
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 23, 2011

Ours is a Serious Calling ...

I have been devoting time to revisiting some of the great Christian authors, including *Jonathon Edwards, William Law, Count Zinzendorf, Bernard of Clairveaux* and *William Tozer*. All of them have something in common. They address the devotion and passion of a Christian, especially as to how it 'works out' in daily life.

The founder of the Moravians, Count Zinzendorf, greatly influenced key figures of the historical great awakenings like Wesley and Whitfield. He once remarked, "The lukewarmness of my countrymen who claim to be Christians, depresses me!" I have respect for that statement as I feel very much the same way. Lukewarmness in the Church IS depressing! Even Jesus has issues with lukewarmness (see Revelation 3:15-19)!

Lukewarmness is a thief of Christian passion and affection. It needs to be overcome by an experience of the grace and love of God – a 'stirring of passions,' if you will! I believe the Christian life is one 'driven' by passion – passion for Jesus leads to some kind of outward 'holy actions,' if you will. A.W. Tozer put it this way: "We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone, but out of that springs immediately goodness and righteousness." Jonathon Edwards had much to say about 'religious affections' in his writings from the 18th century.

These men were on to something. Their insights into what 'motivates' the believer into holy actions very much resembles the man in the *Parable of the Pearl of Great Price* told by Jesus (Matthew 13:45-46). This man 'sold all he had' to buy it! Something about the pearl gripped and inflamed him with passion and energized his actions in selling everything else to get it.

I say and quote all this to make a major point: passion for Christ moves us to do and dream 'holy things' for the sole purpose of pleasing the Lord! Passion for Christ inevitably brings deeper intimacy with him and greater downloads of wisdom from Him when needed thus, 'solutions' to many problems and issues we face. I am foolish and simple enough to believe that passion for Jesus can actually solve any kind of church problem, issue or challenge whether it be a weak spiritual climate, giving issues, character issues or division.

Many problems in church and life can be overcome by a recovery of simple devotion to Christ. I am quietly moving back to the position that we stoke the fires in people's lives by calling them to prayer to seek God again, to spend more time reading His Word and letting it 'speak and change' the way God designed it to do.

Ours is a serious calling as a follower of Jesus and it can only be lived and done by passion for Him, inflamed by Him! For me, simply, it is the answer to most everything in church and life!

Pastor Bill Odermann

Ministry Focus

Congregational Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, February 6 12:30 PM in the Social Hall

(Following the meal, the meeting may be moved to the sanctuary to accommodate group size.)

Your attendance at the annual meeting is critically important! The Board of Trustees in conjunction with other boards, pastors, and staff, has been working on your annual budget. All of us request your attendance and participation. The trustees have some very important things to say and discuss with the entire congregation concerning the budget and church property. The issue of selling some church land will also be on the table for discussion and vote.

We hope to see you there!

A noon lunch will be served by our youth with a freewill donation accepted.

Children's Musical 2011

The Children's Choirs of Our Saviors will be performing the musical "Cross Country" written by Pam Andrews during our worship services on

February 26 at 5:30 p.m. and February 27 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. In a world where it has become more and more difficult to live the Christian life, this musical teaches us that the only way we can maintain our Christian walk is to take up our Lord's cross daily and follow Him. Please come and enjoy watching our children as they sing and dance and teach us all a lesson about living in Christ.

February 26 & 27 – All worship services!



Stewardship Corner–January 2011

FOLLOWING JESUS FAITHFULLY

Matthew 6:25-33: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life...But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches the crowds and his disciples about their relationship with God and their discipleship in the world. In these verses, Jesus speaks about how God provides for our every need and how undue concern for our possessions can get in the way of our living as his disciples.

These words speak to us today as we wrestle with the daily realities of our lives. We often find ourselves over-scheduled, over-extended, and over-drawn. Our lives are cluttered with too many commitments, and too many possessions. We can be consumed by it all—we wonder "Will I have enough?" We fear not wearing the right clothes, not driving the right car, not having the latest electronic toy, not living in the right house. Too often our things define who we are.

