

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 36, Number 8

August 2011

### Special Points of Interest:

- August Bible Studies
- Voter's Mtg. Recap
- Sundaes on Sunday
- Fall Clothing Drive
- Vacation Bible School
- Outdoor Movie Event
- Women of Faith

## Being precedes doing by Rev. William Plautz

July, 1941, saw an escape from the prisoner camp in Auschwitz, Germany. He was never captured. The Nazis had a policy—execute ten prisoners for every one escapee. Ten men were identified to be placed in the starvation bunker. One man began to moan as he thought of his wife and children.

Suddenly there was a commotion; a prisoner had broken line. Father Max Kolbe stepped forward with a request: "I would like to die in place of one of the men you condemned." It was granted and without shoes and clothes, ten men entered the bunker.

Normal reactions in the bunker included howling, physical attacks, and clawing at the walls. As the hours and days passed what was heard coming from the bunker was singing. The nine men had a shepherd to lead them through the valley of the shadow of death.

Finding four men alive after a number of days the Nazis used lethal injection so they could remove the bodies. Father Kolbe was one of the four. In moments he was dead.

Jesus calls us to be witnesses. We often believe that this means we speak about Jesus. Father Kolbe's witness was not of words—it was a matter of his being. His decision to die came out of a life-long commitment to Christ. What he did resulted from who he was.

This is significant for us. Often we think that in doing something we are useful; when we can't do anything anymore we are useless. We forget how important "being" is. "Being" is a state which precedes doing. And God has told us how important we are as "beings"—He sacrificed His Son for our sins.

Bought by the blood of Christ, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit our Lord tells us how much we beings are loved, beings who are set apart to do His will in our lives.

Where you go I will go,  
and where you stay I will stay.  
Your people will be my people  
and your God my God.

Ruth 1:16

you've come to the right place."

Vision is maybe one of the most important of the five senses. If you don't think so, ask a blind person what they would like to have if given one wish.

### Christian Humor *Light-hearted humor with a spiritual lesson*

Seen at an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for,

Spiritually, what are you looking for?

Do you look for God to do great things in your life? If not, why not? James wrote: "You do have not, because you do not ask God." Seeking God in prayer and in faith will bring us untold gifts and treasures.

Praying this way and keeping your eyes open means you will see the things for which you are looking.

Doing it God's way produces 20-20 spiritual vision. You will see what you're looking for, and you will know that you have come to the right One—your God who hears and answers when we call.

# What Makes You Happy?

What does it take to make you happy? We spend a lot of time and energy pursuing happiness. We act as if it is owed us. Even adults make major decisions with happiness as their only goal. In fact, in the United States' Declaration of Independence, we claim a right to the pursuit of happiness. But how many people consider, "What does it take to make happy?"

Too often, we search for happiness in things dictated by society—in possessions, success, prestige, or fun (entertainment, immorality, food, drinking, or drugs). We think we'll be happy if we can get what we want. We pursue happiness in temporal fulfillment of personal desires.

"What does God say it takes to make happiness?" I checked it out. The primary words in the Bible for happy—in Old and New Testa-

ment—are often translated *blessed*. It seems that happiness is the same as, or comes from, being blessed. In other words, genuine happiness comes from God's hand.

Many verses paint a very different picture from the self-centered happiness that we pursue.

For example:

"Behold, how happy is the man whom God re-proves" (Job 5:17).

"Happy is he who is gracious to the poor" (Prov 14:21).

"Happy is he who keeps the law" (Prov 29:18).

"Behold, we count those blessed who endured" (James 5:11).

"If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed" (1 Pet 4:14)

So it seems that true happiness is closely related to our relationship with God and receiving something through His

hands—even if that something it is reproof, or being reviled for His name.

God leads us in our contentment. Happiness and contentment are closely related. We may seek happiness through personal temporal gain, but God says, "Godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment" (1 Tim. 6:6)

What does it take to make you happy?

"He who so trusts in the LORD, happy is he" (Prov. 16:20).

"He who trusteth in the LORD, happy is he"

Proverbs 16:20



## August Bible Studies

### Monday Aft Bible Class

Class will be taking a break for the month of August. Consider joining this group in September as they "Weave Christ" into your life, through study of His word.

Leader: Sue Smith

### Tuesday Morn 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: Romans Led by Pastor Plautz.

## Happiness is...

Walking with the Lord.

Freedom from bondage.

Obedying his word

Having a clean heart.

Forgiving others.

Getting a fresh start.

Praising him.

Sweet adoration.

Being a blessing.

Watching your seed grow.

Defeating satan.

God's answering prayer.

Healing from within.

Learning his truths.

Knowing that Jesus showed his love toward you.

Isaiah 66:14

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# Congregational News

## Special Voters Meeting

On Wednesday, July 13 our congregation voted to authorize a call team to pursue staffing to meet the family ministry & youth ministry needs of our church. A call committee will be formed to pursue this option. A motion to afford the purchase of a new furnace/boiler system for our church was also passed. Please keep the efforts of the call committee and the funding of the furnace in your prayers. If you would like to serve on the Call Committee, please contact Bill Musser or Pastor Plautz.

