



WITTENBERG WAY

Summer 2023

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done.”

-Luke 22:42



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Dear Grace Family,

As a liturgical church, we organize our worship life around a calendar of themes, readings from Scripture, festival days, and prayers known as the church year. This calendar consists of two halves: from Advent to Trinity Sunday; and from Trinity to Advent. We have entered the second half of the church year. The long season of Trinity, or as it is also called, "Ordinary Time." As it says on the front cover, it may be ordinary time, but we worship an "extraordinary God." The emphasis in this season is on the transformation of our life by and through the Love of God. We stow away the red, blue, purple, and white paraments for the color green for the majority of the season, depicting the color for growth. The Collects in this season are prayers for Divine help and guidance to enable us to bring forth the fruits of faith as we conform our lives to the truths we heard in the first half of the year.

This conforming is called "sanctification" in the Bible, which is both definitive and developmental. To be sanctified is to be "set apart" *by God for God*. Sanctification is therefore the fruit of being justified by faith alone in Jesus Christ. The external declaration of righteousness is complemented by the internal work of the Holy Spirit to become what God has already declared us to be.

The encouragement towards holiness in the Bible and the season of Trinity is always grounded in God's grace, taking the literary form: "Because of this, do that." Scholars refer to this as the indicatives and imperatives of scriptural ethics. The indicatives tell us what God has done (gospel); the imperatives tell us how we should

respond (law). The long season of Trinity requires patience and faithfulness. Every week, the Church hears of how prophets pointed to the Messiah in the Old Testament, how the Church faithfully continued Christ's teachings in the Epistles, and how Jesus Himself lived in obedience to the Father who sent Him.

The nature of this "become what you already are" is remarkably counter-cultural as it defies decades of spiritual self-help messaging. We must be careful readers of the Bible lest we turn the indicatives into imperatives, thus confusing the law with the gospel. Our ability to carry out the imperatives of our sanctified life depends entirely on the indicatives of our new status as those who are now Christ's beloved. We do not do what is holy in order to become holy. Rather, we who already are holy through faith in Christ will consequently do what is holy for the sake of our neighbor. This may sound like something Yoda would say, but it is true nonetheless: holy does as holy is.

As we slow down for the summer months, I want to thank all our volunteers who have served so faithfully throughout the year. From ushers to altar guild to acolytes to lectors to our choir members and musicians, I am grateful for your contribution to making our services reverent, warm, and grounded in the gospel.

Gratefully Yours,



Pr. Thomas



1517.

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH
1517 SPEAKER, WRITER, AND PODCAST HOST
ERICK SORENSEN
SATURDAY - JULY 22 - 6:00 P.M.**

Skeptical, Apathetic and Distracted: Sharing our Faith with a Post-Christian World



Irenaeus of Lyons

June 28

Time Period 2nd century AD

Who was he?

A pastor, bishop, and theologian.

Did you know?

- When his superior was martyred under the persecution of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Irenaeus was elected bishop of Lyons.
- Among his most famous writings is a work condemning heresies, especially Gnosticism, which denied the goodness of creation.
- He also defended the unity of the Church when disagreements arose about the proper date on which to celebrate Easter.

RECOMMENDED PODCAST: THE SOUL OF CHRISTIANITY

On this podcast, they get to the essential element of Christianity as Debi Winrich has sought out a few of her friends and acquaintances to help her get to the “soul” of Christianity in a way that is both intellectually stimulating and also accessible. Season five focuses on the messy discipleship of the Christian life.

<https://www.1517.org/podcasts/soul-of-christianity>



We are excited to host our first 1517 summer speaker event as we welcome Pr. Erick Sorenson who will speak on the topic of sharing the faith with a post-Christian world. We are expecting a full house, so please log on to gracesandiego.com to register for the event. There will be a reception to follow in our courtyard along with a 1517 book table.



Pastor Erick Sorensen

PASTOR / AUTHOR / SPEAKER / PODCASTER

Erick is a full-time staff member with 1517 where he works with the Development team focusing on Church partnerships and relations. Erick holds a bachelors degree in Organizational Leadership from Biola University and an M.Div. from Lutheran Brethren Seminary. Erick has served as a pastor in Fontana, California, Staten Island, New York, and Roxbury, New Jersey. In 2015 he planted Epiphany Lutheran Church in New York City, New York. Erick is an author, conference speaker, host of the Law & Gospel Devotional, and co-host of the 30 Minutes in the New Testament and Field Guide to the Bible podcasts. Erick is the co-author with Daniel Emery Price of Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on Parables. A familiar face at our 1517 conferences, Erick is our resident Emcee. Erick lives in California with his wife, Erica.

