



**From
Pastor
A. J.
Kunde**



Wednesday, February 22, 2012, is Ash Wednesday. The day marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Forty days later Palm Sunday occurs, which is the beginning of Holy Week.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, remind us that for forty days, Jesus was in the wilderness, neither eating or drinking, and he was tempted by the devil. Although tempted, Jesus did not fall into sin (cf. Hebrews 4:15b).



We, however, have fallen into temptation and sin many times.

Ash Wednesday, then, as well as the entire Lenten Season, reminds us Christians to live in repentance for our sins. This repentance, of course, is to be part of our daily attitude, regardless of whether we are in the Season of Lent or in some other season of the Church Year.

Repentance is a change of mind. It is a change of mind regarding sin – that we see sin as ugly, destructive and damning. Repentance is a change of mind regarding God. Too often we may think of

God as some loving grandfather who tolerates and smiles at the misbehavior of his offspring. God’s Word changes that erroneous opinion, for God says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me” (Exodus 20:5b). King David confesses in Psalm 5,

- ⁴ You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil;
with you the wicked cannot dwell.*
- ⁵ The arrogant cannot stand in your presence;
you hate all who do wrong.*
- ⁶ You destroy those who tell lies;
bloodthirsty and deceitful men
the LORD abhors (Psalm 5:4-6).*

The fact God condemns and damns sin and sinners. This leads us to repentance in terms of contrition.

Contrition has been described as terrors of conscience striking the heart. Contrition is not, however, something we manufacture. Sometimes the Bible describes contrition as “godly sorrow.” St. Paul wrote in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians, “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret” (2 Corinthians 7:10). The word “godly” describes God’s activity in working “godly sorrow” or contrition. God revealed his working of contrition through his Old Testament Prophet Isaiah.

- ¹⁸ ... When the overwhelming scourge
sweeps by,
you will be beaten down by it.*
- ¹⁹ As often as it comes it will carry you away;
morning after morning,
by day and by night,
it will sweep through.”
The understanding of this message
will bring sheer terror.*
- ²⁰ The bed is too short to stretch out on,
the blanket too narrow to wrap around you.*

²¹ *The LORD will rise up... —
to do his work, his strange work,
and perform his task,
his alien task* (Isaiah 28:18-21).

The “sheer terror” (19b) about which Isaiah speaks is contrition. Note verse 21 that it is the LORD who does this work. Man does not manufacture contrition; man suffers contrition.

Contrition is the reaction of a person who comes face to face with God’s Law and realizes what St. Paul stated in his Epistle to the Romans, “Through the Law we become conscious of sin” (Romans 3:20b) – and not just “conscious of sin” but terrified! That is contrition. The only remedy for contrition is in the cross of Jesus.

Contrition and repentance together are only one emphasis in Lent. The other emphasis is the saving work of Jesus for us.



The Lenten Season brings us to Palm Sunday, when we see Jesus enter Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. Jesus enters in humility, for he is on his way to die on the cross for the sins of the world. It is the suffering and death of Jesus, and his resurrection from the dead, that assure us that all of our sins have been forgiven and that we are saved by grace alone.

Jesus’ saving work, then, is the motivation for us to put away sin from our daily lives. The Apostle Paul says this when he writes in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians,

¹⁴ *... Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again* (2 Corinthians 5:14,15).

Pastor A. J. Konde

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, Grace will have Wednesday, Midweek Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. A meal will be provided at 6:00 p.m.

SORROW AND JOY OVER AND OVER

A month or so ago in the Christmas season, we were joining the angels of heaven in their hymn of praise at the birth of Jesus. They sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14).



We were uplifted by the words of the hymn, "Joy to the world, The LORD is come! Let earth receive her King" (CW: 62). Perhaps our hearts soared with the words of the Christmas carol, "Joy, Joy, Joy." In the midst of this joy, there is sorrow also.

Later in the Temple we hear the words of Simeon spoken to Mary,

"This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the hearts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:34b-35).

