



FAITH

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

March
2017
Newsletter

DEVOTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Martin Luther once said, and probably rightly so, that the Lord's Prayer is the greatest martyr of the church. In other words, it is more often abused, mishandled, and mindlessly recited by Christians and non-Christians alike than anything else. Would you fall into that category? Have there been times that you have said the Lord's Prayer, and when you were finished, knew nothing more about what you said than you did before? Wouldn't we all have to sadly say – "Yes!"

So, let us take a few months to review what it is that we are saying in this, the greatest of all prayers.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME...

The word "hallowed" is not a word we use too often in our everyday speech. For this reason we might be at a loss as to what it means! Well, hallowed means to "keep holy." Since God's name is holy all by itself, we can't *make* God's name holy. Instead, in this part of the Lord's Prayer we are praying that God would help us keep his name holy. We pray that we may keep his name holy by glorifying it, praising it, and honoring it with our speech and conduct. The heart of this petition lies in the Second Commandment which says, "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."

So, how well have you done in keeping the name of your God holy? Let's look to see how you measure up...*Do not use my name to curse*, God says. Ever done that...when the hammer missed the nail or when someone did something to you that you couldn't stand? Then the phrase rolled from the tongue that really means: "God, send this hammer or person to hell." Is that use of God's name a way to keep it holy?

Do not use my name to swear, God says. Yet, have you used the phrase, "I swear to God I didn't do it." Are you guilty of saying, "Good Lord! O my God! Jesus Christ!" to flippantly express surprise or shock? Is that using God's name in a holy manner?

How many times have you ever brought shame and dishonor to God's name by the way you have lived your life? Yes, in the same way that shame and disgrace is brought upon an earthly father when their child goes bad, so also God is dishonored if we, who bear his name, speak or live in ways that are not fitting for children of God.

So, what is it that we are praying every time we join together or say privately the words, "*Hallowed be thy name?*" We are praying that God would help us teach and live his word in the way which keeps his name holy. We pray for the very thing that God demands of us in the Second Commandment. We pray that our lives, our words, our conduct in every situation would show us to be the children of God we are, so that we may not be a disgrace to God but bring him only honor and praise. How difficult a task this is for us sinners! How desperately it reminds us of the need to honestly, earnestly, and sincerely pray these words again and again – "*Hallowed be thy name.*" All the while making the words of the hymn writer our own: "*Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling; Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace. Foul, I to the fountain fly – Wash me, Savior, or I die!*"

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes SUMMARY February 2017

Attendance: Dale Jessie, Pastor Neumann, Cody Heller, Brad Rahmlow, Scott Templeton, Dave Kellen, Grady Severson, Jerry Kirchman

Elder's report: 1) Private baptism was held for Derek and Leah Southwood last week.

2) Committee also discussed having different service hours during the summer months. Discussion at Council to table until a future meeting.

Pastor's report: 1) Upcoming events: WLS Choir-Ash Wednesday, March 1st; Koine Concert-Tuesday, July 25th; Faith Family Fun Nights-Monday, August 14th-Wednesday, August 16th; Reformation Road Trip-Sunday, October 29th

2) Pastor was asked to be a LWMS Pastoral Advisor-MSA to allow Pastor to accept this position.

Special Report: The Property Committee recapped that there was to be set aside money from the CIF pledge for annual repairs and maintenance (\$5,000/year). To date we have not used any of this money. Both Cataract and BRF parking lots are in need of seal coating and crack sealing. The Property Committee will solicit bids for the parking lot repairs.

Financial Report: Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$1,807.98 for the month of January.

New Business: 1) Church Picnic-Outreach Committee is recommending June 25th or July 9th for the Church Picnic to be held in Cataract at 10:00am. The Church Council provides the meat, buns, cooking and clean-up afterwards. Suggestion was to hold the picnic on June 25th
2) Pastor presented a Congregational Statistical Report from the Synod.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet on Sunday, March 19 for our next Bible Class and games afternoon. We meet in Black River Falls from 2-3:30 p.m. All 7th-12th graders are invited and welcomed to attend.

FAITH FAMILY FUN COORDINATOR

Although there is still snow on the ground, summer is just around the corner. One of the opportunities to be in God's Word that our congregation offers to its member is Faith Family Fun Nights. This year, this will be held from Monday, August 14 – Wednesday, August 16. The Outreach Committee is looking for someone willing to coordinate this. You would select a program and organize the event. The Outreach committee can help. Please see Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt if you would be willing to help out with this.