Websites | Social media:

[@pastorerick](https://twitter.com/pastorerick)

facebook.com/ericksorensen

1517.org/contributors/erick-sorensen

Bioethics and Acceptable Survival

By Shannon Carreiro

Advances in medical science and technology that accelerated in the 1970's were accompanied by a loosening of the traditional morals that had served as a rein. It was no longer life itself but the quality of life that guided decision making. In 1971, US biochemist Van Rensselaer Potter coined the word *bioethics* for the new philosophy. He defined it as, "Biology combined with diverse humanistic knowledge forging a science that sets a system of medical and environmental priorities for acceptable survival." A recent development in the United Kingdom illustrates how far Western Civilization has moved toward Potter's vision of the future.

In Vitro Fertilization Elevated

This past May, Newcastle Fertility Centre announced the birth of the first UK baby with DNA from three people. Using a "groundbreaking IVF procedure" called Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT), research scientists took tissue from the eggs of healthy female donors to create IVF embryos free from any harmful mutations a mother carried that would likely pass on to her child.

The Newcastle research scientists call MDT a miracle for women whose children inherit their genetic diseases, something that affects one in 6,000 babies. The three-parent baby label sensationalized by the press is a misnomer, the scientists say. The embryos that result from MDT combine sperm and egg from the biological parents with just a *tiny* amount of mitochondria from the donor egg. The scientists assure us the resulting baby has DNA from the mother and father as usual, plus a small amount of genetic material—about 37 genes—from the donor. More than 99.8% of the baby's DNA is from the biological parents. And, best of all, it's for the greater good: a world free of imperfect children with unacceptable survival prospects.

Pros & Cons

Peter Thompson, chief executive at HFEA, says "MDT offers families with severe inherited mitochondrial illness the possibility of a healthy child." That possibility, however, is not risk-free. Recent research shows that "in

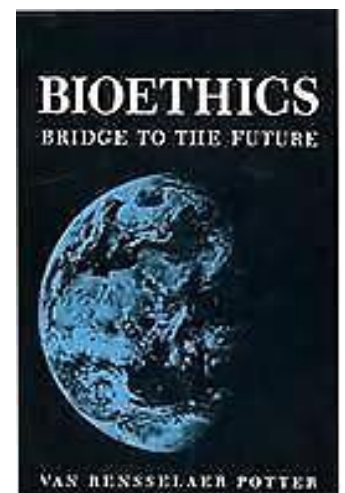
some cases, the tiny number of abnormal mitochondria that are inevitably carried over from the mother's egg to the donor egg can multiply when the baby is in the womb." This event, called reversal, could lead to a disease in the child. The reason, says Dagan Wells, a professor of reproductive genetics at University of Oxford, "is not fully understood." Understanding, Wells says, will take long-term follow-up beginning with prenatal testing at about 12 weeks of pregnancy to determine if reversal has occurred. If it has, guess what happens next.

Another cause for concern is the number of harvested donor eggs that are destroyed in the process. MDT-specific data isn't readily available yet. But a 2012 article from The Telegraph, a national UK daily, provides data on the fate of all IVF donor eggs. Official statistics gathered by HFEA between 1991 and 2012 show that almost half of the 3.5+ million embryos used to help a woman conceive through standard in vitro fertilization were destroyed during or after the process. In other words, 1.7 million human embryos created for IVF in the UK were tossed in the trash. It's reasonable to assume MDT ratios will be similar.


In Summary

The MDT procedure was illegal in the UK till 2015, when Parliament changed the law. The Newcastle clinic is currently the only one licensed to perform the procedure, and only with authority to do so given on a case-by-case basis by the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). So far at least 30 authorizations have been green-lighted, and a small, undisclosed number of babies have been born. As of today, the procedure is still illegal in the United States.

And, for the record, the LCMS official position is that all IVF is objectionable unless the sperm and egg come from the husband and wife and all of the fertilized eggs are implanted in the womb of the wife.




Fall Bible Study
WEDNESDAYS
 10:00-11:00 a.m.



A STUDY OF REVELATION

Coming this Fall - Sunday's 9:30-10:15 a.m.



Wittenberg vs. Rome
 A Study of Doctrines that Divide

2023 GIVING

What Do You Want?

