

THE KEY TO ST. PETER

THE PARSON'S PEN...

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

You have all probably heard the hoopla by now. The press loves to bandy about negative things about "ignorant" Christians and how much they don't know. In a recent survey conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life they asked a series of 63 questions from cell phone usage to political questions. Included were also mythological questions and questions on world religion. Interspersed within those 63 questions were the 15 that were reported on by the press which they believed to show that Christians didn't even know what they believed.

The main problem that I see lies in the knowledge that only three (in my opinion) had to do with Christian teachings. Two had to do with church history and two had to do strictly with Roman Catholicism. The others had to do with non-Christian religions and separation of church and state. To take these results and say that atheists know more about religion than Christians do is a rather skewed statement. It implies that Christians simply don't know who or what they worship. Now is this article that I am writing skewed? Possibly, but I am not faulting any group other than those that took the outcome and decided to ridicule Christians with its results.

I took the quiz (at least the 15 question one) online at www.pewforum.org. It was an interesting quiz even if it didn't really ask about Christian knowledge. To be fair, it was not represented as a Christian knowledge quiz, but in many of the reports from the major media outlets, it was portrayed as such. I saw no reports from the Pew Forum correcting that assumption. Am I aggravated by this...yes. Surprised...no.

The questions were asked verbally and the folks answering were given the choice of four answers. If you have web access, feel free to take the quiz yourself but to save you a little time here are the questions that the media was referring to: (I left out the possible answers to

save space, I have a printout in my office if you are interested.)

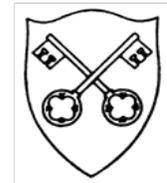
1. Which Bible figure is most closely associated with leading the exodus from Egypt?
2. What was Mother Teresa's religion?
3. Which of the following is NOT one of the Ten Commandments?
4. When does the Jewish Sabbath begin?
5. Is Ramadan...?
6. Which of the following best describes the Catholic teaching about the bread and wine used for Communion?
7. In which religion are Vishnu and Shiva central figures?
8. Which Bible figure is most closely associated with remaining obedient to God despite suffering?
9. What was Joseph Smith's religion?
10. According to rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court, is a public school teacher permitted to lead a class in prayer, or not?
11. According to rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court, is a public school teacher permitted to read from the Bible as an example of literature or not?
12. What religion do most people in Pakistan consider themselves?
13. What was the name of the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant Reformation?
14. Which of these religions aims at nirvana, the state of being free from suffering?
15. Which one of these preachers participated in the period of religious activity known as the First Great Awakening?

My answers weren't included in the survey, but I scored 14 out of 15. Could

(Continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER



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have been 15/15 but I didn't pay attention when reading the Sabbath question. But still, this was a question about another religion which given the bad press to Christians shouldn't really have mattered. I knew many of them because I studied many of things on the way to getting an MDiv in order to be Ordained, but why would the average Christian know about Hindus and Muslims?

Am I overreacting? Possibly, but so did the naysayers of Christians. If you go to the Pew Forum website they give you tons of facts regarding the people questioned in the survey and the many different ways that they broke them down by race, creed, religious denomination and preferences. They also go through and give reasons why they asked the questions that they did. And?

There was nothing that I saw referring to the misrepresentation given by the mainstream media.

My reaction is to those who implied that this was a survey of Christian knowledge and that non-believers knew more than those that call themselves Christians. This is the state of our world. I highly doubt that there would be a survey that showed anything negative about Wiccans, Satanists or any other non-Christian religion. There is a double standard out there. Our children face it at school and as adults we face it at work, in government and almost every facet of our lives. For an example, go to a major retailer in December and see how often you hear Merry Christmas. If you keep track you'll probably hear a lot more Happy Holidays. Paul foretold this in 2 Timothy 4:3-4. We read: *"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."*

What can you do? Well Paul tells us that too: *"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."* (2 Timothy 4:5, ESV)

Speak up. If no where else, then in your own home. As we teach our children, grandchildren and any other person you may come into contact with. Invite them to church or any church function. If you are quiet...then who will speak? You don't have to bring down the court house, but you can proclaim the name of Jesus in your house and in your church.

