



ST. MARK'S NEWSLETTER

Third Quarter

July 27, 2003

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:6-8).

What language are you especially fluent in? This would be the language that you daily converse in, regularly read and understand, and which you use in written correspondence. I presume that would be American English. Ever since the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, all people have had to speak one language at the expense of all the others. You can only speak one language at a time. Indeed, it is a blessing that there are bilingual people in our country. This is, unfortunately, less common and prevalent here than it is in other countries. We are familiar with the Concordia Language Villages as a neighboring camp that seeks to help individuals to learn more than just the American language and culture.

Such words of introduction are not meant to be an encouragement, but just a statement of fact. It is interesting that our government and numerous companies rely heavily upon good and fluent interpreters, in order to carry on business with other countries. Perhaps you noticed in mid July, how our military personnel in Iraq have depended upon the assistance of interpreters. Sadly, one was killed along with an American soldier in a bomb attack in northern Baghdad.

Imagine that you were enabled and trained to be an interpreter. This would be an especially challenging task because you would need to accurately translate the very thoughts and words from one language to another. Suppose you would be required to be the interpreter for the communication between one English-speaking man and one Russian man. After the English-speaking man gives his greeting, he would express his ideas and thoughts. Now you have the task of accurately translating this into Russian. But, which words would you need to use? Should you speak with Russian words, using the vocabulary and grammar that



was popular and familiar 250 years ago, or use what is current in the year 2003?

The answer is simple, presuming you want to be well understood and clear in your translation. In a similar fashion, many within the leadership of this church have concluded that the contemporary translation of the Lord's Prayer is clearer and more easily understood. The Lord's Prayer is unique among all the prayers that we speak and use. It is also God's Word, since it is recorded in the Scriptures.

At the same time, in which we are using this prayer to communicate to God, He is also communicating to us through the message of this prayer, taught to us by Christ himself. Therefore, we will want to, not only be clear with the words, but also be consistent with other instructional materials used in our doctrinal teaching. It should also be in sync with the New International Version of the Bible used within our church and school.

Interestingly, this prayer is recorded in two places of Scripture. That is: Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. These have served as the basis for the prayer we truly love because it has been handed to us and entrusted to us by Jesus. In our Hymnals (Christian Worship and The Lutheran Hymnal) neither scripture reference is directly used. The version in our hymnals is called a liturgical translation. Indeed, it is clearly drawn from the two references, but is not a direct quote of either. God has given us the Christian liberty to use any faithful translation

of this prayer. In the end, he wants us to know who our Father in heaven is and what his love has won and secured for us in Christ. Embrace this truth and share this truth, faithfully. Through the study of his Word I pray that the following sermon series will also benefit us to this end.

AN AUGUST SERMON SERIES

**Focus upon The Prayer that Our Savior has
graciously Taught Us to Pray. . .**

AUGUST 3 ► Matthew 6:9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name."

Treat God with honor.

He has earned it!

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AUGUST 10 ► Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Seek the expansion of His Kingdom. It is
his will!

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AUGUST 17 ► Matthew 6:11, 12 "Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Use all your physical and spiritual gifts
faithfully!

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AUGUST 24 ► Matthew 6:13 "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Praise God for every form of deliverance.
You have indeed been rescued!

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All parents, who have submitted their intent to have their child enroll for the upcoming school year, should have received a letter from the Principal. This letter went out in mid-July, along with a school calendar.
- At present, 14 children are enrolled for the 2003/2004 school year.

- A school Registration Day is planned for Friday, August 1st. Parents are requested to come in sometime during the day (from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM). When the parents of St. Mark's arrive they will be expected to pay their registration fee (\$125 per child) and the hot lunch fee (\$12 per child). Additional tuition is required for non-members. All parents will also fill out the necessary forms and need to sign up for school cleaning and to serve hot lunch. Please do not try to do this ahead of time. If you will not be able to show up on that day, please set up another time to meet with Mr. Bitter.
- The school year starts on Tuesday, September 2. We will open with a brief worship service in the church at 8:30 AM.



**HELP CLEAN
YOUR SCHOOL!**
St. Mark's School
belongs to all of us.

Let's consider this as an opportunity to take care of what we have. On Saturday morning, *August 9, starting at 9:00 AM* and going into the afternoon, you are invited to lend a hand in this act of stewardship. Bring along some cleaning supplies.



CHURCH NEWS

ADULT CHOIR

For: All Confirmed members of St. Mark's
From: Your Director, Kiki Schnackenberg

We will begin choir rehearsals on September 2nd at 7:00 PM. In preparation for the 30th Anniversary Service, there will be another practice on September 9th. This would be a good time to jump in and participate with the choir for this special worship service on September 14th. It would also be great, if after

singing with the choir, you would stay on for the entire season.

