



thegoodnews

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Peaceful Lenten Reflection

Pastor Loescher

Life was spiraling out of control. He lost his job, and hadn't been able to find another one. Their savings was dwindling while the mortgage was due. Their long term investments were now worthless. Never in their worst nightmares would they have thought of themselves as homeless, but the thought was occurring to them almost daily now. This scenario happened eighty years ago, not last month, but its painfully familiar to some. It seems a weekly occurrence that we hear of someone else who has lost a job or had cutbacks in hours. It would be easy to worry and give way to fear if we didn't have the quiet, peaceful reflections of Lent reminding us, "He who did not spare his won Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also along with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

Remember whose life seemed to be spiraling out of control in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night he was betrayed. Jesus had spent a relatively peaceful evening with his disciples celebrating the Passover. They went out to the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus started to be very distressed. His prayers were particularly intense and sorrowful. Later one of his disciples came with a mob and betrayed him. He was arrested and taken to immediate kangaroo court style trial. They, of course, found him guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to death. They forced him through the legal court and cajoled the governor into finding him guilty and sentenced to death. He was beaten, led out to Mount Calvary and crucified.

The disciples certainly thought their lives had spiraled out of control. "And we thought he was going to be the one to redeem Israel," said the disciples on the road to Emmaus after Jesus had been crucified. The disciples had always seen him as able to conquer anyone. They witnessed how he totally controlled everything, even death. No way could he fail to take control of this wicked world and make all things glorious and perfect. Then he was taken captive. He didn't stop them. Why not? What's wrong? Were they wrong? They ran for their lives. Can it be... he's dead. It certainly seemed like their lives were spiraling out of control, but we know.

Don't we also know that our lives are never really out of control. The Lord has perfect control of even the most chaotic of circumstances. We know that his agony and humiliating death won for us lasting peace—a carefully orchestrated conquest of sin, Satan and this evil world. We are at full peace with God and at rest from all the mortifying, strength sapping, bone crushing guilt of sin.

God's peace is powerful to overcome any anxious thought. Rest in the peaceful strength of Lent. It can be difficult to rest when there is still something hanging over our heads, like the uncertainty of health, lost jobs, home mortgages. But all those things are simple small issues in the hands of our powerful God. Know our peace in Jesus and know that he is always in control. Rest secure in the peace of Lent.

March 2009

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Emma Kressin...3/24/1916...93 yrs. old

MARCH GREETERS

March 1

7:45 Rick and Nancy Ebeling
10:15 Steve and Heather Brandt

March 7th

5:00 Wayne Publitz

March 8th

7:45 Jody and Amy Hansen
10:15 Randy and Karla Matter

March 14th

5:00 Betty Gumm

March 15th

7:45 Dave and Nicole Miller
10:15 Bridgett Strupp Family

March 21st

5:00 Neil and Barb Thompson

March 22nd

7:45 Noah and Rebecca Eernisse
10:15 Mel and Eunice Heckendorf

March 28th

To be assigned

March 29th

7:45 Mike and Deb Boeldt
10:15 Jim and Carla Volz



PARISH NURSE NEWS

Did you know that our synod has a Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing? I just received a copy of the MDHH newsletter that is called "Open To All" and is published three times yearly. Free subscriptions are available, just contact opentoall@wels.net.

This Winter 2009 issue had a variety of articles relating to people with a hearing impairment as well as ideas for our churches to insure that God's Word is "Open To All"! One article was titled, "How Accessible is Our Congregation?" As we begin our building program perhaps we should consider some of these accessibility issues?

Another article encouraged all congregations to consider installing a Soundfield System in their school classrooms. Soundfield Systems, also called Sound Distribution Systems, provide amplification for entire classrooms by using 1-4 wall or ceiling-mounted loudspeakers. The teacher wears a wireless microphone-transmitter. These systems are a great tool for children with mild to moderate hearing loss, ADHD, learning disabilities, or the average child who sits in the back of the classroom. Studies have shown that children educated in classrooms with sound distribution systems have a higher reading level, enhancing the class' learning, participation and test scores.

There are more people with a hearing loss than you think. Those with a hearing loss can be of any age. One-third of those over 65 have a hearing loss of some kind. One-half of those over 80 have a hearing loss. There are more than 31 million individuals with a hearing loss in all age brackets. And by the year 2030, it is estimated that 78 million Americans will have some type of a hearing loss. Something to think about!

