

Lutheran Spokesman



*Oh, that men would give thanks
to the Lord for His goodness,
and for His wonderful works
to the children of men!*

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Three "R's" At Thanksgiving

Everybody knows about the three "R's" — Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic. They are essential elements for a good education, the basic fundamentals for successful schooling. But did you know that there are also three "R's" for a proper Thanksgiving Day celebration? In order to have a blessed holiday this November we can do no better than to follow the directions that God gave to Israel for their greatest Thanksgiving festival, the Feast of Tabernacles. These three "R's" are Rest, Rejoice, and Remember.

The Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of Ingathering, was one of the three great festivals that the Lord established for His Old Testament people. This celebration took its name from the practice of living out-of-doors, in temporary shelters ("tabernacles" or "booths"), during the seven days of the feast. It was held at the close of the harvest season, which in Israel was the end of

September and the early part of October. At this time of year the long, hard labor of harvesting the grain, fruits, and olives of the season was finally finished. And because it followed right after the sacrifices of the great Day of Atonement, the people could keep the Feast of Tabernacles with a happy sense of fitness to offer praise and thanksgiving to their generous Lord.

We have a detailed description of God's plan for this feast in Leviticus chapter 23. Here the Lord gave His direction for the best way to come before Him with thanksgiving at the time of ingathering.

1. REST

"You shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest" (Lev. 23:39).

Although every Saturday of the year was a time for the Israelities to

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rest, two special Sabbath-rests marked the beginning and end of the thanksgiving Feast of Tabernacles. On this first and last day of the festival, the people enjoyed a rest from physical labor, but the Sabbath meant more than that!

As with many Old Testament institutions, the Sabbath was given by God to point the people toward a greater fulfillment, a day when a Savior would bring true rest for the soul. That day came when Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, earned eternal rest for each sinner on Calvary's cross.

Now, as we gather on our special day of Thanksgiving, most of us likewise enjoy a day off from our usual work. The relaxed schedule and change of pace are good for our bodies, but our real rest is found in the fact that Christ has relieved us from the burden of our sins. This makes the Lord's second direction easy. . . .

2. REJOICE

"And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days" (Lev. 23:40).

The Jewish historian Josephus relates that at the time of the morning sacrifice the Israelites would take intertwined branches of palm, myrtle, and willow, as well as fruit in their hands, while on their way to the temple. They would then march around the altar of burnt offering—once daily and seven times on the seventh day. Their joy knew no bounds, for the same Lord who had promised them a day of true rest had

also blessed them with the fruit of the land.

As we now partake of the many material blessings God has granted us, we have great joy as well — not only in the blessings themselves, but much more in the Giver of all good things who has so showered His favor upon us. We know that, since He has given us His Son, our Father will not withhold any good thing from us (Rom. 8:32).

3. REMEMBER

"You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God" (Lev. 23:42-43).

An important part of the Feast of Tabernacles was, no doubt, rather inconvenient for many. They spent the entire week camping out in temporary shelters. But what a moving way to remember how God's mighty hand had delivered them from oppression and slavery! What a vivid witness, to themselves and their children, of the fact that all earthly possessions are temporary!

And isn't that the purpose of a Christian celebration of Thanksgiving? We enjoy the bounty, but we make a special point of remembering, for ourselves and our children, that what really counts is the Lord's protecting hand which arches over us as the leafy boughs of the tabernacles shielded the people of Israel from the sun and rain. We especially remember our day of deliverance when the Savior liberated us from the slavery and oppression of sin by dying in our

place and rising on the third day.

Once again this year we have the special privilege of celebrating not just a "holiday," but a **holy day** to the Lord at Thanksgiving. When our hearts are centered on God's love for us in Christ, then it will be easy to put into practice the three "R's" that the

Lord built into the Feast of Tabernacles for Israel: Rest, Rejoice, and Remember. And as we pass this on to our children, Thanksgiving celebrations will be blessed for generations to come.

—Pastor Bruce Naumann

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray..."

(Luke 11:1)

A year ago in our Thanksgiving issue we included some table prayers with which we were acquainted. We invited our readers to submit others and some responded. One of our Christian Day School teachers sent us a number of additional table prayers.

Where it applies and if preferred, "You" may be substituted for "Thou" and "Thee," except perhaps when the rhyming is affected at the close of the line.

