MARQUAND READER

Volume 12, Issue 10: Week of 26th October, 2014

**The newsletter of Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School**

**THIS WEEK IN MARQUAND**

*Services begin at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!*

Welcome back!

While some of us took a break from New Haven during reading period, many more stayed here to take part in the inspiring events of Alumni convocation. Marquand was buzzing with excitement, music, lectures and preaching. Whether you were here or away, welcome back to our normal routine!

**Monday 27th October: The Body of Christ**

It is a commonplace for the Church to be referred to as “the body of Christ”. But what does it mean for our faith to be “embodied”?

**Tuesday 28th October: Collaborate!**Our society pushes us all the time to think of ourselves as individuals, and to look after No. 1. How do we live counter-culturally, and engage in worship that truly promotes Christian community?

Mark Miller and MGI Ensemble will lead the music today.

**Wednesday 29th October**: **The Practice of the Presence of God**Brother Lawrence was a “lay brother” in a French monastery. He lacked the education to become a cleric, and consequently spent most of his time in the monastery kitchens, later adding sandal repair to his skills. Br. Lawrence developed a deep spiritual practice, based in finding God in every moment of the day, even in the most menial tasks of peeling vegetables or washing dishes. Today, come and experience something of Brother Lawrence’s spirituality, in a service that includes a “Visual sermon” prepared by graduating students Jean Santopatre and Tim Cahill.

**Thursday 30th October - Sung Morning Prayer**

This week we embark on a new cycle of Sung Morning Prayer, in which we explore old texts set to new tunes. Come and sing some of the old classics as you have never heard them before; come and rediscover hymns breathed into fresh life with new and inspiring melodies.

**Friday 31st October - Community Eucharist**

On this day in 1517, Luther nailed his theses to the door in Wittenberg. October 31st is now observed as “Reformation Day” in Lutheran and Reformed denominations. Today we will celebrate a service of Holy Communion, with Jeffrey Braun preaching and Tim Keyl presiding at the table.

**Rev. Jeffrey Braun** (M.Div. 2004) is the Senior Minister of First Congregational Church, Cheshire. Since graduating from YDS, he has also served on the Yale Divinity School Board of Advisors, and has helped teach the “Introduction to Pastoral Care” course as an adjunct member of the Divinity faculty.

**The Rev. Timothy J. Keyl** is Pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven, and newly appointed Director of the Lutheran Studies Program at YDS.

***See overleaf for a short article by Emilie Casey on the placement of***

***confession and forgiveness in a Lutheran liturgy.***

***The Marquand Chapel Team, 2014-15***

Maggi Dawn *Dean of Chapel* Emilie Casey, Adam Perez, Victoria Larson.

Sara O’Bryan *Interim Director of Chapel Music* Joshua Rio-Ross, Jackie Spycher,

Christa Swenson *Liturgical Coordinator* Mark Koyama, Jonathan Toles *Chapel Ministers*

Mark Miller  *Marquand Gospel & Inspirational* Christian Crocker *Chapel Choir Director*

*Ensemble* *Director*  Wesley Hall, Patrick Kreeger,

Jacob Street *Organ Scholars*

**Some dates for your diary**

**Friday November 7th**

**10.30 am Jazz Eucharist with Theodicy -- 12.30-1.20 pm Marquand Worship Workshop**

Rev. Andy Barnett (MDiv 2012) returns to YDS with jazz ensemble Theodicy for a jazz Eucharist, followed at lunchtime by a Marquand Worship Workshop – an opportunity to learn about how jazz can both enliven worship and create space for thinking differently about theology and worship.

**Wednesday December 3rd 7.00 pm Advent Service**

The evening of the last day of Fall classes begins with our traditional Advent service. We celebrate the end of classes and the beginning of Advent, and the anticipation of the coming Christ with a feast of musical, theological, liturgical and artistic riches.

**Confession and Forgiveness in Lutheran Worship**

***by Emilie Casey***

The sentiment, “Welp! I’m only human,” cannot be reconciled with a Lutheran account of sin. Far better is the excuse: “The Devil made me do it.” For Lutherans, sin is a deep distortion of the will not limited to our voluntary deeds. This understanding speaks not only to those who suffer on account of individual brokenness, but also those suffering on account of wider systematic sin or violence.

Sin is not only dishonoring your father and mother, but also when an elderly person is cooped up in their own home for medical reasons, with nobody to visit them or to make sure they are eating. Sin is not only murder, but the reality that when a child is killed in the “bad” part of town and the police do nothing about it. Sin is not only adultery, but sin is when a woman is being abused by her husband and the church fails to report it.

The Augsburg Confession begins with Psalm 119:46: “I will also speak of thy testimonies before kings, and shall be put to shame.” Confession is simultaneously confession of sins *and* public testimony—repentance and witness to salvation. When we expose our brokenness through corporate confession, we are praying with confidence that our God will transform our world into a heavenly Kingdom where people do not go hungry, neglected, or abused—where we are not “enslaved and held captive by the devil.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Which is why Confession and Forgiveness is often the first thing a Lutheran community gathers to do in worship. While certainly other traditions practice Confession and Forgiveness in public worship, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* places Confession and Forgiveness within the framework of Gathering, when “the Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”[[2]](#footnote-2) We are moved by the Spirit to name the ways in which we fail to love God and fail to love our neighbor *immediately*. In doing so we claim God’s mercy is greater than our sin. This confidence in Christ's saving action is at the heart of the Lutheran Confessional witness.

1. Apology for the Augsberg Confession--Article II: Original Sin

   2 ELW 92 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)