

January 2014
Volume 40, Issue 1

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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Sinning – It’s just like breathing (almost)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I breathe. I’m usually not away of it. Sometimes I breathe in, and sometimes I breathe out. I’ll breathe through my nose and I’ll breathe through my mouth. Sometimes, for a bit of variety, I’ll hold my breath and stop breathing. In my prime I could stop for just over a minute, but now I’m fortunate to be able to stop for 30 seconds. Eventually, I have to breathe again.

Breathing is just a part of life. I breathe and most of the time I don’t ever think about it. But...but there are times when breathing is all I think about. The pollen count is high; the air is extremely cold; the fur of certain cats and dogs; I forget to take my asthma medication – breathing becomes more difficult. My chest feels like it is wrapped and tightly bound, I cough and wheeze – I cannot catch my breath. I need help, rescue and thanks be to God that modern medicine has provided rescue inhalers. I am saved. I can breathe again.

Sin is just like breathing. It is a constant part of our lives. Because Adam sinned against God, the created world came under a curse. As a result, our natural state was no longer “very good” as God once described us, but “sinful and uncleaned.” We call this state “original sin.”

As a result, we sin. Paul tells us in Romans, “None is righteous, no, not one.” He goes on to quote the Old Testament to show that no one does good. No one seeks after God, understands him or fears him. Rather, people deceive, curse and shed blood. It seems as if sin is as natural for us as breathing.

Sometimes we sin with our thoughts – lustful, impure thoughts of another, or we carry anger or resentment instead of forgiving and letting go. Sometimes we sin with our words, a careless word spoken at the wrong time, a hateful word spoken to belittle or hurt. And sometimes we sin with our deeds, things we do and things we don’t do. Sometimes, through sheer act of will, we can stop sinning for a while. But eventually, our sinful nature drags us back into the muck and mire and we start sinning again.

We sin. Sometimes we’re not aware of it. We don’t think about it, but sometimes, sometimes it’s all we can think about. Like a man struggling for breath, we wrestle with our sinful nature. It hinders us, it crushes us. We drown in our guilt. This is what the God’s Law does for us when it reveals our sinful nature. You see, sin was not part of what God had planned for us. It’s not *natural*. The Lutheran Confessions state that the chief force of the Law is that it reveals original sin with all its fruits and shows man how very low his nature has fallen. And unlike a man struggling for breath, this is a good thing – a very good thing. For now we know that we need help – a rescue.

Jesus Christ is our “rescue inhaler”. He came to free us from the struggle, the wrestle with our sinful nature. We are saved, no longer “crushed” by the weight of our guilt because we know that we have been freed by the body and blood of Jesus, shed on the cross. For us the Law is no longer a source of terror, but a comforting guide on how we ought to live our lives as redeemed children of God. In joyous thanksgiving for all that God has done for us, we now strive to live that way.

We have a promise: one day when our Lord and Savior returns we will be permanently freed from our sinful nature. All the things that go along with it; our sicknesses, our bad habits, our death – everything that results from the curse that came when sin entered the world will be removed as well. And then, we will never think about our sins again.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

Reaching the Millennial Generation

by Willis Voland

At the Regional Outreach Conference hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries last August I listened to a presentation about the Millennial generation. Millennial generation defines a population segment born between 1980 and 2000. The presentation focused on who the Millennials are and how to share the Gospel with them.

According to the Pew Research/UCLA study the Millennial Generation has the following attributes:

- Highest percentage of college students
- Many live at home with their parents
- Liberal in their thinking but conservative on issues such as abortion
- They are less religious. Only 15% ranked living religiously as a high priority
- Prefer structured lives
- Perceive boundaries as judgmental
- 4 out of 5 attend a church but do not attend on a regular basis
- When they go to college, most of them leave the church

What are their priorities?

- Friends and Family – (Eph. 3:15 tells us to place high priority on friends and family)
- Parenting (Matthew 19:5-6 & Psalm 127:3-5)
- God’s way is also built around the principle of giving and serving others (Acts 20:35)

How do we reach and share the Gospel with this generation of people?

- Beef up our church’s web site and use the latest technology such as Facebook, Twitter, and other social messaging.
- Keep messages short and to the point
- Make Christ relevant to them. *What has Christ done in your life?*
- Invite them to a dinner or social event at church
- They are a people of action. Give them responsibility and let them lead.

We have a mighty Savior and a special message to give. Since they are seeking meaning and purpose in their lives we have to connect with them and explain the life saving message of Jesus Christ. And when we reach out, be prepared to listen like you mean it. It is so critical to understand the person that you are talking to; if we don’t listen they will certainly know.

