

## **2017 ILC e-Journal Contents**

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### **News and Notes**

#### **Illinois Lutheran Conference**

**The 2017 ILC delegate convention will be a one day event hosted by Our Savior Lutheran Church on June 22 and will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Morris Illinois. Please make arrangements to attend so that we may encourage one another in the faith of Jesus Christ!**

#### **Lutheran Reformation Hour**

Please note the current mailing address as listed on appropriate web-page.

The Lutheran Reformation Hour broadcast can be heard each Sunday morning at 7:00 A.M. central standard time online at <http://www.WWCR.com> . Simply click the "listen online" link in the menu on the left hand side of the screen and then in the "WWCR 1" box click on your preferred media player.

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church of Ballwin, MO**

**Meeting place and time change:** Please phone (314) 640-2477 or (696) 795-9511 for further information.

#### **Eternal Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Arbor Vitae, WI**

**Meeting place:** Worship services are now held in the Pastor's home.

**Funeral:** Mrs. Ruth Latsch went to sleep in Jesus on Reformation Day, October 31, 2016. Funeral service and burial followed within about a week.

#### **Our Savior Lutheran Church, Morris, IL**

**Building** improvements are currently underway.

## *Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Midland, MI*

Sadly, during late 2016 the congregation chose to disband and has done so in order to affiliate elsewhere.

### *ILC 2016 Convention minutes*

After a brief fellowship, the convention opened at 9:15 A.M. with a church service conducted by Pastor Latsch. Hymn #4 was sung and the liturgy from page 5 of the Lutheran Hymnal was used. The Epistle lesson was 1 Chron. 29:10-13. The Gospel lesson was Matt. 6:5-13. Hymn #39 was sung, and then Pastor Latsch preached on 1 Chron. 29:10-13 "How King David adored the Lord and why we should too". Hymns #657 and #46 were sung and the service concluded at 10:15.

There was a break from 10:15 – 10:30.

The President (Pastor Latsch) opened the conference with an exhortation and prayer and then presented the President's report. The ILC secretary was not able to attend so Pastor Schilling filled in and read the minutes from the 2015 convention. The treasurer gave his report stating that the ILC started with a balance of \$8555.84, had deposits of \$4870.61, paid out \$6934.70 leaving a balance of \$6491.75.

The Lutheran Reformation Hour reported that it is still on 2 radio stations, one is KTIC Nebraska and the other is WWCR Nashville. The expense to keep airing these is \$900/month, however the LRH is only receiving \$400-\$500/month. Obviously this cannot go on very much longer. Pastors Latsch and Schilling were asked to submit letters to use in the mission effort.

There is a glitch with putting sermons on the ILC website. Mr. Jim Henry will be contacted to see if he can help resolve the issue.

Congregational reports were given. Cross of Christ of Midland, Michigan gave an oral report. Pastor Sempert has serious health issues and is now retired. The Finney's and the Barnes' have visited other churches but have not found one that is doctrinally sound. They will continue meeting and options for serving them are currently being considered. After a little discussion it was decided that they will watch services on the internet and Pastor Latsch will visit twice a year to give them Holy Communion.

Under Missions Charles Clubb made a motion that the ILC support a weekly audio visual broadcast of worship services over the internet from Our Savior, Morris. Installation and maintenance shall not exceed \$1500 per year. Seconded by Mark Luers. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Under Budget it was moved by Charles Clubb and seconded by Jordi Felix that the ILC donate \$2000 to the LRH. Motion passed. A budget for 2016-2017 was presented. After a little discussion it was decided to raise the salaries and travel budget to \$6000, making the total budget \$10,500. A motion was made by Charles Clubb and seconded by Mark Luers to accept the revised budget. The motion passed. The treasurer was asked to make sure that the \$200 agreed upon last year to give Todd Johnson for helping with the website was in fact given to him.

The ILC Conference [delegate convention] will be held next year on 6/22/17 at Our Savior, Morris and will also be hosted by them.

