



The Key to St. Peter

May 2014

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The Parson's Pen...

By Pastor Larry Knobloch

Have you ever had something sneak up on you? Maybe you thought you had it in hand and everything was under control and then Bam! It's there demanding your attention.

I've had a few things like that in my life; however, God has faithfully used them to make a difference in my life and my study of His Word.

Recently a situation came to light in a way that I least expected it. Last summer when I moved Emmie into her college dorm, on the third floor, I injured my ankle. I don't remember a specific stumble, but either way, I ignored it. I bought an ankle brace and wore it for a while and when it started to feel better, I quit wearing it, and about a week later it started to hurt again. So I put it back on and went about my normal activities of walking in the morning and evening, I walked in two different 5K's, wearing my brace and thinking that it would eventually get better soon, but it didn't. However, it was never quite bad enough to do anything about.

Finally, last month, I went to an orthopedic doctor to have him treat my "trigger finger" that he had treated last year and I mentioned my ankle to him. He manipulated it for a bit, taking note of when I winced in pain and decided to X-ray it and do an ultrasound on it. He said that part of it was age and part of it was that my Achilles tendon was turning loose in several places on my heel. Well that got my attention, after ignoring it for almost a year, I discovered that it might be something serious. He told me that we would start with physical therapy and if that didn't work, we would resort to surgery. So off to the physical therapist I went.

I met my physical therapist and he watched me walk in and could tell by my walking where the problem was. We talked while he probed my ankle and calf muscle. We talked about baptism and liturgical worship, which was interesting because he was a former Lutheran. (I seem to run into a lot of those). As we discussed therapy, he asked me to stand on my toes and noted how I seemed to lean to the left. He then measured my legs and found out that my left leg was one half inch shorter than my right. This revelation changed the whole schedule of therapy.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Parson's Pen
- 2 Parson's Pen cont.
- 3 Serving in May / Lutheran Social Services
- 4 Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- 5 The Watson's 2014 Spring Quarter

Make it a priority to have deep roots in God so that you will not wither under the heat of life. **Invest time into reading and memorizing God's word, praying, and communing with God.** Be rooted in God.

The Parson's Pen from page 1

Rather than the conversation being about an injury that was about a year old, it became a conversation about reversing the incorrect muscle and balance issues that have taken place over about 46 years of walking incorrectly. My recurring back pain that has plagued me almost all of my adult life as well as why I normally lean to the left when standing was explained during a thirty minute exam. I purchased a \$14 heel inset to make up the difference and my ankle pain was lessened right away. I have one to two more weeks of therapy to build up the stamina in those underused muscles and then I will do the rest of the therapy at home. It is amazing how much can be done when you are treating the actual cause of the problem. It turns out that my ankle pain was merely a symptom of an underlying problem that has never been noticed. Now that the problem of incorrect growth has addressed, healing has begun.

This lesson from God has so many applications in our spiritual lives as well. We so often seek to address symptoms rather than the underlying cause of a problem. Sometimes we don't even know that we have that problem. Since my grandfather had back pain and my father had back pain, it made sense that I would have it too. I did back exercises and took ibuprofen and carried on, putting a band-aid on the problem.

When we have a spiritual problem, what do we do? Do we seek guidance from God's Word, or do we just look to find things that we want to and that support our own agenda? Think of how you pray? Do you just pray for the things that you want or do you pray for God's will to be done?

One of the Bible references that I thought of today was from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-23)

We rejoice always because we are children of God in Christ Jesus, but also, pray without ceasing. God knows what we need already, even before we start to pray. Jesus tells us this in Matthew 6:8. *"Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."* He does this just prior to teaching His disciples how to pray by teaching them the Lord's prayer.

Keep these things in mind the next time you are facing a trial. Don't forget to ask for God's guidance but then listen to Him as He guides you in His Word. As you pray the Lord's prayer, or any other prayer, listen to what you are praying. Sometimes the answer is given in the very words that we send to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

We are sinners in a sinful world. It is a daily struggle to maintain the peace of God because all too often, we look for peace while we are still chasing our favorite sin. Look for the heart of the matter, ask God to show you the heart of the matter. Nothing can be solved by treating symptoms, so be ready to listen when God directs you to the root of the problem.

Continue to pray and listen, and know this: there is no problem or sin that Jesus has not paid for on the cross. As we continue in the Easter season and towards Pentecost, remember that your sins are forgiven, through repentance and faith in Christ as your Savior.

Amen.

Serving in God's House in May

Acolytes

5/4 - Will Jones / Josh Knobloch
 5/11 - Dalton Fechtler / Sid Mayfield
 5/18 - Lauren Gill / Hattie Hammer
 5/25 - Mary Atkinson / Shelby Horton

Lay Readers

5/4 - Bob Aune
 5/11 - William Pickett
 5/18 - Bryan Roth
 5/25 - Travis Fechtler

Altar Guild

Sharon Rainwater

Altar Care

Debbie Jones
 Lou McConeghy
 Melissa Stephens

Elder

Jimmie Little

Nursery Schedule

5/4 - Mary Atkinson / Shelby Horton
 5/11 - Lauren Gill / Hattie Hammer
 5/18 - Lily Gill / Aubrey Gill
 5/25 - Rebecca Pickett / Kelly Roth

Greeters

Waldo & Glenda Roth

Counters

Steve Long
 Kurt Roberts



Your children's bulletin unlocks ONLINE FUN at home.

We're excited to announce a **NEW feature** of *Children's Worship Bulletins* that will have children lining up to get their bulletin this Sunday! They'll be looking forward to the secret code on the front of the bulletin that unlocks hours of fun learning at home.

This secret code is unique to our church and allows SAFE and secure access to online games that reinforce the message for the week.

Children's Worship Bulletins[™] @HOME!

Congratulations to the Class of 2014

Senior Randi Reynolds
 Parents: Brian & Robin Reynolds

Senior Whitney Roth
 Parents: Kevin & Tina Roth

Way to Go!!!!

Confirmands for 2014

Dalton Fechtler
 Will Jones
 Joshua Knobloch

Confirmation Sunday is May 18th

