

August Newsletter 2011



Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Lord Teach Me to Pray

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1

It seems curious that one of the disciples would ask Jesus, "Teach me to pray." What did he see was missing in his own prayer-life as he watched Jesus pray? Maybe it was the earnestness of Jesus' prayer. Maybe it was the way he addressed God as his Father. Maybe it was the content of Jesus' prayers. Whatever was lacking in that disciple's prayer-life, Jesus did address it. He also gave all of his disciples a model to follow for the future.

Lord, teach me to pray. There will be times when I make the same request. I look at my prayer-life and its outcome, and conclude something must be missing. Maybe my prayer isn't passionate enough. Maybe my prayer isn't confident enough. Maybe my prayer isn't filled with all the right words. These assumptions may arise because God doesn't always answer me according to my requests.

This is one of the first lessons Jesus teaches regarding prayer. God will hear and answer my prayers. This assurance does not depend on what I do, but it depends completely on what Jesus did. Because of his work to remove my sin and guilt, as well as his continuing work as my Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5, 6), I know all my prayers will

reach their destination. Another important lesson I need to learn is the Lord will always answer my prayers in the best way possible, and according to his intimate knowledge of my life. The answer may be yes. It may be no. It may even be pray more and trust me.

The final lesson Jesus teaches regards the content of my prayer. Usually my prayers are very personal. They can also be very self-centered and selfish. I see all the things I feel are missing. Then, I ask the Lord to give them to me. Jesus distinguishes between the things I want and the things that are truly necessary. It is a lesson I daily need.

This is why the Lord's Prayer is such a complete prayer. It combines all of Jesus' lessons on prayer and weaves them into a beautiful tapestry of heartfelt requests. Not only do I see how and why I can come to God with complete confidence, I also see what is truly needed. And it all starts with God's undeserved love for me in Jesus.

Lord, teach me to pray. It is a request that will never go unanswered, and its answer will always be undeserved.

Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,

**the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

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**Highlights from the Quarterly Voter's Meeting
Held July 11, 2011**

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was called to order on July 11, 2011 by President Bob Kirschenmann with 11 members in attendance.

Pastor Zastrow opened the meeting with devotion on the topic of sowing of seeds and the devil coming in to plant weeds. Jesus is with us every day as well as in paradise. Trust in God to lead us.

Pastor's Report included Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals, and Transfers from April, May and June, 2011. Baptisms – Lyla June Koch, Brandi Alysa Ratliff, Caleb Richard Compton, Zachary David Door; Confirmations – Douglas William Eckelkamp, Paul Anthony Kassebaum, Alyssa Quinn Bopp, Craig Michael Monzyk; Marriages – None; Funerals – LaVerne Louise Frye; Transfers to and from Ebenezer - None

The minutes were read by the Secretary, Pat Anderson and approved.

Mary Sprick stated that we have Tax Exempt Letters in the office to be used if someone purchases something for the Church.

There were no new voting members.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Any questions were answered by Roland Walkenhorst. The report was read and accepted.

The Elders are still meeting monthly.

The Stewardship Committee will be meeting soon to develop a budget for 2012 to be presented at the October meeting.

Margaret Zastrow stated that the theme for Vacation Bible School will be "Big Jungle Adventure" and that they would again commit to raising \$500 for the Kids Against Hunger program. Karen Sprick stated that \$200 would be matched by Thrivent for this program and Margaret asked the voters to approve donating any monies needed to make up the \$500 pledge. Motion was made and seconded to provide the extra funds if needed.

Judy Hubenthal commented that the Ladies Aid has purchased four pieces of art from artist, Dennis Schmelzer, depicting the church and things on the church campus to be used on bulletin covers, cards, thank you notes, etc. to which we hold the copyright.

The Evangelism committee would like to have a commemorative meal celebrating the Church's 165 year anniversary on September 18, 2011.

No further old business.

New business entailed the giving of 10% of the picnic profits (about \$750) to LCMS World Relief to help disaster victims.

Pastor lead us in the Lord's Prayer at the close of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by President Kirschenmann.

Note from Robin McCoy

“Dear Pastor Zastrow and my brothers and sisters at Ebenezer,

I just received my financial report for July. Please know how much I appreciate your continued support of this ministry that our Lord has blessed me/us with.

Sharing Jesus with my children (in my children's class today) and helping a young man (in my last class today) with some personal problems that he is enduring; leading him to Christ's love, blesses my heart even more because my dear family at Ebenezer gives so graciously so that I can be here to share this Great News to those who have not heard.

Every day that I go to my classroom, sit in our lobby, go out among those in our neighborhood or beyond, please know that each one of you goes there with me and I give thanks.

God's blessings,
In His service and Love,
Robin (Birdie)"

Robin has sent us a six month review of her work in Thailand. Please feel free to pick up a copy from the table near the entrance. There are lots of interesting pictures also in the review.

