

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

Published by the Stewardship Committee

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and on Facebook

The Pastor's Message

By: Rev. Keith Burk

No message this month.

News from the Church Council

By: Tim Watters

No message this month.

News from the Elders

By: Travis Frerking and Patrick Severson

No report this month.

News from Sunday School

By: Gloria Egger

No message this month.

News from the Outreach Committee

By: Linda Cox

No message this month.

Church Properties News

By: Tim Dorn

No message this month.

Stewardship Thoughts

By: Elaine Maruhn

Please read the article in this newsletter "Lutheran Belief and Practice: What About Angels." I found it very interesting.

"And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.'" **Luke 5:5.** In Peter's words there are both exasperation and trust. He's tired. He tried his best and failed. But he is still ready to trust the Lord's word – and act on it. Our stewardship is also a matter of trusting the Lord's word . . . and acting on it.

FOOF Financial News

By: Brooke Frerking

No report this month.

LWML News

By: Jeanne Krutz, President

As I look out the window and see all the beautiful flowers and the green grass, I am reminded of how lucky we are that our Father in heaven takes such good care of us. We have the beauty of His creation, the means to take care of our needs, and most of all, His Word and a sanctuary to worship. We are so blessed that we have a Pastor to serve us. We must diligently "Share the Father's Great Love" so that others have the opportunity to know that they also are God's children and the great love He has for all.

The next Mission Circle meeting is July 11th at 9:30 at the church. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us for Bible Study.

Prayer Requests

Paul Arne

Rev. Nathan Ristveldt

Terry Tallon

Pat (John Engelhard's sister)

Arlene Tuxhorn

Our shut-in, Julia Gerbig

Please call Pastor Burk 402-984-1958 or e-mail him at kburk58@gmail.com to be added to the prayer list.

Dale Schmidt

Lavelle Schumacher

Bill Boden

Mij (John Engelhard's sister)

Families of those killed in Charleston

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

July 5 McKenna Grove

July 9 Rhonda Burk

July 10 Ruth Wright

July 11 Dayna Dorn

July 17 Josiah Burk

July 22 Jonah Lovell

July 23 Travis & Brooke Frerking

July 27 Dan & Joyce Wieneke

Thank you for the Scholarship

Thank you very much for this scholarship. It helps greatly paying for school. It's an honor to be awarded it. This scholarship allows me to go and spread the Word of God while out at school and everywhere. Thank you again.

Spencer Dorn

The SCRIP Program

submitted by Christina Severson

We are half way through the calendar year and we have raised a total of \$446.88 via the SCRIP program for the building fund. We are on pace to raise approximately \$900 for the full year. Thank you to everyone for your support of this program.

There have been no additions or subtractions to/from the available retailers.

Our next order date is July 12th with delivery on July 19th.

There will be a basket out the last Sunday of each quarter to collect donations for James Peterson of Milford, the seminarian we have agreed to help support. Our first donation was collected on the day of our 25th Anniversary celebration in May. The basket will be out on Sunday, June 28 for the next installment and your donations will be appreciated. The Mission Circle will see that all donated funds are forwarded to the Petersons.

The Tuesday evening Confessions Study will continue to meet at 7:00 p.m. over the summer. Please join the study group.

Hickman Hayday is set for Saturday, July 25th.

Things To Learn from the Story Of Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead; it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
5. Build your future on high ground.
6. For safety's sake, always travel in pairs.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage; the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
8. When you're stressed, float a while.
9. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Lutheran BELIEF *and* PRACTICE

What About . . .

Angels

By Dr. A. L. Barry

President, The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

from lcms.org

It seems as though angels have captured the imagination of people everywhere. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about angels, along with superstitions and unscriptural understandings.

Do angels exist?

The Word of God—not popular television shows or magazine articles—is our only reliable source for knowing what angels are, and what they do. The Bible teaches us that angels were made by God during the six days of creation. Before creation there was only God (John 1:1-3), and after creation, we are told that on the seventh day God “rested from all the work of creating he had done”(Gen.2:3b). The Bible does not indicate on which day of creation God made angels. But angels are very real.

What does the word “angel” mean?

The word “angel” comes from a Greek word that means “messenger.” Angels are God’s messengers. Elsewhere in the Bible, angels are described as spirits (cf. Acts 23:9; Heb.1:14). The word “angel” is actually a description of what they do.

What are angels?

Angels are spirits. They are beings who do not have a physical body. Jesus Himself said, “a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (Luke 24:39). Evil angels, too, are described as not having “flesh and blood”(Eph. 6:12). In the Scriptures, when angels do appear in human form, this is only a momentary appearance for those who need to see them. Angels are not gods. They are God’s creation and serve His holy and perfect will. The good angels are said to be “ministering spirits”(Heb.1:14), sent by God to serve us, His people.

Are angels human?

