

5 January 2021
How Lutherans Engage the Bible
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Welcome/Prayer

Pastor Notes

Questions Always

Book of Faith Initiative

2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly: Approved 5 Year Program

Goal: *“That the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.”*

Definition: Inspired Word of God

God/Humanity – Scripture – Jesus

Truth: Jesus Christ

Faith and Reason co exist

God inspiring humanity to reflect the Christ

The Word of God articulated

Gods speaks in Jesus the Christ

C 2.02a

God speaks through believers telling the story of God’s love in Jesus Christ

C 2.02b

God speaks through the Bible

C 2.02c

Constitution: C 2.01a

“Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made whose life, death and resurrection God fashions a new creation.”

Five Key Lutheran Principles

1. Law and Gospel

Law:

Accuses us and judges us

Reveals our brokenness

Gospel:

Comforts and saves us

Provides us with wholeness

Misconceptions:

2. What Shows Forth Christ

Bible (New and Old Testament) is the book that reveals Jesus Christ
Leads us into a relationship with Christ and his people

Luther: Bible is like the manger that held the Christ Child

Liturgically Act this concept out in worship

3. Scripture Interprets Scripture

Contradictions and the need to settle those contradictions

Slavery:

For Slavery: Col 3:22-24

Against Slavery: John 8:32, Gal 3:28

Jesus' Words

Matt 5:21, 22

Matt 23:24

Core Meaning of Scripture

The Cross

Justification by Grace through Faith Alone

Love

4. The Plain Meaning of the Text

Seek to understand what the original readers understood
Understand the Intent of the Biblical Author

Need to understand history and context of scripture

Question: "How were people expected to understand this piece of scripture in the first place?"

Study Bibles: Harper Collins Study Bible

5. Public Interpretation

Biblical Record:

Old Testament: God speaking to Israel

New Testament: God speaking to the Church
God speaks to Community
Biblical Interpretation: Communal Activity
Beliefs of the Community Matter
We interpret scripture in community

Not Discounting: Personal Devotions, Personal Biblical Reading

No Secret, Private Messages within scripture
If so, it means God has favorites

Point: Origin for all Interpretation is Christian Community

Next time: Devotional Reading of the Bible

Closing Prayer