

THE GOOD NEWS

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“When I think of Easter, I think of ...”

by Pastor Woldt

“When I think of Easter, I think of!” It’s easy for Christians to fill in the blank! For us, Easter means the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Easter is the heart and core of our Christian faith. The apostle Paul reminds us, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:17-20).

“When I think of Easter, I think of!” Thanks to cultural trappings and long-standing traditions, we also fill in the blank in other ways. For others, Easter means going to a special sunrise service followed by breakfast at church. For some Easter means colored eggs and baskets filled with synthetic green “grass.” Celebrations of Easter are filled with pastels and hollow chocolate shaped to look like furry forest creatures.

I don’t have anything against Easter traditions. I’ve consumed a few chocolate bunnies in my day. I enjoy the Easter breakfast. However, I would like to suggest an association with Easter which deserves to move to the top of every Christians list, right next to the resurrection of our Lord. What a blessing it would be if more and more people would learn to say, “When I think of Easter, I think of ... baptism!”

Baptism and Easter? Yes! The bible draws a solid connecting line between this sacrament and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. “Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into

death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:3-4).

What a great picture. We were all born dead when we came into this world. We were dead in sin. (See Ephesians 2) Through the waters of baptism we were buried with Jesus. We died, that is, our sinful nature died with Christ. United by faith to Jesus, our sinful nature no longer masters us. Our sinful nature loses its power. Now, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may live a new life.

Our new life in Christ is a life filled with freedom. We enjoy freedom from guilt because our sins are forgiven. We experience freedom from fear because we no longer live under God’s wrath. We have freedom to please God because we are no longer slaves to sin.

The next time you think of Easter, remember your baptism. You too have been buried with Christ. You too have risen with him to live a new life. More than that, because baptism has connected you in faith to Jesus, you too will rise from your physical grave to live with Jesus forever.

May you live each day of your life in Easter joy and baptismal grace!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

*Harlin Kannenberg 4/9/1918...89 years old
Hilda Tischer 4/25/1915...92 years old*

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

The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study Group will begin it's spring-summer session on April 18. We will continue our study of Pastor Mark Paustian's book, "Prepared to Answer." We meet at 7pm in the school IMC. Our meeting dates are: April 18, May 2 and 16, June 6 and 20, July 18 and August 15.

SAVE THE DATE On **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd**, the Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study Group will host a retreat. We are inviting anyone who wishes to help organize for this retreat, to our first meeting. It will be Thursday, March 22nd, at 7:00pm, in the school IMC. If you would like more information, please contact Charlotte Kison 677-2389.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

DID YOU KNOW?

Statistics surrounding sexual abuse are alarming...**One in Four Girls** and **One in Six Boys** will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18 and **93%** of offenders are known to the victim. Sexual abuse can be a scary topic to discuss, but our silence perpetuates the crime. Break the silence by educating your children on safe vs. unsafe touch, no matter **WHO** is doing the touching. Understand that sexual abuse is **NEVER** the victim's fault. Listen to – and support – those affected by this crime. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For more information, contact Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse. Together we can make a difference in a child's life!



A **SINCERE THANK YOU** is being sent to all of the children who contributed to the Easter gift bags for our shut in and nursing home residents. Time and time again our people expressed the joy of knowing that they are still a valued and thought of member of the body of Christ.



A **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all who came to donate blood in March!! The Blood Center of Wisconsin appreciates your commitment to saving lives at the 50+ hospitals in Wisconsin that are served by the Blood Center. Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th. If you missed our Blood Drive in March, Morning Star will be hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 15th from 2pm to 7pm. Walk ins are always welcome. Enough time will have passed between all three drives to allow donating at any or all of them. Questions? Call Sue Bolha @ 675-2672.

