



FAITH

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2017
Newsletter

DEVOTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..." So far in our devotions on the Lord's Prayer we have considered what it is that Jesus is teaching us in the Address and the First Petition. This month, we consider the Second Petition in which we pray, "Thy Kingdom Come."

What is the kingdom of God? Of all the Petitions to the Lord's Prayer, the Second Petition is possibly the most misunderstood. Some think the kingdom of God refers to heaven. Others think it is an earthly kingdom where Jesus will rule. But the kingdom of God is neither of these. To help us see what it is then, we turn to God's Word and let him tell us what his kingdom is: **"Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, 'The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:20,21).**

This passage tells us that the kingdom of God is not something that we touch or visibly see with our eyes. Rather, it is something that takes place in the heart. This is what Paul says when writing to the Christians in Colossae: **"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly" (Colossians 3:15,16).** There is our answer! The kingdom of God is Christ's rule of faith in our hearts by his Word.

The essential thing that draws us into God's kingdom is God's inspired Word, the Bible. Through that Word we learn of our sin and God's grace. You see, all people are born spiritually dead. Inherited sin condemns every human being from the time of his conception. Only the gospel of Christ releases us from damnation. Only the gospel of Jesus frees us from the clutches of Satan. Only through the Word do we escape the kingdom of hell and are given citizenship into the kingdom of God.

So, in this petition we pray, "Father, dear Father, I beg of you, confident that you will keep your Word and promise, trusting that you will not deny my cry for help. May your kingdom ever come to me. Rule in me by your Word. Preserve your throne in my heart by that so powerful message that I am indeed your own dear child because of what your Son has done to win my adoption. Bring me by that saving Word to ever and to gladly bow before you. Keep your gracious promise to preserve that faith which trusts you alone for salvation and finds in your Word alone the guide and the strength for a life of obedience."

That's what Luther was getting at when he wrote: *"God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven."*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – April 13

4:30 pm Worship (Cataract)

6:30 pm Worship (Black River Falls)

Good Friday – April 14

4:30 pm Service of the Cross (Cataract)

6:30 pm Tenebrae Service (Black River Falls)

*Holy
Week*

The Living Tomb – a Unique Opportunity to Witness

What is a living tomb? It's an oxymoron – two words at odds with each other, but used to describe the same thing. It's also a way we could describe Jesus' tomb – he was dead, but rose to life. It's also what we call a unique opportunity to create more public awareness in our community about Easter events. We are again setting up a display of a tomb with living Roman soldiers standing guard at our Black River Falls location. Members are needed to help guard the tomb.



Like last year, there will be three hour shifts of two or three Roman guards in front of the closed tomb from 7:30 p.m. Friday (after the Good Friday service) to 5:30 a.m. Easter Sunday. At that time the tomb is opened and we will have two angels waving to people as they come to the sunrise service at 8 a.m. We will have snacks, a fire pit for warmth and electric lighting for night. There will be handouts for anyone that stops with questions about what we are doing.

This is a living display, not a reenactment. Men, women and children may help guard the tomb as Roman soldiers – we will need a lot of help with this. We need two people to be angels for 2½ hours Sunday morning. We will need help setting up the tomb and help taking it down. This is very enjoyable fellowship! Come forward and help us witness to our community the saving love of our Lord. Sign-up sheets will be at both Cataract and Black River Falls locations during Lent. Contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt with any questions.

Living Tomb Set-up & Take Down

We can use some help setting up the tomb on Saturday, April 8 at 9:30 a.m. Tomb take-down will be Sunday, April 23, at 10:15 (right after Bible study). No experience necessary and any help would be appreciated.



Birthdays

Lori Spaude	4/02
Sandy Bue	4/10
Evan Markhardt	4/18
Karen Jessie	4/18
Jacob Bue	4/18
Benjamin Leisso	4/18
Arlene Jessie	4/20
Gordy Ritter	4/23
Chris Manske	4/25
Penny Nicolai	4/27
Judy Sommers	4/29



Anniversaries

Gary and Pam Johnson	4/03
Jacob and Sandy Bue	4/26

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

March 14, 2017

Attendance:

Dale Jessie, Pastor Neumann, Cody Heller, Brad Rahmlow, Scott Templeton, Dave Kellen, Grady Severson.

Luther High presentation on “Rise Up and Build” by Pastor Werner, Burr Oak:

Pastor Werner gave a presentation on the building projects undertaken by Luther High in Onaska. Rise Up and Build is the conduit to retire the remaining debt from the project by June, 2018.

Elder’s report:

Non-member Baptism-2/24/17 Damien Antwane Armstead and Darion Joseph Boswell.

Financial Report:

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$6,134.22 for the month of February.

Old Business:

Church Picnic-Scott reviewed notes from last year’s picnic. a. Planned on 80 people, Council provides meat, buns, condiments and drinks b. Ladies provide salads and desserts c. June 25th in Cataract at 10am.

Summer Service Time-Recommendation to the voters by the Council to adjust summer worship hours to 8:00am for Cataract and 9:45am for BRF for the summer starting on May 28th, Memorial Day Weekend and ending on September 3rd, Labor Day weekend.