*In Your light do we see light;
In Your service we delight;
By Your bounty we are fed;
Bless, O Lord, our daily bread.*

God is great and God is good;
And we thank Him for our food.
By His hand we all are fed —
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

*Heavenly Father, bless this food,
To Thy glory and our good.*

For food and drink and happy days
Accept our gratitude and praise;
In serving others, Lord, may we
Repay in part our debt to Thee.

*Oh, give us hearts to thank You
For ev'ry blessing sent.
And whatsoever You send us,
Make us therewith content.*

We thank Thee, heavenly Father,
For ev'ry earthly good;
For life, and health, and clothing,
And for our daily food.

*Jesus, bless what Thou hast given,
Feed our souls with bread from heaven;
Guide and lead us all the way,
In all that we may do or say.*

Our table, Lord, with blessings fill,
And help us all to do Your will.
For these good gifts our thanks we raise;
Help us receive them to Your praise.

*We thank Thee for these gifts, O Lord;
Pray feed our souls, too, with Thy Word.*

LESSONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

“That We Might Have Hope” (Rom. 15:4)

Genesis Chapters Twelve To Eighteen

Abraham: His Call, His Response.

Pastors and teachers take it for granted that divine calls are part of their service to the Lord. Christian lay people too have the divine call to teach the Gospel to all nations. How one reacts to the calling of the Lord can show us a mighty example of faith in action. In these chapters — written for our learning, that we might have hope — is just such a story.

A Startling Call

“Now the Lord said to Abraham, “Get out of your country, from your kindred, and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you” (Gen.12:1). A very startling call, to say the least, considering Abraham’s position at the time. He was a prominent son of a prominent man living in Mesopotamia. Although only 400 years after the Flood of judgment, Abraham’s father walked in spiritual darkness by worshiping idols. For seventy-five years Abraham had lived a possibly luxurious life in the cities of the fertile crescent, known for their attractive architecture and conveniences of the time.

If the decision would have been left to Abraham to make, we may wonder what the outcome might have been. Yet we may ask ourselves the question: Would we pack our bags and take off for a land unknown and unbidden, severing all ties with our homes and families? Thank God for the missionaries among us who, with the help of God, are able to do so!

However, it really wasn’t Abraham’s decision to make. It was God’s decision to call Abraham out of his idol-worshiping homeland to a place where he could freely worship the living God in truth and purity.

In like manner the Lord has called each of us out of our own personal spiritual darkness and into His marvelous light, which is the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Lord did give Abraham encouragement to make his move of faith: “I will make of you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all of the families of the earth shall be blessed” (12:2-3).

Although these promises of God offered great blessings of temporal importance, it was the final spiritual blessing which set Abraham’s heart to wondering — that he should be chosen to be the progenitor of the long-awaited Messiah! We must recall

that Abraham at this time did not have one child let alone a great nation of children. Also he at age seventy-five, and his wife Sarah at sixty-five, were beyond child-bearing years.

A Confident Faith

This, however, was a promise of God. Such a promise does not require sight nor reason, but rather faith. Abraham's faith allowed him to rejoice knowing the Messiah's day would come (Jn. 8:56).

The Lord has made us many temporal and spiritual promises as well. How unfortunate it is that we so often take the blessings of our God so lightly and for granted! Our daily bread, safety and prosperity, family and the ability to worship freely, the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting — all are blessings showered upon us by our loving Father without any merit in ourselves. How sad if we Christians get so caught up in the pursuit of the temporal that the spiritual goes unattended. Let each of us daily recommit himself to seeking first the kingdom of God, and let the Lord handle the trivialities of this temporal life.

So Abraham journeyed to the land of promise with his wife and his nephew Lot. Upon his arrival Abraham may have been surprised not to find a land open and ready to settle, but rather a land already occupied. It is estimated that a full five different races of Canaanites may have already called the mountains, plains, valleys, and coasts of Canaan home when Abraham arrived. Yet he journeyed on knowing that some day the Lord would deliver the land as He had promised.

