

THE GOOD NEWS

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"Sin Has Always Been Sin"

by Pastor Loescher

"Wow! Blizzard warning! I hadn't seen that in years—a real live blizzard?" But then we have to ask, "What do they mean by that?" And of course, we have to ask the companion question, "Will it really be that bad?" I've come not to trust the terminology of weather forecasters. To me a blizzard has always been an extreme winter storm—subzero temperatures with such a whiteout that if you tried to go from the house to the barn, you'd never find the barn and you'd probably end up dead in the field.

I think it happened sometime during the late 1980's that weather forecasters started exaggerating the severity of winter weather. I remember experiencing this apparent shift in emphasis when my family and I moved back north after serving a congregation in Florida for three years. Early in the first winter back, the weather forecaster said that a winter storm was approaching. I was eager to sit back in the warmth of our new parsonage and show my young children the driving white winds of a real winter storm.

To be fair, we got about four inches of snow, but it came down in big, lazy, fluffy flakes. I expected the forecasters to change their tone and explain why it wasn't a winter storm, but only a beautiful winter snow fall. To my shock they carried on in the evening news about the severe winter weather we had had that day, showing footage of neighbors banding together in their severe trial snow blowing each other's driveways. What an impressive camera angle getting the essence of a ten horse Briggs and Stratton engine churning up and throwing four inches of nice light, fluffy snow like it was nothing.

Have you ever noticed how word usage can work the other way, too? People can downplay the meaning of a word and its usage changes accordingly. When we use the word sin, we have people asking the question, "What do you mean by that?" And of course they have to ask the companion question, "Is it really all that bad?" In some circles people have thought it to

be more loving and Christian to discontinue the use of the term altogether. Generally, it doesn't hurt for words to develop new meanings. In fact, it's normal language development, but sin is one word whose meaning we need to maintain. Sin means the state of being that can never and will never coexist with God. Sin is the opposite of what God is. Sin is the anti-God essence of all of us. Sin is all the continual actions, attitudes, and thoughts that prove that human beings do not belong with God anymore. We rebelled against him and will eternally remain in a rebellious state, unless we understand that word sin. Then, by the Holy Spirit's powerful working, we may see and begin to know Jesus and what he has done for us. He has made us free of sin. He has made us one with God. He has sanctified all of our deeds so that they comply with and even please our perfect, holy God.

This Lenten season we have the opportunity to sharpen the definition of the word again and restore its powerful usage in our lives. Simply look at the suffering and death of Jesus again to understand the meaning of sin more vividly. The sinless Son of God became sin for us. Now, with all sin burdening Jesus' soul, the Father exacts the punishment upon his crucified Son that should have been ours. Rather than redefining sin so that we can live with ourselves, Lent allows us to leave it as it is, so that our Savior can be who he is.

I guess it doesn't really matter all that much if forecasters are going to redefine the winter weather terms. On the other hand, a real honest to goodness blizzard is like a warm sea breeze compared to what happens when people change the meaning of sin. Never let its usage change among us, but let it accuse and inflict its pain in our hearts, so that the pain and death of our Savior may free our hearts.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Emma Kressin 91 yrs. old...3/24/1916

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

All women of the congregation are invited join us as we continue to meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. Our new study is *The Beauty of a Simple Life-When Less is More*. Please contact Colleen Loeffler at 677-2319 to reserve a copy of the book or if you have any questions. The cost is \$6.99 and checks should be made payable to David's Star Church.

THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN IN GOD'S WORD GROUP

We are studying Pastor Mark Paustian's book, "Prepared To Answer." It is a helpful model for sharing one's faith by supplying Scripture-based responses to common objections to Christianity. Each session addresses different topics and it is not necessary to attend every session. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you wish. We meet in the school IMC at 7:00 pm. Our new session will begin again after Easter. If you have any questions, please contact Char Kison at 677-2389.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

FINDING TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION

The Internet is both a blessing and a curse. Used wisely, it can provide all sorts of information, but it also is full of untruths. What is the truth and where can we find reliable information?

The WELS Commission on Evangelism has just newly redesigned a website to reach the unchurched, lets people confidentially ask questions, get real answers, and explore the Bible. You can submit prayer requests or even sign up for daily devotions. Point your friends and family to www.WhatAboutJesus.com

When searching for answers to health related questions, asking your doctor for a credible website is a great idea. Doctors are always pleased to know that their patients want to learn about their health. Make sure the information has been recently updated or reviewed. Be careful when a site asks FOR CONSUMERS TO REGISTER OR SUBSCRIBE. Personal information is sometimes sold to other companies. Here are some credible sites to start you off on your search for information!

