



WHAT'S DIFFERENT? by Pastor Glenn Huebel

In preparation for the thirtieth anniversary year of Messiah Lutheran Church I have had opportunity to reflect upon the many changes that have occurred in this ministry over the past three decades. I want to use this newsletter article to reflect upon some of these changes.

Changes in the Community

Those who have recently moved into Northeast Tarrant County would probably have a very hard time envisioning what this community was like 30 years ago. In those days, highway 377 was a small two lane road from 820 all the way to Denton and beyond. Going north past Watauga the highway passed over open land covered with Mesquite

trees as far as the eye could see until entering the town of Keller. Keller was not much to look at. The land where the City Hall and Town Center now sits was full of Mesquite trees. In fact, very few buildings existed beyond where Anita intersects 1709. And Highway 1709 was a two lane country road with many dangerous curves from Keller to Grapevine. Keller had one modest size High School. Southlake Carroll was a football powerhouse of a 2A program! Rufe Snow was more of a collection of potholes than a city street. A four way stop sign controlled traffic across the two lane bridge where Rufe Snow intersects 820. The first building on Rufe Snow at 820 was the McDonalds, and we remember when it was built.

Keller had one bank, one grocery store, and one traffic light. In 1980 Mr. Ray White still lived in his old gray house at the south east corner of Main and Price Street (now occupied by Wells Fargo Bank). The Up-In-Smoke Bar B Q establishment was then a Laundromat and a vacant little storefront that eventually became the temporary home of Messiah Lutheran Church. Only about 5,000 people lived in the town of Keller in 1980. In some ways it is hard to look upon the traffic congestion, the sea of housetops in every direction and the disappearance of open land without remembering the quiet times of the past.

Changes in our Church property

When our congregation began, the property on which it now sits was an overgrown 5 acre pasture surrounded by barbed wire. We had to



Corner of Whitley and Bursey roads, looking south.



Our backyard, c.1980

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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

What's different?, cont.

mow down the grass in order to have our ground breaking ceremony. The back end of the property, where the ECC and MLCA buildings now sit, was kind of a wild place. A large oak tree occupied a spot near where our fellowship hall is now situated. An abandoned well was located on the spot where our MLCA foyer sits. A ditch ran across our property to feed the neighbor's pond. Every spring we appreciated a field covered with beautiful wild flowers.

Many probably do not realize this, but our present property was not the first piece we owned. Our first piece of property was located on Highway 377 where LA Fitness is now located. We owned five acres. The reason why LA Fitness has a back entrance to Whitley Road is because we negotiated to buy that little strip of property when we purchased the five acre site in 1980. We sold the site to purchase our present property because the only thing existing in the whole field now occupied by all kinds of businesses was a dumpy little trucking company. We didn't want to put a "rose in a pumpkin patch" as one of our members so eloquently put it.

The changes in our worship and education facilities have been most dramatic through the years. In the beginning the only place a new church could rent was the Keller Lions Club. After a year we managed to rent the storefront at 134 South Main. That was a

humbling experience since we had no heat in the winter (we used portable electric heaters) and only a small window air conditioner in summer. The building leaked terribly. My little office was a windowless back room with concrete walls and brick and board book shelves. The building was not much to look at, either outside or inside. When we dedicated our first worship facility in March, 1984 we thought we were in heaven. We had 5700 square feet of space with two offices, three small Sunday School rooms and a sanctuary. After using two portable buildings to accommodate our growth in the 1980's and early 1990's we built a 12,000 square foot education wing (ECC wing) in 1995, purchased an old day care center on Highway 377 in 2000, and finally built a 22,000 square foot MLCA wing in 2006. In the same time frame we purchased a little over an acre on our north side and inherited the large shed we now use for storage.

