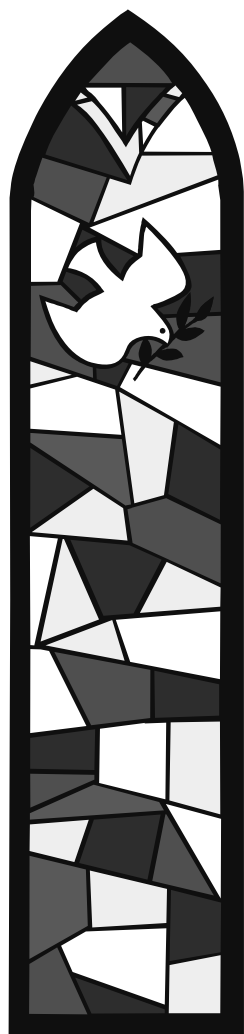


The Tidings

May 2006

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sun Prairie, Wisconsin



Confirmed in Christ May 7, 2006

Silke Lynn Behne

James

1:2

Tessa Nicole Cheney

Philippians 3:14

Stephanie Marie Fiess

Joshua

1:5

James Edward Garvey

Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer for the Newly Confirmed

Lord, what joy it is to hear a new generation of believers vow their faithfulness to You. Grant that the commitment that these new members pledge will not fade in the coming months, but that they will wear each day their Christian armor, to be defended by You against the devil, the world, and their own sinful flesh. Let them wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, that same Word they have

“Jesus IN Us or Jesus FOR Us”

In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: “The LORD is our righteous-ness.” Jeremiah 23:6

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteous-ness and sanctification and redemption. 1 Corinthians 1:30

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

After reading the above Scrip-ture I would ask you read the following two statements. One was rejected by the Lutheran church, and one was accepted. Choose which is right and which is wrong.

A: ___ our righteousness before God consists in this, that God forgives us our sins by sheer grace, without any works, merit, or worthiness of our own, in the past, at present, or in the future, that He gives us and reckons to us the righteousness of Christ’s obedience and that, because of this righteousness, we are accepted by God into grace and regarded as righteous.

B: ___ faith should look not only to the obedience of Christ but also to his divine nature, as it dwells in us and pro-duces results, and that through this indwelling our sins are covered.

Which answer did you choose?? Martin Luther had

predicted twenty years before his death that “this doctrine of justification will be obscured again after my death.” Who was guilty of obscuring the Gospel? Which statement above is pure doctrine and which is false

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous.

1 Peter 3:18



doctrine?

Controversy erupted after Luther’s death as he predicted regarding how one is justified, or declared righteous (not guilty of our sin because of Christ).

For 25 years the debate continued.

After fine-tuning their theology the

Lutheran theologians produced Article Three of the Formula of Concord (one of several confessions and documents based on God’s Word). The word “justify” is used in a judicial way to mean ‘to absolve a guilty man and to pronounce him righteous,’ and to do so on account of someone else’s righteousness, namely Christ’s which is communicated to us through faith.

The statements above (have you picked one yet??) can be stated another way: Are you saved because Jesus died for you or because Jesus lives in your heart? I hear that statement of ‘Jesus living in my heart’ often. Here is a true statement: Jesus may live in your heart BUT that does not save you. Thanks be to God that our salvation is not based upon a “test” or our performance! Thanks be to God that His obedient life and His obedient death counted to your credit! Yep - If you answered that statement “A” was the correct one, you were right! Thanks be to our Lord that He brings us eternal life!

In Christ,
Pastor Mueller

*“For I resolved to know nothing while with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”
(1 Corinthians 2:2)*

Community of Faith

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

“You don’t have to go to church to be a Christian.” Perhaps you’ve heard people say they believe in Jesus, but they don’t care to belong to a church. Although technically true, this idea misses the point – and what it means to be a Christian. Church exists to help us become stronger in faith through fellowship and accountability.

