

# *ILC e-Journal Fall 2022*

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## *News and Notes*

### *Illinois Lutheran Conference*

The 2022 ILC mission festival will be held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church in Morris, IL.

The 2023 ILC delegate convention will be held on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Morris, IL. Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church will host the convention.

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

**Meeting place and time change:** Please phone (314) 640-2477 or (696) 795-9511 for further information as services are now held in members' homes twice a month.

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

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

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

**Building** improvements are currently underway.

## *44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ILC DELEGATE CONVENTION Meeting Minutes: June 16, 2022 MORRIS, IL*

### **Attendees:**

- Eternal Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church: Pastor Latsch, Matthew Luers
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church: Pastor Schilling, Charles Clubb, Kellee Clubb, Christine Devallee, Brian Devallee
- Trinity Lutheran Church: Tim Popp, Karen Raidy and Nato Popp

### **Pastor Latsch conducted a church service.**

Hymns 5, 262, 534, 261

- Epistle reading: Revelation 21: 1-5
- Gospel reading: Luke 19: 1-10
- Sermon based on Psalm 46; "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH"

Church service concluded at 10:30 a.m.

## **ILC Delegate Convention opened at 10:40 a.m. with prayer.**

### **Conference Reports:**

1. President's Report presented by Pastor Latsch.
2. Secretary's Report: 2021 meeting minutes presented by Nato Popp.
3. Treasurer's Report: Charles Clubb presented 2021 Financial Statement.
4. Historian's Report: Discussion of by-laws for the ILC. Tim has container of files in storage. Matthew Luers read description of Historian duties from the ILC Constitution. Constitution is on ILC Website. Discussion of placing records on the ILC Website.
5. Lutheran Theological Studies Services: None. [no students]
6. ILC website: Discussion on continuing to improve the website. Pastor Latsch reported the site ranges between 7-20 visitors per week.
7. Mission Reports: Our mission is the website.
8. Congregation Reports:
  - Eternal Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church: four members, no visitors; no updates. They continue to invite people.
  - Our Savior's Lutheran Church: Report provided by Pastor Schilling. Attendance is about 6-12; visitors on a couple of occasions; one new member. Discussion with a former member who lives out of town and is having difficulty finding a church. Posting services on YouTube. One person who was raised in the church has returned as an adult.
  - Trinity Lutheran Church: Report provided by Tim Popp. Currently holding services two times per month in members' homes and Senior Living Facility. Average attendance is eight. Pastor Schilling visits one time per month and conducts communion service. The plan is to continue to support Pastor visits. Encouraging members to support the ILC. Discussion on members who have left the congregation.

\*Discussion on witnessing to people.

Break for lunch at 11:55 a.m. Prayer by Pastor Schilling.

### **Convention resumed at 1:10 p.m.**

#### **Motion made and seconded to accept to conference reports**

#### **Open Floor Discussion**

- **Budget:** Proposal 2022/2023 ILC Budget presented by Charles Clubb. Amended the mileage reimbursement. Motion made by Charles and seconded by Tim Popp. Motion carried. Charles Clubb made a motion to increase the mileage reimbursement to 62.5 cent per mile which is subject to annual review. Motion seconded by Nato Popp. Motion carried.
- **Doctrine:** Pastor Schilling mentioned distribution of communion and the common cup vs. individual cups. There is nothing wrong with using individual cups.
- **Education:** All in agreement that the Monthly Topical Bulletin should continue.
- **Mission:** All mission work is done through the website. Other mission goals:

Tim and Nato are working to convert the sermons from Pastor Popp and Pastor Shekner from tapes to digital format.

Tim requested administrator access to the website. Charles Clubb will check to see if he can give Tim administrator access to the website. Tim is willing to research options on what can be done with the website. Discussion on how to best organize the site to be user-friendly.

Pastor Schilling presented a pamphlet created by Karla Hoving and Karen Raidy.

