Sheep Don't Keep Track: Stop Measuring Your Moral Progress

by Todd Wilken

Wittenberg Trail: Never Sorry Enough

by George F. Borghardt III

Volume 1, Number 1
Summer, 2009
Dear Journal Reader,

This is the new edition of *Issues, Etc. Journal*.

In this edition you'll find two articles. In the first, *Sheep Don't Keep Track*, I answer questions like, "What are the Christian's good works good for?" or "Is the Christian life all about measuring your personal moral progress?" This article is especially needful now, since popular "outcome-based ministries" are encouraging Christians to trust in their own good works rather than in Christ.

*Never Sorry Enough* is our “Wittenberg Trail” feature telling the story of Pastor George Borghardt's journey from the frying pan of Roman Catholic works-righteousness, to the fire of pop-Evangelical works-righteousness, and then finally to freedom and certainty of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

Also, check out our Find a Church section at the end of the *Journal*.

Enjoy this come-back edition of the *Journal*.

Wir sind alle Bettler,

Todd Wilken, host

*Issues, Etc.*

[Signature]

www.issuesetc.org
It is one of the most puzzling parables Jesus ever told: The parable of the Sheep and the Goats. It is set on Judgment Day. All humanity is gathered before Jesus. He separates mankind into "sheep" and "goats."

Matthew writes:

And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (Matthew 25:33-36)

Now, at this point in the story, the sheep seem surprised. More than that, they seem to have no recollection of the good works Jesus says they did. They ask, "When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?"

Have you ever wondered how the sheep could come to Judgment Day apparently unaware that their earthly lives had been overflowing with good works?
How am I Doing?

This was the question of the medieval Roman Catholic Church. Everything in the Catholic system of merits was geared toward measuring the Christian's moral progress: penance, indulgences, the invocation of saints, the sacrifice of the mass, purgatory, etc.

In the face of all this, Martin Luther made a seemingly heretical statement:

*Although the works of man always seem attractive and good, they are nevertheless likely to be mortal sins. Human works appear attractive outwardly, but within they are filthy, as Christ says concerning the Pharisees in Matt. 23:27. For they appear to the doer and others good and beautiful, yet God does not judge according to appearances but searches the minds and hearts.* *(The Heidelberg Disputation, 3)*

If Luther was right, this presented a serious problem for those who wanted to track their moral progress. My works may appear good, but how do I know if they really are good? If I can't tell if my works are really good, then how can I know how I’m doing? This question undermined Rome’s entire system for measuring the Christian's moral progress.

Luther's idea presents the very same problem today. Only today, Rome isn't the only game in town. Today, the churches of pop-American Protestantism stand ready to help you track your moral progress too. There are books, seminars and sermon series, all designed to help you answer the question: “How am I doing?”

Whether it's medieval Rome, or today's Protestantism, it’s all about measuring your moral progress.

Whether it's medieval Rome, or today's Protestantism, it's all about measuring your moral progress. Why are so many Christians asking, “How am I doing?”

Several reasons come to mind. Some Christians want to compare their present with their past. Some want to compare themselves with others.

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)
Some want to reach a personal moral goal. Some want evidence that they really are Christians. Some Christians want to boast before God.

As you can see, there are all sorts of reasons that a Christian might want to measure his progress in Sanctification. But none of them are good.

**Christians Do Progress in Good Works.**

Am I saying a Christian doesn't grow in good works? No. *I am saying that a Christian can't measure his own growth in good works.*

I know that this flies in the face of almost every popular preacher out there. Entire congregations and careers have been built on the idea that keeping track of your good works is essential to the Christian life. It isn’t.

I know that this contradicts all the Christian self-help bestsellers. Christian publishing success is fueled by the notion that you can —indeed, must— measure your growth in good works. You can’t, nor do you need to.

I know that this is counter-intuitive. We think that Sanctification should be like losing weight: eat right and exercise, and you should be able to measure the results in a shrinking waistline. Not so.

