

...We are
therefore
Christ's
Ambassadors.
~2 Corinthians 5:20



The **AMBASSADOR**

The Newsletter of

OUR SAVIOR

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Summer 2010

How happy can I be happy when I only think of others?

“Blessed are the merciful.” Matthew 5:7



Mercy is certainly something of which we like to be on the receiving end. A police officer pulls you over. You know you rolled through that stop sign. Will he show mercy and not give you a ticket? You show up just a few minutes late for work. It doesn't matter that you think you have a

good reason—you are late. Will your boss show you mercy? You forgot your anniversary! There is no good excuse. Will your spouse show you mercy?

If I like to be on the receiving end so much, why is it that I often struggle to be merciful to others? Why do I have a hard time forgiving my loved ones when I want them to be forgiving toward me? Why is that I have such a hard time showing kindness to my coworkers or neighbors? Is it often because I feel that if I show kindness and mercy to others, it will be a sacrifice for me? Will showing mercy to others

rob me of opportunities for myself and take away my happiness?

What is mercy really all about? For the answer we need look no further than God. He shows us what real mercy is. God looked at sinful people—a people that could offer him nothing, a people helpless to help themselves—and he showed mercy. In love and mercy that astounds us, he sent his Son Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus was perfect where we could never be. Jesus paid for the sins we could never pay for. Jesus lived, died, and rose again for us so we could live forever in heaven—a gift of mercy!

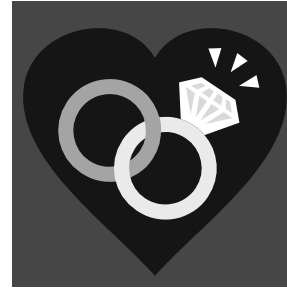
The opportunities that God places before us in our lives to show mercy and kindness to other people can serve as constant reminders of the mercy that God has shown to us, a mercy we certainly didn't deserve. It is God's mercy for us that empowers us to be merciful to others and to even find happiness in showing kindness and love to other people.

Jesus said, *“Blessed (happy) are the merciful.”* Then he goes on with a promise, *“For they will be shown mercy”* (Matthew 5:7). As we show mercy to others, we will also be on the receiving end of mercy!



JULY - AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6/30 Betty Hildebrand
- 7/2 Deborah Pohl
- 7/3 Kaleb Yost
- 7/6 Richard Waterstram
- 7/8 Joanne Perelli
- 7/9 Abigail Casterline
- 7/11 Hannah Gernold
- 7/13 Tim Wendt
- 7/15 Rebecca Priest
- 7/15 Tamasyn Walters
- 7/20 Lori Heary
- 7/21 Steven Pidsadnick, Jr
- 7/22 Carlee Fisher
- 8/3 Kate Peterson
- 8/8 Jean Benn
- 8/8 Garrett Pidsadnick
- 8/24 Norma Knopf
- 8/25 Mark Peterson
- 8/25 Renee Henry
- 8/28 Ronald Ziecker



JULY - AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/3 Scott & Lesley Durandetto
- 7/16 Tony & Peggy Heary
- 7/26 Wayne & Lisa Gang
- 7/28 Andy & Angela Benzel
- 7/28 Gary & Karen Boscoe
- 7/28 Glenn & Trisha Priest
- 8/1 Jonathan & Tedi Cox
- 8/1 Chris & Michelle Enser
- 8/3 Steven & Jill Pidsadnick
- 8/23 Chuck & Karen Witkop
- 8/28 Dick & Ginny Errington

(Is your birthday or anniversary missing or incorrect?
Contact Pastor Walters so he can make sure it's corrected!)



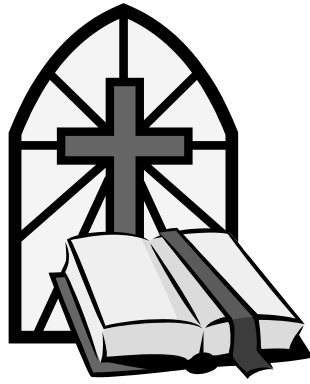
OPEN FORUM AND VOTERS' MEETING: Our next open forum and voters' meeting will take place on **Sunday, July 11th** following the worship service. Make plans to attend now! We will

be discussing the business of our congregation, including possible changes to our church's bylaws. More information will be following soon!