- **Mission Festival:** Motion made by Charles Clubb to hold the 2022 Mission Festival on Sunday, October 30, 2022 (Reformation Sunday) at 10:00 a.m. in Morris, IL (Our Savior Lutheran Church). Seconded by Nato Popp. All approved. Motion carried.
- **Selection of Host for 2023 ILC Delegate Convention:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023. Motion by Charles Clubb to hold the ILC Delegate Convention on June 15, 2023. Seconded by Brian DeValle. All approved. Motion carried.
- **Election of Officers:** Nato Popp made a motion to keep the same officers. Seconded by Charles Clubb. All approved. Motion carried. Officers are as follows:
  - **President:** Pastor Mark Latsch
  - **Vice President:** Pastor Dale Schilling
  - **Secretary:** Nato Popp
  - **Treasurer:** Charles Clubb III
  - **Historian:** Tim Popp
  - **ILC Journal Editors:** Pastor Mark Latsch and Pastor Dale Schilling
  - **ILC Website Supervisors:** Pastor Dale Schilling, Matthew Luers, and Tim Popp

### Papers/Discussion/Casuistry

- **Doctrinal Discussion:** Discussion at looking for papers written by former pastors and posting them on the website.

Meeting minutes read and amended. Charles Clubb made a motion to accept minutes as read and amended; seconded by Brian DeValle. All approved. Motion carried.

### Closing of Convention

Pastor Latsch closed with prayer.

Pastor Latsch read Psalm 133.

Convention attendees sung hymns 283 and 50.

Pastor Latsch thanked Our Savior's Lutheran Church for hosting the convention [regularly in their church building].

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”  
(Psalm 133:1 KJV)

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **ILC 2021/2022 Financial Statement**

**Balance 6/11/2021: \$3,999.60**

**Deposits: \$10,945.39**

**Paid outs: \$9,885.96**

**Balance 6/8/2022: \$5,059.03**

#### Paid outs:

Travel: \$3,411.49

Salaries: \$6,400.00

Bank Forms: \$61.47

Corporate Registration: \$13.00

#### Deposits:

Trinity: \$9,800.00

ESLC: \$300.00

OSLC: \$500.00

Private: \$345.00

Interest: \$0.39

### **ILC 2022/2023 proposed budget**

**(which passed in voting session 6/16/2022)**

**Salaries: \$7200.00**

**Travel: \$4800.00**

**Website/Technology \$250.00**

**Corp reg./Tax work \$50.00**

**Misc. Expenses \$700.00**

**TOTAL: \$13,000.00**

### **ILC 2022 President's report**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are gathered for the 44<sup>th</sup> annual ILC delegate convention. Another year has passed and by the grace of God we are still clinging to Him – the true Triune God – and His pure, preserved, Holy Word, as we have it in English, in the faithful and reliable King James Version Holy Bible.

The rise in blatant sinfulness and blasphemy continues, as this old world approaches the great day when Jesus will visibly return in glory to judge the quick and the dead. It's disgusting and disgraceful that the sins of sodomy are encouraged and promoted with June being designated so-called "pride month"— in celebration of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual behaviors, and related filthy sins. It reminds us of the words of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says, "as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given

in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” (Luke 17:26-30) Yes, fellow Christians, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. And these [the goats, the impenitent unbelievers] shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous [Christ’s sheep, all true believers in Jesus] into life eternal.” (Matthew 25:31-33, 46) Accordingly, God grant that we continue to cling to Jesus Christ in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord, looking forward to His visible return in glory.