God purposely designed in us a need to be part of a commu-nity of faith – to share triumphs and failures with others. God

never intended for us to walk alone. God established the earthy church so Christians would have a place

to be together and grow spiritually. It’s pretty hard to be a Christian in isolation. Who are you going to bond with, joke with, lean on, cry with, share Christ’s love with?

One of the major themes in the book of Acts is community. It was vital for the early Chris-tians to gather together to worship and to share the joys and sufferings of following Christ. The church was more than just one or two people – it was lots of people.

Things haven’t changed that much in the past two thousand years. Really! Just like the early Christians, it’s important for us to have a place to grow spiritu-ally. But there’s more to church than sitting in a pew on Sunday morning. Get involved. You’ll gain wisdom and have the support of fellow Christians



who want to help you live a godly life. Not only will you grow by being part of the church, but you'll have a chance to share your talents and spiritual gifts for God's glory.

Kingdom Quest & Quest 56

May & June Schedule

Age 3 – Kindergarten

- 5/7 3,000 Are Baptized
- 5/14 Timothy's Mother Shares Her Faith
- 5/21 A Jailer and His Family Believe
- 5/28 No Class
- 6/4 Jesus Teaches Us to Invite Others (last class before summer break)
- 6/11 Gospel Magician Rob Erdmann

Grades 1-4

- 5/7 The Berean Church
- 5/14 Timothy's Mother and Grandmother
- 5/21 There Is But One God
- 5/28 No Class
- 6/4 Paul in Corinth (last class before summer break)
- 6/11 Gospel Magician Rob Erdmann

Grades 5&6

- 5/7 God, What About... Satan?
- 5/14 God, What About... Angels?
- 5/21 God What About...Heaven and Hell?
- 5/28 No Class
- 6/4 God, What About... Knowing If I'm saved (last class before summer break)
- 6/11 Gospel Magician Rob Erdmann

Youth Corner

"Here am I--send me"

Least-Popular Volunteer Positions:

1. Javelin catcher
2. Patient for student dentists

3. Diaper changer at a daycare center
4. Bullet-proof vest tester
5. Hospital bedpan emptier
6. Human crash-test dummy

Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

Here's a situation that may seem familiar to you: In class, your teacher asks a question about something you forgot to study. Then she starts looking around the room for someone to answer it. You slink down in your seat, trying to make yourself invisible--praying that she won't pick you. Ever had an experience like that?

Unfortunately, many believers react the same way when it comes time to serve God. When they see a need or a service opportunity, they do everything they can to make themselves invisible, hoping that God will pick someone else to get involved.

And that's a mistake.

You see, Christian service isn't just about helping others. It's about pleasing God and drawing closer to Him. The best way to strengthen your bond with your heavenly Father is through obedient acts of service. If you decline the opportunities He gives you to serve Him, you're the one who will lose in the long run.

The good news is that God gives second chances. Right now, He may be looking for someone to explain forgiveness to a fellow student who's struggling with guilt. He may be looking for someone to start a winter coat collection for the homeless people in your

community. He may be looking for someone to share His love by hanging out with someone at church who is lonely.

Will you be that person? Will you step up to the plate like Isaiah did and say, "Here am I--send me"? Don't let excuses like busyness or inexperience stand in your way. Few people have enough free time to get involved in service projects. People who are serious about service make time. And most people who volunteer for service work have no idea what they're doing. However, they learn very quickly that when God calls someone, He also equips that person. He will not let a small matter such as lack of experience stand in the way of His work being done.

So what are you waiting for? It's time to volunteer!

Soul†Fire Youth Ministry

- May 7 Movie Night
- May 14 Mother's Day - No Youth Meeting
- May 21 Faith FULL Living Part 8 How to Win the War Within
James 4:1-10
- May 28 Memorial Day – No Youth Meeting

Here in the US we're engaged in what's called "The War on Terror." However, what is often overlooked is that all wars begin in the heart. They start with internal thoughts and become external actions. In this week's lesson let's look at three key points from James 4:1-10 that will teach us how to win the war within.