On a brief other note, FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE, is being offered to senior citizens through AARP volunteers in both Ozaukee and Washington Counties. Call your local Aging & Disability Resource Center for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD.... Our next **Blood Drive** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st from 2-7pm in the school gym. Please note the new day of the week and time in an effort to boost the number of donors!

May God bless us as we reach out and nourish others with God's Word no matter what their abilities or inabilities. Our Lord has a purpose for each of us.

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

LENTEN MEAL ENTERTAINMENT We have something new at our Lenten meals. You are invited to "come early or stay late", to listen to some of the band and piano students play musical selections. The children are very excited about sharing their talents with you. Please come and support them. We serve a light supper between church services, 4:45-6:30pm. The children will be playing between 5:30 and 6:00. We look forward to sharing this fellowship time with you.

February 10, 2009

Members in attendance: Pastor Loescher, Pastor Woldt, David Nunez, Dan Bolha, Kevin Behm, Tim Gustafson, Mark Otte, Todd Backus, Kurt Henning, Brian Lee, Dennis Bell, David Zarling, Jeff Morgan.

Absent: none.

The meeting was opened with a prayer. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2009.

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming: Oestreich, Mark & Ginger; Elijah
*Transfer from Our Morning Star,
Jackson, WI*
Meyer, Jenna
Transfer from Woodlawn, West

Allis, WI

Outgoing: Kuber, John & Ellen
Transfer to Redeemer, Cedarburg,

WI

Ratzburg, Dan & Tracy; AnnaJo,
Noah, Meta
Transfer to Morning Star, Jackson,

WI

Pastors' report

Pastor Loescher, # 677-0919

kloescher@davidstar.org

Pastor Woldt, # 377-1019 woldt@nconnect.net

The pastors are preparing for Lent and welcoming a new confirmation class into communicant membership at David's Star. We continue to be encouraged by those attending Bible classes, as well as the regular worship services. Please keep our synod in your prayers as current economic realities are presenting challenges for funding the work we want to do together with our brothers and sisters in faith. Please note the February 23rd presentation at KML on "Healthy Congregations". Also note the opportunity to sharpen your ability to share the gospel at the March 7th presentation at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

President's report

Dave Nuñez, #677-2647

David.Nunez@ipaper.com

Since this is my first report, I want to start by saying that I am very pleased to be working with everyone on the council, and I look forward to what promises to be an eventful time for our congregation. I plan on continuing with the visions and plans Randy had worked on. I am confident that together we will work toward finding a

satisfactory conclusion for these visions. There is no doubt that we face quite a bit of work, and have many challenges ahead of us, but with God's help we will persevere.

DNR's NR-151 Nutrient Management Plan – This is a pending issue. Randy Vogel is working on this plan.

Budget Deficit – I have had little feedback from members of the congregation regarding our letter. Any others?

Howard Kaschner Estate – We are waiting for a call back from the family to set a date for a final meeting with all parties to finalize the estate.

Council Retreat – I will be working on continuing this item that Randy started. I will look for the same type of format and work the details and report back next month. Are there any thoughts to the time period or the timing of the retreat at all? Is the morning better, or any other thoughts?

Building project - This is probably the single most important event in our congregation's history, and all council member should try to be present at tomorrow night's meeting to show support to the Building Committee. Has there been any feedback that anyone has been hearing regarding this project? There has been some comments regarding postcards that we mailed out by the Evangelism Committee before the voters meeting. This will be addressed at the voters meeting.

Board and committee reports – Council members please try to forward report information to Phyllis via email prior to our council meeting so that she can include this information with our agenda. This will save time during meetings.

Board for Buildings and Grounds

Kurt Henning, # 677-2797 klh@nconnect.net

New gym lights were installed. WE Energies had a rebate program, and the cost difference was paid by the Golf Committee.

A new smart board was installed in Mr. Watts' room. Thanks to Dave Krause for installing the smart board. It was donated by the Golf Committee.

Thanks to Dan Kaschner for installing new heating elements in Pastor Woldt's parsonage.

Board for Elementary Education

Brian Lee, Telephone #377-9419 brian.lee@jci.com

Principal Tim Gustafson # 338-3992

tgustafson@davidstar.org

The board is looking at options to remedy the dishwasher situation.

The board is looking at how to implement tuition with considerations for those with multiple students in one

family, as well as tuition assistance. They hope to have a recommendation for the April voters' meeting.

