

“A Good Rule of Thumb”

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As believers united through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we share a special bond. This fellowship which brings us together for acts of love and service is further strengthened by the relationships we share. Not only are we part of the family of God, we also share a close relationship as friends, and even as members of extended families. While this leads to a strong connection within our congregation, it can also become a potential obstacle. As we share the happenings of the week with those we know and those with whom we feel comfortable, it may happen that visitors are occasionally overlooked. This situation was described by a friend of mine in the following way: “We go into our ‘holy huddles,’ and break only when it is time to go home.”

There is nothing wrong with getting together with those we know. Nor should it be discouraged. At the same time, try to imagine yourself as a “first time” visitor. You see groups of people standing and enjoying each other’s company and conversation. You also see people moving into the fellowship hall and enjoying something to eat and more conversation. You, however, are not familiar with how things work. You hope someone says something, but nothing happens. Feeling somewhat frustrated, probably even a little discouraged, you go to your car. As you drive home you conclude, these are not friendly people.

While the assessment of “friendly” is somewhat nebular, it is relative to what an individual experiences. I have heard both sides of the debate from people who have visited Our Redeemer. While some may conclude we are not friendly, others arrive at a completely different conclusion. So which is true?

To do a “self study” would have questionable benefits. There is one consideration I believe holds some merit. I make it a point to greet people as they come into worship, and as they are dismissed. I also try to catch them again as they mingle with others. The latter becomes easier if members greet visitors after the worship service. What catches my attention is when I am asked repeatedly, “Who were those people?” The more the question is asked, the more uncomfortable I become since it means we didn’t do a thorough job in welcoming the people who were visiting.

What I would like to propose is a tool to help us. I know it helps me. For those who are already doing this, use the suggestion as an encouragement to keep up the good work. For those who may unintentionally overlook our visitors, please use it as an encouragement that will help.

Continued on page 7

President's Day Dinner & Movie

By Carl Schueler

What an event! There was another superb Fellowship opportunity at Our Redeemer! If you missed it, you missed a fine evening in the fellowship hall.

The day before President's Day—Sunday evening, February 20th, about 35 folks gathered for salads and pizza followed by a video re-enactment of the events leading to Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address.

The movie "Gettysburg: The Speech that Saved America!" was followed with dessert and lively conversation sparked by the content and style of the video. I, for one, was fully entertained until 7:30 PM!

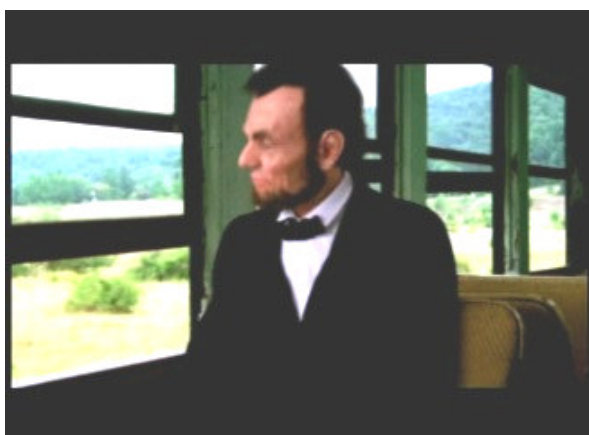
Not only that, but with our invited guests this was a nice outreach opportunity as well! Other than the pre-meal blessing, the evening could have been a secular event. That said, it was conducted within Our Redeemer's facilities, surrounded by books and pictures pointing to the reason we meet—our Savior.

Conversation among members over pizza and salads ranged from family matters to events around Our Redeemer to sports and the weather—with the occasional opportunity to answer a visitor's question about our programs or church membership.

The movie was less than one hour. Long enough to provide a good review of American history before and after Lincoln's brief address, with a re-enactment of the address by Abe portrayed by a human voice and a computer generated rendition of his visage based on photographs taken during his Presidency. Digital magic helped authenticate the presentation. Yet the video was short enough that we had energy after the closing credits to return to the Fellowship Hall for dessert and discussion.

