

GOOD NEWS

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October 2011

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The Rock upon which you can build

By Rev. William C. Plautz

I saw in last Sunday's Eau Claire paper that Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner is warning Europe about its impending economic crisis. I'm thinking, "Ok, you better look in your own back yard." It is clear that the world's economy isn't that good; times are shakey at best.

But it's then that a article jogged my memory about our sainted Rev. Dr. Elmer Prenzlou. He told me his favorite hymn was "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less." The third stanza goes,

*His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,*

*He then is all my Hope and Stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

It indicates that while hard times will come, our crystal clear hope is on the One who is our Rock. That means...

the uncertainty of a job and income...

the books of the business tell you to think it over

again...

the standard of living not being what we would want...

call us back to the basics: JESUS CHRIST IS IN CONTROL! A decline in your standard of living is no evidence that God has not kept His Word for you. And personal stress is the evidence that we Christians are part of a failing human race. The Reformation reinforces for us the great truths of GRACE alone, FAITH alone, and SCRIPTURE alone.

With these truths as moorings we can be sure that the solid Rock of Christ can withstand any human storm.



Christ the solid Rock

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

The pianist and comic Victor Borge once said, "Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year."

I write this article almost three months to the day we will celebrate Christmas. I'm not looking to accelerate time—we all know how fast it goes on its own. Borge's comment reminds me how some who claim to be believers in the Lord Jesus Christ decide that they need to only "visit" Him once

a year...twice at best. Such people are called "Chreasters"—they worship on Christmas and Easter.

I'm glad that Jesus doesn't do that with me. If He were to visit me once or twice a year...i'd be dead. I cannot live one day without His presence or His gifts...both physical and spiritual.

You may not fit in this category but know someone who does. A friendly reminder and invite from

you may move them to realize how important it is for them to connect with Jesus on a weekly basis.

God's Autumn Canvas

"This is the day that the Lord hath made, and I will rejoice in it."

Psalm 118:24

Winter, spring, summer, and fall are God's seasons. I think it is something about those leaves of red, orange, yellow, and burgundy that fall from the trees that makes this a favorite time of the year. . . I like taking a ride and watching people setting out pumpkins in the yard with hay bales and planting mums in the yard. I love seeing the contrast of autumn gold and deep green in the farmer's fields bountiful for harvest. I notice many yards decorated for fall. I don't remember seeing this too much in the past. Have I missed this season all these years? Or is it just that as I get older I appreciate God's world just a little more? The latter is what I concluded.

The Bible says, "This is day that the Lord hath made, and I will rejoice in it." Each day He has given me beauty to enjoy, so I think I should sit back and take in this glorious creation.

God is the best artist in the world, for only He can create such different themes. We see many artists that try to capture the seasons on their canvases by painting what they see around them, and they do a wonderful job. However, neither picture nor paint could ever replace the real thing splashed across the sky and spilled over the earth like the Master's display of His finest artwork. God's creativity is unmatched, for every day is different, just like every snowflake in winter.

When people say there is no God, I know they do not see with eyes like mine. They must see a plain, white canvas or a black drop cloth and not the blue skies that fade into light pink in the evening.

Nor do they see the flowers that no paint on any artist's palate could attempt to match or the trees that were each given a certain color leaf to change into when autumn arrives. 'No God,' they say. It is just that they do not know the Master of the seasons, the One who has created such magnificent displays of perfect art.

As fellow Christians growing in the Word, let's enjoy the Master's autumn masterpiece. There's so much to behold!



October Bible Studies

Monday Aft Bible Class

Consider joining this group on Monday's at 2:30pm in October 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.

Junior Instruction (gr.7 & 8)

Class is offered Wednesday's at 7pm (immediately following worship) in the sanctuary. Class runs until 8:15pm.

Early Communion

This class is being offered to 5th & 6th graders in preparation for the Rite of Holy Communion. Class runs weekly on Thursday evenings through Oct. 13.

High School Bible class

Come Sunday's at 9am to Bible class with leader, Sue Smith. Seek answers to some tough questions on current issues...through the study of His word.

Thursday Morn Bible Class

Come to class Thursday mornings at 9:30am. Topic: Psalms; Leader: Patricia Smith; Enjoy the fellowship.

