



The Messenger

May 2006

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Pastor's Corner

A Novel Concept

For whatever reason, I have gotten into a kick lately of reading “world classic” novels. What officially designates a world classic, I do not know. But the unofficial standard I’m following is that it be found on the swiveling shelf of the *Young Adult Paperback Classics* section of the Manitowoc Public Library. Though, so far, my selections have been limited in scope – a few from twentieth century America, a few from nineteenth century Russia – the defining elements of a classic novel seem to be emerging already.

A classic novel expresses universal themes that speak to all people of all ages, much the way classical music does. The writing must be eloquent, or at least highly original, the plot epic, and the characters dynamic. This last feature especially has caught my attention. So far, every classic novel I have read has included complex characters. Complex doesn’t say enough. These characters are *disturbed*. Some more than others, but each is infected with a darkness that carries him or her from one folly to the next. As the plot thickens, so does the personal darkness, causing more strife for the character and more amusement/disgust for the reader. Rarely, from what I’ve seen, a classic novel will pull out of this tale-spin at the end, resolving itself in renewal and redemption. Just as frequently, though, the book will end in enigma and menace. “*The characters are safe and sound for now, but don’t expect it to last!*”

Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger, though disappointingly profane in language, involves a precocious narrator, a teenage boy, who runs away from home. He offers many insights on adult life that are lost on the adults he encounters, but at the same time he struggles with a juvenile restlessness, a rebellious spirit that keeps him from settling down with his family at home.

The Lord of the Flies, by William Golding, tells the story of a group of young boys who end up alone on an island. Pretty soon the boys separate into factions and mimic the savagery of the adult world they had come to resent.

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky, [Can you tell this is a Russian one?] tells the dark tale of a seemingly neurotic man who commits a horrible crime, and then writhes in guilt and in the fear of being found out.

War and Peace, by Leo Tolstoy, [yes, I'm actually reading it], tells the story of the Napoleonic wars. The action shifts back and forth between Russian high society and battle scenes, highlighting the dramas of each, and focusing on several Russian families throughout. I haven't reached the end yet, but at this point, the city of Moscow is in trouble, and so is Napoleon. The irony of this thirteen-hundred-plus page book is that, in essence, the bloody battlefield is the same as the cultured salons. Intrigue, self-promotion, self-preservation, and fear reign.

See the connection between all these classic novels? They all dwell in that eerie darkness, the darkness of the human heart. You don't need to read an acclaimed novel to see it. Flip through the newspaper, and you see the atrocities and crimes the human heart is capable of. But let's not miss the true lesson in all this. It's not just depraved murderers. We're *all* stuck with a share of this darkness. What novelists grasp at with hundreds of pages of character development, 1 Corinthians 8 nails in one line. **"The sinful mind is hostile to God, it does not submit to God's laws nor can it do so. (7)"**

We've all got a sinful nature that wants nothing to do with God. A dark plot from Satan. But, thankfully, the old foe's only got a bit part in the overall plot. He hasn't written the Book. The world's greatest classic *does* end in renewal and redemption. 2 Corinthians 4, **'For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.'** Our darkness is slain in Christ's cross. Forgiveness. Faith. Hope. No novel, it's the gospel truth.

Pastor Gregory Pope



Message From The President

Announcements

Church Clean-up Day

The Building and Grounds Committee is leading our Church Clean-up Day on May 13th at 9 A.M. until around noon. A list of items on the agenda for that day are included in the messenger also. May 20th will be the rain day alternative. Please come and help give your church a thorough spring cleaning. We could use plenty of hands!

Special VOTERS meeting

There will be a special VOTERS meeting after Sunday Service on 5/14 to approve \$1500 for stained wood frames around murals, approve \$695.21 for landscaping around the parsonage deck, and north house walls. Meeting will be in the church immediately after the morning service has been dismissed.

Holy Communion In May

Holy Communion in May will be served on the 3rd and 4th weekends in May due to Confirmation being held on the 3rd weekend.

WELS SINGLES

There are S.H.A.R.E. The News sheets in the narthex for any WELS singles interested in meeting and enjoying the company of other Christians.

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

*The family of Jane Schultz, who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday. May they find comfort knowing that she has full relief from suffering now and is with her Lord.

* Yvonne Netzer, who is being stabilized at Aurora, Manitowoc after heart problems.

