

GOOD NEWS

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A Journey to Ever-Increasing Holiness by Pastor Plautz

If you ask some people what the Bible is for, you may hear some say it is a book on morality; it tells us how to live. There is an element of truth to that. You and I cannot escape these words: "Be holy, because I am holy."

These words were spoken by God to Moses and Aaron in Leviticus 11:44-45. The phrase appears twice in these two verses. They were for the His people Israel who were to be a "cut above" the rest of the nations around them. As their God was holy so they were to be in all things related to Him.

During the season of Lent we will be looking at the Old Testament readings to develop the theme of "Holy, Holy, Holy". These words came from the mouths of the seraphim in Isaiah's vision. You see, those who know Him best know that is exactly what His nature is—it is without sin. He calls His people to be that. While we will never achieve that this side of heaven, we can grow in holiness as we worship God and receive His gifts of Word and Sacraments. The themes we will follow during the Sundays of March are:

7th "Holy Ground"

14th "Holy Anger"

21st "Holy Water"

28th "Holy Judge"

Join your fellow disciples as together we come into the presence of our holy God, and learn from Him how to live out His holiness in our lives.

Christian Humor

Light-hearted humor with a spiritual lesson

Bill Miller shared with me a forward having to do with business slogans. Whether or not they are real I cannot know. But let's enjoy them over the next number of months for what they can teach us.

On a plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

Hey, I resemble that remark! I absolutely missed the line where the Lord handed out the gift of handy-dandy. Because of that I am the living, breathing model of the Clint Eastwood saying, "A man's got to know his limitations." There are household repairs I will not make.

But some husbands aren't like that. They jump in with both feet and soon have made more of a mess. Now someone needs to come in and clean up.

Spiritually, mankind has been like that for all of time. We are convinced we can make it right with God. We can all the right things so that He will let us into His heaven. But we can't be as God demands; we are sinners through and through.

Send in the repair guy; His name is Jesus. He faithfully kept the Law of God for us and paid sin's price. He alone has repaired the relationship between us and God. No more mess!

A Journey to Begin Devotional

by *LauraLee Shaw*

Life was good for the disciples. Their teacher was popular. Huge crowds had come to hear Him speak. Many had been touched by His miracles. As Jesus and His disciples gathered together at Caesarea Philippi, Peter, on their behalf, made a great confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16b) for which he had been commended. Thinking that Jesus' Kingdom was of this world, each of them aspired to be the one seated at His right hand or His left. Life was good.

But Jesus knew differently. He told them so. There was a journey to be made. It would start in six days. It would begin on a high mountain not far from Nazareth, the place where He had grown up. It would end on a little hill near Jerusalem called Mount Calvary. It would make all the difference in the world!

It was difficult for the disciples to imagine life much better than it was. Jesus knew that life would be so much better when His journey was complete, when the weight of their sins was finally lifted from their lives, when the evil one would lie crushed at His feet, when the sting of death was torn away. That could only happen when they journeyed to Jerusalem, when He died and rose again.

We will join Jesus and His disciples on this journey from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary. To the disciples, life will seem to have gone mad. It may also seem that way to us. It will certainly be difficult for Jesus.

But in the end, for the disciples, and for us, life will be good—so very good. It is good because of our Lord's journey from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary. You are invited to join us.

THE PRAYER: *Bless our Lenten journey, Lord, as we move forward with You from the Mount of Transfiguration to Mount Calvary. Amen.*

Taken from Lutheran Hour Ministries website: www.lentendevotions.net

March Bible Studies

Monday Eve Bible Study

Class meets on Monday's at 4:30pm for the study called "Faith Weavers". Weave Christ into your life, through study of His word. Leader: Sue Smith.

Tuesday Morn Bible Study

Class meets Tuesday's at 6:30am at the Chippewa Family Restaurant. Bring your Bible and your appetite (cost of the meal is on your own).

Topic: 2 Corinthians led by Pastor Mathews & Pastor Plautz.

Tuesday Eve Bible Study

Come Tuesday's at 7pm to the home of Fred & Joan Bargmann (11250 27th Avenue, CF). Topic is the life of Jesus. Leaders are Dale & Sharon Volrath.