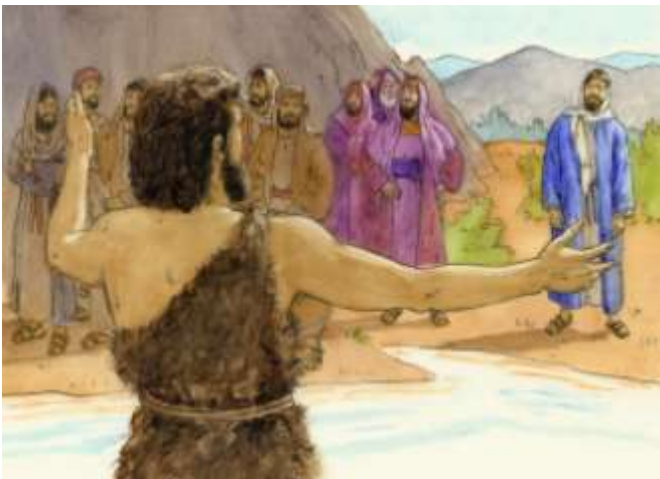


That sorrow is the result of all of the sin that is in this world, including yours and mine.

The Gentile Wise Men ushered us into the Season of Epiphany.



Then we see this Christ-child proclaimed as the Son of God by John the Baptizer. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29).



We also see from this verse that this Savior is sent for all people including us gentiles. Through the centuries, the Jews, God's chosen people, were the caretakers of God's promise to send this Savior. Now we are reminded very clearly that this is our Savior also.

Oh the JOY in that thought! However, the sorrow is still there because this God-man has to come to this world because of every human being's all-consuming sin, including ours. The psalmist David reminds of this in Psalm 143:1-2:

*¹ O LORD, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness
come to my relief.*

*² Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.*

February 22nd will be Ash Wednesday which will mark the beginning of our celebration of the Lenten Season. Traditionally, we concentrate on the suffering to which the God-man, Jesus Christ, willingly submitted in order to serve as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Lent reminds of our sin that caused the sufferings of Jesus. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to lead us to true sorrow and repentance over our sins. Still, the Holy Spirit keeps the Joy of the Gospel before us at all times.

Over and over the holy Spirit uses the Law to cause us to sorrow over our sin and uses the Gospel to cause us to celebrate the Joy of our Salvation! PRAISE WE THE LORD!!!



Ken Kirkman

Ken Kirkman, elder



Are You Showing off or Showing Off Jesus?



Denver Broncos QB Tim Tebow (Ezra Shaw / Getty Images)

December 30, 2011-By Amina Khan, Los Angeles

By this time of year, college football is over and the professional football season is winding up. If you have been following these sports, one of the occurrences you may have noted is various displays of spiritual reverence by the players before, after, or during the contests. These may be silent in nature, as displaying Bible verses on the sun eye shadow, or adopting a kneeling, prayer-like activity. One of the most notable examples, due mostly to media attention, are the activities of Tim Tebow, quarterback of the Denver Broncos, who often is seen on the field praying by himself or leading a group of players before or after a game.

It must be said that this practice is not unique with Tim Tebow or football; examples have been noted by athletes in many sports events; in fact, our Michigan Lutheran Seminary football team has been observed praying before a game, however, as stated before, the media has drawn attention to this activity, actually labeling it “Te-bow-ing.”

Media assessment has on this display of faith is mixed, from admiration to scorn. Some of the more critical assessments label the display as “showing off.” However, if we check the definition of “showing off”, we find a range of meanings implying bringing attention to one’s self to bringing attention to some thing or some one that is loved, as a mother shows off her children. So, it really depends on the motives of the person “showing off.” What should be the reaction of a believing

Christian to this kind of display, the world’s reaction to it, and our own witnessing activity?

As always, we look to God’s Word for direction, and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are warned by Jesus, on the one hand, against using our pious-looking worship and activity only to impress others of how good we are.



Jesus says in Matthew 6:5:

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”

On the other hand, we are instructed not to hide from others our faith in Jesus in worship and activity.

Old Testament examples such as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and others, encourage us to speak boldly concerning our faith in Jesus.



Moreover, Jesus tells us in Luke 8:16, “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a

bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who can come in can see the light.”



How God-pleasing worship, prayer, or other activity, depends on the heart of person. We observe such activity as far back as the time of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4). Yet, displaying one's faith in public may bring hardships – from derision to bodily harm or even death (cf. Hebrews 11). The believer is sustained through these trials, however, by the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel in Word and the Sacraments. In Romans 8:28 we are told: “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him – who have been called according to his purpose.” Finally, our Lord tells us in Matthew 28:20: “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

So sustained, we can, with God's help, look forward to “showing off Jesus,” as the we have been equipped with time, talent, and treasure, including frequent prayers of thanks and guidance, wherever we are and whatever we do.