Thrivent Sponsored Bus Trip

On Saturday, September 10th, the North Franklin County Chapter of Thrivent Financial will be paying for a bus to go to Perry County to visit the area settled by the first Lutherans in Missouri. There will be no cost to anyone except the money needed for your food that day. If you are interested, please sign the sheet in the back of Church. More information will follow as the time gets closer. There will be room for only 54 people, so if you are interested, sign up early on the sheet on the table at the back of Church or call Pastor Mark Goucher at 314-803-3797.

“Are We Still Fighting the Crusades?”

Concordia Seminary announces the Summer Lay Bible Institute to be held on Saturday, August 20, 2011, in Sieck Hall, Room 202, 9 AM to 4 PM. Dr. Paul Robinson, associate professor of historical theology at Concordia

Seminary, will present, “Are We Still Fighting the Crusades?”

“Crusade” is still a powerful work. Whether applied to current armed conflicts or used as anti-Christian polemic, certain ideas and images of the crusades seem to be alive and well. But what were the crusades really? This course will define **crusade**, examine the religious origins of the crusading movement, recount the conquest of the Holy Land (as well as its subsequent loss), and explore the expansion of the crusading idea beyond the Middle Ages.

You may register with credit card by calling the Continuing Education office at 314-505-7486, or by sending a check or completed charge form (please do not email credit card information) along with the registration form found at www.csl.edu. Cost is \$20 per person and includes refreshments and any hand-outs. Please include your phone number and email address when registering. Walk-ins are accepted, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Deadline is August 10th.

Linda Nehring

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Office hours: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Acolyte Schedule for August, 2011

August 7

Cody Adams
Paul Kassebaum
Alyssa Bopp

Bell Ringer -
Corey Adams

August 14

Brent Thurmond
Justine Huellinghoff
Paul Kassebaum

Andrew Kassebaum

August 21

Cody Adams
Alyssa Bopp
Justine Huellinghoff

Jeff Hohlt

August 28

Brent Thurmond
Paul Kassebaum
Alyssa Bopp

Codie Brunkhorst

Usher Schedule for August

1: Elmer Kellmann
2: Paul Brune
3: Jeff Bopp
4: Eugene Scheer
5: Matt Kassebaum
Alternate: Albert Bade
Head Usher: Lee Kassebaum

Altar Guild
Marilyn Bade
Bonnie Gardner

August Birthdays

Renee Hellmann	8-1
Mary Wesche	8-3
Dalphine Deppermann	8-4
Keith Wettling	8-4
Jon King	8-4
Jenise Rohlfing	8-5
Aurora Hilkerbaumer	8-5
Abigail Rose Gilbert	8-8
Mikayla Glosemeyer	8-8
Daniel Davis	8-8
Sarah Brune	8-9
Kevin Gardner	8-10
Kevin Hoemann	8-14
Karen Scheer	8-18
Leola Deppermann	8-19
Pastor Zastrow	8-20
Joan Menke	8-20
Mildred Althage	8-21
Brian Koch	8-22
Lawrence Pelster	8-25
Jillian Huellinghoff	8-25
Wanda Kassebaum	8-26
John Wesche	8-28
Paul Creek	8-29

August Anniversaries

Jerry and Barbara Gilbert	8-7
David and Debbie Door	8-7

We wish all of you God's Blessings on your special day!

Altar Guild Request

We have had several members of our Altar Guild that have indicated they are wanting to retire from our Altar Guild due to age or health reasons. We are looking for several new members to join our group. You would only be asked to serve one month out of the year. Members are asked to provide flowers and prepare for communion during that month. Please consider this volunteer position and let Mary Sprick know if you would like to help our Church in this way. We very much appreciate what all you ladies do each month that you serve!!!!

Recycle Update

July has been a great month for recycling. We have collected \$33.95 in aluminum and \$41.40 for recycle paper. This brings our total for aluminum to \$2,890.30, our total for newspaper to \$438.51, and our grand total for all recycling to \$3,836.53. Thanks to everyone for their patience and support of our recycle program. Remember all of the funds collected from recycling go to our three missionaries – John Strasen, Robin McCoy, and Mike and Cindy Rodewald.

American Cancer Society Dinner

Mark your calendars for August 28th when we will be having a Baked Ham and Pulled Pork Dinner in our dining hall from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM benefitting the American Cancer Society. All profit from this dinner will go to provide cancer research, education, advocacy and patient

services. A free-will offering will be collected with checks written to the American Cancer Society. The work of the American Cancer Society is saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well and get well. You can help in finding cure. Please plan to attend!

A First Class Tour

Pastor Zastrow has received some information from Pastor Darold Reiner a retired minister from Kalispell, Montana.

Pastor Reiner and Pastor Zastrow served together in Montana. Pastor Reiner and his wife Janelle lead tours both to Israel and Turkey/Greece. His next tour is “Teaching Tour of the 7 Churches of Revelation plus Cappadocia, Galatia, Ankaara, Troy and Istanbul. Pastor Reiner wanted to make our congregation aware of this opportunity:

“A First Class “Teaching Tour” of the 7 Churches of Revelation (November 21 – December 1, 2011)--- In addition to visiting each of the sites of the Churches of Revelation, the tour also includes Cappadocia, Galatia, Ankara, Troy, and Istanbul. Rev. Darold Reiner (LCMS) Former LWML International Counselor) is leading this tour from Kalispell, MT. Contact him at 406-890-1149 or reiner@centurytel.net for full brochure.

