



thegoodnews

David's Star
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Jackson, WI 53037

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“When Good is Evil and Evil is Good”

by Pastor Kurt Loescher

November 2016

Volume XIX, Number 3

We all know about the 95 Theses that Martin Luther posted on the Castle Church door in 1517. That posting was translated and scattered over the entire European continent. And most if not all of us know that they were posted not to start a reformation but to create opportunity for debate among theologians. But did you know that Martin Luther actually had his opportunity to debate these points? His order of the Augustinians provided that opportunity in the town of Heidelberg. This became known as the Heidelberg Disputation. For this Luther wrote 28 theses which are not as well known, but may have been more impactful. What follows is my own summary of at least one major point in this work of Martin Luther.

A little girl wants to be just like mommy so she puts on mommy's dress and high heels. She finds her lipstick and smears it all over her face and got a little on mommy's best dress. She pokes herself in the eye with mascara and sprays hair spray all over the bathroom. Finally, mommy comes running to painful screaming after her little girl managed to plug in the curling iron.

Such miserable, even painful, failure plagues every Christian's effort to be like Jesus. Martin Luther takes that point to its' spiritual end when he says that imagining that we can be like Jesus through our efforts is a damning sin.

Our very best efforts to be good are, as Luther points out, only evil. To think otherwise is to devalue the cross of Christ and deny the magnitude of his sacrifice. It is to say that we can do what Jesus has already done for us.

On the other hand, the most righteous among us are those who openly and freely admit how hopelessly disgusting we are. Those are the Christians who not only depend entirely on the cross of Christ, but by faith bear the cross of clarity. They understand clearly their depravity, the depth of the sin that corrupts their being. They understand that being like Jesus will never happen through their own efforts. With faith born honesty, they bear that shame. They must rely on the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus.

They do not lie to themselves imagining that they can be like Jesus. They do not minimize their sins so that they can live with themselves. They live with the truth that they are evil within and even their best efforts are hopelessly corrupted with sin. By God's grace they can face that

truth and by God's grace and Jesus' merit, they are made very good--just like Jesus.

Resist the temptation to follow after the philosophies that have confused the Christian church on earth. They are nothing new but they get dressed up differently and touted even by people close to us. Your own Christian life must never be elevated as the standard to show that you are a child of God. If that is our standard we all fall miserably and painfully short--we are committing a damning sin. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the cross of Jesus, shows us that we are children of God.

What of the Christian life? If it is so hopelessly corrupt, has it no value? It only has value by faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).. Jesus' blood sanctifies even our pathetic efforts. Let the life of faith that we lead also be entirely the work of God in us. All glory to him alone. Take none for ourselves.

When the little girl's mommy dressed her, made her up and did her hair, the result was not disaster and personal harm. It was perfection.

A quote to think about from the Heidelberg Disputation: "The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it."

You can find the Heidelberg Disputation online at <http://bookofconcord.org/heidelberg.php> .



