

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

### **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHUTTERS.....THOUGHTS TO PONDER:**

Adam and Eve were the first to violate the Apple terms of use.

### **WEDNESDAY IN LENT:**

This week, I was going to answer any and all questions that came to me. Since Wednesday was cancelled and we skipped straight from Tuesday to Thursday, I'm taking this opportunity to answer them here. Because not everyone had a chance to submit questions, I am using my ESP to answer those questions I know you would have submitted as well:

### ***IS THE FOOD PANTRY GOING TO STAY OPEN DURING THIS VIRUS?***

Yes, BUT stay in your car. Volunteers will bring the food to your car.

### ***WHEN CHRIST SAID TO THE THIEF ON THE CROSS, "TODAY YOU SHALL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE!" DID THE THIEF ALSO DESCEND INTO HELL WITH CHRIST? THE DESCENT INTO HELL IS NOT IN THE BIBLE.***

Great Question, but like the food pantry question, there is no definitive answer. We say that Christ descended into hell to speak with those who were already dead because during the time of Christ, Jewish theology included the idea of sheol, the underworld home of the dead. The first Christians had to deal with this reality. As Yahweh was believed by this time to have over even over death (as portrayed as the agent who secured Yahweh's final victory over sheol, even for those who were already there. The phrase in our Creed, "He descended into hell" was not added until after 650 AD.

### ***WHY DO WE USE THE WORD "CATHOLIC" INSTEAD OF "CHRISTIAN" IN THE CREED?***

The old Black Lutheran Hymnal (1913) reads: the holy Christian Church. The Red Hymnal (1958) read: the Holy Christian Church\*. Then at the bottom of the page\*or the Holy catholic Church, the original and generally accepted text. The Green Hymnal (1978) reads: the holy catholic church. The Cranberry Hymnal (2006) reads: the holy catholic church.

It seems we Lutherans, over the past 100 years have slowly moved from holy to Holy and back to holy as well as changing Christian to catholic. I see two forces at work. 1)A difference in theology between Roman and Protestant views of the church. For Rome, the phrase EXTRA ECCLESIAM NULLA SALUS(There is no salvation outside the church) refers only to the visible, Roman Catholic Church. For Protestants, that includes Lutherans, it means the invisible church. In other words, those people whom Christ calls as His own flock. That means Lutherans, even those in the Missouri Synod, a few Baptists, and sprinkling of Presbyterians, etc., and perhaps some Muslims, Jews, Hindi, etc. We do not judge who God chooses to call His own. 2) in 1913 there were approximately 118 different Lutheran bodies in The United States alone. There are currently just 40. The attempt to take the log out of our own eye, before removing the splinter in others, has had a big impact on our attempt to be more inclusive. There once was a time way back when some Lutheran pastors held that if you weren't Lutheran you weren't Christian. We've come a long way baby....and still have a long way to go.

### ***AND JUST FOR FUN.....***

***CAN YOU NAME TWO IDENTICAL CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE?*** II Kings 19 and Isaiah 37

### ***WHY CAN YOU PARK ON A DRIVEWAY BUT DRIVE ON A PARKWAY?***

For the same reason that a ship carries cargo, and a car carries shipments!

### ***IS SANTA MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE?***

Yes, he is referred to, but ONLY in the King James Version "Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven." Zechariah 2:6. Other versions change the wording.