Newsletter Deadline

To get something included in the September newsletter, please submit it (preferably by email to pastorwalters@gmail.com) by **August 21st!!!** Thank you in advance!

Summer Bible Study Opportunities



Adult Bible Studies

- ✓ **Sunday mornings, 8:45am:**

We will be finishing up our study of **the Ideal Congregation**, as we look at what God's Word tells us how we are to operate as a congregation of believers.

Once this study ends, we will begin a study on **the Great Chapters of the Bible**. This study will take us through some of the most well-known and most meaningful chapters in all of Scripture. Hope you can join us!

- ✓ **Wednesday evenings, 7: 00pm:** Our Wednesday class will be focusing on Deuteronomy 1-11, and possibly the book of Malachi. Come on out and join the conversation!
- ✓ **Bible Information Classes, available per request:** Anyone interested in finding out the main teachings of the Bible and the Lutheran church is welcome to enroll in these classes. Also, any members who want a refresher on the main teachings of the Bible can join, too. This class is split into 3 parts. The first part, Bible 101, consists of four lessons. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of it, please speak with Pastor Walters.

Sunday School

- ✓ **Sundays 8:45am:** Our Sunday school is on summer hiatus until the beginning of September. Does this mean that they

shouldn't study the Bible during the summer? Absolutely not! Keep doing family devotions (Meditations book, a short Bible lesson, etc), talk to your kids about the Sunday services, pray together, and share your faith together – even during the summer! Talk to Pastor Walters if you're looking for other ideas.

VBS 2010

It's already time for Vacation Bible School! Our theme this year is "The Circle-J Ranch." This time on the ranch will help kids focus on their Savior, sing fun songs, make crafts, eat snacks, and have a whole lot of fun! Here's all the information you'll need:



Who: Kids age 3 – entering 5th grade

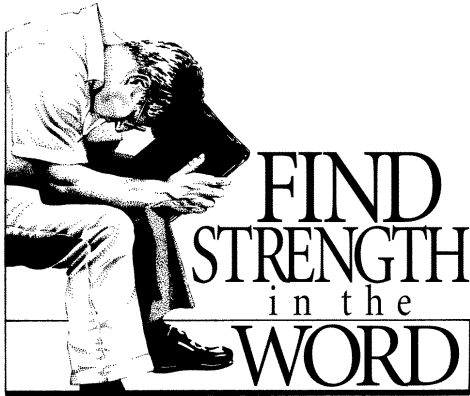
What: VBS The Circle-J Ranch

When: June 28 – July 2 9:00 – 11:30am

Where: Our Savior Lutheran Church

Why: Learn and Grow in Our Savior!

CALL 592-4344 OR SIGN UP AT CHURCH TODAY!



We know that it's important to hear and study God's Word. After all, it increases our faith! **Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17)**. So, besides attending church and Bible studies, how can we continue to study God's Word? One way is simply by reading it.

The WELS has prepared a 3 year schedule of Bible readings to help people do just that. Because it is broken up into three years, the readings are short and manageable. Maybe this summer would be a good time for you to grow in the Word! Give these readings a try, or speak to Pastor Walters if you'd like a different schedule of readings.

July

1. Ezekiel 42:1-43:12
2. Ezek. 43:13-44:31
3. Ezek. 45, 46
4. Ezek. 47:1-12
5. Ezek. 47:13-48:35
6. Colossians 1:1-14
7. Col. 1:15-23
8. Col. 1:24-2:7
9. Col. 2:8-23
10. Col. 3:1-17
11. Col. 3:18-4:18
12. Philemon
13. Ezra 1, 2
14. Ez. 3
15. Ez. 4
16. Ez. 5, 6
17. Ez. 7
18. Ez. 8
19. Ez. 9, 10
20. Nehemiah 1
21. Neh. 2
22. Neh. 3
23. Neh. 4
24. Neh. 5
25. Neh. 6
26. Neh. 7
27. Neh. 8
28. Neh. 9:1-21
29. Neh. 9:22-37
30. Neh. 9:38-10:39
31. Neh. 11

