



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ARE YOU A LUKEWARM CHRISTIAN?

When it comes to faith—how would you say describe your faith life as a Christian? What would others say about your faith life? If Christ Jesus were watching you, (and He is by the way) - how would He describe your faith life?

Are you a cold Christian? Have your prayers faltered or stopped altogether? Do you come to church anymore or at best once, maybe twice a year? Do you even own a bible, if so do you know where it is or is it gathering dust? Do you worry more about what the world thinks of you, than what God's Word has declared to you?

If you aren't a cold Christian, are you a hot Christian? That is does God's Word burn within you? Do you spend time daily in prayer and

God's Word? Do you receive His Word & blessed Sacraments as often as you can – never missing a church service? Do you seek to love your neighbor as yourself, even your enemies who despise God and His Word? Does repentance and forgiveness flow freely from your lips and heart on a daily basis?

I heard it said, "***If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you.***" So would there be enough evidence to convict you?

The reality is many of us are neither hot nor cold – instead we are at best 'Lukewarm' Christians. Sure we might attend church more often than others, we may even have prayed once or twice this week (at least before eating), and we see the need of Jesus in our lives. But we often live our lives as though Christ's life, death, and resurrection doesn't really matter that much.

(Continued on page 2)

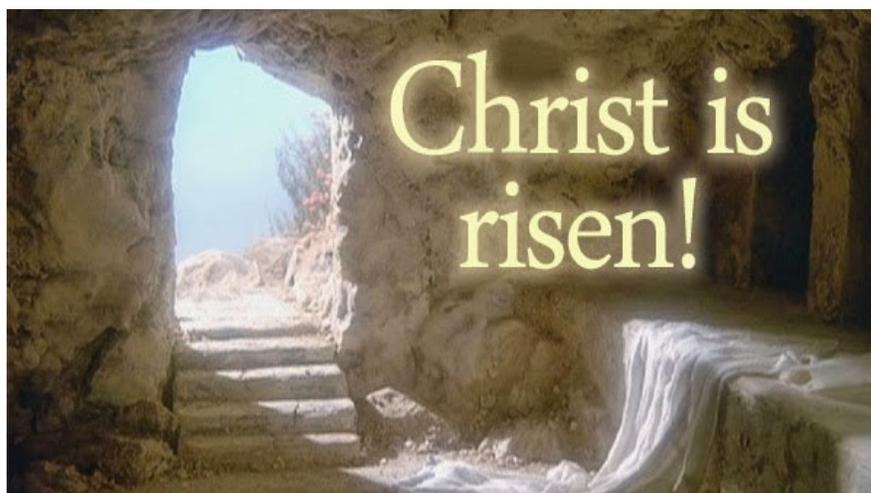


Thank You

The Ladies Guild thanks everyone for stepping up to help make & serve soup for the Lenten Suppers.

Thank you to everyone who brought food as well as joined in on the fellowship.

All money donated is going towards the renovation project items. To God be the glory for such great gifts!



Our Lord Jesus Christ says to the church in Laodicea, “**I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.**” (Revelation 3:15-16)

Outwardly the church in Laodicea appears good enough, yet it had grown self-satisfied and thus indifferent to growing in faith and spreading the Word. And these words of our Lord hold true for us today as well. All too often we are lukewarm at best. We have grown comfortable in our everyday life of not having to take a stand on the Word of God, we have grown indifferent to sharing the truth of what the Lord has to say to us even today. We have become comfortable with the ways of the world, & our own sinful pride and desires that we have grown almost cold to living in the ways of the Lord.

Satan desires to steal away the life giving promises and way of the Lord, snuffing out our faith causing it to grow dim and eventually to die. Anyone that has been around a dead body knows how cold and lifeless they are. This is what sin does to us; it takes what God has made alive – you and me through the waters of Holy Baptism – and sin seeks to destroy our life.

Jesus has called us to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. However, He warns us, “**if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.**” (Matthew 5:13). And again Jesus says, “**Whoever is not with me is against me.**” (Matthew 12:30)

Have you been lukewarm in your faith – neither cold nor hot? Worried maybe that you might be growing cold – ready to be trampled underfoot? Have your thoughts, words, and actions betrayed Christ Jesus and His Holy Word? Maybe this is describing your faith right now. This was certainly the faith of the ladies and the disciples on the very First Easter. One could even say that the disciples faith grew cold as they hid in fear behind locked doors. But something changed them and the same thing has the power to change you and me.

The Easter Resurrection changed everything. The ladies who came to the tomb with spices in hand to prepare the body of Christ were changed. Mary, who wept outside the tomb, had her heart and life changed as Christ called out to her by name. The disciples whose faith grew dim, almost cold, were changed as Christ came to them and spoke words of peace. “**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**” (John 14:27)



THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Your faith is not hot, or cold, but lukewarm. So I will spit you out like room temp 'church' coffee. Rev. 3:14-27 (The church of Laododa)

<http://thebackpew.com>

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus brings peace to you this day, do not fear. If you have been a 'lukewarm' Christian, Christ has come to fill you up with His love, mercy, and peace. He has come to make you alive, and restore you with His Heavenly Father.

We live in a Good Friday world. A world that attacks Christ and His Word. A world that leaves Jesus' followers hidden at times in fear, with faith that often grows cold and dim. But we live as Easter Christians. We live with the Hope of the Life to come. We live in the reality that Jesus who once was dead is alive. That Christ takes our cold lifeless bodies and our 'lukewarm' faith and makes us alive and gives Easter Joy and Hope.

This Easter Joy of Christ's victory changed everything for the disciples. They went forth in faith – no longer afraid of what Satan, the world, or any evil that man may seek to do to them. For they knew that Christ Jesus has the power over all things – including death itself.

It's with this same confidence and Easter Joy that we are changed from 'lukewarm' Christians to those who are made alive by the power of the Spirit. We live as Easter Christians, with a heart burning within us to live as God's children. We do so by living our lives as Christians in the way we raise our children, love our spouse, and interact with one another. We live as Christians on fire for the Lord as we participate in bible study and worship. We spend time in prayer (*and not only during meals, but at all times*), and in God's Word and we seek to show the same love and compassion to others that Christ has shown to us.

We may live under the cross of Christ through trial and tribulation, but we do so with our eyes looking forward beyond the cross to the empty tomb. And with our eyes and hearts fixed on Christ, our faith will grow and ever increase as we hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. And to live in such a way will cause your faith not to grow dim or cold, but to increase and be strengthened in your love for God and one another. No longer will you be 'lukewarm', instead you will be a Christian with great zeal and love for the Lord. Easter has changed everything!