Changes in technology

When I was in college studying to become an engineer, I learned a computer language called Fortran, and typed hundreds of cards to submit to a central mainframe computer. I would have to wait until the next morning to receive the

results. If there was an error in punching a single card in the program, the whole

process had to begin again and I had to wait another day for the results. When we opened our first office for Keller Lutheran Mission I was typing the bulletin on a stencil and getting high on the correction fluid, producing absolutely deplorable bulletins with wrinkles and streaks and ink blotches. As for my advances, they have come slowly and reluctantly. I used to write out my sermons by hand – I still have many spiral notebooks of such sermons in my file. Only by intense pressure did I even try using a laptop for sermon writing, and now I would have a hard time without it. But I still tell our tech guys not to get me the best stuff. I use the computer as a type-writer and a file cabinet. Today we have excellent office equipment on which Marcia can produce some of the most beautiful bulletins, special service programs, and advertizing material around. It doesn't hurt to have an art teacher who knows how to use the technology! Marcia has also done great work to help me produce a power point program for my entire Pastors' Class. In addition to this we have been able to attract interest in our school and church through our web sites. Our accounting system for the schools has been greatly improved through the use of Renweb. I somewhat regret my



134 S. Main, 1981



Keller Lion's Club, 1980



Our first building on Whitley Rd., Jan. 1984



Our Whitley Rd. campus today.

What's different?, cont.

frequent condemnations of technological advances as “satanic.” I must grudgingly admit that our ministry has been blessed by these new tools. But I am still going to gripe about anything new that I have to learn!

Changes in Culture and Attitudes

In the past 30 years our culture has changed dramatically – and not for the better. Before we left Denver after celebrating the baptism of our newest grandson, my daughter, Katie, asked if we thought changes in the American culture have had a negative impact on starting new mission congregations. Marcia and I have often discussed that very question in recent years. We both believe that the answer is a definite YES. I believe that the cultural climate has made it exceedingly difficult to plant a traditional Lutheran congregation today. More than that, it has made it exceedingly difficult to keep a church together period. In fact, the cultural changes we are experiencing have been detrimental to almost all forms of community. Relationships have become as fragile as thin glass. It is very difficult to establish anything beyond superficial friendships because commitment is almost a bad word. Thus, relationships are held together by thin threads, and any moderate breeze of trouble or inconvenience can splinter them. Part of the problem is that we have believed the marketing nonsense of McDonalds and others who tell us constantly what great things we deserve today. Our flesh loves to hear that, but it's a blatant lie. It creates a world of little deities all vying to be pampered. It creates an almost allergic reaction to inconvenience. It makes us hyper impatient and easily offended. It

forces even the military to appeal to individuality in recruiting – “an army of ONE!” The glue holding us together in our families, in our towns, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our churches has deteriorated. Narcissism has become a way of life And will become the way of death because without community we are at the mercy of those who have not been blinded by the lie. The truth is, we shouldn't be asking for what we deserve today. We should be praying like the tax collector in the back of the temple, “Lord, please DON'T give me what I deserve today!” And we should rejoice that God is merciful and long-suffering. He gives us His grace and abundance without any merit, for which it is our duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

In the “old days” working in a church was like walking through a toy store. The children might make a mess of things, but probably nothing is going to get broken. Toys are made to be abused. In those days relationships could survive the stepping on toes or losing an argument or even a vehement disagreement with your fellow Christian. The strife in a voters meeting could be resolved in the parking lot or in the local pub afterward. The community was higher and stronger - and more important - than the individual. It was not “all about me.” We ALL lost arguments and faced disappointments in the early days of our church, but just toughed it out. Today, working in a church is like walking through fine china store with all kinds of pretty, but fragile little trinkets that can break in your hand if you apply too much pressure. We have become too fragile to disagree and too proud to lose. Everything is a mountain to die on. No molehills are left. And if things

do not go exactly as I expect (I “deserve”) I do not have to “put up with it” (forbearance). The next church will accommodate me. This is not a change I am getting used to. This is a change I will not get used to. This is a change that will splinter the church into tiny little cells of self-righteous people who care more about deserving than serving their fellow saints and the world in Christ.