New Business:

Luther High “Rise Up and Build”-Recommendation was that we dedicate a Sunday to Luther High by showing their video explaining the projects going on at the school. Also to make offering envelopes available to the Congregation for individual gifts.

Save the Dates!

Our church has several big events to put on your calendars!

The Koine Concert will be Tuesday, July 25, at 7 p.m. in the Lunda Park

Faith Family Fun Nights will be the evenings of August 14, 15 & 16. Please note this is a slight date change from previous years.

Reformation Road Trip to the Western Wisconsin District Reformation Service at the Dane County Coliseum on Sunday, October 29.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include planning for the Koine concert. Our meeting will take place Sunday, April 23, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

Landscape Brigade

Our building and grounds give glory to God. There is plenty of landscape maintenance to be done around our BRF building site: pruning, mulching, fertilizing, weeding and other general landscaping. Consider helping by being a part of the “landscape brigade.” We will meet the second Saturday of each month, April through October, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to. Our first brigade event will take place on Saturday, April 8.

DEVOTION - You are Light in the Lord

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." **Ephesians 5:8-14**

If you get up early to go outside and wait for the sunrise, you know what it's like to sit in darkness. Until the light comes, you can't see anything because the darkness hides things and obscures things and makes things impossible to see. Until the light comes, you can't do anything, because the darkness covers things and confuses things and makes things impossible to do.

But then, just as you think the darkness couldn't get any deeper, you finally see it. The horizon begins to brighten in the east, and dawn begins to break. The sun begins its ascent into the sky, and its light is now cast all around you. It's a total transformation! Everything you couldn't see before is now visible. Everything you couldn't do before is now possible.

In the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus say, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). It's a beautiful name for Jesus: "the Light of the World." In the same way that the sun breaks the darkness of the earth as it rises in the east every morning, so too has Jesus broken the spiritual darkness that once covered our world and our life.

Through his life and work, all of us who were once living in the darkness of sin can now look to Jesus, the Light of the World, and see forgiveness. All of us who were once facing the darkness of eternal death as the consequence for sin can now look to Jesus, the Light of the World, and see eternal life. It's a total transformation! Through faith in Jesus, there is now no more curse of sin, no more power of death, no more eternal darkness. Only free forgiveness. Only full life. Only everlasting light.

Oh, what an impact this has on every single day of your life! In the darkness, you can't see. But in the light you can! In the darkness, you can't function. But in the light you can! And you? "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." And because you now are light in the Lord, you now can "live as children of light." It's a total transformation! "You are light in the Lord." So, now, you can live like who you are.

"Fruitless deeds of darkness" aren't a part of who you are anymore because "you are light in the Lord." "What the disobedient do in secret" isn't a part of who you are anymore because "you are light in the Lord." What now characterizes your life instead? "The fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth." These are the things that now characterize your life in Christ, because these are the things that now characterize who you are. "You are light in the Lord."

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the World, and you have made us light by bringing us into the light of your forgiveness, mercy, and love. Bless and keep us today and always as you give us the strength to now live like who we are by faith in you, our Savior. Amen.

Source: www.wels.net

Note from the Editor:

As Christians, we struggle daily with temptations of this world. By keeping Christ at the center of our hearts and lives, we can dismiss the temptations of this world and remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes reminders are needed as to why we believe and worship the way we do. This series of articles from the website, www.wels.net, will explain why we believe what we believe and why we teach what we teach. Below are the 5th and 6th of 29 articles in this series. Please take some time to read the bible verses associated with each article to further your understanding.

What the Bible and Lutherans Teach

5. THE GOSPEL

The Bible and Lutherans teach the gospel. The message of the gospel is the good news that a loving God sent Jesus Christ to take away the sins of all people. This gospel freely offers to all sinners the righteousness that is found in Jesus. God offers and gives eternal life and salvation to all those who believe in the gospel promises.

[John 1:17](#); [Romans 1:16](#); [John 3:16](#); [Colossians 2:13](#);
[Luke 2:10,11](#); [Ezekiel 33:11](#)

6. JESUS CHRIST

The Bible and Lutherans teach that Jesus Christ is the Savior of everyone. He is the eternal Son of God, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is also the son of the Virgin Mary. He became man to redeem all people. Taking our place, he lived a perfect life keeping the law of God for us. He also died as our innocent substitute on the cross to pay a price sufficient for everyone's sin. After rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. On the Last Day he will judge all the people who are still living and those whom he will raise from the dead.

[1 John 5:20](#); [Matthew 1:23](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#);
[Galatians 3:13](#); [Hebrews 4:15](#); [Romans 1:4](#); [Acts 10:42](#)

Source: www.wels.net

Show your Faith

The Outreach Committee would like to make sure new and old members have a Faith T-shirt as a part of their wardrobe. Maybe you don't have one yet, or maybe yours is faded, or maybe you want a long sleeve one in addition to your short sleeve one. Sign-up sheets are at both worship locations. There is no cost to you - just wear your shirt and "show your Faith." The last day to order is Sunday, April 30.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information to include in the monthly newsletters, please send it to janeen.folgersx@gmail.com by the second to the last Sunday of the month.