Islam and the West

ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON ISLAM, JIHAD,
TERRORISM, AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISES.

Turning on the TV today, you hear about all sorts of terrorist attacks. In the last 6 months alone we have had attacks from a California work place to Paris and even most recently, Brussels. What are we as Christians to make of all of this? How are we to respond to our brothers and sisters of the Islamic faith? How can we share the Gospel message with them? Is Islam really a peaceful religion?

Join us Sunday, April 24th as we have a guest preacher and bible study presenter who will speak on Islam, who knows the Islamic faith firsthand as one who not only grew up in it, but was immersed in it.

We are pleased to have with us Lutheran Pastor Hesham Shehab who will share the Lord's Word with us and then after church speak on Islam and the West, taking time to answer questions you might have about Islam, jihad, terrorism, and the Middle East crisis.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON OUR GUEST PREACHER

Hesham Shehab grew up in a world of bitter animosity between Muslims and Christians, which he experienced personally in a physical attack when only about 7. By age 13 he was recruited by the Muslim Brotherhood (Lebanese Chapter) and later fought against Christians in the 1975 war in Lebanon. In 1980, while Hesham was going to an American college in Beirut, Lebanon, his brother was killed by a Christian militia. Hesham's response was to study by day, and by night take out his revenge in attacks on Christians. However, hearing the Sermon on the Mount, in a course of cultural studies (at that college), brought him to faith. Hesham found a way of forgiveness and reconciliation instead of hatred and revenge. Later, Hesham earned an M.A. in the history of the Arabs from the American University of Beirut (AUB), and did Ph.D studies in the history of Islam.

In 2001, Hesham, worked as a journalist and adjunct professor (at AUB), met a retired Lutheran pastor,



Sunday, April 24th

Guest Preacher

& Bible Study Leader

Rev. Dr. Bernie Lutz, working with the Lutheran Hour Ministry in Beirut. Dr. Lutz plugged Hesham into the LCMS.

Hesham moved to the US in 2004, finished his pastoral education at Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN, and is currently in the Ph.D missiology program there.

In 2008, with the support of local LCMS churches, Hesham planted Salam Christian Fellowship, a mission to Muslims in the western suburbs, and has so far baptized 30 people from the Middle East. Salam Christian Fellowship is a faith ministry that depends on the donations of God's people and their zeal to fulfill the Great Commission. Salam reaches out to refugees and new immigrants from eight Middle Eastern countries, and shares the Gospel with Muslims in three languages. Salam converts and seekers meet at three different locations in the western suburbs of Chicago.

In order to support Salam and ignite the love of Christ towards Muslims in the heart of lukewarm Christians, Hesham speaks nationwide on Islam and evangelism.

Hesham was adjunct faculty at Concordia, Ann Arbor, MI, where he taught Islam. Currently adjunct faculty, teaching Islam and comparative religious studies at College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL

Hesham Shehab is married to Mona and together they have four children. He currently serves as pastor at Salam Christian Fellowship in Lombard, IL.

<http://salamchristianfellowship.org/>

<http://youtu.be/O225ekmvLs>

St. John's ~ Elder's Corner

ST. JOHN BOARD OF ELDERS

PLEASE FEEL FREE
TO CALL ANY ELDER:

Families by last names
& their assigned Elder

✠ April—Carlson

Elder: Neal Sharkey
713-6493 Box 132

✠ Christensen—Heagle

Elder: David P. Schmidt
432-0349 Box 268

✠ Heckmann—Lambert

Elder: Jeff Stachura
639-5041 Box 253

✠ Lancour—Natzke

Elder: Larry Slaght
822-3532 Box 423

✠ Nelson—Schenk

Elder: - Vacant -

✠ Schlender—Ullmer, B.

Elder: Gene Schroeder
822-8591 Box 434

✠ Ullmer, T. — Zankle

Elder: Mike Stone
819-8845 Box 227

HEAD ELDER:

GENE SCHROEDER

ST. JOHN ELDERS — HERE TO SERVE YOU!

What is an elder & what should our congregation expect of its elders? Elders assist the pastor in matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation, public worship, Christian discipline and restoration. Elders serve all members of the congregation. In order to perform such services, they concern themselves with the spiritual growth and well being of St. John's members through prayer and individual contacts.

Do you have a spiritual concern? In need of prayer or someone to listen to your concern? Contact one of the elders today! We are here to serve you; showing the love, mercy, and peace of Jesus to those in need.
(See James 5:13-16)



DISAPPOINTMENT—FEAR—FAITH

In the February 2016 Elder's Corner, I mentioned how John the Baptist was questioning his faith while in prison.

Well how about this! Isn't it strange that the followers of Jesus seemed completely blindsided by the resurrection while His detractors made preparations for it?

Why is it that the Gospels don't record a single instance of an apostle, disciple, or friend of Jesus saying or doing anything that indicated some level of familiarity or expectation with the resurrection? The women who came to the tomb that Sunday morning certainly weren't prepared for it. They were bringing spices to anoint the body of Christ to mask the imminent smell of decaying flesh.

When the women ran to tell the apostles the good news, they weren't greeted with expectant nods and smiles. No, a couple of them ran to the tomb to make sure the women weren't lying. And still they couldn't make heads or tails of what happened. One of them, Thomas, even decided that his friends were either delusional or just plain lying to him when they told him Jesus had appeared to them.

How is it humanly possible that they forgot what Jesus repeatedly told them concerning His resurrection? Especially when He did it in so many different ways. Jesus told them directly, and He used spiritual imagery to get the message across. Remember **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"** HOW DID ALL HIS FRIENDS FORGET BUT HIS ENEMIES REMEMBER?

Is it possible Jesus' friends were overwhelmed by His display of weakness by peacefully dying on a cross while His enemies were overwhelmed by the marvel of His strength. After all, many of them had been present when He raised Lazarus from the dead. His friends were mortified at the thought of the Son of God succumbing to the hands of men. His enemies

were panicked by the thought of a post-death confrontation with Him.

St. Luke sums it up best when he records the sad line spoken by one of the two disciples on the road to



Emmaus as he unknowingly spoke to the risen Jesus: **"We had hoped that he was the one."** So one group's response to the death of Jesus was to lament that maybe they had misunderstood Him while the other group's response was to fearfully make arrangements because they clearly understood Him!

There is a tremendously important lesson to be learned concerning the different reactions to the death of Jesus and His resurrection. Embracing disappointment and feeding it with sorrow is blinding.

The Emmaus disciples who walked down the road with the resurrected Jesus and didn't recognize Him! In John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene wept outside the empty tomb because the body was gone. She turned and Jesus was standing right in front of her. No recognition. St. John says she thought He was the gardener. It wasn't until He called her by name that her eyes were cleared and she recognized Him.