This is a movie worth viewing! Although you have no doubt studied American History and read the Gettysburg address (merely 250 words in length and can be read in less than five minutes), you probably have not been informed of the complete context of the speech. This movie reviews the events in Lincoln's Presidency leading to the address, and the events following that made the speech perhaps the most important Presidential address in our nation's history.

Our nation dates from the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, 235 years ago. Imagine how many Presidential speeches have been given! Tens of thousands! Yet this brief speech, spoken in 1863 following the Union victory over the Confederacy in Pennsylvania that was the turning point of the civil war, remains the most famous! The movie title "The speech that saved America!" ties the speech to the victory that turned the tide of the war and saved the Union from the dissolution that would have occurred with a Confederate Civil War victory.



A great evening with a fine congregation honoring a great President! An apt way to celebrate President's Day and an appropriate use of facilities maintained for the greater glory of our Lord!



If you are interested in viewing the DVD, it is available from our congregation's video lending library. There is a second part to the video, as well. It is called, "Gettysburg: The Battle that Changed the World." This will be presented on the 4th of July as part of our regularly scheduled fellowship, barbeque and trip to Girsch Park for fireworks.

Worldview Comparison Quiz—Part III

By Al Todd

(For background information regarding these quizzes, see *Worldview Quiz – Part I*, October 2010 Reporter.)

Worldview Quiz #3 (Final)

I will limit myself to four (4) basic worldviews: Theistic Existentialism, Modernism, Christian Confessional Lutheran, and Post-modernism. The four Worldviews under consideration are referenced by letters A-D:

A = Theistic Existentialism

B = Modernism (includes Naturalism, Darwinism, and Secular Humanism)

C = Christian Confessional Lutheran

D = Post-modernism (includes Neo-Marxism, Constructivism, and Tolerance)

Simply match the above Worldviews with the description below in the various Worldview categories. There can be more than one worldview for each description.

Answers to Part III will be provided in the next month's *Reporter*.

XI. Worldview Category: **Philosophy**

1. Truth found only in Christ as explained in special revelation _____
2. Truth found in scientific knowledge using reason _____
3. Knowledge and truth are socially constructed; i.e. society invents them; there is no "truth" _____
4. Truth found in Christ as explained in that portion of "special revelation" that contains the Word of God as determined by experts in the historical/critical methodology _____

XII. Worldview Category: **History**

1. Simply a record of how and by what means the ruling group has survived and prospered in successive power struggles; when regimes change, history changes _____
2. Directed and planned by God _____
3. Acted out by Man as he strives for ultimate control over his destiny _____

XIII. Worldview Category: **Art and Music**

1. Highest form expresses the transcendent beauty, goodness, nobility, or some other characteristic of God _____
2. Highest form is that which advances the happiness of humans and enhances human life _____
3. Art and Music is a function of culture and the power struggle to gain control; there is no standard by which to judge one society's art and music over another's to determine any "highest form" _____

XIV. Worldview Category: **Sociology and Politics**

1. The origin and structure of human societies and individuals can only be understood from the perspective of human instituted processes _____
2. The origin and structure of human societies and individuals can only be understood from the perspective of the divinely instituted estates of marriage, government, and the church _____
3. The origin and structure of human societies and individuals can only be understood from the perspective of the struggle of one class to dominate and repress another _____

XV. Worldview Category: **Government**

1. Developed out of the authority derived from human instituted processes that will ultimately lead to a World community and government as part of God's evolutionary plan _____
2. Developed out of the struggle for power of one group or nation over another; thus no one government is "better" than another _____
3. Developed out of the authority derived from human instituted processes that will ultimately lead to a World community and government _____
4. Derived and developed out of the authority of parents and is also divinely instituted; it is to be obeyed unless contrary to the will of God _____

Here are the answers to Worldview Quiz—Part II:

VI: 1- B; 2- C; 3- A; 4- D

VII: 1- B; 2- A, C; 3- D

VIII: 1- B, D; 2- A; 3- C

IX: 1- D; 2- B; 3- A, C

X: 1- B; 2- D; 3- C; 4- A

Book Review - Digging for Insights

Reviewed by Al Todd

Digging for Insights: Using Archaeology to Study the Bible

By John F. Brug

(Northwestern Publishing House, 205 pp., \$18.00)

In this book, Professor Brug (WELS) provides non-professionals (most of us) with an overview of how Archaeology provides insights into life in biblical times.

