



# Steadfast

## In the Word and Faith



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## What Luther Says About — Law of God



**Keep It God's Law, Pure and Unadulterated.** See to it that you separate very far and very widely the “Law of the Lord” from the laws of any human beings whatsoever; and be extremely careful that you do not mix these two classes of laws into one chaotic body and perish miserably for doing so. This is what pestilential teachers are now doing when they either turn the Law of God into mere human traditions or human traditions into the Law of God. (SL 4, 230)

**Man Ever Wants to Make His Own Rules.** There we hear again that God wants nothing of all that which He Himself has not commanded. Many such passages are found in both the New and the Old Testament. Why is this? It is because the trouble and misery clings to all self-chosen works and commandments that they please us better than what God has commanded. And we pay more attention to them too, and we are also far more diligent in their observance than in the observance of God's own commandments, which justly disgusts God extremely. And He, in turn, despises and rejects our own works and commandments, just as we despise His commandments and works... Only look at how we act. Faith in Christ and love toward our neighbour are commanded, and to this we are to devote all we can do and all we have. But “anybody can do that,” and these are “outworn requirements which a man has met long ago.” (SL 14, 1885 f).

**How Old Are the Ten Commandments?** The Decalog is not of Moses, nor did God give it to him first. On the contrary, the Decalog belongs to the whole world; it was written and engraved in the minds of all human beings from the beginning of the world. (W 39 I, 478)

**Written Law a Refreshment of Concreated Law.** Later on, since men had finally come to the point of caring neither for God nor for men, God was compelled to renew these laws through Moses and, after writing them with His fingers on tables, to place them before our eyes in order to present to us

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what we were before the fall of Adam and what someday we are to be in Christ. So Moses was only, as it were, the interpreter and illustrator of laws written in the minds of all men, wherever under the sun they are in the world. (W 39 I, 454).

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## Devotion—Trinity Sunday: Numbers 6:22–27 Part 1

(Adapted from *Concordia Pulpit*, 1935)

Numbers 6:22–27:

**And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace. And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.**

Today the Christian Church celebrates the festival of the Holy Trinity. While at the other church festivals we meditate upon some great act of God, we on this day emphasize a fact, a fact that is basic for our faith. This fact is the doctrine of the “Holy Trinity, the undivided unity,” one God, existing in three distinct Persons—the Triune God. This is the God of the Bible. “The Lord, our God, is one Lord,” Deuteronomy 6:4. This one God exists in three distinct Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Matthew 28:19. Three Persons, one God, the Lord Jehovah. Never did the Father have self-existence without the Son and the Holy Ghost or the Son without the Father and the Holy Ghost or the Holy Ghost without the Father and the Son.

This is the God in Whom we believe, Whom we worship and adore, the God of all ages, the God of the faithful in the Old Testament and the God of all the Christians of the New Testament, the God “from everlasting to everlasting.” This doctrine of the Triune God will always be and remain a mystery to our thinking. However, it is not taught in the Bible for the purpose of furnishing food for human speculation, but to furnish food for our faith, that we may learn to know this God, and to know Him as the Source of all our blessings, material and spiritual, temporal and eternal. These blessings, which are to be appropriated by faith, are mentioned in our text.

The threefold blessing bestowed by the Holy Trinity:

1. Jehovah’s preservation by the Father;

Our text, the Aaronic blessing, not only reminds us of the Holy Trinity, but also assures us of the fact that the LORD God Jehovah has blessing in store for us, blessings to be conveyed to, and appropriated by, His children. “On this wise shall ye bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The Lord bless thee and keep thee.” The Lord is our Keeper. “The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore” Psalm 121:8.