Human beings are the crown of God’s creation. Only of human beings, and no other creature, did God say, “Let us make man in our own image” (Gen. 1:26). Furthermore, the Scriptures reveal that only into human beings did God breathe the breath of life (Gen.2:7). Also, God did not give angels rule over His creation. This privilege He gave only to mankind (Gen. 1:26-28). Angels are not human beings. They exist as spirits who serve God and His people.

Do human beings become angels when they die?

No, human beings do not become angels when they die. The Scriptures are clear on this point. Until the last day, the souls of the dead are before the Lord, enjoying peace and rest in His presence, awaiting the final day when they will receive glorified bodies for all eternity (see 1 Cor.15; 1 Thess.5:17; Rev.7).

Are angels intelligent beings?

The Bible describes angels as having both intelligence and a will. The good angels know and follow the wisdom of God, which He has revealed through Christ to His church (Eph. 3:10). They gladly serve us,

who are the heirs of the salvation Christ has won for us (Heb.1:14). However, angels do not know all things. For instance, they do not know the thoughts of our hearts (1 Kings 8:39).

How powerful are angels?

Angels are extremely powerful beings. They are described as “mighty ones” (Ps. 103:20; 2 Thess. 1:7). The good angels guard and protect God’s children (Ps.91:11-13). The power of the angels is never unlimited, but is always subject to the will and authority of God.

Evil angels, too, are powerful beings. The Bible tells us that they hold captive all unbelievers (Luke 11:21-22; Eph. 2:2). Believers in Christ are able to withstand the temptation of evil angels through the power of God (Eph.6:10-17).

Where are angels?

Angels, like God, do not inhabit the same physical dimension that human beings inhabit. From time to time, they are ordered by God to appear in our physical dimension. Thus, while there are times when angels will make an appearance at a distinct place (cf. Acts 12:7), they remain beings that inhabit no physical space.

How many angels are there?

The Bible does not give us an exact number, but does clearly teach that there are incredibly large numbers of angels who serve God. Scripture speaks of “ten thousand times ten thousand angels” (Dan.7:10). Elsewhere Scripture speaks of “a great company of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13). From every indication in the Bible, there are an unimaginably large number of angels, of whom we are totally unaware most of the time. There is a fixed and limited number of angels, never increasing or decreasing. Unlike human beings, angels do not marry and have children (Mark 12:25). They are immortal.

Are all angels the same?

Within the large numbers of angels there are apparently certain orders or classes of angels. Scripture speaks of “cherubim” (Gen.3:24; Ps.80:1), “seraphim” (Is.6:2), “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities” (Col.1:16), “archangel” (1 Thess.4:16).

Also among the evil angels there are ranks and classes of angels (Matt. 25:41). Satan is described as the “prince of the devils” (Luke 11:15). It is pointless, however, to try to invent complicated divisions and ranks of angels, since Scripture itself does not provide us with this information.

What are evil angels, and what do they do?

Originally, all angels God created were good and did His will perfectly. At some point after God created them, some angels chose to rebel against Him. They fell away from God and into great sin and evil. At that point, they were confirmed in their evil condition. There is no hope for them. In Matt.8:29, they recognize that there will be a time when they must suffer eternal torment and punishment for their rebellion against God.

Satan is the chief evil angel, the “prince of demons” (Luke 11:15). Here is how our Lord Jesus Christ describes Satan: “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

When precisely the evil angels rebelled and fell away from God we cannot say for sure, but we do know it was some time at the very beginning of the world. Most Christian church fathers believe that the evil angels' original sin was pride, based on the fact that Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve was an appeal to their pride. Also, 1 Tim.3:6 indicates that pride was the cause of the devil's condemnation.

The devil is our great enemy, who "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet.5:8). The Bible tell us that the devil is the cause of unbelief in the world (Eph.2:1-2). Every person who does not believe the good news of Christ Jesus is thinking and doing what the devil wants. Unbelievers are described in the Bible as being in the devil's kingdom and under his power (Acts 26:18;Col.1:13). The very fact that people do not realize this, and even deny it, is the devil's greatest deception. The devil is so deceptive, at times he will even disguise himself as an "angel of light" (2 Cor.11:14). In fact, the Old Testament once refers to Satan as "Lucifer," which means, "light bearer"(Isa.14:12; KJV)

We need to keep in mind that all the Bible says about evil angels, and their eternal punishment, is for the purpose of making us recognize the need to repent and to believe in God's Son, Jesus Christ, who has ransomed mankind by His death, and saved us for eternal life, not in hell, but in heaven.

What do good angels do?

Good angels enjoy the blessing of being able to see God. They are in the immediate presence of God, always beholding His great glory, majesty, and power (Matt.18:10). This is called the "beatific vision," which all Christians will enjoy one day when they are in heaven.

