



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION Share the Joy of His News by growing inward through God's Word, Sacraments and fellowship and by growing outward through words, actions, and mission outreach.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5 MAY 2015

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD: THE GOSPEL

We hear them telling in our own tongues the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).

In order to rightly hear the Bible and preaching, every Christian should have a basic understanding of the distinction between Law and Gospel. In short, the Law is what God wants us to do; the Gospel is what God does for us in Christ. This month, we'll focus on the Gospel.

We use the word "Gospel" in a couple ways. Most generically, "the Gospel" is the story of the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. It includes everything Jesus taught, both the commands and the promises. Thus we call the first four books of the New Testament "Gospels." Sometimes a reading from the Gospels is actually Jesus teaching the Law. But we still call this "the Gospel of the Lord."

But specifically, "the Gospel" is the Good News that Jesus took up our flesh, lived a perfect life for us, suffered the holy wrath of God on the cross, died in our place, rose on the third day, ascended into heaven, and will come again to restore all things. In this sense the Law is condemns us but the Gospel saves us. In other words, the 10 Command-

ments are good and holy, but they do not save or make Christians. Only the Gospel can do that. This is why every Christian gets taught John 3:16 or a similar verse at some point. It is the Gospel in a nutshell: "For in this way God loved the world, so that he gave his one and only Son, in order that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life."

Notice, the Gospel is not that God one day decided he would look the other way and no longer punish sin. It is that he punished our sins on his Son, Jesus. The Gospel is not that Jesus came to make our lives happy and healthy now. It is that he came to bring us into the kingdom of God and bring us new, eternal life. The Gospel is not that God helps us so that we can help ourselves. It is that he has done the full work of our salvation and we passively receive everything from him. Eph. 2:8-10: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Faith lives from the Gospel and believes that we have received the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation

because of Christ. Like food or air for the body, our faith needs to keep taking in the Gospel, be it in the preaching, in our baptism, or in the Holy Supper. We never graduate from the Gospel and move on to something else. Christians always need to hear of the love of God in Christ Jesus from which nothing can separate us.

We also need to keep hearing the Law. The Law condemns our sinful nature and make us cling to the Gospel alone for salvation apart from works. If the Law does not keep beating down old Adam, he'll convince us that the reason we're saved is in us and not in God alone.

The Law also guides our Christian life and shows us what works are pleasing to God. The Gospel comforts us by the truth that our lives and works are pleasing to God, imperfect as they are, because of Jesus' blood and righteousness. God calls us his sons and daughters for Christ's sake, and we call him our Father. Finally, we encouraged by the fact that one day we shall no longer sin or be sinned against but shall see God face to face.

Peace to you,

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CATHY HOLLMAN BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

CLOTHING FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes at the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM (People's City Mission).

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER please consider receiving your monthly newsletter via email to conserve and save paper. Please contact Cathy Hollman at the church office 826-3883 or cathy-atchurch@hotmail.com with your email address. Thank you for going GREEN!

HEALTHY HABITS: USE IT OR LOSE IT

This old adage certainly applies to our body activity. We all need to get moving, from toddlers to senior citizens. Can you name seven benefits of keeping active? Here are some.

Activity:

- ~Improves circulation.
- ~Lowers your risk of some types of cancer.
- ~Helps control your blood pressure, blood sugar, and weight.
- ~Lowers the "bad" LDL cholesterol in your body.
- ~Raises the "good" HDL cholesterol.
- ~Improves mood.
- ~Improves sleep.
- ~Makes your bones and joints stronger.
- ~Reduces falls.
- ~Prevents type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Wow! That's way more than seven benefits.

Here's how to get active: Start walking, even for just a few minutes on a few days each week. Eventually, you can increase both the length of time and number of days. This does not have to be an "all or nothing deal." Just start.

Do something you will enjoy such as biking, swimming, golf, tennis, or dancing. Team up with a friend or family member to keep you moving. Start a garden.