Officers were nominated as follows: President – Pastor Latsch; Vice President – Pastor Schilling; Secretary – Mr. Nato Popp; Treasurer – Mr. Charles Clubb; Historian – Mr. Jordi Felix; ILC Journal Editors - Pastors Latsch and Schilling; ILC website supervisors – Pastor Schilling, Mr. Jim Henry, and Mr. Matthew Luers. Moved by Charles Clubb and seconded by Jordi Felix to accept nominations as presented. Motion passed.

There was a short break at 2:30.

Thanks were given to Jerry and Sharon Erickson for all their work to host the conference.

Thanks were given to Pastor Sempert for years of doctrinally sound service.  
The minutes from today's conference were read.

Moved by Charles Clubb and seconded by Dave DeVallee to accept all reports given and also the minutes from today's meeting. Motion passed.

The conference closed with an exhortation by the President, a prayer, reading of Psalm 93, and singing of Hymn 283. We adjourned at 3:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Dale Schilling

### **ILC 2016 President's report**

Brethren in Christ,

After yet another year of God's grace we are gathered together here for the 38<sup>th</sup> annual ILC delegate convention.

Our numbers remain small and it seems we are getting smaller as our wicked world draws nearer to its end. Nevertheless, we must remember the signs of the times and the fact that Jesus says: "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28) Yes, we need to keep our focus on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ no matter how unpopular His Word becomes in this world; and, we must continue to reach out with the blessed Gospel of Christ because there is no hope for sinners without Him, for "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Happily, I have one positive contact to report due in a large part to the ILC website. Since October of 2015, I've corresponded a number of times with a couple who appreciates the ILC's stand on the KJV Holy Bible and sound orthodox Lutheran doctrine, and those folks have been receiving regular church service recordings from me since they live around 180 miles from my congregation in Wisconsin and about the same distance from Morris Illinois.

The ILC website continues to be a good mission outreach as statistics indicate that from 140 to 200 sermons are heard each month, and our congregational information is being viewed for each location from 30 to 100 times each month. The ILC Journal page is also a popular read as is the Lutheran Reformation Hour page.

God grant that we remain faithful to the Lord Jesus and His true pure preserved inerrant holy Word!

Respectfully submitted by ILC president, Pastor Mark Latsch

## **ILC Convention sermon from June 2016**

**Text— 1 Chronicles 29:10-13**

**Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed *be* thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.**

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

When King David prayed the words found within our Scripture selection, he was approaching the time of his physical death— something we too will all face unless Jesus visibly returns before we breathe our last breath in our sinful flesh. The people of Israel had willingly offered gifts for the Lord's temple that David's son Solomon would build, and it gladdened David's heart that his son would show his love to the Lord by overseeing the construction of a magnificent edifice dedicated to the glory of God. David rejoiced over the temple project because it was something he had longed to accomplish for the glory of God as his words spoken in our text clearly indicate, for there we behold:

**"HOW KING DAVID ADORED THE LORD, AND WHY WE SHOULD TOO!"**

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) The manner in which King David adored the Lord, which we should imitate
- 2) The reasons King David adored the Lord, which should be our reasons too

-1-

Immediately prior to our Scripture selection we are informed that "the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy." (1 Chronicles 29:9) Then, the first thing we observe in our text is that David *blessed the Lord*, which simply means that he humbly adored the Lord in prayer, which is an act of worship. David was extremely happy that the people willingly offered to the Lord what was necessary for constructing the temple; so, he joyfully broke forth in prayer to God since only God can move hearts to do what is right in His sight. What an example for you and for me! After all, "Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable." (Psalm 145:3)

Fellow believers in Christ, may you and I bless the Lord God each and every day, “For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5) Why, without God’s goodness and mercy we would all be headed for hell because of our sin, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. [And] the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

Yes, God is magnificently merciful and good to us undeserving sinners, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) And, God graciously gave us Christians the faith we have in the Lord Jesus, because Holy Writ reveals: “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9) That being the case, we certainly ought to *bless the Lord* as did David.