The detractors of Christ, on the other hand, were driven by the fear that is born of unbelief. They could not forget His promise to rise from the dead. So powerful was their fear that it led them to seek help and permission from the only man they may have hated more than they hated Christ: Pilate. It is quite telling that none of them ran to Pilate to seek his permission to stone to death a women caught in the act of adultery. But they came groveling to him to ask for a guard to be put at the tomb of Christ. **THAT IS PRECISELY THE KIND OF THING UNBELIEF AND FEAR REGULARLY CAUSE.**

(Continued on page 5)

To this day, the resurrection of Jesus Christ continues to have the same effect on people. Those who are drowning in disappointment in life continue to walk toward death with spices to mask the unmistakable smell of failure. Yet, those who revel adamantly in the supposed superiority of their unbelief continue their campaign to keep the truth silenced, shut up behind closed doors and armed guards.

We should resist disappointment with an attitude of faith and combat the fear of unbelief by resisting evil and conquering sin through repentance, choosing the Word of God over impossible circumstances. It may sound simple enough, but it is not. Disappointment can be all-encompassing, and fear is crippling.

We can however choose a more precise and suitable course when the next crisis confronts us unexpectedly. We can prepare for it now. We can glean from the Word of God daily, pray faithfully, and walk truthfully so that when we are confronted by bitter disappointment, we will not forget. As a matter of fact, every time we observe Holy Communion that is precisely what we do: **"Do this in remembrance of [Jesus]"**.



THE PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, guide us by Thy Holy Spirit to remember Your Son's passion, remember His death, and remember His resurrection. Let hope bear faith, and for faith will sustain us until we stand in the presence of our Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen



RENOVATION FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Fundraising Committee is tasked with "leading the congregation to raise up to \$80,000 to go toward our building repairs and renovations."

Watch our thermometer grow as we prepare for the renovation of the Lord's House that will begin on June 5th.

On Sunday, March 20th we had a door offering with matching funds up to \$2,500. That total amount raised with matching funds was \$8,351. Way to step up St. John!

The total funds as of March 6th, 2016 are \$18,173 + \$35,000 (Per Voters' Meeting from Thrivent & Horters) for a grand total of \$53,173. Our new total puts us over \$61,000.

SILENT AUCTION – DONATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED
The fundraising committee is accepting donations of new items for a silent auction that will be taking place later this month. Items may be dropped off in the church office. The Silent Auction will begin Sunday, May 1st and end on Sunday May 22nd.

BOOYAH SALE – SATURDAY, MAY 7TH



Get the word out to the community that St. John will be having a Booyah Sale on Saturday, May 7th during the Village Wide Rummage Sale. Purchase it by the bowl or by the quart.

Do you know someone who is in Need of Prayer or a pastors visit, please let the church office or Pastor Yaw know.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE IN NEED ESPECIALLY:

SICK, ILL, OR REQUESTED PRAYERS:

Larry Heckmann, Carol Holewinski, Arlin Johnson, Zach Kolzow, Jerry Prosek, Herman Rhode, Sarah Scharenbrock, David A. & David P. Schmidt, and Lindsey Winn

THOSE MOURNING:

Tom Heagle and family as they mourn the passing of his wife, Sarah.

OUR SHUT-INS:

Dewey & Shirley Folkman,
Bob Hubbard, Gladys Nelson
Gen Wilke

OUR MISSIONARIES:

Pastor James May & family and the work of Lutherans in Africa.
Phil's Friends & their cancer support.
Pulaski Food Pantry and the many local families touched by their care.

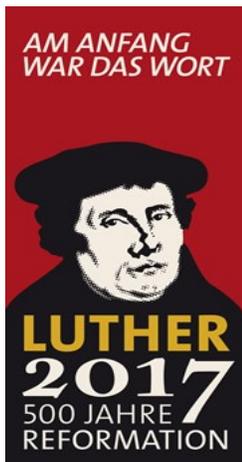


GERMANY 2017

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. To celebrate this historic event, Pastor Error & Faith Lutheran in Green Bay are hosting a trip to Germany to follow in the "Footsteps of Luther."

They are encouraging other Green Bay area Lutheran churches to join them on this historic trip to Germany.

Leaving May 9 and returning May 17, 2017, we will visit nine different cities including Worms, Wittenberg, and Berlin. Brochures with more information are available in the office. Please see Pastor Yaw if you have any questions.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Members of this team will teach English to students eager to learn the English language. Days will be filled with lessons in Bible reading, grammar, vocabulary, idioms, and writing; but that is only half the fun! **Arts, crafts, music, drama, recreation and a time of worship will also be provided. Students will vary in age from young children through adults, including many young professionals and older adults. Typically there are 50-60 people participating in the program.**

Lessons are taught using a MOST Ministries' provided Christian curriculum that allows small, personalized classes. Pre-field training on how to teach the lessons is provided by the MOST Ministries' Team Leader assigned to accompany your team to Peru.

PLEASE NOTE: *You do not need to be a certified teacher or speak 'the language' to join this team.*

HOST INFORMATION:

LCMS involvement in Peru began in 1997, when LCMS World Relief and Human Care awarded a grant for flood relief and medical care.

In August 2007, an 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck south of Lima killing more than 500 people, injuring more than 1,000 and destroying 34,410 homes, according to news reports. The towns of Lucumo and Lunahuaná were largely overlooked by the government & other relief organizations.

LCMS World Mission traveled to Lima, Lucumo and Lunahuaná two weeks after the earthquake to evaluate how they could respond to the people in need. They handed out Bibles, food, personal hygiene products, and got approval from the local government authorities to work there. LCMS World Relief and Human Care awarded a grant to repair an irrigation system that provides water for families and crops.

Three LCMS GEO missionaries and two career missionary families currently serve in Peru. LCMS World Mission operations on the ground in Peru also prepare for the arrival and service of short-term teams, which perform many tasks such as assisting with construction work in villages and teaching English in order to build relationships and share the Gospel.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church—Peru became a member of the International Lutheran Council in September 2007.



Peru ~ Team 1635 - ESL Team Description "Impacting the World for Jesus Christ"

Have you ever considered doing missionary work? How about short term mission work? The North WI District is inviting you to join them this coming Summer to Lima, Peru for an opportunity to grow in your faith as you teach English to eager students.

PLEASE NOTE: *You do not need to be a certified teacher or speak 'the language' to join this team.*

DATES: June 25 - July 3, 2016

LOCATION: San Borja

ESTIMATED COST:

\$2500 with estimated airfare—
we are seeking ways to raise funds to help reduce the cost for those who are going.