Keep that in mind as we enter into November with All Saints' Day. Soon it will be Christmas. You have the whole month's worth of opportunities in December to proclaim His name as you proclaim the birth of Christ, the Savior of the nations. As John tells us at the close of Revelation: ***"Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ..."***

We close with God's Word, the remaining words given to us in Revelation:
"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."
(Revelation 22:20- 21ESV)

Pastor K.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor's Bible Study

Studying the Fruits of the Spirit
9:30 a.m. - Sunday mornings
Led by Pastor Knobloch

Young Adults Bible Study

Join the Young Adults Bible Study
to explore scripture
9:45 a.m. - Sunday mornings
Led by Arn Anderson

Wednesday Night Bible Study

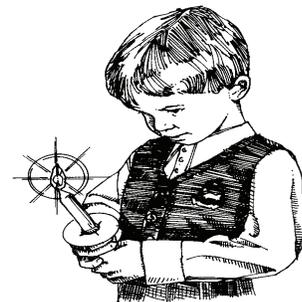
Study of First Corinthians
7:00 p.m. led by Jim Atkinson

Women's Bible Study

Studying Ephesians - Led by
Wanda Brummett
"Finding your identity and
purpose in Christ"
9:30 a.m. - Thursday mornings at
the church

Men's Bible Study

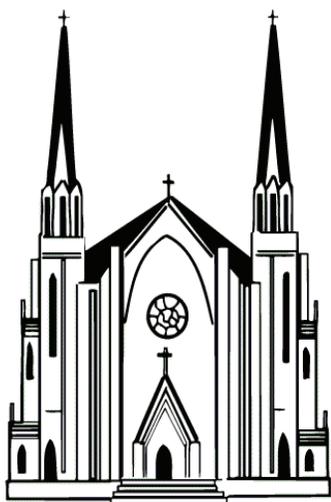
Studying the Lord's Prayer
6:45 a.m. - Friday mornings in the
Fellowship Hall
Led by Pastor Knobloch



Christmas Eve Service

Practices for the Christmas Eve program will be held December 5, 12 and 19 during Sunday School in the sanctuary. We will also have a dress rehearsal some time during the week of the 19th. Our program for this year is entitled "Stars Tell the Story". We will need children and young adults of all ages for our complete nativity as well as readers. Please let us know as soon as possible if your children will be able to participate. If you have questions, please contact Cyndi K.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN NOVEMBER



Elder — Bryan Roth

Counters — Bryan Roth, Kenneth Geis,
Terry Henry

Nursery —

11/7 - Molly Atkinson & Cyndi Knobloch

11/14 - Sherry Hammer & Chanda Rhyne

11/21 - Valarie Gill & Dana Moeller

11/28 - Kristen Henry & Jeannine Yowell

12/5 - Rebecca Pickett & Kelly Roth

Altar Guild - Jeannine Yowell

Altar Care - Linda Chase, Doris Long,
Dana Moeller, Viola Robinson

Lay Readers —

11/7 - Monty Moeller

11/14 - Arn Anderson

11/21 - Bob Aune

11/28 - William Pickett

12/5 - Bryan Roth

Acolytes —

11/7 - Lily Gill / Katie Jones

11/14 - Jared Roberts / Cade Roth

11/21 - Aubrey Gill / Jenna McCarty

11/28 - Hattie Hammer / Shelby Horton

12/5 - Grant Roth / Tristan Smith

Attention: If you have a child in college, please notify the church office with their current college address. Thank you!

Did you know St. Peter LWML...

- Is involved in four Lutheran World Relief Projects
- Provides support for six area groups and St. Peter members during difficult times
- Uses the monies raised through one fundraiser to minister to those around them and around the world for an entire year
- Has meetings once a month which last only about one hour

But wait! Ladies, you too can share God's love through service in the LWML! In exchange for your time, you will receive:

- Bible knowledge
- Sense of joy in helping others
- Friendship & fellowship
- Prayer support
- and much more!

Make plans now to join us for a new Bible Study in 2011. We will be watching "The Heart of Passion" DVD series by Louie Giglio. (For a preview of his presentation, look up 'Indescribable by Louie Giglio' on YouTube.) Of the hundreds of reviews of these videos, 99.9% rate them the highest ever. One writes, "This has been an incredibly life-changing series to watch. Louie Giglio presents his message in a dynamic way that leaves you awe struck and in silence. I would recommend this series to anyone who wants challenged to grow deeper in their faith."

We look forward to seeing YOU there!

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING

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Members Present: Pastor Knobloch, Gary Rainwater, Waldo Roth, Jimmie Little, Norman Beyer, Linford Roth, Donald Ray Unger, Arnold Wuthrich, Arn Anderson, David Geis, Jim Atkinson, Rich Lee, Terry Henry, Bryan Roth and Brent Husfeld.