The ILC website continues to touch hearts with God’s Word. Statistics reveal that, like last year, the site receives a relatively low number of visitors per week, ranging from around 7 to a maximum of about 20 per week— although we did have a two-week period in which over 35 people visited during each of those weeks. Nevertheless, regardless of statistics, we must remember that each and every soul is precious, for Jesus says, “...joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” (Luke 15:7)

I received just a couple of contacts this year regarding the ILC. The man from Brazil, who contacted me last year, continued to attempt to draw me (and thereby the ILC) into debating previously addressed issues with other Lutheran groups. I asked him why he persisted in doing such things; and, he answered, “it’s fun.” I then pointedly advised him to spend his time studying God’s true Word, repent of his sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than attempting to be a trouble-maker between church groups. Subsequently, his contacting me ceased. Another man phoned me from somewhere in the eastern United States, but he would not give me his name, specific location, or church affiliation; he had a few questions regarding the ILC’s position on the King James Version of the Bible and which printings of it we recommend. The call was politely ended and I never heard from that man again.

With God’s gracious help, let us continue to encourage one another in the true faith of Jesus Christ, unto life everlasting, for Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Mark E. Latsch, ILC president

## **ILC CONVENTION SERMON**

### **Text— Psalm 46**

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

Today, the 44<sup>th</sup> ILC delegate convention is to take place after our worship service. It’s truly a blessing that our little group has been in existence so many years. God has surely been gracious to us.

The Psalm which comprises our sermon text is given by inspiration of God, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”— declares 2 Peter 1:21. Additionally, the Psalm which comprises our sermon text is a confession of true believers, true Christians, as will be quite evident when we ponder its words.

Fellow Christians, it’s no secret we are living in troublous times. Heinous sins are commonly condoned and encouraged, such as the murder of babies by abortion, homosexuality and lesbianism, fornication, and gambling via lotteries and casinos. Accordingly, we are reminded of Jesus’ words found in Luke 17:22-30, where, “he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Yes, the signs abound which indicate we are living in the last days.

Nevertheless, 2 Peter 3:8-10 tells us, "beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Thus, we must always remain ready for the Lord's visible return in glory, by continually clinging to Him in heart-deep faith.

However, in honesty we must all admit that while our spirit is willing, our sinful flesh is so very weak, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." — says Ecclesiastes 7:20. Consequently, we need to pray regularly to God to strengthen us in our faith. And, we need to be reminded and encouraged by God's Word, which is something our sermon text does, as it emphasizes:

**"GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH"**

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

- 1) Who is the God who is our refuge and strength
- 2) Why we Christians can take comfort in the fact that God is our refuge and strength

-1-

**Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."**

Our sermon text opens by informing us, as we just read: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Now, the GOD who is our refuge and strength is none other than the LORD GOD, for throughout Psalm 46 the term "God" is used 7 times, while the term "LORD" – in capital letters – is used 3 times. When one sees the term "LORD" in all capital letters in the Old Testament of the KJV Holy Bible, it is always a translation of the Hebrew word "Jehovah"; while the term "God" is usually a translation of the Hebrew word "Eloheem". The Hebrew "Jehovah" means: the true eternal existing one. The Hebrew "Eloheem" is a plural noun meaning: God. Thus, the LORD God, Jehovah Eloheem, is the EXISTING ONE TRUE GOD WHO IS PLURAL IN PERSONS.

Accordingly, the one true God is the triune God, for 1 John 5:7 clearly states, "there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." The "Word" is simply another name for God the Son, Jesus Christ, for we read in John 1:1-2 & 14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, true God from all eternity and true man – flesh – born in time of the Virgin Mary.

Therefore, take it to heart that the God who is our refuge and strength is none other than the one true God, the triune God. Realize that any so-called god who is NOT the triune God is a false god, an idol, a product of sinful human beings' imagination, "For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens." — relates 1 Chronicles 16:26.

So, I repeat: the God who is our refuge and strength is none other than the one true God, the triune God.

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text, let us see why we Christians can take comfort in the fact that God is our

refuge and strength.

Again, **Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”**

We Christians can take comfort in the fact that God is our refuge and strength because of WHO HE IS. We’ve already seen and noted that the one true God, the triune God, is THE GOD who is our refuge and strength.

The true God is all-knowing and all-powerful, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Hence, God knows what is best for us and can always do what is best for us, “For with God nothing shall be impossible.” — declares Luke 1:37.