The Christian community has a wonderful opportunity in this present narcissistic age to display the value and benefit of true community in and through Christ. We do not show it by a superficial politeness that avoids all disagreements, but by the amazing capacity to recover from hurts and wounds inflicted by sin through the forgiveness offered in the sacrament and through the power of the Holy Spirit. May God enable us to so walk in the Spirit that we are willing to forgive one another.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph 4:30-32)

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Huebel



Marcia, Katie and I in front of the storefront, c.1982

Messiah Lutheran Church & School

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

November 11th, 12th, and 13th
Barnes & Noble Southlake

Thursday, Nov. 11: MLCA Artwork will be displayed upstairs all day

Friday, Nov. 12: MLCA student musical performances, 7:00pm—8:00pm

Saturday, Nov. 13: MLCA students reading aloud, 1:00pm—3:00pm

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit **BN.COM/bookfairs** to support us online from 11/01/10 to 11/30/10
by entering **Bookfair ID# 10330124** at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school and church.





The Messiah Evangelist: *Feed My Sheep*

You will recall from Easter Sunday Bible Stories that Jesus had already

appeared to Simon Peter and had assured him that all was forgiven, reinstating him as one of His apostles. But because of the incredible ordeal for everyone it was necessary for Peter to be confirmed in his faith and love for the Savior, and this confirmation was to be witnessed by other disciples of the Lord. For the disgrace of Peter's threefold denial in the nights before the crucifixion had become a matter of public knowledge.

And so, after the disciples had replenished themselves with breakfast, the Savior proceeds to the main purpose of His visit there that morning. Peter was to be publically questioned, confirmed, and commissioned. Carefully read and imagine Peter's feelings as Jesus interviews His fallen but penitent and believing disciple. Although he is talking to Peter it could be you.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk

wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God. And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." (John 21:15-19)

Three questions! Three answers! Three commands! "Do you love me?" "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." "Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, feed My sheep." How intense the repetition must have reminded Simon Peter of the previous warning of his Lord. "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times" and of the shameful fulfillment of that prediction in the court of the palace of the high priest!

But here, by the Grace of God, Peter was permitted to match his three denials with a glorious triple confession of his faith and love and loyalty to his Master. Three times, in the presence of his peers, he assures his risen Lord of his hearts affection and this time not as the proud and boastful, self-reliant braggart of several weeks ago, but as the humbled, self-effacing disciple of his Lord.

"Lord, You know everything: You know that I love You." As much as to say, "Lord, You know me better than I know myself. Look into my crushed and humbled heart, and there (not in any words I say) You will find proof of my burning love for You."

At this point, as after his third denial, the Lord turned and looked at Peter but this time with the knowing smile of affectionate approval. As if to say, "Yes, Simon, I do know all things; I know that you love Me." The erring disciple and his Master had been reunited, bound together

with the ties of love that were never again to be broken!

But Simon was to continue to prove his love. "Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, feed My sheep." Preach My gospel to young and old. The first requirement of true discipleship is faith, love, and devotion to the Savior; but where faith, love, and devotion are found, there the second requirement is sure to follow, namely, willing service to the Savior and His Church. "Feed My lambs" the little ones at home, in school, in Sunday school. "Tend and Feed My sheep" at home, in church, in Bible class, and through the Churches Ministry.

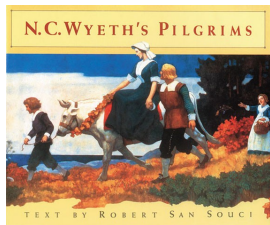
Do you have a "Burning Love" for Jesus? Are we proving our love to the Savior by a life of willing, consecrated service? Are we helping by our prayers, our efforts, and our contributions to feed the lambs and sheep whom Christ has purchased with His blood? His question to us is still the same as His question to Simon Peter: "Do you love Me?" Let our answer, then, be "Lord, You know everything: You know that I love you." And then let us resolve to step out into the world with renewed determination to prove our love for Christ by a life of sacrificial service. Let us feed the lambs and sheep. Let us love not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

Lord God Almighty, even as you bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant is the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Paul Kohlmeier
Board of Evangelism

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

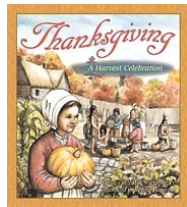
This is worth a look by everyone to see the beautiful illustrations from a mural painted by N. C. Wyeth for the New York Metropolitan Life Building in 1940.