Jesus Cares

Our first Bible Class for the Developmentally Disabled will be on September 27th. Volunteers, who could serve as substitute helpers, would be greatly appreciated. After participating you will be glad you gave of your time to help these people who have and share a genuine love for Jesus. Call Pastor Kuether (444-6334) or Belinda Baumann (444-3227), if you want to participate in this special ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our first Sunday School Class will be held on September 7th at 9:00 AM. All teachers and substitute teachers should attend our teacher meeting on Sunday, August 17th, after worship. This will be at 10:15 AM.

Women's Bible Study

- Women's Bible Study **Their next classes will be on Fridays, August 1th & 15th at 9:00 a.m. The ladies meet at the Schnackenberg's home. A new study topic has been started. The ladies are digging into Paul's Letter to the Galatians, entitled I'm Free! Kris Kuether leads this study. Call Kris Kuether if you plan to attend (444-6334). Children are most welcome to come and play while class is in session.**

CHURCH SPONSORED Baby Shower Ladies you are invited!

For: Lauren Elka Lundquist (born to Jody and Sam Lundquist)

Date: August 14

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

CHURCH SPONSORED Bridal Shower Ladies you are invited!

For: Amanda Zioncheck (fiancé of Josh Quint)

Date: August 24

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Classes

- Summer Adult Bible Classes **This summer these are Monday evening classes. The course addresses End Times and Judgment Day. The**

next classes will be Mondays, August 11, August 18 and August 25. Each class will be held at 6:30 p.m. The Class will also conclude in time for our Monday Evening Worship at 7:30 PM.

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study The first class will be held at 9:00 AM on Sunday, September 7. Our study will consist of the 20-lesson curriculum used for Adult Catechism instruction. Come and review those indispensable doctrines shared with you prior to your confirmation. Or better yet bring a non-Lutheran friend in order to share with him or her our faith. God's Spirit will strengthen you through His Word.**

THE CHURCH ANNIVERSARY "30 Years of God's Grace"

THE CHURCH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE is Asking for your help:

Keep in mind that the 30th anniversary of St. Mark's will be celebrated on September 14, with our guest preacher being Rev. Roy Rose. A special program will precede this worship service. The program starts at 9:00 AM. The worship begins at 10:15 AM. The pig roast meal will be served at noon. Now what kind of help do we presently need from you?

- 1.) Any pictures or memorabilia from the past 30 years will be used for a display of memories. In particular we would appreciate any pictures of baptisms and weddings held at St. Mark's. All pictures will be returned.
- 2.) Any help with names and addresses of former members, especially those that have moved out of the area will also be appreciated. In mid August we will be sending out written invitations. Thank you!

SEND YOUR GREETINGS or a CARD TO:

Members in the military (with known addresses):

Andy Peterson & Sam Schroeder

Both men will be in Bosnia after September 1st for 8 months, stationed at Eagle Base. Tyler Hazelton will also be there, but at Camp Conner not Eagle Base. His address will be forthcoming in a church bulletin.

SPC PETERSON ANDY K
HHC 2-136

EAGLE BASE OJF
APO AEØ 9789

SPC SCHROEDER SAM
HHC 2-136
EAGLE BASE OJF
APO AEØ 9789

A Shut-in Reaching her 90th Birthday on July 28:

Annamarie Rebers
P.O. Box 1146
Walker, MN 56484

A PRESS RELEASE:

“NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR WELS”

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) meets for its 57th Biennial Convention in Watertown, Wis., July 28 - August 1 under the theme, "Peace through Jesus: Know it. Live it. Share it." However, the convention comes at the time of some turmoil in WELS. Facing an \$8 million shortfall in revenue and significant budget deficits, WELS has made severe cuts in the budget, including staff cuts in missions, ministerial education, and administration. In the past year, 11 world missionaries have been recalled from their fields and 21 professors let go from ministerial education schools.

Delegates will be asked to approve the sharply reduced budget and to lend their support to a renewed effort at bringing the peace that Jesus gives to a world in desperate need of it.

Says WELS President Karl R. Gurgel, who will be up for re-election, "We need to reclaim our first love in the peace of Jesus, reaffirm our foundation of justification by grace through faith, and reapply ourselves to the mission God

gave us." It won't be business as usual, says Gurgel, but business with purpose.

Highlighting the convention, the delegates will celebrate 50 years of gospel work in Africa. Professor Salimo Hachibamba of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa-Zambia Conference will preach Thursday evening for the special convention vesper service.

WELS, characterized as theologically conservative, is the third largest Lutheran church body in the United States. With national offices at 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, Wis., WELS includes 1,250 congregations serving 403,345 baptized members in North America. The synod operates four ministerial education schools: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.; Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich. WELS congregations support the fourth largest private/parochial school system in the United States. WELS helps support 243 congregations in its home missions program. WELS supports 71 world missionaries and 22 teachers working in 36 different languages in 23 countries on 5 continents. One hundred nine national pastors, 34 vicars, and 97 evangelists and assistant pastors work alongside the missionaries, serving 442 congregations and 133 preaching stations.