One of the most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23. There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, our Good Shepherd will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we often live as though this is not true. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday. When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters). We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, our Good Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

May Actual Offerings	\$ 20,132
May Budget	<u>\$ 19,760</u>
Overage	\$ 372
YTD Actual	\$100,538
YTD Budget	<u>\$108,680</u>
Shortfall	\$ 8,142

HOW TO GIVE

- Your offering envelopes or those in the pews
- Online from your bank website
- Scan the QR code here
- Text the amount to 84321
- The Giving Page at grace.sandiego.com
- Time and Talents



FOUR MARKS OF PRAYER

Martin Luther was not only a professor but a pastor, one keenly aware of the difficulties of following Jesus Christ. Luther provides a treasure of wisdom and insight on the topic of prayer. Here are just a few of the many jewels to be found in his writing.



1. Pray as a justified sinner.

Luther warned that we must not think our goodness gains us a hearing with God, or that our prayers merit God's favor. On the contrary, he writes, "We are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it."

2. Remember: you are in a fight against the devil and human weakness.

"We who would be Christians must surely expect to have the devil with all his angels and the world as our enemies and must expect that they will inflict every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God's Word is preached, accepted or believed, and bears fruit, there the holy and precious cross will also not be far behind."

3. Don't despair or try to escape. Instead, lean into your needs.

Our needs ought to make us prayerful:

We must feel our need, the distress that drives and impels us to cry out. Then prayer will come spontaneously, as it should, and no one will need to be taught how to prepare for it or how to create the proper devotion. . . . For we are all lacking plenty of things: all that is missing is that we do not feel or see them.

4. Use the Bible as a prayer guide.

While Luther warned against the rote recitation of memorized prayers, he also frequently taught Christians to use the Lord's Prayer to prompt and guide their prayers: "Behold, you could repulse the devil and all his false suggestions by basing your prayer on these three things: God's command, His promise, and the manner and words Christ Himself taught."

FACES OF GRACE



On May 26, Jack George, Mark Jordan, Pr. Brian, and Jackson Huntley represented Team GLC for the Folds of Honor charity golf tournament. Though they didn't win, they had a lot of fun supporting a veteran's cause.



3967 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619.299.2890
gracesandiego.com

The Reverend
Brian W. Thomas
brianwilliamthomas@gmail.com
Director of Parish Music
Dale Sorenson
dalesorenson2@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Gretchen Jordan
gjordan@gracesandiego.com

Sunday Divine Service
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School
9:30 to 10:15 am

Nursery available

JOHN HANSEN
Council President

RICHARD SEGARRA
Treasurer

SHANNON CARREIRO
Secretary

HEATH RUSSERT
Trustee

KELLEY SCHMIDT
Fellowship/Activities

JOHN BARBER
PHILIP HAWTHORNE
Members-at-Large

CARL LEHMAN
Education

TED NILSEN
Head Elder

JEREMY FULLAM
STEVE HOLLMAN
JASON HUNTLEY
DARYL NEWTON
TRAVIS WHEELER
Elders

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING

Dave, Bill, Phil, Connor, Taj, Pr. Burkey, Ramey Family, Fay, Edward, and Maggie

PRAYERS FOR THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD OF GOD

Daniel & Eileen Fohey, Matthew & Kalisha Morgan, Jeremy & Jessica Belgau

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Rev. Tyler McMiller, Joshua Salas, Lorenzo Murrone, Luiz Lange,
Michael & Nance Morizio (Lutheran Church planters & seminarians in Italy)
Rev. Dr. John Bombaro

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

John Campisi, Tajy George, Jeff and Jordan Gruetzmacher, Philip Hawthorne,
Josh Martin, Matthew Morgan, Nathan Farish, and Elliott Perko

PRAYERS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES

Joyce Rochester

BIRTHDAYS

<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>
10- Elvie Nichols	5- Scott Weselis	3- Stacy Mezzadri
12- Jack George	7- Theresa Martin	5- Virginia Torres
20- Thomas Gertz	8- Natalie Lukaesko	11- Erin Dorris
22- Renee Thompson	11- Josh Martin	14- Joyce Rochester
24- Tony Mezzadri	13- Peter Gertz	19- Shannon Carreiro
24- Guy Martin	16- Chris Latham	20- Josh Jensen
28- Fran Willis	21- Brian Thomas	24- Jackson Huntley
	26- Judy George	25- August Lehman
	29- Conner Russert	30- Maggie Jacobs
	31- Kris Fillius	

UPCOMING EVENTS



GRILLIN' HOT DOGS FOR DAD!

Sunday June 18th

Father's Day
after the 10 am service

Please sign up to bring something to share at the
Welcome Desk or to help with the festivities!



CONNECT WITH US