Professor Brug has worked on several archaeological “digs” in the Middle East, especially in Israel, and so has hands-on experience, not just book knowledge about Archaeology. He is careful to inform the reader that although Archaeology has confirmed the accuracy of the Bible as an historical record (no Archaeological find has ever contradicted the Bible), there is a limit to what Archaeology can explain: The record of Archaeological misinformation and outright fraud is astonishing!

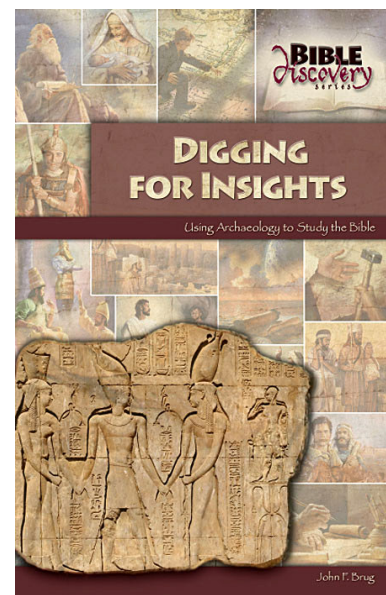
In addition to chapters on Jesus and Archaeology as well as Paul and Archaeology, Professor Brug discusses Pottery, Houses and Cities, Water systems, Idols and Altars, Burial, Coins, Underwater Archaeology, and Archaeology and the Dates in the Bible in successive chapters.

The reader can get a very good idea of what daily life was like in the ancient Middle East, including Israel. I especially appreciated the insights about life in Israel when Jesus walked the earth. For example, the temple in Jerusalem is described in remarkable detail with comments about how archaeological digs have revealed evidence of how the temple was constructed and the tremendous amount of physical labor that must have been involved to build the foundation and the subsequent dwellings. No wonder Herod was called “the Great!”

That said, I feel compelled to warn the reader that I personally found even this non-professional overview demanding. Archaeological work is necessarily tedious (and often grueling). Measuring, recording, analyzing, and publishing “finds” about coins, pottery, altars, etc. to try to make sense out of it all is not for the faint of heart either physically or intellectually.

Thus, although I appreciated the insights I got from the book (it should be a good reference), and even though I always thought of myself as someone interested in detail and not just the big picture, I’m glad I did not pursue a career in Archaeology!

This book is part of the *Bible Discovery* series from Northwestern Publishing House to which you can subscribe. You will receive new books in this series automatically as they get published. This series will help you grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the truth of His word.



Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society * Spring Rally
April 2nd with Registration at 8:15 am

“Military Missions”
Pastor Michael Schroeder, Guest Speaker

Crown of Life Lutheran Church * Corona, California

Book Review - Bible Basics

Reviewed by Al Todd

Bible Basics: Finding Tools to Read and Interpret Scripture

By Donald Patterson

(Northwestern Publishing House, 96 pp., \$13.50)

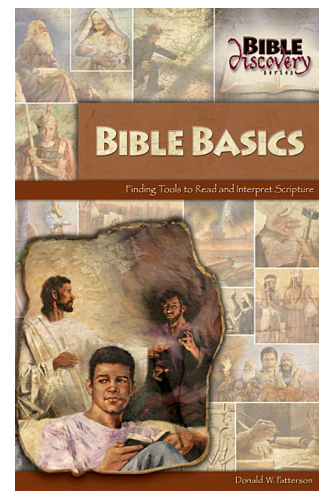
- Can you give a good, short, easy to understand synopsis of the Bible to your friends, acquaintances, and relatives?
- Could you easily explain how the Bible differs from the key books and writings of all other religions?
- Would you be able to explain why you chose the Bible reading plan that you use to make sure you read the Bible (God’s Word after all!) at least once per day for the rest of your life?
- How would you answer someone who asks how to get started in the Bible - the book that is far and away the all time World’s best seller?