COST INCLUDES:

- ✎ Airfare
- ✎ Ground Transportation
- ✎ Housing & Meals
- ✎ Trained Team Leader
- ✎ Crisis Management Plan
- ✎ 24/7 On-call Doctor
- ✎ In-country Arrangements & Costs
- ✎ Supplemental Health Ins.
- ✎ Logistical, Spiritual & Cultural Training
- ✎ Team Medical Bag with Nursing Protocols

DEADLINE TO SIGNUP: Thursday, March 31st

Signing up right now does not commit you to the trip. A meeting on the trip will take place in early April to finalize those that are attending. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Yaw (pastor.yaw@netnet.net). As of the printing of the Newsletter, we have 5 people interested in serving on this Mission Trip.



ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS AND THEIR FRUIT...

by Pastor Joshua Sheer

NOTE FROM PASTOR YAW:

Last month, I received an anonymous letter and shared it with the congregation following service that such letters are cowardly and sinful. All future anonymous letters will be filed in the landfill. If you have a question, concern, or complaint please come to me directly so we may handle it in a Christian manner. Below is a great article written by a classmate and fellow LCMS Lutheran Pastor Sheer on such letters.

Complaints are a part of life in a fallen world. Add to that a culture of personal opinions and tastes, and complaints can become of increased importance. Complaints can be necessary. They also hold the power to utterly destroy people and congregations. The following is meant to help the church (congregations especially) start to grow away from a culture of complaint and more towards godly conversations and reconciliation among the baptized. It should be noted that public sin is not the issue in this posting.

Matthew 18:15-20

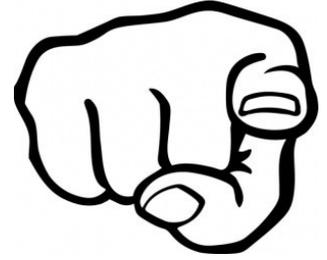
"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you loose on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

From this text it is very important to note the personal and private nature of complaints. Some complaints do not rise to the category of "sin" but some do. Matthew 18 forbids the anonymous complaint. Unless we are talking about legal matters (ex. Sexual Misconduct) the complaints of anyone ought to be such that the person's name is to be used. Anonymous complaints are not of God.

SOME FRUIT OF ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS:

- No reconciliation (*opportunity for apology / confession and absolution is lost*) – This is by far the worst aspect of the anonymous complaint.
- Violation of Matthew 18
- Violation of the 8th Commandment (*no defense or best construction*)

- No accountability (*not responsible for your words/accusations*)
- No pastoral care allowed (*complaints often are symptoms of greater spiritual problems*)
- No opportunity for instruction in God's Word (*many complaints can be cleared up using God's Word for instruction*)
- No opportunity to clarify the nature of the complaint
- Culture of suspicion and distrust (*pastor, people, boards*)
- Unnecessary or frivolous complaints (*again, no one responsible for their words increases the number of complaints & also decreases their value*)
- Exaggeration (*anonymity almost needs company in order to preserve anonymity; this is lying*)



ACTION – If you are presented with a complaint about a person/practice under the authority of a person, the following should be the course of action:

ASK – *Have you talked to this person / the person in authority over this or about this?*

- A. If they have, ASK about the response.
- B. If they have not, ENCOURAGE them to do so and do not address this until they have.
 - i. If they do not wish to, then EXHORT them to forgive the other person and move on.
Love covers a multitude of sins.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

REMEMBERING THE 8TH COMMANDMENT IN YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS.

When discussing anything with another person whose complaint is being raised against someone else, please remember that this commandment tells us to defend, speak well of, and explain everything in the kindest way (best construction). Again, the first thing in any complaint is to make sure that the complainer has already brought this to the proper person. If not, the effort to complain is nothing more than gossip and possibly much more (slander, betrayal).

Other helpful passages of Scripture to help in this: Ephesians 5:11-13, Proverbs 20:19, Galatians 6:1, 1 Cor. 13:4-7, Eph. 4:29-32, 1 Peter 4:8-11, James 3:1-12.

This Article can be found at: <http://steadfastlutherans.org/2015/02/anonymous-complaints-and-their-fruit/>

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



PCMS IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Spring means many things and, to the PCMS Success House, it means it's time for our Biography Unit in which students interview an elder face-to-face (**60 years or older**) and use the information gathered to write the elder's biography. After the biographies are written, the students and the volunteers celebrate with a luncheon where the students present the biographies, socialize, and entertain the volunteers.



We are hoping to recruit enough volunteers to have a 1:1 ratio. Needless to say, we are going to need your help! If you know anyone who is age 60 or older who would be able to come to PCMS twice for this project, please ask them if they are willing to volunteer.

Volunteer Dates: FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW: **Wednesday, April 13th (or) Thursday, April 14th**
CELEBRATION: **Thursday, May 12th**

Volunteers will need to fill out the questionnaire that is available in the church office and return it by **April 4th**. Students will use this questionnaire to formulate interview questions.

2ND ANNUAL FATHER / DAUGHTER DANCE – SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH AT N.E.W. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL



6:00 pm to 8:30 pm – No need to Sign-up

Grandfathers, Fathers, Daughters and Granddaughters of all ages are invited to make some wonderful memories with us at our 2nd annual event. Refreshments will be served along with some excellent music from Rock the Flock.

Admission is \$25 per family. Please join us for a special night!

ASSUMPTION BVM'S ANNUAL SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER

TUESDAY, APRIL 12TH ST. FRANCIS HALL 4:30 TO 6:30 PM

Featuring Home-Made Dumplings

Coffee & Dessert Included

Tickets: Adults \$10.00 – Children \$4.00 – Under 3 Free

Tickets available at Parish Office or at the door.

All Are Welcome to Join us – Sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women



MEDICARE BASICS: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER A, B, C AND D WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO MEDICARE OR WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEDICARE BASICS & OTHER MEDICARE OPTIONS

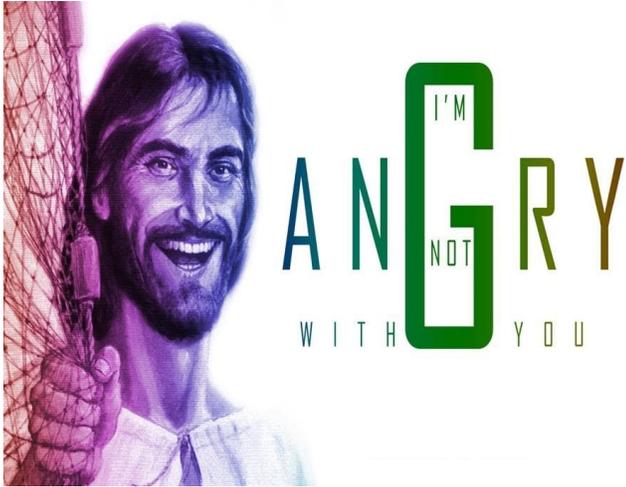
The ADRC, in partnership with Shawano County Department of Human Services, will be presenting some classes in April about the basics of Medicare. This class will be great for those who are new to Medicare or for those who just want to learn more about the different programs and parts of Medicare. Class is free and open to the public. There will be multiple options of when it is held so individuals have options of which class they would like to attend.