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

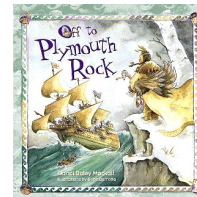
Christians and taught faith in God. Ten years later he was sent home to America. Upon arrival, he learned an epidemic had wiped out his entire village. But God had plans for Squanto. God delivered a Thanksgiving miracle: an English-speaking Indian living in the exact place where the Pilgrims land in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

Food Drive for the Community Storehouse

Join MLCA in supporting the Keller Community Storehouse in its Holiday Food Drive!

The following items are needed to build baskets to feed families in need in our community. They can be dropped off in the narthex. Thanks!

Turkey, Ham, or \$20 gift card
Canned Fruit
Cranberry Sauce
Cake Mix and Frosting
Peanut Butter Jelly
Cookie or Muffin Mix

Canned Corn
Stove Top Stuffing Mix
Gravy Mix
Instant Potatoes
Sweetened Condensed Milk
Canned Pumpkin
Mac-N-Cheese
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Can Fried Onion Rings
Chicken Broth
Canned Sweet Potatoes
Bag of Marshmallows
Pudding Mix
Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'
- Matthew 25:37-40

Peace Riders Toy Run



PEACE RIDERS MOTORCYCLE GROUP 2nd ANNUAL NELSON CENTER TOY RUN

SATURDAY, DEC. 11, 2010

Benefitting:
**The Nelson Center Children's
Residential Treatment Center**
Denton, Texas

WHEN:

Saturday, December 11, 2010
Gather 9:00 a.m.
Kickstands up 11:00 a.m.

WHERE:

Start: Crown of Life Lutheran
Church
6605 Pleasant Run Road
Colleyville, TX 76034
www.crownoflife.org

Finish: The Nelson Center
4601 IH-35 North

Denton, TX 76207
www.nelsonchildrenscenter.org

WHAT:

Register @ www.peaceriders.org

Fee: \$10 (collected at ride start)
or one or more toys
(checks payable to The Nelson
Center)

**Coffee and Donuts offered for sale
prior to the ride**
Brought to you by:
Crown of Life 8th Grade Class

Parking lot attendants:
Northeast Teen Community
Bible Study
\$5 Brats and Hot Dogs
@ The Nelson Center
Brought to you by:
Bob Sheegog and
Lucas Funeral Homes

Iced Tea and Water
Provided by:
The Nelson Center

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: **NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 14 WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER**

This is a security measure mandated
by the staff of the Center for the
protection and safety of the resident
children.

The Nelson Center Children's Residential Treatment Center

4601 IH-35 North
Denton, TX 76207
940-484-8232

www.nelsonchildrenscenter.org

Vision: Changing lives through
innovative, quality, Christian care.

Mission: Lutheran Social Services
provides help, healing and hope in
the name of Jesus Christ.

Values: We express our faith
through a ministry of service to
others.

We believe that as a Christian
agency, we should set the standard
for excellence in everything we do.
We value the perspective, guidance,
suggestions and opinions of all
agency stakeholders, actively seek
their input, and attempt to find
common ground where there is
dissent.

We believe that to be relevant and
accountable, it is important to assess
and respond to changing needs and
expectations of all stakeholders.
We will be good stewards of the
talents entrusted to us by actively
balancing needs, resources and
expectations.

Contact James Brashear
jbrashear@sbcglobal.net
with questions or for more information



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Listen to what you want, when you want at www.issuesetc.org

Kindergarten Rule #5, by Pastor Huebel

Remember the popular book by Robert Fulghum, *All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten*? Though I don't agree that his list of things you need know is adequate since it does not contain the gospel, I do think he has a few really good points. Consider Kindergarten rule #5: Clean up your own mess. That must be a hard one to remember or to apply. How many moms would just LOVE to see that rule consistently followed in their homes? Why do we live as if a good fairy maid follows after us everywhere we go to wash our dishes, throw away our trash, wipe down the counter, pick up our dirty plates, throw our dirty clothes into the laundry basket, etc., etc., etc.???