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Erich Borgman	1
Joanie Gremer	1
Mike Gremer	2
Amy Wilson	2
Karen Doerr	3
Jason Bruce	5
Rory McCracken	5
Ethel Clayton	6
Sam Osten	6
Sallie Mannino	7
Brooke Lehman	10
Sandi Morgan	10
Olivia Baker	14
Stephen Baker	15
George Mesing	15
Karen Meinert	17
Colleen Sigler	17
Ted Fessides	21
Mary Nuerge	21
Natalie Osten	21
Susan Voland	23
Kathy Voland	24
Joan Bowen	25
Brianna Dulski	26
Sylvia Clayton	27

Baptismal Birthdays

Charles Coe	1
Peter Humphrey	1
Bill Mallary	1
Joseph Meinert	1
Skylar DeThomas	8
Morgan Blank	9
Dustin Parker	11
Brendan Doer	17
Matt Parker	18
Kaitlyn Schultz	21
Don Wunnenberg	22
Mike Gremer	29
Sam Osten	31



Servants in Ministry

Greeter

5-OPEN

- 12-Milt/Christie Scott
- 19-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
- 26-Stephan/Mirka Fatschel

Reader

- 5-Karl Borgman
- 12-Dana Hankinson
- 19-Kathy Osten
- 26-Diane O’Palka

Acolyte

- 5-Matthew Osten
- 12-Connor Ciccone
- 19-Sophia Fatschel
- 26-Carrick Skuse

Audio Visual

- 5- D. Gunther/K. Ormiston
- 12- L. Gunther/K. Ormiston
- 19- S. Fatschel/M. Gremer
- 26- K. Ormiston/D. Gunther

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer & Rachel Eckstrom

Prayer Concerns

- Betty Wunnenberg, broken ankle
- Rich Clayton and family for the passing of his mother
- Trevor Mesing recovering from ACL surgery
- Betty Happel, (Jean Taylor’s mother)
- Sharon, Bill & Becky Mallary’s son-in-law’s mother, for serious health issues
- Diane Tomako (friend of Lynn Gunther), Rose Reiley (friend of Sallie Mannino), Bill Patterson (Lawrie Borgman’s father), Kristanya Zittlow, Milt Scott, Twila DeThomas’ stepfather, Philip Forsyth, all battling cancer.

The Lutheran Hour—January Sermon Schedule

January 5 **"Pray, Praise and Give Thanks"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The Lord's Prayer ends with a doxology of praise and a challenge for all who pray it.
(Psalm 150)

January 12 **"Keeping Score When It Counts"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God really does keep score, but in Christ He counts you among the righteous.
(Romans 6:1-11)

January 19 **"Just in Time!"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God Who brings hope and new life to all, just in time.
(John 1:29-42)

January 26 **"Jesus in a Box"**

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Jesus transcends the labels and limits that people try to put on Him.
(Luke 4:24)

Leipzig Update

An update from Rev. Christopher S. Ahlman:

Dear fellow baptized at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

I write you this note to thank you for your willingness and commitment to actively supporting me in my role and work as Strategic Mission Developer for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Your support in the form of prayer, informing others of the Lord's work through us, and your most recent gift of \$90.00 of a \$1,140.00 will assist in advancing the Lord's work of grace and mercy in Leipzig and broader Europe, making a significant, direct impact upon the lives of many people in the name of Christ Jesus.

I thank our God for the relationship that we share. May the Lord bless you as you continue in your supportive role in this vital mission effort.

**Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,
Rev. Dr. Christopher S. Ahlman**

December Preschool News ... Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

What a busy month we have had! The children have been practicing very hard for their Christmas programs! They worked very hard and it was such a joy watching them perform! Both classes did a super job and we are so proud of all of them!

A big **THANK YOU** to all the parents who made costumes and baked cookies for our programs! We could not do it without you!

The four and three year olds are still working hard on their letters and numbers. Our main topic for the month was The True Meaning of Christmas. We had a tree decorating party and made some very pretty ornaments for our tree.

The four year olds worked very hard on our new Christmas program. They were all angels and sang like angels too!

Thank you for sharing your children with us! We are having so much fun with them and they are a joy to have!

Have a blessed Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Smiling at You,

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

December Preschool News . . . Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila

Glory to God in the Highest, Peace and Goodwill toward Men.

The month of December was spent worshipping God and preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This bible concept is what we focused on with both the three year old and four year old classes. This year's Preschool Christmas program for the three year old class consisted of the children bringing forth special items mentioned in a little story told from the perspective of Santa Claus. Santa tells the story of how Jesus' birth is the true meaning of the holiday. Santa tells us to "Teach the Children" about the true meaning of Christmas. All the boys and girls were well behaved and on point when presenting their items before the families that came to watch such a sweet and innocent show. Let us not leave out the four year old class. This year, for the first time, our four year old class represented an angelic choir. The four year old class began with a spunky rendition of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, just to get all the families who attended in the holiday spirit. During the main part of the show; a narrator read the true story of Christmas (Jesus' Birth). The children listened as the story was read; only to intermittently chime in as an angelic choir with songs that coincided with the journey to Jesus' birth. All the four year old boys and girls were dressed in white angel costumes. Oh, what a sight! Can you even imagine the sanctuary darkened while the children were singing *SILENT NIGHT, only by the light of candles?* Miss Twila and I are very proud of both classes for a job well done! What a busy but wonderful program to be a part of.

