



# *The Messenger*

## *July 2009*

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## **Everything in its Place**

Cleanliness relates to our faith. I'm not saying "cleanliness is next to godliness." Despite popular belief, that saying doesn't come from the Bible. And it's vague. What exactly does it mean? Are Shout and Mr. Clean earthly elements of a third sacrament? Of course not, but the fact that I asked the silly question illustrates the problem of a semi-religious saying like, "cleanliness is next to godliness". It carries a self-righteous connotation that just asks to be ridiculed.

When I say that cleanliness relates to our faith, I think I'm speaking more to the everyday proverb: "A place for everything and everything in its place."

That's a homestead kind of saying, an ancient bit of hardworking wisdom that you'd expect a wise old farmer in overalls to say with arms folded after a long day's work. I'd expect someone like a farmer to use that phrase because I picture a wrench in one pocket of his overalls to work on farm equipment, a flashlight in another pocket to see into a dark barn, a set of keys in another pocket to start the tractor, and so on. A place for everything and everything in its place.

I'm finding satisfaction in the phrase these days because I've been using some of the extra time of summer to organize my study in the parsonage. As nerdy as it sounds, "expanding file jacket", "CD jewel storage case", and "multi-shelf letter tray", are phrases that excite me now. For I don't know about you, but one of my biggest pet peeves in life is to have to waste time looking for something that's lost when I have a bunch of things to do. And more often than not, the lost thing had no business being lost because it was simply hidden beneath a thin layer of other stuff (junk!) that was all gathered in one place. But behold, thou, junk, your reign has ended. For now there is a place for these various things and everything is in its place. Well, almost everything. Some junk piles are still waiting to be tackled. Such is life.

So how does my personal mission toward cleanliness relate to our faith? Well, there's a related bit of ancient wisdom that does come from holy Scripture. "**God is**

**not a God of disorder but of peace”** says I Corinthians 14:33. **“Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way”** adds verse 40. Those two words of wisdom, inspired by the Holy Spirit to the pen of St. Paul, have a wide range of application to our lives, our worship lives, our work lives, our daily lives. Just think of it this way – [And yes, my mom twenty years ago would never have thought she’d hear me say the following, but thankfully, kids grow up and mature.]

Cleanness, neatness, organization just makes life easier. Yeah, it’s hard work to keep things orderly, but it sure is satisfying to have a house in order, and to know where things are, and to do things efficiently. Efficiency means more time, and more time allows for more fun time, family time, more personal meditation on Scripture, dedication to prayer, and reflection on God’s goodness to us in Jesus our Savior.

Surely, that’s the benefit of an organized life, best of all!

*Pastor Gregory Pope*



# **Message From The President**

This month's report from the President will be seen in the Annual report.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of Trinity will be held July 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in church.

Updates on the building project, board reports, presentation of the Unified Budget, adoption of the budget, and the annual report will be the main items of the meeting.

Informational meetings will be held immediately after the Saturday and Sunday services preceding the Annual meeting.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting.

The Church Council

## **News from the WELS**

### **Districts grapple with issues**

*From the office of President Mark Schroeder*

By the end of this week, meetings will have been held in nearly every district of the synod to discuss the important issues that will be considered at the synod convention later this summer. In some districts, those meetings have been full district conventions involving pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and lay representatives. In other districts, districtwide pastor-teacher conferences have been taking place. In still other districts, regional conferences have been held.

These meetings are an attempt to keep the grassroots members—called workers and lay leaders alike—fully informed and to give them an opportunity to provide additional input and direction for the delegates to the synod convention. The two primary topics of discussion were the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Commission and the budget proposed by the Synodical Council.

As the scope and impact of the budget reductions become clearer, questions are being voiced: "What can we do to reduce the scope and impact of these reductions on our mission fields and on our ministerial schools? Are there other options available that can be considered?" Ideas and suggestions were in plentiful supply, and many of these will likely be forwarded to the convention for consideration.