If you are having a hard time keeping up with four or five members in your family, try managing four or five HUNDRED members living in the same house! The Church may not be the house we live in, but a whole lot of people spend a whole lot of hours in the building. And that's good! We're

glad the facility is being used for good purposes, but Kindergarten Rule #5 still applies: **Clean up your own mess please.... pretty please.** If you are in a meeting, please remember to pick your papers, cups, napkins, and paper bags. If you leave crumbs on the table or floor, or spill a drink, take the time to clean everything up for the next group please. If you rearrange the furniture, restore the room to its original condition please. If you borrow chairs from another room, return them please. If you make coffee, wash out the pot, wipe the counter, and return things to their proper place please. Sometimes children are left to supervise themselves in a room. That is understandable, but **we assume that the parents will make a visual inspection of the room** afterward in order to be assured that everything is picked up and put in its proper place and the room is ready for the next group. Asking a child, "Did you clean up after yourself?" is not really adequate.

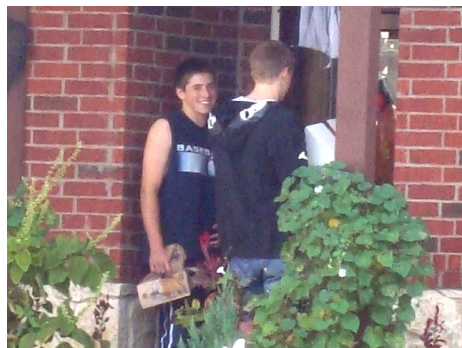
Some may assume that since we pay for janitorial service we should not have to worry about this stuff. That may be a little like the argument of some that since Jesus washes away our sins we should not worry about sinning! We certainly do not employ a janitorial service so that we can ignore common rules of decency in our living arrangements. A few things should be noted in that regard. First, the janitorial service is not contracted to clean the whole facility every day. Depending on where you make your mess, it may stay there for a while. Second, another group may come in and use the room before the cleaning crew comes. This is especially true of evening events. Sometimes a school room or nursery is left in disarray. The next person who sees it is the teacher the next morning just before her class arrives. It takes awareness and self discipline to live together in harmony. Please be considerate of your fellow members by following Kindergarten Rule #5 whenever you use our building. Thank you.



WAY to Go, Youth!



Members of our high school youth group have been regular workers in the Braille Center. They meet from 2:00—4:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. A group of high school girls meets on the second Friday from 6:00—9:00 p.m. (Pictured above, clockwise from bottom



left: Megan Blaschke, Nathan Burk, Tyler Burk, Melissa Geffre, Spencer Boyd, Sarah Blaschke, Rachel Reich.)

On Sunday, October 31, a group of our youth went “Trick or Treating” for cans to benefit the Community Storehouse. They collected 197 food items in an hour! Thank you to the



event’s sponsor, Melanie Reich, and the other adult chaperones, Randy Burk and Tricia Boyd. Pictured above, clockwise from top right are: Carly (Spencer’s friend), Spencer Boyd, Nathan Burk, Tyler Burk, Melissa Geffre, Megan Harris, Rachel Reich, Sarah Blaschke.

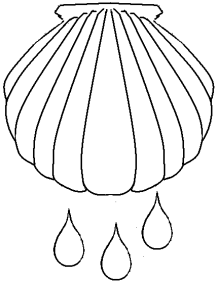
MLCA Annual Walk-a-thon

This annual event, a major fund raiser for our schools, is looked forward to each year. This year, the students in K-8 grades walked a total of 411.25 miles (1645 laps). For the first time, the Preschool students joine in. They had a modified version of the walk-a-thon and walked a total of 544 laps!



All School fundraisers for the 2010-2011 school year will go towards the following:

- 50% of funds raised towards the construction of a new library, to be moved upstairs by the stair-well
- 25% of funds raised towards a new playground for 2nd - 6th graders
- 25% of funds for miscellaneous classroom and teacher items



The Water of Life: *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

As we near the end of the church season, as with any period, it should cause us to look back and reflect. For Christians we should consider our life with Christ and how we performed. Did we worship, adore, and exemplify our Lord? Did we evangelize witness and share Christ with others? Did we serve our Lord in our Church family? Truthfully we all could have done much better.