God's Word reveals the following things about the activity of good angels: They praise God (Is.6:3; Luke 2:13), and they are the Lord's servants in the world and in the Church (Ps. 103:20-21; Heb.1:14).

God sends angels to serve and to protect Christian believers in their work and their callings in life (Ps.91:11-12). They attend to the dying (Luke 16:22). They care for children (Matt. 18:10). Angels are deeply interested in all that occurs in the Church. They adore and take great joy in the work of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world (Luke 2:13; Eph. 3:10). They rejoice over every sinner who repents (Luke 15:10).

Scripture mentions the presence of angels at every great event in the Kingdom of God. Angels were present when God gave His law on Mount Sinai (Deut. 33:2; Gal. 3:19). Angels were present at the conception, birth, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord (Luke 1:26; 2:11; Mark 1:13; 24:5ff; Acts 1:10ff). Angels will come with Jesus when He returns on the last day (Matt.13:41ff.; 24:31).

The Bible tell us that angels are present in the public worship of Christians (1 Cor.11:10). God also uses angels to help the family and to preserve law and order (Gen. 24:7; Matt. 18:10; Dan.10:13).

How are we to treat angels?

We need to praise and thank God for good angels. We are told that we are to take care not to offend them through sin and unbelief (1 Cor.11:10; 1 Tim.5:21). But the Scriptures are also clear that we must not pray to angels, nor offer them our worship. The angels themselves protest any worship given to them (Rev.22:8-9).

As believers, we have the privilege of having angels surrounding us and protecting us and working to do God's good and perfect will in our lives. Our hope and trust is always in God, whom we know sends His

angels to watch over us and to see us through whatever difficulty in life may come our way. Because of our Lord Jesus Christ's perfect life and sacrificial death for the sins of the world, we have the assurance of the complete and total forgiveness of all our sins. We know that God loves and cares for us as His own dear children. Furthermore, we know that the Lord sends His angels to care for us in order that some day we may join them, and all the company of heaven, in seeing God and singing His praises for all eternity.

A STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means" (Luke 8:1-3).

There were many who provided out of their means for our Lord's work of proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God while He was on earth. Think about that for a moment. These pious women gave to God in the flesh for God the Father's work of bringing the good news of God's kingdom. Their generosity, which was moved by the generosity of God Himself to them in the healing of their infirmities and evil spirits, was employed so that others could benefit as they had. The means they provided was put into God's service to feed and clothe and provide shelter as Jesus and the twelve traveled preaching, teaching, and healing.

That's amazing. These women were widows who had been oppressed by demons. They were forgotten, thought of as nobodies. The world didn't think much of them, or perhaps that they were just in the way. Regardless of what the world thought, God forgets no one. No one is a burden to Him. He cares for the widow and the fatherless. He puts the solitary into a home. And more than that, He brings them the good news of the kingdom and lets them be a part of building it by their giving of what He has provided them. He presses their gifts into His service to His glory. And they are not forgotten. They are inscribed in the Holy Scriptures as a monument of what giving from out of their means does. It helped to turn the world upside down, which happens to be right-side up, reconciliation and healing through what Jesus accomplished on the cross. (Acts 17:6).

This is what your giving to the church does also. It provides the ministers of the Gospel food and clothes, house and home, all that they need for this body and life so that they may preach and teach, and bring the healing of the Gospel of Jesus's death and resurrection to those who need it, those who are homebound and infirm, those who are sick and suffering, those who are bedeviled by evil spirits, depressed, and plagued by guilt and shame. Your gifts are put to use for God's work on earth to bring the good news of His kingdom which has no end.

Who wouldn't want to be part of that? And you are! Thanks be to God. And it does not go unnoticed. Your pastor gives thanks for it and prays for you. And so does your Lord. And the angels rejoice over one sinner who repents and believes. You help to make that happen. You do it because someone else has made it happen for you.

Working for God on earth does not pay much, but His retirement plan is out of this world.

In the Word

And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy ... [Luke 24:52](#)

Of the Word

Unfortunately, it's a typical Sunday morning: spilled cereal, toothpaste-spitting contests, arguments in the car. Attempting to concentrate on the service surrounded by squirmy children causes you to wonder, "Is this really worth it?" Even for those without young children, worries, and distractions interfere with our intent to worship.

God understands us and forgives us when we are inattentive. He truly accepts us just as we are. Before worship begins, we can ask our Father for help in opening our hearts and minds to His presence. The Holy Spirit will enable us to hear and absorb the Word, as well as renew us to serve Him.

Our Lord loves it when we come to His house, and He loves when we bring our children. The visit may not always be perfect, but He welcomes us in love and is delighted to fill our hearts with His forgiveness and encouragement. We can return home refreshed and with great joy!

Walking with my Lord

Lord, never let circumstances keep me from the privilege of worshiping You, my Savior and Redeemer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

from Mustard Seed Devotions