- 📌 Wednesday, April 20th: 10:00 am – Noon at the GLAS Coffee House in Shawano
- 📌 Wednesday, April 20th: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Shawano County Human Services Fellman Center
- 📌 Wednesday, April 27th: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Wittenberg Community Center



STEWARDSHIP

MAXIMIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS GLORY



NO GRUDGE FROM THE LORD

The greatest surprise about Easter is not that Jesus is alive, risen from the dead, out of the grave, that He conquered death and hell, and comes to meet you as He promised. The greatest surprise is that He did all that and is not angry. There is no fear for us in His return because He is not angry. He bears no grudge. He seeks no vengeance. He comes to give peace, with mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus lives and is not angry. Imagine that. He is not angry. He doesn't blame those who killed Him. He doesn't blame you. For no one takes His life from Him. He lays it down of His own accord. He gives Himself into death to win us back from sin, death, and hell. He does it willingly without coercion. He does it sacrificially, Him for us. He gave what was His to give. Thus His petition to the Father from the cross, "**Forgive them**" is granted to you in His resurrection. He comes alive out of death to forgive and to give His life to you.

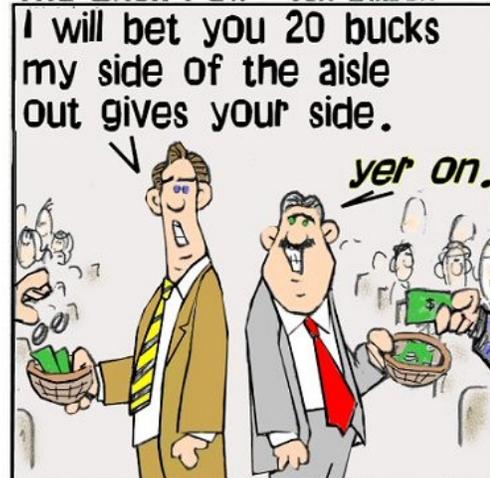
There is nothing to be afraid of because Jesus is raised from the dead and is not angry. Thus we are free – free from worrying about how to make it up to Him, and free to give as He has given to us. He gave Himself as a gift, His life in exchange for our death, willingly and sacrificially. And so it is that we are now free to give in like manner: willingly, sacrificially, with what we have been given.

We give to the church because it is in the church where our eyes have seen and our ears have heard that Jesus lives and is not angry. It is here where we learn of God's mercy and forgiveness in Christ. It is here where we continually receive that message of life, where He visits us to give peace, with mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

So do not be afraid. Jesus lives, and He is not angry. The sacrifice has been made. The debt is canceled and forgotten. Righteousness is declared. Jesus lives. He lives, and He is not angry. You are restored. You are reconciled to the Father in the Son. Your future is assured: Jesus lives. It is not just death and Hell, the devil and his demons, that are undone. Your sins, your fear are undone. They are gone, forgotten, destroyed. Jesus lives. Hallelujah! Jesus lives.

And because Jesus lives, you are just. You are right with God, pleasing and delightful to Him. You are forgiven, clean, pure, holy, and filled with His good works and with His Name. He is not angry. He is glad to have you. He wants you. He loves you. He gave everything that is His to and for you, willingly and sacrificially. In faith and trust in Him, let us do likewise.

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Church Ushers who make side bets...
next on Oprah.



Board of Evangelism

To inspire the congregation to reach out through God's love, to serve the community, and to bring people to Christ.



Seeking Ways to Service others!

The Board of Evangelism throughout the years seeks ways to serve others whether it through a social function or through hands on work to those in the community by way of providing meals or blankets to those in need. If you have an idea or would like to help us in sharing the love and mercy of Christ, please talk with either Lynn Aprill or Pastor Yaw.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

New Orleans Bound— we have a group of 3 youth and 2 adults that will be attending the 2016 National Youth Gathering (NYG) this summer in New Orleans.

The cost to attend this trip is about \$1,500 per person. The youth are accepting donations for this trip. Consider sponsoring a youth or look for ways you can help them reach their goal of being able to attend.

Those attending the 2016 National Youth Gathering:

Aryan Brunette, Amy Dyer, Jean & Rylie Kohlmeyer, and ChaChi (Michelle) Wood



LCMS YOUTH GATHERING
NEW ORLEANS • JULY 16-20, 2016

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



While the end of Sunday School is nearing, there is still a lot left to teach your children. The last day of Sunday school is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st with our second annual field day which will take place immediately after church. The field day will consist of faith, fun games, food, and prizes for all in attendance. Join us for worship and stay for the fellowship.

While May 1st is the last day of Sunday school for this school year, we will resume in the Fall after Labor Day weekend. However, we want to encourage you all to take time over the summer to read the Bible together as a family, remember to say prayers at meal time and bedtime. Use your child's 'My First Hymnal' as a guide for family devotions and even sing the hymns together.

Summer is a great time for family and faith; to grow closer together with one another and with our Lord.

TODDLER/NURSERY ROOMS:

Parents: please feel free to take advantage of the toddler room or nursery that are available for your use during the services. During the Sunday school hours volunteers are available to watch your toddlers in the toddler room. Interested in helping support the toddler room, please contact the Sunday School Directors Lindsey Winn, 822-1440 or Heidi Yaw, 883-2692.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE



Due to the Easter Season:

The Sunday School children will be singing in church on Sunday, May 1st.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

Bible for Lutherans in Africa

This year's mission is to use our Sunday School offerings to purchase Bibles for Lutherans in Africa. This is an exciting opportunity to teach our children how important it is to share God's message on both a local and global basis, and also for them to see the direct impact their fundraising will have. Through our Sunday School Offerings we have raised over **\$1600** for the purchase of Bibles. We will continue to raise funds for this project until the end of July.