If you struggle to answer those questions, this book is for you! It can be read easily in one sitting or in one week - a chapter per day. Pastor Patterson (Holy Word Austin, Texas) writes in an easy, conversational style and never leaves the reader “in the dust” when discussing what can be difficult subjects.

This “bird’s eye” survey of the Bible will, as the editors of the *Bible Discovery* series explain: “Help readers fit people and events into the broader framework of Scripture.”

I especially appreciated the chapter “Learning to Properly Interpret and Apply the Bible” as it is a helpful review and reminder that we should ask ourselves three basic questions every time we read a passage in the Bible:

- 1) What is the historical context of the passage?
- 2) What is the literary context of the passage?
- 3) What light do other sections of Scripture shed on this passage?



I think this little book, part of the Northwestern Publishing House *Bible Discovery* series, would also make an excellent gift to someone you may know who would like to read and understand the Bible, but may find it a little daunting or confusing.

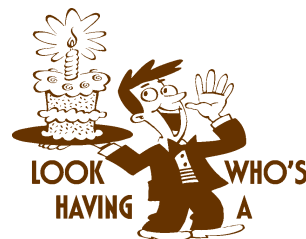
Meetings for March

Church Council	March 8th at 7:00 pm
Board of Education	Rescheduled to April
Board of Elders	Rescheduled to April
Board of Trustees	March 29th at 7:00 pm

Work Day April 16th at 9:00 am

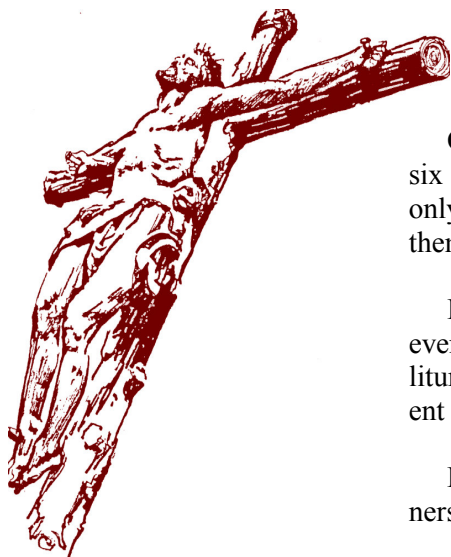
Prior to Easter we will have a clean up day around the church and property. We will clean inside the church and fellowship hall. We will also do some work on the grounds. Speak to Frank Florez for more information.

We rejoice in the many blessings given the members of our family of faith. May the Lord continue to bless them richly.



- 7th - Irene E.
- 9th - Frank F.
- 12th - Zach W.
- 16th - Kallie H.
- 28th - Chris M.

BIRTHDAY! **in MARCH**



The People of the Passion

On March 9th, we will begin our mid-week Lenten worship. Through the course of six consecutive weeks, our attention will be drawn to the people of the passion. Not only did these people have a role in the crucifixion of Jesus, but like us, each one of them was also responsible for putting Jesus on the cross because of their sin.

Like last year, there will be a rotation of pastors serving Our Redeemer. For the six evening services, we will have the pastors from the Los Angeles Circuit conducting the liturgy and preaching. It will be a distinct joy and pleasure to hear pastors with different styles and gifts presenting the same clear message of truth.

Plan today to attend. Plan to hear the precious message that Jesus died to save sinners, and that Jesus died to save me.

Throughout the course of Lent, our mid-week worship will start at 7:00 pm.

Date	Theme for the Day	Sermon Lesson	Pastor
March 9th	Pontius Pilate, the Thinker	John 19:12	Pastor Proeber Our Redeemer, Santa Barbara
March 16th	Peter, the Born Leader	Luke 22, John 12	Pastor DeFrain St. John's, Tarzana
March 23rd	Caiaphas, the Schemer	John 11	Pastor Found Prince of Peace, Thousand Oaks
March 30th	One of the Mob, Following the Crowd	Matthew 27	Pastor Diring Our Shepherd, Lancaster
April 6th	Nicodemus, the Silent Believer	John 3, 7, 19	Pastor Wiedmann St. Paul's First, North Hollywood
April 13th	Judas, the Opportunist	Luke 22 & John 12	Pastor Gabb Gethsemane, Los Angeles

Special Bible Class Opportunity

On Tuesday, March 15th and March 22nd, there will be two follow up Bible Classes to the David Payne presentation - "Prisoner of Passion." One evening will focus on the "Mission and Ministry of Paul." The second will consider the "Legacy of the Apostle Paul." The first 7:00 pm class will feature a "power point" presentation of the cities and archeology of the Mediterranean world where Paul did his work. The second will examine why Paul's work is so important, and so relevant to the Christian Church today.

