sitting at the right of God and rules all things on heaven and on earth with his power and grace - all evidence to the contrary notwithstanding.

June 12 and 13, 2011, Pentecost: The Feast of Pentecost is the third great Christian holiday. As Christmas focuses on the Father's gift to us and Easter upon the Son's victory over death so both the Epistle lesson and the gospel lesson for Pentecost show us the Spirit who brings glory to the Son. Acts 2, the story of Pentecost, is one of the only chapters in the Bible that mentions the Gospel, Baptism and the Lord's Supper all in the same chapter. This gives us a hint of how the Holy Spirit works.

June 19 and 20, 2011: The first Sunday after Trinity: Christ's parable of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus, Luke 16: 19-31, is the gospel for this Sunday. It shows us where we find the truth – in the Holy Scriptures – and where this truth leads – to heaven. It also shows that this faith or lack of it is always reflected in the way we live.

June 26 and 27, 2011: The second Sunday after Trinity: Luke 14:15-24 is the parable of the great banquet where Jesus tells of a man who held a banquet and invited people from the highways and byways to come when others, more suitable, refused. Are we the worthy who have no time for the banquet of the Lord or are we the unworthy who are invited almost as an afterthought. Be careful how you answer – grace is at stake.

July 3 2011: The Third Sunday after Trinity: We live in a time when constant responsibilities are placed on people. Even ostensible Christians will tell you that you have to decide for God or invite Jesus or find the Lord. How comforting are the two parables in our Gospel lesson (Luke 15:1-10) which tell us that God searches and finds us, lost sinners though we are.

OUR MUSIC STAFF:

Church Organists: Carla Claussen, Zelda Malo, Maddie Marshall, & Sarah Miller

Music Coordinator: Zelda Malo 763-972-3710

Adult Choir Director: Carla Claussen 651-697-1117

Bell Choir Director: Brenda Richards 763-476-6981

Children's Bell Choir Director: Ellie Leimer 952-294-4200

Dates to Remember !!!

Sunday Assignments

	<u>June 5th</u>	<u>June 12th</u>	<u>June 19th</u>	<u>June 26th</u>
<u>COFFEE SERVERS:</u>	M. Swenson	M. Scharlau	L. Esget	M. Justat
	K. Swenson	P. Hemingway	E. Esget	J. Justat
<u>ACOLYTES:</u>				
9:00 AM	A. Corey		S. Olson	M. Swenson
<u>CRUCIFER</u>				
9:00 AM	T. Hargreaves		J. Olson	XXXXXXXXXXXX
<u>ELDERS:</u>				
9:00 AM	B. Paradis	B. Paradis	B. Paradis	B. Paradis
	M. Olson	M. Olson	M. Olson	M. Olson
<u>USHERS:</u>				
9:00 AM	R. McBroom	M. Miller	J. Eickhoff	B. Larson
	C. McGriff	B. Strom	T. Dorweiler	M. Justat
<u>ALTAR GUILD:</u>	J. Diemand	J. Braun	J. Larson	J. Koosman
	B. Schoolman	S. Torkelson	G. McGriff	K. Swenson
<u>OFFERING</u>	M. Justat	L. Beck	C. Smith	B. Strom
<u>COUNTERS:</u>	J. Justat	C. Hartness	C. Smith	A. Strom
<u>BREAD BAKER</u>	E. McBroom	K. Dorweiler	S. Edenborg	E. Esget
<u>BREAD DELIVERER</u>	R. Decker	L. Beck	B. Schoolman	E. Esget

Monday night service with Beer and Brats June 6th at 8:00 PM at the Church

This summer Divine services will take place each Monday night at 7:00 beginning the sixth of June and continuing through the last Monday of August (with the exception of July fourth). In order to promote and encourage attendance at the Monday night services during the summer, the elders of the congregation wish to invite the entire church to a meal of Beer and Brats at the church after the Monday evening service on June 6. Although the Brats won't be served until 8:00 you can come a bit early and enjoy the evening with other members. Both Beer and Brats will be provided through the generosity of the Elders.

It's almost here! VBS is returning to Glory of Christ in a big way!

As of June 1 we have 60 students registered. About half of them are not from Glory of Christ.

We have an exciting morning planned with bible stories, crafts, games, music and a snack. Each activity relates to the story in some way.

The afternoon was planned with working parents in mind but we've developed it in to an adventure time. We have someone coming from Sealife at the MOA and we have a face painter who will turn all of our adventurer into jungle creatures for the program on Thursday. We are doing a service project to help feed the homeless in the metro area.

And we still need you! First, to come to the program and BBQ on Thursday at 5:30 to meet and greet our guest for the week. Second, to volunteer for one afternoon to lend a hand in supervising children during their activities. This may include watching the little ones take a nap or watch while older kids create a work of art. There will be VBS staff around at all times. We just need extra pairs of eyes to keep everyone focused and safe. If you can help one afternoon please let Diane Meyer (612-799-0642) or dianejohnsonmeyer@gmail.com know. Third, we need everyone possible to finish up decorating on June 12th after Bible study. We can order some pizza for lunch.

We also need 2 5 gallon pails and 2 ice cream buckets , some sand, and a 3'x 3' piece of plywood for supporting the trees in front of the backdrop. Contact Kelly or Travis Dorweiler . And we need some game supplies: 4 square balls, bean bags, 6 old hunting shirts (these may not usable after we play with them). Let Christine Zitzlsperger know if you can supply any of these.