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS

*Kathryn Smith (11/1)
Ken Knuth (11/6)
Oscar Rathke (11/8)*

NOVEMBER 2016 GREETERS

November 6, 2016 7:45: Dave & Jeanie Martin
10:15: Dennis & Marlene Bell

November 13, 2016 7:45: N/A
10:15: Brian & Pam Lee

November 20, 2016 7:45: Jean Hall
10:15: John & RuthAnne Geldon

November 27, 2016 7:45: N/A.
10:15: Paul & Beth Steinbrenner

BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS

SERMON/BIBLE STUDY SERIES Sunday Morning Bible Study Pastor Woldt will be leading a Bible Study in church entitled **Keeping the Gospel In Focus Through Personal and Congregational Struggles: A Study of 1 Corinthians**. We learn timeless lessons from the experiences of the 1st century believers at Corinth and the inspired encouragement they received through the apostle Paul. **Am I A Lutheran?** Come to a class that explores the Biblical teachings of our faith with Pastor Loescher in the multi-purpose room of school. **Next Sunday November 6th**, Jason Walz and David Zarling will start an Adult Bible Study titled “Idols We Never Knew We Had” in the multi-purpose room of school.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (WNW) We will be meeting the first and third Thursday mornings of each month at 9:30 in the multi-purpose room. Please bring your bible and a notebook.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY at Jimmy's in Jackson meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:00 am. This group meets year round.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the multi-purpose room.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY- When you drop-off your children on Friday Mornings, stay a few minutes longer to discuss the truths of the Holy Scriptures. While this devotional study is scheduled to be convenient for our school parents, it is for anyone who would like to come, and meets in the Multipurpose Room every Friday that school is in session from 8:30 to 8:50. Even if you have a toddler at your side, no problem—bring him or her along. Coffee and tea are provided, and treats are welcomed!

TEEN AND CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY meet each Sunday from 9:10 to 10:00am. Join us as we study God's Word together. 3K will have an overview of the Bible. 4K to 8th grade will study Our Response to the Gospel: Worship and Service. Teens will look at the Heroes of Faith in Scripture.

DS AIR (ANCHORED IN THE ROCK) IS OUR DAVID'S STAR YOUTH GROUP Our first teen meeting between services on October 16th, had an encouraging turnout of 17 teens. Our November plans are as follows: Nov. 20th is our Teen Service Sunday. The Teen AIR group will supply ushers and greeters. We will also have our Teen AIR meeting from 9:00-10:00 that morning. We will continue our discussion on Creation vs. Evolution. After the 10:15 service we will have a quick pizza lunch and then go to Stocky's for go-carting. The Teens are also to bring a can of veggies, a can of cream of mushroom soup and a box of mac n cheese. These items are for the mid-week Advent meal we are hosting on Wednesday, November 30th. Teens are to meet in the gym by 4:00 to help prepare for the Advent meal. If the teens would like to go to the 3:45 service they will be able to help with the clean-up. Our supper will consist of tater-tot casserole, bread, mac n cheese, fruits and veggies. Eighth graders and High School age teens are all welcome.

THE “LITTLE ONES” will meet on November 5th at 9:30 am in the church gathering space. Our November date is November 5th, 2016. We meet on the first Saturday of the month throughout the school year. This program is designed to be a Christ-centered, nurturing and encouragement group for young children and their mothers, fathers, grandparents, or caregivers. Children from infancy to preschool are welcome to attend with a parent/grandparent or caregiver. Please contact Jessica Schumacher at [262.339.0976](tel:262.339.0976) or jc.schumacher@gmail.com.

**COUNCIL CAPSULE HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE AUGUST 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

David's Star Church Council Highlights

October 11, 2016

Members in attendance: Pastor Woldt, Pastor Loescher, Jon Kruse, Josh Boeldt, Glen Miller, David Zarling, Dennis Bell, Tim Gustafson, Brian Lee

Absent: Nelson Erdmann, Mike Willis, Kurt Henning

The meeting was called to order by Brian Lee. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Woldt. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on September 13, 2016.

Committee Reports

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming:

Outgoing: Bublitz, Nathan

Released from membership

Filter nee Buetow, Erin

Transfer to Immanuel, Waupaca, WI

Rusch, Eric

Transfer to Morning Star, Jackson, WI

Pastors' Report

Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 262.677.0919

kurt.loescher@gmail.com &

Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 262.377.1019

woldtma@hotmail.com

Reformation festival service on October 23, 3:00pm at Peace, Hartford, WI. The symposium at WLS on Biblical Interpretation and the fall pastor's conference with its emphasis on bearing the cross were both very worthwhile events that your pastors attended in the last month. Pastor Woldt was summoned to appear for jury duty today. He also may be up for a trial next week. That would be the end of his commitment. We have a new Early Field Training student assigned to David's Star. First year seminarian Alex Kirchenwitz. Please welcome him (and anyone else you don't know) when you see him in worship. On personal notes, Pastor Woldt and Betsy were blessed to welcome their 4th grandchild (a girl) into the world, born on October 9th. Pastor Loescher's son Jonathan, has a call to serve as pastor at Bethany in Hustisford, WI. Please keep him in your prayers.