I know that this will come as a disappointment to some readers. It will mean that a lot of your time and effort has been wasted keeping track of your works. But read on, I will tell you about a much better way to spend your time, effort and works.

Scripture is clear; Christians do grow in good works. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Christians:

*We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.* (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

And the Apostle Peter wrote:
Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

More than that, this growth and increase in good works is not the product of human effort, but it is God’s own doing. Paul writes to the Thessalonians: “May the Lord make you increase and abund in love for one another and for all.” And, to the Philippians:

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

and,

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in your both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13)

Your growth in good works is a clear promise of God. But as with every promise of God, we walk by faith and not by sight. Your growth in good works is certain, but you cannot see it.

You say, “Wilken, you’re simply wrong. I can see and measure my growth in good works.” I ask, “What is your standard of measurement?”

I am the Least Qualified to Measure My Own Works.

First, what is a good work? Only God can answer that question. Only God is good (Luke 18:19). So, only God is qualified to judge whether a work is good or not.

When it comes to our works, God doesn't grade on a curve. There is no sliding scale with God. With God, good means perfect. By God's standard,
a good work means sinless obedience to His commandments, from a pure heart.

Take the greatest commandment for example. It says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37) All means all, and anything less than all is sin.

An ordinary measuring stick is divided into units such as inches or feet. But God's measuring stick of perfection has no such divisions. There is only one unit of measurement - perfection. There may be 1/2 and 1/4 inches, but there are no 1/2 or 1/4 perfections. Measuring my works by God's standard of perfection is like measuring my height using an infinitely long ruler with no marking for inches or feet. Any result would be nonsense.

You see, God’s standard of measurement is the only one that counts. Our growth in good works isn’t measured by comparing ourselves with our past, with others, or with our own personal moral goals. Our growth in good works is measured by comparing ourselves with God’s perfect standard. And only God can do that. Only God can see your growth in good works.

Second, I am hardly an impartial observer. Even if I could measure my own works by God's standard, I couldn't be trusted to render an accurate measurement. I am always inclined to pad the numbers, give myself the benefit of the doubt and let myself off the hook. I am willfully blind to my own sinful motives. And, if Scripture is right, I am especially prone to self-deception. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

Finally, as we have seen, for a work to be truly good, it must be completely selfless. So, ask yourself: Are my reasons for measuring my moral progress selfless? Whether your reason is to compare your present
with your past, to compare yourself with others, to reach your personal moral goal, to prove that you really are a Christian, or to boast before God, if you are doing your good works for any of those reasons, you are only serving yourself.

**Wicked Saints, Holy Sinners**

Someone may say, "I may never be sinless, but at least I can sin less." That's a laudable goal, but like measuring your moral progress, how would you ever know if you were sinning less?

Yes, a Christian progresses in good works. But does he thereby sin less? Remember, the standard is perfection. Anything short of perfection is sin.

Well into his life as a Christian, the Apostle Paul wrote: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." (1 Timothy 1:15) How could Paul refer to himself as the foremost of sinners? Hadn't Paul progressed in his Sanctification? Of course he had. But even then, he remained the same sinner he was before Jesus met him on the Damascus road.

What is key in Paul's words is the sentence, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Sinners aren't measured by how much more or less they sin. They are measured by their pervasive sinful condition that puts them in need of the perfect, sinless sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

Forget trying to measure whether you're sinning less. Are you still a sinner? Do you still need Jesus? If, in all your efforts to measure your moral progress, you find even one of your works that doesn't measure up to God perfect standard, then the answer to both questions is "yes."
So, What Are Good Works Good For?

At this point, you might be asking, "What use are my good works, if I can't use them to measure my progress?"

The truth is, your good works don't do you any good at all. Your good works don't help you one bit. Your good works are completely useless to you.

Your good works aren't for you; your good works are for your neighbor. This is the only thing your good works are good for: loving and serving your neighbor.