*“What a generous spirit!
Would that we were so free with
the great wealth the Lord has
so freely given each of us. . .
Abraham was satisfied with
what he had, and he knew what
we will want to remember —
you can't go broke sharing your
blessings.”*

After a short stay in Egypt, Abraham and his nephew settled near Bethel. We are told that because of Abraham's great wealth, the land in that area was not able to support the flocks of the two men. Quarrels began to break out between the herdsman. We may feel that Abraham would have been completely justified in sending Lot off to another part of the land. After all, Abraham, not Lot, was given this land by God. But Abraham shows us how a true Christian spirit responds to the love and blessings of God. He can't help but be as generous with Lot as the Lord had been with him.

A Generous Spirit

“So Abraham said to Lot, ‘Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsman and your herdsman; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left then I will go right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go left’” (13:8-9).

What a generous spirit! Would that we were so free with the great wealth the Lord has so freely given each of us.

We know what Lot's choice was.

He chose the physically best land without considering the spiritual consequences. Did Lot succeed in cheating Abraham out of the best land? What if he did! Abraham was satisfied with what he had, and he knew what we will want to remember — you can't go broke sharing your blessings.

After anxiously waiting another twenty some years, Abraham and Sarah saw the fulfillment of God's promise to give them a child. What a joy the birth of Isaac was for the happy couple! What a comfort for us. Abraham and Sarah, "corpses" as they were, through the power of God were able to produce their long-awaited son (Rom. 4).

The lifeless body of our Lord and Savior was also quickened by that power of God on the third day, just as had been prophesied. That same power of God has also brought our lifeless spirits to life. It gives us the ability to hear the call our Savior makes and it gives us the power to answer that call. When our time of service to the Lord is at an end, it is the power of God that will sustain us in the sure hope that our lifeless clay will be raised on the last day to a life of everlasting joy and bliss in His presence.

Therefore, while there is still time, may we answer His call.

—Teacher David Bernthal



“THANK GOD FOR MARTIN LUTHER!” (PART II)

As an orthodox Lutheran pastor I have often reminded our Christians of the many blessings we have as heirs of the Reformation. Those blessings can be summed up in such Bible verses as: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). And: “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:31-32).

After attending, or rather auditing, a Roman Catholic “high mass” wedding last summer (described in some detail in Part I last month), I am more thankful than ever for the precious truths contained in such Bible verses.

Freedom In Christ

“...And the truth shall make you free.” Free! Think of it, fellow Lutheran Christians! Free of Roman tyranny

and bondage to its man-made laws, rites and rituals! Free in Christ, His precious Gospel, His Word of truth!

Our congregation just completed a Bible Class study of St. Paul's epistle to the Galatians. Central to the book's message is the doctrine of justification by faith without the deeds of the law. In that connection the apostle encourages his readers to “stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled

again with a yoke of bondage" (5:1).

As the Holy Spirit opened such truths to him, Martin Luther discovered liberation from the bondage that had strapped him inside the Roman church. The book of Galatians was especially dear to him for that reason: "To (Galatians) I am as it were in wedlock. It is my Katherine," he says in his table talk. Toward the end of his life he said: "If I had my way about it they would republish only those of my books which have doctrine. My Galatians, for instance."

After he had been brought to a correct understanding of the doctrine of justification, Luther would not, could not, remain in a church which pronounced its "anathema" on those who hold to this central Bible doctrine. Similarly today, no one who understands Galatians, and its teaching of true freedom in Christ, will want to remain in a church which strangles that freedom.

The Lord's Supper A Means of Grace

After witnessing in person a Roman Catholic "sacrifice of the mass," I am constrained to comment.

During Reformation season last year I preached a sermon on how Luther brought the church back to a proper celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar. The sermon spoke of how the sacrament is not, as Rome teaches, a sacrifice we are performing and/or witnessing. Rather it is means of grace in which God offers, gives, and seals unto us the forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. The bread and wine are not for us to worship and adore, but the Supper is a supernatural eating and drinking of which we are graciously invited to partake.

In this sacrament our Savior gives us His true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. "Take eat," He says, "this is My body; take drink, this is My blood . . . given and shed for you for the remission of sins." My Reformation sermon stressed how it is by Jesus' one sacrifice on Calvary's cross some 2,000 years ago that He made full and complete atonement for all our sins (see Hebrews chapters 9 & 10).

How sad that the Roman Catholic Church has for centuries deprived its many worldwide adherents of the proper understanding of this sacrament!

Changes In The Catholic Church?

In recent years you have probably heard talk of changes in the Roman Catholic Church. How real, how substantive, are these changes?