President's Report

Brian Lee

brianandpam1@att.net

Endowment Committee – Due to my travels I have not been able to arrange a good time to meet with the donor. I will make this a priority this month

175th Anniversary – Work has begun on creating the 175th Anniversary Committee and Sub-Committee's Committee – will be led by Pastor Woldt and Brian Lee and will be made up of the chairs of the sub-committees History Sub-Committee – Pastor Pless has agreed to chair

Worship Sub-Committee – Mel Heckendorf has agreed to chair

Fellowship Sub-Committee – Randy Matter

School Involvement Sub-Committee – waiting for a return answer

Publicity Sub-Committee – waiting for a return answers

Mission Advancement Sub-Committee – Gary Heckendorf has agreed to chair

Budget – All Chairs need to start working on the Budget. The plan is to discuss first pass at the budget in Nov and have a draft to present to the congregation after the December Council Meeting.

Elections –A Nomination Committee needs to get formed. Chairman need to get the intentions from members up for re-election and identify nominees.

Board for

Buildings and Grounds

Kurt Henning

klhrconst@gmail.com

No report.

Board for Elementary Education

Mike Willis, mike.willis@sial.com

Principal Tim Gustafson

tgustafson@davidstar.org

Submitted report was reviewed

2016- Eight families have applied with a total of 11 children. Currently the fund is \$6,460.70 which is down about \$1,179 from a year ago. Since last year, we received approximately \$3,500. The board approved disbursement of \$3,400 which would leave a balance of \$3,060.70.

Board of Elders

Dennis Bell

dandmbell55@yahoo.com

No Report – excused.

Evangelism Committee

Nelson Erdman

theerdmans@hotmail.com

A postcard is being printed for the Living Nativity will be held on December 9-10th at Cedarburg Creek Farm, planning internally and also with the 3 other area with area congregations participating- Our Savior, Grafton, Redeemer, and Trinity Pleasant Valley Road. WLC is also helping on Living Nativity December 10th. We are looking for help with all facets of planning and will be looking for volunteers to help make this event happen, look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex and online <http://tinyurl.com/nativityvolunteer>. Our next postcard is being printed and should be in-home before thanksgiving.

Stewardship Committee

David Zarling

david.zarling@gmail.com

The preliminary budget spreadsheet was provided committee chairs. Work needs to begin on next year's budget. The plan is to have a preliminary printed budget available for congregational review in December as was done last year. Then a congregational meeting will be held between services in January prior to the voters meeting.

Spiritual Growth Committee

Jon Kruse

krusejon@hotmail.com

Adult Bible Study titled "Idols We Never Knew We Had" will be starting November 6th.

Treasurer's Report

Josh Boeldt

joshua.boeldt@gmail.com

The printed report for August was presented. Glory be to God on high! The total offerings for September were \$59,117, which is just under 95% of the budgeted offerings for the month. For the year, the offerings and total income figures are slightly above (0.5%) the budgeted amounts. The actual expenses for September were about 3.5% lower than the budgeted amount and the total expenses for the year are 1% lower than the budgeted expenses. Looking at the chart below, the actual net loss for the month was \$1,330 more than the anticipated budgeted net loss for the month. The overall fund balance at the end of September shows a deficit of \$61,167.

The remittances in September for the WELS mission were 15% higher than budgeted for, while the KMLHS operating mission remittances were about 14% higher than budgeted for. The KML Joyful Noise remittances were nearly 22% more than the anticipated amount for the month. The total amount remitted for all missions

was just over 2% more than the budgeted remissions for the year to date.