As we go from Epiphany into Lent, we are reminded in particular our Lord's suffering and death as his means of “showing his believers off” as acceptable, eternal children of God.

There are many opportunities of us to “show off Jesus”: (1) self example and testimony to family and friends; (2) joint congregational activity in our worship and witnessing; (3) Synod outreach through missions and worker training. Our congregation is still trying to establish an Evangelism committee and we would welcome your participation. We are planning to “show off” our Lord through canvasses,

floats, and information booths in the community this year. Also, we need your use of the Sunday bulletin's prospect list for those you may want some help for those that be comforted with the Good News that through Jesus, we have life eternal. Please contact us for your suggestions and participation!

Edward Stadler,
Board of Outreach



Devotions by WELS &
www.WhatAboutJesus.com

January 24, 2012

“The company of the prophets said to Elisha, ‘Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to live.’ And he said, ‘Go.’ Then one of them said, ‘Won’t you please come with your servants?’ ‘I will,’ Elisha replied. And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. ‘Oh, my lord,’ he cried out, ‘it was borrowed!’ The man of God asked, ‘Where did it fall?’ When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. ‘Lift it out,’ he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it (2 Kings 6:1-7).

You've probably heard it said: "Don't sweat the small stuff!" Of course, the point is that we shouldn't let ourselves be troubled and overrun by the little things of life. The incident that occurred in today's Bible reading points us in that direction.

The tree-cutting was going well when one of the workers broke his borrowed ax, and the iron head

flew into the Jordan River. "Where did it fall?" the prophet Elisha asked. When the man showed him the place, Elisha threw a stick in the water and "made the iron float." "Lift it out," he said. So the man "reached out his hand and took it."

That miracle worked by the power of God illustrates an important truth: God cares about us and the things that affect our lives, such as lost axheads, lost coins, lost keys, lost files, lost cell phones – the little things that cause us to fret and worry. He does not always restore what was lost – for his own good reasons – but he understands our loss and seeks to comfort us in our distress.

Recall a time when your child or grandchild was distressed over some small loss and your heart was touched by their distress. The broken or mislaid thing had little significance for you, but it wasn't trifling to them. It mattered to you because it mattered to them, and your child or grandchild matter to you.

So it is with our heavenly Father. Our small worries and troubles matter to him because we mean everything to him. Just look at the cross and you will see how much we matter to God. We can cast all our cares, anxieties, worries, small stuff on him because he cares about us.

Don't sweat the small stuff – trust that your heavenly Father will always take care of you.

Prayer:

Thank you, Father, for caring about my cares because you care about me. All the small stuff in my life that I like to sweat, I leave in your hands. In my Savior's name. Amen.



The Conference of Presidents (COP) met last week [January 3rd] for its annual winter meeting. Thanks to a special grant this annual winter meeting usually takes place in different areas of the synod, away from Milwaukee. This enables the members of the COP to become more familiar with congregations throughout our synod, to worship and preach in those congregations, and to meet with pastors in the area. This year, in recognition of the formal establishment of fellowship with the Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Puerto Rico, the meeting was held in San Juan. COP members worshiped at congregations in San Juan and Guyama and also met with pastoral and lay representatives of our sister church body.

The COP discussed the issue of vicar assignments that will be made in May. Because of the small size of the vicar class this year, some congregations that have received vicars in previous years will not have that opportunity in the coming year. The COP will work closely with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and the Board for Home Missions to determine which congregations will receive vicars.

Other items discussed by the COP included:

- Plans for the calling of a new director of Christian Giving, due to the planned retirement of Rev. James Liggett later this year.
- Efforts to encourage applications for the vacant position of director of communications.
- Continued work on the development of guidelines for congregations considering a reduction of ministry staff. These guidelines were called for by the synod convention in response to discussion about the termination of divine calls. The guidelines will be designed to uphold the respect for the divinity of the call and for those who serve in called positions.
- The appointment of a committee to update and expand, if necessary, a previous COP statement on marriage, divorce, desertion, and remarriage.
- A report from the Translation Evaluation Committee on the recent translation symposium, as well as an update from the Translation Feasibility Committee, which is exploring the possibility of producing a new translation and/or a new study Bible. The issue of Bible translations will be considered by all the district conventions this summer.
- A lengthy workshop discussion on philosophy of ministry and how we can best walk together in evaluating and providing evangelical guidance when it comes to differing practices among us.
- Plans to carry out the synodwide every member visit as called for by the "In Christ

Alone” long-range plan adopted by the synod convention last summer.



Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder,
President

Translation workshop at WLS



Representatives from all 12 districts met with the Translation Evaluation Committee (TEC) in early January for a two-and-a-half-day workshop at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis.

The workshop was dedicated to a study of translation theory and practice, with special application to the NIV11, an updated translation of the New International Version.

Rev. Paul Wendland, WLS president and chairman of the TEC, says, “Our goal was to have a productive conversation on the complexities of evaluating translations and doing translations, and I think that goal was very much achieved.”

The workshop comprised two representatives from each district, the TEC, the Translation Feasibility Committee, and representatives from each area of ministry. Holding a smaller workshop allowed for more discussion and the free exchange of ideas, as well as small group task work.

Rev. Philip Hirsch, pastor at Hope, Manhattan, Kan., says: “Brothers in faith got together around the Word proclaimed and then discussed, honestly and openly, the work that our synod had given the Translation Evaluation Committee to do—to give a recommendation regarding a serviceable translation for our publishing house to use. Just getting a broader audience together in one place with enough time to listen and then speak was most helpful.”

The idea is that delegates will take what they learned back to their districts and share what was discussed.

“Knowledgeable pastors around the synod can now much better talk with other pastors and church leaders to help them understand what the TEC has concluded so far,” says Rev. Daniel Witte, pastor at Risen Savior, Lakewood Ranch, Fla. “I came away sensing camaraderie and concord among us, and eagerness to spread God’s Word.”

The districts will vote on which translation to use in the synod’s publications at their 2012 summer district conventions. A two-thirds majority is required for any translation to be selected. If two-thirds is not met, the issue will go to the 2013 synod convention.

To learn more about the TEC’s work, go to www.wels.net/translation.

Easter outreach materials available



The Commission for Congregational Counseling (CCC) has released a new program called E12 (short for "Easter 12") to help congregations plan how to use Easter Sunday 2012 as an opportunity to reach out in their communities with the message of the gospel.

Materials available include text studies, sermons, worship folders, choir material, outreach postcard templates, door hanger templates, bulletin inserts, visitor follow-up templates, a prospect management database, and devotional material. Customizable full-color outreach postcards will be available to order at five cents apiece; a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helped subsidize the cost. All other materials are free.

The program requires five different contacts within the congregation: the pastor, congregation president, a worship contact, an outreach contact, and a graphics person—all with different responsibilities. Ready-to-use materials will be e-mailed each week from January through May, with rationale on why each piece is important as well as

instructions on how to produce resources like this for future events.

Rev. Jonathan Hein, CCC chairman and pastor at Beautiful Savior, Summerville, S.C., says that while the program contains worship and outreach components, other major goals are to provide leadership training as well as to model a planning process that will help congregations conduct future outreach events. "Our goal is not only to give samples of what you can do but then also to help congregations do it again in the future," he says.

Programs like E12 fit in well with the CCC's mission: to provide short-term assessment and advice to congregations seeking to find ways to improve their ministry. "People are going to see a lot of things like E12 from the CCC—real practical, nuts-and-bolts information that will immediately make an impact in your congregation," says Hein.

Formed in 2010 by the Conference of Presidents, the CCC is one of seven commissions in the Congregation and Ministry Support Group. It currently has no director but is run by a group of six pastors.

To learn more about E12 or to register, go to connect.wels.net/ccc.

Lutheran school task force meets



A new task force on Lutheran schools met Jan. 9-10 to begin exploring ways to strengthen and support WELS schools.

Appointed by the Conference of Presidents as a result of a 2011 synod convention resolution, the task force is looking to provide ideas, recommend new or existing resources, and create support systems for WELS schools, according to Mr. Stephen Granberg, task force chairman and principal at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, Wis.

"We can't do the work for every church and school leadership group," says Granberg, "but what we can

do is be a servant to them by laying out tools and resources that they can use in their own settings."