August

1. Nehemiah 12
2. Neh. 13
3. Psalm 90
4. Ps. 91
5. Ps. 92, 93
6. Ps. 94
7. Ps. 95, 96
8. Ps. 97, 98
9. Ps. 99, 100
10. Ps. 101
11. Ps. 102
12. Ps. 103
13. Ps. 104
14. Ps. 105
15. Ps. 106:1-33
16. Ps. 106:34-48
17. Haggai 1
18. Hag. 2
19. Zechariah 1, 2
20. Zech. 3, 4
21. Zech. 5, 6
22. Zech. 7
23. Zech. 8
24. Zech. 9, 10
25. Zech. 11
26. Zech. 12, 13
27. Zech. 14
28. Malachi 1:1-2:9
29. Mal. 2:10-3:6
30. Mal. 3:7-4:6
31. James 1:1-18

OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Congratulations and God's blessings to the high school class of 2010! We rejoice with those graduating this year:

Springville-Griffith Institute
Nicole Hebdon

West Valley
Christyn Enser



A GRADUATE'S PRAYER

*Father, I have knowledge
So will You show me now
How to use it wisely
And find a way somehow
To make the world I live in
A little better place,
And make life with its problems
A bit easier to face.
Grant me faith and courage
And put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve You
In the most effective ways
So all my education,
My knowledge and my skill
May find their true fulfillment
As I learn to do your will;
And may I ever be aware
In everything I do
That knowledge comes from learning
And wisdom comes from You.*

Confirmation Class

We had a youth confirmation service this year on June 6 for three young Christians who have been instructed in God's Word. Before they were confirmed, though, the class wrote down their thoughts on taking the Lord's Supper. Their thoughts are printed for you below:

Nate Hebdon:

There are many reasons one would want to take the Lord's Supper, but three reasons are especially important to me. Confirmation class was a good place for me to learn these things.

The first reason is to follow God. Jesus told us to eat and drink, and that is what we do with the bread and wine which is his body and blood. We can't understand this, but it is the Lord's Supper.

The second is to remind us that our sins are wiped away. When we sin we feel guilty and know we deserve death and hell. But in the Lord's Supper we know we are forgiven.

Lastly, the Lord's Supper strengthens our faith. When God says you are forgiven it makes us feel relieved because we know we are going to heaven. And that strengthens our faith.

Rachael Marsh

There are many reasons why I want to take the Lord's Supper. One is that I love God and I know that he loves me. The Lord's Supper is strengthening my faith in my Savior, and it gives me another way to praise him. I always want my faith to grow, and the Lord's Supper does that for me.

Another reason I want to take the Lord's Supper is that I want to show my faith in Jesus Christ publicly. This not only helps my faith, but possibly also the faith of those around me. Communion gives me a chance to stand up in front of the congregation and show that I

believe Jesus took my sins away and that I love him deeply.

The last reason that I want to take the Lord's Supper is that I want to publicly show that I am a sinner and that, even though I deserve to go to hell, Jesus saved me and all believers to give us eternal life to serve him. It also shows I am sorry for my sins and want to be forgiven. This strengthens and reassures my faith.

Andrew Wendt

I want to take the Lord's Supper. First, I want to take communion because I believe that I am receiving the body, blood, bread, and wine. This is known as the real presence.

Next, I also believe that receiving communion comes with blessings. Some of these blessings include forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.

I also believe that the Lord's Supper is connected with God's Word. We get the blessings of communion because the bread and wine are connected with Jesus' promise in his Word.

I also believe that I have prepared myself and am ready to take the Lord's Supper. Plus, I believe in close communion, which means that we don't share communion with people of a different faith. This means I will receive communion in WELS churches only. It is a blessing to believe the same thing. Plus, it helps us not to sin against God.

Maybe you can think about our confirmands' words as you think about why the Lord's Supper is important to you!

FREE CONCERT!



