



Editor: Donna Mathewson

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Perspective

A Blessing

By Larry Urbaniak

In November and December as Thanksgiving and the Christmas season come each year I tend to be more aware of the blessings I have and I thank God for them. I know and recognize that I have so much to be thankful for – both spiritually and even physically. And of course most of us have much even materially, more than others throughout the world and throughout history. Even though we tend to complain about the economic situation and grumble about those we blame for it, if honest we must admit that we are very blessed people.

I pray before each meal I eat. I always thank God for the food I am about to eat and ask for Him to bless it. Deuteronomy 8:10 says, “When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.” It is interesting that these words to the Hebrews instruct them to bless God after they have eaten, not before. Even more interesting to me is that they are told to bless God, not ask Him to bless them.

Very often as a Christian trying to please God, I ask Him to bless me. I need and want His blessing in my life and in the lives of my spiritual family. Yet Psalm 103:1-2 says, “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is

within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” These verses tell me to bless God. Do I do that?

In the time of Jesus many Jews had developed and practiced a tradition of saying short, specific prayers throughout the day, from the time they woke up until they went to bed and fell back asleep. Each short prayer was called a “berakhah” or a “brakha” which means “blessing.” To me blessing someone means to bestow favor on that person. That is why I ask God to bless my food, my day, me, and often you. I desire God’s favor. But the Bible often asks us to bless God. This means to praise Him, to thank Him, to acknowledge Him as the source of all our blessings.

Reading and thinking about this recently made me realize that starting and getting in the habit of saying a short “brakha” often during our days and lives could help us have and live a more Christian perspective. When your alarm goes off in the morning, thank God for the people who had the intelligence to invent an alarm clock (or a clock radio). When we move (and sometimes even ache), bless God for the miracle of how our bodies function. When I eat, bless Him for the abundance and variety of the food I have. Bless Him for the

Perspective continued from page 1

car I drive (without understanding how it really works) and how I can get from here to there.

When I enter church I should bless God for the building we have, for our worship together, and for each of you who serve Him (and me) so well and so faithfully. Even when things go wrong, I should bless God for His control in my life. Even in our illnesses, He should be blessed for health and healings and strength in weaknesses. In the presence of death, we praise Him for the promise of resur-

rection and life in Christ. He is still so good.

Perhaps by starting with short and simple daily (hourly?) prayers we can learn what a close relationship with God through Christ means - even in urgent or tough times. I need not wait until Thanksgiving or Christmas to be thankful or to bless God. He is a blessing to me all the time. You and I need to be a blessing to Him.



Peggy Allen – Alzheimer's
 Tim Allen – Glaucoma
 Erica Andrada – Tourettes Syndrome
 Steve Andrada, Jr. – serious health problems
 Steve Andrada, Sr. – heart
 Delores Andrada – serious health issues
 Jim Bews – Angiosarcoma (aggressive vascular cancer)
 Scott Carpenter – MS
 Linda Catlin – sinus issues; improved
 Mary Clonar – back pain & health problems
 Alan Crawford – recovery from surgery
 Mike Dobbs – depression
 George Duhaime – Multiple Myeloma
 Kim Dunn – Hashimoto's disease
 Liz Fischer – MS
 Mike Fischer – serious neck problems
 Isabelle Fiorello – Leukemia
 Jean Forster – MS
 Bonnie Gaunt – Colon cancer

Tony Greico-Stroke
 Faye Iannaccone – weakness and weight loss
 Iannaccone family – death of Laurie
 Elva Lanowick – hip surgery
 John Maurelli – kidney problems
 Maurelli Family-death of Joe
 Alain Yves Miller – Asthenia
 Mary Ellen Moore – Occipital Neuralgia
 Ralph Moore – Myasthenia Gravis, Bladder cancer
 Jon Muszynski – Diabetes & depression
 Pat Muszynski – Spinal Stenosis
 Cecil Pagel – back pain & Romanian orphanage
 Jim Penton – Heart issues
 Art Polychronis – recovery from brain aneurysm & recent kidney failure
 Marcia Rajewski – Heart issues
 Ed Rutkowski – Leukemia
 Leona Rutkowski – Alzheimer
 Sue Knapp Siwak – Scleroderma
 Dan Schultz – recovery from double transplant of kidney and liver
 Pat (Stober) & Rich Tremblay – many health issues & death of Rich's son, John
 Michael Terrazas – Lupus
 Lucille Wasko – general health
 Jeannie Weeks – recovery from colon & hernia surgery
 Judi Wineroth – Fibromyalgia

