

For All The Saints



The Epistle of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas

February 2019

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

This month I would like to share with you a devotional thought that Dr. Dale Meyer, President of our St. Louis Seminary shared with his readers this past week. I thought it was very good. Dr. Meyer writes:

A headline from the Wall Street Journal: "The Week Resolutions Die: Look for Gyms to Get Less Busy; What It Takes to Make a New Routine Stick."

Long ago, a line from a prayer got into my head. "Our deeds do not perform what our words promise."

Are your Sunday professions matched by your sanctified life during the week? "Although we know that we are weak and our deeds do not perform what our words promise," the prayer adds, "give us faith's courage and hope to try anew."

Can you identify the gap between your Sunday professions and how you live during the week? To help, Martin Luther says, "Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?" (Small Catechism, Confession).

The gap between what we say in church and do in our work-a-day life is forgiven by God for Jesus' sake. That's forgiveness but not full repentance. Repentance becomes full when you change your behavior. Jesus said to a woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more" (John 8:11). But how do we do this, especially when we're caught up in the pressure and emotions of weekday living? For this amendment of life, since "we are weak and our deeds do not perform what our words promise," we put biblical words of life direction into our heads and hearts, and ask the Spirit of God to enable us to live by them. After Jesus forgave the woman and told her to sin no more, He taught about freedom from sin. "*If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*" (John 8:31-32).

"The Week Resolutions Die" also reported "People who falter on their resolutions in January don't necessarily wait a year to start over. Last year, gym check-ins on Facebook in March surpassed even those for January." That's an encouraging sign. "Give us faith's courage and hope to try anew."

In HIS service and yours,

Pastor Heckmann
Hebrews 13:20-21

SAVE THE DATE for *Behold the Man*

The theme for our Lenten Series this year draws from the words of Pontius Pilate as he paraded Jesus in front of the people and said, “***Behold the man!***”

On the Wednesdays of Lent we will look at our Savior, who became flesh for us, as we consider His very real bodily suffering and death. We will hope to derive comfort and strength from these studies as we walk with Jesus in bodies, that just like His, have and continue to suffer, weep, bleed, pray, eat, hope, and on the last day be raised incorruptible from our graves.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

The plan right now is to consider each Wednesday morning and evening a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears? With that said, here is the schedule of themes.

Ash Wednesday

“A God Who Hungers” (Joel 2:12–19; 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21)

Midweek of Lent 1

“A God Who Prays” (Hebrews 7:20–28; John 17)

Midweek of Lent 2

“A God Beaten” (Isaiah 52:13–53:12; John 18:19–24)

Midweek of Lent 3

“A God Exposed” (Genesis 3:7–21; John 19:1–5, 23–24)

Midweek of Lent 4

“A God with a Mother” (Revelation 12:1–6; John 19:25–27)

Midweek of Lent 5

“A God Who Thirsts” (Psalm 22:12–18; John 19:28–30)

Maundy Thursday

“A God Who Loves” (Exodus 12:1–14; 1 Corinthians 11:23–32; John 13:1–17, 31b–35)

Good Friday

“A God Who Bleeds, a God Who Dies” (Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 18–19)

Easter

“A God Who Rises” (Isaiah 65:17–25; 1 Corinthians 15:19–26; John 20:1–18)

FAMILY GAME NIGHTS AT CHURCH

We will have game nights in the Family Activity Center on February 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. They will begin each Friday at 6:00 p.m. Game Nights are a time to share a potluck meal and then to play games with the others who join us for these evenings. You can bring a game of your own to play or play 84, Chicken Foot or Give Me 5, the games we have here. If you would like, bring a new game along and teach us how to play. If you have any questions, please ask. These game nights are for families and individuals who would like to spend a few hours enjoying a fine meal, good fellowship, and some friendly game playing.



NEW FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2019 has been hung in the Parish Hall. Feel free to look at the open dates and let us know on which of them you would like to place flowers on the Altar. If you have any questions, ask.

Knitting and Crocheting for Christ

By: Kirsten Watson

Meeting Times:

We meet every 2nd Saturday at 9:30 am in the Multi-purpose room.

Our next meeting is February 9th. Please consider joining us for a devotion, food, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please see Peggy Sharp or Kirsten Watson!