Our salvation originated with God the Father. The Father is the Author, the Beginner, of our salvation. The Father devised the plan of salvation; it is His own idea. And He, all-knowing, foreseeing man’s fall into sin, made plans for man’s salvation long before the world was made. Acts 2:23: **“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”** 2 Tim 1:9: **“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”**

And the plans He made were made “according to His mercy.” What motivated Him to be merciful toward man? It was “His

kindness and love.” “Kindness” is good will toward man, gentle friendliness. “Love” literally is philanthropy, by which God not only shows His kindness but also offers to the world the full and free use of all the gifts of His heaven. Remember John 3:16: **“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.”** 1 John 4:9: **“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.”** Romans 5:8: **“But God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”**

It is not by accident that the universe came into existence; this was done by the design and creative power of God. It is not by accident that the world is existing unto this day; this is done by the design and the preserving power of God. So, a child of God will not only confess, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures,” but confidently adds, “and still preserves me.” Every one of God’s children is under the providential care of an almighty, all-wise, ever-present, good, and benevolent heavenly Father. Had not the children of Israel experienced all this in their wide and varied history? In years of depression and want God provided for them through Joseph; after years of oppression He delivered them through Moses; in their long and trying journey through the wilderness He guided and protected them; He fed them day by day and even sweetened

the bitter waters of Mara, that they might be refreshed; He granted them victory upon victory over their enemies and finally gave them possession of the Promised Land.

And Israel’s God is also our God. Under all the varied conditions and circumstances in our lives the Lord, Jehovah, is our Keeper. In our occupation and profession, in hours of happiness and in times of grief, in sickness and in health, when we labour and when we rest, by day and by night, from the time of our coming into this world to the day of our departure, the Father in heaven will never depart from us nor forsake us. “He richly and daily provides me with all that I need for this body and life; He defends me against all danger, guards and protects me from all evil.”

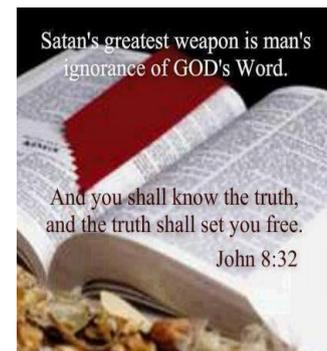
Why, then, worry? Many a pleasant day is spoiled by unnecessary worrying. How much health and happiness have been wrecked by needless worry! Mothers worry from the time that their boys or girls go to school until they return, imagining all manner of untoward happenings and danger which may befall the little ones. Fathers and mothers worry when sons and daughters leave the parental roof to go out into the world. Why not bid them a cheerful good-bye, which means, “God be with you,” and commend them to a Father’s care? Matthew 6:32b. “Cast all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you.” Be assured of Jehovah’s preservation by the Father, Who for Jesus’ sake is your Father.

—TJW

## *Memorizing Bible Texts, Bible Doctrine and Hymns*

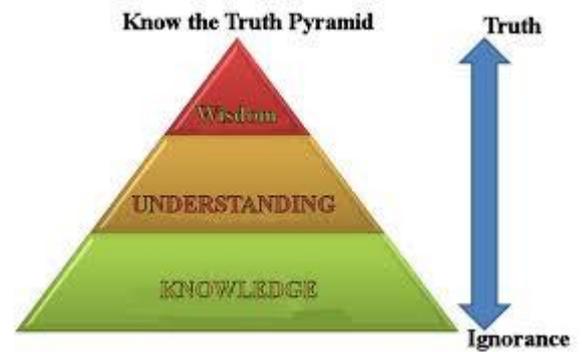
**Why is it so important to study your Bible and to memorize as many texts as you can?**

God commands this as a **sacred duty** of all those who truly believe in Jesus as their Saviour. Josh 1:8: **“This Book of the Law** (the Word of God as Moses had written it by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and as it had been entrusted to the care of the priests, Deut 31:26) **shall not depart out of thy mouth** (they were in duty bound to show their love for Christ by learning, studying, teaching and confessing it); **but thou shalt meditate therein day and night** (with the power of the Holy Spirit constantly growing in faith, understanding, conviction and application of its truths to their life), **that thou mayest observe to do** (in childlike faith believe and obey its truths) **according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way**



**prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success** (the LORD will graciously bless our congregations, our homes and our personal lives richly.)”

Because of **the neglect of the proper study and memorization of the Bible**, Satan has so corrupted the visible church that **few people even know the true way to salvation**, namely, not by any works we have done, but alone by grace through faith in the atoning work of Christ on Calvary, Eph 2:8–9. The terrible tragedy is that many pastors (even large numbers of lay people) have very little knowledge of the pure doctrines of Scripture. Many church members cannot quote Bible texts correctly and even have little knowledge of Bible stories. No wonder the LORD says of the visible church of our time in general, **“Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (vomit, rejecting with disgust) thee out of my mouth”** (Rev 3:16). What is happening today fills the Lord with supreme disgust, with unspeakable loathing. May we repent of our indifference to God’s Word and in the power of Christ’s great love as it is revealed in His blood shed for us on the cross, be filled with an ardent zeal to study, learn, meditate and confess only His Word in its truth and purity.



