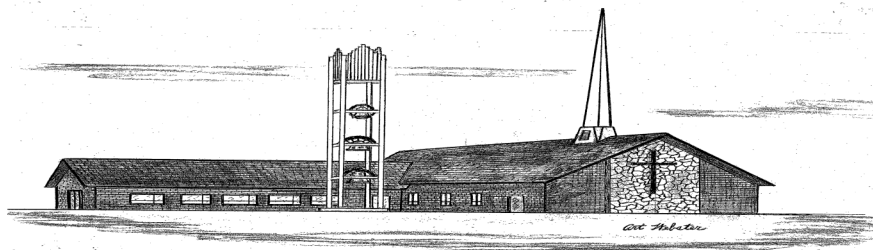


The Bells

JULY/AUGUST 2013

Volume 39, Issue 7



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

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WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM Worship

Sunday: 10:15 AM Worship

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Among all the papers that Katya and Niko brought home at the end of the school year was a list of websites so that they could have some practice work for the summer. It's a list of games they can do to practice math and reading skills, to remember social studies and science facts.

Homework in the summer...seems wrong somehow. Summer is the time for parks and pools, for late-night games of hide-n-go seek in the neighborhood. Summer is the time for camping trips and vacations by the beach. Summer isn't the time for schoolwork and math facts. Except...

Except studies show that when school starts in the fall students have forgotten some of what they knew. Teachers, then, have to spend a few weeks, or months re-teaching what those students once knew.

Even as adults this phenomenon affects us. I vaguely remember some of my engineering lessons from twenty years ago. The ability to remember programming languages and calculus is fading with time. If you don't use it, you lose it.

Paul writes to the Philippians: "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil. 2:12 ESV)

"Work out" – sounds like a lot like "practice, practice, practice" doesn't it? Paul is saying to bring to completion, make perfect your salvation. In other words, practice makes perfect.

Now, Paul isn't saying that your salvation depends on your work, on what you do. In fact, in the very next verse he says that it is "God who works in you" meaning that it is God who gives you the power and energy both "to will and to do His good pleasure."

You and I are saved by the work Christ has done on the cross. We have been brought to faith in this by the Word of God. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of God." Paul is encouraging us to be workman unto salvation. He's saying, don't be slothful. Don't neglect the study of the Word; don't neglect the Sacraments. This is how we work out our salvation, by staying in the Word, by coming to Worship.

Summertime, vacation time tempts us to take it easy, to avoid church when we're traveling, to avoid Bible study when we're home. And God knows this, so he encourages us to continue to work out our salvation in all fear and trembling, to come to Him humbly and in prayer and seek Him in His Word.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1:6 ESV)

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Michael

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

JULY

Altar Guild - Kathy Voland

Greeters

- 7-Bill/Becky Mallary
- 14-OPEN
- 21-OPEN
- 28-Kathy Voland/Rachel Eckstrom

Readers

- 7-Joshua Humphrey
- 14-Jeff Doerr
- 21-Tara Dulski
- 28-Jennifer Ciccone

Acolytes

- 7-Matthew Muto
- 14-Connor Ciccone
- 21-Ruthann Weedon
- 28-Jeremy Osten

Audio Visual

- 7—No AV
- 14-Kathleen Ormiston/Mike Gremer
- 21-Lynn Gunther/Kathleen Ormiston
- 28-Jennifer Ciccone/Doug Eckstrom

AUGUST

Altar Guild—Amy Wilson

Greeters

- 4-Ed/Sandi Morgan
- 11-Rich/Ethel Clayton
- 18-Darryl/Lynn Gunther
- 25-OPEN

Readers

- 4-Joshua Humphrey
- 11-Mary Podeszwa
- 18-Milt Scott
- 25-Diane O’Palka

Acolytes

- 4-Kyle Borgman
- 11-Brendan Doerr
- 18-Matthew Muto
- 25-Connor Ciccone

Audio Visual

- 4-Darryl Gunther/Doug Eckstrom
- 11-Stephan Fatschel/Kathleen Ormiston
- 18-Lynn Gunther/Kathleen Ormiston
- 25-Jennifer Ciccone/Doug Eckstrom