Many Christians think of their good works like ornaments on a Christmas tree, hanging there, inert, just to make the tree look good. Your good works aren't ornaments; they are living fruit — fruit for the picking. The fruit isn't there to make the tree look good. The fruit is there for people to pick off and use.

Jesus says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Your Father in heaven isn't glorified when you look good (in your own eyes or in the eyes of others). Your Father in heaven is glorified when your neighbor is served.

This brings us back to the surprised sheep of Jesus' parable in Matthew 25. They are surprised when Jesus tells them about all their good works. They don't remember seeing Jesus hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick or in prison. They don't remember doing any of the good works Jesus says they did. Why?

The sheep didn't spend their lives measuring their moral progress. They weren't keeping track. They weren't using their good works as milestones of their moral improvement. The sheep spent their lives trusting in the perfect good works of Jesus. Therefore, they spent their good works on "the least of these my brothers."

www.issuesetc.org
This is how it is supposed to work. Rather than use their good works to gauge their own progress, the sheep used their good works to serve their neighbors.

But the sheep aren't the only ones surprised on Judgment day. The goats are equally surprised, but for a different reason:

Then [the King] will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' (Matthew 25:41-44)

The goats are surprised. They are certain that they never saw Jesus hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick or in prison. The goats are certain that if they did see Jesus, they would have ministered to Him.

After all, many of the greatest do-gooders, philanthropists and humanitarians in history will be among the goats on Judgment Day. All of them will be able to recite long litanies of their good works. Some will be able to cite history books attesting to their selfless deeds. Others will have itemized tax returns and receipts proving what, when and to whom they gave. Others will have personal journals and diaries chronicling their lives of works.

All of the goats will have kept track in some way or another. Each of the goats will be able to show clear evidence of his moral improvement over a lifetime.

Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these

www.issuesetc.org
will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Matthew 25:45-46; see also Matthew 7:22-23)

So much for measuring your moral progress. The goats will have works — lifetimes of carefully tabulated works done for themselves. The goats will have their works, but their works will be all that they will have. Luther writes:

*To trust in works, which one ought to do in fear, is equivalent to giving oneself the honor and taking it from God, to whom fear is due in connection with every work. But this is completely wrong, namely to please oneself, to enjoy oneself in one’s works, and to adore oneself as an idol.* (Martin Luther, *The Heidelberg Disputation*, Thesis 7)

**Christ - Our Sanctification**

If God’s standard is perfection, do any of my works measure up? No. Are any of my good works good enough? No.

My motives are always mixed. I never do as much as I should. My works are far from perfect. And God demands perfection! Do my good works please God? In his *Treatise on Good Works*, Luther asked the same question:

*How can I trust surely that all my works are pleasing to God, when at times I fall, and talk, eat, drink and sleep too much, or otherwise transgress, as I cannot help doing?*

Luther’s answer:

*Yes, this confidence and faith must be so high and strong that the man knows that all his life and works are nothing but damnable sins before God’s judgment, as it is written, Psalm 143: “In thy sight shall no man living be justified”; and he must entirely despair of his works, believing that they cannot be good except through this faith, which looks for no judgment, but only for pure grace, favor, kindness and mercy…. See, thus are works forgiven, are without guilt and are good, not by their own nature, but by the mercy and grace of God because of the faith which trusts on the mercy of God. Therefore we must fear because of the works, but comfort ourselves because of the grace of God.* (Martin
Scripture says, “Without faith, it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6) But with faith in the perfect good works of Jesus Christ, it is not only possible to please God; it is impossible not to please him.