The mortgage loan balance as of September 30, 2016 is \$1,297,380. The council's objective is to maintain a **\$100,000** cushion in the building fund debt account—our balance at 9/30/16 was \$70,055, which is down over 5% from August.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

Old Business

Exploration of Endowment Fund at David's Star – The General Frame work has been discussed and Brian Lee will be reaching out to the donor to see if this frame work meets the intent of the donation.

New Business

None.

Next month's meeting is Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a blessing.

Respectively submitted, Brian Lee - President

THANK YOU -

DEAR DAVID'S STAR MEMBERS - I'm writing to thank you for your cards, memorials, prayers, support and encouragement as our family mourns Barry's passing. We are comforted that Jesus' promises are sure, and Barry is now enjoying the eternal victory with Jesus. The amount of support and encouragement has been truly humbling. Barry and I made David's Star our home in 1989 and we have been blessed to raise our children here. The people at David's Star have become our family; we have been truly blessed by the congregation. I want to thank all the members who supported our family through the fundraiser in 2011, those who brought meals the past years, and all those who have offered their prayers and support in so many ways. God has truly shown his grace to us through your kind and generous hearts. Please know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers, and I thank God for you all. In Christ, Eunice Washburn



Parish Nurse News

“Why Does He Do That?”

Dan & I (& others from DS!) had the pleasure of attending the Luther Days Event at Shore Land Lutheran HS! One of the breakout sessions I attended was “*Understanding Domestic Abuse*”, by Pastor Nathan Ericson of Martin Luther of Oshkosh, also the Special Ministries Coordinator of the WELS Northern Wisconsin District. You might wonder why I would have interest in such a topic. You see, a member of my extended family is abusive and while I personally am largely removed from the situation due to distance, we are still concerned for that families’ wellbeing and safety. And we keep them in prayer.

Lundy Bancroft, a leading expert in dealing with abusive men, wrote in “*Why Does He Do That?*”, that 2-4 million women are assaulted by their partners *per year* in the United States. The U.S. Surgeon General has declared that attacks by male partners are the *number one cause of injury* to women between the ages of fifteen and forty-four. The American Medical Association reports that *one woman out of three* will be a victim of violence by a husband or boyfriend at some point in her life. I would imagine that more people than just me here at David’s Star, have been impacted by domestic violence.

Pastor Ericson shared that abuse *is not...* a psychological problem or an alcohol problem or an anger control problem, although they all can make abuse worse. All these characterizations are ways we minimize the reality of abuse. Abuse is not a 6th Commandment “marriage problem.” Abuse *is* a violence problem that involves attitudes of contempt and entitlement, a 5th Commandment lack of respect for health and life.

Pastor Ericson talked of the reasons that women don’t easily leave an abusive relationship and the complexity and even the potential danger of that decision. He shared some thoughts on divorce and talked of proper counseling. Typical couples counseling can send the wrong message and even put the woman at risk. As parish nurse my role would be to refer abuse victims to the Pastor and trained specialists. Christian Family Solutions or a local women’s shelter will be able to help. Pastor Ericson and Lundy Bancroft both emphasize that the abuser, himself, requires a specific abuser program or counseling specialist.

How can we as God’s people best help the abuse victim? By listening and seeking to understand. Don’t put pressure on the victim to take action, but support her in the actions she chooses to take. We can encourage the victim with appropriate use of Scripture. Not as a

bandage (“You shouldn’t be afraid, because Jesus is with you!”) but as an encouragement (“Jesus sees what you are going through. He will help you”). Pray for the victim.

Another good resource, recommended by Pastor Ericson? “*Helping Her Get Free – A Guide for Families and Friends of Abused Women*” by Susan Brewster, M.S.S.W.