### Constantly Embed Scripture into your Heart and Minds

God's Word must be so strongly fixed in our minds that it becomes the dominant influence in our thoughts, our attitudes, and our actions. One of the most effective ways of influencing our minds is through memorizing Scripture. David said, "I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You" (Psm. 119:11).

Recently a faithful Lutheran Christian who deeply loves God’s Word and was formerly a **teacher** shared the following important Biblical insights on committing Bible texts and truths to memory that we would do well to take to heart:

Every so often the question of whether to memorize Bible texts and hymns is raised, usually by those who are not in favour of the practice because to them it seems too much like indoctrination and hard work.

Most readers would have been raised in their younger years on the **staple diet of The Graded Memory Course**, so memorization will not be a topic that is unfamiliar. Furthermore, while the word “indoctrination” can at times have a negative aspect to it, this need not always be the case.

Most people are aware of the need for anyone who **wishes to become proficient in skills**, be they in music, drama or sport, that a lot of **practice involving constant repetition of the skills is needed if that state of proficiency, or better, is to be attained**. If you wish to obtain knowledge you have to go over the material time and time again.

Luther comments that in order for the young to learn Bible texts and hymns **they must use them constantly**. When the material has been memorized **then it is time to explain the material to them so that they can understand it**. Some misguided modern educators think that the young should have everything explained to them at once. This is in marked distinction to John 13:7.

Luther also makes some pertinent comments in the Preface to The Small Catechism where he stresses that the minister should avoid using different texts and forms of the Scripture, but **teach using the same form year in, year out, in order to avoid confusion**. He says that the young and inexperienced should then recite them and commit them to memory.

There are a number of advantages in committing Scripture and hymns to memory. The following quotation from Pastor Steven Vincent (USA) on 17 September 2017 is worth keeping in mind.

“Every time you sing a hymn or learn a Scripture passage **you are embedding it in your soul**. I was talking to someone before the service and we were just saying: ‘We know people whose cognitive abilities are failing (they cannot do physical things anymore); their intellectual abilities are failing (they cannot think clearly anymore); some people don’t even know their own name.’

“But it is always so amazing because **they can quote Scripture by the hundred or sing hymns, because you see that is God’s stuff and it is embedded in your soul and not in your intellect**.

“So I encourage you, keep embedding Scripture into your soul because you may need to draw on it sometime. It is such a blessing to have the Scriptures and hymns there.”

**It is certainly an important tool for us to have also in helping to hold fast to the truth of God’s Word at all times.**

### A Plan for Biblical Memorization

[1] **Make Bible memorization a part of a daily routine.** Go through portions of the Catechism or recite Scripture texts for 10 minutes after breakfast and evening meals when you have your devotions. I know a family who have done this with their two year old and this child is able to recite most of the Books of the Old Testament as well as the Lord’s Prayer. The LORD **gives a plan** for memorizing Scripture: **“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line”** (Isaiah 28:10). In teaching children it is necessary to repeat the same simple lesson constantly. God’s method of imparting Biblical truth has often appeared to a scoffing world to be foolish, but it is still the best way.

Whatever we plant in our subconscious mind and nourish with repetition and emotion will one day become a reality.

[2] **Be passionate and enthusiastic about it.** This happens not only when we have a deep love for the Bible, but when we realize how important it is for our salvation and our daily life. When we **saturate** our minds with the Bible texts like Mary who sat at Jesus feet and was totally immersed in God’s Word (Luke 10:38–42), then learning not only becomes easier, but the truth

becomes a part of us. May the LORD help us to live, breathe and devour the Bible with greater intensity than a hungry lion seeks its prey.