Jesus comes to us in the midst of our fears and announces—"Do not worry! God has provided for all of your needs!"

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

What does it mean for us to live in relationship with Jesus? How might our daily discipleship help us to live more simply, trusting in God's abundance?

OSLC Board of Stewardship

Sunday School teachers and leaders are needed!

Rotation leaders are needed in **Science and Nature** for Session 4 (March 13-April 10) and Session 5 (April 17-May 22).

Rotation leaders are needed for **Arts and Crafts** and **Games** for Session 5 (March 13-April 10).





On Sunday February 6th, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game.

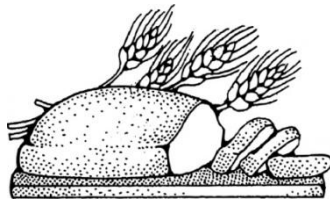
There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

On February 6, Super Bowl Sunday, youth groups across the country will be collecting donations at worship. Our Savior's youth will be doing two things: First, they ask you to bring items for the New Ulm Food Shelf. Second, they ask you drop a donation in the soup pot as you leave worship that day.

The monetary donations will be used to purchase mosquito nets through the ELCA Malaria Campaign. All donations will be appreciated, but the youth group would like to challenge you to consider a \$10 donation as that will purchase one net.

Bread of Life Kitchen Connection

The Bread of Life Kitchen Connection is about cooking, being in conversation, and learning together. You may sign up for these events, or just drop in. You may come every month, or just those months it works in your schedule. Once a month, the Board of Education will sponsor the Bread of Life Kitchen Connection on a Saturday. **Our January event was to be bread baking, but had to be canceled. So, we will now learn to bake bread in February. Our event will be on Saturday, February 19, from 1:00-3:00. We will learn to make French bread and wheat buns, led by Joleen Koch and Kathy Ulland-Klinkner.** You will even be able to take some dough to bake at home! Sign up on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



Walk to Jerusalem

WHAT: Walk to Jerusalem is a 12-week exercise program to promote physical and spiritual well-being. The goal is for participants to accumulate enough miles of exercise to walk from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, New Ulm to Jerusalem starting the first week of Lent and going through Easter season. The route will take us through New York, Atlantic Ocean, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Israel.

HOW: Participants can either count the miles they walk or run, or 20 minutes of aerobic activity (e.g. swimming, biking, cardio machines, team sports, tennis, etc.) equals one mile of walking/running.

WHO: Anyone!! Everyone!! There is no age limit. We encourage you to use this program to exercise as a family, with friends and co-workers, with people in your neighborhood, and with other church members.

WHEN: We will be starting the first week of LENT. More information will be coming in the near future. Information meeting will be held between church services in February. Watch bulletin, *Sidelites*, church website, and poster for updated information. Even our snow birds can join in – let them know.

WHERE: Walk in the church or in the community or in your own home.

WHY: To commit to improved physical, spiritual, and emotional health in 2011.

Brought to you by the Our Savior's Board of Fellowship
Developed by St. John's Providence Health System Parish Nurses.



Are you interested in learning to crochet or knit? We have people to teach you and have all materials you need. If interest is shown we will have a time for instruction in the library between services on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office, Phyllis Kosbab at 354-4333 or Marilyn Stuckey at 354-8436.

Pastor's Ponderings:

Pray? Who me?

Winter is the time when we lack motivation in some ways. Sometimes darkness surrounds us and we are tired. It is hard sometimes to pause and pray and to keep focused when we pray. Here are a few thoughts that may help you get restarted with your prayer life.

1. I have learned that to be faithful in prayer the first step is *to pray at the same time and the same place*. Consistency helps to make prayer a ritual or routine in your life. Prayer is strengthening my relationship with the God who daily calls me come and rest and be strengthened for the journey.

2. I begin my prayer time by making the sign of the cross and saying, "In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Beginning that way reminds me who I am praying to and allows me time to slow down, pause, and listen to God. If I just start to rattle off names and concerns it is rushed and I do not sense God's presence. Just pausing and breathing deeply helps me to be more intentional about what I am saying to God.

