

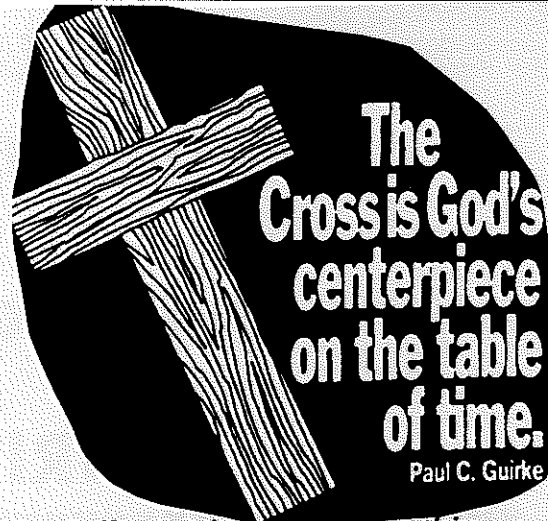
Boomers, Busters Cut Church

Here's bad news out there: A new, nationwide survey of religious behavior by The Barna Group reveals an 11-year low in attendance at religious services. Less than four in ten (37%) Americans attended a church service last week, the lowest in a five-year attendance nose-dive. Baby Boomers' (those born between 1946 and 1964) attendance dropped most significantly, to 31%. Baby Busters, ages 18-30, report an attendance rate of 34%.

There's bad news in the LCMS: Many LCMS churches are immobilized by internal fighting, squabbles over changes in worship, and a self- and synod-centeredness that guarantees we'll never address the challenges of Boomers and Busters — or anyone else for that matter!

HOPE

A recent survey revealed that over 50 percent of the people interviewed, all of them professing belief in the Bible, could not name the first four books of the New Testament. *References:* Zech. 7:11-12; Matt. 13:15; Rom. 10:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:5.



I'm getting too old for this

Very few athletes compete in the Olympics by the time they are 30. Most people have said, "I'm too old for this," about something by the time they are 50.

But Martha Rupprecht left to be a volunteer teacher in Russia when she was 68. That was in 1994. She is there for this school term, as well, and is planning to go back again next year!

In a recent newsletter, she wrote, "I have again been blessed with good health and a contented spirit which of course helps me keep up with the younger missionaries."

One of the short-term volunteers with LCMS World Mission in Panama, Evelyn Petering, is 76. Of course a couple of young folks are with her—Sylvia Hustava is in her 60s, and Frank Hustava is 70.

Then there is Grace Osher. She is considering returning to Japan. She went for six months in 1986, at age 80, and has been back five more times. Grace is now 91 and, although she wouldn't think it worth mentioning, she is also almost completely blind. She says she is "just praising the Lord and praising the Lord!"

Please pass the humble pie.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:11

Shepherds take care of sheep. The baby sheep are called lambs. When the Shepherd leads the sheep to another pasture he carries the lambs. The shepherd loves all the sheep and has a special love for the lambs. Because sheep cannot take care of themselves, the shepherd stays with them. Sometimes wild animals try to hurt the sheep but the shepherd protects them and is willing to die for his sheep.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He loves us all. He showed how much He loves us by dying on the cross for our sins. He saved us so that we now can go to heaven.

This is the time of year that we celebrate the birthday of "The Good Shepherd". We all can be glad that the baby Jesus was born to be our "Good Shepherd".

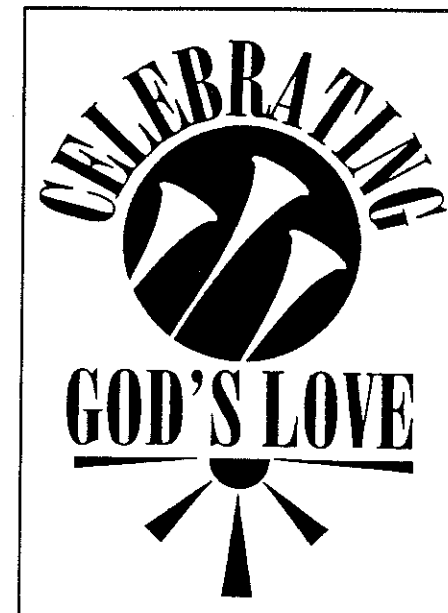
PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we know that you love us. Please keep us and protect us from all that would hurt us. Forgive us when we do wrong and take us to heaven with you. Amen

Bible passage for older children to memorize:

JOHN 10:11

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."