NEW LADIES' EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening, Ladies' Evening Bible Study will begin a new Bible Study entitled Living a Chocolate Life: Savoring God's Sweet Grace by Deb Burma on February 13th. These eight chocolate-inspired lessons focus on different aspects of life as a Christian woman, reminding you that you are wrapped in God's love. Whatever the shape, flavor, or texture of your days, you can live in the rich and endless supply of the grace that is ours because of Jesus. Each lesson includes a recipe for a chocolate dessert, a Bible verse to memorize, chocolate fun facts, encouragement for life application, and a prayer. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex along with a book for you to look through if you would like. If you have any questions, please ask Deb Heckmann.

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM BIBLE CLASS

Beginning on January 20th, the MPR Bible class began the study of the "Priesthood of Believers' Mission through the Ages". The scripture study reveals the reason for the existence and ministry of the baptized-in-Christ in this world. It reveals the person, love and work of every Believer since the Old Testament to the present. In January it studied "The historical context of the believers' mission in the world I." On February 3rd, the next module, "The Mission of the Baptized Priests II," will begin, followed by "The Believers' Mission in the Old Testament III." S/Dr. Sohns

GAME NIGHT UPDATE

We are off to a good start. January 11, we had a total of 41 people and plenty of food. Randy Winkler had the prayer at 6:00 p.m. At 6:45 p.m. we started playing games. We had two tables playing 84 and one table playing 42 and another table playing Chicken Foot and some just visiting and playing with the kids. We voted to have Game Nights each week through February. We had a total of 60 people on January 18th. Orville Michalk had the prayer. We ate and had plenty of food. We had three tables playing 84 and a table of Chicken Foot. The children were playing games also. It was a very enjoyable night. Let's try and have more people come and learn to play more games. Thanks! s/Alton and Darlene Riske, Fellowship Committee Chairpersons

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Our next Contemporary Worship service will be **SATURDAY, February 9th** beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The service will be “Lutheran” through and through as we sing contemporary hymns, hear the Word of God proclaimed to us, confess our faith in the historic words of the Creed, and receive the forgiveness of our sins that our Heavenly Father has to offer to each of us.

So, think of whom you will invite to this service and mark the date on your calendar so that you can be sure to join us.

We will be blessed once again to have the group New Revelation leading us in our singing. The members of this group are Kris and Peggy Sharp; Josh and Kirsten Watson; Tony and Renee Wightman; and Dinorah Feliciano.

\$uper \$avers

by Betty Tatge

Introducing MOSAIC, the new theme for the Super Savers program that teaches children ages 0 – 18 about stewardship, discipleship and financial responsibility.

How it works:

Super Savers who invest at least **\$10** each month will receive a Mosaic piece. Every investment counts whether it is a stamp book, check, or Electronic Funds Transfer.

Most Mosaic pieces will have a Bible verse and a line. Kids can look up the Bible verse listed and write down a word representing the Bible verse to them. As the child accumulates pieces he or she can create Mosaic Art designs.

This new theme is not only a great way to teach children to save, but also get them into the study of God’s Word.

Changing gears:

The annual CEF conference this year begins March 1. This would be a good time to get your undeposited stamp books together and I will carry them directly to the CEF office for you. If your book isn’t quite full, that’s okay. Remember—a deposit may be as little as \$10.

I will need your books by the end of February. You can find me every Sunday morning before Sunday School in the FAC or after church in the narthex.

FEAST OF CARING AND SHARING FLYERS:

In the Narthex is a stack of flyers for anyone that would like to post flyers at work or other places of business. Also, there are donation letters if you know of a business that would like to donate an item/s for the Silent Auction. If you have any questions about this please visit with Alton and/or Darlene Riske, Silent Auction Coordinators.

FEAST OF CARING AND SHARING BAKE SALE

We are needing our great bakers to provide bake sale items for the bake sale on March 2.

Please help as this is always a hit with everyone that comes out to support a great cause. If you are able to help us with baked goods, or homemade goodies from your kitchen, please try to have them up at church by 4:45 (or sooner if you can) on Saturday so that we can get them priced and ready to go. If you have any questions please visit with Barbara Gaskamp.

FACT NEWS

By Melissa Houchin

FEBRUARY OUTING - Skating at Wheels Family Skate Center, Temple

On Sunday, February 10th, the FACT group will gather in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Family Activity Center, after church, for a devotion. Following the devotion we will head to Temple for skating fun and lunch. Make sure you wear your FACT shirt. Please RSVP by Friday, February 8th, and let me know if you need transportation to Wheels Skating.

Looking ahead to March -

Saturday, March 2nd - Feast of Caring and Sharing - 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

We will help assist people getting to their seats, refilling drinks, and removing trash from the tables. Watch your email inbox for a sign up genius for work shifts.