THE LENTEN SEASON

The Lenten season begins March 1st. There will be just one service on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. That service will be in Black River Falls at 6:30 p.m. with a meal at 5:30 p.m. The rest of our Wednesday worship service schedule is as follows:

4:30 pm – Worship in Cataract

5:30 pm – Simple Supper at Cataract and Black River Falls

6:30 pm – Worship in Black River Falls



54th Annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Annual Convention

June 22-25, 2017

Come to Orland-oh!

How many cities start and end with "o"? Come to Orlando for the 54th Annual LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Convention and we guarantee you will leave with lots of reasons to say "Oh!"

The "oh's" will begin as you scope out the city from the 32-story Hyatt Regency and spy the Orlando Eye, a 400-foot-tall Ferris wheel. It's all on International Drive, where a multitude of entertainment and dining options will elicit an "oh!" from even veteran travelers. The I-Ride Trolley will shuttle you up and down International Drive. (Seniors are 25 cents per trip!)

At the convention, you will gasp "Oh!" as you are whirled "Around the World of Missions in Four Days." Those days are June 22-25, 2017, when missionaries will whisk you to South Carolina and Zambia, Georgia and St. Lucia. Another missionary will tell you about recruiting potential pastors in multiple nations.

Opening and closing worship will inspire sighs of "Oh, what a beautiful Savior!" As you embrace old friends and interface with new ones, Christian sisters will unite in a chorus of "Oh, sweet fellowship!"

One tour option is a day at the Holy Land Experience, a biblical theme park that will prompt whispers of "Oh, God is good!" The second tour option is to a natural theme park for an airboat ride on the St. Johns River. ("Oh, I just saw a real gator!")

Still hungry for adventure? Try these options in the City of "Oh's": Chocolate Kingdom (near the Hyatt), WonderWorks (an upside-down building), Gatorland, indoor skydiving, water parks, dinner theaters, the Morse Museum (includes a comprehensive Tiffany art collection), the Orlando Museum of Art, the Leu Gardens, and on and on. Of course, nobody does theme parks like Orlando. ("Oh, yeah!") Fifty miles east, you'll find the Kennedy Space Center and beaches on the "oh-cean". You can learn more about these and more attractions at www.visitorlando.com <Caution-http://www.visitorlando.com> .

The 54th Annual LWMS Convention will be filled with tastes of mission and ministry work in faraway places, island locations, growing cities, and our own backyards. In just four days, we will circle the globe and end up right where we started--at home--with a Holy Spirit-fueled desire and new tools to reach more people with God's saving grace. Please join us in Orlando to hear more about these opportunities and to pray for and support initiatives to bring eternal happiness to so many!

For more information and how to register, please go to www.lwms.org <Caution-http://www.lwms.org> or contact Linda Jessie.

LWMS Mission Box Monies

It is again time to turn in the LWMS Mission Box monies. Please give your donations to Linda Jessie by March 19 so they can be sent in. (Please make checks payable to LWMS). All ladies of the congregation are members of the LWMS and can support missions in this way. This money will be divided up at the Annual Convention to different mission areas that have been decided on.

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.

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.

More details will be made available as we get closer to the dates.

Birthdays

Emily Jessie	3-05	Chase Manske	3-21
Linda Jessie	3-11	Amber Hanson	3-21
Dave Spaude	3-21	Kevin Keisow	3-22
Dawn Manske	3-21	Charlie Severson	3-23
Carolyn Diener	3-21	Karin Jandt	3-27
		Zach Markhardt	3-30



Anniversaries

Todd and Alisa Volk 3/20

Grady and Nina Severson 3/24

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

3. CREATION

The Bible and Lutherans teach that at the beginning of time God created heaven and earth and all creatures. He did this in six days. He spoke his almighty word to create all things. He made everything out of nothing. But man and woman are God's special creation.

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:31; Exodus 20:11; Psalm 33:6,9; Psalm 124:8; Mark 10:6; Hebrews 11:3

4. GOD'S LAW

The Bible and Lutherans teach that God wrote his law in people's hearts at creation. The human conscience bears witness to that law. The knowledge of the law was blurred in people's hearts by sin. God repeated his law in the Ten Commandments. God's law demands obedience in our thoughts, speech, and actions. It condemns all who sin. Therefore no one can be saved by keeping the law. God's law serves to show us our sins, to warn us of God's anger against sin, and to guide us in our Christian life.

Deuteronomy 10:4; Matthew 5:48; John 1:17; Romans 7:7; Romans 3:22,23; Romans 3:20; James 2:10; Psalm 119:9

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.