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The Job of a Pastor

by Pastor Hjulberg

Hello Saints of Mount Olive! I am excited to serve as your Pastor. As a short introduction, I am the youngest of four boys, I am engaged to my beautiful fiancée **Sarah**, and I am originally from Riverside, CA. It was growing up in the Church where I was first encouraged to become a Pastor by my Pastor, **Steven Borst**. Later, when I was in college, I saw the great need for Pastors, so I switched my major of Environmental Science to Communication Studies. I then applied to Concordia, Seminary in St. Louis, one of our two Seminaries in the LCMS.

Because of the great need for Pastors in the wider Church today, I would like to spend some time talking about what a Pastor does.



The word “Pastor” comes from the Greek word meaning “Shepherd.” The Pastor shepherds the congregation entrusted to his care. For example, as I was growing up in Immanuel Lutheran, I saw my Pastors preach God’s Word on Sunday morning and teach Bible Class to our congregation.

When my grandmother was nearing the end of her life, my Pastors were there to comfort her and administer the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to her. They prayed with us and spoke God’s promises to us, such as Christ conquered sin and death on our behalf. Through these experiences at Immanuel, I saw what the job of a Pastor was and that influenced me to become a Pastor.

The Pastor often sits at his desk, studying and researching to prepare for his sermons or Bible classes, since his first and foremost job is to administer Word and Sacrament. To administer the Word means the Pastor preaches and teaches God's Word. He proclaims the forgiveness of sins to people. To administer the Sacraments means the Pastor baptizes everyone, from babies to adults. He administers the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins during Sunday communion and in homes or hospitals for those who are sick or unable to make it to Sunday worship.

The Pastor is actively in the lives of the people entrusted to his care. The Pastor visits the sick and the dying. If someone dies in the middle of the night, the Pastor is there to comfort with the promises of Christ Jesus. The Pastor is there to counsel and to absolve people of their sins. This is what excites me about serving as Pastor at Mt. Olive: to administer the Word and the Sacraments to you. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your stories!



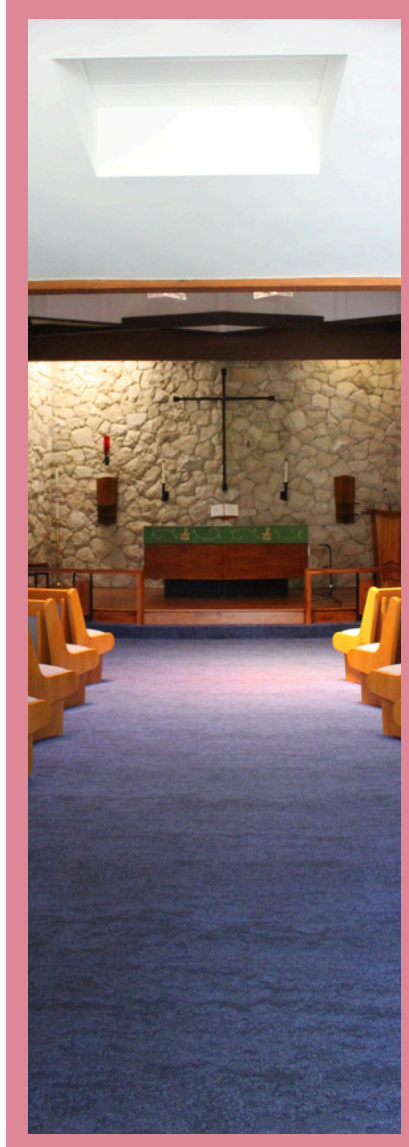
Old Testament Apocrypha

The Apocrypha are the fourteen books that were added to the Old Testament after it was closed in 424 B.C--the last chapter being Malachi. This ended the Old Testament as acknowledged by all Jews and most Protestants. The LCMS does not accept any of The Apocrypha, however, The Roman Catholic Church accepts eleven of the fourteen books of The Apocrypha as canon and includes them in their bible. The Roman Catholic Church left out 1 and 2 Esdras and the prayer of Manassas. All of the Apocrypha books were written in Greek from 200BC to 100AD.