You are pleasing to God, not because of what you do or don’t do. You are pleasing to God because of what Jesus did for you. Jesus’ life, death and resurrection fully met God’s standard of perfection. Jesus’ life of perfect good works substitutes for your life of sin and less-than-perfect good works. Jesus is your substitute, not only in your Justification, but also in your Sanctification. Paul writes:

*You are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)

Go, trust in Jesus, live for your neighbor. Confess your sins. Confess your good works too. Receive Jesus’ forgiveness. Trust the mercy of God in Jesus. Stop spending your time and effort trying to track your growth in good works. Instead, spend your time, effort and works on your neighbor in need. Stop measuring your moral progress. Remember, sheep don’t keep track, because sheep know they don’t need to. 🐐
Engage in devotional, Christ-centered reading and study with the distinctive, comprehensive notes and practical application of The Lutheran Study Bible.

Coming
Reformation Day 2009
from CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

Engage in devotional, Christ-centered reading and study with the distinctive, comprehensive notes and practical application of The Lutheran Study Bible.

"Give me life according to Your word!"
Psalm 119:25

cph.org/lutheranbible

Pre-order online, February 2009.

www.issuesetc.org
There I was, eleven years old and in Confession. I had stolen candy from the candy jar and hidden the wrappers under my brother's bed. My brilliantly evil plan went off without a hitch! My parents punished my brother for taking the candy. But a few days later, the real story came out. My pious Roman Catholic mother had my father drag me straight to Confession. After all, liars and thieves go to hell.

Then began the tears – real ones. Have you ever done something so evil that you shock yourself? And try as you can to think that you couldn't possibly have done it, that you really aren't that person who did such a terrible thing...you are.

"Give me like fifty Hail Mary's and Our Fathers, Father. I know the Creed, make me say it a few times too. Let me make up for this," I begged the priest. I knew that if Jesus would just give me a chance, I could show Him that I'm not really a thief and a liar.
“My son, you are sorry enough.” What else could the priest say to a weeping eleven-year-old? He tried to comfort me with the idea that with my tearful remorse, I had done enough penance already.

That was easy! I didn't even have to do any additional acts of penance! I had earned forgiveness by being sorry. That was my penance.

I quickly learned that thinking I was doing well enough at not sinning, or was sorry enough to be forgiven for the sins that I did commit, would never bring me any lasting comfort. How could it when there was always more room for improvement? A person can convince himself that he’s really doing his best and everything is peachy-keen between him and the Lord God Almighty for only so long. What follows that kind of self-righteousness is despair and unbelief.

Who wants that kind of God anyway? Why would any one want a God who demands something from you, and then is never satisfied with what you do? Are you really sorry enough? Have you really done enough?

So, I ran from God. I stopped going to Mass every Sunday. What did it matter? I never measured up, anyway. Whether the Lord God existed or not just didn't matter to me. I figured that if there was such a thing as God, I'd at least get credit when I died for not being a full-blown atheist.

The Evangelicals I encountered in high school had a different answer: Give your life to Jesus, then you can go to heaven. Possibly. Maybe. You are a better Christian if you do all the right things; you can actually save yourself from death. You do your part, He'll do His thing. Pray a prayer, make yourself God's child, and God will love you.

www.issuesetc.org
I didn’t notice at the time that this was the same religion as Rome. There's no real difference between a religion that says you must do something to be forgiven by God and a religion that says you must do something to become a child of God. Both religions begin and end with you doing something to get God's attention. And the most scary thing of all – both begin with self-righteousness and end in despair.

“It's free. It's free. All you have to do is...,” they say. But that's not free at all! It can't be free, it's not grace, if you are still required to do something. The more I failed to do, the more despair I felt.

“If you truly believed, really believed, then you'd have victory in your life.” But, deep down, I knew I really wasn’t good enough. One sin would be conquered and two others would appear.

More religion requires more works. But when victory didn't come from all my efforts, when I couldn’t rid myself of those sins, it meant just one thing: “You must not really believe.”

I just happened to have a Lutheran friend who invited me to her church. In her church I heard something that I had never heard before: the Gospel.