Sunday, March 10th - Biking on the Pepper Creek Hike & Bike Trail

We will gather after church for a devotion and meal in the Family Activity Center before caravanning to the Hike and Bike Trail. All participants will need to provide their own bike, or let Melissa know if your child needs a bike.

Wednesday, March 27th - Baked Potato Lent Meal

Watch your email inbox for your sign up genius.

If you have any questions about FACT, please contact Melissa Houchin.

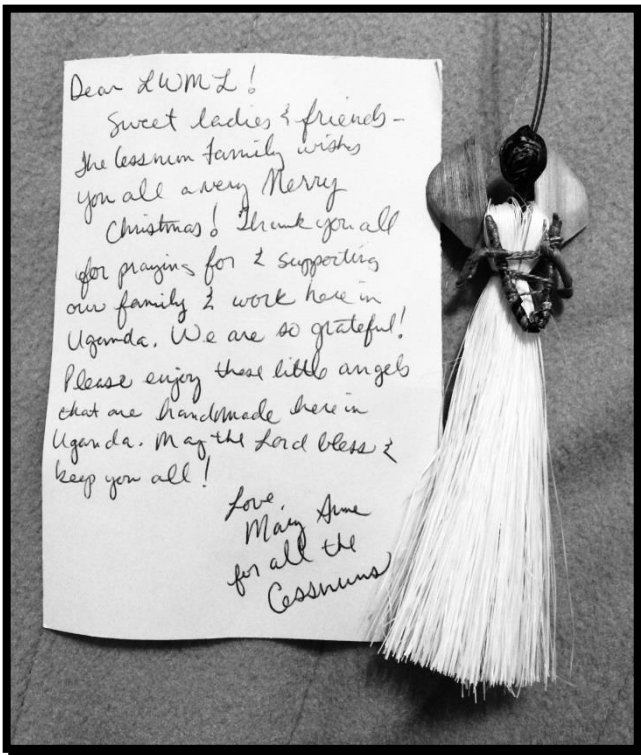


By: Kirsten Watson

February Mission Project:

Our February mission project will be delivering Valentine's cards to the residents of Regency Manor Nursing Home in Temple on February 24th after church. We will also hold our meeting this day at a local restaurant, location to be determined.

What We've Been Up To:



Thank you note and ornament made in Uganda, sent by the Cessnun's



Delivering stockings to nursing home staff on Christmas Eve

C.L.A.S.S.I.C.S. Page

By: Stan Dake

The Classics group met January 17th with 21 saints in attendance. We continued our study of “An Explanation of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism”.

This month, Pastor Heckmann guided us through a study of the First and Second Petitions of the Lord’s Prayer.

**The First Petition: Hallowed be Thy name
“God’s name is holy in itself, but we pray in this petition
that it may be kept holy among us also.”**

In our worldly life, it is obvious (to those who believe), that God and his name are anything but hallowed (holy) in the eyes of unbelievers. Rather, they view God as mythical at best. Their understanding of God is shallow and as such, devalues and denies God’s existence and holiness. They cannot see that He is both Creator and Redeemer of all. Perhaps a question we should ask ourselves is this. Do we also treat our Creator/Redeemer like them? Do we demean our God by our behaviors? Do we curse or (swear inappropriately), do we live our lives as though we have no God? God forbid! Rather, may we, according to His will, be a light to unbelievers! (Matthew 5:16- *“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.”*) Hallowed be Thy name! Amen!

**The Second Petition: Thy Kingdom Come
“The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayers,
but we pray that it may come to us also”.**

As Christians, we know that every earthly kingdom is wrought with problems. Sin has infected all who live earthly lives-including all believers in Christ! Yet, we know by faith (Exodus 15:8 *“The Lord will reign forever and ever.”*) His kingdom is eternal and, is present with us in this world because of the incarnate Christ! Through His ministry, Christ established the gospel of salvation for all men! By faith and through the Holy Spirit, we find ourselves as members of His kingdom! (Colossians 1:13-14 *“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*) May we therefore in boldness proclaim (Colossians 3:15 *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful”*). God’s kingdom is ours –here and forever! Praise be to God!

Next month, we will meet February 21st at 10:00 a.m.; we will continue our study of the petitions found within the Lord’s Prayer. Please consider joining us in this very meaningful study! All are welcome regardless of age!

After our study, we enjoyed Soups, Chili, sandwiches and desserts (all provided by members of the class). Next month, Pastor and Deb will provide Jambalaya, rice and salad. Cornbread will be provided by Janice Dake and Doris Symm. Desserts will be provided by Sherwood Symm, Sherry Hartgrove and Donna Heiner.