Notice in our text exactly *who* David blessed: the “LORD God” — that’s *Jehovah Eloheem* in the Hebrew, meaning the existing One true God who is plural in Persons. So, realize that David prayed to the true triune God and no other, and we must do likewise, for it is written: “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10) Only the true God is to be worshiped; He alone can hear and answer prayer.

Look again at the first verse of our Scripture selection and note that *David blessed the LORD before all the congregation*. Hence, David’s manner in which he adored the Lord was not only joyful but was also public. My friends, private personal prayer to the Lord is a good thing, and yet we must not neglect praying together in public worship. Our ILC congregations are small but that does not mean we should cease gathering together or that we should compromise on Biblical doctrine and practice in order to have bigger congregations; no, on the contrary, Jesus says: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (John 4:24; Matthew 7:21) Let us therefore persist in holding fast the form of sound words in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:13)

David opened his prayer of adoration by saying: *Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever*. Hence, David began his public words of thanksgiving by praising the true God, the God of Israel, the God who had graciously chosen David’s forefather Jacob as His own, and promised him that the Messiah would descend from him according to the flesh, saying, “in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 28:14)

Years later God also promised David himself that the Messiah would descend from him according to the flesh, for God said to him, “I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.” (2 Samuel 7:12-13) Furthermore, David also knew and believed that the Messiah would be true God, for David – being moved by the Holy Ghost – wrote: “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.” (Psalm 110:1) Consequently, David knew, believed, and proclaimed that the Lord God deserves blessing *for ever and ever*. Therefore, may you and I sincerely profess with David the sweet psalmist of Israel, “I will extol thee, my God, O king; and

I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever." (Psalm 145:1-2)

Having seen the manner in which King David adored the Lord, may you and I imitate David now in this life, and may we look forward to adoring the Lord in the mansions of heaven, happily blessing Him in eternity.

-2-

The Lord had graciously given King David faith in the coming Christ, and had also given him abundant material goods in this world. Nevertheless, note that despite all that David possessed, he remained humble before the Lord. We do not read here in our text that David said mine is the greatness, power, and so forth; no, David blessed the Lord by joyfully praising Him, saying: *Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

We too should always acknowledge that the true God is infinitely higher than ourselves or anyone or anything else, for remember that Jesus closed the Lord's Prayer with the following words to His heavenly Father: "thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Matthew 6:13) Let us not be pride-filled, but rather genuinely humble before God, because "Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18) May we therefore follow David by adoring the Lord God in prayer.

Let's take a closer look at King David's praises to the Lord, for they show us the reasons that he adored the Lord. To the Lord belongs *the greatness*, for God's greatness is infinite— there is none that can even begin to compare to the Lord since Psalm 95:3-6 declares, "the LORD *is* a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand *are* the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills *is* his also. The sea *is* his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry *land*. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." The Lord is the great Creator and the Preserver of all things— if not for Him man and all other creation would cease to exist!

What is more, we cannot really reflect on God's greatness without recalling His immense love shown to us, for "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10) Why, if not for God's love in Christ Jesus we would all be lost and condemned to hell because the great God is also perfectly just and holy, "for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he." (Deuteronomy 32:4) The great God's perfect justice demands: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20); accordingly, in order to satisfy divine justice someone had to keep His Law perfectly for all men, and the sins of all men had to be paid for by the shed blood of that same holy Person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh beloved, "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5) My friends, take it to heart that it took the shed blood of Jesus Christ to pay for your sins and mine, yea, the sins of the whole world. Jesus died on the cross of Calvary for you, for me, for

all. Look to Jesus with the eyes of faith as your personal Savior and Lord, and then you cannot help but say with David: *thine, O Lord, is the greatness.*

To the Lord also belongs *the power*, because He is omnipotent, for “with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26) Indeed, the Lord Jesus declared: “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18) Oh, Jesus Christ demonstrated His almighty power on many occasions, not the least of which was His bodily resurrection from the dead and His visible ascension into heaven 40 days later. May we, like David, adore the Lord for His power because He has unlimited power.