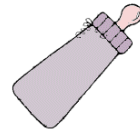
(If you have any prayer requests please let Pastor Pope or the church secretary know).

Messenger Surveys

There are surveys included in the May Messenger regarding the Messenger and the bulletin. Your input would be greatly appreciated. A box is in the Narthex for the finished surveys.

Attention MLHS Delegates

There is a Federation meeting on Saturday, May 13th @ 9:00 A.M. You should be receiving a Delegate packet in the mail soon. This is a very important meeting and will begin with a presentation by Cornerstone Consultants explaining the results of the "readiness survey" recently conducted at Congregations throughout the Federation. This presentation will last approximately one hour. Additionally, elections for the Board of Control will take place at this meeting. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. I realize that this date conflicts with Church clean-up day. However, it is important that Trinity has representation at the Federation meetings.



Mellstrom Benefit

The benefit for David & Tara Mellstrom and their infant daughters Makayla and Nicole will be held on Saturday May 13th at Butch's Opera House in St. Nazianz. They have outstanding medical bills due to Tara and the infants having to be in the hospital for so long. Please come and show your support!



*Brat Fry starts at 4 P.M.

*D.J. Crazy Train starts at 7 P.M.

*Raffles, desserts, and lots of fun!

\$2.00 cash donation or Baby Supply at the door.

*Anyone that wishes to help by making a dessert for the benefit, please have it at the church by 2 P.M. that day and we will be sure it gets there! Thanks!



Church Attendance for April

April 2006

Week 1: 138
Week 2: 160
Week 3: 249
 (Easter fell on this weekend)
Week 4: 238
 (St. John's 1st & 2nd Grade sang)
Week 5: 118
Monthly Average: 181

April 2004

Week 1: 96
Week 2: 202
 (Easter fell on this weekend)
Week 3: 132
Week 4: 120

Monthly Average: 137

April 2005

Week 1: 144
Week 2: 176
Week 3: 148
Week 4: 168

Monthly Average: 159

Lenten Season 2004

Week 1= 77
Week 2= 58
Week 3= 44
Week 4= 54
Week 5= 60
Week 6= 44
Maundy Thursday= 84
Good Friday= 49
 (Easter 1= 0)
 (Easter 2= 202)
Easter Total= 202

Lenten Season 2005

Week 1= 98
Week 2= 73
Week 3= 60
Week 4= 82
Week 5= 72
Week 6= 61
Maundy Thursday= 87
Good Friday= 75
 (Easter 1= 54)
 (Easter 2= 182)
Easter Total= 236

Lenten Season 2006

Week 1= 74
Week 2= 53
Week 3= 54
Week 4= 60
Week 5= 56
Week 6= 62
Maundy Thursday= 69
Good Friday= 88
 (Easter 1= 62)
 (Easter 2= 187)
Easter Total= 249

*All Lenten Services at School
 *Easter was back in Church.

Bible Study Attendance



Sunday April 2nd: 9
 Sunday April 9th: 14
 Sunday April 16th: No Bible Study
 Sunday April 23rd: 7
 Sunday April 30th: 6

Sunday School Attendance

Pre – k thru 8th Grade

April 2nd: 22

April 9th: 25

April 16th: No Sunday School

April 23rd: 20

April 30th: 20

Sunday School Perfect Attendance For April!

Pre- K & Kindergarten: Lindsay Glaeser, Benjamin Kiesow, Joshua Kiesow, Faith Knutson

1st & 2nd Grade: Amanda Knutson, Heidi Knutson, Lauren Petersen

3rd & 4th Grade: Kalie Knutson, Tyler Petersen

5th – 8th Grade, Breanna Glaeser, Trisha Petersen

A+

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

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, Tyler Petersen, Lynsay Smith

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

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
Matthew 24:14

Synodical Council counts blessings

WELS Synodical Council met April 27-28 at the Synod Administration Building in Milwaukee, Wis. During the two-day meeting, the council reviewed ministry programs, support forecasts, preliminary budget allocations for 2007-2009, and a restructuring proposal.

