



The Key to St. Peter

October 2014

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

The Parson's Pen...

By Pastor Larry Knobloch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Parson's Pen
- 2 Parson's Pen cont.
- 3 Cans for Kenya /LWML News
- 4 Serving in God's House
- 5 Calendar

Greetings in the name of God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This month, I would like to share a story with you that I read in *On this day: 265 amazing and inspiring stories about saints, martyrs & heroes* published by Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville. I may have shared this story with you before but bear with me as I believe it speaks to us again this month.

“John Fawcett was converted as a teenager listening to George Whitefield. He joined the Baptists and was ordained on **July 31, 1765**. He began pastoring a poor church in Wainsgate, finding time here and there for writing. His writings spread abroad, and the little church feared they would lose their pastor to a larger place. Fawcett wondered the same thing, lamenting in his diary that his family was growing faster than his income.

The call came from London's famous Carter's Lane Church. “Think of it!” Fawcett told his wife. “They want us in London to take the place of the late Dr. Gill at that great church! It's almost unbelievable!” The following Sunday he broke the news to his church, then began packing. Books, dishes, pictures, and furniture were crated for the overland journey to the world's largest city. When the day of departure came, church members assembled and bravely tried to hold their tears. Finally everything was loaded but one box, and Fawcett entered the house to retrieve it. There he found his wife deep in thought. “John,” she said, voice breaking, “do you think we're doing the right thing? Will we ever find a congregation to love us and help us with the Lord's work like this group here?”

“Do you think we've been too hasty in this?” John asked.

“Yes. I think we should stay right here and serve these people.”

John was silent a moment, for his heart, too, had been breaking. He nodded. “I was so overjoyed when the call came that I never really prayed about it like a minister should.”

They walked onto the porch, called the people together, revealed their change of heart, and amid joyous tears unloaded their wagons. Fawcett stayed at Wainsgate the rest of his life. But not in obscurity. Out of this experience, he wrote the world-famous hymn:”

*Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship
of kindred minds
Is like to that above.*

*Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.*

Continued on page 2

The Parson's Pen from page 1

Congregations misunderstand the Divine call that pastors heed and follow from the Holy Spirit and in the same way; pastors sometimes misunderstand or fail to follow the Holy Spirit in the call process. Sometimes on the part of the congregation, when a pastor takes a Divine call it is looked at as pastor does not like us anymore or even worse, that he has abandoned them. Sometimes the call process is looked at as a sort of promotion process for pastors as the pastor looks for a better paying, more prestigious position at another church. Neither of these scenarios is correct. We are taught at the Seminary that every call should be looked at as a lifetime call. Churches are not to be seen as stepping-stones to another, congregation. In the same way, congregations should understand that as a servant of God, there may well be other calls in a pastor's life as God might choose to send him to another location where he can better serve in His Kingdom. Looking at the above story, we see an example of the call process. Because of mankind's failings, the process is not perfect, but we try to do the best that we can. But even looking at this flawed example, we can learn a lot about the proper way to look at and react God's calling...and that is in prayer.

When a pastor receives a call he should notify the congregation as soon as possible. This is not done just to warn them or to extort a higher salary from them, but so that both pastor and congregation can immediately go before God in prayer, that His will might be done. This is at the heart of the process as everyone seeks God's will so that His Kingdom might be served best.

Now, before we go any further, don't worry (or maybe I should say don't celebrate), I have not received a call nor do I anticipate receiving one, but this is something that we should have in our minds because we are dealing with the will of God and not the will of man and we should all be striving to do His will.

One of the reasons that I wanted to share this devotion with you is because we all too often are afraid of making plans. Sometimes it is short range plans because we don't really think they will make any difference in the long run and sometimes its fear of making long range plans because we don't know what tomorrow brings. But the point is, we are called to spread the Gospel. If we are afraid to make any plans, we end up sitting on our hands and rehashing the same things over and over again.

Now I am in no way saying that old ways or traditions are wrong or bad, but sometimes we even get into a rut with things that we have been doing for years because we may not see how they are making a difference and wonder if they are even worth continuing.