We see also in verse 11 of our text that to the Lord belongs *the glory*. Yes, the highest and greatest honor and praise indeed belongs to the Lord, for multitudes of holy angels at the birth of Jesus sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14) We should constantly glorify God for providing us with the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who is “the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8) who was crucified for us and thereby paid for our sins since “without shedding of blood is no remission.” (Hebrews 9:22) Fellow Christians, we surely have reason to give all glory to God, for 1 Corinthians 6:20 declares: “ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

To the Lord belongs *the victory* because the promised Messiah, the Christ, would and did triumph over our greatest enemies – sin, death, the devil, and hell! It is as we read in Hebrews 2:14-15 concerning Christ Jesus: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Let us therefore heartily and regularly confess: “thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

To the Lord belongs *the majesty*, because He is “King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15). And, in our text David continued to praise God, saying, *all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine.* Hence, we see King David acknowledging that the Lord is the Owner of all things in heaven and earth, and that’s a fact because Holy Writ relates: “The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1) That being the case, it is certain that to the Lord belongs *the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty*, which is why David also said, *thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

Think about the fact that the kingdom is the Lord’s. The Lord rules over all things, for His is the kingdom of power, because He upholds “all things by the word of his power.” (Hebrews 1:3) The Lord rules over His Church now and forever, for His is the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory, because “Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” (Ephesians 5:23) Thus, let us Christians bless the Lord as did David, for we too have the same reasons to adore the Lord.

*Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.* David here acknowledged *how* the Lord supplies folks with blessings. Note that King David again praised the Lord for ruling *over all*, but he also related that the Lord is the SOURCE of riches and honor. Indeed, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of

firstfruits of his creatures.” (James 1:17-18) Worldly wealth and honor certainly comes from God upon those He chooses so to bless; but, it is important that you and I remember what are the *true riches* and what is *real honor*, those being, the priceless riches of faith in Christ, the forgiveness of sins, salvation, and the honor of being “called the sons of God.” (1 John 3:1) Let us be sure to value the spiritual riches more highly than the earthly riches, for even though our ILC congregations are poor in worldly wealth we do have the spiritual riches by the grace of God since we have the real Lord Jesus Christ and His true Holy Word.

Realize that all spiritual riches and the honor that accompanies them are by the Lord’s *power and might*, for it is in His hand *to make great, and to give strength unto all*. Fellow Christians, we are Christians only because God has graciously given us faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, for “as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13) It takes the Lord’s power to work repentance and faith within the hard hearts of us sinners, and to give us strength to remain in the faith, for we “are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5) God be praised for honoring us by adopting us, for we “are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26)

Take it to heart that we would have no physical or spiritual greatness or strength in God’s sight if He did not supply us therewith, which is why the apostle Paul rightly relates, “it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.” (Philippians 2:13; Romans 8:16-17) Oh yes fellow believers in Jesus, God will make us quite great in the end if we but continue to cling to Christ Jesus in true faith, for a future of glory awaits us in yonder life. We truly have many reasons to adore the Lord, as King David did.

After King David rehearsed his reasons for adoring the Lord, he spoke for the whole congregation, saying: *Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name*. Can we present-day Christians do any less? Not if we’ve seriously considered our Scripture selection and taken to heart how King David adored the Lord. My friends, we too must adore the Lord if we really appreciate what He has done and still does for us, especially regarding our salvation.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins and let us cling to Christ Jesus in heart-deep faith, for even though our ILC congregations are small, we – by the grace of God – have the true riches: the genuine Lord and Savior Jesus Christ together with His pure preserved holy Word through which the Holy Ghost grants and sustains saving faith. Hence, let us remember how King David adored the Lord, and why we should too! Amen.

m.e.l.