[3] **Start with a smaller text or verse.** Keep it simple. Break learning down into small portions which are in keeping with the age and intellectual ability of the child, Heb 5:12. Once the small portion has been learnt then increase the amount of spiritual food that the hearer is capable of learning. Use encouragement. Make it enjoyable to do. Be patient when the text is not learnt or understood. Keep on persisting. Remember how patient Jesus was with His own disciples due to their weakness of faith and lack of understanding. Keep on praying for them because it is only the LORD who will help them learn these things in His own time.

[4] **Write down the text or hymn verse.** Jesus not only spoke the Word, but He asked questions; He got the disciples to repeat verses or truths. Often reading a verse several times, plus writing it down, then trying to write it down from memory helps to focus on the text and embed it into the mind.

[5] **Recite the new text or hymn verse.** Law of Repetition: **“Practice makes perfect.”** **Meaningful repetition is the mother of skill. Picture the words and images in your mind. Recite in your own words the meaning of the text. Recite the text again and write it down. We are what we constantly repeat. If this principle which is used by television advertisers, to get people to buy products, and if it is used by “Rock Music” to move young people to adopt an immoral lifestyle,**

then certainly true Christians memorizing the Bible can accomplish great things for Christ. In a way we are what we consume. What we watch becomes what we think about. What we read most becomes what we think. What we think changes us.

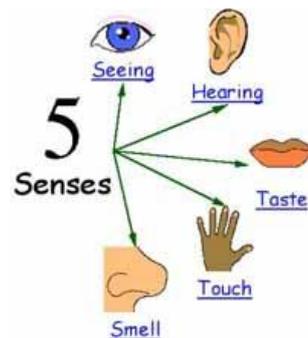
## FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION



[6] Make as vivid an impression on your memory as much as possible. Law of Concentration: (i) Shut out distractions; (ii) Focus completely on what you are remembering. Jesus would often take His disciples to a quiet place to teach them so as to avoid anything hindering their retention of His Word.

Memorizing Scripture strengthens your faith because it repeatedly reinforces the truth, often just when you need to hear it again.

[7] Maximise the use of your senses where possible: sight, smell, touch, taste, hearing. Learning increases with the proper use of the senses. By the use of vivid parables, by serious life threatening experiences, by the use of His miracles, the teachings of Christ made a deep impression upon His hearers so that they never forgot these lessons, especially with the help of the Holy Spirit.



[8] Associate what you learn with something important. Always be conscious as to how these truths can be applied in your lives. Think of a time when you could have used that text but didn't.

[9] Try to use the text or hymn verse often, e.g. in the car, going for a walk, quote it to your pastor or friends, etc. Law of Use: We learn what we use frequently. Memorized texts lay a foundation. They give the human heart truths to hold on to. What happens when you begin to worry about something? Are you worried? Or does the Bible text come to mind to starve your fears and comfort your heart, “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5)? When false teachers try to lead you astray, does a Bible text come to mind that is the Sword of the Spirit which defeats Satan?



[10] Review regularly. Law of Recall. We soon forget what we don't constantly recall and use. Because we forget some of the information so soon after the first impression it has made on our minds, we constantly need to reinforce the text in our minds so that it is fixed there and can be used in a Biblical manner.

For the sake of our Saviour who redeemed us at such a great cost let us apply these principles constantly! For the sake of the salvation of our children may we embed the Bible and its truths into their hearts so that they can with a strong faith face and stand firm against Satan! For our own sake let us saturate our minds with Scripture as a wall of defence against the powers of evil! In order that our ELCR may hold fast to the Word in its truth and purity and be a blessing to many until Christ comes, may the words of the hymn be our constant prayer:

“O grant that in Thy holy Word  
We here may live and die, dear LORD;  
And when our journey endeth here.  
Receive us into glory there.”  
(ALHB 273 v 9)

—BLW

## *Letting Scripture Speak for Itself – Part 2*

### **On the Love of God**

*The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.<sup>1</sup>*

*Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.<sup>2</sup>*

*Remember, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and Thy lovingkindnesses.<sup>3</sup>*

*Shew Thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by Thy right hand.<sup>4</sup>*

