



## St. Mark's Messenger The Newsletter of St. Mark Lutheran Church June 2011

### A Message from our Shepherd

It Matters How We Say It!

The story goes that a blind boy sat on a street corner with a hat by his feet. He held a sign that read: "I am blind. Please help." There were only a few coins in his hat.

A man walking by put some coins in the hat, took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He gave the boy the sign back and turned it so everyone could see the new words. Soon the hat was full of coins as many more people gave money to the boy.

Later that same day the boy recognized the foot steps of the man who had changed his situation. He asked the man, "What did you write?" The man answered, "The same thing you did, just in a different way. I wrote: Today is a beautiful day, but I can't see it."

What message do people receive when they read us? Although it might not have been the way we would have chosen to proclaim the message of Jesus and his love, God has chosen to use you and me to tell all the world what he has done. In 1 Peter 2:9 we learn **"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."**

Isn't it humbling to think that you and I might be the only Bible some people will ever read? I don't want to think of how many times someone did not see Jesus when they saw me, heard me, or acted like me. That's what makes this announcement from God so amazing. God chose to send Jesus to pay for these and all of the other times you and I have fallen short of the glory of God.

God the Holy Spirit created faith in our hearts to believe that because he did, we are now a chosen people, a people belonging to God and a people who now have heaven as our home. Today is the day to declare the praises of him who has called you. One of the simplest ways we declare his praises is how we give our message - how we speak, how we respond to others, how long we pause before we respond, and whether we should at some times say anything at all! God strengthen us all to declare a message that fills the hat - not with coins - but with people who will want to know how they too might walk in his wonderful light!

God be with you and guide you, Christian,

Pastor David R. Rosenau

Our sister WELS congregation, St. Paul's in Beverly Hills, FL (on the Gulf Coast, 90 miles north of Tampa), is planning to build a retirement community on their campus. The first phase of this project will be independent apartment living. They are seeking to gauge the level of interest within our synod, as well as gather other information that will assist them. They are asking you (especially those who are close to retirement age or are retired) to fill out a very brief online survey. That survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JZVWLLY>

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#### **You Might Be a Lutheran! if You...**

- Like to sing...unless the hymn is new or has more than four stanzas
- Are convinced your pastor will visit you in the hospital even though you didn't tell him you are there
- Feel guilty for not staying to clean up after your own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall
- Are willing to pay up to two dollars for a meal at church
- Serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season
- Serve coffee after the service - even though it is 100 degrees and 90% humidity
- Hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loud as you can
- Have donuts as a line item in the budget, just like the coffee
- Leave the wine accessible to all but make rules for who can touch the coffee cabinet
- Hear someone from Star Wars say, 'May the Force be with you,' and you respond, 'and also with you.'



Leesburg High School  
Congratulations!

Congratulations, Amanda Rosenau, graduating from Leesburg High School on Friday, June 3rd.

Amanda plans to continue her education at Lake Sumter Community College in the fall.

Congratulations Luke Rosenau for being awarded the most outstanding freshman in the Leesburg High School Band program.

God be with you and bless you both as you continue to strive to use the gifts he has given you to his glory.

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The Messenger is published monthly for members, winter members and friends of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Deadline for submissions for the  
July newsletter  
is Friday June 18

Letter received expressing thanks

To: Pastor Rosenau and the Saint Mark Congregation

Several weeks ago, through the efforts of my Brother-in-law Dick Skeen and his wife Jan, you were asked to offer prayers on my behalf due to a health issue I was experiencing.

The purpose of this communication is to give my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for responding to that request.

I happily report to you that my prognosis is rapidly improving. NO doubt in my mind this is due in large part to your, and many others, talking to God - the greatest of all physicians - in my behalf.

Thank you and may you all be as blest as I am.

Bob Bridgman

Blountsville, Tennessee

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### **Tornado relief on two fronts**

WELS is offering relief aid in the aftermath of the tornado in Joplin, Mo., on May 22 and the tornados that ripped through Alabama last month. Christian Aid and Relief has granted \$5,000 in aid to Faith Lutheran, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Carthage, about 11 miles east of Joplin. Pastor Timothy Buelow reports four families from the church live in Joplin. He's made contact with all of them and they are safe. However, a 20-year-old woman living with her mother lost everything when their apartment building was destroyed. Buelow says the top priority for the relief is to aid that family.

Meantime, a group of WELS volunteers sponsored by WELS Christian Aid and Relief has begun cleanup efforts near Huntsville, Ala.

Two volunteers from congregations in the Appleton, Wis., area were joined by two volunteers from Christ Our Savior Lutheran in Columbia, Tenn., May 24 to help with cleanup efforts in a neighborhood near Lamb of God Lutheran in Madison, Ala., just west of Huntsville. They're set to be joined by another 20-25 volunteers from Christ Our Savior May 28.

Cont'd...

The volunteers have begun clearing debris from around the home of Wade Schubring – a member of Lamb of God whose home suffered repairable structural damage. He and his wife and two children escaped the tornado unharmed. “It’s a great thing they can come help us,” says Schurbring. “It’s just a blessing they’re able to donate their time and resources.”

When the larger group of volunteers arrives, cleanup may extend to other homes in the Schubring’s neighborhood. “The cleanup in some of these neighborhoods has only just begun,” says Joni Gruber, a member of Saving Grace who is organizing the congregation for this effort. “To have outside people come in and give local people a break is very helpful. To say the very least, we’re appreciative. Our neighbors are in trouble.”

You may support WELS tornado relief efforts through Christian Aid and Relief. Donate in your offering envelope marked Christian Aid and Relief, online or send a check to WELS Christian Aid and Relief, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI, 53222-4398.