- American Cancer Society
(www.cancer.org) Includes links to clinicials and patient support groups.
- American Diabetes Association
(www.diabetes.org) Along with news of the latest research, provides nutritional info & recipes.
- American Heart Association
(www.americanheart.org) Features an online heart and stroke encyclopedia.
- Family Doctor
(www.familydoctor.org) Straightforward general information from the AAFP
- KidsHealth
(www.kidshealth.org) A foundation-sponsored site about children's health through adolescence.
- Mayo Clinic
(www.mayoclinic.com) Offers online tools to help guide treatment decisions.

Many can deceive. One will never fail you. He knows everything. He reveals all we need to know!

Blessings of good health to you, Sue Bolha RN, PN

PS Watch for information about our next **BLOOD DRIVE** on March 17th!!!

Pastor's Report**(Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 677-0919)****(Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 377-1019)**

Pastor Janke's recovery continues to go well. Pastors Loescher and Woldt continue to make all the hospital and shut in visits for the time being. Pastor Woldt will be leaving to visit his son in Arizona on Feb 14th, and will be returning on Feb 20th. We are joining with Morning Star, St. Lucas in Kewaskum, and Our Savior in Grafton to conduct a rotation for Lenten service preaching. There are strong indications that our WELS ministerial educational system will once again be a topic for the upcoming synod convention. According to reports, current funding will not allow us to continue to operate two preparatory schools (LPS & MLS), in addition to our college of ministry (MLC) and the seminary in Mequon (WLS). KMLHS choir is scheduled to be at David's Star on Sunday, March 11. We need to designate a group of people who are willing to "host" the members of the choir while they are on our campus. (Breakfast foods, etc.). There may be a need for seminary candidates in the future. The current class size is about 40 per class. Pastor Woldt's class size was approximately 80.

President's Report**(Randy Matter, Telephone # 376-1585)**

Building Committee—The architect contract is being finalized and has gone through a legal review. A member of the congregation reviewed it without cost. The initial step will be for the architect and the Design Committee to meet. They will program the spaces we need into the master plan by developing appropriate square footage and location for each program as they have been identified during the listening sessions. This detail will be incorporated into the Master Building Plan. Another step soon to be accomplished will be a facilities audit which will develop an in-depth report on the condition of our current church and school. Cost for these two steps will be about \$17,000 with \$4,750 being credited back toward the Schematic Design phase (the initial drawing phase of the building program).

Technology Committee—Plans are being developed for a long-range technology direction for our campus—church and school. Ryan Breikreutz has developed the concepts and is putting details to the plan. I am hoping to have him come to a near future council meeting to explain it. Barry Washburn is researching a new phone system for the church and school. A new system will help us overcome some of the distance issues we face right now with our staff. It must also be expandable to accommodate our future building space.

Planning Retreat—I would like to schedule another Council planning retreat for Saturday March 10 or Saturday March 17. The format would be similar to past retreats. All Council members and their boards and committees would be invited for a morning planning session and lunch, probably at Heidel's again. Please check your schedules and let me know your thoughts at the Council meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Report**(Kurt Henning, Telephone # 677-2797)**

No Report

Board of Elders**(Dennis Bell, Telephone #677-2248)**

We welcomed Bill Bublitz to our committee and quickly put him to work as the recording secretary. Clif Koeller was re-elected for a second term and we thanked him for accepting the challenge for another 3 years. The Board of Elders requests a special election be held at the next quarterly meeting to replace Dan Bolha, who moved to the Church Treasurer's position. We will need to work with the Board of Education to fill the position of part time secretary.

Board for Elementary Education**(Patrick Steele, Telephone # #677-7673)**

The board is finding out new things through the accreditation process. May be looking at implementing new policies through a handbook expansion. Also personnel policies will be addressed within the next year. The possibility of a staff policy manual which spells out leave, vacation etc, will be addressed.

Evangelism Committee Report**(Paul Steinbrenner, Telephone #675-0832)**

Chairman is new to this committee.

Committee has many things on its plate, may start from the beginning.

First focus is on assimilation of new members.

Spiritual Growth Report**(Mark Otte, Telephone # 306-3521)**

Pastor Loescher continues his study on Galatians in the church and Pastor Woldt continues his study of faith and finances in the school until February 18.

Starting February 25, Pastor Loescher and Woldt will team teach a Bible study in the church and Jeff Rehm will lead a study in the school.

The 2007-2008 Bible study schedule is currently being worked on. Any ideas for topics or books of the Bible to be studied are welcome. Contact Mark Otte at motte@kmlhs.org or 262-306-3521 for more ideas.

Ideas to increase participation in both our Sunday school and our Sunday morning adult Bible study were discussed and will be acted on..

**Stewardship Committee Report
(Todd Backus, Telephone #677-4061)**

Pastor Loescher opened with a stewardship devotion from II Corinthians 8:1-5.

“The Treasure of Every Treasured Soul” – Kevin will take over the administration of the program. Hosts and presenters have been identified. Information has been mailed to them. The first training session for presenters was held. An additional training session will be held on 2/15/07 for those not able to attend the first one. About 50% of households have been assigned to hosts (all middle aged / married individuals have been assigned).