PRAISE REPORT: Jason Catlin is healed from his last surgery and doing much better health-wise, Jason and his family wish to thank you all for your prayers.



Viewpoints

THE MEDIUM IS NOT THE MESSAGE By Dennis Thorfeldt

In 1964 a popular philosopher by the name of Marshall McLuhan, wrote a book entitled "The Medium is the Message." The book explained that the medium or the form in which a message is delivered is even more important than the message itself. Unfortunately, this theory is often applied to evangelism and to how we Christians reach others with the message of the gospel. In other words, the focus is being placed upon the evangelist (us) rather than on the content of the message that is being preached. This is the motivation behind the "seeker-driven" mind-set which is so popular among Christian churches lately.

The thinking goes that if we want to "reach the culture" we must emulate the culture in some way. The idea that more people will be attracted to the church if the preacher is cooler or funnier or more in sync with the times, leads to the assumption that it is his personal charm that draws people to Christ. It also leads to a watered down gospel which is more culturally accepted than what is found in scripture. Plus, it implies that the gospel message alone is not sufficient, but it needs a little help from us.

In contrast to this, listen to the parable of Jesus found in Mark 4:26-29 in which Jesus explains how evangelism works: *"The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows - how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

Jesus is saying that the farmer is ignorant of how the seed transforms itself into a mature plant. After sowing the seed, the farmer goes to bed at night, and what do you know? - a plant is grown overnight, while the farmer is sleeping! Obviously the seed represents the gospel, and the farmer represents those of us who present it. We scatter the seed - that is, explain the gospel to people - and some of those people believe and receive life, but some don't. One

thing is clear, however. The success of the effort does not ultimately depend on us. The power of the gospel is in the message itself and in the working of the Spirit, not in the style or ability of the sower.

Paul understood this principle. He explained his evangelism as follows: *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."* God is the one who actually draws sinners to Himself, changes their hearts, and causes them to be sanctified. Paul and Apollos were both faithful, but they were not the explanation for the supernatural life and growth.

Jesus intentionally highlights the farmer's lack of influence over the growth of the seed. In fact, Jesus stresses that the farmer, after planting, simply went home and fell asleep. This is directly analogous to our evangelistic efforts. For a person to be saved, the Spirit of God has to draw him, and regenerate his soul.

This runs counter to the notion that the results of our evangelistic efforts are directly dependent on us. For one thing, that means that we shouldn't blame ourselves if we don't see immediate results. On the other hand, we can't take the credit either when we encounter success. All the farmer can do is sow, and all we can do is proclaim. Of course, the fact that the farmer went to sleep is not an excuse for laziness on our part. The farmer did sleep, but only after he diligently sowed his seed.

Jesus' description of the farmer provides our model for witnessing. We must plant the gospel seed. Then we must trust God for the results, since only the Spirit can give life. (Romans 3:5) *Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'*

No, the medium is **not** the gospel message.





Beside Still Waters...

Praise & Thanksgiving by Donna Mathewson

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100:4



Praise is a celebration of who God is and all He’s done for us. When we praise the Lord, He is right there with us...in the midst of our worship. He prepares our hearts through praise and worship to hear what He has to say through His Word. Praise brings us into His presence!

Throughout Scripture we see that praise and thanksgiving go hand in hand. Here we are instructed to begin our prayers with thanksgiving and praise. How often do we rush right into our prayer time, listing off our needs for the day and asking for God’s blessings over what we do? How often do we take the time to BLESS our Father for all He does for us? This verse shows us that we should take the time to lift up thanksgiving and praise to God as we enter into His presence.

