



The Key to St. Peter

July 2013

St. Peter Lutheran Church - LCMS, 906 Hwy 59 N - PO Box 133, Bowie, TX 76230
www.stpetertex.com stpetertex@att.net 940.872.1886

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Parson's Pen
- 2 Parson's Pen cont.
- 3 Vision for Kenya
- 4 Serving in July / Volunteers
- 5 Making Christian Faith a Priority

The Parson's Pen...

By Pastor Larry Knobloch

Greetings in the name of God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

One of the things that we are very familiar with is forgiveness. We are forgiven of all of our sins through faith in Jesus as our Savior. It's that simple; as we repent and call upon the name of Christ, we are forgiven. All well and good. Often we forgive our neighbor or even a stranger very easily, even though we might gripe about them behind their backs. However, all too often, we don't forgive those that are closest to us. Our families or even our spouses. I ran across this example during my seminary days and wanted to share it with you. I don't remember if I have shared this with you previously, so my apologies if I have.

This example shows how many of us carry old grudges around and sometimes have a problem starting fresh in our relationships with each other. This example involves something that we all like to do...eat...as well as something that we really don't like to do, washing dishes.

Lets say that we decide to have fried eggs for breakfast. We finish eating and rather than washing the plate, we just leave it on the counter. Come lunchtime, we decide to have BBQ chicken. Rather than getting a clean plate, we grab the old one off of the counter with the old dried egg yolk on it, plopp the chicken and sauce on top of it and enjoy our lunch. Afterwards, we again just lay the plate on the counter without washing it. Suppertime rolls around and we decide to have enchiladas and refried beans. Again, we just put them right on top of the same, unwashed plate that we used for breakfast and lunch and after we finish eating we don't wash again and put the plate on the counter, waiting for breakfast the next morning, where the process starts all over again.

*You don't know the word
of God, until you live the
word of God.*

Continued on page 2

The Parson's Pen from page 1

Now unless you have a cat in the house that might jump up on the counter and lick the plate clean, the food will continue to build up on that old plate becoming crusty and moldy. Over time bacteria and other harmful things will form on that plate, poisoning your body and eventually causing sickness and maybe even death, simply because we never took the time or effort to wash the plate. After a time, when we recognize the plate is harmful to us, we might just throw it away because the task of washing it now would be too much trouble.

The same can be said for our relationships with each other. When we hurt each other, either intentionally or unintentionally and do not ask or give forgiveness things start to build up much like not washing a plate after a meal. The longer we let things go, even seemingly little things, they begin to build up. Resentment, hurt, anger, and many other emotions leave a residue on our relationship to that person and over time will actually begin to poison or even kill the relationship. If we catch this early enough, the relationship can be cleaned just like the plate, made shiny and almost like new, but the longer things like this go on and the problems build up, we are more apt to feel like simply throwing the relationship away, just like the plate that isn't worth cleaning anymore.

This is a painful and sad thing to do when it is so easy to fix a relationship with the simple words of "I'm sorry, please forgive me." And the healing words of "I forgive you". We are told in Scripture: *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."* (Eph. 4:31-32, ESV)

Take the time to forgive one another. If you can't do it for the person who has wronged you, then do it for Christ who has first given you the gift of forgiveness, because it really is a gift, and it greatly benefits both the one who has been forgiven as well as the one who has made the decision to forgive.

There are numerous things going on this summer. In addition to our regular schedule, our older Youth will be at the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio from July 1st through the 5th. Our Vacation Bible School runs from July 15th through the 19th and our Synodical Convention runs from July 20th through the 25th. Please keep all of those attending these activities in your prayers.

Don't forget to get involved this summer. Don't simply wait for someone else to do it because they might not! There are still plenty of openings on the sign up board for VBS or if there is another summer activity that you have in mind for the young folks or the entire congregation, talk it up with others. Sitting back and not doing anything all summer is not good for you, nor is it good for our congregation.

Finally, no matter what else might come up this summer, remember that Jesus died for your sins and you are forgiven!

God's continued blessings to you and yours in this Pentecost Season!

Pastor K.

Vision for Kenya

OPENING EYES ... SO THAT MANY WILL SEE JESUS (JOHN 12:21)

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the *Vision For Kenya* team of Circuit 7, I want to thank you for your most

Recent and most generous gift of \$350 to help fund the equipment and supplies needed for the vision clinics we run in Africa. I cannot adequately express the joy we have in knowing that these efforts are being supported so willingly by fellow members of the body of Christ from around our circuit. Thank you for your love, your prayers, and your partnership with us in the Gospel, both locally and globally!