A special THANK YOU goes out to the members of the congregation for once again taking time out of their busy day to help be hospitable as we welcome our preschool families to stay for refreshments after the program. In addition, we would also like to thank the membership committee for gifting a nativity scene to every preschool student. The thought was very generous and we are truly appreciative! Last but certainly not least, THANK YOU to Miss Rose, Miss Donna, and Mr. Terry for all the behind the scenes preparations and hard work leading up to our annual Christmas programs. ☺

Instruction time was limited this month due to the short three weeks leading up to Christmas break. We did have time to fit in some holiday decorations, ornaments, as well as a Christmas countdown while practicing for the Christmas programs. We also made time to practice writing skills for two letters this month with both classes, letters S and J. During letter S week we read books with Santa Claus in them. There was actually a great deal of geography in the book, *Santa's coming to Pennsylvania*. The children laughed when they recognized some of the historical landmarks through Pennsylvania that Santa would make a stop at on Christmas Eve. During letter J week we focused mostly on J being the first letter in baby Jesus' name. Oh, so much to do; so NOT enough time!

December is a very special month for multiple reasons. Let us not get caught up in all the tinsel and lights; and remember the true meaning of the season. We hope this year left you with precious memories with loved ones young and old; and this coming New Year will provide continued blessings of health and happiness for your friends and family. On behalf of myself and Miss Twila we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We Welcome 2014!!

Blessings to you and yours,
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

Unionville United Methodist Food Pantry

For many years Unionville Church had an Outreach program that consisted of Harvest Homes at Thanksgiving. A few years ago, under the direction of Nancy Listen, the Outreach Program took on a new dimension. Nancy and her committee established a Food Pantry and a Clothes Closet at the church. They obtained a list of people in the community that needed help on a short term basis and found ways to help them. Sometimes it was with household goods, clothes, and food or house repairs. Easter and Christmas parties were held for the children and the parents were given Easter baskets and Christmas presents for the children. Each year an average of forty five children receive new underwear and socks at Easter, Christmas and the new school year. Oak Grove Lutheran Church, New Sewickley Presbyterian Church, St John's "Burrys" Church, Prince of Peace Church, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Freedom School District, private donors as well as our church family here at Unionville have been very supportive of this mission. Even though Nancy passed away earlier this year her vision to improve *the least of our brother's* lives still lives on. Please remember to bring in pantry items as we proudly support UUMC.

Grief Share

Grief Share is a recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. There are two area churches holding these weekly seminars. New Hope Lutheran Church in Economy holds their meetings every Wednesday at 7pm (Contact: Ardith Curtis at 724.869.4583). Also, Burry's Church in Rochester will start session on January 11 and meet ever Saturday through March 8th at 10 am and every Thursday from March 13-April 3 at 6 pm (Contact Christa Harley at 724.452.6941).

Reminders

OFFICE HOURS for Rose DeWeese are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8am-2pm. Wednesday is a work from home day so if you need anything you can contact Rose via email at secretarypop@princeofpeacefreedom.com. **Note:** If you would like a bulletin or newsletter announcement please email the content of your request or if you prefer to write out your announcement/article, please make sure you put your name on the note and place in Rose DeWeese's mailbox.

Pr. Michael's office hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 am – 1 pm.

PROPERTY & GROUNDS

It is mandatory that when you wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs, etc.) that you complete a **REQUEST TO BORROW CHURCH PROPERTY** form. This form will be reviewed and when approved you will be contacted.

If you see that there are any items that need repair, replacement or some extra loving care at Prince of Peace please complete a **REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE/REPAIR WORK** form with your name on it. Any requests without a name may not be completed.

Both of these forms are located in the mailbox area and are distinctly labeled.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

When requesting use of the Fellowship Hall or any other church facilities you must fully complete a **USE OF FACILITY** application well in advance of the date that you desire to hold your event. Requests for this paperwork can be made by calling or emailing Rose DeWeese.

January 2014

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 New Year's Day	2 7:00 Choir 7:00 Elders	3	4 6:30 Holy Communion
5 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	6	7 8:30 Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	8 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	9 7:00 Choir	10	11 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	13	14 8:30 Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	15 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	16 7:00 Choir	17	18 6:30 Holy Communion
19 2 nd Sunday After Epiphay 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	20	21 8:30 Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	22 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	23 7:00 Choir	24	25 6:30 Holy Communion
26 3 rd Sun. After Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Regional Mission Trip Mtg., <i>following service</i>	27	28 8:30 Braille 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	29 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders	30 7:00 Choir	31	