For example, why do we give out the goodie bags on Christmas Eve? I remember that they were a big deal each year for me when I was younger. We didn't always have oranges and apples around. The candy canes and nuts were a special treat. I still look at the display of all of the walnuts and almonds in their shells in the grocery stores and am amazed. But it is not that big a deal to my children. Fruit, nuts and candy are available pretty much year round, but we still make and distribute the bags...and the children still love receiving them. My adult children still talk about receiving their Christmas bags and look forward to when their children might receive theirs. Even though the tradition has a different meaning now, it is still a good and meaningful tradition.

As we approach October 31, the anniversary of the Reformation let us remember that it is not always easy or convenient to do God's will. Dr. Martin Luther endured much personal hardship and persecution as he did his best to fulfill God's will, which resulted in his breaking from the Roman Catholic Church...which also resulted in you and I, as well as all of the other Protestant religions in the world to be able to worship as they see best according to the Word of God.

May we continue to strive to find more and more ways to spread the Gospel. Whether we see the results in our lifetimes or not, should not stop us from giving our all as we work to spread the Gospel in response to Christ Great Commission given to us in Matthew 28:19-20.

God's Blessings to all as we approach the 497th anniversary of the Reformation,
Pastor K.

CANS FOR KENYA

Sunday, October 12 4-7 P.M.

St. Paul Lutheran Family Center on FM 1954, Wichita Falls

Circuit Wide Family Oriented Event with horseshoes, games, bounce house, dominoes, pony rides, and a mini train

Each church is encouraged to collect aluminum cans for the next Kenya Mission, and bring either their collected cans (already weighed) or a record of cans collected and sold.

A "Fabulous Prize" will be awarded to the Church with the most pounds collected!

"Beer Can Chicken" will be available for a donation. Each visiting church member is asked to bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO FUND FUTURE KENYA MISSIONS

LWML News

The Fall Rally will be held on October 18th at St Paul Lutheran Church in Wichita Falls. Our own Jeannine Yowell will present the Bible Study, "If the shoe fits". Watch the bulletin for the time we will be leaving and let Glenda Roth know if you would like to attend.

We were pleased to be able to send Wal-Mart gift cards to our seven young college students last month. These were Bailey Anderson, Ashley Gill, Emmie Knobloch, Jenna McCarty, Craig Roth, Emily Roth and Whitney Roth. Look for more on where these young people are attending school and what they are studying in the next newsletter.

The Tasting Bee last month raised \$1300 to be sent to seminary students from Texas. We had a large crowd and thank everyone for their support.

Serving in God's House in October

Acolytes

10/5 – Sarah Horton/Shelby Horton
10/12 – Dalton Fechtler/Will Jones
10/19 Josh Knobloch/Sid Mayfield
10/26 – Mary Atkinson/Shelby Horton

Lay Readers

10/12 Brandon Kringen
10/19 Arn Anderson
10/26 William Pickett

Elder

Waldo Roth

Acolytes

10/5 – Sarah Horton/Shelby Horton
10/12 – Dalton Fechtler/Will Jones
10/19 Josh Knobloch/Sid Mayfield
10/26 – Mary Atkinson/Shelby Horton

Counters

Ed Robinson
Jim McConeghy

Lay Readers

10/12 Brandon Kringen
10/19 Arn Anderson
10/26 William Pickett

Usher

David Geis

Nursery Schedule

10/5 Aubrey Gill / Lily Gill
10/12 Hattie Hammer / Shelby Horton
10/ 19 Eva Fechtler / Rebecca Horton
10/26 Maci Ferguson / Monica Mayfield

Altar Guild

Sharon Rainwater

Altar Care

Valarie Gill
Dawn Keyes
Debra Keyes
Donna Roth

Greeters

Cholly Hargrove/
Vonita Drager

Congratulations to Lily Gill,
Bowie High School
2014 Homecoming Queen
We're proud of you!