If you are confined to a wheelchair or walker do some chair exercises, such as tightening your thigh muscles and releasing or lifting your legs out straight, holding a few seconds, and lowering them back down. Exercise your arms with small weights and curls.

Get off the iPhone's and go play outside with your children. Play tag, hide-and-go-seek, croquet, basketball, or hula hoop. Not only will this help the whole family stay active but you'll make some great memories of the fun you had together.

Mostly, just do it! For more info go to <www.healthfinder.gov>

MAY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chris Hollman
- 2 Joshua Shore
- 3 Darleen Dittmer, Brady Hestermann
- 5 Kristen Nyhoff
- 6 Ellie Koch
- 7 Beau Hartman, Lisa Nelson, Arlyn Wohl
- 9 Lorine Fangmeier
- 10 Ken Behrens, Becky Dittmer
- 12 Terry Reetz
- 13 Elliott Reitz, JoAnn Renner, Brent Wohl
- 15 Marvin Nitzel
- 16 John Reitz
- 17 Doug Karl, Shirley Vosika
- 18 Ron Kalkwarf
- 20 Diane Kahle, Darcy Meinke

21 Mary Hayes, Noreen Wild

22 Jessie Graft

23 Andrea Pomajzl

25 Marlene Wagner

26 Kirk Miller, Ethan Sublett

27 John Haufle, Tyler Stehlik

29 Michael Ellingson, Michael Gropp,

Calen Homolka, Alex Munro

30 Dylan Wagner

31 Bob Renner

BAPTISMS

2 Brad Kalkwarf, Taylor Reetz

4 Butch Mehl, Jennifer Meinke, Victoria Slama

6 Evelyn Benson, Andrew Ellingson, Christina Rezac, Frank Slama, Sami Weber

10 Dennis Kattau

12 Deb Nyhoff, Kristen Nyhoff, Devin Patak

14 Jason Jordan, Kristi Reetz

15 Lee Miller

16 Jerome Kalkwarf, Dean Prochnow

17 Barry Doiel, Dominick Hensley, Chris

Kirkpatrick, Lillian Kubicek, Janice Reetz

18 Becky Dittmer, Chris Hollman

21 Mary Hayes

22 Arlyn Wohl

23 Ellie Koch, Addison Slama, Brent Wohl

24 Lorine Fangmeier

25 Dale Kouba, Rollo Schultz, Karen Tiedeman

26 Jessica Trautman

27 Terry Reetz, Terry Stehlik

28 Ron Kalkwarf, Amanda Melk, Josh Shore

Ascension Day Service Duties

Ascension Day Service with Communion, Thursday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.

Organist: Jolene Reetz

Elder: Roger Koch

Acolytes: Kylie & Cassidy Meinke, and Aaron Meinke

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NEWS

BY: Rhonda Beethe

Summer break is coming soon and we are looking forward to days in the sun. Many times we think of vacations and places we would like to go. So for the last two weeks of school we will pretend travel by car, by train and by plane and see where our imaginations take us.

We have begun enrolling students for the 2015-2016 school year, If you have a neighbor or friend with a preschool child please share the news about Lambs of Christ Preschool. If you would like a brochure or other information about preschool contact Rhonda Beethe, Michelle Wittstruck, or Cathy Hollman.

We will hold our end of the year celebration on Monday, May 18th. Every-

one is invited to join us for a hot dog supper between 6:00 – 6:45. At 7:00 pm a closing chapel with Pastor Hayes, followed by a program and graduation and achievement recognition. All are invited to join in this celebration. Both the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class and Tuesday/Thursday class will be a part of this program. A special invite is given to our prayer partners.

June 12, 1:00 – 6:00 PM & Sat. June 13, 8:00 am – noon. If you have items to donate please wait to bring them until after church services on Sunday, June 7th. Sorry but we are out of storage space to keep items until sale time.

LADIES AID MINUTES

On April 19, 2015, a special meeting was held after church. At the meeting it was decided to serve sack lunches to the people putting up the 2500 crosses on May 2.