3. I have found writing is helpful. I simply take a notebook and start writing a letter to God or conversation with God. I repeat to God what my day holds or what my day was like. I tell God what I am thinking and what I am feeling. That helps me get in touch with myself and my needs, my joys, and what things are frustrating me.

4. Give thanks to God for the blessings, what I have, where I see God at work, and as I look around my home, office, or creation, just start thanking God for what I see, hear, taste, smell, and touch.

5. "Remember" is an important word in the Bible Over and over God commands his people to remember... Remember how I fed you in the wilderness, remember how I was with you while you were slaves, and Jesus tells his disciples to eat a meal in remembrance of him. Remembering who God is and how God has helped us in the past can give us hope and strength for the future. During times of stress, pain, or loss, it is easy to forget God. By remembering the past we realize that we are not alone.

6. I encourage you to be praying for the members of Our Savior's and our congregation's leaders as we go through this time of change. Pray for members of our congregation to grow in faith, for God to bless them, guard them from danger, and use their gifts to

build up the body of Christ. Prayer is life, life is prayer. Join the journey of following Jesus through prayer. How you pray isn't important. What is important is that each of us prays every day.

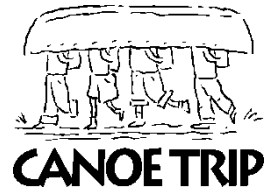
Philippians 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Pastor Joyce



Bible Camp and Summer Canoe Trip Meeting (with some information available for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2012) – A

meeting for parents of grades 2-12 will take place on Sunday, January 30, at 10:00 in the worship area. This meeting will be about registering for camp and the summer trip, and fundraising. All 7th-12th grade students should also attend. Younger students will attend their regular Sunday School class.



A Basket Auction to support youth ministries will be held March 13 and 20. Donations of items for baskets are needed. Most baskets have a theme. Some ideas for baskets from previous auctions

include gardening, sick at home, Twins, sports lovers, rainy day fun, fishing fun, embroidered dish towels, movie night, grillers' delight, travel games, puppy love, Barbie fun, napkins and socks for a year, baby shower, cook's delight, Scandanavian traditions, golfers dream, pamper yourself, sports fun, kids baskets of all sorts, Easter, etc. You can put the items in a basket yourself, or the youth group has baskets at church they can use. The plastic covering for the basket is provided by the youth group. If you would like to make a donation, please bring it to Kathy's office by March 9. Contact Kathy with any other basket auction questions you may have.



**ELCA WORLD
HUNGER: FEED THE
HUNGRY...FIGHT
POVERTY**

**The ELCA in Haiti: A Long-
Standing Partnership**

The ELCA stands with its neighbors in Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake that shook the land and captured the hearts of people across the world: people like you wanting to help, wanting to make a difference in the lives of strangers who are suddenly homeless and lacking basic necessities.

ELCA World Hunger has been on the ground in Haiti for many years, providing millions of dollars and supporting many programs through local work of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). It's because of this work on the ground and relationships with the LWF and partner organizations like Action by Churches Together (ACT) that the ELCA is able to take your gifts and translate them quickly into food, water, clothing and shelter for people who need it now more than ever in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response are providing water. A water purification system with pipes, filters and pumps transported from freezing-cold Norway to scorching-hot Haiti is providing 10,000 homeless Haitians with clean drinking water. The ACT Alliance brought in desperately needed special water and sanitation facilities. The "water factory" is based in the Belair neighborhood of Port-au-Prince and provided the first clean water many people had access to after the earthquake.

Thanks to your generous gifts and ELCA World Hunger's long-time work in Haiti, together we have been able to act swiftly in the massive relief effort to support as many survivors and victims of this widespread catastrophe as possible. Together, we have been present in Haiti for many years, are present today, and will continue to work with our brothers and sisters there long after the global spotlight is cast elsewhere.

Our Savior's is collecting.....

Codes for Cash

Earn cash for your school or organization by collecting bar codes from Hy-Vee Brand Products; receipts from Food Club products; cut off tops from Kwik Trip milk and juice bags.

More information and a place to drop off your points (box tops, receipts, milk caps, etc.) is located in the social hall near the bulletin board.