President Jimmie Little called the meeting to order.

Pastor Knobloch opened with a prayer.

Secretary Gary Rainwater read the minutes and they were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: as given by Waldo Roth was an opening balance of \$16,401 and a total income \$53,883 with a total expense of \$554,071 giving a closing balance of \$16,213. Building Fund - Legend Bank \$14,608. Building Fund - Texas District \$434,463. Texas District Savings Acct. - \$172,938. Cemetery Fund - \$2,336. Edward Jones - \$0. Arn Anderson made a motion to accept report, second by Donald Ray Unger. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Arnold Wuthrich reported they have held three Elder's meetings. Thrivent is having a luncheon to give thanks for the work our church has done on December 5, 2010. A letter was sent out to member absentees that have not attended services or communion for a year's time. In response, Joshua Briggs and Billy and Kimberly Seigler have requested a peaceful release of their membership.

Pastor's Report: as given by Pastor Knobloch was Sunday average attendance: July-90; August-83; September-96. Marriages-0; Burials-0; Baptisms-0; Adult Confirmations-3; Transfer Membership-1. Pastor reported on the Pre-Confirmation Camp. Kurt Roberts went as sponsor. November 7 Pastor Knobloch will be gone and Pastor Kabell will lead that Sunday service.

Sunday School Superintendent Report: as given by Rebecca Pickett, Sunday School attendance averaged 41 in July, August and September. Summer attendance was down due to vacations, but hopefully will be going up. We had a good group of kids on Rally Day and a very fun Midweek Kick-off/Rally Day Celebration with a hotdog lunch, an inflatable bounce house and snow cones. Fall Fest will be this Saturday, October 16 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Building Committee Report: Arn Anderson reported the committee met with Mr. Steve Block with church extension on Tuesday July 6, 2010. The loan is available to us at a monthly amount for loan payment of \$4,508. Loan interest rate of 4.5%. Term of loan 30 years. Size of loan \$889,770.

Old Business: Bryan Roth reported the speaker system is a work in progress.

New Business: (1) 2011 Budget: See sheet--Jimmy Atkinson made a motion to accept budget for 2011, Arnold Wuthrich second, motion passed. (2) Constitutional Amendments: Arn Anderson made a motion, second by Jimmy to pass the proposed Amendment A (Articles X and XI to change the name "Vice-President-Finance-Treasurer" to "Chief Financial Officer," the position to be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod). Motion passed. Pastor Knobloch made a motion, second by Norman Beyer on Amendment B (Adds a new Article XIV to the Constitution to clarify the relationship between the Bylaws and the Constitution of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod). Voted against the proposed amendment. (3) New Members: Pastor Knobloch made a motion, second by Arnold Wuthrich to accept the adult confirmands--Kelly Roth, Lee Hughes and Lee Allen; transfer member Sharlett Miller into membership; and give a peaceful release to Joshua Briggs and to Billy & Kim Seigler. Motion passed. (4) Election of Officers: After a ballot of election new officers are: President-Terry Henry; Vice President-Rich Lee; Secretary-Kenneth Geis; Treasurer-Waldo Roth; Sunday School Superintendent-Rebecca Pickett; Head Usher-David Geis; Elders-1-Arnold Wuthrich, 2-Jim Atkinson, 3-Kurt Roberts, 4-Jimmie Little; Financial Sect.-Bryan Roth. Arn Anderson made a motion to accept the 2011 Officers, second by Norman Beyer, motion passed. (5) Church website: Arn Anderson made a motion, second by Terry Henry to set up a church website at \$114 per year with an initial startup fee of \$149. Motion passed. (6) Support of A&M Campus Ministry: Arn Anderson made a motion, second by Norman Beyer to send 2.5% of our mission budget to the Texas A&M Lutheran Chapel for one year. Motion passed. (7) Rich Lee made a motion to allow the Boy Scouts to park their trailer in the church storage building. Terry Henry second and motion passed.

To: St Peter Lutheran Church

Greetings, dear friends in Christ!

I have been remiss in sending acknowledgement and thanks for your continued support, and I offer my sincere apologies. Glenda has done a fantastic job at sending us the checks, and for that we are so grateful! Once again, your support continues to bless us and we are humbled by it! Again, I am truly sorry for being so late in writing you personally, by letter or e-mail.

Since I know that you follow our Blog, you know the updates, but I absolutely wanted to send you a letter, so that you can see that we truly do value your loving support, and that you are valued greatly, not only for your financial support, but for who you are and for what you do in God's service.

