



The Messenger

February 2006

Pastor Gregory Pope

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Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Corner

Well, we're now in February, a pretty boring month you'd have to say, except for the big day in the middle. Of course, Valentine's Day has developed some fun traditions that most of us really enjoy. First of all, there's the candy hearts, so charming in their simplicity – a cute message and a reliable sweet crunch that almost gets better with staleness. And of course, there's the Valentine card. If your Valentine card experience is anything like mine, you'll have your hay-day early on, and then later on, with a major, multi-year lull in between. Early grade school is *prime* Valentine card time. Your life is simple enough that you can consider half the class worthy of a homemade crayon Valentine, without embarrassment. But then you go through the self-conscious years where Valentine cards become a lot more serious. You don't hand one out unless that person really *has* your heart, so it might be till high school or college that you give a Valentine's card again, depending on whether your relationships make it through February or not. But even if you're paired up when February 14 rolls around, you hear of those couples who agree to boycott Valentine's Day mutually to elude the money trap set by card stores, flower shops, candy shops and the like.

The whole business of Valentine's Day may leave us confused as Christians. What's it all about? What is the most God-pleasing way to celebrate it? The origins of this holiday only seem to cloud the issue more. Some legends say Valentine's Day is based on an ancient Roman cult. Others say that it is based on the martyrdom of Valentius the Christian priest, in the third century. But even the cause of Valentius' death is debatable. Some think he was put to death for defying Claudius II's decree. The emperor forbid marriage for soldiers, because he thought that family concerns would distract them from their duties, but Valentius continued to perform soldier marriages anyways, until he was executed. Other traditions, however, say that he was killed for trying to rescue Christians from Roman torture, and that's why Valentine's Day was named after him. But really, it doesn't matter *why* we have this day called Valentine's.

What matters is *that we have it*. Our epistle lesson last week comes to mind. The issue was meat sacrificed to idols. Around the time of the apostles, idol worshippers would sacrifice animals to their idols and then sell the leftover meat at the market to the general public. The Corinthian Christians thought they would sin if they ate that meat because it had been previously used for idolatry, but Paul reminded them. **“Food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do (I Cor. 8).”** You could insert “Valentine’s Day” in place of “Food” in the above sentence, and “celebrate” in place of “eat”. Valentine’s Day is neither bad nor good in and of itself, regardless of its true origins. What matters is what you do with it. So let’s do well.

Let’s consider Valentine’s Day just another good gift from our generous God – to spice up a boring month. If you’re lonely or bothered by this holiday, pray to the Lord persistently, and you can bet he’ll give you a new attitude or, eventually, a companion to make the day more enjoyable. Because God promises to answer our prayers. Remember. **“Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you (Luke 11:9).”** There are no maybes in that verse.

Above all, Valentine’s Day can be a day to reflect on the true meaning of love. **“This is love: not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (I John 4:10).”** And whether we give chocolates, roses, a card, or a hug to that special someone, we know where our motivation is. **“We love because he first loved us (I John 4:19).”** All that and candy hearts, too. What a treat!

Pastor Gregory Pope



Message From The President

VOTER'S MEETING

At the quarterly voter's meeting the voter's approved a raise for the church office secretary effective February 1, 2006. This is the one-year anniversary of Anna Knutson accepting the position. Without her this newsletter would probably not be happening along with all the other duties she performs. We are very thankful for her service.

The voters directed the Board for Building and grounds to check into replacing some of the carpeting in church. Specifically the aisle and front of church carpet. The board will get quotes to on replacement.

The lighting issues in church are still being resolved. No good recommendation was available. Seems most lighting people are busy as response has been slow.

The cemetery committee will be negotiating with the county on a one-time payment for veterans' graves perpetual care. We have 10 such graves in our cemetery.

The voters have advised the council to check into outsourcing the congregation's financial affairs. No one has stepped forward to accept the Financial Secretary's position. As the responsibilities of this position increase and become more complex this may be the best alternative. More to come on this later.

The Building committee now has 4 members and is still looking for one or two more. They are especially looking for younger members for their input into where the congregation may be heading. The committee is trying to look at not only the needs now, but what Trinity may need in the future while developing their plan.

This is a short overview of the meeting.

John Smith, Congregational President

CHURCH ORDER

In the New Testament we are encouraged often to be orderly in our worship and handling of church affairs. One of those items of order in our Synod is the passing of members from one congregation to another.

I don't know if there is a written policy, but I do know that it is common knowledge that if members wish to transfer to another WELS congregation they should put their intentions in writing to the congregation at which they are members.

