

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

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September 2021

What About . . . The Ordination of Women to the Pastoral Office



The following article is another from the *"What About"* series by Dr. A. L. Barry, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, ©2001. The entire series can be found at <https://steadfastlutherans.org/whatabout/>

~Pastor Richard Gaub

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many denominations ordain women to the pastoral office, even some Lutheran churches. It is important that Missouri Synod Lutherans be able to give a kindly response and explanation to those who may question our position on this issue. We have an opportunity to speak the truth in love.

What does God say about women serving in the pastoral office?

The Lord teaches us through His Word that women are not given the responsibility of serving the church as pastors. We read the following statements:

"As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as even the law says ...what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14:33–34, 37).

"Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to keep silent" (1 Tim. 2:11–12).

"The saying is sure: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Now an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife..." (1 Tim. 3:1–2).

"This is why I left you in Crete ...that you might appoint elders in every town as I directed you, if any man is blameless, the husband of one wife..." (Titus 1:5–6).

God has given His church many gifts. Among them is the gift of the office of the public, pastoral ministry.

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What About . . .

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We receive what God gives, in the way He has given it, and in the form He has given it. We do not tell God that His gift is not good enough **for us, or that we don't like the form in which He has given the gift. We receive God's gifts as** He gives them, with thanks and praise. We rejoice in the opportunities God has given us, as His redeemed people, to serve Him in the church, and in our daily lives.

The church which wishes to remain faithful to the Word of God cannot permit the ordination of women to the pastoral office.

The Bible says that we are all one in Christ. **Don't these words imply that** women may serve as pastors?

There are those churches which believe that **St. Paul's words in Gal. 3:28 mandate the service of women as pastors: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."**

But this verse does not teach that there is no distinction between these various groups; rather, it teaches the equality of salvation that all Christians have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul wants us to know that all individuals are equally sinful and equally saved by the work of God through Jesus Christ.

Gal. 3:28 does not contradict or overturn **St. Paul's comments elsewhere. This passage does** not speak to the issue of the ordination of women; instead it is speaking of the equality of our salvation in Christ, for which we praise the Triune God, but it certainly does not mean that all may serve as pastors.

If men and women have equal rights, **why can't women** be pastors?

The issue of the ordination of women is not a **matter of "human rights" or "church traditions"** or various human opinions and customs. Nor is it a matter of discrimination **against women."**

Various social reformers in our culture would have us believe that men and women are totally interchangeable and that their God-given differences simply have no bearing on life in this world. Not only does this run contrary to the clear testimony of nature, it also contradicts the Bible. The Bible teaches us a **different view of God's creation.**

The Scriptures teach us that both men and women were created in the image of God, but are two distinct and special creations of God. We praise God for His wisdom in creating human beings as both man and woman.

We believe that God has gifted men and women with different responsibilities and duties. For example, men are gifted by God to be husbands and fathers; women are gifted by God to be wives and mothers. So also in the church, God has gifted men and women with different, though complementary, opportunities and responsibilities for service.

What are the roles of men and women in the church?

Together, men and women serve their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Men have the divine obligation to be the spiritual leaders of the church.

Women are called to be of assistance to men in this capacity.

(continued on page 7)



Can You Match These Words to the Person(s)?

Match each sentence below the with the person(s) who said it or to whom it refers:

- ___ 1. It is finished.
- ___ 2. The Lord will provide.
- ___ 3. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.
- ___ 4. If you give me a male child, I will return him to you.
- ___ 5. Here is the money, he is innocent.
- ___ 6. **Am I my brother's keeper?**
- ___ 7. We have seen his star and wish to honor him.
- ___ 8. David, you are the man.
- ___ 9. Someone stole the body of my Lord.
- ___ 10. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.
- ___ 11. If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died.
- ___ 12. It is a custom that the older one marry first.
- ___ 13. How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?
- ___ 14. I ask you, are you the son of God?
- ___ 15. If you find him, come tell me that I may worship him.

- ___ 16. Mom, come and sit next to me, in my throne.
- ___ 17. I will not believe until I put my hands on his hands and side.
- ___ 18. It is Peter at the door.
- ___ 19. The Lord gave me a new name.
- ___ 20. Your people will be my people, your God my God.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| A. Solomon | K. Jacob |
| B. Wise Men | L. Laban |
| C. Martha | M. Thomas |
| D. Mary Magdalene | N. Rhoda |
| E. Samuel | O. Jesus |
| F. Joseph | P. Herod |
| G. Hannah | Q. Judas |
| H. Ruth | R. Abraham |
| I. Caiaphas | S. Nathan |
| J. Cain | T. Paul |
| K. Jacob | |

(Answers page 11)

~Pastor Claudio Pérez



A Note of Thanks from Jim Froehlich. Thank you for the cards, word of encouragement and prayers. It is especially gratifying to know that fellow believers are lifting you up in prayer.

Members, if your email address, phone number or mailing address has changed, please call the Church Office at (713) 864-2651, or send an email to info@immanuelhouston.org with the updated information.