Plan today to attend. It will offer you a more comprehensive picture of Paul, and reveal how our ministry is directly connected to what he did in the name of the Lord.

Tuesday, March 15th @ 7:00 pm - The Mission and Ministry of Paul

Tuesday, March 22nd @ 7:00 pm - The Legacy of the Apostle Paul

Notes & News

Rule of Thumb, continued from page 1

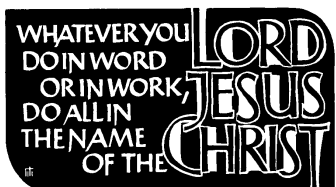
It is called the “10 Minute Rule.” As opposed to a rule or regulation like the Ten Commandments, let’s call it a “Rule of Thumb” -- something practical and positive. What it entails requires little effort, and is actually an extension of who and what we are.

Here’s how it works. Following our dismissal from worship, take the first ten minutes to talk to visitors, and talk to someone with whom you have not talked recently. That’s it. It doesn’t require anything special. As a matter of fact, it is something that comes quite naturally to each of us. The conversation is simple, “Good morning, I am _____, and you are _____. It is good to have you with us this morning.” You can take things a step further by asking the person to sign the guest book. You could even invite them to stay for a cup of coffee where you can introduce them to someone else. It will take about ten minutes, but it will be a valuable use of that time.

The same applies to our own people, members of our “church family.” Look around, who haven’t you spoken with for while? There are probably any number of people you could identify. Again, the conversation is simple, “Hi, _____. How are you doing?” This is even easier than talking to visitors, because we are a close group of people.

The benefits of this “rule of thumb” will be incredible. It will strengthen the bond of fellowship among us. It will also help accomplish one of the two main reasons why people return. By the way, according to most surveys, the two main reasons why people come back are: 1) a good message; and 2) friendly people. This is why I believe this is a good “rule of thumb” to follow. It is something that is helpful right away. It is also something that comes naturally to all of us. It can even be accomplished with little time and effort.

So give it a try. After you are dismissed from worship, take the first ten minutes to talk with a visitor, or with someone with whom you haven’t spoken for while. You might be surprised at how enjoyable that ten minutes will be.



Coming Events & Worship

Often we remark how quickly time flies. It is hard to imagine we have completed the months of January and February, and are already a few days into March. Before we know it, April will be here and with the new month will be new worship opportunities. These center on Holy Week and the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior. These are important services that are to be savored, for in them we hear of everything our Savior did in order to secure eternal life and heaven for us.

Start planning today to follow your Savior as he leads you to eternal life.

Holy Week Celebration

April 17th—Palm Sunday

April 21st—Maundy Thursday
with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper

April 22nd—Good Friday

Easter Sunday

April 24th—Sunrise Worship at 6:30
“Under the Oaks” on the Church property

Festival Worship at 10:00 in the Church

There are also other upcoming activities and events that will gather us around our Savior and his Word, and give us the opportunity to encourage one another.

Ladies Tea and Presentation

May 21st at 2:00 pm

We will have Susan Ann Lueneburg as the featured speaker. She will share her insights and experiences, and the importance of song in the Christian’s life. She will also be with us on Sunday morning.

4th of July Observation

It has become a “tradition” to gather on the 4th to enjoy a movie, barbeque, and fireworks. Plan to make a day out of it, and bring along your friends and neighbors.

Study & Ministry

*The Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth
comes knowledge and understanding.
He holds victory in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.”*
Proverbs 2:6-8

Although we do not have the regularly scheduled Wednesday evening class during Lent, the Sunday morning class continues to meet.