A Bible Study Course called *Catholicism Today* (Northwestern Publishing House, 1991) acknowledges: "*Catholics have become more integrated with their Protestant neighbors and more assimilated into American culture than they were in the past.... There have been very extensive changes and modernization in Catholic worship. The laity has become much more active in worship and in parish leadership....*" While granting that, generally speaking, "*there is greater appreciation for the Bible*" in Catholicism today, it is also pointed out that "*the real authority for religious belief is personal experience and subjective feeling, rather than any outside authority.*"

The same study booklet goes on, however, to summarize what has NOT changed: "*The Catholic Church has*

“In recent years you have probably heard talk of changes in the Roman Catholic Church... The new Catholic catechism just out . . . supports our contention that there have been no substantive changes in official church doctrine....”

not made any significant changes in official doctrine since the Council of Trent which condemned the Reformation. In fact, it has added more errors to its official teaching, including the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Assumption of Mary to Heaven, and the assertion of papal infallibility... The two major causes of the Reformation were Rome's doctrine of papal authority and its doctrine of justification by faith and works. Neither of these major stumbling blocks has been removed by recent developments in Roman Catholicism.”

The new Catholic catechism just out supports our contention (I don't have the catechism, but I have seen excerpts and reviews on it) that there have been no substantive changes in official church doctrine.

Give Thanks And Pray!

Fellow heirs of the Lutheran Reformation, thank God for Martin Luther! When you sit in the pew of your home church and hear your pastor proclaim the good news of God's unconditional love and forgiveness for you in Jesus, give thanks for your Lutheran heritage. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for the Christian liberty which you, by the grace of God, enjoy.

When you receive the Sacrament of the Altar give thanks that you receive

it according to the institution of Christ, and thus that you have the comfort and assurance the Savior intended by it. You know that you have been redeemed from sin, death, and the power of the devil through Jesus' work for you.

Pray that God would preserve us from human laws and ordinances imposed either from an oppressive civil government or by a popish church. Pray that God would help us hold fast, with an honest and good heart, to the principles of Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone.

And lest we be misunderstood with what has been said here (or in Part I), may we add: We know that there are true believers in Christ wherever the Gospel of Christ is taught, even within false teaching churches. The doctrinal error to which they are exposed, however, can rob them of their freedom and confidence in Christ and His Gospel. Let us pray for (while they are still living; after they have died it is too late, Heb. 9:27) our Catholic friends and neighbors — extended family members? Let us pray that their hearts might yet, like Luther's, be opened to the glorious, liberating truths of the Gospel of Christ and His full and free salvation!

—Pastor Paul Fleischer

“From Thence He Shall Come . . .”

“From thence He shall come . . .”
With these words we confess our belief that Jesus will return to earth. We do so every time we say the Apostles’ Creed. We base our belief on the words of Jesus. A few days before His crucifixion, He spoke of the time “when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory” (Mt. 25:31).

The two angels reminded the disciples of Jesus’ return when they told them on Ascension Day: “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). These and similar passages convince us that there will be a second coming of Jesus.

In the Creed we also confess the purpose of His return: “. . . to judge the quick and the dead.” That belief, too, is solidly based upon Scripture. Through the words of the apostle Paul, God reveals that “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained” (Acts 17:31). In Second Corinthians (5:10) that Man is named: “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”

These words create fear in the hearts of many. In the case of unbelievers who may be concerned, they have good reason to fear. Because of their unbelief they will be

condemned. In the case of the believer in Christ, fear is unfounded. They will not be, cannot be, condemned. Scripture assures us: “There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Acts 8:1).

The believer is to look forward to Jesus’ second coming. The Lord encourages us to do so when He says of that day: “Then look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Lk. 21:28). On that day the wisdom of trusting in Jesus for eternal life will be revealed to all.

When will that happen? Jesus tells us: “Of that day and that hour no one knows, neither the angels who are in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mk. 13:32). No one can predict that day. Only fools try to do so. Believers are prepared for it to happen at any time. Trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, they stand justified before God and will be received into eternal life.

May the Lord keep us firmly believing that.

—Pastor Keith Olmanson



DECEIVERS

“Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am Christ,’ and will deceive many” (Mt. 24:5).

So our Savior alerted the disciples to what would happen before the destruction of Jerusalem. Significantly He said: “Take heed that no one deceives you” (v. 4). “For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (v. 24).