This starts a number of actions:

- The original congregation transfers the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of these members to the new congregation. This is done with a letter.
- This letter also informs the new congregation of the spiritual needs of those members.
- This removes the members from the original congregation's membership file.
- The original congregation transfers any pertinent records (such as births, baptisms, confirmation, etc.) to the member's new congregation.
- This allows the new congregation to welcome the new members into their midst with the knowledge of who they are receiving.

The letter of transfer should be written by the member and signed and given to the pastor, church office, or any church councilman so that the proper action may be taken per that congregation's policy. In the event of a family, the husband and wife should sign the letter and indicate any dependent children that also will transfer. If a child of adult age (18) is also transferring, they should write their own letter and sign it.

This also relieves the pastor of the burden of a mistake. In today's world the need for formal notification is greater than ever before.

John Smith, Congregational President

TRINITY CHURCH IN EXILE

If you are not already aware worship services have been moved to the Trinity Family Center during the redecorating.

I have heard some rather positive remarks concerning this move.

- “We are finally handicap accessible.”
- “It looks very church like here.”
- “It will be very cozy”
- And from the Pastor, “I really am getting close and personal with the members.”

This was on the first night of worship in our “new” surroundings.

It will be “cozy” and we ask your help in catering to all our members. Please seat yourself with others to come in mind. Please fill the chairs next to other members so there are fewer one-chair openings. We would like not to have to split couples and families as the seats fill up. Saturday nights generally have more room. Some, not all of you, may want to change your worship habit to Saturday night.

As far as Pastor’s comment, he is correct. I think the back row in the Family Center is as close or closer to him than the front pews in church.

John Smith, Congregational President

Announcements

Volunteers For MLHS Hot Lunch

February 7, 2006 is the date Trinity Liberty is serving hot lunch at Manitowoc Lutheran High School. The menu will be: Nacho Tacos & Fixings, Pickles, ice cream sandwiches, and juice or milk. If you are able to volunteer to help serve or help monetarily that would be greatly appreciated. Any questions please contact Mary Liermann 758-2292. Thank you!

Thrivent Funds

We have now entered our new Thrivent year. Trinity's Thrivent Team would like to allocate our funds to those activities that Trinity has planned for the year. Could you please contact Carol Glaeser @ 775-3941 if your group has an activity planned for 2006 and would like to receive Thrivent Funds. We would appreciate it if all planned activities be submitted by February 12th so that funds could be allocated.

WCUB Radio Broadcast

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for anyone wishing to sponsor a month of WCUB radio broadcast. The cost to sponsor one month is \$76.00. Checks may be made to WCUB Radio or to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church.

Sunday School Superintendent

We would like to thank Mark Knutson for his years of service as Sunday School Superintendent. He has announced that this will be his final year as Superintendent. We are now looking for someone to fill this position. If you feel you are interested in helping to fill this position please contact either John Smith, Church President at 726-4323, Pastor Pope at 758-3800, or Mark Knutson at 775-4635 (afternoons).

Pastor Victor Headrick's 25th Anniversary

You are cordially invited to attend Pastor Victor Headrick's 25th anniversary celebration in the ministry at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church (Newtonburg) on February 26th. We will begin with a special worship service at 3:00 PM with Pastor Kevin Cortez preaching. Following the service we will have a potluck and catered chicken in our multi-purpose room with some light entertainment. If you plan to attend the meal, please RSVP by calling our church office at (920) 758-2633.

Bible Study On The Web

If you are unable to make Pastor Pope's Bible study on Sunday mornings the Power Point presentation can be found on Trinity's web site. (Click on the monthly Calendar, it's under each Sunday). <http://www.trinityliberty.org/>

Church Attendance for January

January 2005

Week 1: 183

Week 2: 151

Week 3: 140

Week 4: 136

Week 5: 147

January 2006

Week 1: 119 (Sat. 56/Sun.63)

Week 2: 169 (Sat. 29/Sun 140)

Week 3: 162 (Sat. 36/Sun 126)

Week 4: 171 (Sat. 29/Sun. 142)

Week 5: 145 (Sat.44/Sun. 101)

(*Week 5, 2006 is first week at Family Center.)

Total Attendance for the month of January 2006: 710

January Monthly Averages:

January 2004: 130

January 2005: 151

January 2006: 153

Bible Study Attendance



Sunday January 1st: No Bible Study

Sunday January 8th: 15

Sunday January 15th: 20

Sunday January 22nd: 20

Sunday January 29th: 20

Sunday School Attendance

Pre – k thru 8th Grade

January 1st: No Sunday School

January 8th: 20

January 15th: 22

January 22nd: 23

Sunday School Perfect Attendance For January!

