

## Why Do We Say What We Say? The Invocation

When I was little, I grew up in a church that had responsive readings, unison prayers, versicles, and other elements. I grew to love these liturgical elements of the service as a child because they were familiar and they were comforting. As an adult, I see this same familiarity and comfort in my children as we say the same words together on Sundays. As an adult, I also have the benefit of knowing that the words that we say on Sunday also have great spiritual depth and comfort that goes beyond familiarity. The real comfort comes because in the liturgy God's Word is speaking the Gospel to me.

One such word of comfort that many of you may often hear on a Sunday morning is called the invocation. "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

The invocation is something that, I admit, I have often overlooked. It is something that is often said and so it has a tendency to become *merely* rote. I say, "merely" because rote memory is not a bad thing. For example, I hope my children know my phone number from rote memory. How many of us have John 3:16 memorized, or Psalm 23? How many of us would choose not to have more scripture known in a rote fashion for ourselves and our children? Indeed, something good being rote is very good!

However, rote words and actions may present a problem. Rote words and actions become an issue when the words become devoid of meaning. Many a church goer has been heard lamenting that they wish church wasn't full of rote words and actions. Those who think and feel this way are right. It is an issue that needs to be addressed.

To address the issue, we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bath water, but we should be more precise in identifying the problem. The problem isn't that the words are rote, it is that we have a tendency to separate the meaning of the words from the words themselves. To say it another way, we simply don't think about what we are saying.

So, what should we think about when we hear the words of invocation? I believe there are at least two things we ought to think about when we hear these words.

First, we ought to think of the 2nd commandment. Martin Luther explains the second commandment, "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain," in his [Small Catechism](#). He says, "We should fear and love God so that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, *but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks*" (emphasis mine). It is precisely this we are doing as we begin the service with the invocation. We are calling upon God, from whom we expect all good things, according to his command as we pray, praise, and give thanks during our worship services. This is precisely what we do when we begin the service with the invocation.

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The purpose of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is to worship God in a Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry, evangelizing, discipling, nurturing and equipping people for the spiritual well-being of every life.

### Pastor Schultz



# Volunteer Schedule

Please mark your calendars and if there are any conflicts with your schedule, please find someone to fill your spot and let Kristine Dootson know of the substitution. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, call Kristine Dootson @425-753-2020.

Date	Nursery	Lay Reader	Flowers	Coffee
8/4	Melissa Douthit	Cheri Sorenson	Open	WMF Celebration Sunday
8/11	Leslie Weidner	Pam Jussel	Open	Open
8/18	Kristine Dootson	Joe Bottem	Open	Open
8/25	Cheri Sorenson	Kristine Dootson	Open	Open

## August Birthdays

Patricia Ames	Aug. 1
Rod Jussel	Aug. 4
Bill Marovich	Aug. 5
Scott Wright	Aug. 6
Nolan Weidner	Aug. 7
Karan Chainani	Aug. 9
Mika Paige	Aug. 10
Melissa Douthit	Aug. 10
Doyle Watson	Aug. 12
Darcy Watson	Aug. 13
Matthew Paige	Aug. 15
Dave Weidner	Aug. 21
Mayah Rieth	Aug. 23
Ashley Bottem	Aug. 30
Ryan Douthit	Aug. 30

## August Anniversaries

**Tanya & John Slonecker**  
8-17-97  
**Leanne & Jeremy Hatch**  
8-17-02  
**Nick & Tina Ostlund**  
8-19-95  
**Warren & Carolyn Bosma**  
8-21-71  
**Dick & Jane Christie**  
8-25-79  
**Shane & Dayna Hall**  
8-10  
**Dave & Leslie Weidner**  
8-30-08

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The Second thing we ought to think about when we hear the invocation is when these words were uttered over us in our Baptism. Our Baptism liturgy says, "Receive the sign of the holy cross upon your mind and heart as a token that you shall believe in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. (Insert name here), I baptize you into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." In Baptism infants are received into Christ's Body and receive faith through the work of the Holy Spirit. So when we hear the name of the Triune God in the invocation, we can be comforted knowing that is in the name of our good and gracious God that we have gathered and it is from His hand which we will receive grace and mercy.

Now, it must be said, many items in a worship service are a matter of freedom for congregations and pastors. It is not necessary to begin a service with the invocation in the same way it is not absolutely necessary for a pastor to use the AFLC's pericope or for a congregation to have a certain style of music. In Christ, we are free from the burden of traditions and observances.

However, as we learn *why* we say the things we say and *why* do the things we do, we will not only grow to appreciate the depth of meaning contained in our worship services but we will be built up in our faith having been exposed to the Word of God which does not go out void but accomplishes that for which it is purposed. And as an additional bonus, we by the grace of God, get to teach the meaning of these things to our children so that their comfort in the words on Sunday is not just familiarity, but is the comfort that only the Gospel provides.

Pastor Nicholas Schultz

We had a great week at VBS! Thanks to all those who volunteered! We had about 73 students and they had a great time!



#### **Community Prayer and Worship Night**

Congregations from the Kingsgate neighborhoods are organizing a community prayer and worship night for Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Kingsgate 1 & 2 Park. Evening starts at 5 PM with a shared meal and worship and prayer to follow. Look in the bulletin for details to come.

#### **Community Serve Day!**

August 25th

Join ORLC and our neighbors as we help Robert Frost Elementary for the return of students.

We will have a shortened service at 9:30 AM. At 10:00 AM we will walk over to Robert Frost and serve.

There is work available for all ages. Come in your work clothes.

#### **District News**

Pastor Del Palmer, the former AFLC World Missions Director, has accepted a call to be Interim Pastor of Triumph Lutheran Church in Ferndale. Del formerly served as pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Everett, WA and Karen is originally from Ferndale.

#### **ORCS Work Day**

On August 20th, ORCS will be having a work day from 9 am-noon to get the building ready for school. Join us if you can!

## Rally Sunday!

On 9/8, ORLC will have Rally Sunday! Rally Sunday is a Sunday Morning when we will especially be highlighting ways for people to be active in the ministry of ORLC. Do you have a ministry you are passionate about? In the month of August, we are asking that you prepare a small display that explains 1. What is the ministry called? 2. What does the ministry do? 3. How can someone get involved? Then on Rally Sunday, we will set up the displays and have a signup for the ministries for people to get involved or to get more information. We'll keep the displays up for the month of September, and then in January we'll have a Winter Rally.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Schultz.

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The *Christian Connection* is edited and published for ORLC . It is also available on our website [www.orlckirkland.org](http://www.orlckirkland.org) . If you do not want to receive it in your inbox, please let us know by calling (425)821-2424 or emailing [orlckirkland@hotmail.com](mailto:orlckirkland@hotmail.com).

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