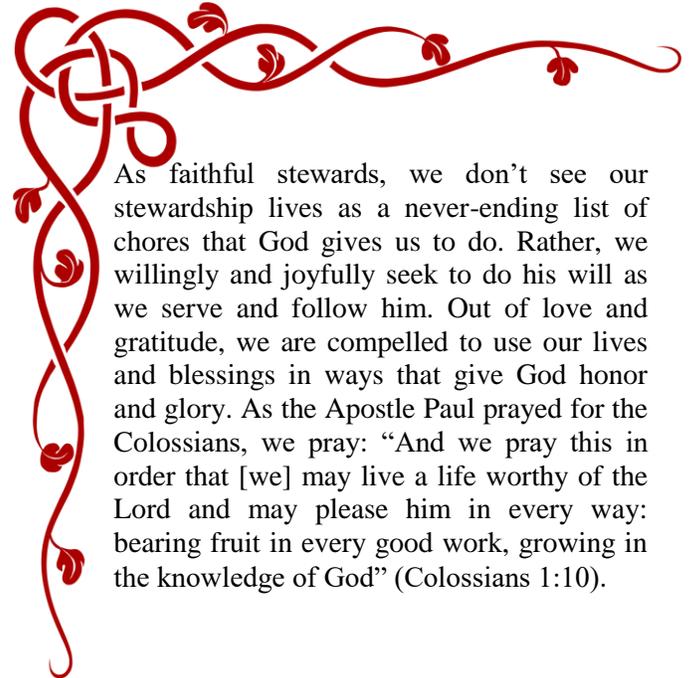
A helpful WELS website, www.freedomforcaptives.com, provides spiritual resources for those who have survived abuse and those helping them.

Once the victim has left the abuser, we can help with everyday household/family needs and when needed, we can reinforce her decisions to protect herself and the children. It is also critical to protect the victim’s personal safety by keeping contact information strictly confidential.

I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about this issue. My thoughts and prayers are with those families impacted by domestic violence.

Together in Christ,
Sue Bolha RN
Parishnurse@davidstar.org
262.677.3485

STEWARDSHIP CORNER



As faithful stewards, we don’t see our stewardship lives as a never-ending list of chores that God gives us to do. Rather, we willingly and joyfully seek to do his will as we serve and follow him. Out of love and gratitude, we are compelled to use our lives and blessings in ways that give God honor and glory. As the Apostle Paul prayed for the Colossians, we pray: “And we pray this in order that [we] may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).

IT’S TIME to sign up for bringing a treat for our Sunday morning fellowship time between services. There is a sign up sheet by the coffee serving area** *Snacks without nuts are preferred due to allergy concerns*** Thank you to the following for their generosity in supplying snacks for our November Sunday morning fellowship between services: Elaine Gerner, Emily Zarling, Loretto Klug and the 7th/8th grade Sunday School class and Beth Steinbrenner. 5

**2016 September Operating Budget
Financial Update
October 11, 2016**

Glory be to God on high! The total offerings for September were \$59,117, which is just under 95% of the budgeted offerings for the month. For the year, the offerings and total income figures are slightly above (0.5%) the budgeted amounts. The actual expenses for September were about 3.5% lower than the budgeted amount and the total expenses for the year are 1% lower than the budgeted expenses. Looking at the chart below, the actual net loss for the month was \$1,330 more than the anticipated budgeted net loss for the month. The overall fund balance at the end of September shows a deficit of \$61,167.

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	\$74,268	\$78,396	(\$4,128)
Expenses	\$80,007	\$82,805	(\$2,798)
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$5,739)	(\$4,409)	(\$1,330)

**2016 September Ministries Beyond
Our Congregation Financial Update**

The remittances in September for the WELS mission were 15% higher than budgeted for, while the KMLHS operating mission remittances were about 14% higher than budgeted for. The KML Joyful Noise remittances were nearly 22% more than the anticipated amount for the month. The total amount remitted for all missions was just over 2% more than the budgeted remissions for the year to date.