SQUEAKY



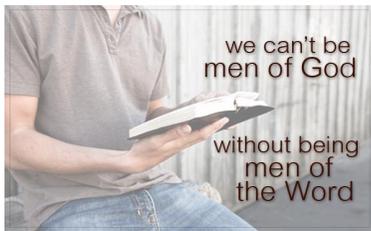
Please consider donating food items to the Pulaski Food Pantry on the 3rd Sunday with items like, granola bars, cereal, single serving size items and peanut butter. Food items can be donated anytime in "Squeaky" and will help the food pantry fill the nutritional need of those in our community.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY BREAKFAST
Wednesday 8:00 am at Pulaski Station*
**Formerly known as Neighborhood Kitchen*

Men of all ages are invited to join us for breakfast as we enjoy fellowship and studying of the Word of God. We look at the coming Sunday readings, discussing them while we wait for our food to arrive. If you can't make it weekly, that's alright. Join us when you can.



MEN'S
SATURDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY
Saturday, April 16th
7:30 am

Fatherhood is key in the Life of Children. Wives need a husband that is Christ like in loving and forgiving them. Join us as we dig into God's Word over coffee and breakfast at the church. Come be encouraged by other men, prayed for, & strengthen by the Word. We meet at 7:30 am for about hour. Coffee and donuts provided.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

A New Study Begins April 3rd

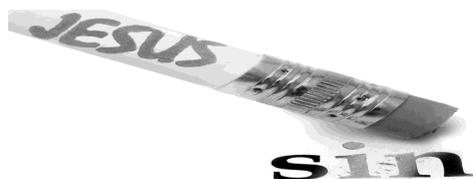
We start a New Study on Sunday, April 3rd. Join us as we dig into the book of James. A book written by the brother of our Lord. Learn what wonderful words James has to share.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Come for the coffee, stay for the study.

A New Study Begins Tuesday, April 12th

We will begin a new session on Tuesday, April 12th. Watch for more information to come in the weeks ahead.



Ways to Support St. John while you shop!

Did you know that there are many ways to help our church and youth program financially—just by doing what you are doing anyway?

One example is SCRIP. By using the gift cards purchased here for your regular shopping for groceries, home goods, clothing, or eating out, our school automatically receives anywhere from 2 to 10 percent of your purchase (*depending on the retailer*) goes toward our youth program. Order forms are available by the coat room.

A program you may not be aware of is "Amazon Smile." Amazon will give back 0.5% of your amazon.com purchase, if you go through Amazon Smile, at no extra cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com and log in to your regular account. From there, you can choose a charity to support. Our church is part of this program.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com type in the pick your own charitable organization box to search for "Saint John Pulaski". Select the church to receive donations from your eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Amazon will remember your selection, then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the church.

If you are an Amazon Prime member, this will still work. So do amazon gift cards (*which you can purchase in SCRIP*). If you shop at Amazon, please check this out. It is a very easy way to help. 0.5% does not sound like much, but if enough of us do it, it will add up pretty quickly. Every little bit helps!



Online Readers: to shop using AmazonSmile selecting St. John click on the Picture above now

Help support our congregation through Thrivent Choice®.

 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**



Corner

NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH

Barb Hoeft will be our hostess at the April meeting .
At this meeting, a bible study will be lead by our own Jackie Brassfield.

Ladies, please join us at anytime. We are always happy to see additional faces! ☺

The **LWML Spring Rally** will be held at **St. Peters** in **Forestville** on **Saturday, April 23rd**. Registration is \$5 and will be held in the morning only.

Registration begins at 8:30 and opening devotions are at 9 a.m. Gifts of the Heart will be collected for JAK's Place which is named after Jonah Andrew Klapatch who lost his life to mental illness.

The facility offers outreach, education & active programs for those affected by mental illness. They are associated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). They are in need of the following items:

- ↳ Canned vegetables
- ↳ Canned Meat, especially tuna
- ↳ Quart size Ziploc bags
- ↳ Kleenex
- ↳ Coffee (grounds or instant)
- ↳ Dish soap, hand soap
- ↳ Baking Cocoa (used for their free meals)
- ↳ Paper Towels
- ↳ Copy Paper
- ↳ Stamps - especially for postcards
- ↳ Snacks for Game Nights (no peanuts or nuts)
- ↳ Monetary donations



If you would like to donate any of these items, there will be a collection basket by the bulletin boards. God loves a cheerful giver.

The featured mission grant for the LWML for April is: **Providing Hope for Detroit.**

If you'd like to learn more about this mission, please join us on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30pm.



PRAYER PARTNER BREAKFAST

ST. JOHN SOCIAL HALL

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH – 8:30 AM

“SPRING IS IN THE PRAIR [PRAYER]”

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer”
Romans 12:12

This is a special invitation to all ladies of St. John. To our young moms, take an hour for yourselves and let us cook & serve YOU breakfast! If you want, bring your daughters with you to teach her the importance of prayer in our lives.

Prayer Partners is a personal and unique quiet time with God each day. There are no meetings to attend, committees on which to serve, or other demands on your time. A talk with our Lord can occur at any given time or place, and whether or not you are someone's partner, that is an important part of anyone's day.

Join us for the next Prayer Partner Breakfast and draw the name of a Sister-In-Christ for whom you will pray each day. And know the comfort that someone is praying for you as well!

Please take a prayer profile sheet located on the table in the Narthex. Thank you!

New Chairs & a New Bench for the Social Hall

Did you get a chance to see the new chairs? If not, check out the picture below. Two new chairs were recently purchased to replace our pink ones. The chairs will be stored away until the completion of the church renovations this summer; then they will be placed back out for use.

Also, check out the nice new bench that was recently donated currently located outside the church office.

Thank you for wonderful gifts to help beautify the church.



THE TRUTH ABOUT MEN & CHURCH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FATHERS TO CHURCHGOING

By Robbie Low—article originally appeared in June 2003 Touchstone Magazine

Read more: <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=16-05-024-v#ixzz43YgEVGf6>

In June 2003 Robbie Low wrote an amazing article “On the importance of Fathers to churchgoing.” The article does a great job of looking at the attack on fatherhood from culture and the effect that has overall on rearing children. We know from various studies done today that Fathers are important, just as important as mom. And both fathers and mothers play a key role in raising a child.

In short from the article by Robbie Low, if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife’s devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). If a father goes but irregularly to church, regardless of his wife’s devotion, between a half and two-thirds of their offspring will find themselves coming to church regularly or occasionally.

A non-practicing mother with a regular father will see a minimum of two-thirds of her children ending up at church. In contrast, a non-practicing father with a regular mother will see two-thirds of his children never darken the church door. If his wife is similarly negligent that figure rises to 80 percent!

