

GOOD NEWS

Volume 36, Number 9

September 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- September Bible Studies
- Call Team Update
- Furnace Fund
- Rally Day—Sept. 11
- Oktoberfest event
- Youth—T.U.G.!
- Preschool Opens
- Food Pantry needs

Managing God's gifts—Receiving and Living By Rev. William Plautz

A while back I was poking around the Rancho La Quinta website. Since it's a gated community they not only have golf but also sell homes. There were about eight pages of homes, each page having about six homes. When you clicked on the picture of the home it brought up more pictures of what the house looked like. The first home was going for \$399,000. I paged through them until the last page. There was only one home. The asking price was \$1,695,000; the monthly payment would be about \$7,600.

Wow! The view from the windows and the pictures of the inside were amazing; 5 bedroom, 5.5 baths, 4600 square feet. I often ask myself: What is it you do to be able to afford a place like that?

Well, that's not me and most likely is not you. We just poor folk from west central Wisconsin, right? That would be wrong.

While we may not have those kind of financial gifts we do have from God the

health and abilities to earn and thus have what we need to support this body and life. But more than finances is that reality that ALL we have—our time, abilities, and money—come from a loving God who cares about us.

Beginning on Sept. 11 an eight-part series of sermons will address how we manage and handle the gifts that God gives us. We will examine titles like "Loved and Loving", "Served and Serving", "GOD'S Managers", "God's MANAGERS, not OWNERS", "God's Managers in Community", "God's Managers IN, not OF the World", "God's Managers: Saints and Sinners", and "God's Managers: Live in the Present, Look to the Future".

I pray God riches blessings on us as we gather to hear how we can better manage the gifts God has given to us and be more faithful with them.

God's gifts



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

Seen at a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

Cute play on words, which can remind us of what God wants from you and me—our hearts.

As your sibling would say, "He started it", indeed God did start it by sending His own Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

Heaven is nothing we can achieve with our own efforts; we were shut out.

But that was unacceptable to our heavenly Father. He had in eternity set in place the plan by which people steeped and damned in sin could find freedom and release. His eternal Son would take on

our flesh and go to the cross. He would give His life and blood as payment for our sins. In return God only ask we give Him our hearts, and then a portion of all the good things He gives us. He is not asking for all of it; only a part that becomes our sacrifice in light of His great sacrifice for us.

Let Them Come To Me! Matthew 19:13-15

“Let the little children come to me.”

Matthew 19:14

Then the people brought their little children to Jesus so that Jesus could put his hands on them and pray for them. When the followers saw this, they told the people to stop bringing their children to Jesus. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people that are like these children." After Jesus put his hands on the children, he left there.

In a world dangerous to children, loving parents wanted to bring their children to Jesus. If he would bless them, pray for them, place his hands on them, then surely those children would be protected, healed, and blessed. Who could blame them? They had seen the amazing things Jesus had done for others.

They loved their children. Jesus himself had talked about letting children come to him. Why would the disciples stop them? Maybe it's the same reason we do. We get distracted by other things and let them



take us, and our children, away from the Lord. We let problems in our home and world, crush our children's hearts. We forget to involve our children in our spiritual journey.

Praising God for the good and involving them in the study of His word. No matter what, Jesus' message is clear: "Quit! Quit getting in the way of the children from coming to me!"

With fall and the beginning of our Sunday School, Junior Instruction, and High School Bible Class... Let's make it a priority to have the little children come to him.

Today's Prayer

Holy Father, please make me aware of the children you have put around me that you want me to help bring to Jesus. Help me see them. Help me bring them to Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen.

September Bible Studies

Monday Aft Bible Class

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

Junior Instruction (gr.7 & 8)

Parents & students come to orientation on September 7 at 7pm. Class begins on September 14 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 starts Sept. 8 at 6:30pm and runs weekly on Thursday evenings through Oct. 13.

High School Bible class

Come Sunday's at 9am to Bible class with leader, Sue Smith beginning Sept. 11. 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. Class begins on Sept. 15. 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 Sept. 15 at 6pm and find your way! Leader: Laura Hills

SACRED MARRIAGE

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 first session is Sunday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Bill and Lynn Musser. 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

The initial meeting of the Call Team was held on Monday, August 22. Team members are Bob Normand (chairman), Lynn Musser (secretary), Allison Ford, Dan Helgeson, Bob Schaller and Donna Schoch. The team is working through the process of identifying candidates for a Director of Family/Youth Ministry. The position description has been sent to the Northern Wisconsin District and a list of possible candidates has been requested. The team would also like to ask the congregation for assistance in this effort. If you are aware of someone who may be able to fill the position please complete a nomination form so that the team can get their name for consideration. The form along with the position description is available from the church office. The team asks that nomination forms be submitted prior to the next Call meeting on Monday, September 19. The team rejoices in this opportunity to contribute to the mission and vision of Faith Lutheran Church. Please keep the team members and our congregation in your prayers as our Lord guides us through this effort.

Furnace Fund

Work has begun 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".

FLC Staff Anniversary Recognition

On Sept. 7 at 6pm we will recognize Tresa Juedes for 20 years of service and on Sept. 28 & Oct. 2 we will recognize Pastor Plautz for 25 years of service. We praise & thank God for his goodness in providing dedicated workers in His kingdom here at Faith Lutheran Church!

