**The Heart of Good Lutheran Preaching**

**(Guidelines adopted by the Worship Department of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary 2018)**

***Lutheran proclamation at its best trusts that a) God speaks with authority b) to transform the preacher’s and hearers’ hearts and lives c) through the exposition of an inspired biblical text d) that uniquely proclaims Christ e) by its unique law/gospel dynamic f) so that the sermon honors the Spirit’s purpose g) as it makes specific application to each hearer’s heart and life.***

**Here are seven corollaries imbedded in this definition:**

* 1. We preach with confidence and conviction since we trust that God’s Spirit draws near to speak powerfully to us and our hearers through the Word we proclaim.
	2. We proclaim not merely to inform, but as the Spirit’s clay jar tools we speak so that he may transform hearts and lives – beginning with our own.
	3. We seek to be the Spirit’s tool to transform hearts by insuring that the heart of our proclamation is a faithful, contextual exposition of the inspired text.
	4. We make the heart of that exposition a proclamation of the gospel of Christ in a way that fits the text in its unique salvation-history context.
	5. We proclaim Christ together with the law’s honest digging to the heart of human depravity to display the beauty of the gospel’s answer to that depth of human need.
	6. We proclaim that unique law and gospel of each text so that the central proposition of the sermon matches the Spirit’s own clear purpose for that text.
	7. We proclaim the Spirit’s unique textual purpose with a personal “for you” quality that brings each text’s law/gospel near to the realities of each hearer’s heart and life.