The results are shocking, but they should not be surprising. They are about as politically incorrect as it is possible to be; but they simply confirm what psychologists, criminologists, educationalists, and traditional Christians know. You cannot buck the biology of the created order. Father’s influence, from the determination of a child’s sex by the implantation of his seed to the funerary rites surrounding his passing, is out of all proportion to his allotted, and severely diminished role, in Western liberal society.

A mother’s role will always remain primary in terms of intimacy, care, and nurture. (The toughest man may well sport a tattoo dedicated to the love of his mother, without the



slightest embarrassment or sentimentality). No father can replace that relationship. But it is equally true that when a child begins to move into that period of differentiation from home and engagement with the world “out there,” he (and she) looks increasingly to the father for his role model. Where the father is indifferent, inadequate, or just plain absent, that task of differentiation and engagement is much harder. When children see that church is a “women and children” thing, they will respond accordingly – by not going to church, or going much less.

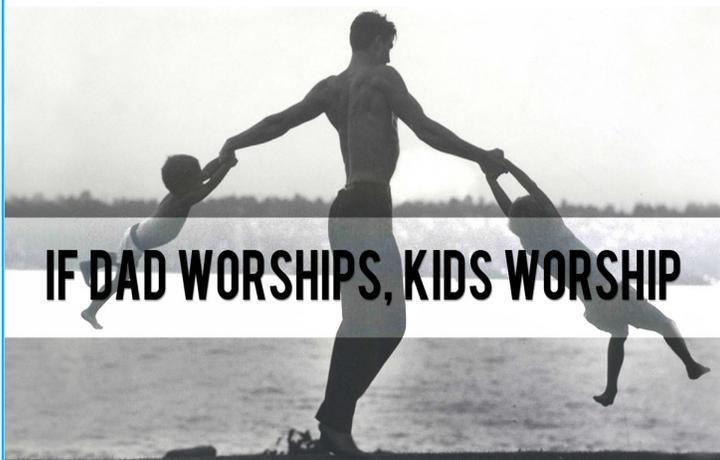
Curiously, both adult women as well as men will conclude subconsciously that Dad’s absence indicates that going to church is not really a “grown-up” activity. In terms of commitment, a mother’s role may be to encourage and confirm, but it is not primary to her adult offspring’s decision. Mothers’ choices have dramatically less effect upon children than their fathers’, and without him she has little effect on the primary lifestyle choices her offspring make in their religious observances.

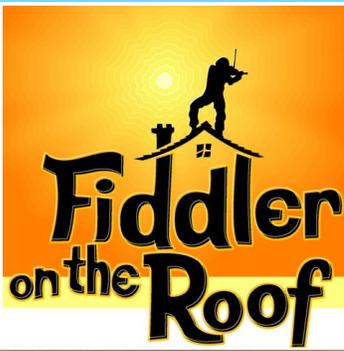
Her major influence is not on regular attendance at all but on keeping her irregular children from lapsing altogether. This is, needless to say, a vital work, but even then, without the input of the father (regular or irregular), the proportion of regulars to lapsed goes from 60/40 to 40/60.

St. John Lutheran Church seeks to encourage dads to take on the most important task you’ve been given. Raising your children in the faith. We desire to offer opportunities for men to teach their sons and daughters about the love, mercy, and forgiveness of Christ. Hopefully, reading the above will help you understand why.

To read the full article go to the following website: <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=16-05-024-v>

Dads check out our monthly Bible Study for you!
Also make note of the upcoming Father/Daughter Dance





AWESOME JOB!

This past February the Pulaski High School put on the musical, "Fiddler on the Roof." Staring in the musical were some of St. John's own youth. You all did a wonderful job, we are so proud of you!



From Left to Right:
Brayden Lom, Micaela Hansen,
Michelle 'ChaChi' Wood and Paige Bonnin



INSTALLATION DATE SCHEDULED

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

It's coming, mark your calendars—we have an installation date for the New Playground of Friday, April 8th.

We will be recruiting 5-8 individuals to help with the installation. The installation will take place during the day and will be supervised by a two-man crew from the company that the playground was purchased from.

If you are able to help out, please contact the church office or KC Nelson.



HEY DADS WE NEED YOUR HELP

REGISTER FOR CAMP LUTHER!



An exciting summer is planned for ALL AGES at Camp Luther.

Youth in grades 3-9 have many options for camp that will allow you to pick just the right "fit" for each child.

"Pathfinder" is an exciting week camp for youth in grades 3-6. "Trailblazer" is a special week camp for youth grades 5-9. Both Trailblazer and Pathfinder allow campers a choice to stay in one of five outpost villages or in the dormitory-style Retreat Center.

There are also Camps available for 4K- Kindergarteners "KinderCamp" and grades 1-3 "Explorer Camp".

Don't forget about the High School Youth—you too have options at Camp Luther. Check out either "Impact," "Xtreme Teen," or "The Edge."

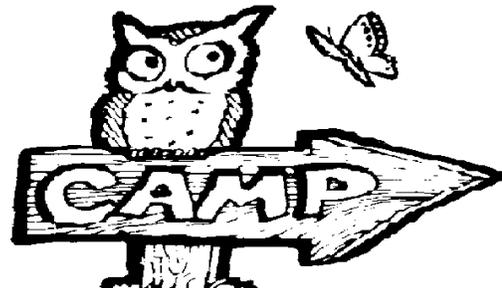
Financial Assistance is available for all people both through Camp Luther and St. John (forms available on the bulletin board).

All who apply will receive some form of assistance.

Activities within camper groups provide opportunities for friendships and faith to grow.

Visit Camp Luther's website www.campluther.com to register today. Save \$10 by registering before April 1st.

DO KNOW A KID THAT WOULD LIKE TO GO TO CAMP BUT CAN'T AFFORD IT? PLEASE LET PASTOR YAW KNOW SO WE CAN GET THAT KID TO CAMP.





NOTES FROM THE MISSION FIELD: ASHES AND ROCKS

Happy New Year and Blessed Lent to all of you!

I don't know about you but here things have been moving at cosmic speed. Life can be like that at times. Running, running, running to get things done and then the reality of life smacks you, BOOM! It could be an accident, a health scare, a death in the family, or a relationship goes bad. Tragedy strikes and it is because of sin or the effects of sin. Whether we have sinned against our neighbor, friend, or spouse or even if we get sick, it is because of sin. I am not saying that you get sick and die because of a particular thing you have done but because of who we are. We are sinners. We were born with a disease called original sin which means, one day, we are all going to die. This is why Ash Wednesday is such a blessed and helpful part of the liturgical calendar. It reminds us of an important reality, **"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."** (Genesis 3:19)

Now you might ask, "Why is that so helpful and a blessing?" It is like walking into the doctor's office and him telling me that I have cancer. HOW can that be good? How? My dear brother and sister in Christ, the doctor didn't give you cancer just like the pastor didn't give you sin. But the doctor helps you and he is a blessing to you because if you do not face that reality, you will never get the treatment, the medicine you need to get better!