Thursday Eve Women's Study

Would you like to get into the "heart of Jesus"? Study women in the gospel of Luke on Thursday's at 6pm and find your way! Leader: Laura Hills

SACRED MARRIAGE Couples Group

What if God designed marriage to make us holy and not just happy? Join us for this 6 week Focus on the Family recommended DVD study to discover how respecting your partner, forgiving and accepting forgiveness, engaging in intimacy, and building a history with your spouse can release the nature of Christ in your life! "This should be your first marriage series DVD to have the heart to change, not just techniques." Our second session is Sunday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Todd & Jennifer Dreger. We'd love to have you join our group as we work on strengthening our marriages while enjoying the hospitality of new friends. For questions, or to RSVP, please call Lynn at 715-726-1148 or 379-9807.



Congregational News

Call Team Update 2

The second meeting of the Faith Lutheran Call Team was held on Monday, September 19th. The team reviewed information received on eleven candidates and selected four to be contacted initially. The next step will be to contact the four candidates for phone interviews. The team is evaluating a series of suggested questions and developing additional new questions to select the relevant ones for use in the interviews.

The team will be meeting with David Forke, Director of Spiritual Growth at Peace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Monday, September 26th. David has been involved in Youth & Family ministry and is a resource for information and understanding of this type of position. We are asking for his insight into this ministry so that we can better assess the candidates. The team continues to move forward with the responsibility the congregation has entrusted to us. Please keep the team members and our congregation in your prayers as our Heavenly Father guides us through this effort.

25th Anniversary of Pastor Plautz

On Sept. 28 & Oct. 2 we will recognize Pastor Plautz for 25 years of service to our congregation. A coffee and cake reception will follow Wednesday's 6pm and Sunday's 7:45am service and a dinner will be served after 10:15am services on Sunday, Oct. 2. We praise & thank God for His goodness in providing us this dedicated worker in His kingdom here at Faith Lutheran Church!

Furnace Fund

Work is completed on the new furnace/boiler system is being installed in our church. We would appreciate your support of this project. Simply designate offerings to the "Furnace Fund".

Loan Update

As of September 9, 2011, a new loan of \$90,000 was formed to consolidate the balance from our previous loan (\$59,239.17) and afford the new furnace (\$30,760.83). Our new rate of interest is 4.875% (compared to 6.50%) and monthly payments are \$705.87.

Sunday School (ages 3 – grade 8)

We're excited to have kicked off our new year with 37 students in attendance. Hats off to our Sunday School teachers for making this all possible! They are:

Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten: Jen Dreger, Roberta Chittendon, Tracie Dallas & Amber Voight

Grades 1 & 2: Hannah Kressin

Grades 3 & 4: Allison Ford/Judy Drivas

Grades 5 & 6: Scott & Celeste Swoboda

Grades 7 & 8: Pam Johnson/Julie Schaller

Subs: Kim Entenmann, Janell Newcomb, Sarah Schultz, Kimberly Musser, Donna Schoch.

Come Sunday's at 9am when we'll celebrate this new year of learning and fun in God's Kingdom!

Youth Activities

NEW & EXCITING—TUG!

(Teenagers Under God)

Grades 4-6 meets Wednesday's in the youth room, 7:15-8pm (except Oct. 5 & 26)

Grades 7-12 every Wednesday from 8:15-9pm in the youth room (except Oct. 5 & 26)

Micon Cinema Event—Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 7pm. Advance tickets - \$6. Transportation provided from church at 6:15pm. Sign-up in narthex. Questions? Contact Scott & Celeste Swoboda 715.726.0185 or email them at teddybeartotland@sbcglobal.net

Preschool News

The students are settling into fall here at Faith Christian Preschool with some very fun activities. In October we plan to have a field trip to Klinger's farm market. Children will be taking a tour, walking the corn maze, picking out a pumpkin, apple and Indian corn. Class pictures will also be taken this month. We'll begin learning the alphabet by bringing things for show 'n tell that begin with the letter "A, B, C, D & E".

Choir

Like to sing? Choir rehearsals are Wednesday, October 12 & Nov. 2 at 7pm. Share your talents!

Agnes Table

Come help serve a meal to the less fortunate of Chippewa County on Thursday, October 13 from 3-8pm at Trinity United Methodist church, 201 Central Street, Chippewa Falls. A sign-up for workers is available in the narthex.