ATTN: High School Youth

High School Bible classes are Wednesday's at 7pm. Share your journey! Leader: Sue Smith

Thursday Morn Bible Study

Come Thursday's at 9:30am to this fun class. If you're thinking about joining a daytime Bible study, this one is for you! Leader: Pastor Mathews.

Thursday Women's Bible Study meets at 6pm here at church. Topic: God's Esteem—You'll learn that Jesus not only understands your feelings, He relates to them, relates to you, and He has the answers you've been looking for. Make the connection & attend this class. Leader: Laura Hills.

Easter Journey – April 3

Our Easter Journey is planned for Saturday, April 3 at 11am. This is an outdoor event that takes the participant through Jesus' life and mission leading up to His ascension on Easter Sunday. Scenes portrayed will include: Jesus' baptism by John; Jesus welcoming the children; Jesus healing the crippled woman; Jesus feeding five thousand; Jesus' triumphal entry in Jerusalem; Jesus before Pilate; Jesus crucified; and the empty tomb. Members our church will play the parts of the Bible characters and the event is being promoted for community outreach....In the message of God's love for us in His son.

Come, be a part of this exciting event of your church. We need cast members, costume and scene set-up helpers, musicians, and however or whenever you can help—your help would be truly appreciated. Call Sue Smith (723-8392) to volunteer.

LENT HAS BEGUN!

Worship services will be offered Wednesday's at 6pm. Soup suppers will start at 5pm. The Lenten sermon series is titled "Life Together" and is based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic book, "Life Together" that describes in challenging ways what it means to be the body of Christ in community. The topics for the Lenten series are as follows:

Mar. 3 - Living in a Carnival of Narratives

Mar. 10 - Gathered Together as a Community to Serve

Mar. 17 - Tough Times Shouldn't Change Our Faith

Mar. 24 - Thirsty for the Gospel

Come and be nurtured in the life we have together in Christ here at Faith.

FISH FRY – Date change!

The date of FISH FRY is March 3 at 5pm. Enjoy the tasteful delights of a good ole fashioned FISH FRY. Bring a dish to pass & your appetites. A sign-up for supplies is available in narthex.

HAITI DISASTER RELIEF

In the wake of the Haitian earthquake, our church responded generously by donating \$481 to the LCMS World Relief/ Human Care. This organization is filling this gap by partnering with local organizations to provide for immediate needs through food, water, temporary shelter and sanitation, as well as long-term needs that include restoring local economies, rebuilding infrastructure, getting

people back to work, and providing for health and sanitation. We thank all who donated to this cause.

Agnes Table

Come and help serve a meal to the less fortunate of Chippewa County on Thursday, March 11 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 201 W. Central St., Chippewa Falls. We need helpers from 3-8pm and food donations. Check out the table in the narthex for sign-ups.

Palm Sunday Craft & Bake Sale

Our annual craft & bake sale is coming up on March 28. Baked goods and craft items are needed. Bring items to church by noon on Saturday, March 27. Your support of this venture is appreciated.

Jews for Jesus

On Wednesday, March 17 at 6pm, David Garrett, a representative from Jews for Jesus will be bringing a Passover presentation to our church during worship. Garrett is a fellow member of LCMS (West Portal Lutheran—San Francisco) and brings his message of Christ in the Passover. Mr. Garrett will show how the Jewish celebration of Passover points to and is fulfilled by Jesus' sacrificial redemption. Come and be nurtured by this event.

Youth Fundraiser

Faith Young Christians are hosting a Lasagna Dinner on Sunday, March 21 from 11:30am—1pm. Cost is \$6/adults and \$4/for children under 12. Carry-outs will be available. Proceeds will help defray the costs of the youth attending the National Youth Gathering in 2010. Thank you in advance for your support of these efforts.

ATTN: Youth—March Madness!

Come to the YMCA on Sunday, March 14 from 1:30-3:30pm (meet in the big room by the pool). We'll use the pool, gym, racquetball courts, weight room, teen room, etc. We'll have healthy snacks in the party room and cost is just \$2 (church & Walmart grant providing the rest!). Bring a friend and enjoy a fun afternoon.