Philippians 4:6 says that as we lift up our prayers and petitions to the Lord, we should do it with thanksgiving. Psalm 95:2 says “Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.” Begin your praise to the Lord by thanking Him for all He’s done. Praise him with a song. I do a lot of praising God in my car on the way to and from work, as I sing along to the Christian music I play. It not only blesses God, but it puts my heart in the right place and helps me to start and end my workday in the right frame of mind.

When we thank God for what He’s done for us, try not to use just a general “thank you for all you’ve done” prayer, but take the time to thank Him specifically for things He’s done in your life. When you lift up a petition to the Lord and He answers it, take the time to lift up an enthusiastic, deliberate thanks and praise Him. “Bless His Holy Name!” (Psalm 103:1) Put

this into practice and you’ll be amazed at how often He gives you new things which you can thank Him and praise Him for.

Psalm 118:28 says “You are my God and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.” Praising God is a decision we make in our heart...we make a choice to lift up praise and thanksgiving to the Lord; whether we feel like it or not. When we begin to focus on all the things He does for us...the tiniest blessings along with the big things, the dark things in our life will begin to fade into the background. Praise is a powerful tool against the devil and will breakdown the stronghold he may be attempting to surround us with. Praising God when we are discouraged will have an amazing work in our lives and we will begin to realize how much we have to be thankful for. When we think of all He’s done and all He is, praise and thanksgiving should burst forth from us in grateful celebration to our Lord. Take the time to practice praise and make the decision to continually thank the Lord specifically for the things He’s doing in your life. You’ll be blessed and so will He.





A Daughter's Heart *God's Word* By Donna Mathewson

As believers, we need to know that the most important place to find food for our spirits is the Bible, the Word of God; and the more time we spend absorbing it, the better for our spiritual growth. The problem is that most of us live very busy lives, and we think we just don't have time to read the Bible every day. Is that really true? Isn't it really a matter of setting our priorities?

No other time in history has the entire Bible, in our own language, been more accessible to everyone than now. Can you believe the myriad forms now available? We have a multitude of versions in our everyday language at low enough prices that we could own each of them, and many of us do! Every new technology that touches our lives has the ability to bring the Bible that much closer to our hands. Even cell phones have programs that allow us to read many versions of the Bible, and they also come with daily reading plans. No matter how many forms and versions of the Bible there are, and how many we own, we still have to exert the effort to put those words into our minds! Even if technology ever gains the ability to download the entire Bible into our brains, we would still need to access it in order for it to have an effect on us.

God's word has the power to change who we are, but only if we open our minds to hear what it is telling us, allowing God to talk to us. So why is it that all believers don't make daily Bible reading a priority? We manage to find time to do all kinds of things in our free time. Much of our day is taken up in doing things we need to do, but everyone has some discretion in planning their day, even if their plan doesn't work out all the time.

The good news is that it is much easier to fit consistent Bible reading into our day now than it ever was. If you have never had a daily habit of Bible reading before, my advice is to start small. Choose one of the letters in the New Testament, and have as your goal to read just one chapter. Choose a quiet time by yourself, when you are

not likely to be interrupted, like during your nighttime routine, when you wake up, or when the baby naps or the kids are in school. Do you drive to work every day? How about staying in the car a few extra minutes once you get to work, or once you get home?

Whatever time of day you choose, start with a prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading and for success in establishing your new habit. Then begin to read. I think you may be surprised how quickly you can reach your goal, and how compelling the reading can be, spurring you on to read more. I have found more success in being consistent in my reading when I give myself a reward for doing it, like: I have to do my reading before I can do something else that I want to do. You don't have to do this first thing in the morning, any time that works best for you is what you should do, and whichever amount is best for you to help you create this habit. Once you have established the habit of daily reading, you can increase the amount you read and the time you devote to it. It took a while to build up to it, but I have been reading through the Bible each year for more than ten years now, and some days the reading goes quicker than others. Some books are easier to read than others, and some are harder, but I am more convinced than ever how important it is to be in the Word every day. God will honor your desire to learn of Him and His Word, and help you in this effort, especially when you begin by asking Him for wisdom and strength.

