



Acts of Faith

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Kewanee, Illinois



August 2009

Volume 9, Issue 8

Increasing Intimacy

Something I heard on a radio talk program was so striking that I had to stop the car and jot down the words—“My need for increased intimacy was driving my wife farther from me.” I’m certain that there was a lot of background information which wasn’t mentioned; but, as Martin Luther recommends, let’s “put the best construction” on the situation; and assume that the caller was going about his need for increased intimacy in a loving and compassionate manner. Under such conditions, why would a spouse reject such an appeal for increased intimacy?

In considering intimacy in its several dimensions—physical, emotional, and spiritual; why would *anyone* reject such increased closeness? We all have our various boundaries regarding intimacy. Some people like to keep people at arm’s length, others easily embrace those around them. Some will talk about the details of their life with only a select few friends, others will talk about almost everything in their lives with just about anyone. It’s as if we live in a protective “bubble” and allow only certain people *inside* of that bubble. And, the “bubble” may range in size from *inches* around us, to perhaps the size of an entire building.

Regardless of the size of our various personal *physical* and *emotional* “boundaries” or “bubbles,” we need to take a look at the *spiritual* “bubble” which is surrounding us. It’s this *spiritual* bubble which keeps us from desiring or having increased intimacy with *our Lord*. It’s certainly not *God’s* fault if we don’t have a close, intimate relationship to him. Believers are referred to again-and-again in the Scriptures as “the bride of Christ.” Isaiah wrote, “*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall*

exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10).

What could be more intimate than the relationship between a bride and her Bridegroom? This: Jesus loved you enough to have His body tortured and crucified, to have His blood shed, all while carrying the burden of *your* sins, and the *sins of the world* upon Himself. Yet we, as Christ’s beloved bride, frequently keep Him at arm’s length, if not further. Jesus said, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children*



together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!” (Luke 13:34).

And, it’s not just unbelieving Jerusalem which rejected the Lord’s call for intimacy. As the writer to the Hebrews put it, “*Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”* (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Many of those who are *supposed to be* the bride of Christ keep Him at arm’s length or farther. Some don’t even desire to come into His house. Some come into His house, but do so out of habit or obligation; only going through the *motions* of praising Him, thanking Him, and listening to His words.

If you don’t *hunger* for intimacy with Christ

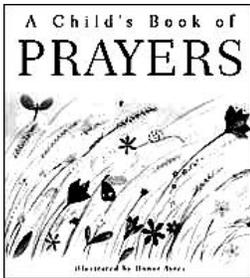
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through receiving His Body which was given for you and His Blood which was shed for you; if you don't *eagerly look forward* to giving him thanks and praise in worship; remember that you are dearly loved by Christ, and that He dearly desires and deserves your sincere and intimate *response* to that love.

Blessings,

Pastor Fischer



New Children's Prayer Book

Concordia Publishing House introduces a prayer book for children (age 4-8), A Child's Book of Prayers. This book will help to teach a life-long

practice of prayer.

A Child's Book of Prayers includes an illustrated collection of prayers for praise and thanksgiving, confession and intercession, as well as prayers for special occasions and daily routines. A Child's Book of Prayers features more than 85 new and traditional prayers sorted by theme. The resource encourages parents and children to move beyond *reciting* prayers to truly *speaking* them.

"Our job as parents, grandparents, and teachers is to make sure that our children know the importance, comfort, and power of prayer," says Ken Liszewski, manager of books for Concordia Publishing House. "A Child's Book of Prayers is the perfect book to share with your children to help them learn to pray and share their lives with God."

The book is available online at www.cph.org, or by calling 1-800-325-3040. The Item Number is 56-2458, and the price is \$10.99.

Prayer books for other age groups are also available on the CPH web site.

Ice Cream Social



We will be having an Ice Cream Social on Friday, Aug. 21st, from 4 to 6:30 PM, in our Fellowship Hall.

Daisy Dee Clown will be providing entertainment with magic and balloon art.

Tickets are only \$3.00, and the price includes the pie, ice cream, and entertainment. Sandwiches and drinks will be available for an extra charge.