Blessings of a healthy body, mind, and spirit,

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

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

Pastor Janke has returned to making shut-in visits and hospital calls. We thank God for his recovery. We are preparing for the upcoming Examination/Confirmation of our youth, together with Holy Week. Please keep these young people in your prayers and encourage them in their walk of faith. Our WELS Synodical Council is recommending to the synod in convention that Michigan Lutheran Seminary (one of our two prep schools) be closed at the end of the 2007/08 school year, primarily for financial reasons. Luther Prep would remain open for now, but needs to expand its mission advancement efforts (a.k.a. fund raising) in the future according to the proposal. (One of our members is part of the mission advancement effort at LPS, and has requested time for the showing of a DVD promoting the ministry of LPS.) Many in our synod feel that the loss of the prep school system will have an impact on the quantity and quality of WELS pastors in future years. The synod convention this summer will mean a lot of wrestling for the delegates who attend. Please remember to support the work of our synod as part of your regular gifts to the Lord.

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

Building Committee—The architect contract has been signed. 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/Long Range—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.

Technology Committee/Phone System--Barry Washburn is researching a new phone system for the church and school. A new system will help us overcome the distance issues we face right now with our staff. It must also be expandable to accommodate our future building space. A proposal for a

new phone system will be distributed at the Council meeting for your review and discussion.

Barry would like whoever is available to attend a special meeting with the consultant who will explain and demonstrate the system.

Planning Retreat—Our planning retreat was held on Saturday, 3/10/07 at KMLHS. I will look for your input and evaluation at our Council meeting.

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

Pastor Loescher's water heater was repaired

Gym fans have been installed - a special thanks to the Golf Committee

Church cross is now working on top of steeple

New security mirror has been installed outside of school office
Roof bids for school are being collected and hope to be reviewed next month. (The school roof has to be replaced this year due to leakage, hope to have a contract before the voters at the April voters meeting.)

New tractor bids are being reviewed

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

No Report.

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

Principal release time is a main issue, so there is being crafted a departmentalization plan for next year, where upper level teachers would concentrate on teaching subjects and not classes. In addition, an individual may be hired for 2 ½ hours a day to teach 8th grade science, 8th grade english and study halls. The funding source is not known yet but research is being conducted. A formal proposal will be presented at the next council meeting.

The fee structure is being looked at, and fees paid to other schools are being researched to determine where we stand.

The layout of the classrooms is being looked at. (What classrooms serve what groups of people.) It might make sense to reassign classrooms if departmentalization was to occur.

Mike Bublitz is looking at the long range (5 year) academic plan; his report will be due at the end of summer.

Brian Lee will be looking at the long term growth (10 years) of the school.

Updating the handbooks will be done before the next council meeting.

Extended learning room breakout has worked well. Still needs to be respected as a classroom.

About 50 – 60 lockers have been received from KML. They will be painted red this summer by the parents group and then installed in our school for next year.

A \$1000 grant has been received from Wal-Mart. It will be used to help pay for smart boards.

Evangelism Committee Report

(Paul Steinbrenner, Telephone #675-0832)

Agenda, current projects list, committee members list, details on 'woods' project, new member welcome items list with Pastor Loescher's added comments & an out dated greeters list Paul read thru the constitution relative to The Evangelism Committee. Paul and Pastor will discuss possible new committee members to contact. A congregation mission seminar / work day is scheduled for March 10th @ KML (library) from 8:00 until noon. We will spend this time discussing our mission and focus for the upcoming year, which at this point is leaning towards the assimilation of new members. Paul will contact Wally to find out where he is at on the woods project Paul to forward the Cedarburg mailing list to Pastor who will take the lead on the Easter mailing Paul will provide driving maps for inserting this same mailer into newspaper tubes. Paul to ask Bob for details / contacts on media advertisement Greeter program is being restarted. Ideas include: sign up list in back of church, all council members signing up, and greeters to also have other duties like handing out bulletins. Saturday, March 24th - 6 cars are needed for stuffing paper tubes with our Easter / Holy Week flyers. Last year 1000 flyers were printed. This year we hope to have 2000 printed. Reminder - Easter Egg Hunt is 10:00 AM on March 31st. Please tell your friends / relatives.