The Potter's to Mold

I was no more than a lump of waste
Just a glob of useless clay paste
No more to be used just cold to the heart
For I was full of bitterness and horribly tart.
Then an act of wonder and beautiful grace
Something that caused me instantly to be amazed
The Potter was walking towards me with mercy in his eyes.
As he walked nearer I tried to hide
For I was unclean and filthy, not worthy to be used
For much against me had been accused
But to the Potter it seemed not to matter
Forgiven at last my sins were shattered
Praise to my Savoir I began to shout
At once all bitterness and hatred was out
I had been washed whiter than snow
No longer condemned now this I know
For I was once discarded and useless I was told
But now I am, at last the Potter's to mold.
by Jonathon Koudelka

Be the Best Parent You Can Be...

1. Children begin forming their opinion of themselves by the manner in which you talk to them. Is what they hear positive?
2. Set aside special time to spend with each of your children.
3. "Catch" your child being good!
4. Move closer physically to your children. Hold them.
5. When you and your children talk, stop and look into their eyes.
6. Share positive feelings often.

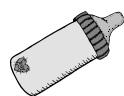
7. Don't say, "You shouldn't feel that way." It makes children believe their feelings are not important.
8. Tell your children "I love you."
9. Read the Bible to your children and remind them that this is how God talks to us.
10. Pray with your children several times each day. Let them know that this is how we talk to God.

Peter R Imlah Youth & Family Minister

Equipping, Encouraging & Empowering the Body of Christ.

Spring Clean-up May 6

Bring your rakes and shovels, gloves and pruning clippers, hedge trimmers and chippers and whatever else it takes to get the church property in shape for the summer. Clean up day is on Saturday May 6 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Come and help for as long as you can. Lots of outside work, but some inside jobs too.



A Gift of Life

Help raise money for CareNet Pregnancy Center of Dane County by participating in the annual Baby Bottle Campaign. CareNet is a crisis pregnancy center, providing alternatives to abortion. They provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, abstinence education, post-abortion counseling and operate a maternity home called "Elizabeth House."

Pick up a baby bottle on

Mother's Day and fill it with currency, coins, or a check (made out to CareNet) and return it to church by Father's Day. See Pete Imlah with any questions.



Please Plant Pumpkins!

We are planning an exciting Family Fun Day this fall and yes, that means PUMPKINS! If you have a garden, won't you consider planting some medium sized pumpkins for the Family Fun Day on September 30? Please call Mike Grulke at 834-3093 if you would like to plant, donate or purchase pumpkins to donate in fall.



Relay for Life Pie Sale and Auction

Mark your calendar for June 4! Bethlehem's Pie Sale and Auction will take place between services. All proceeds will go to Relay for Life - supporting the American Cancer Society. Support a great cause and have a delicious dessert too!

We are asking each family to donate at least one pie for this event. You may bring your donated pies to church that morning. Then, between services, you can either purchase pies, bid on pies, or both! Thanks for your support for Relay for Life.



The East Dane County Chapter of Thrivent (EDCCT) is hosting a Habitat for Humanity build in Oregon, WI. The build is every Wednesday and Saturday, 8-5 from May to November. They would like 8-10 volunteers from Bethlehem. The duplex Habitat and EDCCT are building, will cost \$140,000 – breakdown of where the money comes from: 70% National, 20% Local, and 10% (about \$14,000) from EDCCT. Donations are welcomed, however, not required to participate.

Children under 18 are not allowed to build without a parent/guardian. Children are not allowed to use power tools. They can paint, landscape, hammer, pick up, etc...

If you would like to participate, print your name under the days you would like to work on the sign up sheet which is in the Purpose Place.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Our Women's Guild meetings take a break for the summer months, though quilting Saturdays may be announced. The next regular meeting is Monday May 1 and the next will be in September on Monday the 11th at 7:00 p.m.

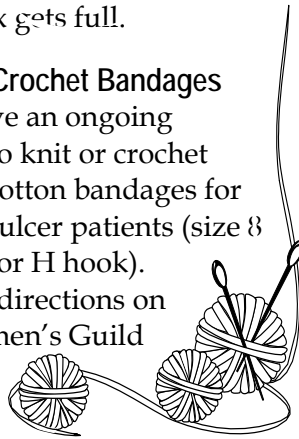
Save your mites!