Not only did Jesus die on the cross for the sin of the world, but He had died for me. Not only had Jesus risen from the dead on the third day, but He had risen from the dead for me! He lives now and He lives now for me! You too! The “for you” is the Gospel!

www.issuesetc.org
Faith receives! It's not a work we do, something that makes us lovable to God. Faith is given by the Holy Spirit in the Word, the water, and the Sacrament. I had never heard this news before!

Christ has died precisely for sinners who don't believe, who aren't sorry enough for their sin, who cannot save themselves – even for me. God loves me, not because I'm lovable, but in the giving of His Son. That's the love God has for the world – the Father gave up His Son for us!

No more looking inside. No more fear. No more despair. No more worrying about whether I am sorry enough to be forgiven and knowing deep down that I am not. I have got to repent of all of that. Salvation is actually outside of me – in the waters of my Baptism, in the preached and read Word, in the Body and Blood of Christ which deliver the forgiveness of sins won by Christ to me.

That makes salvation certain, doesn't it? How could I know that my sins have really been forgiven? Christ died and rose for me. How do I know that God will not hold something against me? He has washed away my sins in Baptism. How do I know for sure that I'll be in heaven on the Last Day? The Father has fed me the Body and Blood of His Son for the remission of all my sins. Apart from my sorriness, outside of my trying harder, God delivers His salvation to me. To you, too.

I wonder sometimes if I should thank God for that priest. Had he given me those “Our Fathers,” would I be a Lutheran today? I don't know. But what I do know is that when my sons do the things that I did when I was younger, they will not hear that they are forgiven because they are “sorry enough.” No, they will hear free forgiveness achieved by our Lord on the cross and delivered to them in the words, “I forgive you all your sins.”
Issues, Etc. is Listener-Supported.

We Have Two Ways to Donate.

1. www.issuesetc.org
   (automatic debit or PayPal)

OR

2. Make checks payable to “Lutheran Public Radio” and send them to
   
   LPR
   Box 912
   Collinsville, IL 62234

Questions?

Contact Craig Feichtinger
(618) 223-8385 or craig@issuesetc.org

Thanks for Your Support!
Find a Church

California

Faith Lutheran
Rev. Ronald Hodel
Rev. Jeremy Rhode
34381 Calle Portola
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624
949-496-1901

Christ Our King Community Lutheran
858 Joann St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
949-290-2819

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Rev. Dennis Bestul
5825 Bollinger Rd
Cupertino CA 95014
408-252-0345

Messiah Lutheran
Rev. Peter Ledic
2305 Camino Tassajara
Danville CA 94506
925-736-2270

Our Savior Lutheran
Rev. Dan Kistler
4400 Cabrillo Hwy
Pacifica CA 94044
650-359-1550

Grace Lutheran
Rev. Charles Froh
2825 Alameda De Las Pulgas
San Mateo CA 94403
650-345-9068

Colorado

Gloria Christi Lutheran
Rev. John Frahm
1322 31st Ave
Greeley CO 80634-6328
970-353-2554

University Hills Lutheran
Rev. Steven Parks
4949 E. Eastman Ave.
Denver CO 80222
303-759-0161

Idaho

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. Tim Pauls
Rev. David Hrachovina
5009 Cassia St
Boise ID 83705
208-343-7212

Illinois

St Paul Lutheran
Rev. Ben Ball
Rev. Joel Brondos
Rev. Walter Otten
9035 Grant
Brookfield IL 60513
708-485-6987

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. Michael Walther
Rev. Paul Hemenway
1300 Belt Line Rd
Collinsville IL 62234
618-344-3151

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Gary Wright
17618 Hubbard Road
East Moline, IL 61244
309-496-2186

Calvary Lutheran
Rev. Mark Bestul
535 N McLean Blvd
Elgin IL 60123
847-741-5433

Christ Our Savior Lutheran
Rev. Bruce Keseman
612 N State St
Freeburg IL 62243
618-539-5664

St. Paul Lutheran
Rev. Wil Weedon
6969 W. Frontage Road
Worden IL 62097

Messiah Lutheran
Rev. Brian Holle
801 N Madison St
Lebanon IL 62254
618-537-2300

www.issuesetc.org
Find a Church (cont.)