As you may know, it has been just over a month since the completion of our latest trip to Kenya. On that trip, our team of 8 men and women saw almost 1,000 people in need of vision care. Each client was provided everything necessary to improve the gift of sight God has given them, from an examination by a doctor, provision of reading and/or prescription glasses, medication, and even cataract surgery where it was needed. Most importantly, they were provided, in multiple settings, the Good News of salvation that comes only through faith in Christ.

Our Spring 2013 clinic sight was in southeast Kenya (near Mombasa), an area that is influenced greatly by Islam. Yet we rejoice that this most recent trip yielded great fruit for the Kingdom of Christ in that almost 100 people were open to a follow-up visit from a local pastor! We will continue to pray that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the seeds that were planted there may yield a great harvest for Christ.

Again, thank you for your most generous support. We look forward to continuing this mission project, and, as always, invite any of the members of St. Peter to join us as one of the short-term missionaries on a future trip to Kenya.

In Christ,

Pastor Dale Snyder
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Serving in God's House in July

Elder – Darren Gill

Counters – Gary Rainwater, Art Noack, George Drager

Altar Guild – Hazel Beyer & Lee Wuthrich

Altar Care – Becky Geis, Darlene Geis, Debbie Jones

Nursery –

7/7 – Kelly Roth / Rebecca Pickett

7/14 – Lily Gill / Emily Roth

7/21 – Rebecca Horton / Shelby Horton

7/28 – Aubrey Gill / Lauren Gill

Lay Readers –

7/7 Arn Anderson

7/14 Bob Aune

7/21 William Pickett

7/28 Bryan Roth

Acolytes –

7/7 Dalton Fechtler / Travis Fechtler

7/14 Mary Atkinson / Shelby Horton

7/21 Will Jones / Josh Knobloch

7/28 Aubrey Gill / Jessie Roth

Greeters –

Jim & Eva Fechtler



Reverend Larry Knobloch is the Pastor of St Peter Lutheran Church in Bowie, TX. He has done a wonderful job shepherding and ministering to that congregation for about five years. Rev. Knobloch recently invited me [Rebekah Poling] to come share the wonderful FIT program with his congregation. He is passionate about helping his church body serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in their community.

Thanks to his leadership and the kindness and compassion of the members of St Peter in Bowie, the Foster In Texas kids have another partner looking out for them!

For more information about Foster In Texas, contact Rebekah Poling at Rebekah.Poling@lsss.org or by visiting www.FosterInTexas.org.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Father's Day Breakfast a huge success!



The dads and families, over 50 people, were treated to breakfast tacos after Sunday School/Bible Class.



During the summer months, we will be providing articles and quotes on prayer, encouraging you to make your Christian faith a priority.

The Family Dinner *by Ned Andrew Solomon*

In this article adapted from the FaithHome for Parents series (Abingdon Press, 1999), Ned discusses the benefits of the family dinner and why it is an effective tool for praying with your family.

Tips for a Successful Family Dinner

Before Your Family Dinner

- When possible, plan the menu in advance to help alleviate the stress of meal preparation. From time to time, let each person take part in selecting the menu and/or shopping for the ingredients.
- Encourage family members to participate in meal preparation. In addition to keeping any one person from having to do all of it, this encourages independence and teamwork.
- Remember that the meal and the table don't have to be fancy. Take-out pizza or Chinese food served on paper plates works fine!
- On occasion, use your nice dishes or china for an extra special meal—regardless of the menu!
- Use candles to create a warm and inviting family table. Some families light a single white pillar candle to represent God's presence with them.
- Have the kids create a festive centerpiece—perhaps one for each season and/or special occasion.
- From time to time, allow a family member (one at a time) to invite a close friend to join you. Be proud of your family dinner!
- Turn off the TVs, radios, and any other distractions that might interfere with your purpose: family interaction. Let the answering machine take your calls.
- Preserve the sanctity of the family dinner. Determine when you will have your family meals one week or more in advance so that family members may forgo making plans that will keep them from being present.
- Wait until everyone is seated before beginning, and encourage all to be timely and committed to this valuable endeavor.

During Your Family Dinner

- Begin each meal with a blessing. Find one that “says it all” and let this be your regular prayer, or keep your prayers fresh and meaningful by choosing a new one each time. Allow each person to take a turn selecting, creating, or reciting the prayer. Hold hands, if you like.
- Talk about the day's events as well as current events both inside and outside in the real world. Ask each family member to share the highlight of his or her day or tell something funny or interesting that happened. Enjoy reminiscing about family or childhood experiences. Whatever the topic, keep your conversation positive. Never use this precious time as a forum for finding faults. Fighting, whining, yelling, and making hurtful comments are strictly forbidden!
- Let one family dinner per week be a time for feeding your souls as well as your bodies. Read a Bible verse or short devotional at the start of the meal and talk about it as you eat together. Make connections to your daily lives as you are able and encourage everyone to participate in the discussion by asking specific questions.