That deception is still present. Occasionally your pastor receives letters from such as the one to which reference is made. A letter received recently said: “If you’re looking for the King of kings, which I am, then you will find me here.” The letter writer lives on seven mountains (Rev. 17:9) in Hawaii, no less. He is supposed to reveal a “few hundred of the mysteries” that will take one “closer to heaven.” Then “The Lamb” — as he calls himself — gets to the point. He wants a *loan* to pay for his staff research.

We need no other revelation from God. God has given us the revelation of His will for life here and for salvation. He has said through His apostle: “These things I *have written* to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that *you may know* that you have eternal life...” (1 Jn. 5:13).

If one believes that we do not have the whole Word of God, but that God is still revealing things through dreams and visions, then only confusion is sown and confidence undermined. If faith is the matter of visions and dreams, then we must allow any vision and any dream regardless how absurd. For how shall

one deny another’s subjective assertion that he had a dream in which he is told by God that he is the King of kings and the Lamb?

Even if it is blasphemy, as this letter writer’s claim is! How dare he assume to himself names belonging only to Christ Jesus, God’s Son? But it is precisely that of which Jesus was speaking when He warned His disciples. (Just this past week we read of a “faith-healer” who claims the power to elongate legs where one is shorter than the other, though he doesn’t claim to be God or God’s Son.)

The Objective Word Of God

But are there not dreams recorded in Scripture, or references to the angel of the Lord appearing in a dream, even in the New Testament? Indeed there are. What then is the difference? Scripture is the objective Word of God recorded by the Holy Spirit through inspiration of that Word. Dreams and visions of God’s faithful people recorded in Scripture (e. g., Joseph’s dream, Mt. 1:20) are not the self-induced or self-proclaimed expressions of sinful humans, subject to no proof but their own word. (Of the latter, Jeremiah 23 has a great deal to say.)

The only things about which we can be unqualifiedly certain, and upon which we can build our hope of salvation, are those things which bear the stamp of “Thus saith the Lord!”. Yes, and that assurance we have in God’s own book: “All Scripture is

given by inspiration of God..." (2 Tim. 3:16).

Furthermore, what more can we or need we know about sin than that which is recorded in Scripture? What more can or need — or do we want — to know about the judgment of sin and the sinner than what the Scripture says? What more do we need than the wisdom which Timothy had who "from childhood (has) known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"? What further confirmation of the truth we speak from Scripture do we need than

that which is of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, the LAMB OF GOD and the KING OF KINGS, sealed to us through HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD?

It was not to some dreamer, but to the Lord Jesus, that Peter declared: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE!" (Jn. 6:68). The Word of God, it is spirit and it is life (Jn. 6:63)!

—From a recent Sunday bulletin of
Grace Lutheran Church, CLC,
Fridley, Minn. The pastor at Grace is
Daniel Fleischer.

Women's Fellowship Day

WELCOME — "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:3).

This was the message, printed on the blackboard in the Fellowship Hall of Messiah Church, Eau Claire, which greeted about 140 women from across the country on June 22, 1994. The occasion was the fifth biennial day of fellowship held in conjunction with the CLC convention. The passage formed the basis for presentations by three speakers who together developed the theme: "Exercising the Three Great Christian Virtues — Faith, Hope, and Love."

The speakers were: Erma Riess of Mankato, who spoke on "Works Produced by Faith"; Janelle Hein of Eau Claire, whose topic was "Labor Prompted by Love"; and Connie Thurow, Inver Grove Heights, who

discussed "Endurance Inspired by Hope." Basing her remarks on Scripture and upon examples from her own personal experiences, each of these women gave presentations which inspired her sisters in the faith. (The talks have been compiled in booklet form.)

Coordinators for the day were Marie Meyer of Red Wing and Laila Fleischer of Sleepy Eye. Some of the other behind-the-scenes participants were Carla Pelzel, luncheon chairman; Mabel Noeldner, registration; Ruth Tri, display arrangements; Marion Dommer and Ruth Rehm, music. Many others gave their assistance to make the day a memorable one.

A similar day for Christian edification and fellowship among the women of the CLC is being planned for the next convention year — 1996. Dorothy Lau of Eau Claire will serve as general chairman.