May
God
bless
your
Bible
reading!





Ebenezers

Hebrews 7

by Jon Larson

The definition of Consecrate is *to devote anything to God's worship and service; to hallow or sanctify.*

We begin with two key points from this chapter, which would seem to be fundamental lessons for any priest in the Royal Priesthood of the High Priest Jesus Christ. One: it is beyond contradiction that the less is blessed of the better. Two: a true priest of the Royal Priesthood, of necessity, has to be consecrated to God.

The book of Hebrews was written to brethren who understood the fact that a priest must be consecrated to God. Sadly though, they also labored under the belief that a priest could only come from the tribe of Levi, and the totally mistaken notion that the Levitical priesthood would just continue on as the one anointed priesthood between God and man. These brethren failed to grasp the fact that the Levitical priesthood, with their High Priest Aaron, served under a covenant which frankly couldn't help anyone to attain perfection. They also failed to understand that a better high priest, with a better priesthood, serving under a better covenant, is now the anointed priesthood between God and man: a priesthood which, eventually, helps all who choose to, attain and maintain perfection for all eternity.



Okay now hold on tight, here comes the part which just boggles the mind. To be a member of the Church of the Firstborn, is to be a priest in this Royal Priesthood. Basically, this is done by our believing in Jesus, exercising our faith in Jesus, and taking up our cross daily to follow Jesus. The basic formula is not complicated at all, we just have to choose to follow it



with all our hearts. Look around us! So many, many people are walking down the broad way, striving with all their hearts for some fleeting happiness by attaining earthly treasures, which are at best only temporal and eventually will be gone with the wind. They fail to understand that the broad way only leads to destruction, but the Lord tells us of a narrow way which, right now, leads to life. The Lord also makes it plain that, "few there be that find it." It is in our purview to make the free and very personal choice to walk the narrow way. To take the hand of Jesus along this path will bring treasures of joy which no thief can rob, nor can ever be corrupted. They are treasures of joy eternal and incorruptible, which can never, ever be blown away by some shifting wind. Walking this journey, as always, begins with God. To be more precise, the one true Living God who is the Savior of all, especially those who believe in his only begotten Son Jesus Christ, the high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

In understanding our high priest, it really helps to know everything we've been told about a particular priest who's only briefly mentioned in scripture, yet is of utterly profound significance: Melchizedek. Scripture calls him a King of Righteousness, a King of Peace, and a Priest of the most high God. That's quite a trilogy, which certainly wasn't lost on father Abraham. You see, Abraham was of a mind to give a tenth of what he had to Melchizedek, because of who he was, not because of law. WOW, THAT'S IM-

Ebenezers continued from page 6

PORTANT! For from the loins of Abraham, came the sons of Levi who received the priesthood under the covenant of Law. This Levitical priesthood had as their high priest Aaron, and were commanded under the Law, to collect tithes from their brethren who also came from the loins of Abraham. Yet, who did Abraham freely give tithes to? That's right, Melchizedek! So it is clear to see that the less, Abraham, was blessed of the greater, a king of righteousness, a king of peace, and a priest of the most high God, Melchizedek.

Knowing these facts are crucial to understanding the High Priest of the priesthood to which we may aspire. The Living God of all creation Himself has taken an oath on the matter, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, you are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." (Ps. 110:4) The "you" there is none other than our Lord Jesus, the High Priest of a priesthood in the service of a better covenant, lasting forever. Consequently, Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him. The scriptural expression, "Save to the uttermost," is really quite a wonderful concept, which sadly seems to be rarely mentioned nowadays or thoughtfully examined, though it should be. You see at this very moment in eternity, our friends in the world find these kinds of things either total mumbo jumbo, or at best a mystery. But it shouldn't be to the body of Christ, who comprise the priesthood of the better covenant by which perfection is attainable to all who will. How is all this possible? Because the price of our redemption was paid for with the blood of the Lamb. Our Savior and High Priest Jesus freely gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

It should be pointed out that there was no oath on the covenant under which the Levitical priesthood served. Frankly, the fact is everyone under that covenant, even Aaron, died dead as a doornail, dead. This would seem to prove the proposition that no one could attain perfection by that covenant, not even its high priest. However, the covenant of Law does serve as "Our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." (Gal. 3:24) Therefore, there certainly is some value in knowing that lesser covenant. However, there is incalculable value in knowing all we can of the better oath-bound covenant, because it is beyond contradiction that the less is blessed of the greater.