Although hampered by limited budgets, ministry efforts have been blessed. The Board for World Missions reported that funding was available for a third missionary to India and for a World Missions professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis. The funding is due, in part, to a new cost-saving insurance plan used by world missionaries. The Board for Home Missions also reported its 38 new ministry openings as a result of partnering with local congregations and district mission boards. The Board for Parish Services reported that prison ministry has grown to more than 40,000 inmates being served. The Board for Ministerial Education noted that 112 graduates from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., and 47 pastoral candidates and 41 vicar candidates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will be available for assignments later this month.

The Synodical Council also heard reports of the monetary blessings of WELS. Congregation Mission Offerings, individual gifts, and support from the Schwan Foundation are all on the rise. In addition, since the opening of mission advancement offices at each of the ministerial education schools in the fall of 2005, nearly \$4 million has been given to the schools. WELS Ministerial Education Schools include: Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.; Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. These gifts have helped ease the projected operating deficits at the schools.

“Our doubts and fears have been addressed by the risen Lord,” says Vice President Wayne Mueller. “Let’s give thanks that he, not we, directs and guides his church. The One who won heaven for us also holds our hand along the path that leads there.”

Preliminary budget allocations for 2007-2009 were established by the Synodical Council. These allocations reflect the synod’s mission and vision. Outreach at home and abroad was allocated 45%, Ministerial Education received 26%. The balance of the budget was divided between Parish Services, and the three other areas of ministry. There is concern, however, that cost increases will exceed support. If that happens, further ministry reductions will likely be necessary.

As a final order of business the Synodical Council approved sending WELS President Karl Gurgel’s restructuring proposal to the 2006 district conventions for review and comment. The proposal will be viewable online at the end of May. The council also viewed a video unveiling the new endowment efforts for missions and ministerial education.

More detailed information on all aspects of the Synodical Council meeting will be provided by the President’s Update, a video streaming report, available on www.wels.net/jumpword/presreport beginning Tuesday, May 9. An executive summary of the Synodical Council proceedings is available at www.wels.net/jumpword/sc.

May 2006 WELS Technology Update

Purchasing Program Launch:

On Monday, May 1 we officially launched our new synod-wide purchasing program called ShopWELS. If you haven't already signed up, you can visit <http://www.shopwels.net> to find out more or to participate. This is phase one of the program which includes purchasing agreements with Hewlett Packard (laptop and desktop computers, servers, printers, monitors, LCD projectors, etc.), Software Spectrum (almost all available computer software), Tech Depot (both computer hardware and software products), Office Depot (office products and supplies), and various communications providers (local and long distance phones service, internet, cellular service, and phone systems). Discounts will range from 5 to 25 percent on most products.

Most of our agreements are based on volume. That means that the more volume we purchase through these programs the lower the prices will go. I think you will find that in most cases these products and services will be lower than what you might find locally. Even if they are simply "competitive", please consider using the program, as your business will help us get better discounts going forward. Hopefully everybody wins. On June 1, the program will be open to individual WELS members. In my June Technology Update I'll provide an update. Again, if you want more information go to <http://www.shopwels.net>.

GoodSearch:

You may have seen a reference to this search site in this month's *Forward in Christ*. It is worth a look. GoodSearch is an internet search engine that donates 1 cent for every search made to a charity you designate. WELS has registered as a charity with the search engine. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and enter "Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod" in the "I'm Supporting" box on the page. Then every time you do an internet search a penny goes toward synod work. While a penny may not sound like a lot, it does add up. For instance, if each called worker within the synod did two searches a day, that would mean about \$40,000 would be contributed to the synod each year. I've found the search results to be as good as Google, since GoodSearch uses Yahoo technology. You can even see how much has been contributed so far by clicking on the "Amount Raised" button. Please share this information with your congregation members as well.

WhatAboutJesus.com:

Some of you may already be aware of this site. Currently managed by the Commission on Evangelism, this site was designed for the new Christian or unchurched individual. It contains straightforward content not only answering the "What about Jesus?" question, but all kinds of other questions that someone considering Christianity might ask. The site has recently been redesigned and launched on May 1.

Call Service Web Streaming:

I'm happy to announce that we will be able to broadcast a number of upcoming events live over the internet. On May 20, we will be streaming the Martin Luther College Commencement Service at 10:00am and their Call Service at 2:30pm. Then on May 23, the Vicar Call Service from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will be streamed at 7:00pm. Finally we will stream the Pastor Call Service on May 25 at 10:00am. All listed times are Central Daylight Time. On the day of the event you can go to <http://streams.wels.net> to "tune in."