In like manner, we are all going to die but worse yet, we will be cast into worse pain and suffering than the worst cancer UNLESS we get the cure for original sin. Unless we are washed clean of our sin, the death sentence remains. **"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."** That is why at our chapel, after tracing the ashes upon each and every "patient" we confessed our sins, our sickness, and then proceeded to the baptismal font to wash those ashes off. The curse was upon us but the curse has been paid.

Christ died for you and whomever has been baptized has put on Christ! Check out Galatians 3:27. In fact, all Galatians 3. When you are baptized you put on the crucified Christ to show that the penalty of your sin has been paid for but you also put on Christ resurrected because you now have eternal life in Him! Thanks be to God for that! Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season but it takes us to the goal, the tetelestai of Good Friday and the hope of the resurrection on Easter Sunday!

This is what Lutherans in Africa is all about. Training African Lutherans to be teachers of this faith, this message. We are training doctors of the soul so that others recognize their sin and repent (preaching of the Law) and that they are forgiven, baptized, and fed with the Living Word (preaching and administration of the Gospel).

As many of you are aware, it has been our prayer for many

years to buy our own land and start a training center. For many years I have been traveling to 20 some countries in Africa organizing training seminars at the requests of bishops and church presidents. Their pastors need better training and they need better resources. Each year the Lutheran Heritage Foundation gives us a grant to translate Lutheran books into local African languages and then Lutherans in Africa gives us a grant to organize the teaching sessions. But the same demand repeats after each session. *"Pastor, the training session was excellent. We have never seen a catechism (or hymnal or Book of Concord or Good News magazine) before. Please come back 3-4 times a year to give us more training. Our pastors and churches are not equipped well enough."*

It is simple math really. Multiply 20 countries by 4 training sessions per year and there are not enough weeks in a year. So instead of me traveling to all these places, it is better to bring them to the "capital" of Africa, Nairobi, and give them 2-3 years of training. It took about three years to raise the money to buy the land and we were able to buy 15 acres outside of Nairobi. The reason we bought such a large piece of land is because the families will live on campus but they will also cultivate the land and care for livestock so as to reduce the recurring expenses of feeding all the students and their families.

Construction is underway....Thank you, Thank you!!!

At the same time we still remain very busy with translation and publication and in the midst of the preaching, teaching, and building, we were also able to get SEVEN (7) books published to assist the training.

This year the printed books included; The Large Catechism in Swahili, Luther's Small Catechism in Anuak, The Greatest Part of the Greatest Story in Swahili, God's Yes and God's No in French, Luther's Small Catechism in Swahili, An Open Letter to The Christian Nobility of the German Nation Concerning the Reform of the Christian Estate in Swahili, and Luther's Small Catechism in Jieng.

You can see how busy it all is!

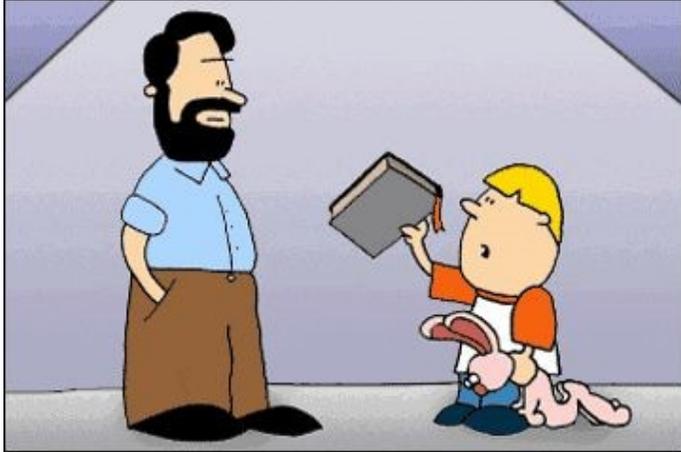


To read more about what's happening in Lutherans in Africa and how your mission dollars are making a difference, check them out on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LutheransInAfrica>

Or you can pick up a copy of their latest newsletter on the table outside the church office, by the mailboxes.

Heavenly Humor!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE

TAXI DRIVER & THE PASTOR

One Easter a pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them.

'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool.

'Oh my word, thank you,' said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the pastor 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true.' St Peter replied 'But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'

JESUS SHOWS UP

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Billie stayed home with a sitter. When the family returned home from church, they were carrying several palm fronds. Bobby asked what they were for.

'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father told him.

'Wouldn't you know it,' Bobby fumed, 'the one Sunday I don't go to church and Jesus shows up.'

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

One Easter morning, a farmer's wife boiled some eggs, colored them, and hid them in the barn for her kids.

A little while later the rooster found them. Not knowing anything about Easter, he beat up the peacock.

EASTER RESURRECTION

Jimmy came home on the last day of the Easter term, and to his horror he found his German Shepherd, Rex, with the next door neighbor's bunny rabbit in its mouth. The rabbit was obviously dead.

Greatly upset, Jimmy panicked, 'If my neighbors find out that Rex killed their bunny, they'll hate me forever.'

Quickly he took the rather large bunny, and, placing it in a paper bag threw it in the local landfill. On his way home, Jimmy looked into Pets 'R Us and bought a rabbit which he gauged was just like the deceased.

Back home, Jimmy took the 'new' rabbit and placed it in the open hutch in his neighbor's garden.

Later that evening, Jimmy heard a knock on his front door and opening it he found his next door neighbor's bearing the 'new' rabbit in their arms.

'Look,' squeaked his neighbor, 'Yesterday Fluffy was dead and we buried him 4 feet down in the garden. Today we come home and find that not only is he alive and well but he has grown several more teeth but also he has shrunk. It's a miracle.'

THE MEANING OF EASTER

A Sunday school teacher was asking her six-year-olds about the meaning of Easter. "Children, do you know why we celebrate Easter?" A little girl raised her hand. "Yes Jenny," said the teacher.

Jenny said, "Is Easter when we put on costumes and go trick-or-treating?"

"No, Jenny. That's Halloween. Does any one else know?"

A little boy yelled, "It's when we set off fireworks!"

"No Jimmy, that's Independence Day. Anybody else?"

A shy little girl in the back of the room said, "Easter is when Jesus died."

The teacher replied, "That's right, Laurie. And what happened to Jesus that makes Easter special?"

"Well, he died and got buried. And every Easter he comes out. If he sees his shadow there's 6 more weeks of winter."