To really know the better covenant is to want to be a priest of that covenant and to consecrate oneself to God's worship and service. Ooooh please!!! Just let those on broad way have all the money, the fancy homes, the really cool cars and all that other temporal corruptible stuff the world strives for as if there's nothing else. We know by the Word of the Lord, and by our faith, that there is something else. By faith, we know that if Christ is in us, then so is the hope of glory in us, glory which is incorruptible, immortal, and is as cool as could be, all coming with the oath-bound covenant. May we know and never forget that there is nothing better for us, than to serve forever as a priest under the High Priest who was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and now made higher than the heavens. Yes, he is our High Priest forever, under the word of the oath, who is consecrated for evermore! May it also be with us, "Consecrated for evermore!"

*"Consecration is the only
surrender which is also a
victory." — Neal A Maxwell*



Bible Quiz

WHO Was IT?



1. He "went out and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:62)
2. His soul was "knit with the soul of David." (I Sam. 18:1)
3. His face looked like the face of an angel. (Acts 6:15)
4. He had lost no physical strength though he lived to 120. (Deut. 34:7)
5. He fell asleep when Paul preached and fell from a 3rd story window. (Acts 20:9)
6. She came to quiz Solomon when she heard how famous he was. (II Chron. 9:1)
7. He ate grass like an oxen and his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle. (Dan. 4:33)
8. She knew Peter's voice but didn't let him in. (Acts 12:14)
9. He was 8 years old when he became king in Jerusalem. (II Chron. 34:1-2)
10. He "killed James the brother of John with the sword." (Acts 12:1-3)



Eric's Epiphanies

VICTORY

By Eric Honea

Christians like non-Christians are engaged in a battle with time. If only we had more time! Our challenge more specifically is the wise and proper use of time. Beyond this we want to be at peace with the passing of time. Finally we seek the mindset that time is actually on our side.



VICTORY OVER MIXED LOYALTIES

This kind of battle for the victory over time is really a battle to keep the world from crowding out our life in Christ and taking up all our time. Jesus told a parable in which *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."* Matt 13:22 Isn't this how we really feel when the details of our physical life keep us away from our spiritual destiny, like we are being *choked*? Paul told Timothy *"No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."* Tim 2:4 Isn't this also how it feels to be too busy, like we are *entangled*? How do we free ourselves if we find ourselves choked, entangled, and unfruitful in our Lord's service? What do sailors do when their ship is sinking? They throw everything overboard including food and treasure. Why? Because they know they must sacrifice in order to save what is most dear to them: *their lives*.

Eric's Epiphanies... continued from page 8

VICTORY OVER THE WRONG MINDSET

Often you hear the feeling expressed that after a hard day on the job one needs to relax and unwind. Jesus did show he recognized the need for rest for himself and his disciples and yet he was always about his Father's business. I suggest that when we choose the mindset that serving God's people leaves us refreshed and energized then this becomes our reality. You might say that good works become our hobby and our entertainment all rolled into one. If we tell ourselves that good works leave us burned out then this will become our reality instead. If we are motivated to do good works to receive the approval of others then we are sure to become tired in our service. Paul summed it up beautifully when he said *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."* Gal 6:7-10

VICTORY OVER THE WORLD'S PRIORITIES

One of the keys to victory over time is to put first things first. Jesus said *"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these [physical] things will be given to you as well."* Matt 6:33 This is the same principal we find in the Old Testament. *"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."* Prov 3:9-10 If we wait to pray, read God's word, fast, relieve the needs of the saints, and serve at church until all worldly matters are settled then we are not putting God first. When money or anything else of this world comes first there is often no time left for seeking the kingdom.