At the meeting, the task force began putting together a suggestion of guiding principles for Lutheran schools. It also discussed critical issues that WELS schools face, including defining a mission/vision statement, encouraging ongoing spiritual and professional growth for called workers and lay leaders, developing funding and governance models, supporting school leadership, and facilitating relationship building within and between schools and called workers.

Granberg says the task force is looking at assembling an inventory of available materials as well as creating new materials that will help schools address these critical issues.

Besides Granberg, task force members include Mr. Tim Mueller, St. John, Sparta, Wis.; Mr. Scott Schmudlach, Good Shepherd, Downers Grove, Ill.; Prof. Robert Klindworth, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; Ms. Dawn Aswege, Calvary, Dallas, Texas; Ms. Linda Martens, Faith, Antioch, Ill.; Rev. Phil Sievert, Lord of Life, Thornton, Colo.; and Rev. Phil Huebner, Christ the King, Palm Coast, Fla. Mr. Greg Schmill, director of the Commission on Lutheran Schools, and Mrs. Cindi Holman, national coordinator of early childhood ministries, are serving as advisors.

The task force is looking to finish its work in 2013, in time for the synod convention in July.

Search begins for new director of communications



The synod has begun a nationwide search for a new director of Communication Services. WELS' director of Communication Services is responsible for coordinating all internal and external communications for WELS.

"This position is important for two reasons," says Rev. Mark Schroeder, WELS president. "It's vitally important that members of our synod are kept

informed about the work we do together in proclaiming the saving gospel of Jesus to as many people as possible. This communication needs to be timely, consistent, and accurate. The director of communications is responsible for seeing to it that all communications efforts of the synod accomplish this. Second, the director of communications is often asked by the news media to comment on synod-related matters. In that position, he will speak for the synod and needs to communicate the synod's positions clearly."

Other responsibilities include assisting areas of ministry, synod schools, and district leaders in planning and developing communication strategies and tools as well as developing strategies to promote and maintain WELS' identity and image.

Candidates must be active members of WELS or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. They must also possess at minimum a bachelor's degree in a communications-related field, 10 years of experience in a related field, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

A complete job description can be found at www.wels.net/human-resources.

WELS Christian Life Resources



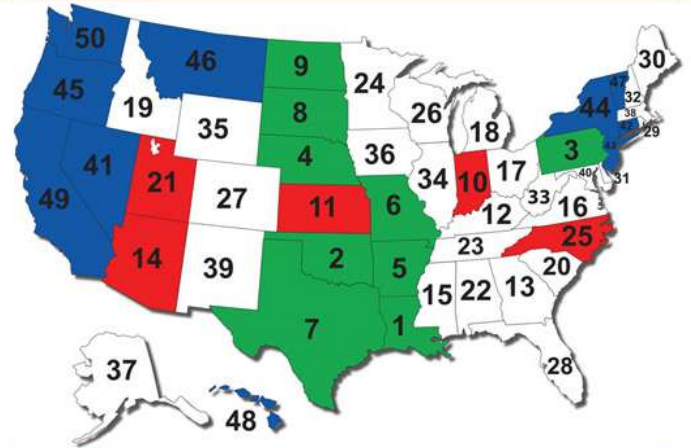
January 27, 2012

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old" (Proverbs 23:22)



Annual Ranking of Pro-Life States: Louisiana Ranked First; Washington at Bottom

Americans United for Life (AUL) released its 7th annual ranking of the most and least pro-life states based on life-issues laws in the United States. **Louisiana** topped the list as the most pro-life state for the second time in three years followed by **Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Nebraska** and **Arkansas**.



AUL's criteria included state laws on informed consent, parental involvement, abortion clinic regulations and funding limitations on the use of public monies for abortion as well as laws related to bio-technologies including cloning, stem cell research, assisted reproduction. In addition, the rankings evaluated states law impacting end of life and euthanasia. The least protective states were Washington (ranked #50), California (#49), Hawaii (#48), and Vermont (#47). [SOURCE: 1/19/12 - LifeNews.com]

