

# GOOD NEWS

Volume 36, Number 7

July 2011

## Special Points of Interest:

- July Bible Studies
- Special Voters Mtg. - July 13 at 7pm
- 30th Anniversary Recognition
- Summer Breakfast Outing
- Couples Get Together
- Haiti Peanut Butter Drive



## What a Christian grows in life's garden

by Rev. William Plautz

We haven't planted a garden in a long time. It is expected that with the economy still limping along, more people will be planting a garden. It is cheaper, and you can't beat the benefits of home-grown veggies.

Life is like a garden. We invest our time sowing and caring for the values that will serve us best throughout the years. Let me offer you some rules for your life's garden.

Plant three rows of squash:

- Squash gossip. (1)
- Squash unhealthy criticism. (2)
- Squash indifference. (3)

Plant three rows of "P's":

- Purity. (4)
- Patience. (5)
- Perseverance. (6)

Plant six rows of "Let us":

- Let us be unselfish and loyal. (7)
- Let us be faithful to duty. (8)
- Let us search the Scriptures. (9)
- Let us not be weary in well-doing. (10)
- Let us be obedient in all things. (11)

Let us love one another. (12)

And no garden is complete without "turn-ups":

- Turn up for worship and Bible study. (13)
- Turn up with determination to do your best for your Lord. (14)

Maybe you've seen these before. I know they seem to show up on the internet every once in a while. It's spiritually healthy for us to be reminded of what we are to be: God's people in Christ who do things differently. We can put into practice these spiritual principles and others, thereby showing ourselves to be followers of Christ.

The following are the Bible references where you can find these "veggies". Enjoy looking them up.

- 1) James 3:6; 2) Matt. 7:4; 3) Matt. 22:5;
- 4) 2 Cor. 7:1; 5) James 5:7; 6) 1 Cor. 15:8; 7) Matt. 16:24; 8) Luke 19:17; 9) Acts 17:11; 10) Gal. 6:9; 11) John 14:23; 12) 1 John 4:7; 13) Heb. 10:25; 14) Rom. 12:1

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

Seen on a church sign: "7 days without God makes one weak."

Ah, you have to love the play on words. And you have to love the truth behind it.

I remember while serving in a former congregation that there were a couple of people whom I never saw from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Twelve to thirteen

Sundays off each summer. You have to ask yourself: what does that do to my spiritual life? Would you go 12-13 weeks without food? We wouldn't even think of going 12-13 hours without food! Yet those who claim to be disciples of Jesus will pick and choose when they will "come to be fed".

I'm always thankful that God never takes time off for me. I have oxygen, water, nourishment—all that I need for this body in this world. If He does that for me, the least I can do is present myself to Him in weekly worship for spiritual feeding. I know He will keep me strong.

# True Freedom

By Cathy Irvin



When you think about July 4th what comes to mind? Perhaps you think about a day off from work with picnics, fireworks, and those red, white, and blue flags displayed in front yards along your neighborhood streets. This is all good, but the one word that comes to my mind is *freedom*. It is a fact that we live in the United States of America where we can voice our opinions freely, and can vote for the people of our choice. These are very good reasons why we should never take our freedom for granted.

Each year I notice that some people really go all out decorating for every holiday, but on the 4th of July I just display my flag in the yard for the entire month. The flag means a lot to me because of those in my family who have been in wars. I have also had friends who have served our country, and I have known some who did not come home in the past and present war.

We all know of people who have served in our armed forces. Or perhaps you yourself have served our great nation. And, we acknowledge all who are serving in the military today.

Because of their contributions in keeping us all free, I proudly display the flag. Have you thought about the American flag and all that it stands for? It represents an emblem of the greatest nation on the earth. It has been carried through centuries in battle. It is placed on the graves of our honored dead who fought for the right for us to remain a free nation, and it flies high during peace times, as well as war. "Old Glory" is its name.

There is another real freedom we can have. We can display it every day of the year, and that is our freedom "In Christ" to live a life to glorify Him, so that His banner of love, truth, and peace can be seen by all.

It is a flag flown high in the castle of my heart (taken from a song). We can be free in our spirit to serve the Creator of the whole universe and that my friends, is True Freedom.

Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death." (ASV)

Just like the flag that represents freedom, Jesus is a banner over us, protecting and shielding us. He is the "Glory and the Lifter of our heads" at all times. Let freedom ring out in your heart today.

Psalm 3:3 reads, "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." (KJV)

But thou,  
O LORD,  
art a shield  
for me; my  
glory, and  
the lifter up  
of mine  
head.

Psalm 3:3

## July Bible Studies

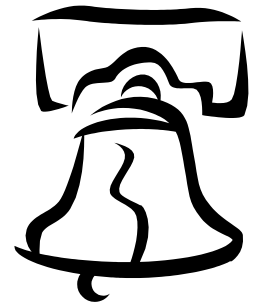
### Monday Eve Bible Class

Class meets on Monday's at 2:30pm for the study called "Faith Weavers". 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.



### Independence Day Prayer

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty meet their needs and watch over their families. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord.

Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ. Amen

## Congregational News

**A Special Voters Meeting is planned for Wednesday, July 13 at 7pm to discuss the following items: Staffing needs and furnace replacement. See details below:**

### Staffing Needs

During the past few months the M&M Council, along with Pastor Plautz, have realized that the vision of growth of Faith Lutheran Church necessitates adding an additional staff person. The Council has been in the process of identifying where the most need is and what type of second staff person would best serve that need. We presently have narrowed it down to Family and/or Youth Ministry. We ask for your prayers as we continue to work through this process. We will keep you apprised of our progress and welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have.