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Wisc Ev Lutheran Synod	\$6,011	\$5,220	\$791
KMLHS Operating Fund	\$3,481	\$3,042	\$439
KMLHS Joyful Noise	\$560	\$460	\$100

2016 September Building Fund Update

The mortgage loan balance as of September 30, 2016 is \$1,297,380. The council's objective is to maintain a \$100,000 cushion in the building fund debt account—our balance at 9/30/16 was \$70,055, which is down over 5% from August.

Josh Boeldt, Treasurer

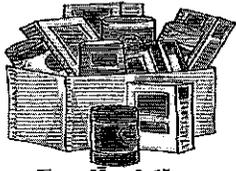
TOOTHBRUSHES FOR CAMM

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU 300 TIMES THANK YOU for the 300 toothbrushes you donated thru the LWMS Circuit Fall Rally October 22. These toothbrushes along with an additional 3400 brushes from other circuit congregations are destined for Malawi clinics operated by CAMM, (Central Africa Medical Missions).

**Advent by Candlelight –
Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 4:00 pm.**

This is a special time for women to come together to remember the important meaning of Christmas before they prepare for the Holidays. Please take this opportunity to invite your neighbors, relatives, fellow workers and friends to hear this special Christmas message of Bible readings, singing, and enjoy some Christmas fellowship.

- **What is involved with being a hostess of a table?** Pick up a Registration Form on the table in the gathering space or go to the David's Star web site at www.davidsstar.org and click on the link for the Registration Form. Deadline is Sunday, November 20.
- **If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions,** please contact Lynne Tews, 262-377-2051, or at foneman45@prodigy.net.
- **I want to come by myself.** Complete the form, let us know you are alone and we will put you at another hostess table so you can come and enjoy the program and meet some new friends.
- **Thai Village, Inc.** items are available for sale before and after the program. 100% of your purchases help provide opportunities for vocational training and Christian education to these crafters in Thailand.
- **We are delighted to be able to use graphics and music from Koine's CD, "Emmanuel Lux".** Their CD's will be available for purchase before and after the program.



**Feeding the
Community**

DAVID'S STAR NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE FOR THE JACKSON FOOD PANTRY

David's Star will be sponsoring a food drive during the month of November for the Jackson Food Pantry. We ask that the students bring in non-perishable food items or household items. The Jackson Food Pantry is committed to helping out people in need in the community of Jackson and Washington County especially over the holidays and the beginning of the year.

ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED!

The Food Pantry is currently in need of the following:

BREAKFAST FOODS*

Cereals - HOT & COLD **** NEED****
Powdered Milk
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Pop Tarts
Cereal Bars

CANNED GOODS* (NO RUSTY OR DENTED CANS)

Fruit
Vegetable
Tuna, Chicken
Spam
Jellies
Applesauce
Chili
Manwich
Sauces, gravy
Mayonnaise
Mustard
Ketchup

PASTA, RICE, BOX MEALS *

Mashed potatoes
Stuffing Mix
Hamburger Helper

DRINKS*

Juice Boxes
100% Fruit Drinks
Bottled Water
Ensure/Boost
Hot Chocolate
Coffee, Instant
Tea
Kool-Aid

HEALTH & BEAUTY AIDS*

Toothpaste ****NEED****
Toothbrushes
Shampoo
Deodorant
Bath Soap
Sanitary Products
Incontinence Products

PAPER PRODUCTS* **NEED**

Paper Towels
Tissues
Toilet Paper

MISCELLANEOUS*

Laundry Supplies
Snack Foods
Cleaning Supplies
Sugar
Flour
Salt
Cake Mix
Brownie Mix
Vegetable Oil
Jello
Pudding

**NO BABY ITEMS NEEDED
NO PEANUT BUTTER (Over Stocked)**

WE CANNOT ACCEPT EXPIRED FOOD

****FOOD DRIVE ENDS THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 2016.****