



The Freedom of a Christian

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

In 1520, after his debate with Eck, Luther published three important Reformation tracts to set forth his position against that of the Roman Catholic Church. First, he attacked the Pope's claim to have authority over the secular rulers in *The Address to the Christian Nobility*. Second, he attacked the sacramental system of the Roman Church by which the Pope claimed divine authority over all Christian consciences. After these two writings he was persuaded to make one last effort to reconcile with the Pope by writing a friendly and gentle letter to him, to which he appended a statement called *The Freedom of a Christian*. This third tract sets forth the Gospel in a clear and non-polemical way, especially distinguishing between the functions of law and gospel.

As we rejoice in our Lutheran heritage by celebrating the anniversary of the nailing of the ninety five theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, October 31, 1517, I gladly yield the floor to Luther in this excerpt from *The Freedom of a Christian*:

Should you ask how it happens that faith alone justifies and offers us such a treasure of great benefits without works in view of the fact that so many works, ceremonies, and laws are prescribed in the Scriptures, I answer: First of all, remember what has been said, namely, that faith alone, without works, justifies, frees, and saves; we shall make this clearer later on. Here we must point out that the entire Scripture of God is divided into two

parts: commandments and promises.

Although the commandments teach things that are good, the things taught are not done as soon as they are taught, for the commandments show us what we ought to do but do not give us the power to do it. They are intended to

teach man to know himself, that through them he may recognize his inability to do good and may despair of his own ability. That is why they are called the Old Testament and constitute the Old Testament. For example, the commandment, "You shall not covet", is a command which proves us all to be sinners, for no one can avoid coveting no matter how much he may struggle against it. Therefore, in order not to covet and to fulfill the commandment, a man is compelled to despair of himself, to seek the help which he does not find in himself elsewhere and from someone else, as stated in Hosea 13:9: "Destruction is your own, O Israel: your help is only in me." As we fare with respect to one commandment, so we fare with all, for it is equally impossible for us to keep any one of them.

Now when a man has learned through the commandments to recognize his helplessness and is distressed about how he might satisfy the law – since the law must be fulfilled so that not a jot or tittle shall be lost, otherwise man will be condemned without hope – then, being truly humbled and reduced to nothing in his own eyes, he finds in himself nothing whereby he may be justified and saved. Here the

(Continued on page 2)



Luther in 1533 by Lucas Cranach the Elder

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That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31

Freedom, cont.

second part of Scripture comes to our aid, namely, the promises of God which declare the glory of God, saying, "If you wish to fulfill the law and not covet, as the law demands, come, believe in Christ in whom grace, righteousness, peace, liberty, and all things are promised you. If you believe, you shall have all things; if you do not believe, you shall lack all things." That which is impossible for you to accomplish by trying to fulfill all the works of the law – many and useless as they all are – you will accomplish quickly and easily through faith. God our

Father has made all things depend on faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing. "For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all," as it is stated in Rom 11:32. Thus the promises of God give what the commandments of God demand and fulfill what the law prescribes so that all things may be God's alone, both the commandments and the fulfilling of the commandments. He alone commands, he alone fulfills. Therefore the promises of God

belong to the New Testament. Indeed, they are the New Testament. (Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, LW, Vol 31, pg 348, 349)

May the Lord bless us with His Spirit to make us worthy heirs of the Reformation so that future generations may be blessed with Gospel as we have been.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Huebel

Sing to the Lord a New Song by Vicki Main, Music Director

Through the Sundays in November we will be learning *Splendor and Honor*, LSB #950. The text was written by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and the music by K. Lee Scott. The Rev. Carl Daw is a hymn writer and currently serves as Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. He received his undergraduate education at Rice University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. His M.Div. was from the School of Theology of the South. Mr. Scott is widely known throughout the United States as a conductor and composer of choral music. His more than 250 published compositions, arrangements, and editions are represented in the catalogues of 15 publishing companies. During the past twenty years, he has been recognized as one of America's foremost composers of music for the church.

As indicated beneath the hymn, it is

a "versification of the Dignus es" which is taken from selected hymns of praise in the book of Revelation. The 'Dignus es' is a song to the Lamb. All the scriptural references are from Revelation. . . 4:11; 5:9-10; 6:16; 7:9, 14, 17. As our church year comes to a close, this hymn of praise seems especially appropriate. . . *be adoration, praise, and glory given, now and forever.*

Splendor and honor, majesty
and power
Are Yours, O Lord God,
fount of ev'ry blessing,
For by Your bidding was the
whole creation
Called into being.