**St Pauls Lutheran**
Rev. Mark Hein
1500 S Briggs St
Lockport IL 60441
815-838-1832

**Zion Lutheran**
Rev. Kirk Clayton
101 South Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258
618 566-7345

**Trinity Lutheran**
Rev. Michael Kumm
Rev. Todd Wilken
503 E Washington St
Millstadt IL 62260
618-476-3101

**Bethany Lutheran**
Rev. Timothy Rossow
Rev. Stephen Schumacher
1550 Modaff Rd
Naperville IL 60565
630-355-2198

**Christ Lutheran**
Rev. Robert Niehus
607 Harvard St
Oak Park IL 60304
708-386-3306

**Zion Lutheran**
Rev. Donald Pritchard
525 N. Cartwright
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
217-626-1282

**Immanuel Lutheran**
Rev. Craig Meissner
12 West 34th Place
Steger, IL 60417
708-754-2345

**Indiana**

**Faith Lutheran**
Rev. Todd Riordan
6000 W State Road 46
Columbus IN 47201
812-342-3587

**St John Lutheran**
Rev. Marc Freiberg Sr
12308 E CR 1160 N
Evanston IN 47531
812-547-2007

**Redeemer Lutheran**
Rev. David Peterson
202 West Rudisill Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
260-744-2585

**Redeemer Lutheran**
Rev. Andrew Currao
Rev. Daniel Lepley
504 N. Walnut Street
Seymour, IN 47274
812-522-1837

**Advent Lutheran**
Rev. John Fiene
Rev. Jeremy Mills
11250 N Michigan Rd
Zionsville IN 46077
317-873-6318

**Iowa**

**Our Redeemer Lutheran**
Rev. Michael Knox
904 Bluff St
Cedar Falls IA 50613
319-266-2509

**St Paul Lutheran**
Rev. Nathan Dudley
2463 State Hwy 2
Clarinda IA 51632
712-542-1505

**Immanuel Lutheran**
Rev. Jay Wheeler
101 E View Pl
Osceola IA 50213
641-342-3121

**Kansas**

**St John Lutheran**
Rev. Peter Lange
901 SW Fillmore St
Topeka KS 66606
785-354-7132

www.issuesetc.org
Find a Church (cont.)

**Maryland**

Zion Lutheran  
Rev. Keith Clow  
209 N Main St  
Accident MD 21520  
301-746-8170

**Michigan**

Peace Lutheran  
Rev. Thomas Messer  
325 E Warwick Dr  
Alma MI 48801  
989-463-5754

Grace Lutheran  
Rev. David Reed  
303 Ruth St  
Auburn, MI 48611  
989-662-6161

Emmanuel Lutheran  
Rev. Rod Zwonitzer  
Rev. Joel Baseley  
800 S Military St  
Dearborn MI 48124  
313-565-4002

Resurrection Lutheran  
Rev. Scott Benjamin  
20531 Kelly Rd  
Detroit MI 48225  
313-372-4902

Our Savior Lutheran  
Rev. David Fleming  
Rev. North Sherrill, Jr  
2900 Burton St SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49546  
616-949-0710

Zion Lutheran  
Rev. Roger James  
135 W Green St  
Marshall MI 49068  
269-781-8982

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word  
c/o Lutheran High Northwest  
Rev. Allen Lunneberg  
1000 Bagley Avenue  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
248-930-0173

**Minnesota**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Rev. Brian Thorson  
47334 132nd Street  
Lewisville, MN 56060  
507-435-2201

Glory of Christ Lutheran  
Rev. Klemet Preus  
Rev. John Fehrmann  
4040 Highway 101 N  
Plymouth MN 55446  
763-478-6031

St Johns Lutheran Church  
Rev. John Moe  
14385 Blaine Ave E  
Rosemount MN 55068  
651-423-2149