Regardless of what the final convention's decisions may be, any mission program of the synod will be supported primarily by Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). Congregations have already made commitments for the year, and the proposed budget is built on those commitments. For that reason it is absolutely essential that all congregations meet or exceed the commitments they've made. Since Congregation Mission Offerings are the foundation of our synod's financial support, a shortfall in CMO could result in even more extensive reductions in our mission efforts.

Throughout the synod, prayers have been offered for the faithful missionaries, pastors, professors, and lay workers whose positions have been eliminated. On a positive note, we are happy to report that five world and home missionaries have received calls to

congregations. In some home missions, creative ways are being considered to retain pastors whose funding from the synod has been reduced or withdrawn. Commendably, some home mission pastors have indicated they would find a way to stay with their congregations even without full salaries provided by synodical funding. A number of world missionaries have also chosen to remain in their fields of service beyond the time when funding for their positions has ended. Thank God for these faithful and committed workers! We also continue to pray for the unassigned graduates of Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We are pleased that several unassigned candidates from both schools have recently been assigned and that several more assignments are in the process of being made.

It has also been gratifying to see that the district discussions are characterized by sincere concern for the work of the synod and a desire to find solutions to our difficult challenges. There has been anguish and heartache over the painful choices before us, to be sure, but there has been no anger. The people of our synod, it seems, have been led by God to look to him in faith in this difficult time and to work more closely with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. In this time, we are reminded again that God has promised that he will use all things to work for the good of those who love him and that he will allow nothing in this world to prevent his Word from accomplishing his purpose. Those promises, not human resolve or solutions, will continue to be the source of our hope and confidence in the weeks and months ahead.

Serving in Christ,  
*Mark Schroeder*

#### **CPS administrator accepts call**

Mr. Jim Brandt, administrator of WELS Commission on Parish Schools (CPS), accepted a call June 4 to serve as the vice president of Adult and Graduate Studies at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), Milwaukee. Brandt will begin his work at WLC in early July. Rev. Dave Kehl, acting administrator of WELS Board for Parish Services, reports that WELS Commission on Parish Schools will seek nominations to fill Brandt's position as soon as the calling process for teachers is reopened in the fall. In the meantime, Parish School's associate administrator, Mr. Jeff Inniger, will assume full oversight of this area of ministry, which exists to provide resources, training, and personal assistance for starting and strengthening Lutheran schools. Mr. Greg Schmill, a full-time consultant for Parish Assistance's Forward with Lutheran Schools, will assist Inniger with daily operations such as the preparation of teacher call lists so that current programs such as the WELS School Accreditation process can continue.

In his new position, Brandt will oversee Wisconsin Lutheran College's new School of Adult and Graduate Studies, which will offer degree completion programs for working adults who have completed two or more years of college but do not have a bachelor's degree. A master's degree program is also being developed.

WLC President Dan Johnson notes, "The School of Adult and Graduate Studies will permit us to take our mission of preparing servant leaders for Christ and impact the lives of working adults. Jim Brandt brings a wealth of ministry experiences to the college. He is the perfect fit for this position."

Brandt says, "It is my hope that God will work mightily through this new program to extend the proclamation of the gospel to the broader community. I envision a foundational course for every program in the new college that will be designed to introduce adult students to the Wisconsin Lutheran College mission and vision by introducing them to Jesus Christ, the ultimate servant and Savior of all."

### **New Women's Ministry conference set**

WELS Women's Ministry Committee, a part of the Commission on Adult Discipleship, has scheduled the second national WELS women's leadership conference for July 16-18, 2010. Under the theme, "Leading with a Christ-like attitude," the conference will focus on Philippians 2:1-18. It will again be held at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon. The first national WELS women's leadership conference was held on July 7, 2007. It focused on presenting the biblical principles of men and women serving together in God's kingdom that are the basis of the *Heirs Together* Bible study written by seminary professor Richard Gurgel and Kathie Wendland, both members of WELS Women's Ministry Committee.

The Women's Ministry Committee, which added 19 new members in October 2008, is working on a variety of other new projects, including compiling strong Bible-based materials for WELS women and gaining feedback on women's ministry in WELS through a Web-based survey.