Praised be the true Lamb,
slain for our redemption,
By whose self-off'ring we
are made God's people:
A priestly kingdom, from all
tongues and nations,
Called to God's service.

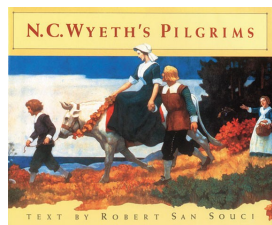
To the Almighty, throned in
heav'nly splendor,
And to the Savior, Christ our Lamb
and Shepherd,
Be adoration, praise, and
glory given,
Now and forever.

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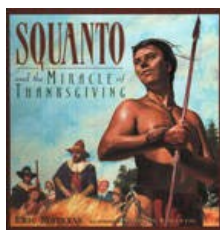
A Few Good Thanksgiving Reads

Looking for something to read with your children this month? Check out our library for one of these Thanksgiving gems:



N. C. Wyeth's Pilgrims, text by Robert San Souci
J974.4 SAN

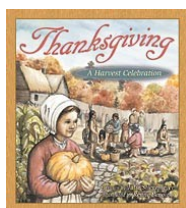
This is worth a look by everyone to see the beautiful illustrations from a mural painted by N. C. Wyeth for the New York Metropolitan Life Building in 1940.



Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving, by Eric Metaxas
J974.4004 MET
This entertaining and historical

story shows that the actual hero of the Thanksgiving was neither white nor Indian, but God. In 1608, English traders came to Massachusetts and captured a 12-year old Indian, Squanto, and sold him into slavery. He was raised by

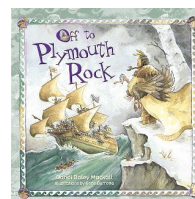
Christians and taught faith in God. Ten years later he was sent home to America. Upon arrival, he learned an epidemic had wiped out his entire village. But God had plans for Squanto. God delivered a Thanksgiving miracle: an English-speaking Indian living in the exact place where the Pilgrims land in a strange new world. —from amazon.com



Thanksgiving, a Harvest Celebration, by Julie Stiegemeier
J394.2649 STI
Published by

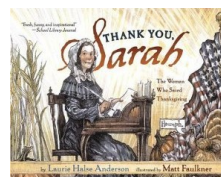
Concordia. This picture book presents a shortened, somewhat fictionalized version of the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving feast. It discusses current Thanksgiving traditions, such as a family meal and sharing with those less advantaged. But the purpose of this picture book is to emphasize for young children that in Jesus, God provides a Savior from sin, death, and the devil. In words and pictures, this book teaches children that we give thanks to God at all times, not just one day in

November, for all He has given in love for us—but especially because He loves us so much He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. And it brings application to our own lives as we, too, respond with grateful hearts to God's gifts. —CPH website



Off to Plymouth Rock!, by Dandi Daley Mackall
J394.2649 MAC

Told with the whimsical verse of Dandi Mackall, children will love to hear the story of the Pilgrims' voyage and the Native Americans' guidance that culminated in the first Thanksgiving.



Thank You, Sarah, by Louise Halse Anderson
J394.2649 AND
“Pick up your pen, save the

world: so ends the often amusing story of Sarah Hale whose relentless letters and 38 years of petitioning presidents, secured Thanksgiving's status as a national holiday.

Thirtieth Anniversary Banquet

Our congregation's 30th anniversary celebration culminated with a banquet at Cross Timbers Winery on Sunday evening, October 16th. Over 250 people attended and enjoyed an Italian buffet with wine followed by a program of testimonies and pictures reviewing God's blessings poured upon us for the last three decades.

We especially thank Natasha Chapa, anniversary chairperson, and Schel Hoebelheinrich, church historian for all the work put in to planning this event.

Let us now turn our focus on how to be a blessing for the next 30 years.



More info. on the COPY ROOM DOOR!

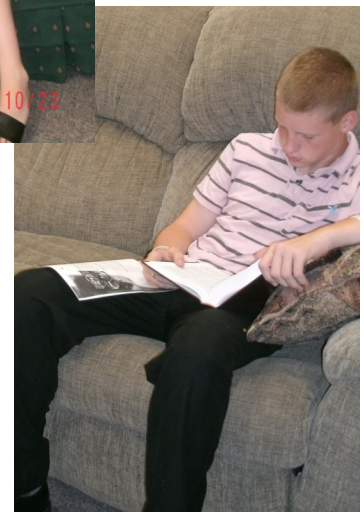
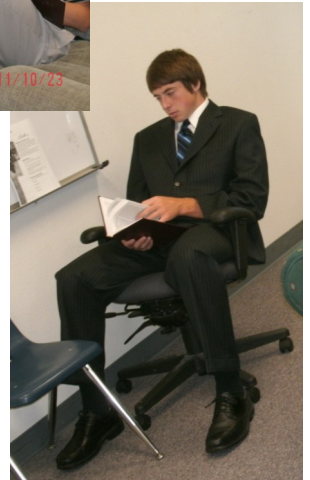
Youth News by Sanghwa Park