*The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.<sup>5</sup>*

*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.<sup>6</sup>*

*God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>7</sup>*

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us.<sup>8</sup>*

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends.<sup>9</sup>*

*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.<sup>10</sup>*

*The LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.<sup>11</sup>*

*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.<sup>12</sup>*

*How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings.<sup>13</sup>*

*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.<sup>14</sup>*

*He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.<sup>15</sup>*

*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us.<sup>16</sup>*

*Thy lovingkindness is better than life.<sup>17</sup>*

*The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.<sup>18</sup>*

*For the love of Christ constraineth us.<sup>19</sup>*

*The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.<sup>20</sup>*

*I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth.<sup>21</sup>*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?<sup>22</sup>*

*In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.<sup>23</sup>*

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.<sup>24</sup>*

*Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.<sup>25</sup>*

*And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.<sup>26</sup>*

*Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.<sup>27</sup>*

*Whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.*<sup>28</sup>

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and*

*to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.*<sup>29</sup>

*Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*<sup>30</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jer 31:3; <sup>2</sup>John 11:3; <sup>3</sup>Psa 25:6; <sup>4</sup>Psa 17:7; <sup>5</sup>Zeph 3:17; <sup>6</sup>John 3:16; <sup>7</sup>Rom 5:8; <sup>8</sup>1 John 3:16; <sup>9</sup>John 15:13; <sup>10</sup>1 John 4:9; <sup>11</sup>Deut 23:5; <sup>12</sup>1 John 4:10; <sup>13</sup>Psa 36:7; <sup>14</sup>1 John 4:16; <sup>15</sup>SS 2:4; <sup>16</sup>1 John 3:1; <sup>17</sup>Psa 63:3; <sup>18</sup>Rom 5:5; <sup>19</sup>2 Cor 5:14; <sup>20</sup>Gal 2:20; <sup>21</sup>Ps 138:2; <sup>22</sup>Rom 8:35; <sup>23</sup>Rom 8:37; <sup>24</sup>Rom 8:38–39; <sup>25</sup>2 Th 2:16–17; <sup>26</sup>2 Th 3:5; <sup>27</sup>Jude 21; <sup>28</sup>1 John 2:5; <sup>29</sup>Eph 3:17–19; <sup>30</sup>Rev 1:5–6

—SW

## **The True Visible Church has always used the means that God has provided for maintaining the preaching of the Word even in difficult times**

At the present time, 2020, we have been faced full-on with this restriction of any except absolutely necessary personal movement. Also, the mandated limit of how many of us may gather together at any one time has made it unlawful to gather together for worship as a Congregation in a church.

Yet the Lord God has always done as He said, “Before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear!” God is always ahead of any need, as we also see in this present situation. When our parents (and we also) were ruined by The Fall, was the Triune God suddenly found in a pickle, caught out with no answer? No!

From eternity the remedy was always planned that the Son would partake of our flesh and blood to take our place as our Sacrifice for sin, to be our Redeemer. And all down through the ages God has been the provider of the means that this would be accomplished and the Invisible Church would be preserved.

Just a few examples—Noah and his family were saved by faith, and God had already provided materials and timber suitable for the construction of the Ark.

Abraham was called the Father of the Faithful because he followed God’s call and went out not knowing anything of his future except that there was the promise of becoming the Father of God’s chosen people and thus of his own personal Saviour.

Joseph had to suffer as a slave in Egypt, before becoming the ruler. God’s plan was to bring His chosen people there that they would become a Nation. And though they eventually became the Hebrew slaves, yet by this means of affliction the plan of God was to prepare His people to be the nation from whom would spring the Messiah after He led them to the Promised Land by Moses.

Moses was a special providence of God, for that very purpose being saved in the bulrushes in the Nile, and after that being prepared in exile.

The Romans at the time of the coming of the Messiah were the means by which God had provided that the Saviour would be sacrificed on the tree, the cross now always a perfect comfort and infallible hope for our Redemption. The Early Christians heeded the words of Christ, which were the means that were provided for them to understand that the time was ready that they should flee from Jerusalem and be safe from the Roman destruction.

In our present situation, God has also been ahead of the time and provided the means whereby we can be in our own homes to comply with the law, and yet still all be together from near and far for the purpose of worship.