Rev. Dave Kehl, administrator of WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship, says, "The energy and excitement of the women in our expanded WELS Women's Ministry Committee has been outstanding. It is evident that their desire is to help women get into the Scriptures to better know their Lord and help congregations encourage women in their service as part of the body of Christ."

Kehl asks that pastors complete a simple [survey](#) about women's ministry that was recently sent out. "The team wants to better understand the women's ministry needs and opportunities within your congregation," he says.

## **The Bible-Book of Ecclesiastes**

This month's part of the Bible focus' is on the Book of Ecclesiastes.

### **GENERAL FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES NAME AND AUTHOR**

The name "ecclesiastes" is a Greek word that means "teacher" or "preacher." The Book of Ecclesiastes begins this way: "**The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.**" Who is this teacher or preacher who is the author of Ecclesiastes? The description can fit only Solomon. Though his name is not directly mentioned as the author, only he was a son of David and king in Jerusalem. The subject matter of the book seems to indicate that Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes when he was an old man reflecting back on his life.

### **THE THEME OF ECCLESIASTES**

The theme that is repeated throughout the book is that life is meaningless if it is lived only for the things of this world. Solomon writes that he had searched for satisfaction in wisdom, pleasure, toil, and riches. Since he found very little satisfaction in these things, he says about them all: "Meaningless! Meaningless!" The Hebrew word that is translated "meaningless" literally means "air" or "breath." Just as our breath has no real substance, so the things of this world have no lasting substance; by themselves they are basically empty and meaningless. Wise Solomon reminds us that we cannot expect to find real satisfaction from them. When Solomon encourages his readers not to set their hearts on things such as wisdom, pleasure and toil, he does not say that these things should be pushed aside. He encourages his readers to accept them as being from the hand of God and to enjoy them for whatever good they can offer. But from the things of this life, from the things of this place "under the sun," we should not expect to find a heaven on earth. At the end of Ecclesiastes Solomon says:

**"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (12:13)**

The things of this life by themselves are utterly meaningless and empty; but man finds meaning in life when he centers his life on his God. When we remember our relationship to our God, life on earth can be not only livable, but even enjoyable. But we must remember that complete joy and satisfaction is waiting for us only in the next life. Life "under the sun" will always seem meaningless when compared with the full life that will be ours in the presence of God in heaven.

**SOME FREQUENTLY QUOTED VERSES FROM ECCLESIASTES:**

**"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. `Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'" (1:2)**

**"There is nothing new under the sun." (1:9c)**

**"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." (3:1)**

**"That every man may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God." (3:13)**

**"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work." (4:9)**

**"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools." (5:1)**

**"Whoever loves money never has money enough." (5:10)**

**"Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs." (5:15a)**

**"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins." (7:20)**

**"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." (12:1a)**

**"Of making many books there is no end, and much study wears the body." (12:12b)**

**"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (12:13b)**

A little food for thought on this July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Proud to Be a Christian



**Scripture:** So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. 2 Timothy 1:8,12 (NIV)

There is a song we hear played a lot on the radio and television. The name of the song is "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood. It isn't a new song, but you hear it quite often around patriotic holidays such as the 4th of July.

On the 4th of July, a lot of people in the United States will be showing that they are

"proud to be an American." You see a lot of people wearing flag pins or red, white and blue ribbons on their shirts. As you drive around town, you see the U.S. flag flying everywhere. How about you? Do you gladly stand up and say that you are "proud to be an American?"

It is easy for us to stand and say, "I'm proud to be an American." I wonder if it is just as easy to stand up and say, "I'm proud to be a Christian?"

- If we stand up and say that we love Jesus, someone might be offended.

It seems as if it is okay to stand up and speak out for almost anything these days -- except Jesus. In a letter to a young man named Timothy, the apostle Paul said, "Don't be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. I am not ashamed because I believe in him and trust in him." In other words, Paul was telling Timothy, (sung to the tune of God Bless the USA)

"I'm proud to be a Christian, because in Christ I'm free.  
And I won't forget the One who died on the cross of Calvary,  
So I'll gladly stand up next to you and praise his name today.  
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love my Lord who took my sins away!"