Furthermore, Holy Writ relates in 2 Peter 2:9, “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” Hence, we Christians can surely take comfort in the fact that God is our refuge and strength.

My friends, the true God is *a very present help in trouble*, for Jesus Christ – who is true God, with the Father and the Holy Ghost – promises His believing followers, in Matthew 28:20, “I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Therefore, we Christians can and should confess, as did the Psalmist, Psalm 118:6, “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” Let us take comfort in the fact that God IS our refuge and strength.

**Psalm 46:2-3, “Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.”**

Think about the words of our text we just read, for they are a confession of confidence and trust in the fact that God is our refuge and strength. Yes, by faith in the true God, we Christians know we have no need to fear no matter what happens to planet earth. Indeed, whatever disasters occur on earth – whether volcanoes, tornados, tsunamis, floods, or earthquakes – we have no need to fear, since God is our refuge and strength.

Why, even as the great last day approaches and arrives, we need not fear, for our Lord Jesus tells us in Luke 21:25-33, “there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.” Thus, we Christians should be expecting that great last day, taking comfort in knowing that through it all, God IS our refuge and strength. Yes, the earth will tremble and quake, but our God, the true triune God, is firm and unshakable.

**Psalm 46:4-5, “There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.”**

The expressions “city of God” and “holy place of the tabernacles of the most High” refer to the CHURCH OF GOD, the HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. It’s as we learn in Hebrews 12:22-24, where we read, “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

Now, we just read in Psalm 46:4-5: *There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.*

Take it heart that the “river” which makes glad the Holy Christian Church – the sum total of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ – is none other than the RIVER of LIVING WATERS by which God supplies His Church what it needs most.

Consider the following words of Jesus found in John 7:37-39, “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” Accordingly, God gives us Christians His Holy Spirit, to keep us in the faith, strengthen us in the faith, and grow us in the faith, for Holy Writ relates in 1 Corinthians 12:3 and Philippians 1:6, “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. [And] he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Therefore, let us take comfort in the fact that God IS our refuge and strength.

**Psalm 46:6-7, “The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”**

Think about the great event which took place in history on this earth, despite the raging of the heathen. We read in Psalm 2:1-12, “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

Yes, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, shook things up big-time on earth when He showed all naturally conceived human beings to be sinners, and when He subsequently paid for the sins of the whole world by shedding His holy and precious blood while nailed to the tree of the cross, “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” — relates Romans 5:6-10.

Oh, our Savior, Jesus Christ, is our LIVING LORD who is ready, willing and able to help us in every need. Therefore, let us take comfort in the fact that God IS our refuge and strength.

**Psalm 46:8-9, “Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.”**

Sinful human beings may think they are in charge of everything, with all their warring and fighting; but, the truth is that the LORD GOD is ultimately in control. Isaiah 24:1 states, “Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.” Isaiah 40:15-17 adds, “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.” Why, the Old Testament history

of Israel, as recorded in Holy Scripture, repeatedly demonstrates that when the Hebrew people rebelled against God, He raised up another nation to punish them for their sins. GOD IS IN CONTROL!

Therefore, fellow Christians, let us take comfort in the fact that God IS our refuge and strength.

**Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”**

It is the true triune God who says: *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.* Indeed, we read in Romans 14:11-12, “it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Thus, the LORD will be exalted in the earth! Therefore, fellow Christians, let us take comfort in the fact that God IS our refuge and strength.

**Psalm 46:11, “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”**

The last verse of our sermon text provides us with concluding words as to why we Christians can take comfort in the fact that God is our refuge and strength, for we just read: *The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*

Let us therefore daily and sincerely repent of our sins; and, let us continue to tenaciously cling to the pure, preserved Holy Scriptures, and to the one true God proclaimed therein – Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier: our Refuge and Strength. Amen.

m.e.l.

**Reminder: Please note that select sermons can be heard on the ILC website “sermons” web-page. See ILC “Journal” web-page for back issues and Topical Bulletins.**

“Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” (Psalm 106:1)