Please purchase tickets ahead of time, if possible, and also sell some to family and friends. Tickets are available from Glen Godke or the Church Office.



Baptism

On July 12th, we were pleased to receive Hunter James Damm into the family of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.



Hunter was born 12-29-08, and is the son of Jason & Rachel Damm. The sponsor was Christian Myers, and the witness was Emily Gibson.

"When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:4-7)

August Calendar

- Aug. 02 9th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Aug. 03 Education Committee, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 05 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 06 Evangelism Committee, 6:30 PM
- Aug. 08 Pastor Fischer on Vacation
- 14
- Aug. 09 10th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Aug. 11 P.O.M. Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Aug. 12 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 16 11th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Aug. 17 Hog Days Evangelism Booth
- Orientation Session, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 18 Women of Faith, 1:00 PM
- Aug. 19 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 20 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Church Council, 7:30 PM
- Aug. 21 Ice Cream Social, 4:00-6:30 PM
- Aug. 23 12th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Aug. 24 Faith serves "Monday Free Meal"
- 4:00-6:30 PM
- Aug. 26 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 30 13th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Royal Oaks Service, 2 PM
- Kewanee Care Service, 3 PM

Vacation

Pastor & Vary will be on vacation in the great state of Michigan from Saturday, Aug. 8th through Friday, Aug. 14th.



Rev. Wegener will be leading the worship services during that time. Pastor Fischer may be reached on his cell phone at 309-714-1181 (when not in the north woods of Michigan where cell phone towers are still scarce.)

Thank You!

Many thanks to all who have been helping with the church landscaping and lawn this summer! It's looking great, and your work is much appreciated.



**"Priceless Poses"
&
"Walk for Life"**

**Benefits for the
Pregnancy Resource Center**



The Tri-County Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) is gearing up for its annual *Walk for Life*, Saturday, Sept. 12th. The two mile walk will take place from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at Thomas Park in Wyoming. The theme will be "Celebrating the Gift of Life." There will be door prizes, food, and fun for the entire family!

In conjunction with the *Walk for Life*, the second annual "Priceless Poses" baby photo contest will be held for children 0-5. Anyone can enter this contest for a \$5.00 entry fee, and there will be great prizes for the top three winners.

Please include the parent's name, child's name and age, and your return address on the back of each photo submitted.

Mail or drop off your entry to:
Pregnancy Resource Center
215 W. Main St.
PO Box 223
Toulon IL 61483

Or call 309-238-1615 for more information.

If you're unable to participate in the *Walk for Life* or the *Priceless Poses* events, you can support the Pregnancy Resource Center by sending a contribution to the above address.

The PRC is also in need of volunteers to help at the Center. Contact the center Director, Katie Johnson; or Pastor Fischer, for information on how you can help.

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing."

(2 Thessalonians 1:3)



Can You Sit In a Lawn Chair?

If you can sit in a lawn chair, smile, and have a friendly Christian attitude; you have the qualifications to help staff Faith's Evangelism Booth downtown during Hog Days.

Free colorful Christian tracts, as well as New Testaments, will be available to those who come to the booth (along with an informational brochure regarding our own church).

All you have to do is:

- Sit (or stand, as you wish).
- Say "Hello," to anyone who stops by to look at what's available.
- Remind them that all the information is free.
- Ask them to sign up for the drawing.
- If you're comfortable doing so, answer questions people might have; or say that you will have someone get back to them with an answer.

Teams of two volunteers will be working 2-3 hour shifts during Saturday of Hog Days; as well as Sunday afternoon, if enough volunteers are available.

Please help with this Evangelism outreach to people in our area. It's a great, "low pressure", opportunity to share our Lord and Savior. Let Pastor, or Otto Schwefel, or Marilyn Sturtevant know of your willingness to help.

Pastor will offer an informal orientation session for those who want to help with this project. It will be on Monday, August 17th, 7:00 PM.

We especially ask you to PRAY for those who will be working the booth, and also pray for the many who will come to the booth.