Spiritual Growth Report

(Mark Otte, Telephone # 306-3521)

Currently the Pastors are leading a study on Psalms in the Church and Jeff Rehm is leading a course on the Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, and Peace. Seminarians Winkel and Rosenau continue to lead the teens. The youth group continues to be active serving the congregation in various meals and at the same time developing a mission statement for the group. New additions continue to be added to the church library. Check them out in the school IMC. A list of Bible topics and books recently studied and future topics to be added are being compiled.

Stewardship Committee Report

(Todd Backus, Telephone #677-4061)

The Treasure of Every Treasured Soul" - Kevin will follow up in a couple weeks with presenters / hosts. Meetings are occurring but the # of attendees at these Bible studies have been less than we had hoped for.

Budgeting Process - Patty to meet with Shannon in future regarding formatting, etc.

Funding Appeal - Bar chart - Shannon - no report. Rod, Todd and Pastor L. met regarding semi-annual review. Pastor L. will draft letter for follow-up to those struggling to keep pledge. Rod will draft communication piece for new member packet and work with Evangelism to incorporate into packet.

Stewardship Communication - Pastor to write article regarding "The Treasure of Every Treasured Soul" for newsletter in an effort to better promote. Todd will begin writing a communication piece promoting "Simply

Giving". It is the goal of the Stewardship Committee to have one communication piece / month to the congregation. Budget workshop - Pastors / principals are expected to have availability of program by summer / fall - We will continue to monitor.

CCFS (Commission on Communication and Financial Support) - no report.

Planned Giving - Jody to work on annual plan

Reminder that "Snow Sunday" occurred on February 25 and that a significant budget shortfall now exists because of this. Members are asked to help make up the difference.

Treasurer's Report

(Dan Bolha, Telephone #675-2672)

The February 28, 2007 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$104,988. This compares to a deficit of \$83,311 as of January 31, 2007 and a deficit of \$97,790 on February 28, 2006. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$108,180 compared to \$111,966 last year and this year's budget of \$128,315. Our Foundation Built on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date receipts of \$38,710.

Vice President Report

(Jeff Morgan, Telephone #377-7532)

No Report.

Old Business

Personnel policies and Staff Handbook

- Goal is to have 1 handbook for all personnel
- Policies to be drafted soon (60 pages so far)
- Safe child policy to be included
- Include policy for staff / volunteer background checks

New Business

Ministry Planning Retreat Follow-up

- SWOT analysis will be emailed for future reference
- All who attended thought it was a good idea and program
- Update of 3 year ministry plan (continuous) roll it forward

Items for Voters (for the April 12 voters meeting)

Election of vacant Elder position

Garden tractor purchase

School roof replacement

New mission statement for school

The next scheduled Council meeting will be at **The Church Parish Center on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 pm**. The next Voters meeting will be **Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 8:00 PM**.

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

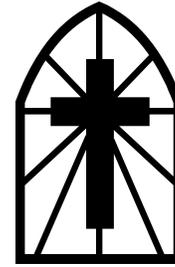
Respectively submitted,

James R. Siebers, Recording Secretary

jsiebers@wi.rr.com

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR February 2007

| | Current Month Offerings | Average weekly offerings | Offerings Received thru 2/28/07 | Offerings Budgeted thru 2/28/07 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Operating | \$47,828 | \$11,957 | \$99,822 | \$119,795 |
| Missions | \$5,299 | \$2,767 | \$10,702 | \$12,610 |
| KML Operating | \$4,118 | \$1,846 | \$7,383 | \$7,383 |
| KML Building | \$764 | \$395 | \$1,579 | \$2,830 |
| “Together Shining Like the Stars...” | \$1,371 | \$684 | \$2,736 | \$5,858 |