Washington State Advances Same-Sex Marriage Measure

A bill to legalize same-sex marriage in the state of Washington moved another step closer to passage. On Thursday the Senate Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections Committee approved the measure on a 4-3 voice vote. The state has had a domestic partnership law in place since 2007. In 2009 it expanded the law to include "everything but marriage." If passed in the current legislative session, same-sex couples will be able to get married starting in June. Opponents threaten to file a referendum to challenge the law. [SOURCE: 1/26/12 - seattlepi.com]

European Council States Euthanasia 'Must Always Be Prohibited'

A leading European governmental body has passed a resolution stating clearly that euthanasia "must always be prohibited." The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), a body of European lawmakers representing the 47-member states of the Council of Europe, approved the measure Wednesday on a 34-16 vote. Although not legally-binding, the resolution would still have an impact on legislative and judicial processes, according to anti-euthanasia advocates. Acclaimed ethicist Wesley J. Smith said, "The declaration would appear to oppose actions taken against the incompetent to end their lives, such as by lethal injection, intentional overdose of morphine, or removal of feeding tubes." Gregor Puppinc, director of the European Center for Law and Justice, also welcomed the adoption of the PACE measure, stating, "This resolution is a major victory for the protection of life and dignity." [SOURCE:1/27/12 - CNS News]

Time for a Change!

January 21, 2012 by Rev. Bob Fleischmann

On January 23, 1973, the media spotlight became diverted. The previous day, January 22, 1973, former U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson had passed away – on the same day as the U.S. Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion through the nine months of a pregnancy. In less than a month, the nation would bury its second former president (Harry S. Truman had died the previous December). So, in preparation of the burial of another former president, the abortion story became lost – relegated to a sidebar.

Yet abortion has left an indelible mark on America:

- **Economic Impact:** The aging of America nags us with ways to cover the increasing health costs of our aging citizens. Having 50 million extra taxpayers might have been helpful – if they had not been aborted.
- **Educational Impact:** We have smaller families, smaller classes, fewer students and even less financial resources than desired for education. Education once postured for growth has been slowly imploding.

- **Communication Impact:** Abortion has become one of the most common surgical procedures in America (about 3,000 performed daily), and yet today we hide its reality with euphemisms. Focusing on the right rather than the reality, the mantra for abortion rights has centered on "choice." It is a "choice" that means "death" for one party in every abortion choice that is made.
- **Eugenics Impact:** At one time Jesse Jackson referred to abortion as "black genocide." Today I think the world is much more color-blind. What marks one for termination is not as objective as race or color but rather the potential of being less productive or being unwanted. That is eugenics – as repulsive as it was in Nazi Germany – sanitized by abortion!

Today leading abortion-rights advocates acknowledge that abortion is murder – the taking of a human life. They now call it "a sad but necessary evil" in order for a woman to retain the right to control her own body.

The abortion mentality has permeated society. "My body, my choice" has transformed the psyche of our culture into selfish entitlement at the highest cost. Today we stand on the precipice of a new era without absolute standards of right and wrong in which any life lacking a subjective level of quality or desirability is at risk.

Most alarming is the apathy of Christians who should know better. When abortion advocates now openly admit life is taken; when abortion is the most common solution in dealing with in-womb disabilities; and the abortion count is far beyond 50 million, why do a majority of Christians remain silent, unmoved and uninvolved?

Christians bring to the table consistent values, a culture of self-sacrifice, and unequalled motivation:

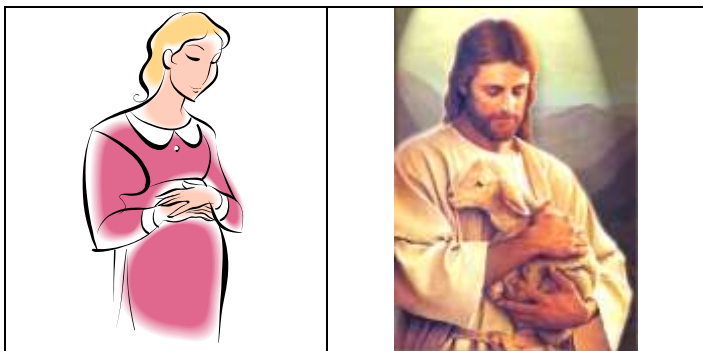
- **Consistent Values:** God's will reflects values that have historically crossed all religious boundaries. It has been called the *Judeo-Christian ethic* and is simply what Scripture alludes to as the law written on our hearts – a natural sense of right and wrong that, though clouded by increased sinfulness, is nevertheless still present.
- **Culture of Self-Sacrifice:** God's Word teaches us to think more of others than

ourselves. While abortion is a ghastly act of extermination of the defenseless by the empowered, it behooves Christians to help mothers live with the choice rather than kill their unborn baby. It is not enough to say abortion is wrong. Christians ought to stand with mothers in helping them after they make the right decision.