Funding for this project has been provided by a grant from the LCMS Central Illinois District—Church Extension Fund.

The Evangelism Committee



Weekly Offerings

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone, but we frequently need to be reminded that at church, just like at home, the bills keep coming every week.

Unfortunately at church, especially during the Summer, many offerings *don't* come in every week. Please remember that if you aren't able to attend church due to vacation, or any other reason, to please send your offering in to the church, giving thanks for the Lord's 24/7/365 blessing of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Our projected monthly financial needs for the remainder of 2009 are about \$11,000. This is higher than normal because of lower than expected offerings during the first part of the year due to the general economic downturn.

If you are at all able to, please consider an increase in your weekly offerings to help offset the effect of the decrease due to those in our congregation who have lost their jobs, been laid-off, or have had their working hours cut back. *Thank you for your help.*

"Pay Off Mortgage" (P.O.M) Report

Thank you to all those who have been making generous contributions toward paying for our building, especially those who have made pledges to pay a certain amount which we can count on in the future.

We are still looking for individuals who would be willing to make either lump-sum contributions toward paying-off our mortgage, or who would like to pledge to contribute a certain amount of money over a period of time. *Any* contributions, large or small, will help serve to reach our goal of completely paying for our building in as short an amount of time as possible; which will reduce the total interest amount which would otherwise be paid if we continue on our current schedule .





2009 Vacation Bible School “In Jesus’ Day”

Special Thanks to All the Workers!

Many thanks to the following people for their service and dedication to Jesus in serving during this year’s Vacation Bible School.

<i>SERVANT</i>	<i>TASK</i>
Donna Becker	Artisan: Leatherworker
Wayne Becker	Storyteller
Sara Cervantez	Mother—House of Miriam
Sue Cervantez	Mother—House of Abraham’s Sara
Kylee Conlin	Big Sister—House of Dorcas
Alyssa Croegaert	Big Sister—House of Abraham’s Sara
Mary Duncan	Storyteller / Nursery Grade
Sharon Field	Director: Set Production
Pastor Fischer	Rabbi / Carpenter
Vary Fischer	Naomi the Matchmaker
Betty Godke	Costumes / Set Building
Glen Godke	Master Builder of Set
Kari Hagaman	Big Sister—House of Joshua
Lindsey Hagaman	Big Sister—House of Miriam
Stephanie & Jay Hagaman	Mother / Father—House of Dorcas
Mary & Gary Hahn	Mother / Father—House of Joshua
Jillian Moyet	Artisan: Artist
Tony Moyet	Assistant Tentmaker
Mary Ozburn	“The Money Lady”
Matt Peed	Chief Tentmaker / Tinsmith Helper
Carol Schwefel	Storyteller / Mother—House Miriam
Otto Schwefel	Storyteller
Bob Snyder	Planning / Leatherworking Helper
Cheryl Snyder	Director of Music
Marilyn Sturtevant	Food Shopkeeper
Kim Tudder	Artisan: Tinsmith
Nancy Tudder	Registrar/Daily Scroll

There were a total of 51 individual children registered and attending on various days. Not all came every day, but we averaged about 37 children per day. In comparison, we averaged about 25 children per day last year at VBS. Many thanks to all the above, and to all the parents who faithfully brought their children, and children’s friends to VBS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mona Kubiak	8/03
Robert Snyder	8/03
Randy Stockner	8/03
Heidi Heinrich	8/05
Mark Tudder	8/06
Willie Terry III	8/09
Layne Stapel	8/10
Laura Heinrich	8/16
Elaine Kuster	8/20
Jack Breedlove	8/21
Erin Tavares	8/25

Anniversaries

Sue & Joseph Cervantez	8/02
Laura & Jeffrey Heinrich	8/09
Kathy & Matthew Peed	8/14

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class, 10:30 A.M.

7:00 PM, Wednesday

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone)

309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)

309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

E-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org

Web Site: www.faithkewanee.org

Faith Lutheran Church

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Kewanee IL 61443

Address Correction Requested

"We preach Christ crucified."
1 Cor. 1:23

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