For more information on WELS, contact its headquarters at 414/256-3210 or visit <http://www.wels.net>.

Synod convention press releases will be available through our news service.

If you would like to register, click here: http://www.wels.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?331&ceTopic_topicID=294

THE WELS CONNECTION

JULY 2003

TROPHIES OF GRACE FROM THE CHURCH DOWN THE STREET

A young WELS pastor, in the parish ministry less than five years, tells us that one third of his congregation has a WELS background, one third has other denominational backgrounds, and one third comes from no church background at all. Here are a few of his stories.

“Out of his territory”

Early in my ministry I knocked on the door of an elderly couple. They had been members of a church for many years, but when they moved they were considered “outside of that congregation’s territory.” They continued to attend services at their old church, but when the man became seriously ill and was hospitalized, the pastor did not minister to him. He was “out of his territory.” Now, standing at this couple’s door, I asked if it would be all right to have a devotion with them. The reply came quickly, “Oh, Pastor, would you really do that?” I have been serving them ever since.

Vacation Bible School

One man had been a member of a church, and then married a woman who was unchurched. They had two children and remained unchurched until they came to know us and our church through our Vacation Bible School. They began coming to worship services and to Bible Information Class. When it came time to accept them into membership it turned out that none of the four had been baptized. What a joyous worship service that was when this family was baptized in front of the entire congregation!

Friendship Evangelism

After sharing the gospel with a couple who had never been members of a church, I had the privilege of teaching them, baptizing him, confirming them, and since then, baptizing their baby. It didn’t take long before they talked over the back fence with some new neighbors

who have also become members of our growing congregation!

But not all

For every success story, there are many people who have visited our church once or twice and have never returned, in spite of a friendly visit from someone from our church within the first few days of their attending. We use nametags, not only for visitors, but for all of us who attend services. Over 300 nametags have been printed but many are becoming dusty. Yet we keep reaching out, and God continues to bless our efforts.

Submitted by Pastor Bruce Wietzke, Lusby MD

Keep our young home missions in your prayers. Ask our loving Father not only for numerical growth of the congregations, but, more importantly, for spiritual growth for all.

FUNDING CHANGE

A major change in funding the ministry of planned giving will go into effect July 1st. No longer will allocations from received bequests and current gifts be the major source of funding. Instead, a foundation grant will supply the needed funds.

For the last five years the ministry of planned giving has provided an average of \$7.2 million per year for the synod through matured bequests and current gifts, from which an allocation was taken. The grant now replaces the allocation.

This means that 100% of gifts that individuals make to synod will be used for their designated purpose. Our prayer is that this will be an added encouragement for members and congregations to work closely with the Ministry of Planned Giving, especially

in the new and exciting Mission Partners program.

AMAZING GRACE IN AFRICA

When the first WELS mission explorers decided to settle in central Africa fifty years ago, no one knew what was about to happen, except the Lord himself. Now, looking back over fifty years, we can see a story of God's love for the people of Africa and the people of WELS.

It is hard to estimate how many Africans have come to know our Savior over the past fifty years through our mission efforts. How many children and adults have been baptized? How many have found forgiveness and peace through the gospel? How many Africans are waiting for us in glory? Currently there are over 50,000 members of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa. That's Chikondi Chodabwitsa! (Amazing Grace).

Many places . . . many blessings

WELS has also been blessed through our Africa mission. We have seen how the love of Christ that has touched our hearts has also touched the hearts of people of a different culture and background. We have seen that the gospel has the power not only to change our hearts but those of a different language and people. We have been inspired to reach out with the same gospel to other places around the world.

Over the past fifty years, our mission effort in Africa has left its mark on the people of WELS. Over the years, 71 missionaries have served in Africa. They and their families have come back, serving among us, their view of the world and the mission of the church changed.

How many nurses have served our humanitarian efforts in Zambia and Malawi? How many lay workers have served and come home with a greater heart for missions? For these and other reasons, Africa mission outreach has captured the hearts of WELS people. You are the ones who have generously supported this mission effort with your prayers and gifts. All this is from God's Chikondi Chodabwitsa.

This year we celebrate fifty years. We ask you to lift up your voice in praise and join our fellow Lutherans in Zambia and Malawi in celebrating God's amazing grace.

To mark this special anniversary celebration, every congregation in WELS will be receiving a special anniversary worship service that will include African music and a power point presentation. Anniversary tee shirts and compact disks of African choir music will also be available.

A PRAYER FOR ALL TIME, "NOT UNTO US" by Kurt J. Eggert # 392 Christian Worship

Not unto us, Not unto us be glory Lord;
Not unto us but to your name be praise;
Not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

Amazing grace - that chose us e'er the worlds were made;
Amazing grace - that sent your Son to save;
Amazing grace - that robed us in your righteousness
And taught our lips to sing glory and praise.

O faithful love - that shepherded through faithless years;
Forgiving love - that led us to your truth;
Unyielding love - that would not let us turn from you
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.

Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you. AMEN.