- **Unequaled Motivation:** We have the greatest motivation in the universe – God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. Christians know what it means to be lost, useless, powerless, etc. Our sinfulness would guarantee a pointless existence concluding in an eternity of suffering. It is God’s solution to that problem in our lives that motivates us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. When God sent Jesus to die for our sins; to take on our punishment and to pay our price He brought us eternal life. Even death has no sting!

I like life-affirming judicial decisions and electing pro-life candidates. The enduring solution to abortion, however, is found in hearts that are changed by knowing Christ and hearts that are moved by knowing Christ. It permeates our culture with an ethic of modesty and chastity in a world hell-bent in moving in the other direction. It practices forgiveness for those who do wrong and partners with them in turning their lives around.

These past 39 years have brought more than 50 million deaths. It has eroded who we are as humans – the centerpiece of God’s creation –different from all else that was created. It has been long enough. It is time for us to recognize what abortion advocates now recognize – that in abortion a child dies. Killing is not an entitlement given to us. Christians must do their Christian thing and share the message of Christ as our Savior and practice His love in their dealings with all others.



Special Offerings will be gathered during the next months in order to pay for flooring replacement in the narthex and replacement of the leaky roof on the east side of the building.

You may designate the amount of your special offerings on your envelope or check as “Floor” or “Roof.”

Saturday, February 4th, 9 a.m., removal of the narthex carpeting will take place. A machine will be rented to help in this task.



Pastor Joel V. Petermann, Pastor and District President of the WELS North Atlantic District, has accepted the call to be the next President of Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Please remember him and all our ministry education schools, faculty and staff in your prayers.

Incoming MLS freshman may begin reserving a spot at the high school placement testing that will take place here on campus March 10. ... let us know that you are not able to attend. Included in this day is an important parent orientation time. Even if you have gone through orientation with an older student, things do change. We encourage you to make it a priority.

Christian Estate Planning Seminar

You are invited to attend the Christian Estate Planning Seminar that will be held at Our Savior, Perry, on Sunday, February 12th.

The presentation will take place during Bible Class hour, beginning about 10:30a.m.. We will have brunch type snacks, coffee, and refreshments. Call Pastor Johnson with any questions (517-625-3870).



Pastor John Kenyon, who is a Christian Giving Counselor from the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, will present. Pastor Kenyon's ministry to our Michigan and North Atlantic Districts helps our WELS members and congregations in three ways:

1. Encouraging having an estate plan, so that all the Lord has given you may be given to your family and others in the easiest and simplest way that will benefit everyone in the best possible way.
2. Showing different ways of making gifts to our congregation or Synod. Some ways of giving may also allow you to receive an income from the gift, or eliminate taxes such as capital gains taxes.
3. Helping congregations with setting up or maintaining endowments.

If you don't have a will or any estate plan, this will be a good place to get basic information. There will be information on wills, trusts, powers of attorney, medical directives, and new developments with gifting and taxes. Pastor Kenyon can help you with organizing things for your estate. If you already have a plan, but might like to update it, he can help you with that. If you have a plan and are happy with it, the seminar still might give you some current information that will be useful.

Pastor Kenyon can meet with you individually at your home or at church. If you can't make it to the seminar, you can still contact him for information or for a visit at 269-422-5279, or 414-405-9226.



(800) 662-6022

Up to Jerusalem: Devotions for Lent and Easter

by John A. Braun

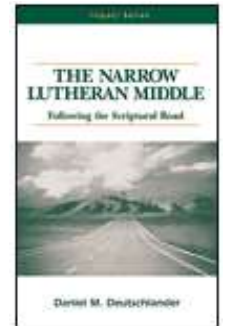


The 55 inspirational devotions in this book tie together Jesus' suffering and final triumph in Jerusalem.