St. John Ladies Aid met on April 29, 2015, with JoAnn Renner as hostess. The meeting opened by singing "How Firm a Foundation". Pastor Hayes led us in prayer and the Bible Study on John 16:4-15.

Roll call was taken with eleven members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: A sign-up sheet was passed around for cakes, cool whip and strawberries for the Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 14. JoAnn Renner, Olga Weidner and Shirley Reetz are on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS: There will be twenty-six people putting up the crosses on May 2. It was decided that a sack lunch of sandwiches, chips, packaged dessert, apple and bottled water will be served. JoAnn Renner, Diane Kahle and Carol Brinkmeyer will be on the committee.

Pastor Hayes would like for someone to check the banners to see which ones are outdated or not in good condition. The

VBS REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FOR VBS is open for preschoolers through 8th grade children who will attend VBS from July 19th to July 23rd, 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., dinner provided. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn all about Jesus our Savior and how He is at work through us! Can't wait to see you there! Registration forms are located on the table in the narthex. Please call Cathy Hollman 540-0435, or e-mail cathyatchurch@hotmail.com

BE PART OF CAMP DISCOVERY VBS!

God's children of all ages will discover that Jesus is at work through us at *Camp Discovery* VBS, and, every child will hear the Good News that Jesus, their Savior, gives us courage, gives us His wisdom, saves us, gives us faith, and gives us His love to share through His work in us. At *Camp Discovery* VBS, as VBS staff you can live out the theme "Jesus is at work through us" as you share the message and the fun with kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Please call Cathy Hollman 540-0435, or e-mail cathyatchurch@hotmail.com if you have any questions! Join us to see how Jesus is at work through us! Volunteer registration forms are located on the table in the narthex.

committee at this time is Marilyn Nast and Diane Kahle.

Marilyn Nast suggested getting better fitting robes for the smaller acolytes.

The clean-up day with the youth group will not be until sometime next spring.

Birthdays were celebrated by Donna Hilgren and Sandy Miller. The birthday song was sung.

Carol Brinkmeyer will be the hostess for May. The meeting closed with the Lords' Prayer and table prayer .

Shirley Reetz, secretary

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (May 4)	7:00 p.m.
LYF ()	Following Worship Service
Lutheran Women in Mission (May 19)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (May 27)	1:30 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 Greeting and God's blessings from the Elders. We hope you enjoy the beautiful month of May as we look forward to a busy spring & summer.
 In May we celebrate Ascension Day on May 14th & The Day of Pentecost on May 24th.
 This month you'll see all the pro-life crosses a mile north of the church. A big thank you to all who were able to help place the crosses in the ground. Assistance will be needed again on

May 30th for the removal of the crosses.
 In July we will again be hosting our annual fish boil benefitting the Orphan Grain Train. Also in July will be our week of Vacation Bible School. Be thinking about what you can do to make this week a success.
 We hope all of you have been enjoying the welcome warmth of the spring months. Have a safe and blessed spring!
 The Elders

EVANGELISM REPORT

In November we implemented a visitation program. Marilyn Nast, Rollo & Verna Schultz and Karen Tiedeman volunteered to make visits. The Evangelism Committee, Ellie Koch, JoAnn Renner and Carol Brinkmeyer also make visits.
 Since we began the program 22 visits have been made. We thank you for donating your time to this important mission of the church.
 If you would like to join us, we invite you to contact an Evangelism Committee member.

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

DUTY	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Organist					
Elders	Brent Wohl	James Walker	John Reitz	James Walker	Tim McDermott
Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koch	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Langfeldt	Mr. & Mrs. Tim McDermott	Mr. & Mrs. Glen Louch	Mr. & Mrs. Darren Meinke
Acolytes	Morgan & Maggie Wohl	Ashlyn Adam & Mara Hoyer	Madison Persing & Devon Reitz	Olivia Pomajzl, Elliott Reitz, & Ashlyn Adam	Morgan & Maggie Wohl