Pre- K & Kindergarten: Brittany Hochkammer, Lindsay Glaeser, Benjamin Kiesow, Joshua Kiesow

1st & 2nd Grade: Allyson Jungbluth, Amanda Knutson, Heidi Knutson, Lauren Petersen, Jasmine Smith

3rd & 4th Grade: Nicole Glaeser, Kalie Knutson, Rachel Nagel, Tyler Petersen, Lynsay Smith

5th – 8th Grade, Breanna Glaeser, Uriah Matznick, Joe Nagel, Samantha Ott

A+

Congratulations to the Sunday School kids who memorized all their memory work for the month of December!!!:

Pre- K & Kindergarten: Lindsay Glaeser, Brittany Hochkammer, Caden Jungbluth, Benjamin Kiesow, Joshua Kiesow, Faith Knutson

1st & 2nd Grade: Hanna Bratz, Heidi Bratz, Alex Free, Allyson Jungbluth, Amanda Knutson, Heidi Knutson, Lauren Petersen, Jasmine Smith

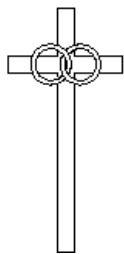
3rd & 4th Grade: Nicole Glaeser, Desirae Kiesow, Kalie Knutson, Rachel Nagel,

5th – 8th Grade: Breanna Glaeser, Brett Glaeser, Joe Nagel, Samantha Ott



A Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to...

2/5 Connie Mangin
2/6 Elizabeth Otto
2/13 Lois Fischer
2/14 Betsy Kenneke
2/16 Emma Wallander
2/17 Hope Lovell
2/19 Heidi Knutson
2/22 Ann Luebke
2/23 Edna Glaeser – 91 Years Young!
2/23 John Nagel
2/27 Sharon Arnold
2/27 Ed Matthias - 82 Years Young!



Happy Anniversary To...

There are no Anniversaries to report this month!

***If you have a January birthday or anniversary and it is not listed or your anniversary is listed incorrectly please let us know so we can update your information. Thanks!**



February 11 th	Al Bonfigt, Juel Knutson
February 12 th	James Glaeser, Brian Glaeser, Larry Hochkammer, Mark Knutson
February 18 th	Harold Bratz, August Teesch
February 19 th	Eli Kenneke, Fritz Wehausen, David Schultz, Dean Luebke
February 25 th	John Smith, Steve Pleuss
February 26 th	Len Arnold, Brad Liermann, Gary Vetter, Derrick Krey
March 4 th	Al Bonfigt, Mark Kiesow, Andy Kiesow
March 5 th	James Glaeser, Brian Glaeser, Earl Glaeser, Elwood Free
March 11 th	Harold Bratz, Chris Mangin
March 12 th	Warren Lutze, Mark Knutson, Derrick Krey, Wayne Otto

**If you are unable to make your scheduled service,
Please call Brian Glaeser @ 775-3941.**

Thanks,

Brian

Altar Guild Schedule



Group 2: Elizabeth Otto, Lois Glaeser, Sharon Arnold, Mary Liermann

February 11-12: Communion

February 25-26: Communion / White Paraments



Kids Corner

Bible Quiz

1. A woman touched the hem of Jesus garment, and was healed of this problem?
 - a. Leprosy
 - b. Issues of blood
 - c. Palsy
 - d. Blindness

2. This man was clothed in camel's hair?
 - a. John the Baptist
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Paul
 - d. Peter

3. This man gave his son a richly ornamented robe?
 - a. Israel
 - b. Isaac
 - c. Noah
 - d. David

4. This man borrowed his brother's garment to try to impersonate him?
 - a. Benjamin
 - b. Andrew
 - c. Cain
 - d. Jacob

5. This man's garments couldn't compare to the lilies of the field?
 - a. Christ
 - b. David
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar
 - d. Solomon

Answers: 1.) b [Matt. 9:20] 2.) a [Mark. 1:6] 3.) a [Gen.37:3] 4.) d [Gen. 27:15] 5.) d [Luke 12:27]

Word Search

D	T	E	R	P	R	E	T	N	I
S	L	H	E	A	R	T	J	A	C
N	O	I	T	A	L	E	V	E	R
E	V	A	T	S	E	R	A	C	A
C	E	R	T	I	R	I	P	S	R
I	T	A	D	R	E	A	M	S	T
T	R	B	A	P	E	A	C	E	S
S	P	R	E	S	E	N	C	E	U
U	Y	L	O	H	Y	M	N	E	R
J	A	H	T	S	E	S	O	M	T