We will be having a **Free Concert** at Our Savior on **Monday, July 12th at 7:00pm**. This WELS band from Milwaukee plays fun, Christian music. Bring your family and friends to this free concert! If you'd like, you can even purchase one of the group's cd's afterwards. Please join us!

WELS NEWS:

The following WELS news is taken from the "Together" e-newsletter. If you'd like to sign up for this newsletter, go online to: <http://www.wels.net/news-events/together>

Districts discuss long-range planning

The 12 districts are all meeting in convention this month. One important item on each agenda is the Synodical Council's (SC) initial draft of the Long-Range Plan 2017. Convention delegates will be asked to discuss the plan and to forward reaction and input to the SC for consideration in a final proposal.

King David expressed complete confidence in God's care and providence when he wrote in Psalm 31, "My times are in your hands." Christians recognize that the God who knows the number of the hairs on their head is also the one who has promised to guide all things to serve their eternal good. We look to the future with confidence that

God will accomplish his will among us, and that no detail of our lives will escape his gracious and watchful eye.

As we look to the future with that kind of trust, however, it does not mean that planning for the future is somehow out of place or improper. God has also called us to be stewards and caretakers of all that he has entrusted to us. Wise planning for the future is nothing more and nothing less than wise and responsible stewardship of God's blessings.

The last synod convention recognized this truth when it called on the SC to develop a long-range plan for the mission and ministry of the synod. This plan was to describe where we, as a synod, hope to be in the year 2017. It was to establish the direction, the emphases, and the priorities of our synod for the coming years—all with the clear understanding that as we make our plans, it is God alone who will determine how those plans will be blessed.

The SC began work on the plan in the fall of 2009. A subcommittee of the SC was asked to develop a draft proposal. After some refinement and with input from the Conference of Presidents, the draft is being presented to the districts this month. Once the input of the districts is received, a final proposal will be adopted and submitted to the synod convention in 2011.

The long-range plan is not intended to be a complete and detailed description of all that the synod will do in the next six years. It is rather a broad road map of what we hope and pray to accomplish, under God, as we move forward. The long-range plan will establish general goals. It assumes, once those goals are adopted, that each area of ministry will be entrusted to develop the detailed plans and strategies to achieve those goals. It is assumed that this plan will be continually adjusted in keeping with changing circumstances. It is also intended that the plan will be extended every two years so that we are always planning the synod's work at least six years into the future.

You are invited to view the draft proposal with the understanding that there may be changes. The draft is online at www.wels.net/about-wels/synod-reports.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder
President

WLS and MLC offer summer classes

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) and Martin Luther College (MLC) are kicking off their summer sessions. Both schools are offering courses to help pastors, teachers, and staff ministers grow spiritually and professionally.

"It's important for a called worker to move from being the feeder of the flock to the one being fed," says Rev. Richard Gurgel, director of continuing education for WLS.

One hundred eighteen students are enrolled in WLS's Summer Quarter. Most of those students will come to the seminary's Mequon, Wis., campus, June 21 through July 9. This year, though, for the first time, the seminary is also offering an online course during Summer Quarter. The course, taught by seminary professor Rev. E. Allen Sorum, has 28 students enrolled. It began on June 14 and focuses on the apostle Paul and leadership.

Sorum explains that the students he's heard from are excited to be able to work on a course on their own schedule. "At least for this summer, this is the only way they can participate in the Summer Quarter Program," he says.

Gurgel says WLS will gradually increase its online course offerings. The goal is to have three classes available for next year's Summer Quarter and to eventually offer online courses throughout the school year for those who aren't able to participate during the summer.

Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., offers on-campus, off-campus, and online summer courses. Its summer session began on June 14, and 511 students are participating.

Prof. Dave Bauer, director of continuing education at MLC, says, "The called workers of WELS are well prepared to serve as pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. This educational foundation, however, is not intended in and of itself to support a lifetime of ministry. Continuing education is necessary to maintain and increase professional and spiritual qualifications for ministry excellence."

To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.wls.wels.net or www.mlc-wels.edu.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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JOHN 15:5; I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.
WWW.BRANCHESBAND.COM

Details Inside!