I do want to make sure that you are aware of the change of address at our Blog, which has been moved (including all old posts, photos and comments) to:

<http://ourschmidthouse.wordpress.com>

Also, my e-mail has changed to:

erik@ourschmidthouse.com

Once again, thank you so much -- you continue to be a blessing on our lives!

In His service and in His Holy name,

Erik Schmidt and family: Heidi, Ethan, Daniel and Katy.

Re: Those Not-So-Great Expectations

by Dr. Jean Garton

A little rhyme has been floating around the church for years, and it goes like this:

Mary had a little lamb.

It would have become a sheep.

It joined the Lutheran Church instead

And died from lack of sleep.

It would be funny if it weren't so reflective of how busy our lives – both in and out of the church – have become. The Scriptures are filled with directives to “go,” but I don't think we are meant to “go” at a whirlwind pace.

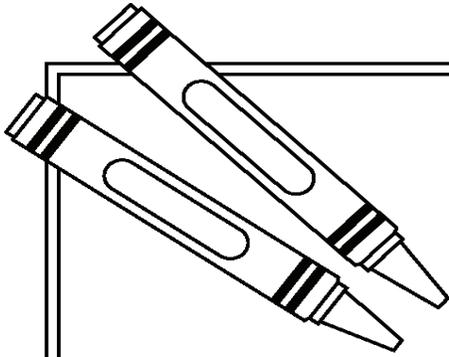
As women look at their lives today, too many feel as if they are going in circles, going at triple speed, going downhill fast and, on some days, even feeling as if they are going crazy. We wear ourselves out trying to meet the many expectations placed on us: my husband expects this, my children expect that ... my boss ... my friends ... my congregation ... expects, expects, expects.

The expectation problem isn't new. One of God's people named Micah was trying to clear up the confusion about how to live his life. “Just what does the Lord expect from me?” he asked. The Lord's answer to Micah is not unlike that which He gives to us today:

This is what I expect of you – teacher, waitress, choir director, mother, nurse, homemaker, student, or whatever your vocation – that you act justly, love mercy and walk (not jog! not run! but walk) humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8 paraphrase)

Whew! We don't have to play God. We don't have to save the world, the country, our schools, or even our congregations. The One and Only has already come and finished the job. We can just follow in His footsteps and share in His ministry, beginning with our own families, because the home is, after all, the first church and the first mission field.

(excerpt from Fall 2010 Lutheran Women's Quarterly)



Just for KIDS

The Books of the Bible Seek and Find

*All of the books of the Bible are hidden in this puzzle
 There are 39 from the Old Testament and 27 from the
 New Testament. Use your Bible to help you find the names.
 Circle each one. The names can go → ← ↓ ↑ ↘.*

T	F	I	R	S	T	J	O	H	N	A	N	H	O	J	D	N	O	C	E	S
H	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	A	N	S	P	H	I	L	E	M	O	N	C
I	S	E	C	O	N	D	T	I	M	O	T	H	Y	B	C	D	E	F	G	O
R	F	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	R	U	T	H	E	S	T	H	E	R	H	O
D	I	J	X	L	S	A	R	Z	E	J	N	E	H	E	M	I	A	H	E	O
J	R	O	O	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	S	T	C	A	Z	S
O	S	B	D	S	C	V	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	I	E	S
H	T	S	U	E	O	D	I	I	J	H	K	L	M	I	C	A	H	A	K	I
N	C	M	S	C	N	A	H	T	J	U	D	G	E	S	P	Q	E	S	I	A
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N	R	A	O	N	K	I	S	S	E	C	O	N	D	S	A	M	U	E	L	S
A	I	S	N	D	I	E	E	N	O	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	J	R	V	N
I	N	P	A	C	N	L	A	S	F	I	R	S	T	K	I	N	G	S	O	A
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D	A	H	E	T	J	A	L	S	H	A	B	A	K	K	U	K	A	B	L	N
N	T	F	I	R	S	T	T	I	M	O	T	H	Y	A	D	G	M	R	A	O
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S	S	F	I	R	S	T	T	H	E	S	S	A	L	O	N	I	A	N	S	A

Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate with All The Bounty
That the LORD God Has Given You

Join us the Eve before Thanksgiving as we prepare our hearts to remember with thankfulness the many gifts that the Lord has bestowed upon us.

And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you. Deuteronomy 26:11



St. Peter Lutheran Church
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