



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Newsletter - July 2006

Previews of Coming Attractions

Coming July 16 **Letter to the EPHESIANS**

In this letter, St. Paul would expand our horizons and show us the "big picture", so that we might understand the dimensions of God's eternal purpose and grace.

God has high goals for us and for His church. We have been saved, not only for our personal benefit, but also to bring praise and glory to God.

We'll start with chapter 1 of Ephesians as our second lesson on July 16 and continue reading from the letter in July and August.

Vacation Bible School
July 24 - 28

Women's Bible Study Begins New Class

The women completed their study of the Book of Genesis and will now be beginning a new course: "*Servants of the Lord*", about women in the Old Testament.

The group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, at the home of Louise Jones. The class is open to all women, both church members and non members.

For more information, please call Louise Jones at 681-2830.

Vacation Bible School

" Kick Off "

Sunday, July 23 - 11am

We hope you'll all be here as we begin the **Adventures of the Treasure Seekers** – Exploring God's Promises. During the week we'll study the bible and also some archeology. We'll learn what life is like for Christians in Bethlehem today. So don't miss the festival service that launches our Vacation Bible School.



Coming on July 23 Sunday Adult Class: " WORSHIP "

Why we do what we do

We'll begin a new class dealing with the meaning of the worship service – the "Liturgy". The goal is to help you get more out of the service. We'll ponder "How the service got its shape – Its biblical roots".

The Liturgy is designed to draw us closer to Christ, so greater understanding of it may help to make Sunday morning even more meaningful.

Looking ahead to August: A Word from St. John

Since Mark wrote the shortest gospel, it doesn't fill a year of Sunday readings. So in the Lent and Easter seasons the church "filled in" with some readings from John's gospel. In August, we'll do that again – this time spending several weeks reading from the 6th chapter of John's gospel. One thing to observe is how different these two authors are.

Mark emphasizes movement and action – and generally has only relatively short quotations of Jesus' teaching (i. e. not a whole chapter). In part, this is because Mark intended his gospel for memorization. It would be told to listeners, not read to them.

John, on the other hand, wrote a book to be read. When he reports what Jesus said about a topic, it seems his standard was "don't leave anything out". As a result, he selects a smaller number of incidents to report, but gives us a thorough, detailed account.

For example, the feeding of the five thousand is reported in 13 verses in Mark's gospel (6:32-44). John devotes almost all of chapter 6 to this same event (more than 60 verses) and includes Jesus' explanation of the miracle. We'll study it in August.

My Year in Iraq

By Mark Laneman (LCR Member)

On 18 May I returned from a one-year tour in Iraq. I'm in the Air Force and year-long tours in Iraq are still new for us, so last year I eagerly jumped at the opportunity to serve over there when I found out about the possibility.

I was assigned to the headquarters of Multi-National Forces - Iraq (MNF-I) located at Baghdad International Airport. Unlike many men and women serving over there who daily risk life and limb traveling along roads across Iraq, I remained in an office helping prepare daily situation briefings for MNF-I leadership.

While nobody likes being chained to a desk, I found the work very gratifying, as it provided an opportunity to understand and explain developments across Iraq.

And while the scenery was very limited, my coworkers, which included people from all the military services, as well as civilians, Brits, and Aussies,

were very professional and typically made the office an enjoyable place to work.

In a further contrast to many people serving in Iraq, I was fortunate to be able to stay on a large secure base with many relative comforts. In addition to having a comfortable trailer to live in and a very respectable chow hall to eat at, the base I lived on was a former resort area for Saddam's Ba'ath Party, and provided plenty of interesting scenery due to the palaces and large irrigated ponds there.

Local bad guys did make some minor efforts to attack us, but the ineffective attacks only served to make life more interesting rather than causing any harm.

I did venture off base once, traveling by helicopter to the Green Zone in the center of Baghdad. While the trip ended up amounting to little more than a sight-seeing tour, it did provide me a rare encounter with actual Iraqis, who I found to be very friendly and helpful.



While I definitely was able to see American forces and our coalition allies do lots of good work in the face of significant challenges, the Iraqis were definitely the most significant part of the story, given that they suffer the most from the violence there (usually at the hands of their fellow Iraqis).

By the end of my year there, the most noteworthy change I was able to see was the improvement in the Iraqi Army. The times when they were able to take matters into their own hands were some of the most exciting parts of the experience there, especially since there's plenty of reason to believe that it will be a growing trend.

So after a year in Baghdad, I left with a cautiously optimistic outlook on the situation there. I'm definitely glad I went, and am proud of our accomplishments there. I am hopeful that years from now, both we and the Iraqis will be able to look back with pride on the job we did there.

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Pastor's Page

By Pastor Jeff Lange

Traveling with Jesus On Sundays

In the Sunday readings from Mark's Gospel we've been traveling with Jesus, seeing the Master through the eyes of his disciples. Our understanding of who Jesus really is grows as we watch what he does and listen to his teaching –much of which deals with the kingdom of God.

We'll see Christ preaching in the synagogue, like a rabbi, and also teaching large crowds. His miracles and teaching are constantly revealing new insights about God and his will.

In July we'll get to chapter 6 in the gospel. *But if you only listen to the Sunday readings, you're missing something.* Our author thought you would hear a large portion of the gospel at one sitting. By taking it in small sections, you miss the dramatic build up –and the sequence of the stories also has significance.

A Suggestion

Set aside an hour, and then simply read chapters 1 through 8 of Mark's gospel in one sitting. (Actually it won't take an hour.) This will work even better if you can read it aloud. Jesus ministry begins early in chapter 1 –and reaches a high point at the end of chapter 8.

You might want to read it though again at a later time. I think you'll come to understand why Peter and the others are shocked by Jesus (see Mark 8:31-33). You'll also note that Jesus' ministry suddenly changes direction.