Why did the Roman Catholics accept the 11 books of the Apocrypha?

The Reformation, which occurred in the 16th century, shook Europe to the core and negatively impacted the Roman Catholic Church. Luther had translated the Bible into German, and he declared only the Hebrew canon to be Scripture. He did include the Apocrypha between the testaments as non- canonical history, but not as Scripture.

The Roman Catholic Church was backed to the wall and people were deserting by the hundreds. They were delighted with the refreshing introduction of Biblical doctrine which had been overlaid by superstition, ignorance and neglect for centuries during the Dark Ages.



At that time, the Word of God was in print and available to the people, allowing the doctrine to be taught again. People were responding and the Roman Catholic Church knew it had to do something, and fast, or it would not survive. In 1546, the church called for the Council of Trent to take steps to resist the Lutherans, and to settle the question of the canon. The reformers were turning back to Scripture, and saying that the Word of God is what God thinks and not what the Pope or church tradition says. Only the Word of God has authority over our lives. This forced debate as to what was the Word of God.

After one stormy session of this Council of Trent, there were only 53 of the delegates present, and none of these were scholars of canonical history.



Chief Elder Bill Dahlgren

Why the Apocrypha was rejected as scripture

There are certain reasons why we reject the Apocryphal books, esteemed by millions today. If asked why you reject them, the answer, "because my pastor said so," may be a good one, but it is certainly not enough!

1. It is universally acknowledged that they never had a place in the Hebrew canon.
2. They are never quoted in the New Testament (N.T.) by the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostles, or any N.T. writers, nor do they themselves claim to be inspired. Jesus quoted very frequently from Scriptures of the O.T., but He never quoted from the Apocrypha. The Apostles quoted from Old Testament (O.T.) scriptures, but they never quoted the Apocrypha.
3. Josephus, the Jewish historian, states that the Hebrew Bible has 24 books, while the O.T. has 39. The Apocryphal books are excluded.
4. Philo of Alexandria was a great Jewish philosopher (20 B.C. to A.D. 50). He wrote extensively, quoting frequently from the O.T. but never mentions the Apocrypha.
5. There was no list of the O.T. canon made during the first four centuries A.D., which includes the Apocrypha. Periodically, Christian writers would make a list and say, "these books constitute scripture." Always, the 39 books were in them, but never was the Apocrypha included.

They ended the council by passing the decree by the Pope's authority that the Apocrypha were canonical and were to be accepted as Scripture along with the unwritten traditions of the church.

The Protestant churches all along rejected the Apocrypha, and though they were included in our excellent KJV for a while as history, in 1827 they were removed all together and permanently.

6. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin, held to the Hebrew canon and emphatically rejected the authority of the Apocrypha.

7. No writer of the Apocrypha claims divine inspiration and authority. Some even disclaim it.

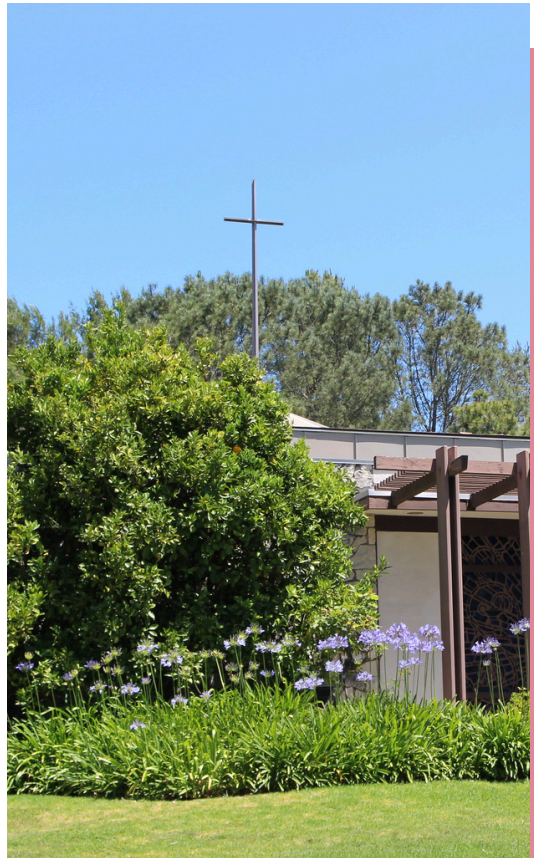
8. No line of prophets existed at the time Apocrypha were written between the testaments.