VICTORY OVER MEDIOCRITY

Another key to gaining victory over time is to bring God the best we have. In the Old Testa-

ment they were not allowed to bring God an animal sacrifice which had defects. In Lev 2:13 they were told *"Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings."* My point is that we make a concerted, organized, and consistent effort in our field of employment. If we do not bring the same approach to our spiritual service then we are offering what we know to be defective. We are leaving the salt out of our sacrifice.

VICTORY OVER FEAR

As believers in the resurrection we don't have to mourn the passing of youth, the body wearing out, or the onset of old age. We can rejoice because *"our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."* Rom 13:11 In fact Ecclesiastes says *"The end of a matter is better than its beginning."* The more we contemplate this the more it can bring peace and joy into our lives as we see the worry and disappointment the passing of time brings to those who know not Christ. The passing of youth and the vanity that often comes with it fade away in time and we are left alone with our faith, our relationship to God in Christ, and the hope of glory. By 'victory over fear' I mean victory over the disappointment of aging and the fear of death. Jesus came to save us from all this. Heb 2:14-16 says *"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is, the devil and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*





Church Chat

By Charmaine Thorfeldt

Just when I thought everything was settling down into a routine, both the **Lanier** family and the **Steve Knapp** family have moved. We wish them both joy in their new homes....**Lucille Wasko** had a fall a few weeks ago and is receiving therapy at a rehab center, but will soon be moving to a nursing home. Our prayers are with both **Lucille** and **Pat** as they adjust to their new circumstances....**Alex Teunis** stood up in the



*Andrew & Alex on the big day!
Jamie & Andrew Teunis
September 17, 2011*



wedding of his brother, **Andrew Teunis**, who married **Jamie Kirschner** in Madison, WI on September 17th...after a honeymoon to Punta Cana Jamie & Andrew will be living in downtown Chicago, our best wishes and prayers are with them as they begin their married life...**Larry** and **Joyce** traveled up to Minneapolis to attend the **Zieba** reunion (**Stella Urbaniak's** family). 80 people were there from all over the country. They had fun getting to renew old acquaintances....The **Whittakers** gave a report on their recent Bible Student tour of Israel. **Bob** showed pictures of the different places they visited and how they fit into Bible history and make it alive....14 women attended the Camp Blessing retreat in Wausau. I was happy to have **Autumn** and **April** share leadership responsibilities with me on the topic of "What on Earth am I Here for?" Discussions centered around our purpose in life. Once again

Dick Ostwald, Joe Horak and Dennis Thorfeldt cooked and served the meals. **Lynnette Larson** provided gourds for us to decorate and turn into bird houses. **Faith** and **Hannah** led worship. Faith also, along with **Autumn**, guided us in exercises for posture and balance....Our Sunday services have been on the



topic of Enemies of the Heart. **Andy Weeks** spoke on Anger and Forgiveness and **Joe Furnari** on Fear....We are glad to see our children participate in our worship services. **Ella Slinn** recited a hymn while her mother played it on the clarinet, and **Julie Knapp** sang Amazing Grace while her dad played the guitar....We are glad **Mike Dobbs** has been able to attend some of our Sunday services. His folks are too!....Our bike outing was on a cool crisp Saturday afternoon on October 1. Some biked all the way from church in Lombard to the **Andy and Val Weeks** home in Batavia while others took shorter routes. Approximately 50 people ended up at the Weeks' for dinner and a Bible discussion. Most saved their energy and drove cars!....**Donna and Gregg Mathewson** just returned from visiting **Joel and Melissa Mathewson** in Mississippi. **Joel and Melissa** are expecting a baby in April and **Donna and Gregg** are looking forward to becoming grandparents for the first time...**Larry and Joyce Urbaniak** led the Camp Blessing Family Retreat in Apple Valley, CA October 8-10, 61 brethren of all ages attended the retreat...Both our choir and Sunday School will be starting rehearsals for their Christmas programs. Pioneer Club has also started meeting every other Tuesday evening....Next issue we will be reporting on our church anniversary celebration. It's hard to believe we've been in Lombard for 10 years!