### Furnace Replacement Proposal

A team has been asked to look into replacing the existing furnace boiler. Our current furnace had been installed in 1965. The manufacturer is out of business and parts are scarce.

In 1995, updates were done, this older furnace is very inefficient compared to today's standards. It is also oversized for our needs considering the improvements to our church.

The team received replacement bids from five contractors. After sifting through the information the team chose the proposal from Hovland Heating which will replace the existing furnace and other necessary elements at a cost of \$47,000. Questions? please feel free to call Ed Heidtke, Lloyd Benner, Bob Luloff, Pat Smith or Del Braunberger.

Mission & Ministry members are as follows: Bill Musser, Chairman; Pam Pfankuch, V-Chairman; Bea Newman, Treasurer; Jane Christian, Secretary. Members-at-large: Brenda Musser, Bob Normand, Larry Bohl, Dan Helgeson and Pam Johnson. Please pray for God's guidance in their efforts in serving our congregation.

### Worship Changes

**July 3** Worship is being offered only at 9am with a patriotic emphasis.

**Outdoor Worship is offered on July 27 & August 31 at 6pm.** Enjoy God's beautiful creation – bring a lawn chair and come to worship in the great outdoors!

### Resignation of Rev. Joel Hoelter, No. WI District President

An announcement was made on June 13, 2011, as to the resignation of Rev. Joel Hoelter as the President of No. WI District. His decision was made after a lengthy meeting with Rev. Tim Wenger, Rev. William Plautz, and Rev. Paul Weber on Thursday, June 9. His decision is based on personal reasons, and therefore will remain confidential.

The president's responsibilities will be assumed by Rev. Paul Weber, First Vice President who, will remain President of the District until the next presidential election (June, 2012). Please pray for Joel and his family during these times of transition and for our District as we work together in ministry.

## Other Congregational News...

### 30th Year of Ministry

July 5, 2011 marks the 30th year of Rev. William Plautz serving in the ministry. In recognition of this event, we are planning a cake & coffee reception on July 10 at 10:15am service. We congratulate him on this fine achievement and pray God's blessings as he continues his work in His kingdom.

### Summer Breakfast Outing

Attention Ladies! On July 19 at 8am, our Women of Faith group will meet for breakfast at the Chippewa Family Restaurant, 1701 Kennedy Road, Chippewa Falls. This outing is open to any woman of the congregation who would like to join us for a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship. No reservation required.

### Couples Get-together

Looking for something to do on July 10? Whether it be wine tasting, an afternoon listening to music by the lake or taking in a 60's concert...come along and we'll enjoy the sights (and sounds) of summer. Call Lynn Musser at 715.726.1148 for more information

### FYI - Fall Clothing Drive

We are accepting donations of good used or new clothing for our fall clothing drive. On August 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. Questions? Call Pam Johnson 715.726.2224 or Wendy Harings 715.288.6977.

### 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. Questions? Contact Carla Kleinheinz at 715-723-2183.

### 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](http://www.faithlutheranconf.org).

### Did you know?

We collect non-perishable food pantry items for the less fortunate of Chippewa County. Simply deposit donations in the "Food Barrel" found in the narthex. We thank Fred & Joan Bargmann for their diligence in delivering the goods to Salvation Army Food Pantry.



## **July Birthdays and Anniversaries**

### **Happy Birthday!**

1- Eric Dubberke, Ethan Erickson, Al Hanson  
2-Michael Juedes, Marvin Schroeder  
3-Emma Albert, Lois Nesvacil  
4-Bertha Jaenke, Janet Urbas  
5-Cindy Carlson  
6-Colton Bowe, Wyatt Bowe, Tyler Heidtke, Brenda Musser, Celeste Swoboda, Arlene Zumbrock  
7-Stacey Hallman, Edward Solin, Madilyn Voight  
8-Sarah Newman  
9-Lloyd Benner, Jerry Hallman, Robert Schaller, Emery Schindler  
10-Morris Riley  
11-Sarah Sorensen, Kimberly Swoboda  
12-Emmilee Swoboda  
15-Alan Christian

18-Alan Prueher  
19-Kalene Amondson, Hallie Hoffmann, Arlene Pederson  
20-Sharon Braunberger, Anna Varwig, Gregory Wikan  
22-Linda Isaacson, Alex Zwiefelhofer  
24-Emma Heuer, Richard Turner  
25-John Schaller  
26-Susan Roder, Samantha Wirtz, Myrna Zimpel  
28-Cory Feim, Dave LeDuc, Lorraine Radunzel  
29-Brynn Wedemeyer  
30-William Musser  
31-Dale Andersen, Stan Davidson, Elizabeth Peloquin

### **Happy Anniversary!**

3-Tim & Sandra Chaussee  
3-Michael & Debra Powell  
4-Michael & Tresa Juedes  
4-Doug & Jennifer Thompson  
5-Wally & Pat Smith  
6-Bruce & Dawn Heuer  
7-Al & Elaine Twerberg  
9-Justin & Kimberly Musser  
9-Tim & Karen Prueher  
11-Leonard & Janet Langteau  
13-Ron & Darra Sandvig  
13-Bernard & Cheryl Wendt  
22-Clifford & Janice Plasch  
23-George & Dorothy Flint  
28-Robert & Julie Schaller  
28-Jerome & Judy Wing

***God bless America!***



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