We are standing proudly today as Americans, but are we standing proudly as Christians? Dear Jesus, we pray that we would never be ashamed to stand up and tell others about what you have done for us and what you want to do for them. Help us to have the courage to stand and say, "I'm proud to be a Christian." Amen.

## **Announcements**

### **VBS**

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 in the Valders Park. (It is going to be held here because of the construction and having no power to the Family Center.) The theme this year is F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely On God). It is for Pre K- to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If interested please contact Jessica Jungbluth at 905-1205.

### **Brewer Game Bus Trip**

The Fellowship Committee had 47 people going this year to the Brewer game. The Brewers lost to San Francisco 7-0. All enjoyed the subs, the ride was good and the fellowship was wonderful. The Fellowship Committee looks forward to doing this again next summer.

### **Church Picnic**

July 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Church picnic. The Fellowship Committee will provide the meat and drinks, all they ask you to bring a dish to pass. The Sunday school will be providing games for the young children. The church service will be at 9:30 with the picnic to follow.

### **College Bound Students**

Any high school graduates or continuing college students please let the church secretary know where you are going. We need this for our church records and WELS information. Thank you.

### **Trinity Ladies Circle**

Thanks to all who attended the Trinity Ladies Circle social night at Luigi's last Tuesday? Everyone enjoyed themselves and the food was delicious!

Our next meeting will be held on July 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the old teacherage (church office). We'll discuss the recent celebrity deaths and try to keep the meeting short for those who would like to attend the annual voters' meeting that same night at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see many of you there! The Annual Rally of the Lutheran Ladies League will be held at Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Co-hosts of the event are Bethany and Grace Lutheran Church. The theme of the rally will be "Year of Jubilee." More information on the times, agenda, cost, and registration will be coming in July or August.

### **Repeat Performance Resale Shop Sale**

Bag Sale! For Crazy Days, Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have a bag sale at \$5 a bag. It will include clothing, with some exceptions, stuffed animals, and shoes. 4341 Enterprise Ct. Manitowoc (behind Country Kitchen)

### **Young People's Softball**

If anyone is interested in joining the Young People's Softball team, St. John's is inviting anybody from our congregation 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school age to come and join them. The games are played on Sunday nights @ 6:00. If anyone is interested, please call Jan Ross @ 242-9335 or you can talk to the church secretary for a schedule.

### **Reminder**

If you are no longer involved with a committee or in a responsibility that gives you reason to have a key, we ask that you hand your key in to the church secretary. Also if you have a key, please tell the church secretary. Thank you!

### **MLHS News**

**MLHS Lancer Golf Classic** Register now for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Lancer Golf Classic, best-ball outing at Autumn Ridge Golf Course in Valders. Proceeds from this year's event will go toward replacement of the gymnasium and football field scoreboards before school resumes in September. Men & ladies, young & old (er), scratch golfers or huge duffers, all are invited to this fun event. Registration forms are available in the church office or online at [www.mlhslancers.com](http://www.mlhslancers.com). Don't wait! Gather your team and register today!

**\*\*\*Raise money for MLHS just by searching the Internet with GoodSearch - [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) - powered by Yahoo!**

# Church Attendance for June



## Combined Total for Saturday/Sunday

### June                      2006

Week 1: 33/77=110

Week 2: 41/77=118

Week 3: 60/66=126

Week 4: 29/90=119

**Monthly: 473**

### June                      2007

Week 1: 30/130=160

Week 2: 51/71=122

Week 3: 40/72=112

Week 4: 36/72=108

**Monthly: 472**

### June                      2008

Week 1: 24/190=214  
(Outdoor Service)

Week 2: 32/104=136

Week 3: 42/70=112

Week 4: 43/88=131

Week 5: 36/103=139

**Monthly: 732**

### June                      2009

Week 1: 41/79=120

Week 2: 58/69=127

Week 3: 36/74=110

Week 4: 52/72=124

**Monthly: 481**

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***“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”***