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Rev. Jeffrey Kuddes  
29972 570th Ave  
Waltham MN 55982  
507-567-2272

**Missouri**

Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Rev. Warren Woerth  
2211 Tenbrook Rd  
Arnold MO 63010  
636-296-1292

St Matthew Lutheran  
Rev. Charles Henrickson  
340 Summit  
Bonne Terre MO 63628  
573-358-3105

Beautiful Savior Lutheran  
Rev. David Bretsch  
12397 Natural Bridge Road  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
314-291-2395

Trinity Lutheran  
Rev. Keith Ellerbrock  
3765 Mc Kelvey Rd  
Bridgeton MO 63044  
314-739-0022

www.issuesetc.org
Find a Church (cont.)

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Rick Pettey
601 Kingsbury Blvd
Fredericktown MO 63645
573-783-2405

Mount Calvary Lutheran
Rev. James Gier
1215 Baldwin St
Excelsior Springs MO 64024
816-637-9800

Holy Cross Lutheran
Rev. Richard Bolland
Rev. Mark Stridivant
2003 NE Englewood Rd
Kansas City MO 64118
816-452-9113

Village Lutheran
Rev. Dr. Richard Warneck
9237 Clayton Rd
Ladue MO 63124
314-993-1834

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. David Oberdieck
1300 Kent Dr
Lebanon MO 65536
417-532-2717

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb
1075 E Urbandal Dr
Moberly MO 65270
660-263-3256

Zion Lutheran
Rev. Rick Pettey
601 Kingsbury Blvd
Gravelton MO 63645
573-783-2405

Christ Lutheran
Rev. Tyler Arnold
Rev. Brandon Froiland
6700 NW 72nd Street
Platte Woods, MO 64151
816-741-0483

Trinity Lutheran
Rev. Doug Gaunt
4795 N Hwy 94
St Charles MO 63301
636-250-3350

Peace Lutheran Church
Dr. Dennis A. Kastens
Rev. Jon C. Furgeson,
737 Barracksview Road
Saint Louis, MO 63125
314-892-5610

Prince of Peace
Dr. Mark Smith
8646 New Sappington Rd
St Louis MO 63126
314-843-8448

Hope Lutheran
Rev. Randy Asbury
Rev. Daniel Preus
5218 Neosho St
St Louis MO 63109
314-352-0014

Montana

Christ The King Lutheran
Rev. Ryan Wendt
759 Newman Ln
Billings MT 59101-4742
406-252-9250

Nebraska

St. Paul's Lutheran
Rev. Allen K. Strawn
506 Main Street
Bridgeport, NE 69336
308-262-0424

Zion Lutheran
Rev. David Kahle
1305 Broadway
Imperial NE 69033
308-882-5655

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. Clint Poppe
Rev Lance Berndt
3825 Wildbriar Ln
Lincoln NE 68516
402-423-7639

Ohio

Bethlehem Lutheran
Rev. Robert Green
7500 State Rd
Parma OH 44134
440-845-2230

www.issuesetc.org
Find a Church (cont.)

**Oregon**

Holy Cross Lutheran  
Rev. Bruce Ley  
2515 Queen Ave SE  
Albany OR 97322  
541-928-0214

**Pennsylvania**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran  
Rev. Jonathan Fisk  
307 Madison Road  
Springfield, PA 19064  
610-543-3100

**Tennessee**

Redeemer Lutheran  
Rev. Philip Young  
800 Bellevue Rd  
Nashville TN  37221-2702  
615-646-3150

**Texas**

Trinity Lutheran  
Rev. Paul Harris  
1207 W 45th  
Austin TX 78756  
512-453-3835

St Paul Lutheran  
Rev. Mark Nuckols  
3501 Red River St  
Austin TX 78705  
512-472-8301

Bethel Lutheran  
Rev. Thomas Baden  
1701 N Broadway  
Ballinger, TX 76821  
325-942-9275

