

Trinity Lutheran Church

McFarland, Kansas

Midweek Bible Study

May 5, 2021

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Versicles

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;
hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon
I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;
He will never let the righteous fall.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

sts. 1, 4, 6



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,
6 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus; Nev - er let me fall.



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.
I am trust - ing Thee for - ev - er And for all.

Text and tune: Public domain

Bible Study - The Divine Call

O Lord,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ,
have mercy upon us.
O Lord,
have mercy upon us.

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

Noon from Lutheran Service Book

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The Divine Call

Thinking back, I don't think we've actually talked about the Divine Call at any point in the eight years that I have been your pastor. However, there are two events this month that brought this topic to mind for me as our midweek Bible study for May. First, there was my announcement that I had received a call – two calls in fact. Second, there is the upcoming ordination at St. John in Alma for Christian Schultz, who received a call last week to serve in Paola, Kansas. We will talk about the call process in some detail today, but we need to especially talk about it from a Biblical basis.

The Call of the Apostles

The place to start is with the basics: how were the apostles called into the ministry, and what can we learn about their call?

- The call of the Apostles is found in Matthew 10:1-16. Who is being called? What is the scope of this call? What are they to do?
- What qualified the Apostles for their service?
- In Acts 1, the Apostles had to select a new member to replace Matthias. His “call” is recorded in Acts 1:20-23. How did this selection take place? What qualifications did the Apostles set? Who made the selection?
- Finally, we can look at the calling of Paul, when he and Barnabas were “set apart.” Read Acts 13:1-3. How did the call come? What was the purpose of their call – narrow or open? What role did the Church play in the call?

The Source of the Call

In all of these cases, the call comes from the same place. Someone may “feel” called into the ministry, but it is only the external call that places a man into the Office of Public Ministry.

- What was the source of the call to the Apostles? How do we know?

- What was the source of Matthias' call? How do we know that he really was God's choice?
- What was the role of the congregation in the call of Paul and Barnabas?
- In the calling of pastors today, the source of the call is the same: the call comes from God. But it comes from God *and* from the congregation.

The Call Process

It isn't enough to just talk about the call in the abstract; we can also talk about the call in the specifics, based on this month's events.

- Last Tuesday and Wednesday, candidates from the seminaries received their calls. In most cases, the congregation had authorized the district presidents to assign them candidates. The call came from the congregation, but it was through the districts/synod.
- In my case, the call came from a congregation that had received a list of names from their district president and, after reading through paperwork filled out by the pastors on that list, they prayed and deliberated and came to believe that God was leading them to call me.
- The challenge for the congregation in the call process is determining the pastor that God has chosen for them.
- The challenge for the pastor is determining what the Holy Spirit is saying – “Stay” or “Go.”
- Whose will and intent is most important to the call process?