



A Word from Pastor Schielke

Lutheran Worship Part 15:
The Agnus Dei

“Agnus Dei” is Latin for “Lamb of God.” This part of the communion liturgy was introduced into the service by Pope Sergius I about 700A.D. “For centuries the lamb had been a symbol in Judaism. The prophet Isaiah pictures the Messiah ‘brought as a lamb to the slaughter.’ (Is. 53:7) John the Baptist, one day as he beheld Jesus coming through the crowd cried, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ (John 1:29).” (Brown)

What a wonderful passage to sing at this point in the Divine Service! The table is prepared, the words of institution have been spoken, and we as Christians prepare to celebrate the new and

greater Passover with our Lord. We have been assured that we have peace with God through Jesus, and now pray these words of the Agnus Dei. As the lamb’s blood painted on the doorposts saved the Israelites in Egypt, so Christ’s blood now saves us.

Note that we sing, “who takest away the sin of the world” (or “you take the sins of the world away” in setting 4.) This is a **present tense** statement, not a past tense statement. The victory over sin which Christ won on the cross is now being given to us personally in the Lord’s Supper. He is again taking away our sin.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who was present in the flesh with John the Baptizer almost 2,000 years ago, is also present in the flesh with

me and all believers in the Lord’s Supper. But, how has He come? As a harsh Law giver? No, He comes as a Lamb in self-sacrifice for us! He comes to us in His body and blood. The church by faith recognizes this and so cries out, “Lamb of God have mercy upon us.” Jesus does indeed have mercy on us! That mercy is given into our mouths as we receive the holy elements of the Lord’s Supper.

(adapted from <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2009/06/notes-on-the-liturgy-20-agnus-dei/>)



The Augsburg Confession - Below is the continuation of the twenty-seventh article of the Augsburg Confession. The Confessions are what we believe and confess as a Lutheran congregation. When they say “they teach,” they mean our churches teach.

Article XXVII - Of Monastic Vows

22 What objection can be raised to this? Let men extol the obligation of a vow as much as they list, yet shall they not bring to pass that the vow

23 annuls the commandment of God. The Canons teach that the right of the superior is excepted in every vow; [that vows are not binding against the decision of the Pope;] much less, therefore, are these vows of force which are against the commandments of God.

24 Now, if the obligation of vows could not be changed for any cause whatever, the Roman Pontiffs could never have given dispensation for it is not lawful for man to annul an obligation which is simply

25 divine. But the Roman Pontiffs have prudently judged that leniency is to be observed in this obligation, and therefore

26 we read that many times they have dispensed from vows. The case of the King of Aragon who was called back from the monastery is well known, and there are also examples in our own times. [Now, if dispensations have been granted for the sake of securing temporal interests, it is much more proper that they be granted on account of the distress of souls.]

27 In the second place, why do our adversaries exaggerate the obligation or effect of a vow when, at the same time, they have not a word to say of the nature of the vow itself, that it ought to be in a thing possible, that it ought to be free,

28 and chosen spontaneously and deliberately? But it is not unknown to what extent perpetual chastity is in the power of man.

29 And how few are there who have taken the vow spontaneously and deliberately! Young maidens and men, before they are able to judge, are persuaded, and sometimes even compelled, to take the vow. Wherefore

30 it is not fair to insist so rigorously on the obligation, since it is granted by all that it is against the nature of a vow to take it without spontaneous and deliberate action.

31 Most canonical laws rescind vows made before the age of fifteen; for before that age there does not seem sufficient judgment in a person to decide concerning a perpetual life.

32 Another Canon, granting more to the weakness of man, adds a few years; for it forbids a vow to be made before the age of eighteen.

33 But which of these two Canons shall we follow? The most part have an excuse for leaving the monasteries, because most of them have taken the vows before they reached these ages.

34 Finally, even though the violation of a vow might be censured, yet it seems not forthwith to follow that the marriages of such persons must be dissolved.

35 For Augustine denies that they ought to be dissolved (XXVII. Quaest. I, Cap. Nuptiarum), and his authority is not lightly to be esteemed, although other men afterwards thought otherwise.