July & August Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays

Tyler Borgman	1
Karl Borgman	2
Scott Lehman	2
Chuck Taylor	2
Robin Young	5
Erik Doerr	7
Barb Blank	8
John Hamara	9
Ed Morgan	9
Bryan Lehocky	12
Sierrah Altenburg	12
Ruth Miller	13
Heather Nuerge	13
Tracy Alberts-Wilde	13
Mary Lehocky	15
Linda Weimer	16
Kathy Charlton	17
Andrew Kostelnik	17
Marcy Dietrich	18
Tammy Eckstrom	21
Lorena Hamara	21
Shawn Mengel	21
Noah Weedon	24
Rachel Eckstrom	25
Helen Nord	27
Jared Rombold	28
Jeff Blank	30
Connie Kerr	30
Brittany Young	31

July Anniversaries

Ron & Mary Lehocky	5
Andy & Sandy Kostelnik	12
Karl & Lawrie Borgman	20
Bill & Connie Kerr	27
Chuck & Jean Taylor	27

July Baptismal Birthdays

Sophia Fatschel	8
Alice Davis	9
Craig Volland	12
Brad Lehocky	15
Ashleen McCracken	16
Scott Gunther	16
Zelda Parks	18
Elizabeth Nowry	20
Brett Lehocky	23
Jason Blank	25
June Shively	29
Robin Young	31

August Birthdays

Edna Gaertner	1
Adriana Ciccone	4
Niko Podeszwa	9
Milt Scott	13
Bob Blank	14
Kim Singleton	14
Thomas Shively	15
Carrick Skuse	15
Susan Szabo	17
Charles Coe	21
Wendy Mengel	22
Cari Skuse	26
Lisa Wallace	28
Susan Huber	29

August Anniversaries

Sam & Kathy Osten	5
Bill & Becky Mallary	11
Stephan & Mirka Fatschel	15
Carl & Jennifer Ciccone	20

August Baptismal Birthdays

Mary Lehocky	2
Scott Lehman	3
John Hamara	4
Helen Nord	4
Barb Blank	5
Brett Torres	11
Ruth Miller	17
Niko Podeszwa	17
Chase O'Palka	18
Bryan Lehocky	22
Shawn Mengel	22
Rachel Eckstrom	23
Colton Blank	24
Connie Kerr	28

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- Bill Patterson (Lawrie Borgman's father) diagnosed with prostate cancer and receiving hormone therapy;
- Marcy Waddell (Joan Bowen's niece) for healthy pregnancy;
- Sharon, Bill & Becky Mallary's son-in-law's mom, for serious health issues
- Craig Mallary for lung trouble
- The Young family, for the loss of Michael (Brittany Young's father)
- Jim Norton awaiting results of a bone marrow biopsy
- Diane Kopas, Kristanya Zittlow, Milt Scott, Twila DeThomas' stepfather, Philip Forsyth, battling cancer.

The Lutheran Hour

July 7—"Appointed, Anointed and Sent"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The living Lord appoints, anoints, and sends His 'graced' people out to share His love with sinners in need. If you believe in Jesus, you are one of those He sends! (Luke 10:1-20)

July 14—"Inconvenient Compassion"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God fills our lives with His love, overflowing in us so that He can also bless others. (Luke 10:25-37)

July 21—"A Superlative Savior for a World in Need"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Disconnected from God, even our good works need His forgiveness. (Luke 10:38-42)

July 28—"The Rest of the Story"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Jesus really rise from the dead? What's the rest of the story? (Colossians 2:6-8)

INSTALLMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

The following members will be installed as Congregational Officers on
Saturday June 29th & Sunday, June 30th.

Eric Bendekovic—Youth

Mary Podeszwa—Christian Education

Milt Scott—Elder

Please remember these individuals in your prayers as they serve the ministries they have been elected to.

Our warmest thanks to *Willis Volland, Susan Volland, and Ted Fessides* for their service, time and contributions as former Council leaders

The position for Property and Grounds and Vice President are still open. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities to serve.

MOVIE NIGHT AT PRINCE OF PEACE!



Join us **Thursday evening July 18** to watch one of the most critically acclaimed movies in recent history.

Les Misérables

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century France, **Les Misérables** tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption—a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. Hugh Jackman plays ex-prisoner Jean Valjean, hunted for decades by the ruthless policeman Javert (Russell Crowe) after he breaks parole. When Valjean agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's (Anne Hathaway) young daughter, Cosette, their lives change forever.

The movie is just over 2 ½ hours long so we will start promptly at 7:00. Please plan to arrive a little early to get your seat set. This event is BYOCC – bring your own COMFORTABLE chair. The folding chairs in the fellowship hall are functional, but not the most comfortable for the long haul so you may want to bring a lawn chair or beanbag or something portable that you can sit in for several hours.