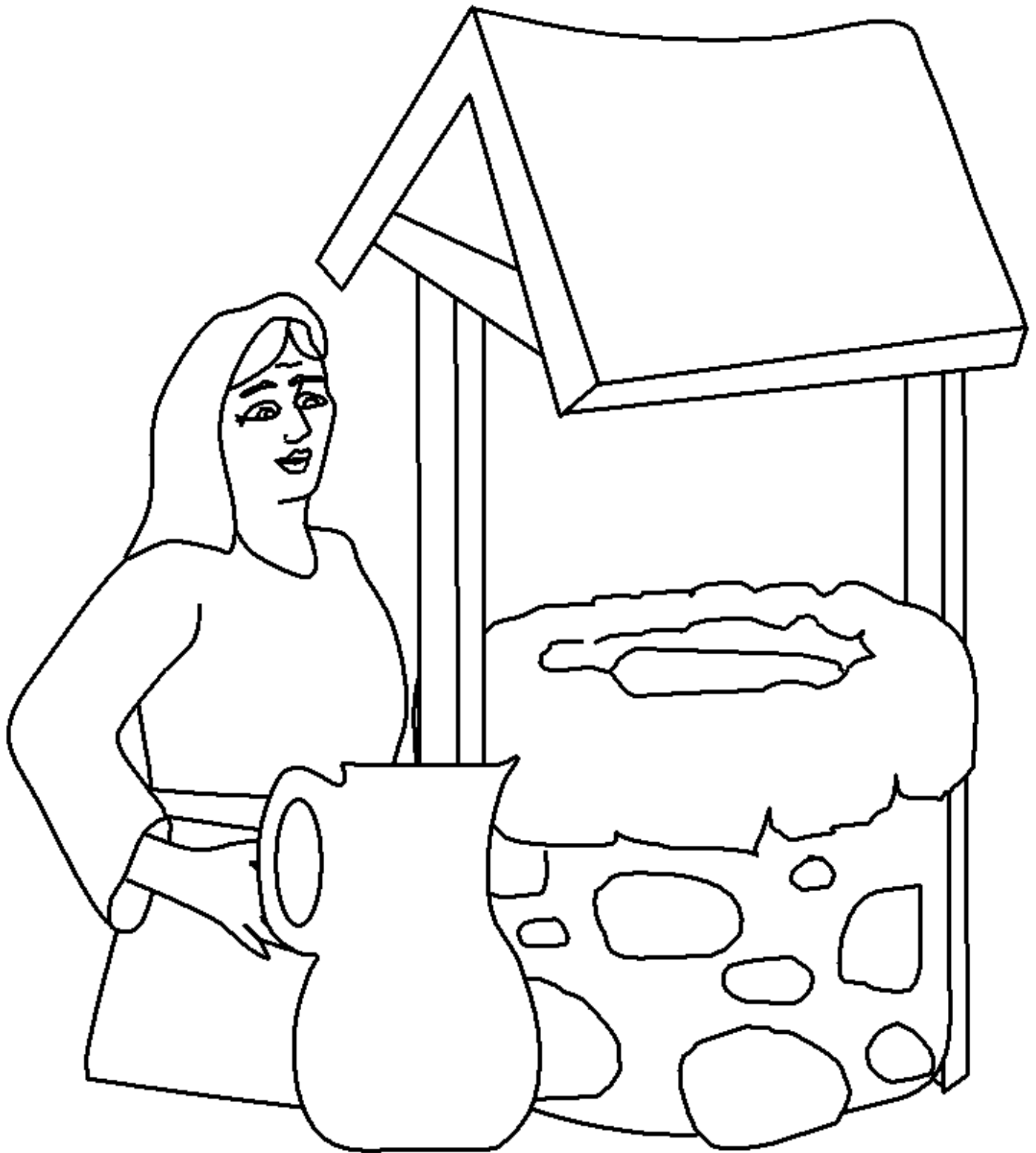
(UP / DOWN/ DIAGONAL / BACKWARDS)

1. Love
2. Moses
3. Hymn
4. Heart

5. Care
6. Trust
7. Holy
8. Spirit

9. Presence
10. Peace
11. Justice
12. Revelation

13. Dream
14. Interpret
15. Hosea



So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. *1 Kings 17:10*