Budgeting Process – We reviewed the budgeting process and what could be improved. It appears that the most challenging part is the format coming out of Shepherd’s Staff not being consistent with the budgeting template (Excel). It was suggested that Shannon work with Patty to determine if there is a better way to get this information in sync to make it more efficient. Todd will coordinate.

Funding Appeal – Status update was given as it appeared in the annual report. Total funds received through 12/31/06 - \$460,927 vs. total appeal \$1,417,095 (32.53%). We need to conduct a semi-annual review as was previously agreed as part of the funding appeal follow-up. In addition, we need to coordinate with Evangelism the packets provided to new members so that it includes information about our building program. Todd will attempt to organize a meeting with Rod and Pastor Loescher related to these two topics. Shannon has agreed to experiment with trying to produce a bar chart showing funds received compared with total pledges that could be displayed in church.

Future stewardship ideas - We brainstormed on some ideas for stewardship ideas for 2007. One idea would be to present simple stewardship Bible themes in the monthly newsletter. Perhaps we could alternate writing this information each month by member of the Stewardship Committee. Pastor Loescher will write an article for the next newsletter as it relates to II Corinthians 8:1-5.

Other items - Shannon updated us on information received from CCFS and we discussed how we might want to report this information to the congregation. We will also watch what comes out of the budget workshop and how we could potentially use it at David’s Star.

Our next meeting will be 3/6/07 at 7:00 PM.

**Treasurer’s Report
(Dan Bolha, Telephone #675-2672)**

The January 31, 2007 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$83,311. This compares to a deficit of \$68,168 as of December 31, 2006 and a deficit of \$84,185 on January 31, 2006. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$56,958 compared to \$56,431 last year and this year’s budget of \$64,160. Our Foundation Built on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date receipts of \$15,367.

**Vice President Report
(Jeff Morgan, Telephone #377-7532)**

No Report

A motion was made and carried to accept all reports except those items that needed separate action under old or new business.

Old Business

None

New Business

Personnel policies and Staff Handbook

Items for Voters

None

The next scheduled Council meeting will be at **The Church Parish Center on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**

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

Respectively submitted,
James R. Siebers, Recording Secretary

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**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES
2007**

April 5, 2007 **Maundy Thursday**
Services w/Holy Communion
3:30 and 7:00 pm

April 6, 2007 **Good Friday**
German Service 11:30 am
Service of the Word 1:30 pm
Service of Darkness 7:00 pm

April 7, 2007 **Easter Eve (Saturday)**
Service 7:00 pm

April 8, 2007 **EASTER**
Sunrise 6:00 am
Festival Services 7:45 & 10:15 am



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR January 2007

	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 1/31/07	Offerings Budgeted thru 1/31/07
Operating	\$51,994	\$12,999	\$51,994	\$59,884
Missions	\$5,403	\$ 1,351	\$5,403	\$6,305
KML Operating	\$3,265	\$816	\$3,265	\$4,340
KML Building	\$815	\$204	\$815	\$1,415
“Together Shining Like the Stars...”	\$1,365	\$341	\$1,365	\$2,929



SCRAPBOOKING DAY
 Saturday, March 17th
 11:00am to 7:00pm
 \$10 per person



Are you a scrapbooker/stamper?? Are you way behind in your albums/projects? Or are your pictures so disorganized you can't even imagine starting an album? This day is just for you!! Eight hours of uninterrupted time to devote to your albums/projects/pictures! Join us for the entire day or just a portion of it, whatever is convenient for you. If you have a friend/neighbor who would like to join us, they are welcome! This is also an excellent opportunity to show our wonderful campus to people who are looking for a church home. The fee includes a light dinner. Complete details and registration forms are available in the Narthex area. Please call Beth Klug with any questions 262-675-6991. Volunteers are needed.



OPERATION LEND - A - PLANT 2007

We're offering white single stem Easter lilies at a cost of \$10.50 per plant. Yellow daffodils, red tulips and blue hyacinths are also available at a cost of \$15.00 per plant. Hydrangeas (mostly pink) are available at a cost of \$18.00 per plant. The plants are from Groth's Country Gardens.

If you wish to "lend" a lily, daffodil, tulip, hyacinth, or hydrangea, forms with money may be left in the designated box in the narthex or given to a Ladies' Aid representative. **There will be a representative after Saturday and Sunday services - March 10 11, 17, 18 24, 25. Please make checks payable to David's Star Ladies' Aid.** Thank you. Any questions, please call Charlotte Kison at 677-2389.

The deficit in our Operating Fund is: \$83,311
 The deficit at the end of January 2006 was:
 \$84,185
 The deficit at the end of January 2005 was:
 \$59,734