Christian Education

Following the worship service

The Sunday morning class is concluding the study of the book by Jerry Bridges, “Respectable Sins.” It was an interesting and thought provoking study which made us look more closely at our lives, and how we regard certain sins.

The next class will focus on the “Catholic Articles on Justification.” You may remember reading them in December’s newsletter. Carl did some excellent work in finding and formatting them. On Sunday morning, we will examine these statements to recognize where there is a correct explanation of the teaching of “justification by grace alone.” We will also consider unclear, even confusing statements in the light of what God’s Word teaches.

Adult Choir

Practice is every Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Practices are underway and preparations are being made for Lent, Easter and Pentecost. If you would like to come and sing praises to the Lord, both men and women are welcome. Please speak with Pastor Proeber for more information.

Handbell Choir

Practices are Monday evenings at 7:00 pm

The bell choir is hard at work preparing for the upcoming festival season of the Church Year. Most recently the choir completed a song that included malleting, ringing, as well as a tambourine, hand drum and finger cymbals. Future selections will also include different ringing techniques applied to well known hymns.

There is always room for additional ringers, so if you would like to try the bells, please speak with Debbie Aitkins.

Reporters Wanted!

Book review, Personal Story of Faith,
Event Reports, Potluck, Gathering,
Party, Field Trip

Half-page to three pages
Reviewed for Scriptural consistency and readability
by 25th of month to appear in next issue

Hard-copy to Carl Schueler, or email to Carl Schueler
(cfs_home@hotmail.com) or Pastor Proeber
(pastor@orlcsb.net)

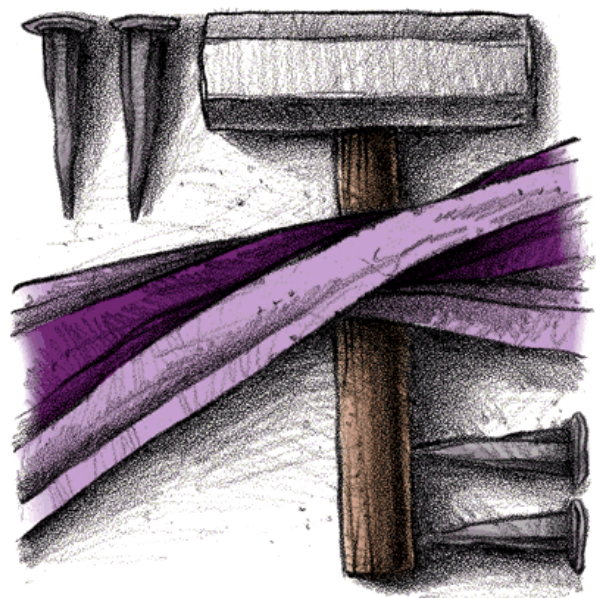
A simple and rewarding way to serve!

Thanks to Carl, AL, and Karolyn for their contributions this month.

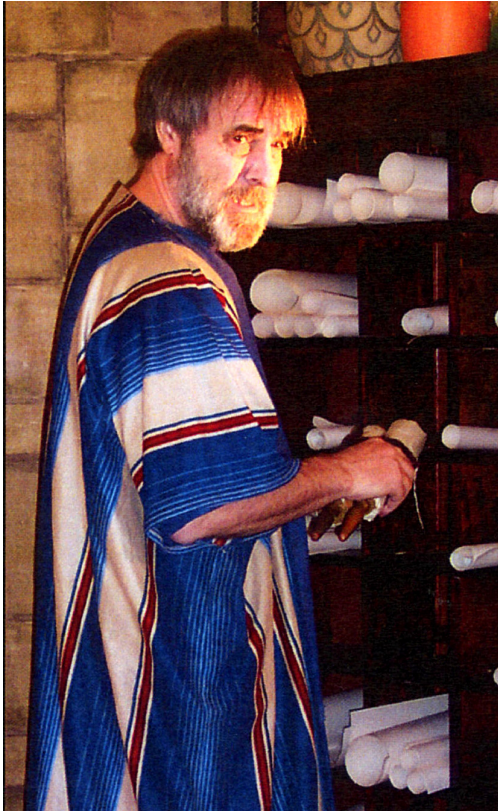
There is always a standing invitation to provide material for the *Reporter*. In the past, over a dozen members authored over 60 articles which really makes every issue more interesting.