2012 Camp Blessing Schedule

February 3-5 (Friday - Sunday) -- Wausau, WI
Winter Family Retreat - Jim and D'Ann Lesch with Directors-in-Training Jarrett and Karen Skorup

February 17-20 (Friday - Monday) -- Wausau, WI
Winter Teen Retreat - Directors TBD

March 8-11 (Thursday - Sunday) -- Wausau, WI
Crafting Retreat - Lisa Mackey with Director-in-Training Karen LePitre

May 25-28 (Friday - Monday) -- Wausau, WI
Tween Retreat (ages 12-14) - Julie Polychronis with Director-in-Training Vanessa Polychronis

June (Dates TBD...but a weekend in early June) -- Wausau, WI
Work Weekend - Todd Casell

June 8-10 (Friday - Sunday) -- Apple Valley, CA
General Retreat - Director TBD

June 18-22 (Monday - Friday) -- Wausau, WI
Special Persons Overnight Camp - Director TDB

June 25-29 (Monday - Friday) -- Wausau, WI
Special Persons Day Camp - Faith Schwebke with Director-in-Training Lois Spano

July 8-11 (Sunday - Wednesday) -- Wausau, WI
General Retreat - David and Tracie Elliott

July 15-20 (Sunday - Friday) -- Wausau, WI
Children's Camp (ages 7-12) - Liz Fischer with Director-in-Training Shannon Fischer

July 22-28 (Sunday - Saturday) -- Wausau, WI
Teen Camp (ages 12-18) - Jeff and Melissa Cannon

August 9-12 (Thursday - Sunday) -- Wausau, WI
Adventure Retreat - Mike Fischer

September 21-23, 2012 (Friday - Sunday) -- Wausau, WI
Women's Retreat - Clare Ostwald and Cassidy Pohl

October 5-8, 2012 (Friday - Monday) -- Wausau, WI
19-30's Retreat - Director TBD

October 5-8, 2012 (Friday - Monday) -- Apple Valley, CA
General Retreat - Doug Famous





Of Interest...

Attendance

September 11-113	October 9-107
September 18-95	October 16-98
September 25-98	
October 2-106	

Mark your Calendars...

November 12-Seminar 9AM-Lunch
 November 23- 7PM-Thanksgiving Worship with
 Communion
 December 18-7PM Candlelight Service
 December 31-6:30 Dinner; 7:30 Praise & Worship;
 8:15-9:15-Activities & Fellowship

Sunday Services

Prayer Meeting- 8:15AM
 Worship- 9:00AM
 Sermon- 9:30AM
 Second Service-10:30-11:30AM
 Sunday School-10:15AM
 Study/Youth For Truth-10:30AM



Mondays

1st Monday of the Month—Men's Meeting,
 6:30PM

Tuesdays

Weekly—Church, 10:30AM
 Every Other Tuesday—Church, Revelation, 7:00PM
 Alternating Tuesdays—Pioneer Club at Church, 6:15PM
 Every Other Tuesday—Women's Meeting—Church 12-2PM

Thursdays

Weekly—Women's Meeting—Church, Exodus, 7:00PM
 Weekly—Joe Knapp's Home, 6:45PM



Upcoming Speakers & Studies

November 6 Food Pantry

Sermon: Larry Urbaniak
 Sermonanalysis: Larry Urbaniak

November 13

Sermon: David Elliott
 Study: Dennis Thorfeldt
 11:35 Elections

November 20

Sermon: Steve Teunis
 Study Cont: Dennis Thorfeldt

November 27

Sermon: Bruce Blake
 Study: Bruce Blake

December 4 Food Pantry

Sermon: Joe Funari
 Study: Mike Knapp

December 11

Sermon: Mike Knapp
 Christmas Offerings:
 Tim Chabot

December 18

Christmas Sermon: Dennis Thorfeldt
 YFT/SS Programs
 7PM-Candlelight Service

December 25

Sermon: Jon Larson
 Presents from Christ: Andy Weeks