The board has been discussing thoughts for the Building Committee, including the location of the Extended Learning Center.

Christian Education Week is coming up. There is an open house scheduled for February 22nd. There was a discussion regarding a chainsaw carving that will be created by Steve Brandt for this event, and whether it would be appropriate to conduct a raffle for this item. It was decided that it would be better to forward this item to the Golf Committee, and perhaps use it for a silent auction.

Board of Elders
Dennis Bell, Telephone # 677-2248
dandmbell@sbc.global

There was no formal report, but Dennis noted that he was appreciative of the consistency that has occurred within the board, as there has been no changeover in members in his board from last year.

Evangelism Committee
David Zarling, Telephone # 262-546-4506
david.zarling@gmail.com

The committee is in the process of doing a postcard mailing.

The committee started tracking requests from David's Star and will follow up on them.

A new brochure was created by the committee.

The logo committee is hoping to have ideas for Council by April.

There was an inquiry regarding the church advertisement in the West Bend News. The Council was informed that this advertisement was cancelled as more effective ways of promotion are being utilized.

Stewardship Committee
Todd Backus, # 677-4016
todd.backus@prodigy.net

Stewardship Committee minutes from February 3, 2009: Heart N Focus Course – Final preparation for Bible study. Todd to coordinate booklets for class, Pastor to pass along information at other current Bible studies for final promotion.

Stewardship Communication

Todd will continue to include monthly pieces in our newsletter.

Agreed to have promotion for Simply Giving. Discussed changes to Simply Giving program for 2010.

Special envelope promotion – looking into next special ministries envelope for promotion.

Planned Giving – Bill Truebenbach has agreed to serve to replace Jody Hansen as Planned Giving Chairman. Needs Council confirmation.

Brainstorming on additional Stewardship programs. Email blast similar to stewardship corner, and stewardship of education came up as potential topics. Further development at future meetings.

Next meeting – March 3rd at 8:00PM

Spiritual Growth Committee
Mark Otte, # 306-3521 motte@kmlhs.org

The next round of Sunday morning Bible classes is scheduled to begin Sunday February 15th.

Professor Joel Pless will lead a study of First, Second, and Third John in church. Jody Hansen and Randy Matter will lead a study called Heart in Focus in the School. Mark Otte will continue to lead the teens in the parish center.

Now is a great time to start attending Bible classes. Make Sunday at church a 2 hour event.

Building Committee
Randy Vogel

No report.

Fundraising Committee Update
Gary Heckendorf

No report.

Treasurer's report
Dan Bolha, # 677-3485 bolha@netwurx.net

The January 31, 2009 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$155,905 compared to a deficit of \$132,878 December 31, 2008 and a deficit of \$114,292 on January 31, 2008. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$61,445 compared to \$62,208 last year and this year's budget of \$63,564. Our Foundation Build on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date revenues of \$35,835.

Josh Krause will be taking over for Patty Backus with the church bookkeeping. Thanks to Patty for all of her past work, and we wish her well in her new position.

Four counting teams have been established from a pool of interested volunteers.

Vice President Report
Jeff Morgan, # 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

Internet antenna options – The status of the committee was discussed. Information is expected back in the near future from this committee.

New Business

Set date for Quarterly Meeting – As the second Thursday in April falls on Maundy Thursday, it will be necessary to set a new date for our meeting. After some discussion, it was decided to set the meeting date for April 16th at 8PM.

Bill Truebenbach – Bill was confirmed as the new planned giving chairman as part of the Stewardship Committee.

Hand Bell Group – The Council approved a door collection for this group who will be going to a festival in Watertown. The collection will be held in March.

Groundbreaking – Pending approval of the Building Committee plan, there was some initial discussion regarding the groundbreaking ceremony to be held on Easter Sunday. Further plans will be developed.

4. Items for Voters (for the April 16 voters meeting)

None

Next months meeting is **Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.** The next Voters meeting will be **Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 8:00 PM.** There will be a special Voters meeting regarding our building project on **Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 7:00PM.**

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

Kevin A. Behm, Recording Secretary
kevinbehm@att.net.

Thank You

The Church Council and myself would like to take a moment to thank Patty Backus for all her time and efforts in handling the bookkeeping for the Congregation. Patty's background and knowledge in accounting have streamlined many areas of the records and reports that are needed to help keep the books up to date and correct. We wish her God's Blessings in her new endeavors.