Just one other reminder. Please don't forget about EduTech on June 26-29 in Oshkosh, WI. This is a combination of our former National Teacher's Conference and WELSTech. Wonderful workshops and interesting speakers are being offered. This conference is for anyone involved in the educational process - pastors, teachers, or lay people. Go to <http://www.wels.net/jumpword/edutech> to register. The early bird registration pricing has been extended to May 19!

That is all for this month. May the Lord bless your work in his name!

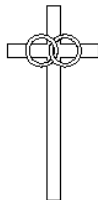
Martin Spriggs, WELS Chief Technology Officer, martin.spriggs@sab.wels.net
414.256.3250



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

5/2 Jessica Jungbluth
5/2 Mabel Liermann
5/3 Rachel Nagel
5/4 Dan Prater
5/6 Jim Liermann
5/11 Lori Schleis
5/12 Larry Fischer
5/15 Ivy Johnson
5/18 Mona Hansen
5/19 Elwood Free

5/20 Marion Moldenhauer –
84 Years Young!
5/21 Michael Kaufmann
5/24 Al Gulseth
5/24 Jessica Johnson
5/26 Tim Petersen
5/26 Elaine Prater
4/27 Tabitha Matznick
5/27 Sheri Schreiber



Happy Anniversary To...

5/1 Todd & Tammy Glaeser – 13 Years!
5/13 Shelby & Ivy Johnson – 23 Years!
5/19 Douglas & Lori Richter – 16 Years!
5/20 Larry & Karen Teesch – 34 Years!
5/27 Warren & Pam Lutze – 28 Years!
5/28 Gary & Denise Preston – 23 Years!

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



Date: Ushers on Schedule:

- April 29th Al Bonfigt, Mark Kiesow, Andy Kiesow
April 30th Warren Lutze, Elwood Free, Brian Glaeser, Larry Hochkammer
- May 6th Harold Bratz, Chris Mangin
May 7th Eli Kenneke, Jeff Knutson, Fritz Wehausen, Dean Luebke
- May 13th Al Bonfigt, August Teesch
May 14th James Glaeser, Bob Lietzau, Jesse Lietzau, Earl Glaeser
- May 20th John Smith (Server), Brad Liermann (Server), Jim Liermann, Peter Liermann
May 21st Len Arnold (Server), Mark Knutson (Server), Gary Vetter, Derrick Krey
- May 27th Warren Lutze (Server), David Schultz (Server), Jim Liermann, Peter Liermann
May 28th James Glaeser (Server), Brad Liermann (Server), James Ott, Wayne Otto

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

Communion Liturgy: Take, Eat; This is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.



Altar Guild Schedule

Group 1: Helen Isaacson, Elaine Petersen, Donna Nagel, Bonnie Wagner

Our Greeters For May

- May 7th Dan & Anna Knutson Family
May 14th Mark & Darlene Kiesow
May 21st Donna Nagel & Harold Bratz
May 28th Shelby & Ivy Johnson Family



Kids Corner

Bible Quiz - Plants of the Bible.

1. Cedars are renowned in the Bible as coming from this place?
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Jericho
 - c. Tyre
 - d. Lebanon

2. Noah's ark was made out of this type of wood?
 - a. Gopher
 - b. Cedar
 - c. Oak
 - d. Pine

3. This plant provided Jonah with shade (for a while)?
 - a. A Water Lily
 - b. A Fern
 - c. A Palm
 - d. A Gourd

4. Aaron's rod that budded brought forth this type of fruit?
 - a. Fig
 - b. Almonds
 - c. Olive
 - d. Apple

5. Absalom was fleeing battle when he got his head caught in this type of plant?
 - a. Oak
 - b. Cedar
 - c. Mangrove
 - d. Bramble

Word Search

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

(UP / DOWN/ DIAGONAL / BACKWARDS)

1. Lives
2. Victory
3. Won
4. Alleluia
5. Joyful
6. Morning
7. Tomb
8. Almighty
9. Reign
10. Grace
11. Prayer
12. Thanks
13. Save
14. Message
15. Sing

Noah, his family and all the animals left the ark and thanked God for saving them. God said, "I promise I will never again send such a flood. And each time it rains, I'll send a rainbow to remind you of my promise to you."

