



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
 508 North Chicago Road
 Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

October - November 2018

A free will offering will be taken to help the new furnace fund.



gobble 'til
 YOU Wobble!
 HAPPY TURKEY DAY!




Our Thanksgiving Worship Service will be Sunday November 18th at 4 PM followed by a Traditional Turkey dinner.

As in the past, turkey and gravy will be provided and we ask everyone to sign up and bring the fixins. So as to have a good variety, signup sheets for desserts, veggies, salads and stuffing will be posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall when we get closer to Thanksgiving. See where your favorite dish will fit in and sign-up.

We are off on our under the sea adventure to learn more about Jonah and God's forgiveness. We will be studying Jonah until the end of

October. Sunday School will meet from 9-9:30. I know there have been multiple time changes and we are very sorry for the confusion!! Please tell neighbors and friends, hope to see you Sunday :)



 **“Take a card and bring the item next Sunday”** to help restock the food pantry. Cards are located on the pantry door in the southwest corner of the parish hall. Food baskets are always getting delivered so please keep taking the cards. A meal only lasts for a few hours then you are hungry again. That is why the pantry is always running low. Gift cards and cash donations are welcome and are used to purchase perishable items, i.e. a \$15 gift card from Aldi’s can buy milk, eggs, bread and ground beef. Those who are in need are always very grateful. This is done on your behalf and in the name of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ! To help with distribution we could use grocery sized paper bags.



We’d love to see you in worship. If for some reason you cannot make it, you may join in the service in our live streaming at 9:45 a.m. at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/live-broadcast>

Our recorded worship services are archived at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/recorded-service>



SCIENCE AND GOD’S WONDROUS WORKS

by John Gault

Is science a great blessing from God? Or is it an attempt to put man above God? The answer isn't always clear, it's likely because different meanings are given to the word "science."

As the word is used by those of us who call ourselves "scientists," science is a method; it is not a collection of facts, theories, and "laws." My answer, then, is that true science is a real blessing. But like many of God's gifts, it can be misused.

Listening to God

The "scientific method" had its beginnings in the work of Johannes Kepler, a Lutheran astronomer who was born in Germany in 1571. He is the first person to correctly describe the paths of the sun, planets and stars across the sky. However, his contribution was much greater than correctly predicting the orbits of the planets. He was the first to use what has become known as the scientific method.

Like many great ideas, Kepler's contribution seems both simple and obvious after the fact. He said the final test of whether or not a theory or idea is correct is nature—the physical world.

Kepler also said the only valid way to test a theory is to do a measurement (an experiment). If the measurement gives the expected result, the theory being tested is correct; if not, the theory is wrong. That's an important advancement, considering that before Kepler's time, the way to prove an idea correct was to cite an accepted human authority, such as Aristotle.

Seen from the viewpoint of a scientist who is a Christian, science is a way of listening to God as He "speaks" to us through nature. This explains

why science has given us so many blessings. Listening to God always brings blessings!

A further advantage of the scientific method is that it allows any person who so wishes to repeat the experiment and confirm for himself whether or not the theory is correct.

With Kepler's approach, arguments about which theory was best could be settled quickly and indisputably, allowing scientists to concentrate on the next problem. His work set the stage for Galileo and Newton and the rapid developments brought on by modern science.

The hand of God

Science is no substitute for the study of God's Word in the Scriptures, of course. Science can only complement the Scriptures, reinforcing and clarifying the love and care taken by God to construct the physical world and the physical laws that govern us.

But the closer we investigate the physical world, the more we see the hand of God at work. The apostle Paul, in Rom. 1:20, writes, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

The more we study the physical world, the more evident is the intricate system the Creator has built for us. Science enables us to glimpse some of the many complex relationships and processes that God put in place for our good—and we know there are many we have not yet seen. Examples are the fungus He puts on the roots of corn to help it grow, and the gravity that holds our atmosphere to the Earth. Life on Earth would not be possible without these and many other things far too numerous to list, most of which we have not yet discovered or do not understand.

The greater the detail in which we investigate the world around us, the more apparent the examples of God's love for us and the careful planning that went into making our world.

Limited knowledge

Scientists are sinners, and the knowledge they gain can cause them to become arrogant. For Adam and Eve, the enticement of the forbidden fruit was

their belief that eating it would give them knowledge.