We also wish to welcome Josh Krause as our new bookkeeper. When you see them in church or about the area, please thank both of them for serving our congregation and their Lord in such a gifted way.

Dan Bolha, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR January 2009

	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 1/31/09	Offerings Budgeted thru 1/31/09
Operating	\$59,005	\$14,751	\$59,005	\$60,534
Missions	\$ 5,382	\$ 1,346	\$ 5,382	\$ 6,075
KML Operating	\$ 3,223	\$ 806	\$ 3,223	\$ 4,196
KML Building	\$ 638	\$ 160	\$ 638	\$ 1,167

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:

\$155,905

The deficit at the end of January 2008 was:

\$114,292

The deficit at the end of January 2007

was: \$83,311



WELS UPDATE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Our synod is faced with the simple and painful fact that the level of funding available to support our synod's mission and ministry will be significantly less in the next two years than it is today. While support from congregations has been commendable and steady in these difficult times, expected support from other sources has dropped significantly. The blunt reality is that we will need to reduce our synod's budget by approximately \$8 million, from about \$38 million today to approximately \$30 million in the next fiscal year. When the Synodical Council presents a balanced budget to the convention in July, which it is required by the constitution to do, significant reductions will need to be made in all area's of our synod's work.

All areas of ministry have been asked to determine and describe how reductions will be made and the impact they will have. We will begin by sharply reducing the administrative costs across the synod, including significant staffing reductions. We are working to identify one-time expenditures that can be delayed, reduced, or eliminated. From there, areas of ministry will also need to plan for significant reductions in the size and scope of their ministries. There is no sugar-coating this situation. The

Becoming Rich

reductions will be deep and they will be painful; all areas will be affected. The current situation will require us to evaluate everything we do, determine our programs in keeping with expected funding and the synod's stated priorities, and focus on the essential programs that can be retained. We will need to do less than what we are doing now; whatever we continue to do, we will need to do it better and more efficiently.

Our desire to proclaim the gospel to more and more people has led us to adopt ambitious plans across the synod. This is a noble goal, but we have often looked to support these plans on anticipated gifts from foundations, individuals, and sources. We are in now in a situation where some of these large gifts have been suddenly reduced. As commendable as our plans may have been, we simply do not have the financial means to continue at the same level as before. Determining where those reductions in mission and ministry are to be made will be extremely difficult, since every current program is valuable and important. On the positive side of this, the cuts will require us to plan our mission and ministry at a level that is sustainable with the ongoing funding available to us. Faithful stewardship of God's resources demands that we plan in this way.

For that reason, the Synodical Conference will not simply be wrestling with the short-term reduction in the budget. It will be also looking to the need for providing long-term stability to our finances. The Synodical Conference will be considering at least one proposal to achieve this goal. This proposal for long-term stability will not enable us to avoid difficult cuts now, but it will seek to provide a new approach to budgeting and planning that will greatly reduce the likelihood of a similar situation occurring in the future. One main element of the proposal is a commitment to planning our ongoing ministry based primarily on our most stable sources of funding (Congregation Mission Offerings) and using large donations from other sources for one-time or limited-time programs. All ideas to provide long-term financial stability will be explored.

In all these challenges, we remain confident that God is using these circumstances somehow to bless His believers and to benefit His Church. We continue to place our trust in Him, and we pray that God would use these difficult times to unite us more closely with Him and with each other.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Christians understand that riches do not consist of money. In fact, riches have nothing to do with money. We can have very little money and be very rich or be very wealthy and be impoverished. True riches have to do with a right relationship with Jesus Who brings us happiness, satisfaction, joy, love and peace. Material possessions do not constitute real riches.

Material things are transitory. What we possess materially is subject to loss in a variety of ways. Our wealth can be lost in the stock market or through rust, obsolescence, and thievery. No matter how much money we may have, we have no way of guaranteeing that it can be kept safe and secure. Money can be lost, stolen, or its purchasing power lost through inflation. Investments can decline in value and businesses can fail. Our property can be burned or robbed. All material things can be gone quickly. Even if our material things stay with us, we will eventually leave them, because, at the end, we can take nothing with us.

So, if we want to be rich, it cannot be on the basis of material things. Things of this world are much too precarious a foundation on which to build a life. If we are to be rich, we have to turn away from material things and turn toward Christ. In our Scripture reading, Jesus tells us to "*store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.*" If we want to get really rich, we have to start storing up riches in heaven.