—Pastor Paul Fleischer
(from a report by Lois Mackensen)



Messiah Lutheran School Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Messiah Lutheran School held its first classes in the fall of 1963. The first classes were conducted in the rear of the church sanctuary with Miss Shirley Wendland as the first teacher. The enrollment that first year was 27 students.

In 1965 a two-room education wing was added to the church. The enrollment has seen a steady increase over the years. There have been two major additions to the building in recent years. Two classrooms and a library were added in 1977, and a social hall and kitchen were added in 1988.

The present enrollment is 97. There are now five classrooms and a staff of three full-time and three half-time teachers. In addition, Marion Dommer is the music teacher for all grades. Pastors L. W. Schierenbeck and Paul Tiefel teach the 7th and 8th grade confirmation instruction classes. There is also a band instructor that comes to Messiah one day a week and gives band lessons to interested students in grades 5-8.

The teaching staff is given help in many ways by the fifteen congregation members that help as teacher's aides on a volunteer basis. The teachers certainly appreciate their help.

Thanks be to God who has so richly blessed us and has given us vastly more than we deserved or expected. Not only has He provided for our building needs so that the expansion of His church may continue according to His gracious plan, but He has also given us this Christian day school which serves to educate not only the children from Messiah congregation, but has also served as a mission arm in the Eau Claire area. This mission arm has helped to bring new families into Messiah congregation where they can hear God's Word in its truth and purity.

We pray that God will continue to bless our school and church.

—LeRoy Hulke, Principal



Faculty At Messiah, Eau Claire. Front: Carla Pelzl, Amy Mielke, Sara Nolting, Renee Wuerch, Marion Dommer; Back: Rev. L. W. Schierenbeck, Rev. Paul Tiefel, Barbara Hulke, LeRoy Hulke.

Vacation Bible Schools

Fond du Lac

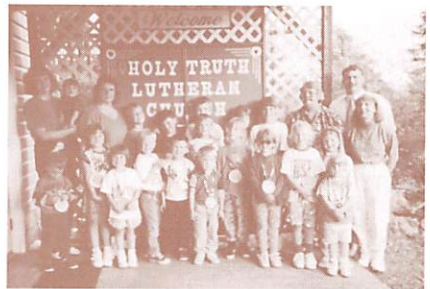
Vacation Bible School at Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac is held every year during the last week in July. This year 53 children participated. We used the 1994 VBS material entitled "Prophets of the True God." Our staff included Amy Sippert, Jackie Schwersinske, Lynette Roehl, Gwen Koch, Ruth Eserhut, and Pastor Johannes. Others who helped with crafts and other activities included Joanne Johannes, Deborah



Johannes, Joleen and Michelle Williams, Barb Haesgen, Virginia Cutler, Rob Shine, and Rachel Mueller.

Ketchikan

Daily sunshine accompanied the week of Vacation Bible School of Holy Truth Lutheran Church in Ketchikan, Alaska last August 15-19. In a place where 15 feet of rain a year is the norm, a whole week of sun was received as a wonderful gift of God. However, the sun that shone outside our mission congregation paled in comparison to the light that shone in our hearts as we heard and studied God's greatest gift — His Word — under this year's theme: "Thus saith the Lord: Prophets of the True God."



The Lord blessed us with the privilege of teaching 18 students. This year we held an evening session from 6-8:00 p.m. that seemed to afford greater opportunities for working parents to get their children to and from VBS. It

also gave individuals in our congregation, who otherwise wouldn't have been able, the opportunity to teach. That Sunday a special service

was held followed by a potluck picnic and games. "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!"

Spokane

Gethsemane, Spokane held Vacation Bible School July 25-29, 1994. While we were anticipating an enrollment of approximately 30 students, what a delight to have 40 enrolled. It was our experience that putting up a rather large VBS sign brought in several children from the immediate neighborhood. The theme for our classes was "*Come, Lord Jesus.*" This was divided into five lessons: 1) Come, When I Hear Your Word; 2) Come, When I Have Sinned; 3) Come, When I Have Trouble; 4) Come, When No One Loves Me; 5) Come, When I Am Afraid. The classes were taught by Donna McCoul, Kelly Ward, and Pastors



Robert List and Arvid Gullerud. Assisting with crafts were Sue Hendrickson, Randi Pomerantz, Katie List, and Jenessa McCoul. On the last day children and parents enjoyed a picnic. We look upon our VBS as a wonderful outreach program with the blessed opportunity to share the Word of Life.