The end of the church season brings me to the end of the Bible and the book of Revelation. The Apocalypse of St. John can be tricky to interpret but some sections contain such clarity and beauty that it should not be avoided. What is revealed is that we are living in Revelation now as we await the coming of our Lord. Revelations frightened many early Christians and Luther warns "against the great and perilous, and manifold offense that inflicts itself upon Christendom." But it should not frighten us, in fact, Revelations should be a comfort to all believers as our Lord provides admonition and encouragement. Our Savior reigns over all, loves us and will be "our everything, our All." Revelations is encouraging through Jesus warning and encouragement for the churches in St. John's day. Apply his words to your life and the life of Messiah's congregation. Pray for ears to hear what the Spirit says through the Word.

Revelations is a call to serve your church and do good works to serve his kingdom. These works are not to earn favor, for we are justified by faith alone, but to serve his kingdom. A call to serve more may be an improvement over your service to God this past year. "Real Grace" in

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's estimation, is a grace made dear by the life of Christ that was sacrificed to purchase man's redemption. Cheap grace arose out of man's desire to be saved, but to do so without becoming a disciple. The true believer must resist cheap grace and enter the life of active discipleship. Faith can no longer mean sitting still and waiting; the Christian must rise and follow Christ. (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

Revelations defines the churches mission and asks how can you serve and what could you do to make a difference? Certainly Messiah could use everyone's help to perform the Great Commission. But this is the Holy Spirits call to your heart and you should consider your whole life and impacts you can make by the dedication of your time and talents. It starts with your desire to be nearer to "your Savior, your All." As you read Revelation you will hear the voice of your Lord. He wants you to repent and perform greater service for him.

Christ's desire is the drive you should have to join our Lord in His eternal home. Being with our Lord in Heaven should not be something we fear but an all consuming desire to realize. At home with our Shepherd. John tells us in Revelation 22 of the river of the water of life. The same living water Jesus spoke to the woman of Samaria about in John 4:10. The same living water which flowed from Christ pierced side in John 19:34. These are the living waters which we received as part of our baptism. That was our betrothal to Christ in preparation of the marriage supper of the Lamb (we sing of the "foretaste of the feast to come"). The preparation for this future event is

our current life. The completion of the of the Church's marriage to Him is the future event we dearly wish for. Christ tells us that "Surely I am coming soon". Oh please blessed Lord Jesus may it be soon for we cannot wait.

Dr. Paul Manz was a Lutheran composer for choir and organ. His most famous choral work is an adaptation of Revelation 22 with his wife Ruth titled "E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come". The music is captivating, as usual, but the verses are the beautiful Word of our Lord. The last verse is what I wish to focus upon. Come Lord Jesus, quickly, for when the world turns dark we will not be able to see.

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly
come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp
nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!*

How blessed that will be when we are with our Savior. We will not be in need of any other source of light nor any other resource in our new home. For Christ will be everything, He will be our All! Amen!

Pax Christi
Paul Kohlmeier
Board of Evangelism

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

Sing to the LORD a new song . . .
—Ps. 149:1

And we did indeed sing some new songs this year – four actually!

In March we became acquainted with *We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died* (LSB429) during our Lenten journey. It was written by Thomas Kelly (1769-1855) and Daniel Read (1757-1836).

In June we learned *The Gifts Christ Freely Gives* (LSB602) by Richard C. Resch (1947), with the music by Charles J. Dale (1904). Each stanza reminded us of the gifts we receive during the Divine Service.

Through the month of August we sang *God Has Spoken by His Prophets* (LSB583) every Sunday. The text was by George W. Briggs (1875-1959) and the tune by Henry T. Smart (1813-79).

God has spoken by His prophets
God has spoken by Christ Jesus
God is speaking by His Spirit . . .
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast; God
abides, His Word unchanging; God
the first, and God the last.