Based on the Biblical story of the widow's mite, the mite box is intended for contributions above and beyond to church or Synod. Pick up a mite box or label that fits an empty frosting can at the cookbook table. Mites can be given to our

treasurer Ginny Prey when your box gets full.

Knit or Crochet Bandages

We have an ongoing project to knit or crochet simple cotton bandages for tropical ulcer patients (size 8 needles or H hook). Pick up directions on the Women's Guild table by the mite boxes.



Mothers Maintenance Manual

Many of us take better care of our cars than we do our mothers and yet we only expect our cars to last 5 or 6 years but we expect our mothers to last for a lifetime. Maybe we need a maintenance manual for mothers so we will know how to take care of them at least as well as we do our automobiles. Here are some items that might be included in such a manual.

Engine: A mother's engine is one of the most dependable kinds you can find. She can reach top speed from a prone position at a single cry from a sleeping child. But regular breaks are needed to keep up that peak performance. Mothers need a hot bath and a nap every 100 miles, a baby-



sitter and a night out every 1,000 miles, and a live-in baby-sitter with a one week vacation every 10,000 miles.

Battery: Mother's batteries should be recharged regularly. Handmade items, notes, unexpected hugs and

kisses, and a frequent "I love you" will do very well for a recharge.

Carburetor: When a mother's carburetor floods it should be treated immediately with Kleenex and a soft shoulder.

Brakes: See that she uses her brakes to slow down often and come to a full stop occasionally. (A squeaking sound indicates a need for a rest).

Fuel: Most mothers can run indefinitely on coffee, leftovers and salads, but an occasional dinner for two at a nice restaurant will really add to her efficiency.

Chassis: Mothers run best when their bodies are properly maintained. Regular exercise should be encouraged and provided for as necessary. A change in hairdo or makeup in spring and fall are also helpful. If you notice the chassis begins to sag, immediately start a program of walking, jogging, swimming, or bike riding. These are most effective when done with fathers.

Tune-ups: Mothers need regular tune-ups. Compliments are both the cheapest and most effective way to keep a mother purring contentedly.

Oh yes, and let's not forget to speak to mother lovingly and respectfully, especially when she reminds you to drive carefully and have a good time.

If these instructions are followed consistently, this fantastic creation and gift from God, whom we call "MOTHER", should last a lifetime and give good service and constant love to those who need her most.

Author Unknown –

www.Christian-Family.net



Many, many thanks to all who donated food and participated in the Easter Breakfast! With matching funds from Thrivent we cleared \$1640 for this summer's mission trip. A special thanks also to the Sun Prairie Rotary Club for the use of their awesome pancake griddle.

Parish Planning Council March 14, 2006

Present: Tim Mielcarek, Steve Anacker, Jim McCourt, Pastor Mueller, Dennis Dary, Pete Imlah, Mike Grulke, Anne Meyer, Mary Kazda, Peter Bushman, Betty Isaacson, Bart Hettenbach (MALSA)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Executive Director Tim Mielcarek and opened with prayer by Pastor Mueller.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Bart Hettenbach presented an update on MALSA (Madison Area Lutheran School Assn.).

Their objectives are:

- = to restart the effort for an annual campaign for operating costs
- = Raise capital funds to match a challenge grant of \$200,000
- = Reconnect with association congregations

= To start multiple schools in the Madison Area

The dinner on March 25 at Bethlehem will stress the importance of Christian Education.

Pastor Mueller would like to have a day retreat for all board chairs and members after the elections. Would include Bible study, goals for the future and explanation of duties.

Pete will have a lock in with the youth March 17-18. He turned down a nomination for the Board of Directors for Camp LuWiSoMo.

Dennis Dary announced the Board of Properties' annual spring cleaning day on May 6.

The Evangelism Board is looking into a music concert featuring Mitch McVicker. They will get more info and some CD's and continue to check out the possibilities.