Mount Calvary Lutheran  
Rev. Thomas Baden  
12358 Country Road  
Eola, TX 76937  
325-942-9275

Redeemer Lutheran  
Rev. David Grassley  
4513 Williams Rd  
Fort Worth TX 76116  
817-560-0030

**Our Savior Lutheran**  
Dr. Laurence White  
Rev. Thomas Glammeyer  
Rev. Paul Williams  
5000 West Tidwell Rd  
Houston TX 77091  
713-290-9087

Faith Lutheran  
Rev. Thomas Baden  
801 1st Street  
Ozona, TX 76943  
325-942-9275

**Faith Lutheran**  
Rev. James Woelmer  
Rev Robert Hill  
Rev Jacob Sutton  
1701 E Park Blvd  
Plano TX 75074  
972-423-7447

**Lord of Life Lutheran**  
Rev. John Lindner  
3601 W. 15th Street  
Plano, TX 75075  
972-867-5588

**Mount Calvary Lutheran**  
Rev. Kim De Vries  
308 Mount Calvary Dr  
San Antonio TX 78209  
210-824-8748

**Hope Lutheran**  
Rev. Thomas Baden  
417 E 2nd Street  
Sonora, TX 76950  
325-942-9275

**Virginia**

Immanuel Lutheran  
Rev. Christopher Esget  
1801 Russell Road  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-549-0155

**Washington**

 Messiah Lutheran  
Rev. Kurt Onken  
9209 State Ave  
Marysville WA 98270  
360-659-4112

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)
Find a Church (cont.)

**Wisconsin**

**Elm Grove Lutheran**
Rev. Larry Myers
Rev. Eric Skovgaard
945 N Terrace Dr
Elm Grove WI 53122
262-797-2970

**Mount Zion Lutheran**
Rev. Aaron Koch
3820 W Layton Ave
Greenfield WI 53221
414-282-4900

**St Johns Lutheran**
Rev. James Mallmann
Rev. Matthew Shive
450 Bridge St
Mayville WI 53050
920-387-3568

**Peace Lutheran**
Rev. Terry Ahlemeyer
1228 S Park Ave
Neenah WI 54956
920-725-0510

**Grace Lutheran**
Rev. Thomas Chryst
Rev. Randal Poppe
3700 Washington Ave
Racine WI 53405
262-633-4831

**Luther Memorial Chapel**
Dr Ken Wieting
3833 N Maryland Ave
Shorewood WI 53211
414-332-5732

**Peace Lutheran**
Rev. Peter Bender
W240 N6145 Maple Ave
Sussex WI 53089
262-246-3200

**Pilgrim Lutheran**
Rev. Joseph Fisher
462 Meadowbrook Dr
West Bend WI 53090
262-334-0375

**Wyoming**

**Redeemer Lutheran**
Rev. David Bott
175 N. Willow Street
Jackson WY 83001
307-733-3409

**Zion Lutheran**
Rev. Paul Rosberg
601 S 9th St
Douglas WY 82633-2704
307-358-2810

**Zion Lutheran**
Rev. Shawn Kumm
406 S. 19th Street
Laramie, WY 82070
307-745-9262

www.issuesetc.org
Listen to Issues, Etc.

on-demand 24/7 at www.issuesetc.org

click “On Demand”

also

Live weekdays from 3:00-5:00 pm CST, at www.issuesetc.org

Live weekdays from 3:00-5:00 pm, on AM 1360 KNGN in McCook, NE

Live weekdays from 4:00-5:00 pm, on AM 1320 Bott Radio Network in St. Louis, MO

Sundays, 9:00-10:00 am, on AM 1370 KSUM in Fairmont, MN

Sundays, 6:00-7:00 pm, on 95.7 FM KKOK in Morris, MN

Weekly on 40+ signals of the regional Pilgrim Radio Network covering Wyoming, Nevada, and Northern California

Listen to What You Want, When You Want