9. The Apocrypha contains many historical, geographical, and chronological errors/distortions of O.T. stories. These contradict themselves, as well as Biblical and secular history.

10. The Apocrypha teaches doctrine and practices contrary to the canonized Scriptures, which is one of the strongest points against the Apocrypha. For example, one of the Apocryphal books sanctions lies under certain situations. For instance, there are references sanctioning suicide, assassinations, and salvation by works through almsgiving (Ecclesiasticus 3:30). Maccabees 12:40-45 teaches prayers for the dead, from which the concept of purgatory comes. The Apocrypha teaches that the Samaritans should be hated. Ecclesiasticus 33:26 teaches that if you have slaves, you should treat them cruelly. Wisdom of Solomon 8:19-20 teaches the concept of the pre-existence of souls and that souls can meet in the world before they are born.

I think Martin Luther's statement about the Apocrypha makes my final comments,

"These books are not held equal to the sacred scriptures but are useful and good to read."



Pastor Hjulberg's Installation Party





PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Ellie and Harper explore the garden.





Our first "SING SUNDAY"

is on September 22 at 10 a.m. Our community is thriving, and our families are thrilled with our services. Our monthly Christian curriculum consists of the stories that God Made the World and the Plants, God Made Animals and People, and God calls Abraham, and Abraham is Blessed. Our Discovery Point says that God gives us nighttime to relax and find rest because God has shown us how much he loves us in Jesus. We can also be sure of His love and care for us through the night.



PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

David Welch

We had a fantastic summer with almost 70 families here in June, July, and August, with many new families signed up for our school in September. Our new school year will start with approximately 65 families compared to 52 families last September.



Nya



Ava

editor's message

Hello everyone! Thank you again for taking the time to read another edition of the "Olive Press," and thank you for those who contributed to this newsletter. As you may or may not know, I am heading off to college in mid-September, which means that I will be passing off my job as Editor to someone else. It is my greatest pleasure to introduce you to **Emma Carter**, who is the Administrative Business Manager here at Mt. Olive and now the new Editor of the "Olive Press." This edition is led by Emma, and I am sure you agree that it is an amazing edition! Thank you very much to Emma for adding this responsibility on to her long list of to-do's. We truly appreciate you so much! ❤️

Christine Xie

Hello Mount Olive! I am so grateful for the community and support that you have shown me so far. I am honored to be taking over the Olive Press from **Christine Xie** as she embarks on this exciting new season of life at Stanford. I want to express my gratitude to Christine for being so intentional about her work on the Olive Press the past two years. She has laid a solid foundation and expectation for the Olive Press going forward, and I am elated to carry on this legacy!

Emma Carter



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	2 Labor Day	3	4 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	5 9:30am Chapel	6 6:30pm Chinese Bible Study	7
8 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	9 9:30am ESL Class	10	11 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	12 9:30am Chapel 6pm Movie Night	13 6:30pm Chinese Bible Study	14 7pm Youth Group
15 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	16 9:30am ESL Class	17	18 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	19 9:30am Chapel 10am Preschool Board 7pm Elders	20 9:15 am Parents Chapel 6:30pm Chinese Bible Study	21
22 9am Bible Class 10am Sing Sunday Worship	23 9:30am ESL Class	24	25 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	26 9:30am Chapel 7pm Council	27 6:30pm Chinese Bible Study	28 7pm Youth Group
29 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	30 9:30am ESL Class	1	2 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	3 9:30am Chapel	4 6:30pm Chinese Bible Study	5

Holidays and Observances: 2: Labor Day



*For further calendar updates, please visit www.mtoliverpv.com

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