36 But although it appears that God’s command concerning marriage delivers very many from their vows, yet our teachers introduce also another argument concerning vows to show that they are void. For every service of God, ordained and chosen of men without the commandment of God to merit justification and grace, is wicked, as Christ says Matt. 15:9:

37 In vain do they worship Me with the commandments of men. And Paul teaches everywhere that righteousness is not to be sought from our own observances and acts of worship, devised by men, but that it comes by faith to those who believe that they are received by God into grace for Christ’s sake.

38 But it is evident that monks have taught that services of man’s making satisfy for sins and merit grace and justification. What else is this than to detract from the glory of Christ and to obscure and deny the righteousness of faith?

39 It follows, therefore, that the vows thus commonly taken have been wicked services, and, consequently, are void.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Council Meeting	10	11	12	13	14 Trustee Workday 8:00 a.m.	15 Trustee Workday 8:00 a.m.
16 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Special Voters' Mtg.	17	18 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Garage Sale 8 a.m.
23 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	24	25 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	26	27	28	29 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
30 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Study / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Voters' Meeting	31					

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church
508 Main Street Newark, Texas
817-489-5400
viclutheranchurch.org



October Birthdays:

- 1 Sandee Hill
- 2 Gretchen Gallo



October Anniversary:

- 31 Marty Groves and Linda Watson

For 2022, I would like to challenge every member of this congregation to read or continue reading through the Bible in one year. The Bible readings for October and part of November are listed below.

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|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Oct. 1: Malachi | Oct. 14: Matthew 27-28 | Oct. 27: Luke 8-9 |
| Oct. 2: Matthew 1-4 | Oct. 15: Mark 1-3 | Oct. 28: Luke 10-11 |
| Oct. 3: Matthew 5-6 | Oct. 16: Mark 4-5 | Oct. 29: Luke 12-13 |
| Oct. 4: Matthew 7-8 | Oct. 17: Mark 6-7 | Oct. 30: Luke 14-16 |
| Oct. 5: Matthew 9-10 | Oct. 18: Mark 8-9 | Oct. 31: Luke 17-18 |
| Oct. 6: Matthew 11-12 | Oct. 19: Mark 10-11 | Nov. 1: Luke 19-20 |
| Oct. 7: Matthew 13-14 | Oct. 20: Mark 12-13 | Nov. 2: Luke 21-22 |
| Oct. 8: Matthew 15-17 | Oct. 21: Mark 14 | Nov. 3: Luke 23-24 |
| Oct. 9: Matthew 18-19 | Oct. 22: Mark 15-16 | Nov. 4: John 1-2 |
| Oct. 10: Matthew 20-21 | Oct. 23: Luke 1 | Nov. 5: John 3-4 |
| Oct. 11: Matthew 22-23 | Oct. 24: Luke 2-3 | Nov. 6: John 5-6 |
| Oct. 12: Matthew 24-25 | Oct. 25: Luke 4-5 | Nov. 7: John 7-8 |
| Oct. 13: Matthew 26 | Oct. 26: Luke 6-7 | Nov. 8: John 9-10 |

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VIC Happenings

Special Voter's Meeting 10/16. After our lunch on Sunday the 16th, we will have a special voters' meeting. The only discussion topics will be nominations committees and officers for the Synodical Convention. These nominations need to be turned into synod by October 29, prior to our quarterly voters' meeting.



Reformation Sunday

Garage Sale 10/22 - We will be having a garage sale on Saturday the 22nd. If you have items to donate, please bring them to church and get with Robin Kroeger. Also, we need volunteers to work the garage sale setting up and tearing down afterwards.

Reformation Sunday 10/30 - The annual Festival of the Reformation is Sunday October 30. It's a day when we remember the rediscovery of the Gospel during the 16th century. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone, in Christ alone as declared in Scripture alone.

Voter's Meeting 10/30. After our lunch on Sunday the 30th, we will have our quarterly voters' meeting. Congregational officers for 2023 will be voted on at this meeting. It is important for all voters to attend to be informed about the congregation and to lend your voice to the decision making process.

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