Hope to see you there!

THE ORIGIN OF BRAILLE

French Captain Charles Barbier, in the early 1800's tried to develop a method that military officers could use to read messages and orders in the dark while in battle. Lighting a torch, or even a match to have enough light to read the message could very well alert the enemy to their location.

Barbier developed a method of reading in the dark he called “night writing.” The system consisted of a series of twelve raised dots, each arranged in a different pattern for various sounds in the language. To test the system out, he found a 13 year old blind boy and taught him how the system worked.

The boy struggled to learn the system but ultimately failed. It was just too complicated to learn. Barbier gave up on further developing his “night writing” system. The boy, however did not give up. Rather he spent two years refining the system and ultimately cut the number of dots down to only six and instead of each grouping standing for various sounds in the language, he made each series represent one letter of the alphabet. His “new” system spread widely—and is still in use today. The boy's name? Louis Braille.

NEW CASTLE CITY RESCUE MISSION NEEDS YOUR HELP

It is never too early to plan for the Holidays. Especially when planning involves helping those less fortunate.

When we think of Thanksgiving we think of turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, vegetables etc., all food items familiar to a traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner and how thankful we are to enjoy such a feast. But there are hundreds of families in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties who would not be able to enjoy all those traditional Thanksgiving foods if it weren't for the food baskets prepared by the New Castle City Rescue Mission.

Beginning July 7 through November 17, Prince of Peace will once again begin collecting various items to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to these less fortunate families in our county and the surrounding counties. A box will be placed in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Last year we collected 897 food items. Let's challenge ourselves to collect 1,000 items. We will be collecting food for 20 weeks.

The following items are needed:

- Large and small cans of pumpkin
- Canned turkey gravy
- Evaporated milk
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Boxes of stuffing
- Pie crust

Packing of the baskets will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Beaver County Christian School in Beaver Falls. Please contact Diane O'Palka at 724-709-8332 if you or your group would be interested in helping to pack baskets.

Thank you for your support.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

At the beginning of the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence we read these words: ***“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*** This document was the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America in Congress on July 4, 1776.

These words are pretty easy to recite, but so difficult to practice. For one thing, freedom is never free. It comes only through great cost, including the sacrifice of dedicated men and women in defense of our national freedoms. In addition, the stain of sin causes us to treat our fellow citizens as inferior according to our own definitions and practices.

The LCMS defines stewardship: ***“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”***

Really--Christian stewardship free and joyous??? Too often we have all kinds of words that describe Christian stewardship as anything but free and joyous. How can it be free? It is free because the price for it, like the freedom we enjoy as Americans, has been paid for by the sacrifice of someone else. Jesus, through His bitter suffering, death and glorious resurrection, has freed us to be the children of God who delight in doing what God delights in doing—loving and giving!

So, is it easy to practice free and joyous Christian stewardship? Hardly, because so many false notions drive us into other directions. We think we have earned what we have and can use it in any way we choose. We think that we own all kinds of material possessions rather than acknowledging that God is the rightful Owner and we are simply His managers.

How do we become good managers who freely and joyfully practice good stewardship? Left to ourselves we will fail over and over again. But through the marvelous working of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to excel as Christian stewards. Through conversion (by baptism and/or confirmation) we are miraculously brought into the family of God. Through sanctification (growth in Christian living) the Holy Spirit continues to build us up as God’s joyful stewards.

How does this happen? The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God, the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, worship, prayer and the mutual encouragement of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The Holy Spirit does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. In gratitude for His working in us, let’s resolve to become more and more what God has already declared us in Christ to be, namely, His children (See 1 John 3:1 for scriptural evidence of this miracle). ***Yes indeed, maturing stewards freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes!***

NEWS FROM CHRISTOPHER S. AHLMAN SERVING THE LORD IN GERMANY

“Whew!!!” Since I last wrote, we’ve:

- 1) prepared in earnest for our deployment to Leipzig;
- 2) said our final “Farewell”s before flying out;
- 3) boarded the three flights that collectively got us to Leipzig;
- 4) met up with colleagues and their families at the Leipzig-Halle International Airport;
- 5) got settled in our temporary apartment;
- 6) became acquainted with our new congregation and its pastor;
- 7) became acquainted with nearby shops for living needs (a process that is more difficult than usual but easier than easier than one might expect) and the Leipzig Tram and Bus;
- 8) processed our registration and residence and employment visas;
- 9) planned out and ordered our kitchen at IKEA (German apartments customarily come with a bare room for a kitchen, with one having to acquire everything in it!), and oversaw its installation;
- 10) secured a German bank account;
- 11) received all our possessions entirely intact (!) from the US at our permanent apartment;
- 12) ordered MANY new pieces of furniture (numbering approximately 20 items), all of which we have assembled ourselves;