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

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:
\$104,987

The deficit at the end of February 2006 was:
\$97,790

The deficit at the end of February 2005 was:
\$68,589

PLANNED GIVING

TOP 7 REASONS FOR NOT HAVING A WILL

- 1. PROCRASTINATION – “I’LL GET TO IT NEXT MONTH”**
- 2. MY ESTATE IS “TOO SMALL.” YOU MAY STILL WISH TO GIVE CERTAIN POSSESSIONS TO CERTAIN PEOPLE, OR TO MAKE A CHARITABLE GIFT TO AN ORGANIZATION.**
- 3. “MY FAMILY WILL CARRY OUT MY WISHES.” YET THEY MAY NOT KNOW THE DESIRED DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR ESTATE OR YOUR CHARITABLE INTENTIONS, NOR CAN THEY MAKE THE DISTRIBUTION BY LAW.**
- 4. “I HAVE DEPENDENTS.” EVEN WITH OUT THEM, YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THOUGHT TO HOW YOUR ESTATE IS DISTRIBUTED.**
- 5. “WORRIES ABOUT LEGAL FEES. IT WILL COST TOO MUCH.” MAKING A WILL DOES NOT HAVE TO BE EXPENSIVE. CALL AROUND FOR ESTIMATED COSTS.**
- 6. DENIAL OF MORTALITY – “I’VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO DO THAT.” YET AVOIDING MAKING AN ESTATE PLAN WILL NOT PROLONG YOUR LIFE ONE SINGLE DAY.**
- 7. OVERWHELMED “WHERE DO I START?” YOUR WELS GIFT PLANNING COUNSELOR, NEIL SCRIVER, IS AN EXCELLENT HELPER. HE’S A FELLOW CHRISTIAN WITH WHOM YOU CAN SPEAK IN CONFIDENCE. HE’LL HELP YOU WORK THROUGH THE QUESTIONS AND PREPARE YOU TO SEE A FINANCIAL ADVISER, YOUR LAWYER OR OTHER TRUSTED ADVISOR TO PUT THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS IN PLACE. YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT JODY HANSEN, DAVID’S STAR PLANNED GIVING CHAIRMAN, FOR INFORMATION ON DAVID’S STAR ENDOWMENT PROGRAM.**

The Real Treasure Cottage Meetings

Two years ago the Synod in convention voted to conduct a synod wide stewardship bible study. Here is how they proposed that every member of the congregations of the synod would benefit from this bible study: Professor Richard Gurgel was commissioned to write the study. He and his wife visited his bother, President Karl Gurgel and his wife. President Gurgel visited all of the district presidents and their wives with this study. They in turn visited their respective circuit pastors and their wives. All of the circuit pastors visited the pastors in their circuits and their wives. All of the pastors of the synod then are to take the study to their congregations.

Pastor Loescher and the Stewardship Committee have been at the task of bringing this study to all of the members of David’s Star. We’ve proposed to do so primarily through cottage meetings. What a great opportunity to not only study the scriptures together but get together with fellow members in someone’s home and get to know each other a little better. Several members of our congregation have graciously agreed to open their homes to others and invite fellow members to this bible study in their homes. Others have been trained to present this study in the homes. Several of our members have enjoyed this opportunity already while others of you have yet to be invited. Still others have decided to decline the invitation. Perhaps because they didn’t understand what it was all about.

Some have already expressed thankfulness for the opportunity. “We were wary at first because we thought they were going to ask us to give money to the building project or something, but it wasn’t at all about that.” “All the way home my husband and I commented on how appropriate that study was for us and how much we got out of it.”

As a committee we recognized that we didn’t do enough at the beginning of this effort to educate and encourage every one to participate. While there were articles like this one, we know for ourselves that we need to read about something more than once or twice to keep it in mind. So, we are asking you to watch for the invitation to participate. Look forward to the opportunity to encourage and be encouraged to keep our real treasure foremost in our hearts and minds. And while you’re at it, enjoy being together with other members of David’s Star.

The Stewardship Committee