[CC06N0711, \\$17.00](#)

The Narrow Lutheran Middle – Following The Scriptural Road

by, Daniel M. Deutschlander



While reading the Bible, many people make the mistake of favoring one teaching over another. In this book in the **Impact Series**, the author examines a number of seemingly contradictory teachings in the Bible and shows us how to apply them to our lives by letting each teaching stand alone, without trying to resolve them.

Some topics covered in this book include the right and wrong uses of reason in religion; predestination, God's providence, and human responsibility; doubt and presumption; carnal security and despair; God's will and human will; royal priesthood of believers and public ministry; the Great Commission and the doctrine of election; and finding the middle in worship wars.

Professor Deutschlander plumbs the depths of Scripture as he examines these timely topics, all the while showing the reader the "narrow Lutheran middle" of Scripture.

Catalog Item Number: OL-150774

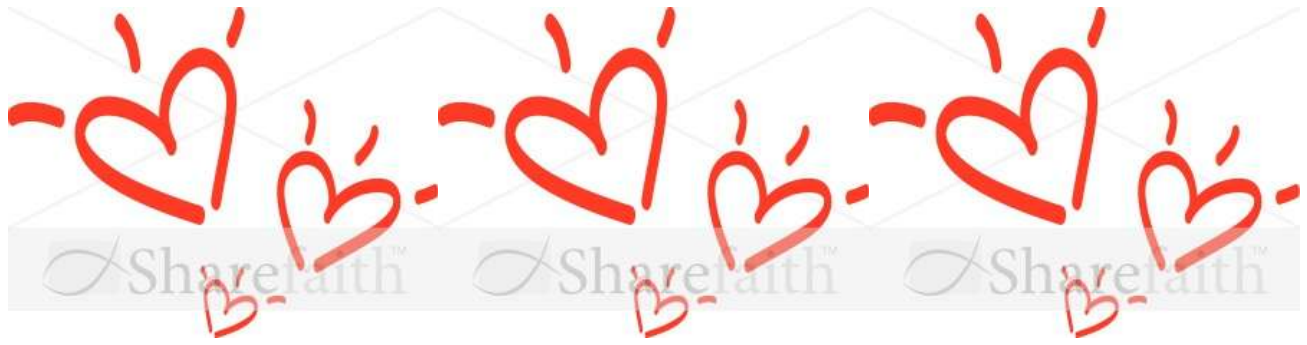
Price: \$ 18.50



1st QUARTER CLEANING CREWS
January, February, March 2012

Saturday	Crew
Feb 4 th	Kunde Clan
Feb 11 th	Jenny Weber
Feb 18 th	Waller Clan
Feb 25 th	Crego Clan

Church cleaning is scheduled for Saturdays but may be done on Thursdays or Fridays as well. A cleaning list will be found in the janitor's closet. We thank all of those who help to clean our church and education facility.



***February
Birthdays & Anniversaries***

- 5 – Kevin Carstensen
- 7 – Abigail Franzmeier
- 14 – Jonathan Mayers
- 19 – Danielle Gardner
- 21 – Curtis Cooke
- 25 – Al & Peggy Hill
- 26 – Tristen McVey




Through the Bible this Year

5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 5, 2012	
Monday	Job 7:1-7
Tuesday	Romans 8:28-20
Wednesday	Mark 1:29-29
Thursday	Psalms 103
Friday	Judges 13:6-24
Saturday	Romans 10:13-17
Sunday	Luke 5:1-11
6th Sunday after Epiphany, February 12, 2012	
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-14
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 1:3-7
Wednesday	Mark 1:40-45
Thursday	Psalms 32
Friday	Deuteronomy 30:1-10
Saturday	2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Sunday	Luke 6:17-26
Transfiguration, February 19, 2012	
Monday	2 Kings 2:1-12a
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012	
Wednesday	Luke 18:9-14
Thursday	Psalms 51a
Friday	2 Samuel 24:10-25
Saturday	Revelation 3:14-22
Sunday	Luke 18:9-14
1st Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012	
Monday	Genesis 22:1-18
Tuesday	Romans 8:31-39
Wednesday	Mark 1:12-15
Thursday	Psalms 3
Friday	Joshua 7:16-26
Saturday	Hebrews 4:14-16
Sunday	Luke 4:1-13



Worship Schedule

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class - 9 am

Worship Service - 10 am

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
4269 S. Durand Rd. Durand MI 48429-9785

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