And finally last month, *O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth* (LSB834) penned by Martin H. Franzmann (1907-76) and Jan O. Bender (1909-

94). The minor key adds strength and fortitude to the words of each stanza of this hymn in the mission and witness section.

Could you remember the melody of each one - perhaps some of the words within a stanza? Wonderful! Hopefully they will become old friends as we continue to sing them.

In 2011 we will learn four more new hymns starting in January. We can now say *with confidence* there are many beautiful new hymns for Lutherans to learn . . . *this is most certainly true.*



November Bible Reading Schedule

1: Deut. 34:1-12
Matt. 21:1-22
2: Jer. 1:1-19
Matt. 21:23-46
3: Jer. 3:6-4:2
Matt. 21:23-46
4: Jer. 5:1-19
Matt. 22:23-46
5: Jer. 7:1-29
Matt. 23:1-12
6: Jer. 8:18-9:12
Matt. 23:13-39
7: Jer. 11:1-23
Jer. 12:1-19:15
Matt. 24:1-28
8: Jer. 20:1-18
Matt. 24:29-51
9: Jer. 22:1-23
Matt. 25:1-13
10: Jer. 23:1-20
Matt. 25:14-30

11: Jer. 23:21-40
Matt. 25:31-46
12: Jer. 25:1-18
Matt. 26:1-19
13: Jer. 26:1-19
Rev. 13:1-18
Matt. 26:20-35
14: Jer. 29:1-19
Rev. 14:1-20
Matt. 26:36-56
15: Jer. 30:1-24
Rev. 15:1-8
Matt. 26:57-75
16: Jer. 31:1-17, 23-34
Rev. 16:1-21
Matt. 27:1-10
17: Jer. 33:1-22
Jer. 34:1-36:32; 45:1-51:64
Matt. 27:11-32
18: Jer. 37:1-21
Rev. 17:1-18
Matt. 27:33-56

19: Jer. 38:1-28
Jer. 39:1-44:30
Matt. 27:57-66
20: Dan. 1:1-21
Matt. 28:1-20
21: Dan. 2:1-23
Rev. 18:1-24
22: Dan. 2:24-49
Rev. 19:1-21
23: Dan. 3:1-30
Rev. 20:1-15
24: Dan. 4:1-37
Rev. 21:1-8
25: Dan. 5:1-30
Dan. 7:1-8:27
Rev. 21:9-27
26: Dan. 6:1-28
Dan. 9:1-27
Rev. 22:1-21
27: Is. 1:1-28
1 Peter 1:1-12

28: Is. 2:1-22
Is. 3:1-4:6
1 Peter 1:13-25
29: Is. 5:1-25
Amos 1:1-9:15
1 Peter 2:1-12
30: Is. 6:1-7:9
1 Peter 2:13-25

December

1: Is. 7:10-8:8
1 Peter 3:1-22
2: Is. 8:9-9:7
1 Peter 4:1-19
3: Is. 9:8-10:11
1 Peter 5:1-14
4: Is. 10:12-27a, 33-34
2 Peter 1:1-21
5: Is. 11:1-12:6
2 Peter 2:1-22
6: Is. 14:1-23



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. Heather Heitmann, Director, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

Mrs. Kathy Blaschke, Financial Director

www.messiahkeller.org

1981 ❖ 30th ❖ 2011

10 years ago this month (2000): the church celebrated it's 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner on November 23rd.

15 years ago this month (1995): The LWML collected canned food items and money for turkeys for their Thanksgiving Day Food Basket mission project. They also had a bake sale on November 19th.

20 years ago this month (1990): On November 14th, the Active Christian Teenagers (ACT) participated in their quarterly service project by joining the Lutheran Braille workers at Zion Lutheran Church. Also, on November 17th, several members of the congregation traveled to the Texas Amphitheater in Glen Rose to see "The Promise".



30 years ago this month (1980): the Keller Lutheran Mission had its first worship service in the Keller Lion's Club on November 2nd. 55 people were in attendance.

For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations. —Psalm 100:5

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