Over the last 50+ years and because of the Lutheran church union here in Australia, it has always been that we have made the best use of available technology. Pastor FG Kleinig was mostly responsible for the introduction of tape recording of sermons. He had a Ferguson brand valve (vacuum tube) reel-to-reel machine, which is still in silent existence today. A member then got the idea, and with Pastor Kleinig's assistance ordered one from Brisbane. They were now branded "Thorn-Ferguson." Same recorder, just a slightly different shape.

Pastor Kleinig was very enthusiastic. He had collected it from the transport and had it all unpacked before the owner even saw it. They only had a crystal microphone, good for speech, but lacked a bit for anything else. They also were prone to cut out if affected too much by heat from the sun. A transistor device was eventually constructed to allow the use of a dynamic mic. Also one of its features allowed for the setting of auto-recording level with both clip and boost of the input signal. It was powered by means of a connection to the high voltage supply in the recorder circuitry of a resistor, 18V Zener diode, DC socket and plug, thus saving the expense of batteries.

Many sermons and Bible studies were recorded in Kingaroy, Woombye, Toowoomba–Dalby and also Brisbane. As time went on, Sony TC-105 recorders were purchased and a tape committee were part of that committee. did much of the indexing etc of the catalogue of sermons and studies. The committee met mostly once a week at the home of to copy the material onto 7 inch master tapes and also provide 4 inch tapes to send to distant members. Most of the original recordings were made at a tape speed of 1 7/8 inches per second (ips). These recorders also provided speeds of 3 3/4 ips and 7 1/2 ips. The copies were made at the higher speed (like chattering chipmunks) not only as a time saver, but the advantage was that higher pitched interference was put up out of human audio range and eliminated when replayed back at normal speed.

One much appreciated tape was of our Communion Service that was sent to so that they could also partake of communion, since they were an isolated family in fellowship with the ELCR. had to do the set-up similar to how we need to here at the moment. was delighted with our Communion order of Service. It reminded of the old German order had known in youth. had the pleasure of once or twice contacting via the tapes, both speaking in German. Many tape letters were also shared with in English, but this

Some other equipment was also later used with the seven-inch reels, and also sophisticated cassette equipment, until video cameras became available finally evolving into the digital systems of this present time.

May God grant that we all may continue to enjoy and appreciate every true means provided for us by our faithful God, finally all be together again, if not here, then with our Saviour in Eternal Life.

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### *A Woman with Two Hearts*

A well-known missionary tells us of a poor African woman who once said to him, groaning heavily, that she had two hearts, one saying, "Come to Jesus," the other saying, "Stay away;" the one bidding her to do good, and the other bidding her to do evil, so that she knew not what to do. He read to her a portion of the seventh chapter of the Romans, and showed that the apostle felt the same things. The passages which he read to her read as follows: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the

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good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, where I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man; but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

When he came to these last words: "Oh, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" the eyes of the woman brightened up, and she exclaimed: "Ah, massa, that me, and me know not what to do." And when he afterwards added the words: "I thank God through Jesus Christ," and explained them, she burst into tears of grateful joy. "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord," that is the cry of every child of God. Or, as the prophet of old expressed it, "O Israel thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help" Hosea 13:9.

*Australian Lutheran, 1914, No 7, p7*

## Archaeology: Evidence of the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem found

Researchers digging at the ongoing excavation on Mount Zion in Jerusalem last month announced a significant discovery—clear evidence of the Babylonian conquest of the city from 587/586BC.

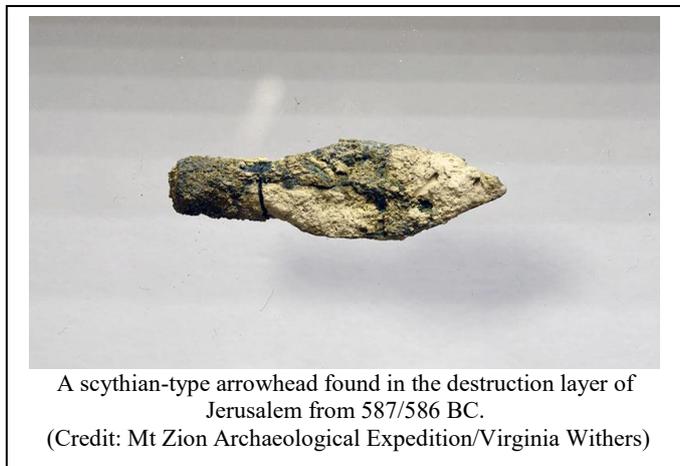
The discovery is of a deposit including layers of ash, arrowheads dating from the Babylonian period, Iron Age potsherds, lamps and a gold and silver tassel or earring....