Focus on Stewardship

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased **with the child’s present. It is** all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

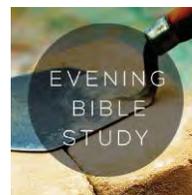
This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (*Deut. 8:17–18*) but also all that we are in this life (*1 Cor. 6:20*).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord **said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more”** (*Luke 12:48b*). And from this comes **blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master”** (*Matt. 25:21*).

We have everything we need to support this body and **life from our God’s** fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (*Gal. 4:1–7*). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

[Stewardship newsletter insert for September 2021, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=Q76ySaXtkatNY2vNR89raPAck98YqsW7>]



Monday Evening Bible Study

Resumes Monday, September 13 at 7:00 pm

New Topic: Justification. All are welcome! Study will meet September 27, then 1st & 3rd Mondays beginning in October.



WELCOME
BACK!



We're Going Back To School



~Connie Meave

What About . . .

(continued from page 2)

An attitude of service guides what we do in the church, not a demand for **“rights” or an attitude of “lording it over” one** another. We have one Lord and one Master, Jesus Christ. We serve Him in the ways He desires.

God has given the responsibility to serve as pastors only to certain qualified men. The church calls these men to serve as representatives of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the pastoral office. Women are not called to serve in this way because God has not given this responsibility to women.

Why didn’t Jesus call a woman to serve as an apostle? Why, through the Apostle Paul, does He prohibit women from serving as pastors in the church? We must leave the answers to these questions to God. We remain with what has been given to us by God in His Word. God has not given the church the option of calling and ordaining women to the pastoral office. We honor and respect **God’s will in these** matters and praise Him for the many gifts He has given us all, including the marvelous opportunities He provides to both men and women to serve Him.

Why then do some churches ordain women as pastors?

Here again, as with so many issues, the reason for differences we have with other church bodies is based on their differing attitude toward the Scriptures.

Our Synod affirms the truth that the Holy **Scriptures are God’s perfect and errorless** revelation to us. We receive what God has given to us in His Word. We are not free to

overlook that Word, ignore it, explain it away, or otherwise disregard what the Lord has revealed through the Apostle Paul.

Churches that ordain women have chosen to **regard St. Paul’s writings as his own** personal opinions. This is a difficult position to maintain in light of the fact that St. Paul goes out of his way, on more than one occasion, to repeat his position on this matter, and explicitly declares that this is not merely his personal opinion, but a command of the Lord.

How can faithful Lutherans respond to the ordination of women?

First, we never should become defensive or antagonistic about this issue. Instead, we need simply to speak the truth in love, witnessing to our beliefs and recognizing this as yet another opportunity to **say, “This we believe, teach, confess and practice.”**

Second, we need to be loving and gentle with people who belong to church bodies that ordain women. In many instances, they are simply unaware of why this has been done. They have been given incorrect information and have no clear foundation in Scripture to understand why the ordination of women is contrary to the Word of God. We need to explain these issues in love, with gentleness and compassion.

Third, it is important for us to explain how women may serve their Lord in the church in a fulfilling manner. There are many ways for women to serve as full-time church workers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, including service as teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, deaconesses and parish nurses.

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What About . . .

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Laywomen have many opportunities for service through various church societies, guilds and leagues, along with the service they provide as volunteer teachers. They have additional opportunities to serve in their local congregations as members of various boards and committees. We thank God for the many blessings and gifts that come to the church through the service of women.

We need to emphasize the opportunities that God has provided to all of us, both men and women, to serve Him in His kingdom. How unfortunate it would be if we permitted ourselves to become ensnared in self-centered **demands for "rights,"** and thus take our eyes off of **our Lord's** call to service. Demanding from God what He has not given is contrary to what it means to be a child of God. When our focus is on love and service to one another, we realize that there is more than enough for all of us to do.

We serve each other in love, conforming our service to the Word of God. Nobody in the church is called **to be the "master" over anyone else. Pastors are Christ's servants who care for the people of God with Christ's Word and Sacraments.** Thus, through these gifts, our Lord graciously gives Himself to us for our salvation, in humble sacrificial service, **according to His Father's will. We are privileged to be able to follow Christ's example with** thankfulness in our hearts for His many gifts, most importantly the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. May God bless our service to Him, for the sake of the Gospel of Christ our Lord.



Mission Report
Cayman Islands
Rev. Dr. Gerald
and Heidi Paul



[Excerpt from the August 2021 newsletter, to see the entire issue see <https://tinyurl.com/ttek3p9h>]



The flock at Safe Harbour may be little and may look slightly different - the size fluctuating from Sunday to Sunday - but, oh boy, are they a tight-knit group and have each **other's** backs!

We've seen glimpses of how island life can be really challenging, even for the islanders. High up on the list is being separated from family and friends in a unique island way. Add Covid restrictions and that the island is still closed to the rest of the world with only three flights out and in a week! So, what do you do when a loved one dies, and you **can't "just jump in the car and drive there"**? This is when the church family becomes more important than ever.

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Cayman Islands . . .