The Board of Education is sponsoring a parenting class on the 1st Sundays of March-May. Will be doing a survey of parents of school age kids to find out why they don't bring their kids to Sunday school. The board would also like to designate special projects for the Sunday school offerings.

Anne Meyer reminded the board chairs that they need to get names of people who have worked with their boards to her for the nominating committee.

The Board of Lay Ministry is considering video screens for the sanctuary, paid for through special gifts. Voters will be told how they will look, how they will be used and what the cost will be. Pastor and Pete should now be part of the ongoing staffing committee.

Natural Church Development (NCD) update: discussed long range planning at their last meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Isaacson

Parish Planning Council April 11, 2006

Present: Tim Mielcarek, Steve Anacker, Pastor Mueller, Mike Ferguson, Pete Imlah, Peter Bushman, Pat Schommer, Laurie Dary, Anne Meyer, Dennis Dary, Mike Grulke, Betty Isaacson

Executive Director Tim Mielcarek called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Pete Imlah opened with prayer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer Pat Schommer noted that offerings nearly met budgeted amounts in March averaging \$8000/week thanks to the extra Lenten services; \$8360/week is needed to meet the budget.

Pastor Mueller noted the South Wisconsin District Convention is June 11-13. A lay delegate from our congregation is still needed.

Pete Imlah will be going to the convention as youth advisor for the conference. The youth will be putting on the Easter Pancake Breakfast again this year and will also have a Madison area Lutheran Youth lock-in at the Madison YMCA April 22-23. Pete will be preaching on the 23rd while Pastor is on vacation. April 28-29 will see ReFocus Phase II - the Church's Biblical Purpose.

For the Board of Lay Ministry Mike Ferguson reported that they are working on the use of a projection system in the sanctuary. They are looking at different ways to contact all members. They are also working on the list of members who have been absent a year or more and some actions will be taken at the next voters meeting. Mike requested that we all pray for the board members as they make

these contacts. A new worship service is being looked at for the last Sunday of the month.

Anne Meyer reported that the Board of Stewardship is looking at the Consecration Sunday Program geared toward increased giving.

Board of Properties Chair Dennis Day announced that the NAEIR order is ready to be picked up, but we may ask them to ship it. Spring Clean-up Day is Saturday, May 6.

Christian Education Chair Peter Bushman noted that Ardie Nelson and Betty Jegerlehner will lay out the calendar year for the Board of Ed listing upcoming tasks.

Mike Grulke announced for the Board of Evangelism that they do not plan to host any outside concerts this year at Bethlehem. Dietrie St. Martin is working on signing up workers for the Habitat for Humanity project in Oregon Wednesdays and Saturdays, May-November. Father/Son banquet was suggested for fall.

Nominating Committee Chair Steve Anacker reported that nominations must be ready to publish by May 4 to be voted on at the voters meeting May 21.

There was some discussion on the direction the Contemporary

Worship Service should go. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Betty Isaacson

Volunteer Opportunities

Bethlehem's VBS

Help with our Vacation Bible School (VBS) July 16-20. Lots of different skills needed at different times. Sign up sheet is in the Purpose Place

At Oakwood Village East

5565 Tancho Drive, Madison

Contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at 230-4238 or email at kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net

Volunteer Drivers

Volunteers needed to help take Apartments or assisted living residents to weekday medical appointments or on personal errands, Mon-Fri a few times a month. Volunteer needs to use their own vehicle and monthly mileage reimbursement provided.

Independent-Living Apartment Resident Craft Group Instructors

One or two volunteers needed to develop craft project ideas for and lead weekly resident craft group Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning or afternoon. Volunteers with experience and interest in a wide variety of crafts beneficial, and good organizational skills needed. Day and time negotiable and flexible based on volunteer's availability.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Sun Prairie, WI 53590



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608.837.7446, fax 608.825.2268

Worship
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Kingdom Quest/Bible Study 9:10 a.m.

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor
Mr. Peter Imlah, Youth & Family Minister