There are some scientists today who do not believe the universe was created by God. One who does not believe cannot see God anywhere. Scripture has many references to fools who say there is no god (Ps. 10:4), and certainly the fact that one is a scientist does not prevent him or her from being this type of a fool.

Our present knowledge of God's physical laws is very limited. Take gravity, for example. We say the reason a book falls is because of gravity. Using our knowledge of gravity, we can send a space probe from Earth and land it on Mars. However we have no idea how the book "knows" which direction it must fall. We do not know how the book and Earth communicate.

We don't understand how gravity works, except to say that it is by God's will. Thus, science teaches that we are far from understanding nature, that God is great and we understand very little of His creation.

Some see the Biblical account of creation as an area of conflict between science and the church. Those who see a conflict do not understand the limits of science, nor do they understand the futility of trying to fit something like creation into the mind of man.

There is no scientific theory of creation! The method of science can only function after all the "stuff" of the universe has been created and the laws that govern it have been established. In fact, one of the most fundamental laws of physics states that the physical laws do not change in time.

Measuring age

It is true that when science measures the age of fossils, planets, and stars, the ages obtained are millions, and, in some cases, billions of years. These measurements are constantly being revised, and the theories behind them undergo continual adjustment. Unlike the unchanging truth of Holy Scripture, knowledge in science is constantly changing.

The fact that these measurements are made by error prone, sinful humans and that they are based on theories that are also subject to error means that we can be certain none of the knowledge gained through science is perfect. This does not mean, however, that the

measurement of Earth's age as 4 billion years is the result of bad science.

There are many different measurement techniques that give this same answer. Science must report the answer that the experiment gives. The dating given is the best that science can do at the present time. It is certainly possible that some future discovery will render all our scientific ideas about the age of Earth and the universe wrong, but the science that produced these measurements is the same that has produced the technological world in which we live.

So, these measurements are "good science" by human standards, and the confidence level of the scientific community in them is high. Measuring the age of a rock as millions of years does not necessarily put science in conflict with the biblical account of creation, however, no matter how it might seem at first glance.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod teaches that "God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days" ("Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod"). Science measures the "age" of a rock; it does not measure when it was created.

In the biblical account of creation, Adam and Eve are created as adults (perhaps with an age of 25 years?). In the same way, it may be possible that as few as 6,000 years ago, God created an "adult" world one with an age of 4 billion years. Were this the case, all scientific measurements will give Earth's age as 4 billion years. Science cannot distinguish between a creation that took six days or one that *appears* to have taken 15 billion years (the astronomical age of the universe).

We humans need to admit that we simply don't understand creation.

God is Lord of time. "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8).

There is no limit to the amount of work God can do in a single day. It is impossible for science to distinguish between an adult world that God created 6,000 years ago and one that He built over time using the laws we now see in place around us. But we can be absolutely certain that God created everything in the universe, including the fossilized dinosaur bones whose age we measure to be 100 million years. For us to expect to understand how He did this is complete folly on our part.

God's wondrous works

Science that is God centered and truly listens for His "voice" as expressed in the physical world can help us better see how special a place He built for us. God-centered science also can help us understand how to be good stewards of the natural world.

I have spent much of my life studying science. Every article I read increases my awe of the marvelous universe God has created.

I also see the finger of God constantly pushing creation in our favor. Scientists, like many others, often have done a very poor job of witnessing and telling people about the wondrous works of God. We could do better—including giving witness to the greatest work of all (and one that is revealed not in creation, but in God's Word), that of sending His Son to die so that we humans, God's special creation, might have true life.

Dr. John Gault is professor of physics at Missouri Valley College and a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, both in Marshall, Mo.

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OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30pm Elders Meeting	3	4	5	6 7:00am Parish Hall
7 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	8 7:00pm Council Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 9:00am Trustee Work Day
14 8:30am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 8:30am Bible Class 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service 11:00am Voters Meeting	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:00pm Parish Hall	3 9:00am Parish Hall
4 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	5	6 7:30pm Elders Meeting	7	8	9 3:00pm Parish Hall	10 9:00am Trustee Work Day
11 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	12 7:00pm Council Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service 4:00pm Thanksgiving Worship Service and Turkey Dinner	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	