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” --Ephesians 2:8

This month, we would like to thank the Burks and the Solomons for their dedication in teaching our Sunday School classes year round. We focus on subjects that pertain to our lives as adolescents, living in a modern environment surrounded by questions and a need for guidance. We take passages from the Bible and focus on specific topics throughout the year. This month, we are focusing on heretics and the theologies of differing denominations, highlighting the strengths of the Lutheran denomination in the coming Reformation season. We are thankful to have a place to come to answer some of our questions about the world in which we live in and to learn how to best preserve our Christian faith while bonding with fellow friends in Christ.

Youth Calendar:

- October 30th 5-8 PM Cooking Class \$30/person
(hosted by the Youts)
Butter Braid Fundraiser orders due
- November 13th 2-4 PM Braille Workshop
- November 19th Canned Food Collection Drive/Movies
(Chaperones needed. Please contact Mrs. Reich.)
- November 30th Advent Season Dinners Begin



GIVE thanks to
GOD the Father
always and
for everything
in the name of our Lord
JESUS+CHRIST

Thanksgiving Eve Worship:

Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in singing praises to our God,
“from whom all blessings flow!”

MLCA and the Keller Storehouse, by Pastor Dennis Kitzmann



The School Children Are Helping to Support Messiah's Mission to the Keller Community Storehouse

Have you brought in any canned goods, boxed meals, or cake mixes lately? What about a child's tooth brush and tooth paste?

Although the entire congregation is invited to participate in our on-going food drive in support of the Keller Community Storehouse, it is the ECC and Academy children who are largely responsible for the many boxes of food and hygiene products that leave our church and arrive at the storehouse each month. But in addition, Mrs. Betsy Kirk, our Kindergarten teacher, issued a challenge to the entire student body two weeks ago to see which class

could bring in the largest number of items. The results were spectacular to say the least!

Pictured above are the ECC and Academy students, along with a portion of the food and other products they gathered. As you can see, the cans and boxed meals filled many shopping bags and cardboard boxes.

Also participating in a special neighborhood food drive were Rachel Reich and members of her Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains Troop 2507, along with her brother, Christian, and Rachel's mother, Melanie.

But it's not just for the school kids or scouting groups! The congregation

is also invited to participate each month by bringing in a can or two of vegetables, soup, tuna, peanut butter, or boxed meals and cake mixes. Soap, tooth brushes & toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and other hygiene items are also very much appreciated. Our support of the Keller Community Storehouse has been the longest running and most consistent outreach program that Messiah has participated in throughout our 30 year history. Keep up the good work everyone and watch for further information regarding the call for specialty Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday items to fill the needs of area families through the Keller Community Storehouse.

To all of our friends and members at Messiah,

As you all can well imagine, last week was a tough week for the Main family as we laid to rest our beloved son and brother. Yes, we grieve deeply at our loss, but not as those who have no hope. We want to express our thanks and sincere appreciation for the love and support shown us by our church family during this very difficult time, and for all of your thoughts and prayers. We all know that Adam was a very special young man and that he had touched the hearts of many. He will be forever missed, however we rejoice with the knowledge of Adam's victory and in the hope of a blessed reunion on that final day.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Ray, Vicki, Rachel and Sarah



God's Design For Marriage Seminar

Pastor Huebel arranged and led a marriage seminar in September called "Marriage by God's Design." The four week course was produced by Concordia Publishing House and included DVD interviews with eight married couples and two singles. The group in attendance discussed marriage as God's design for building the human race (Session 1), displaying His love (Session 2), protecting us from sin (Session 3), and teaching us and our children (Session 4). The group closed the seminar by meeting together for dinner at Frescos on Saturday evening, October 1st.

During this seminar the participants discussed at length the vital importance of marriage for both Church and society, and the great need for the Christian community to support one another in this God-given institution. Ideas for strengthening our ministry to

marriages included:

- Starting a mentor program so that younger married couples can develop friendships with older couples as a potential resource for counsel and support.
- Making our support of marriage more visible by celebrating significant anniversaries in our midst, and
- Providing some kind of supportive marriage enrichment gathering annually.