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What a privilege to be able to share the **comfort of God’s Word** with those who are hurting, reassuring them **that “God is our refuge and strength, an everpresent help in trouble”** (*Ps. 46*) and that nothing can separate us or our loved ones from the love of God (*Rom. 8:39*). What greater comfort is there than to know that although we die, through **faith in Christ we “will never die”** (*John 11*) but see our Savior with our own eyes (*Job 19:27*). We have sat with grieving members, **hugged them with God’s Word and our arms**, and the Safe Harbour family have been there for their hurting brothers and sisters, visiting, texting, and bringing them meals. Thank God for the church family when your own family is so far away!

~Gerald and Heidi Paul

Mission Support

Dominican Republic Ministry Rev. Joel Fritsche & Family

To support the LCMS through the work of Joel & Clarion Fritsche, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. **Mark checks “Support of Rev. Joel Fritsche.”** Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/fritsche.

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Cayman Islands Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul

To support the LCMS through the work of Gerald & Heidi Paul, you may send a tax-deductible gift to either address above.

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and marked **“Support of Gerald Paul.”**

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on his online giving page at lcms.org/gerald.paul.



**Devotion, Songs and Activities
For Everyone**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021
@ 10:30 am in Miertschin Hall**

Followed by Lunch @ 11:45 am

All Are Welcome!



Join
Bell
Choir



ILC Musical Ensembles - 2021-2022 Season

The Immanuel Kantorei (Choir) and Carillon Ringers (Bell Choir) will resume rehearsals beginning Thursday, 16 September – Choir at 7:00 pm, Bells at 8:00 pm in the Music Room off of the Sanctuary balcony.

ILC Musical Ensembles are open to youth in grades 9-12 and adults of ILC. For more information, contact Stephen Hernandez in the Church Office

Can You Match These Words to the Person(s)?

(Answers to Quiz on Page 3)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. O (John 19:30) | 11. C (John 11:21) |
| 2. R (Genesis 22:8) | 12. L (Genesis 29:6) |
| 3. T (Acts 16:31) | 13. F (Genesis 39:9) |
| 4. G (1 Samuel 1:11) | 14. I (Matthew 26:63) |
| 5. Q (Matthew 27:4) | 15. P (Matthew 2:8) |
| 6. J (Genesis 4:9) | 16. A (1 Kings 2:19) |
| 7. B (Matthew 2:2) | 17. M (John 20:25) |
| 8. S (2 Samuel 12:7) | 18. N (Acts 12:14) |
| 9. D (John 20: 13) | 19. K (Genesis 32:28) |
| 10. E (1 Samuel 3:10) | 20. H (Ruth 1:16) |

Serving Immanuel September~October 2021

	Sunday September 5	Sunday September 12	Sunday September 19	Sunday September 26
Elder	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.
Usher Team	#3 Ray T. Cory S. Joe M.	#1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B.	#2 Steve H. Lane H. Robert B.	#3 Ray T. Cory S. Joe M.
Media	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Karen E.	Jackie A.
Audio	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
Altar Guild	Carolyn B.	Carolyn B.	Carolyn B.	Carolyn B.

	Sunday October 3	Sunday October 10	Sunday October 17	Sunday October 24	Reformation Sunday October 31
Elder	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
Usher Team	#1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B.	#2 Steve H. Lane H. Robert B.	#3 Ray T. Cory S. Joe M.	#1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B.	#2 Steve H. Lane H. Robert B.
Media	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Karen E.	Jackie A.	<i>No Media</i>
Audio	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.

If you would like to fill in, trade, or substitute please contact the church office. Thank you.



Immanuel Lutheran Church - September 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Men's Basketball @ 6-9 pm	3	4 Basketball for All @ 10-11:30am
5 Usher Team #3 Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class/Sunday School @ 10:30 am	6 Offices Closed ECE Closed 	7 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm	8	9 Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm	10	11 Basketball for All @ 10-11:30am
12 Usher Team #1 Divine Service @ 9:00 am Installation of Sunday School Teachers, ECE Teachers & Staff <i>Rally Day for All @ 10:30 am</i> <i>Lunch @ 11:45 am</i>	13 Evening Bible Study @ 7:00-8:00 pm	14 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm Church Council @ 7:00 pm	15	16 Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm Choir @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:00 pm	17	18 Basketball for All @ 10-11:30am
19 Usher Team #2 Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class/Sunday School @ 10:30 am	20	21 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	22	23 Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm Choir @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:00 pm	24	25 Basketball for All @ 10-11:30am
26 Usher Team #3 Divine Service @ 9:00 am Tentative Voters Mtg Bible Class/Sunday School @ 10:30 am	27 Evening Bible Study @ 7:00-8:00 pm	28 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	29	30 Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm Choir @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:00 pm		



Immanuel Lutheran Church
1440 Cortlandt St
Houston, TX 77008

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NORTH HOUSTON,
TEXAS

Witness, Mercy, Life Together ✝
In Christ, for the Church and the World



Devotion, Songs
and Activities
For Everyone

Sunday, September 12, 2021
@ 10:30 am in Miertschin Hall
Followed by Lunch @ 11:45 am
All Are Welcome!