As you read, ponder what it must have been like to be one of the Master's first followers.

Mark does not present Peter and the others as heroes, but rather ordinary people following an extraordinary man –one who is always one step ahead, and at times very difficult to understand.



Air Conditioning Problems in June

The long hot days of summer produced problems –both major and minor. The units that cool fellowship hall, the nurseries and offices experienced the minor problems. But replacing one thermostat, recharging the Freon and servicing the units corrected those problems.

Then sometime after Sunday June 11 the big unit that cools the sanctuary failed. It was 23 years old and finally just died (actually burned out). A new unit was ordered from the factory in North Carolina.

So on Sunday June 18 we worshipped in Fellowship Hall. This meant setting up more than 120 chairs and a temporary altar –and also moving the piano without damaging the tile floor in the narthex. Every one pitched in for both the set up and take down. Our members were understanding and readily

adapted to the new worship environment. The singing of the service and the hymns was even more robust than usual. And because the AC unit for this area had just been serviced and recharged, we were all cool and comfortable.

On Wednesday, June 21, the new unit arrived. "Mr. Wilson", our air conditioning man, had made all the preparations –flushing out and capturing the Freon in the system, removing the old unit, etc. Then late Wednesday afternoon came the moment to hook up the new unit to the lines going into the building – and it wouldn't connect. It was the wrong size –a "20 ton unit" rather than the "25 ton unit" the system required.

There were frantic phone calls to the factory –and on Thursday morning a "25 ton unit" was shipped from the factory –which unfortunately is almost 2,000 miles away. Hence it would not be here before Sunday the 25th so it was back to Fellowship Hall again for Sunday worship. As we go to press, the plan is to have the new unit installed on Wednesday, June 28.

As noted in the Sunday bulletin, your generosity allowed us to accumulate a reserve fund for an emergency repair like this. So we can pay for the new unit without touching the funds set aside for the sound system, mortgage reduction or other special purpose –and without making a special appeal for funds.

*Thank you for your patience
and support.*

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Sound System Update

By Bernie Schurade

I never ceases to amaze me at how much love is in our church (Lutherans Rock).

I wrote one article on the need for a new sound system, and in less than two months, not only did we raise the money for stage one of the sound system, but darn near raised the money for stage two -- on nothing but donations.

Some people gave a couple of bucks, which in my vocabulary is more than one. Some people gave a little more (a lot more), but almost everybody in the church gave something. I guess my point is, even if you donated a quarter it all added up to make our goal. You guys Rock.

The work on the system will start this Thursday, and should be complete soon after the fourth of July. We were still a couple of bucks short for the whole system last I checked, and let it be known that if we do go over and above, that money will go back into the music department fund for improvements.

Thanks from the bottom of my heart for the music departments initial donation which kicked this whole thing off.

I love you guys (in New York that's girls and guys like one of the gang), and we have one heck of a gang in our Church.

Trying to serve Y'all (Texan for you guys), Bernie

Ladies Night Out

Our Ladies Night Out for the month of June was canceled out of respect for our First Lady of the Nights Out, Sandy Cichonsky. The sudden passing of her husband was a shock to all. Our heartfelt thoughts, prayers, and whatever else we can provide are offered to her.

We will try to start again in July with our next Ladies Night Out on July 17th, 6:30 pm at the Olive Garden by Ingram Mall.

In August, we'll visit La Madeleine on I-10 at Huebner Oaks, across from Borders.

If you need any information, you can call Joyce Swartz at 623-2288.

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Bruce Fitzgerald III
- 6 - Ashley Hemenway
- 9 - Sandy Cichonsky
- 12 - Juanita Talamantes
- 13 - Helen Aude
Bob Curtis
- 18 - Nicholas Hernandez
Ellen Nystrom
- 19 - Sharon Smulders
- 23 - Charles Teas
- 26 - Justin Hemenway
- 27 - Jennifer Arulanandam
- 31 - Erik Nystrom
John Schwab

In Memoriam

Gregory Cichonsky

Sandy Cichonsky's husband, Greg, passed into eternal life on the evening of June 24th, 2006. His death was unexpected and sudden, so it was a real shock.

Greg and Sandy had been together for 33 years. After Sandy's stroke, Greg became her principle care giver --and they were devoted to one another.

Their son Steven, who lives in New Braunfels, came to San Antonio to be with his mother. A memorial service for Greg will be held at our church on Saturday, July 1.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - Bob & Mary Ranney
- 5 - Rod & Marge Chisholm
- 7 - Doug Olson &
Mary Blackmore
- 10 - Bill & Laurie Grace
- 19 - Bernard & Jennifer
Arulanandam

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sunday Church Cleaners	Saturday Church Cleaners
July 2	Tony & Bess Teschendorf	Anita & Michael Forbes	Jeannette Smith Janie Saenz	1st Sunday Margie Perales	1st Sat. 7/1 Mareta Gochee
July 9	Bob Schoonover Jonathan Hernandez	Jan & Bill Nobiling	Margie Perales Jane Martinez	2nd Sunday Volunteer Needed	2nd Sat. 7/8 Bob Schoonover
July 16	Corbiere Family	Joyce Swartz Margie Perales	Tony & Bess Teschendorf	3rd Sunday Lorena Guerrero	3rd Sat. 7/15 The Schwab's
July 23	Bernie & Joe Schurade	Erik & Ellen Nystrom	Diane & Juanita Talamantes	4th Sunday Juanita Talamantes	4th Sat. 7/22 Bill & Laurie Grace
July 30	Jan & Bill Nobiling	Reta Gochee Janie Saenz	Lorena Guerrero	5th Sunday Laura Craig	5th Sat. 7/29 Dean Winter