Young married couples who might like to have an experienced married couple friendship resource should talk to Pastor Huebel. We have such couples who are willing to serve you in Christ's love. Our next marriage enrichment activity is tentatively set for the Fall of 2012. We are also discussing the possibility of a parenting seminar in the Spring of 2012. Let one of

the pastors know if you are interested in participating in one of these events.



It also happened to be Kathy Blaschke's birthday!

MLCA Annual Walk-a-thon



50% of funds raised this year will go towards the construction of a new library for the church and school, to be moved to a double classroom on the southwest corner of the Academy wing second floor.

The remaining funds will go towards a new playground for 2nd - 6th graders and for miscellaneous classroom and teacher items

This annual event, a major fund raiser for our schools, is looked forward to each year. This year, the students in K-7 grades walked a total of 421 miles (1,681 laps). Our ECC kids did a modified version of the walk-a-thon and walked a total of 498 laps! Everyone enjoyed a pizza lunch afterwards. A special thanks to the many volunteers, especially our Senior Bible study Group, who made this event fun for everyone.



Nelson Children's Ministries Annual Toy Run, by James Brashear



Peace Riders Motorcycle Group is sponsoring our annual toy run on Sunday, December 4th benefiting Nelson Children's Ministries (www.nelsonchildrenscenter.org).

What is Nelson Children's Ministries?

Every day, thousands of children are hurt, abused and neglected – some are abandoned or relinquished for adoption. Society labels them “children at risk”, but through the efforts of the **Nelson Children's**

Ministries, these children become “Tomorrow's Child”.

Nelson Children's Ministries currently serves more than 300 children through the DFW Foster In Texas (FIT) program. Our award-winning FIT program cares for primary medical needs children, sibling groups, and individuals from infant to 18 years of age. We are also exploring the potential of a program for these children when they age out of care as well as developing a new residential treatment center in the Metroplex.

Providing shoes, school supplies, and Christmas gifts for 300+ children is an enormous financial challenge, but together we can meet it. Together we can make a difference.

If you would like to participate by donating a toy, Nelson Children's Ministries requests that you please refer to the recommended list of

items printed below and attached to the “Peace Riders Toy Box” to be located in the narthex. Toy donations may be deposited in the “Peace Riders Toy Box”. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to “LSSS”, and please write “Nelson Ministries” in the subject line, and place it in James Brashear's mailbox.

Proceeds benefit Nelson Children's Ministries, a program of Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc. (LSSS). LSSS is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

Peace Riders Motorcycle Group thanks you for joining us in support of Nelson Children's Ministries.

Peace Riders Motorcycle Group was formed by Christian brothers and sisters.

DONATION NEEDS

- Board games
- Lego's
- Barbies and dolls
- GI Joe-type action figures
- Puzzles
- Arts and crafts: sketch books, crayons and markers, bracelet-making kits, painting kits, etc.
- Sports balls (basketball, soccer, football, etc.)
- Superhero action figures
- Model cars
- Scrapbooks and materials (like stamps and stickers)
- Roller skates (any size and we will match them to the kids)
- Helmets

- Stuffed animals
- Comic books
- Make-up kits
- Items from Bath and Body Works or Axe products
- Kids and teen books

ITEMS TO AVOID

- Items with long string or rope
- Aerosol cans
- Sharp tools
- Items with glass or shatter-prone plaster

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make your check

out to “LSSS” or “Lutheran Social Services”, and please write “Nelson Ministries” in the subject line.

Proceeds benefit Nelson Children's Ministries, a program of Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc. (LSSS). LSSS is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

You can learn more about the Nelson Children's Ministries at www.nelsonchildrenscenter.org, or by contacting Rebekah Poling at rebekah.poling@lssss.org or by telephone at (940) 368-6832.



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

www.messiahkeller.org

October Confirmation Outing

Ten students (8 boys, 2 girls) and four adults participated in the annual confirmation nature center hike on Saturday, October 1st. The buffalo herd was present in large numbers to welcome us into the reserve. The students had a



great time feeding the animals with food pellets provided. The prairie dogs were also out, but much more difficult to see because the colony is spread out over a large area. This year we chose a new trail to hike. In previous years we have hiked the most challenging trail called "Canyon Ridge Trail," but a Halloween community activity drew a large crowd to that area which would have made

parking difficult if not impossible. Instead we took a 1 ½ mile trail from the Interpretive Center out to the boardwalk where we ate our sack lunches over the lake that now looks more like a river because of the drought. We still ended with our traditional "race" by running the road back to the Interpretive Center. The best part was eating ice cream at Braums on the way home. Holden Kirk does not suggest the German Chocolate ice cream, but everyone else seemed to enjoy their ice cream choices immensely.