The arrowheads are known as "Scythian arrowheads" and have been found at other

archaeological conflict sites from the 7th and 6th centuries BC. They are known at sites outside of Israel as well... By all accounts the Babylonian conquest of the city by the Neo-Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar was ferocious and resulted in a great loss of life, with the razing of the city and the burning of houses, and the plundering and dismantling of King Solomon's Temple. The local ruler of the Kingdom of Judah, King Zedekiah, made an attempt to flee the city with his retinue, but was caught and taken captive to Babylon. The Bible relates the famine and suffering that the inhabitants of Jerusalem suffered during the lengthy Babylonian siege of the city: "So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the [fourth] month the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war [fled] by night by the way of the gate between the two walls... And he [Nebuzaradan, the Babylonian captain of the guard] burnt the house of the Lord, and the King's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great man's house, burnt he with fire" (2 Kings 25:1–9).

—University of North Carolina

(Taken from *Archaeological Diggings*, Sept 2019, p2–3)



A scythian-type arrowhead found in the destruction layer of Jerusalem from 587/586 BC.  
(Credit: Mt Zion Archaeological Expedition/Virginia Withers)

## *There is a God*

Every man knows by nature that there is a God; that he is obliged to fulfil the law of God; and that there is an eternal retribution. Hereby we only testify to that which the Scriptures teach on this point. They expressly assert that all men know that there is a God when they say: "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their

foolish heart was darkened” (Rom 1:19–21). Every man also has a knowledge of the Law of God and of the obligation it imposes upon men. The Scriptures teach this with the words: “For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves; which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another” (Rom 2:14–15).

Finally, every man knows that there is a wise retribution. The Scriptures teach this (Rom 1:32), where St Paul says of all the Gentiles: “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” It is, indeed, true what the Scriptures say: “Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from Heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17). Conscience, reason, and nature are the incorruptible witnesses that irrefutably prove with a loud voice: there is a God, Creator, and Judge of the world. Blessed is he who listens to their voice and knows as his Father in Christ, through the Word of Truth, that God whom nature reveals unto him.

—*The Australian Lutheran*, 1914, No 7, p7

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## Notes and News

**Hospital:** Since the last *Steadfast*,  
have been in hospital. May they find comfort in the following passage:

### Read: Genesis 19:15–26

VERSE 16: “The men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him.”

O GOD, our Defender and Protector in all the evils which befall us: how many endangered ones Thou hast rescued from their peril, even though they had been heedless of Thy timely warnings. How dull our senses are to Thy repeated admonitions. Yes, how we often chide with Thee because, caring for us, Thou dost point the way of safety, when we prefer to choose our own ways, and abiding-places. How we love to tamper with the evil, to risk our safety to the limit, for a little earthly gain, a little worldly pleasure, a little more companionship with the giddy world and its gayeties. If Thou shouldst deal with us according to our deserts, Thou wouldst abandon us to our well-deserved fate. But Thou art so desirous of our welfare that Thou dost save us even against our own choices, sending Thine angels to lay their hands upon us and withdraw us from the path of destruction. It is all Thy mercy to which we owe our safety. A hundred perils surround us, of which we know nothing. But Thou dost see and know, and in Thy kind providence dost make our paths safe. Thou hast kept us to this hour, hast led us to this day. Tarry with us longer, O our God, and let Thy guardian care surround us in soul and in body. Choose our paths for us, in spite of our wilfulness; and by and by lead us to a better understanding of those providences which too often bring only murmuring to our lips. We ask it for Christ’s sake. Amen.

(*Moments with God*, p24)

### Corrections

Jan-Feb 2020 edition: P 10, l 30, instead of “the all” put “the call”; P 10, l 38, instead of “crucified Christ,” put “crucified, Christ,”; P 11, l 4, instead of “we, must” put “we must”

Mar-Apr 2020 edition: P 25, 2nd para, 3rd last line should read “intended to be saved.”