What makes your congregation happy?

What is it that really makes your congregation rejoice? A building project completed? Making the budget? All the boards and committees being filled? Filling a vacancy on staff? The yard looking great? Getting enough Sunday school teachers?

All these things are great. Each can be a sign of God's blessing on the good and hard work of the people of the congregation.

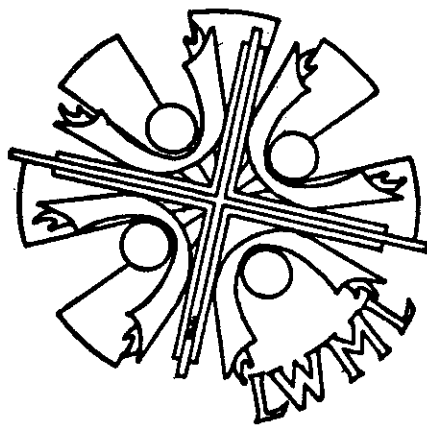
But do you remember what Jesus said that caused the most rejoicing in heaven? "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous

persons who do not need to repent" (Luke 15:7).

All of us need heaven's sense of humor; heaven's sense of joy and rejoicing. Our Savior has a reaching heart. It reached out to us through Word and Sacrament to claim us and bring us to faith. That same heart wants to be in us and help us be His reaching love to others. That's the cause of evangelism.

When you look at everything your congregation does, how it uses its resources of time and talent and money, is it obvious you have heaven's sense of rejoicing?

What makes your congregation happy?



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

We all enjoyed a wonderful salad supper and topic at Barb Gibson's home on June 5. The topic and devotions given by Lynn Worrell and Dianne Weber were focused on refreshing our spirits in the Word of God and Christian fellowship. We said a Big thank you to Dianne Weber for the last two years of presidency. She did a terrific job of leading.

Bazaar workshops are being held on Tuesday nights at 7pm. If you would like to join us please note the location in the weekly bulletin or call Elaine at 879-2442, or Cindy Svendsen at 879-7028.

ATTENTION: LAY READERS

The Lay Reader Schedule for summer has been changed as follows:

Lay Readers for the 8:00am service will read at the 9am service instead. If you are unable to read at the 9am service, please contact the 10:30am lay reader as a substitute.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Following is a list of items needed for this year's Vacation Bible School. A box will be provided in the Entry to place your donations.

Sheets - striped, beige or white (no florals)

Carpet samples or remnants (low pile)

Long Brown Shoestrings

Rams horn

Cow horn

Sandpaper

Lath strips

Aluminum Foil pie tins

Aluminum conduit pipe scraps

Old bicycle tire rims

Filament fish line

Scraps of naugahyde (16" length needed)

Leather laces

Discarded Hack saw-blades

Questions call Elaine 879-2442

Or Dianne 879-3863. THANKS

VBS STAFF MEETING

Don't miss our first staff meeting on July 15, Monday evening at 7pm. We need your participation for the Greatest VBS yet!

YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to all who helped support our youth ministry this month through the car wash, and assisting the students who are going to the District Youth Gathering in Glorietta, New Mexico. There's a wonderful program planned with great speakers and good musicians. Contact Bert Svendsen or Joanne Boomgarden if you have questions.



Someone has said that God does not need our learning to further His cause. Of course not, but He needs our ignorance still less. (MacLaren) *References:* Prov. 2:3-5; 3:13; 2 Tim. 2:15.

"New Wine In Old Wineskins"

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."

Mark 2:21-22

Drugs, God, and The Wall Street Journal

You would expect an editorial about drugs and God in *HOPE-LINE*, but this one was in *The Wall Street Journal*. A couple of excerpts. "A growing body of social science evidence shows that one of society's most effective weapons against social ills is an old-fashioned one, namely religion." "My one big idea is borrowed from three well-known child development experts - Moses, Jesus Christ, and Mohammed."