Women of Faith

Ladies met in September and planned their fall activities (Quilt tying, Fall Rally, Caring & Sharing, LWML Sunday, etc.). This year quilters made 132 quilts! (102 will be donated to Lutheran World Relief, 20 to Starting Points and 10 to the Orphan Grain Train). The next meeting is October 18 at 7pm with hostesses: Rosemary Plautz, Maxine Hager, Bea Grassnickle. All ladies of the congregation are welcome!

Zone 9 Fall Rally

Zion Lutheran, 110 East Grand Ave., Chip.Fls. is hosting the Fall Rally on Saturday, October 22 beginning at 8:30am. There will be an inspirational Bible study on the *Gingerbread Parable* written by Rev. Robert Selle NWD LWML Counselor, presented by Zone 9 Christian Growth Chairman. Cost is \$6 (includes materials & lunch).

Salvation Army/Chippewa Food Pantry

Currently the Salvation Army is in need of the following items: School Supplies & backpacks; Baby Needs (children's diapers, wipes, baby lotion, etc.)

Domestic Needs: Paper towels, toothpaste, bars of soap, shampoo, razors, dish soap, laundry soap, Kleenex, deodorant, cleaning supplies. Pantry Needs: canned fruit, soup, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, pasta noodles, ketchup, mustard, cereal, tuna helper, hamb. helper, ric-aroni, peanut butter. Submit items to the "Food Barrel" in the narthex.

THANK YOU!

† To all our workers & servers of our Oktoberfest Festmeister Gala Event. Special thanks to Wendy Harings and Bea Newman for their efforts in coordinating the event. Proceeds of \$1300 were realized. We thank God for allowing us this privilege of serving in our community.

Women's Craft Weekend

Whether you love to quilting, scrapbooking or stamping, women of all ages can bring their supplies and enjoy some intense crafting time. Days start and end with time in God's word to encourage spiritual growth. Dates are Oct. 21-23 (2night/4meals) Cost is \$110.

Visit www.campluther.com for more information.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE!

The worship assistant schedule, weekly Messenger, monthly Newsletter, and church photo directory schedule are available for viewing at

www.faithlutheranconf.org.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

2-Matthew Newman
4-Lisa Hackler
5-Kenneth Silvernail
6-Dorothy Olson
7-Karen Ericksen, Elaine Geissler,
Andrew Musser, Andrew Prueher
9-Lori Hillman, Aaron Isaacson,
Robert Normand
11-Jaylin Dubberke, Sandy Miller,
Ronald Sandvig
13-Gertrude Gerber, Janell New-
comb
15-Ricky Ericksen, Tyler Jepson,
Donald Nesvacil, Jacob Thompson
16-Jonathan Carli, Samantha Isen-
berger, Bonnie Senn
17-Cheryl Borseth, John Carlsten,
Dorothy Flint
18-Breckon Ford, Katelin Heidtke,
Pamela Pfankuch, Michael Powell,
James Swoboda, Ronald Tiry

19-Tim Chaussee, Brenton Derge,
Richard Rasmussen, Jason Rein,
Hunter Schaller, Robert Varwig Jr.
20-Ellen Houts, Janet Langteau,
Cassiel Short
21-Carrie Jaquish
22-Maxine Hager, Emily Schaefer
23-Nathan Loebertman
24-Alexandria Heuer, Laura Hills,
Zachary O'Connell, Tonia Schaller
26-Eliza Chandler, Erica Chandler,
Judy Wing
27-Heather Grant, Daniel Helgeson,
Emily LaBreck, Wendy Miller
28-Tyler Kern
29-James Gessner
30-Caleb Dallas
31-Clark Gessner

Happy Anniversary!

2-Tom & Joan Lee
7-Bryon & Dawn Nesvacil
8-Dave & Sharon LeDuc
8-Richard & Kathleen Turner
9-Tracy & Michelle Haller
12-Todd & Jennifer Dreger
12-Terry & Carrie Jaquish
12-Scott & Cindy Prueher
13-Richard & Janelle Grant
14-Donald & Elaine Miller
16-Kevin & Wendy Harings
18-Gordon & Susan Roytek
19-Charlie & Sarah Wirtz
23-Scott & Missy Loebertman
24-John & Brenda Schaefer
24-John & Tonia Schaller
25-Rodney & Cathie Chittendon



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