Me, A Pastor/Me a Deaconess?

If you have found yourself asking this question, now is the time to discuss your future! Rev. Andrew Yeager of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is going to be at Concordia Lutheran Church, 505 S. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, MO on Thursday, August 4th, 2011 from 5 PM – 7 PM. Come and explore the possibilities! Men of all ages are invited, as are their wives, fiancées, and parents. Women interested in the deaconess program are also invited, along with their families. Conferences are individual and informal. Reservations are not required, however, if you are able, please pone Rev. Yeager at 260-452-2178 or his mobile phone at 260-449-0047 or feel free to e-mail him at yeagerat@ctsfw.edu to make an appointment.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2011 is a great success. Our theme Big Jungle Adventure – Our Faith Journey With Jesus has been shared 72 children and 39 helpers. We have received \$500.00 in offerings for Kids Against Hunger as well as school, health, and food supplies for Otis Woodard's Lutheran Outreach. A complete report on enrollment and offerings will be available in a couple of weeks. Many thanks to everyone that helped make Vacation Bible School a success. Our staff this year included:

PRE-SCHOOL – Mary Wesche, Andrea Wesche, Judy Hubenthal, Wanda Gilbert, Holly Elbert, LaRayne Brune, Sarah Brune, Becky and Mike Inman,

KINDERGARTEN – Jane Redhage and Esther Hoemann

GRADE 1 – Mary Zastrow
GRADE 2- Kathy Scheer, Cindy Scheer, and Barb Gilbert
GRADES 3 & 4 – Kim Becerra and Dawn Brune
GRADES 5 & 6 – Becky Summers
GRADES 7 & 8 – Pastor Zastrow
MUSIC – Jennifer Roewe
ARTS & CRAFTS – Karen Sprick, Corinne Midkiff,
Jennifer Thurmond, and Pat Kappelmann
ATTENDANCE – Jennifer Huellinghoff
MONEY COUNTERS – Paula Sprick and Marilyn Bade
KITCHEN HELPERS – Rosemary Frye and Carlyn Unger
YOUTH HELPERS – Alyssa Bopp, Paul Kassebaum,
Danika Donatti, and Jeffery Hohlt
GENERAL HELPERS – Joyce Hohlt, Judy Allmeroth,
Debbie Donatti, and Julie Hilkerbaumer
DIRECTOR – Margaret Zastrow

Sincere thanks to our entire staff for all of their hard work. VBS could not happen without you.

We also have special people that worked behind the scenes to provide supplies and assistance for VBS. The signs posted at each end of Highway YY and in front of Church and drinking cups for snack time were donated by Pepsi-Cola Bottling of New Haven. Signs were posted by Wilbert Baumann. Mary Sprick helped compile song sheets, closing programs, certificates, and registration forms. Marvin Sprick set thermostats to keep us cool. Don Voss generously provided watermelon for snack time. Judy and Phil Hubenthal helped keep our Church and grounds neat and clean. Decorations were donated by

Immanuel in Washington and Karen Sprick. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided matching funds for Kids Against Hunger. Countless people donated supplies, food, drinks, pennies, and monetary gifts. Sincere thanks and blessings for your generous gifts of love. **Next year's VBS theme will be "Amazing Desert Journey – Where Jesus leads us Home" July 23 – July 27, 2012**

Monthly Treasurer's Summary

June 2011

Beginning checking balance	\$16,166.93
Receipts	\$16,376.26
Disbursements	\$12,540.63
Ending checking balance	\$20,002.56
LCEF savings balance	\$68,588.44
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$18,292.69
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$2,400.00
Monthly receipts needed to meet budget	\$11,798.00
Surplus or (shortfall) in actual receipts	\$4,578.26

AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's vacation to Minnesota-----	2	3 No Bible Study Class	4	5	6 Worship with Holy Communion 5 PM Pastor Goucher here
7 8 th Sunday After Pentecost (Green) Sunday School 9 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10 AM Pastor Robert Cochrane here	8	9 Elders 7 PM	10 Basic Christianity Bible Study 7 PM	11	12 Ladies Aid 1:30 PM	13 Worship 5 PM
14 9 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10:00 AM	15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord Mission Society 7:30 PM	16 Pastor and Margaret to VALPO	17 No Bible Study Class	18	19	20 Worship with Holy Communion 5 PM
21 10 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Sunday School 9 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10 AM Dining hall reserved	22	23 Education Committee/Sunday School Teachers 7 PM	24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle (Red) Basic Christianity Bible Study 7 PM	25 Evangelism Committee 7 PM	26	27 Worship 5 PM
28 11 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM American Cancer Society Dinner	29	30	31 Basic Christianity Bible Study 7 PM			