Read Any Good Books Lately?

"EVANGELISM—Where, Why, What, When, Who, How??"

For the cost of \$.50 you can have a fifty-page reprint of Pastor Paul Fleischer's series in the *Spokesman* on "Evangelism." During this season as we celebrate the Reformation, let's remember that we've got to get the message out. Our cup truly does run over.

In the 1980's in the *Spokesman* Pastor Fleischer led us through a study of that work which is before us all—sharing the wonderful news of a Savior slain but risen. One gift of God in the Reformation was the return of the teaching of the universal priesthood of all believers. Purchase the reprint and have a bigger part in ministering the Word to others. The eleven articles in the series have been revised by Pastor Fleischer and reprinted by some individuals. Use the booklet for Bible Class, for home devotions, or for your personal study.

You may obtain as many copies as you want from: Pastor Paul Tiefel, 2015 North Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703; phone (715) 832-0316.

—Pastor David Koenig

Announcements

Corrections:

In my October article ("The Monster Of Uncertainty") please cross out the sentence: "They (the dinosaurs) probably died out during the Flood." That sentence conflicts with Genesis chapter seven which teaches that Noah took two of every beast into the ark.

— *Pastor Robert Mackensen*

Also in the October issue, page 3, first column, change the sentence so that it reads as follows: "...I, having been begotten by others through the Gospel, do *now* beget others..."

— *The Editor*

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Installations

By authority of President Fleischer, the undersigned installed Arthur Schulz as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, Wisconsin on September 11, 1994.

— *Paul R. Gurgel*

With the knowledge of President Fleischer, I installed Amy Mielke as 5th and 6th grade afternoon teacher at Messiah Lutheran School of Eau Claire, Wis. on August 14, 1994.

— *Pastor Paul M. Tiefel*

Appointment

Rev. Douglas Libby of Mankato, Minnesota has been appointed Conference Visitor of the Minnesota Conference. He will complete the term of Rev. John Pfeiffer who resigned upon his acceptance of the call to Immanuel Lutheran College.

— *Daniel Fleischer, President*

South Florida Services

Worship services are being conducted the first and third Sundays of each month in the southern Florida area, just north of Fort Lauderdale, at 4:00 p.m. Services are held on the rest of the Sundays of the month using the CLC Video Tape Ministry. Adult Bible Class and Communion are on the first Sunday of the month. Contact Pastors Karl Stewart or Terrel Kesterson, or: Mr. Bob Doriot, 270 Lake Dr., Coconut Creek, FL 33066; phone (305) 974-6688.

Exploratory Services

Exploratory worship services are being conducted in Wheeling, West Virginia. For time of services and other information, interested people may contact Dr. Eric Rachut. His phone number is (304) 232-7999.

Wintering in South Texas?

Resurrection congregation of Corpus Christi and its pastor encourage all CLC members who

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH
E. 11315 BROADWAY
SPOKANE, WA. 99206

plan to winter in South Texas to contact Pastor Andrew Schaller so he can arrange times and places for fellowship, devotions, and communion services.

Pastors, please remind any of your southward-bound members to do this. Also, pastors, if you know of CLC people stationed at military bases in the Corpus Christi or San Antonio areas, let Pastor Schaller know about them. They could be included in his ministries to the South Texas diaspora.

Pastor Andrew Schaller's address is 201 Princess Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78410. His phone number is (512) 241-5147.

1994 South-Eastern Pastoral Conference Corpus Christi, Texas

Agenda:

- * Exegetical Study of 2 Thess. 1:1ff—Pastor John Schierenbeck
 - * Old Testament Exegesis—Pastor Stephen Kurtzahn
 - * "A Review of the new WELS Hymnal"—Pastor John Klatt
 - * "A Guide to Including All the Major Doctrines in the ABC Pericope Series"—Pastor Thomas Schuetze
 - * "The Blessings and Benefits of Post-conversion Baptism"—Pastor Andrew Schaller
 - * "The Christian's Hope and Purpose in These Dark Days"—Pastor Mark Gullerud
 - * "A Comparative Study of Mark 9:38-41 & Matthew 12:30"—Pastor Terrel Kesterson
- Conference Chaplain**—Pastor Karl Stewart
Communion Service Speaker—Pastor Michael Roehl

— *Pastor M. Roehl, Secretary*