We pray that every member will provide an article for 2011. If you have an idea, and you are not sure whether to act on it, please don’t hesitate to speak to Pastor Proeber or Carl Schueler for advice. Thanks!

He was wounded for our transgressions.



He was bruised for our iniquities.



Prisoner of Passion

featuring David Payne as the Apostle Paul

It has been 4 years since David Payne was with us to do his performance: "An Evening with C.S. Lewis." For those who were present, it was an excellent production and enjoyable evening. On **Saturday, March 12th at 7:00 pm.** David will be back with us. This year he will do the production "Prisoner of Passion." As the title implies, it presents the Apostle during his imprisonment in Rome. Although we may be familiar with the details through the Books of Acts, it is something very special to see the Word come to life.

Tickets for the production will be available shortly. They will be \$15.00 prior to the sale and \$20.00 at the door. Tickets will be available from the Outreach Committee members.

This is a special opportunity to invite people to come and learn more about the Lord's Apostle to the Gentiles, as well as his legacy with which we live today. Information is available on the web site - www.orlcsb.net, or from the Outreach Committee members. Starting planning today to attend!

Just one other note, there are a number of "things" we need to do to prepare for the performance, particularly in the area of back drops, lighting, and staging, please speak with Pastor Proeber for more information.

On the Lighter Side...

Courtesy Karolyn Hanna

Attending a wedding the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied: "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought for a moment, then asked: "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Three boys in the school yard started bragging about their fathers.

First boy: "My Dad scribbles on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, and they give him \$200."

Second boy: "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles on a piece of paper, calls it a song, and they give him \$500."

Third boy: "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles, calls it a sermon, and it takes four men to collect all the money!"

An elderly woman died.

Never married, she requested no male pallbearers.

In her memorial instructions, she wrote:

"They wouldn't take me out when I was alive. I don't want them taking me out when I'm dead."

A police recruit was asked during the exam:

"What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?"

He answered: "Call for backup."



CORNER ☩

DEVOTIONAL



“In Harm’s Way”

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”

Matthew 4:1

There are people who are willing to put themselves into harm’s way. These people recognize the serious nature of their commitment and understand the potential consequences. They are ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of others.

There is a special debt of gratitude these people deserve – military personnel, fire fighters, members of law enforcement, even emergency medical technicians. Without their willingness to serve, and their readiness to sacrifice everything, life would be much poorer. The same can be said about Jesus, and the debt of gratitude I owe him.

When I read Matthew’s account of Jesus’ temptation, I might wonder, “Why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil? Why would he put Jesus into harm’s way?” The answer has everything to do with my rescue from sin and my freedom from the controlling power of the devil.

Because I am a sinner from birth (Psalm 51:5), it is impossible for me to defeat the devil. So great is his power over me that I would always succumb to his attacks. It is because of my weakness that God the Father had his Son come to this earth, take on my flesh and blood, and become my substitute. This meant Jesus had to live under all of God’s righteousness requirements (Galatians 4:4-5). It also meant Jesus had to put himself in harm’s way.

In order to free me from the devil’s control, Jesus had to subject himself to temptation. Every cunning act, every lie and deception, every powerful ploy, Jesus undertook on my behalf. What was impossible for me to even conceive, Jesus accomplished perfectly and without sin (Hebrews 4:14-15). He overcame the devil’s attacks and secured the complete victory on my behalf. He now offers me the ability to live a self-controlled, upright and godly life (Titus 2:11-12).

It is because of Jesus’ work my life has been changed. I am spared from the devil’s cruel and controlling ways. I am at peace with God through my Savior’s perfect obedience. I am safe and secure because Jesus put himself into harm’s way to rescue me.

Prayer

O blessed Jesus, you are my Refuge, my Strength, and my never-failing Help. Daily be with me to protect me and to bless me through your victory over the devil. Amen.

Daily devotions can be accessed through www.whataboutjesus.com or www.wels.net. Please follow the instructions to view daily devotions and to subscribe to them. They are also available as “podcasts.”