BIBLETIMES MARKETPLACE

AUGUST 6-7-8

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Concordia Lutheran Church

755 Concordia Lane

Ages 4 thru 6th Grade

This three day experience of reliving Bibletimes events, occupations, and relationships will acquaint children with their Christian heritage. They will come to know Christianity was a living relationship with God in the days when Jesus was teaching.

Through involvement of the marketplace and living in small family clusters, they will grow in their relationship with God and learn some of the Jewish customs of Bibletimes. As they respond to the street theater dramas of the Bible, the children will be helped to understand the Bible is about real people.

Thursday evening at 7 pm will climax the total experience and it will be very important for you to share this with them. You will be glad you did, also.

Please provide a sack lunch each day. Drinks will be furnished. A rest time is planned after lunch.

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Space is limited. Children, age 4 through 6th grade, must be pre-registered by Sunday, August 4. For more information please call 870-8040, 879-2442 or 879-3863.



NAME _____ PHONE _____

Last First

ADDRESS _____

AGE _____ BOY _____ GIRL _____ GRADE COMPLETED _____

BIRTH DATE _____ CHURCH _____

PARENT'S NAME _____

WORK TELEPHONE _____ EMERGENCY PHONE _____

KNOWN ALLERGIES or MEDICAL CONCERNS _____

Discover Alaska

Up to two dozen young adults, ages 22 to 32, can take part in the first Synod-sponsored "Discovery, Study, Serving Trip" to Alaska, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 23-Sept. 2.

The 11-day trip will have three components: sightseeing, Bible study/ leadership training, and service to others.

Participants can expect to pay about \$400 for lodging, meals and ground transportation, plus roundtrip airfare from their home city to Anchorage.

For more information, call the Adult Ministry department of the Board for Congregational Services at (800) 248-1930, Ext. 1291. Registration deadline is July 15 or when 24 participants are registered.



Astrology: The Fashionable Occult. The most respectable and fashionable outlet for occult propensities is astrology. Prominent figures in the entertainment world have long inquired of the stars say about their prospects for stardom. J. P. Morgan, the great financier, is rumored to have relied on the American mother of astrology, Evangeline Adams. The pagan Nazis, who persecuted the church, were inconsistently superstitious in using astrological guides. *References:* Is. 8:19; 44:24-25; 47:12-15; Dan. 2:27-28; 4:7.

Encourage Parents to Take a Firm Stand

Parents often ask, "What can I do to prevent my child from getting into drinking or drug abuse?"

There are many complex answers to this question. Here, however, is a simple one. Encourage parents you know to TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST ALCOHOL USE BY TEENS.

Parents who think that letting their children use alcohol will somehow prevent them from using other drugs appear to be mistaken. Maybe you've heard some parents say. "Oh well, at least, our kids aren't using drugs."

When parents let teens drink at home the teens are more likely to drink elsewhere. They use other drugs more often as well.

Making deals is not effective prevention. For example, it is not okay to allow a teen to drink "as long as you don't drive." Young people who make these deals drink and drive more frequently than the young people whose parents take a firm stand against their drinking.

JULY 1996

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 BIBLE STUDY 6:30am COMMITTEES-7pm	3 ELDERS-12:00pm DISCOVERY-7pm	4 RECOVERY-7pm	5	6
7 WORSHIP-9am EDUCATION-10am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	8	9 BIBLE STUDY 6:30am COUNCIL-7:30pm	10 DISCOVERY-7pm	11 RECOVERY-7pm	12	13 MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP-7am
14 WORSHIP-9am EDUCATION-10am Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	15 <i>VBS staff 7pm</i>	16 BIBLE STUDY 6:30am CALLERS-7pm	17 DISCOVERY-7pm	18 RECOVERY-7pm DISTRICT YOUTH GATEHRING IN NEW MEXICO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	19	20
21 WORSHIP 9am EDUCATION-10am YOUTH GATHERING Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	22	23 BIBLE STUDY 6:30am CALLERS-7pm	24 DISCOVERY-7pm	25 RECOVERY-7pm WOMEN'S STUDY 10am	26	27
28 WORSHIP-9am EDUCATION-10am ECC-12:45pm Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	29	30 BIBLE STUDY 6:30am CALLERS-7pm	31 DISCOVERY-7pm			