*John 4:24*

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

7/1 Brian Glaeser	7/16 Terry Slater
7/1 Brook Hansen	7/19 Alison Schaus
<b>**7/3 Allen Reichardt –83 yrs. young</b>	7/20 Bill Propson
7/6 Gail Lietzau	7/21 Rachel Lutze
7/6 Jesse Lietzau	7/25 Tabitha Grunow
7/7 Jeana Hennen	7/26 Vernon Jaeger
7/7 Tyler Petersen	7/27 Jasmine Smith
7/7 Faith Woepse	7/28 Lance Preston
7/8 Mary Liermann	7/28 Fred Schnell
7/8 Gary Preston	7/29 Leon Wallander
7/10 Donna Nagel	7/31 Kristen Schreiber
7/10 Julie Lietzau	



*Happy Anniversary To...*

7/1 Pastor & Jennifer Pope – 3 Years!  
7/4 Charles & Jodi Lovell – 13 Years!  
7/8 James & Julie Glaeser – 48 Years!  
7/11 Ronald & Carol Kasten – 44 Years!  
7/12 Michael & Dianne Rusch– 40 Years!  
7/15 Mark & Jennifer Knutson – 3 Years!  
7/19 Michael & Louette Propson-Enders – 6 Years!  
7/23 Steve & Arlene Schreiber – 49 Years!  
7/26 Elwood & Denise Free – 34 Years!  
7/28 Al & Polly Bonfigt – 8 Years!

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

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Ushers on Schedule:</u>
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	David Schultz (Server), Warren Lutze (Server), August Teesch
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	James Ott (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Jeff Kasten, Alex Kasten
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	James Glaeser, Derrick Krey
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Vetter, Len Arnold, Eli Kenneke, A.J. Kenneke
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Bratz, Mike Kiesow
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Petersen, Uriah Matznick, Joseph Nagel, Jeff Tuschel
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Williamson (Server), Mark Knutson (Server), Steve Pleuss
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	John Smith (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Brett Glaeser, Larry Hochkammer

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.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for you for the remission of your sins.

May this strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Depart in peace; your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**Altar Guild: July – Group 3:**

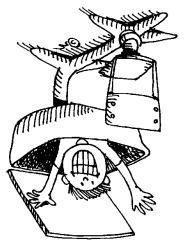
Cindy Williamson, Eunice Barnes, Janice Wehausen, Diane Smith

## ***Our Greeters For July***



***Because of the church renovation, we will not be having greeters until further notice. Thank you for your patience on this matter.***

# Kids Corner



## Bible Quiz – “Workers & Tools”

1. Which woman used a ‘workman’s hammer’ to put a tent peg into a most unusual spot?
  - a. Jael
  - b. Deborah
  - c. Hannah
  - d. Rebekah
  
2. Hiram of Tyre, worked on the temple with which material?
  - a. Cedar
  - b. Bronze
  - c. Silver
  - d. Gold
  
3. Joseph (Mary’s husband) was involved in this trade:
  - a. Shepherding
  - b. Farming
  - c. Carpentry
  - d. Fishing
  
4. Why were there no ‘blacksmiths’ in Israel in the days of King Saul?
  - a. No need for them
  - b. Weren’t allowed
  - c. No craftsman
  - d. No metal available
  
5. This borrowed tool fell into the water and Elisha miraculously recovered it.
  - a. Ax head
  - b. Hammer head
  - c. Grinding wheel
  - d. Saw

**Answers:** 1.) a [Judges 4:21] 2.) b [1Kings 7:13-14] 3.) c [Matthew 13:55] 4.) b [1Samuel 13:19]  
5.) a [2 Kings 6:5-7]

# Parable of the Weeds

## Matthew 13:24-30



**Wheat**

parable  
kingdom  
heaven  
good

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

seed  
field  
sleeping  
enemy

sowed  
weeds  
wheat  
sprouted



**Weeds**

grow  
together  
harvest  
burn

Puzzle created with [Vocabulary Worsheet Factory](http://VocabularyWorsheetFactory.com)

[Sermons4Kids.com](http://Sermons4Kids.com)



# The Parable of the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30

Image from [Calvary Chapel](#)  
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