WEATHER RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT

When we are faced with inclement weather we will make every effort to keep you informed about worship schedule and other church activities.

Here are a few places that we will have information:

1. Call the church (233-4430) and we will have an announcement on our answering machine regarding worship and cancellations.
2. Check our web-page (www.oursaviorsnewulm.org)
3. KNUJ Radio
4. KEYC television.

If you have questions contact Pastor Joyce.

Ladies of Our Savior's,

Wow! January 2011! Where does time go? I'm trying to get started on the right foot. We have been trying to watch what we eat and walk more. Tom has even been going with me to walk "off to good start."

Thanks to all who have been patient with the Prayer Partner exchange. I hope all of you who wanted one put your name in and took one out. January 29, Sharmen Christopherson and I will be going over to St. James to help plan the Conference Spring Gathering. If any of you have any ideas you would like us to pass on, please let one of us know. Remember ladies, if any of you are thinking of going to the Triennial Gathering in Spokane, it is time to get signed up. If you have any questions, contact Marlys Zetah, Linda Postel, or Pastor Joyce. Have a great New Year ladies.

Yours in the Lord,
Linda Postel



STEPHEN MINISTRY

It's hard to ask for help...

How many times have you heard the phrase, "Oh, it could be worse," or "It is not that bad, I know I'll survive." When I hear phrases such as that I know that a person is hurting or struggling with an issue. We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness or failure. That is not the truth. Many times we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. Life sometimes is not easy. There are many issues that individuals and families face every day.

A Stephen Minister is there to be an encourager, a listener, someone to journey with you through life. Sometimes it helps to talk with someone who is not a family member, someone who is not necessarily a close friend, teacher, or pastor. Stephen Ministers are trained for such situations. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others--and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

What Is Stephen Ministry?

The role of a Stephen Minister is a Care-Giver; God is the Cure-Giver. Stephen Ministers listen, empathize, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support to hurting people. God works in and through them to bring home and healing.

Are you or someone you know feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time or simply finding yourself stressed by everyday life?

- One-to-one ministry by trained, caring members of our congregation.
- Short or long term helping relationship focusing on the unique needs of each person.
- Commitment to caring and supporting one another, to build a Christ-centered, sharing community.
- Response to Christ's instruction..."to love one another as I have loved you."
- Religious and educational system of training and organization, which is active at Shepherd of the Hills and in congregations throughout the country.

- Ministry named after St. Stephen, the first deacon in the early church, commissioned by the apostles to care for the community's needs. We're people with a purpose—to help you.

To find out how Stephen Ministry can care for you or someone you know, contact Pastor Joyce or one of our Stephen Ministers: Deb Bastian, Carla Zimmermann, Kathy Hopf, Marlys Zetah, Diane Lambrecht, Barb Wurtzberger, Margie Larson, Maxine Remme, or Larry Zimmerman.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." - John 10:10b

Women's Triennial Gathering in Spokane, Washington – July 14-17

In Kind gifts are collected from our women in our local churches to bring to the gathering to distribute to agencies in Spokane that are in need.

Items needed are:

Health Kits, School Kits, Quilt Kits, Gift Cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Kmart) Pre-paid phone cards, socks. See information on bulletin board for items needed in each kit or call Marlys at 354-2996.

Thank You Notes.....

We wish everyone at Our Savior's a very merry Christmas and a joyful New Year. We want to thank everyone for the cards and the well wishes and a special thank you for the sack of goodies that Wayne received from the church.

The Forseths, Wayne & Fern

Many thanks to all of you who sent cards, stopped by to visit, and prayed for me and my family after our loss and my hospitalization and recovery at Oak Terrace. Your kind thoughts were greatly appreciated and kept our spirits up. Thanks to Pastor Nelsen and Pastor Tollefson Capp for their visits and prayers.

God's Blessings to you all,
Dennis Swenson and Family

Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for providing a site for me to do my eagle project. The completion and success of the project was due to your contribution, which also helped me acquire my Eagle Scout rank. I appreciate all of the help.

Thanks,
Joshua Dittrich