## Sundaes on Sunday

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans invites the members of Faith Lutheran Church to enjoy ice cream Sundaes on Sunday, July 31 after 7:45am & 10:15am services. Hosted by Tom Griebel, Chippewa Valley Financial Associate for Thrivent Financial. Come and enjoy a "Sundae on Sunday"! No Thrivent products will be sold at this event.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Did you know that since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, \$4011 has been realized from Thrivent Choice Dollars for the benefit of Faith Lutheran? It's true! If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you have a new, easy way to help support our congregation. Through Thrivent ChoiceSM, a new charitable grant program, you can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars with amounts that range from \$25 to \$500. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you can direct them right now. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice), or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative, Tom Griebel at 715.723.2506.

## Volunteers Needed

To operate the power point presentations during worship services. Please see Pastor or Alice at the church office.

## New Answering Service

If you should need office staff after hours, do not hesitate to leave a message on our answering service here at church. The message will be immediately forwarded to our cell phones.

## Volunteers Needed

Council would like to have a strategic planning team to consider long range planning for our congregation. If you would be interested in serving or would like more information, please contact Bill Musser or Pam Pfankuch.

## Fall Clothing Drive

We are accepting donations of clothing for our fall clothing drive. On Aug. 20 we will open our doors to the public providing clothing to people of all ages. If you recently had a thrift sale and have clothing to donate, it would be appreciated. Bring items to church before Aug. 15.

## Spread the Word!

Please be sure to let the less fortunate of Chippewa County know of the Fall Clothing Drive taking place here on August 20. We are hoping to help everyone who is in need. Hours are 9am -3pm.

## Haiti Peanut Butter Drive

Landmark Christian Church is collecting jars of peanut butter to help feed the hungry in Haiti. Their goal is to collect 28,800 pounds of peanut butter - by collecting any size jar - with a quarter taped to the top for each pound the jar weighs to cover the cost of shipping. Submit your donation to the box labeled "Haiti Peanut Butter Drive" in the narthex by August 31.

## Outdoor Worship on August 31

Enjoy God's beautiful creation - bring a lawn chair and come to worship in the great outdoors!



## Vacation Bible School

This year we are offering Vacation Bible School for ages 3-grade 6 on Saturday, August 27 from 9am-1pm. We are need of persons to help with various areas; like teaching, doing crafts, leading kids in song, and helping serve the noon meal. If you can help in any of these areas. Please call the church office at 715.723.7754 or email [ahelgeson@faithlutheranfc.org](mailto:ahelgeson@faithlutheranfc.org).

## Family Camping—Movie Night

**Saturday, August 27—Sunday, Aug. 28**

5pm—Set-up of campers & tents

6pm—Supper (hotdogs, chips & beans)

6:30pm—Yard & card games

8:30pm—Movie begins

Sleepover (for campers)

7:45am—Attend church

9am—Pancake breakfast

A sign-up for campers and food donations is available in the narthex. Come join the fun!

## Emergency Response Volunteers

### Needed

The Chippewa Falls Police Dept. is asking for your help in emergencies requiring mass-scale response. If you wish to serve in this capacity, please sign your name on the roster in the narthex. Indicate whether you are CPR certified or interested in organizing volunteers, please check "yes" on the leadership box.

## Eagle Project Blood Drive

Sponsored by Mike Schaller & Troop 72

Located at Chippewa Valley Bible Church

Saturday, July 30—8am to 1pm

For appointments please log onto [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org) or call Mike at 715.577.5038.

Each presenting donor will receive a coupon for a McDonald's cheeseburger.

## Women of Faith

On August 16 at 6pm ladies of congregation will meet for their annual potluck summer supper here in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy time in fellowship. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

# **August Birthdays and Anniversaries**

## **Happy Birthday!**

1-Brittany Chaussee, Sia Drivas,  
Kathy Parks, Evie Schaller  
2-Gordon Roytek  
6-Darlene Prickett  
7-Justin Musser, Kim Sorensen  
8-Evelyn Elam, Jacob Johnson,  
Richard Wirth  
9-Robert Gannon, Kimberly  
Musser, Sarah Schroeder, Susan  
Smith  
10-Sandy Bornsen, Marion  
Frank, Nancy Garbers, Gerald  
Goettl, Connor Heuer, Rachel  
Schaller, Morgan Wirtz  
11-Donna Hopkins, Molly  
Isaacson  
12-Robyn Nelson, Janice  
Schindler  
14-Allison Wing  
15-Elaine Twerberg, Dale Vol-  
rath, Delbert Zimpel

16-Amanda Marshall, Jennifer  
Thompson, Lauren Wikan  
17-Roberta Chittendon, Christopher  
Witkowski  
18-Lorraine Rasmussen  
19-Pat Isenberger  
22-Adam Ericksen  
23-Alyssa Bichner, Merle Quale, Sr.,  
Suzanne Schroeder, Cynthia  
Swoboda, Sharon Tiry  
24-George Kohls, Patrick Smith  
25-Joe Green, Sadie LaGesse,  
Brenda Schaefer  
26-Al Twerberg  
28-Austin Prueher  
29-Scott Prueher, Erika Swoboda  
30-Lyle Hackler, Helen Irwin,  
Tom Lee  
31-Lucille Yauch

## **Happy Anniversary!**

1-Greg & Brenda Musser  
7-Kenneth & Jodi Silvernail  
9-James & Linda Isaacson  
13-James & Cindy Swoboda  
14-Brian & Lori Petska  
16-Chris & Julie Plautz  
20-James & Debra Peterson  
21-Terry & Donna Spaeth  
28-Eric & Angela Wedemeyer



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