In order for us to store up treasures in heaven, we first need to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves. To store up treasures in heaven, we need to loosen our grip on things of this world. We need to learn to be content with what we have rather than always wanting more worldly things.

Through faith, we are rich. As Christians, we receive the riches of eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Discussion Thoughts:

Why do people worry so much about not having enough money?

Why don't material things provide lasting happiness?

Why is it important to remember that the only thing that we take to heaven is ourselves?

Prayer:

Lord, You are the provider and controller of all things. Help us to put our trust and faith in You rather than in worldly things. We thank You for Your wonderful love that was shown through Your Son, Jesus. In Your precious name, we pray. Amen.

Your Stewardship Committee

**Special Voters Meeting
February 11, 2009**

David's Star Ev. Lutheran Church
Jackson, WI 7:00 pm

The meeting was opened with devotion by Pastor Woldt.

Congregation president Dave Nuñez opened the meeting with two items. According to the constitution, Rod Kison's term as congregational meeting chairman has expired at the end of January. Dave looked for voters' approval to utilize Rod as congregational meeting chairman for one more time, until a new meeting chairman could be appointed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow Rod Kison to serve in this capacity for this meeting. In addition, Dave addressed the situation whereby the Evangelism Committee had prematurely sent out postcards in advance of the voters meeting. The mailing of the postcards ahead of the voters meeting was entirely unintentional, and was not meant to have any bearing on this evening's vote.

The meeting was called to order by congregational meeting chairman Rod Kison.

New voting members were asked to sign the constitution. Mark Bublitz, Alex Gaeth, Chad Beeler, and Tim Hansen signed the constitution. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept these men as voting members of David's Star.

The primary item for action was the recommendation to the voters to release funds for our building project. The discussion was led by Randy Vogel.

The recommendation by Church Council is:

The David's Star Church Council recommends to the voters of David's Star to release the funds necessary and direct the David's Star Church Building Committee to complete the following:

As the first major step towards completing the master plan that has been accepted by the congregation as designed by PRA, and will ultimately lead to the completion of a new sanctuary, and in keeping to the spirit and intention of the resolution dated April 10, 2008, the design between the church and school buildings along with renovations to the school as designed by PRA, and identified by PRA as Phase One Concept. This first phase of construction shall include a connection of the church to the school, additional meeting space for all members, two classrooms, a new entrance at the west and south sides of the school, renovation of the school building as appropriate to combine the church and school offices, and relocate restrooms as indicated. In addition, this first phase of construction shall provide a new electrical service as

appropriate to the master plan, and all HVAC systems in the church and school shall be updated as necessary, and in so doing eliminate the need for a boiler system. Excavation for the construction site shall allow for the free flow of storm water away from the buildings, provide a new driveway at the west entrance to school, and reconstruction of the parking lot at the south entrance to the school, and a new driveway to Spring Valley Road.

The Construction subcommittee of the David's Star Church Building Committee shall solicit bids for construction Phase One Concept as described above, and as deemed appropriate by the David's Star Church Building Committee. The Construction subcommittee will encourage and facilitate the use of volunteers from the congregation as appropriate. The direct construction costs are not to exceed \$2,400,000 and the indirect construction costs are not to exceed \$405,000 and the total project is not to exceed \$2,805,000.

We further whole heartedly recommend that, if additional gifts become available before or on the groundbreaking date of Easter Sunday April 12, 2009, that the completion of the narthex portion of the master plan be added to the Phase One Concept at a cost not to exceed \$400,000.

We acknowledge the need for additional \$264,000 in pledges to be added to the \$1,006,000 in cash and \$600,000 in pledges received to date, for the construction of Phase One to begin as described. (This is in keeping with the directive to have a minimum of 1/3 of the costs in cash and 1/3 of the costs in pledges allowing for a maximum of 1/3 of the costs to be financed with long-term debt.) We do further acknowledge and recommend that our members prayerfully consider additional gifts of cash (\$133,334), pledges (\$133,334), and for the support of repaying the balance of \$400,000 to allow for the completion of the narthex portion of the master plan at this time.

After discussion and questions, the above recommendation was made into a motion and seconded. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Woldt.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin A. Behm, Recording Secretary
(kevinbehm@att.net)