Rally Day—September 11

Sunday School for 2011-12 begins on September 11 at 9am. If you have a child you would like to register (age 3—grade 8), please call the church office or email, Alice Helgeson at ahelgeson@faith-lutheran.org. This year we are using the curriculum entitled "Growing in Christ" and will be using classroom settings to engage the students in God's word. Come and see our children's ministry in action!

Oktoberfest 2011

This year our commitment to serve our community for Oktoberfest has changed. We will not be hosting the Familienfest German Pork Steak and dumpling dinner (as in the past) but instead will host the Friday evening event called the "**Festmeister Ball.**" It's an invitation-only event for sponsors of Oktoberfest and Oktoberfest royalty. We have been chosen to cater the event.

We will need volunteers on both Thursday afternoon, Sept. 15 for food preparations and Friday evening, Sept. 16 for serving the meal (in German costume). Sign-up sheets will be available this weekend. Your support of this venture is appreciated.

Youth Activities

NEW & EXCITING—TUG!

(Teenagers Under God) 3 new groups!

Grades 4-6 meets Wednesday's in the youth room, 7:15-8pm

Grades 7-12 every Wednesday from 8:15-9pm in the youth room.

Grades 9-12 Sunday's from 9-10 in the youth room

Here are some of the fun activities we plan to do this fall...swimming, youth room game nights, overnights, fishing, and so much more! Questions? Contact Scott & Celeste Swoboda 715.726.0185 or email them at teddybeartotland@sbcglobal.net

Preschool Begins

We are excited and delighted to have 34 students enrolled in our program. This year marks 35 years of Faith Christian Preschool in providing excellent early childhood education. Hats off to Mrs. Tresa Juedes, Director & Teacher and Mrs. Holly Weiland, Teacher for their dedication. Open house is Sept. 7th & 8th and preschool begins the week of Sept. 12th. We thank and praise God for affording us this privilege in nurturing these young families and we thank you, our congregation for your continued support and prayers of this ministry.

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 who participated in the Agnes Table of August 25. Your helping hands and donations of produce were much appreciated. Our picnic food was well received and 165 meals were served. What a blessing! Our next Agnes Table is Oct. 13. Mark your calendars—join us if you can.

-Sharon Volrath & Pat Saxon

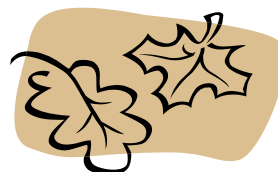
† To our dedicated crew, especially Pam Johnson & Wendy Harings, who hosted the Fall Clothing Drive on August 20 & 27. Over 125 people benefited from their efforts. Great outreach effort!

† To all who participated in the VBS event of August 27. We had 34 young children in attendance! Special thanks to Crystal Moore for coordinating the event and to the following for their help in the various areas: Linda Wagner, Gillian Schaller, Bob Normand, Hannah Heuer, Connor Heuer, Steven Fisher, Roberta Chittendon, Pam Johnson, Bea Newman, Lynda Walker, Amber Walker, Megan Hashbarger, Donna Schoch, Sue Smith, Bill & Lynn Musser, Tresa Juedes, Pastor & Rosemary Plautz, and anyone else who helped in anyway.

† To those who attended the camping & outdoor showing of "Soul Surfer". Special thanks to Scott & Celeste Swoboda & family for their efforts in coordinating this event. What an awesome way to spend a Saturday evening!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE!

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



September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

1-Vivian Hanson
3-Clifford Plasch
5-Linda Atchley
6-Gail Roder
7-Joan Lee, Nina Martinek
8-James Heidtke
9-Ethan Ericksen
10-Karen Prenzlów
12-Julie Schaller
13-Janelle Grant, Donald Miller
14-Jeanette Riley
16-Roy Borseth
17-Noah Hauptmann
18-Nellie Kilcher, Kyndra Feirn
19-Sara Normand, Amber
Zwiefelhofer
20-Luke Erickson
21-Adelyn Dreger, McKaylen
Eliason, Oliver Pederson, Lila
Powell, Amanda Schroeder,
Kathryn Schumacher

22-Lorraine Knecht, Elizabeth
Thompson, Tristan Varwig
23-Matthew Petska, Noah Volrath,
Cheryl Wendt
24-Shirley Felmlee, Barbara Kaiser,
Kelly Pfankuch
25-Andrea Engel
26-Sara Andersen
27-Angela Bowe, Dolores Johnson,
Arlene Melville, Michael Schaller,
Jayton Silvernail
28-Edward Bobb, Patricia Mathwig,
Janice Plasch, Benjamin Urbas,
Gabriel Vargas
29-Mark Newman

Happy Anniversary!

1-Richard & Linda Walders
5-Lehmen & Sandra Larson
9-Stan & Joyce Davidson
9-Mike & Janet Urbas
11-Christopher & Roberta Chittendon
12-Gary & Linda Ahlen
13-Wally & Lorraine Knecht
13-Ronald & Sharon Tiry
17-Larry & Linda Bohl
17-James & Kathy Butak
17-Jerry & Kim Sorensen
18-Lyle & Lisa Hackler
20-Morris & Jeanette Riley
20-Robert & Anna Varwig
23-Patrick & Brenda Isenberger
26-Harold & Pat Saxon
27-John & Cindy Carlson
27-Michael & Sarah Newman
28-Joseph & Laura Hills
29-Richard & Lorraine Rasmussen
29-Dale & Sharon Volrath
30-Nicholas & Amy Bowe
30-Peter & Ann Hauptmann
30-Randy & Rhonda Larson



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