

Nbr. 61 – May, 2024

### **He's the One!**

Have you ever heard an expression that first struck you as unusual, yet now you have come to appreciate it? One such for me is, "He's the One."

Preaching on *The Lutheran Hour*, Oswald Hoffmann used to say this again and again about Jesus Christ: "He's the One." *Very well*, I used to think. *But what, exactly?* The One WHAT?

Well, Jesus is the One and only One . . .

- Who lived up to His name, "Savior."
- Man Who is also God, eternally the only Son of the Father.
- Mediator between God and men.
- Who was left all alone, just One, when even His Father abandoned Him as He bore the sin of all.
- Who nailed our sin to His cross and left it there when He rose from the dead.
- Who sends the Holy Spirit to bring us pardon and peace in Word and Sacrament.
- Who is exalted over all, having been given the Name above all names at His ascension, now ruling all things for the good of His church.
- mighty Lion of the tribe of Judah Who is also the meek Lamb Who once was slain.

A lot more could be added to this list, of course. As we hear Christ's Word, meditate and converse on it, we have more and more to treasure and to talk about.

*See? WOW!* What we have to tell others concerning Him begins and ends with Him and what He has done for us. He always gives us something to talk about. He's the One, all right. He's the One.

### **Questions of the Week**

At the end of April, CID will cease sending every one of its congregations a Question of the Week every week. A show of hands at the recent Pastors' Conference showed that these questions are basically not accomplishing the *evangelistic* purpose of helping churches gather contact information on non-churched visitors.

However, all our churches can keep right on using the various Questions of the Week. Go to <https://www.cidlcms.org/myth-or-faith.html> There you will find the complete set of "myths" on which the questions are based. Links to the audio segments offering the responses are there too.

It is easy to turn the myth statements into questions. For instance, if the myth is "Christians become angels when they die," the question would be: "Do Christians become angels when they die?"

### **Beyond the Classroom**

Training is starting with four schools in May. Help me urge churches with schools or preschools to contact Trip Rodgers and schedule their training.

### **"Back page" item**

Our "Worth Considering" feature this month is adapted from a presentation found in the March issue of the *Lutheran Clarion*. This installment, like the entire series of "back page" *See? WOW!* features of which it is the last part, appears thanks to Lutheran Concerns Association.

### **Summer Break**

This is the last *See? WOW!* issue for a while. The Lord be with you over the several weeks of summer!



**Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers**

*Worth Considering:*

We should teach evangelism at the “middle level.”

The Synod’s 2023 resolution 1-01A notes that one of the ways to address Christians’ fear to speak of Christ with others is to teach them not only the Gospel itself but also ways they can become conversant concerning it. Therefore the Synod highly recommends its *Every One His Witness* materials for training in contextual witnessing within one’s own circle of family and friends.

*Every One His Witness* features an approach summarized in the acronym LASSIE – Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage. These are not points on an outline to be covered sequentially, but more like a checklist of items that go into one or more evangelistic conversations. The core *Every One His Witness* module devotes time to each of these six.

*Every One His Witness* also includes a growing number of context modules to prepare Christians for witness to people from various backgrounds, such as Muslims or Mormons, those who worship science, recently discharged military veterans, and more. The video portions utilize the LASSIE checklist in these very specialized applications, with expert guests providing guidance.

So we have a way to teach witnessing basics, the core module. And we have very detailed context modules for highly specific cases. But to me, at least, we lack material to teach evangelism in between, at what I am calling here the “middle level.”

My favorite football team is the Green Bay Packers, the Lombardi-era Packers of the 1960s. In those days the staple play of the Packer offense was the power sweep: a running back going around end,

following the blocks of two pulling guards. It was a simple play on paper, but Coach Lombardi spent hours drilling the offense to run it against every possible defensive alignment and maneuver. They learned the play down to every conceivable detail, yet it remained: running back following two guards.

The *Every One His Witness* context modules resemble the extensive, detailed instruction that Lombardi gave the Packers about the power sweep. The core module introduces LASSIE – Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage – which would be like saying that the team will move the ball downfield by running, blocking, and passing. What it seems to me that we lack are “plays,” evangelism equivalents of a power sweep. Not too complicated, but not too basic – this is what I mean by the “middle level.”

And here there can be advances, like in the particular witnessing skills the Synod has noted: listening to nonchurched people, beginning a spiritual conversation, making a simple statement of the Gospel, and defending the resurrection. As we work on these, across the Synod there will be a growing set of particular “plays” that can be written up and offered to the rest of us.

For example, to begin a spiritual conversation a useful “play” to have as a resource is Paul Foust’s “church testimony,” which goes from saying that my church gives me a place where I can express my gratitude to God to finally saying that the most important thing my church has done for me is getting me ready to die, then quoting Romans 6:23 about the wages of sin and the free gift of God.

CID’s Evangelism Commission is planning to release material to help Christians with evangelism at the “middle level,” and to help churches teach it.

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