ATTN: Parents of Small Children

If you would be interested in a nursery being provided during Sunday morning services, please contact Kimberly Musser at 726-0482 or 379-4077 or Lynn Musser at 726-1148 or 379-9807. We would like to share childcare services with other parents who would appreciate an occasional "child-free" worship experience!

NEW FUNDS ESTABLISHED!

HEARING IMPAIRED to enhance worship via audio equipment for our hearing impaired .

PIANO FUND to replace the piano in the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your support of our ministry needs.

Like to sing? Faith's choir & praise team could use extra voices for the Lenten/Easter season. Choir rehearsal is March 3 at 7pm & praise team rehearses at 8pm.

Craft & Hobby Day is Sunday, Mar. 28 at 1pm in the fellowship hall. Got a favorite hobby or craft you'd like to share with fellow friends here at Faith? This is an excellent opportunity to share and grow in the talents God has given us.

Women of Faith

This group met on February 16 with a devotion on "Being Lutheran". Ladies held a regular business meeting and mite offerings were collected. Women will sponsor the Lenten soup supper on March 24 and host the Homemakers Luncheon on April 9. If you can help contact Bea Newman or Marcia Goettl. The next meeting is March 16 at 7pm. Hostesses are Kathy Heidtke, Judy Hacker, Alice Helgeson and Tresa Juedes. All women are welcome to attend.

Faith Christian Preschool Registration for the year 2010-11has begun!

We are offering an afternoon class (Mon.Tues.Thurs.) to families with 3-5year olds (Must be 3 by March 1) 12-2:30pm. Please call the church office for a brochure (or) register by stopping by the church office between 8am and 4pm weekdays.

Interested in Mission Work in Chippewa Valley? Come to a meeting at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1915 Hogeboom Avenue, Eau Claire on Monday, March 1 at 7pm to consider mission outreach to the Hispanic population in our area. Many are un-churched and there is interest in forming a task force willing to work on this outreach. Questions? Contact Pastor Steve Rutter at 834-4028.

A Young Women's and Young at Heart Retreat is being held Saturday, April 10 at Peace Lutheran Church, 501 Fillmore Ave., Eau Claire. Join other women from the No. WI District for this uplifting, inspirational retreat lead by Jan Struck. Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith with her sense of humor and trust in Christ. Registration begins at 8:30am and closing is 3pm. Cost is \$25 (includes lunch & materials). Forms to register are available from the NEWS bulletin board.

Did you know? The weekly Messenger, monthly Newsletter, church photo directory and roster are available for viewing at www.faithlutheranconf.org.

Happy Birthday!

1—Kathy Butak, Richard Grant

2—Amber Bakeman, Tianna Buchholz, Isaiah LaGessee, Riley Moldenhauer

3—Richard Walders

5—Christina Bichner, Jacob Feirn, Astley Fisher
10— Jody Wennerberg
11—Millie Huth
12—Bea Newman, Jeffrey Peterson
13—Lori Jepson, Erica Schroeder, Allison Short
14—James Clark
15—Janesa Foslid
16—Daniel Musser
17—Roy Anderson, Helen Crossett
18—Jeff Jepson, Polly Tarris
19—Evan Davis
20—Cathie Chittendon
21—Harold Saxon
22—Brittany Normand
23—Ruth Clark, Anita Roder, Carol Webb
24—Michael Peterson, Jean Pfankuch, JoAnn Rein
25—Randy Nelson
26—Ruby Schumacher
27—Barbara Missfeldt
28—Brian Musser, Ashton Spann
29—Julie Plautz, Kenneth Schaller,
 Gerald Wucherpennig
30—Susan Roytek, Cleo Zempel
31—Rhonda Goettl, Rhonda Larson, Joel Moldenhauer, Kelsey Parks, Angela Prueher, Donna Schoch,
 Tami Slowiak

Happy Anniversary!

7—Astley & Pam Fisher
7—Allen & Ilene Zien
11—Ron & Barb Krueger
11—Mike & Patti LaGesse
11—Randy & Marianne Missfeldt
18—Dale & Jean Volrath