Happy Birthday Happy Anniversary

6/01/000	Bud & Arlin Hitchcock	Anniversary
6/04/000	June Bulau	Birthday
6/05/000	Mark & Karen Swenson	Anniversary
6/08/000	Chuck and Gayle McGriff	Anniversary
6/08/000	Ron & Sandi Edenberg	Anniversary
6/08/000	Jason Paradis	Birthday
6/09/000	Linda Bimberg	Birthday
6/13/000	Pastor Klemet Preus	Birthday
6/15/000	Allison & Sean Breininger	Anniversary
6/16/000	Dennis Karius	Birthday
6/16/000	Jacob Larson	Birthday
6/16/000	Jeremy Eickhoff	Birthday
6/16/000	Dave & Janel Koosman	Anniversary
6/17/000	Owen Knea	Birthday
6/19/000	Mathew Lehnertz	Birthday
6/20/000	Ikena Hagen	Birthday
6/20/000	Jacob Olson	Birthday
6/21/000	Edwin Walter	Birthday
6/22/000	Russ & Eunice McBroom	Anniversary
6/22/000	Briel Larson	Birthday
6/27/000	Matt & Heather Knea	Anniversary
6/27/000	Todd and Beth Schoolman	Anniversary
6/27/000	Dave Koosman	Birthday
6/27/000	Peter Krenzke	Birthday
6/30/000	Pauline Hemingway	Birthday

2011 Glory of Christ Men's Retreat **Friday August 26th thru Sunday August 28th**

The Elders have decided to organize a men's retreat this year. Designed to be a fellowship event with time set aside for bible study. The retreat will be in Crosslake MN (Whitefish Chain of Lakes) on August 26th -28th. Starting on August 26th for anyone who wants to skip a day of work. The Paradis and McCreary families have contributed the use of their cabins. Activities will include relaxing, boating, fishing, sightseeing, golf and Christian fellowship. We need the men of the congregation interested in attending to sign up as soon as possible. The Elders need a head count so they can complete the planning. When you sign up please indicate the day and time you plan to arrive. If you have any questions about the event please ask one of the Elders.

ASCENSION WHAT A HOLIDAY

Ascension is a Christian Holiday which has fallen on hard times. It always falls on a Thursday 40 days after Easter and ten days before Pentecost. It is the holiday in which we remember Christ going up into heaven after His earthly work was done. This year Ascension falls on June 2. In the past many Lutherans have worshipped on Ascension. When I grew up we always went to church on Ascension Eve. Nowadays many churches simply observe Ascension on the following Sunday, which for us, this year is May 16. Often Ascension falls on Mother's day and, let's be honest, the Ascension of Christ is not usually as close to the American heart as is baseball, apple pie and motherhood. So we can be happy that it's not on Mother's day this year. And Ascension is worthy of great honor as a holiday.

Ascension is not only the day in which Christ left this earth, it is the day He promised to return. All the excitement and anticipation of Christ's second coming again in glory on the last day, all the hope for eternal life, all the claims of final victory, and, in fact, all faith depend on the Ascension. Every time we pray, "Come Lord Jesus," we are expressing hope in the Ascension.

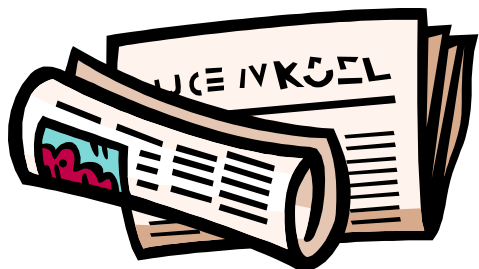
Not only does Christ's Ascension provide hope for his Second Coming; it also gives assurance that Jesus is with us now. The Bible says that when Jesus ascended he also filled all things. That means that Jesus is not only up in heaven, but he is with us here in our trouble filled lives. Since Jesus is the God-Man, we can say that the God-Man is with each one of us no matter where we are or who we are. When the Bible says that Christ sits at the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit doesn't want us to picture some chair in heaven. Rather, Christ rules us with grace and power, hears our prayers, provides our needs, receives our worship and guards us at all times. And he does this as the God-Man who loved us died for us and understands our every need.

Just as importantly, the Ascension proves something about the Lord's Supper. Many churches and individuals believe that Christ's body and blood cannot be really present in the Sacrament since they are in heaven. These churches then interpret the words, "This is my body," to mean this is a symbol of my body or this represents my body which is absent from the altar and confined in heaven. Lutherans believe Jesus when He says, "This is my Body." We believe it because the Ascension proves that Jesus, with his body, can be in many or all places at the same time. He fills all things, so He can give us his real true body and blood in the Holy Communion. Because of the Ascension, we can go to the Supper and receive more than a symbol or a reminder. We can feast on the actual body and blood of the crucified Lord.

So Ascension is worthy of great honor. It's a wonderful and important holiday. By the Ascension we are given hope of Christ's coming, we are comforted with his daily guidance and care, and we are blessed with the forgiveness and salvation of his Holy Meal. What a Holiday!



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Service Schedule

Sunday Service 9:00 am

Bible Class 10:20 am

Sunday School 10:20 am

Monday Night 7:00 pm