### Catechism Studies, Pastor FG Kleinig

Now that the “*Catechism Studies*” series in *Steadfast* has been completed, and given the value of the material for further study, is putting the entire series together into a more polished book form. We will advise when the completed book will be available for members to purchase.

### Baptism—Melbourne

On the Baptism took place of .  
 was born Because of the present  
 Coronavirus lockdown, Pastor Gavin Winter conducted a service via Zoom, with a short address based  
 on Gal 4:6–7. took the Baptism, with water and the Word. Sponsors were  
 with the witness being Our prayer to the  
 Lord is that He graciously care for this little lamb of God and finally bring him into God’s eternal  
 Kingdom in heaven.

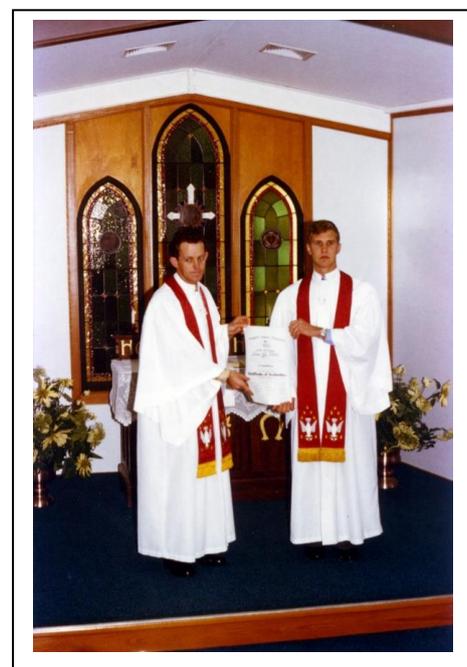
### Lockdown

The Coronavirus lockdown has forced all our congregations to cease worshipping in their church buildings. From 29 March 2020, services and Bible studies have been conducted online by our pastors through Zoom, Pastor Gavin Winter from Brisbane, and Pastors Bryce and Tim Winter from Kingaroy. From May 31, Lowood congregation resumed services in their church building. It is our prayer that God will protect us from the harmful effects of the virus and not hinder the preaching of God’s Word. We also pray that God will allow the other congregations to begin worshipping in their church buildings again soon.  
 —GLW

### 40th Anniversary of Pastor Gavin Winter’s Ordination

On 29 June 1980, Pastor Gavin Winter was ordained into the Holy Ministry. In Hebrews 13:7 the Lord urges us to “**remember**” those faithful pastors who have taught God’s pure Word. This means that we are not to forget the **Word of God** that by God’s grace they have taught us, and to **thank God** that He has given us pastors who exercise genuine care for the souls under their charge (1 Tim 4:16) and **seek only their salvation** through faith in the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ. In these days of the famine of God’s Word (Amos 8:11–12) it is truly a precious treasure to have such a pastor.

Besides his instructive sermons, Bible studies and Fellowship Day essays the Lord has used Pastor Gavin Winter to publish several very important books—among them are two we ought to especially study and take to heart the lessons found therein: “*How Are The Mighty Fallen,*” the history of the downfall of our former ELCA, and “*The Life of Pastor FG Kleinig.*” Besides editing *Steadfast*, Pastor Gavin Winter has poured a great deal of time into digitally storing and making available doctrinal and historical articles and essays of our old Lutheran forefathers so that these precious gems of Truth may not be lost. Pastor Tim Winter has always been grateful for the help given him in the subjects that Pastor Gavin Winter took him through in the theological studies, as well as the time spent staying with Pastor Gavin and



It is very difficult in these last days to hold fast to the truths of the Word. We rejoice that even though we are by nature lost sinners, yet redeemed by Christ’s holy precious blood through the power of his Word the Holy Spirit gives to pastors such gifts and capabilities (2 Corinthians 3:5) in order to be faithful and to use them humbly in His service.

May the Lord in His grace continue richly to bless Pastor Gavin Winter and continue to use him in the years to come for His glory in the retention of the pure Word and for the salvation of souls through Christ alone. May the Lord continue to give us pastors who fulfil what was contained in the ordination text for Pastor Gavin Winter: “**I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding**” (Jeremiah 3:15).  
 —BLW and TJW