As I type this, we are:

- 1) working to find a Kindergarten place for Thomas (Germany currently has more Kindergarten-age children than Kindergarten open spots, and it is a constant struggle for all involved);
 - 2) attending meetings on a regular basis concerning the shape, direction, and timetable for outreach initiatives in Leipzig;
 - 3) exposing ourselves to musical events at Leipzig churches, getting a “feel” for what is currently offered in the city;
 - 4) entering the “finishing touch” stage of our permanent apartment;
 - 5) preparing for the 22-23 May Concordia University—Nebraska A Cappella Choir concerts at Lukaskirche;
 - 6) beginning the process of contracting a German tutor;
 - 7) taking time for special family outings and events;
 - 8) giving moral support to Matthias, who is currently enduring the entrance of 4-6 teeth simultaneously.
- Thus far, we have found Leipzig to be a beautiful and eclectic city. English speakers can be found but do not abound (contra many parts of former West Germany), and this is good for us, as it assists and encourages us in our “inner push” to learn German better and quicker. While the present reunified Germany is certainly evident in many respects, so is its recent past as a former East German city. A brief panoramic glimpse at the Hauptbahnhof gives one a good snapshot of the cosmopolitan character of Leipzig. All nationalities, mentalities, postures, fashions, and circumstances of life are here to stay. Among this array, of course, is Jesus Christ, the Lord of the cosmos, who will work his mighty and gracious work “when and where he pleases in those who May God in Christ through the Spirit bless you now and forever.

Coming this Fall...

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN GOD'S WORD

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. -- Ephesians 4:11-14

So Jesus said... "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." -- John 8:31-32

Blessed are the Peacemakers: Cultivating Lifestyles of Reconciliation

We Christians are called to love as we have been loved and forgive as we have been forgiven by God. We called to be peacemakers, to reconcile and restore relationships. We are called to repent when we have done wrong and forgive when others come apologizing to us. We are also called to confront our brothers and sisters in Christ when we see them caught in sin. This study will help us learn how to do these things and be powerful witnesses for Christ as we live lifestyles of reconciliation.

Financial Peace University

We all need a plan for our money. *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks.

Man and Woman According to God's Plan

Consider God's basic operating paradigm for His creation, beginning with the creation account and also exploring the Gospels and Epistles. The class will discuss a number of topics, including the roles of men and women in the home and in the church, the question of the ordination of women, and the implications that God's truth has for secular society.

Prince of Peace Book Club

Once a month we will meet at a restaurant in Cranberry to discuss some classic Christian literature. These books will include *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom, *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis, *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and *Family Vocation: God's Calling in Marriage, Parenting, and Childhood* by Gene Edward Veith. If there are books you would like include in our reading list or if you have a suggestion as to the best time and place to meet, please speak with Mary Podeszwa.

July 2013

SUN.

MON.

TUE.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

	1	2	3	4	5	6 6:30 Holy Communion
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING, SAN ANTONIO, TX						
7 7th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	8 Millvale Braille	9 AM Braille	10 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	11 AM—Forest Hills Braille	12	13 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
14 8th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	15 St. Luke's Braille	16 AM Braille	17 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	18 7:00 Movie Night at POP "Les Miserables"	19	20 6:30 Holy Communion LCMS 65th SYNODICAL CONVENTION
21 9th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	22 Haven Braille	23 AM Braille	24	25	26	27 6:30 Holy Communion
LCMS 65th SYNODICAL CONVENTION						
28 10th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	29	30	31			

August 2013

SUN.

MON.

TUE.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

				1	2	3 6:30 Holy Communion
4 11th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion Coffee with Pastor, following service	5 Millvale Braille	6 AM Braille	7 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	8 AM—Forest Hills Braille	9	10 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
11 12th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	12 St. Luke's Braille	13 AM Braille	14 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	15	16	17 6:30 Holy Communion
18 13th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	19 Haven Braille	20 AM Braille	21 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	22	23	24 6:30 Holy Communion
25 14th Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 Holy Communion	26	27	28 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	29	30	31 6:30 Holy Communion