

The Fisherman's Log

The Lutheran Church of the Galilean
3404 Highway 51, LaPlace, LA 70068 - 985-652-7800
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Minister – Rev. Kenneth Shuman... (225) 209-0940 / (985) 351-4085
Email address – shumankenneth@bellsouth.net
Organist – Craig Kennedy
Secretary – Colleen Marr

Sunday School 9:15 AM / Worship 10:30 AM

Mission Statement...Marked with the cross of Christ forever – we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of his world.

May / June Schedule...

YOUTH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GAMES 11AM-5PM	05-01-10
Worship / Bible Study/Sunday School/Healing Service.	05-02-10
THRIVENT SEMINAR 7:00 PM.....	05-04-10
CONCERT AT GRACE LUTHERAN 7:30 PM.....	05-05-10
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.....	05-06-10
Worship / Bible Study / Sunday School / MOTHER'S DAY	05-09-10
Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM.....	05-11-10
Inquirers Class 6:30PM.....	05-15-10
Worship / Bible Study / Sunday School.....	05-16-10
Bible Study 6:30PM.....	05-19-10
Inquirers Class 6:30PM.....	05-22-10
Worship / Bible Study.....	05-23-10
Bible Study 6:30 PM.....	05-26-10
Care Group / 7:30PM.....	05-28-10
Inquirers Class 6:30PM.....	05-29-10
Worship / Bible Study.....	05-30-10
MEMORIAL DAY.....	05-31-10
THRIVENT SEMINAR 7:00 PM.....	06-01-10
Bible Study 6:30 PM.....	06-02-10
Worship / Bible Study /Healing Service.....	06-06-10
Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM.....	06-08-10
Bible Study 6:30PM.....	06-09-10
Worship / Bible Study / COVERED DISH LUNCHEON	06-13-10
Bible Study 6:30 PM.....	06-16-10
Worship / Bible Study / FATHER'S DAY.....	06-20-10
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL / METHODIST CHURCH 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON.....	06-21 to 06-25-10
Bible Study 6:30PM.....	06-23-10
Care Group / 7:30PM.....	06-25-10
Worship / Bible Study.....	06-27-10
RALLY DAY (mark your calendars).....	09-12-10

Church Council Members...

Bret Jacobs – President (10)	Gunne Landry...Member (08)
Mike Enault – Vice President (10)	Kate Roussel...Member (09)
Colleen Marr – Secretary (10)	Betty Marshall – Member (09)
Adam Neighbors – Treasurer (10)	Mona Loisel – Member (10)
Carl Hilt – Financial Secretary	Open Position _____

Our Special Prayers Go Out To...

...our brothers and sisters in earthquake ridden Haiti;
... all our Mission Partners throughout the United States;
...Pastor Dana Nelson & her family...our missionary in Lima, Peru;
...our troops who are in harms way;
...our church leadership;
...our government leadership;
...those suffering from all types of health problems;
...those recovery from illnesses and surgeries;
...those mourning the loss of loved ones;
...those in search of employment;
...those celebrating special occasions in their lives;
...our members, chairpersons, and council members & officers;

(see special note regarding implementation of Prayer Chain)

Special Thanks/Congrats...

...welcome to Brianna King to the family of Christ through baptism;
...congrats to Toni Gray our high school grad...we wish you well in your future endeavors;
...a special thanks to everyone who helped with our recent Lenten and Holy Week Worship services and events;
...thanks to all our mission partners for their continued prayers, concern, and support;
...thanks to everyone who helped with our spring yard clean-up;
...thanks to everyone who responded to the MOC food collection;
...thanks to Mike Enault and Pastor Ken for representing the Galilean at the recent synod assembly in New Orleans;
...thanks to our brothers and sisters in Christ from the First United Methodist Church for sharing a very inspirational Lenten journey.

Thursday, May 6, 2010

national day of prayer

Worship ...

We are currently looking for members interested in participating with the worship program. Anyone interested in participating on the Music / Worship team; or --- reading during worship, serving as ushers/greeters, serving as acolytes/crucifers, serving as part of the altar guild or assisting minister team --- please contact Kate Roussel at 985-359-1797 or email at koskeka@yahoo.com.

Sunday School/Education...

Sunday school has been great this year. Thanks to all those who volunteered to be teachers. Summer break will begin May 16 until September 12 (mark your calendars for Rally Day).

Confirmation class has also started with a team of teachers helping with the program...currently there are two students in the class.

Pastor Ken continues to lead our weekly Bible studies on Sunday mornings. Week night Bible studies are back...see schedule for dates and time. Everyone is encouraged to participate and enjoy this spiritual journey.

Teen Encounter...

Our teen group is back and did well for the first year...thanks to Stacy Neighbors. They will also be taking a break during the summer.

On Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 11AM to 5PM, our neighbors, The First United Methodist Church is sponsoring their FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GAMES. It will be FREE to all the youth from area churches. A terrific fun day of sports activities and fellowship. More information is available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Further information is available by calling 985-652-6560.

Vacation Bible School...

The First United Methodist Church will be holding daytime Bible School beginning June 21 through June 25 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Children ages 3 years old to 6th grade are invited to attend. The cost is free. The topic is Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to the Palace. The children will step backwards in time to experience new tradition, taste new foods, play new games, try new crafts and learn more from Joseph that God never leaves us alone through life trials and triumphs.

Registration forms will be available shortly.

In addition, they are also looking for not only children to participate; but, also youth and adults that might be willing to volunteer as group of activity leaders. Please see Colleen Marr if you are interested.

PRAYER CHAIN ...

There are those special moments or emergencies that we need to remember individuals in our prayers. Starting immediately, we are

going to implement the 'prayer chain' again. For those times, please contact Sharon Hilt at 985-652-8615.

Bible School - June 21 - 25

Peru Missionary Program...

Church council recently approved to co-sponsor missionary minister and her family in Lima, Peru. The minister's name is Rev. Dana Nelson. Pastor Nelson is from Minnesota and the mother of two children (Tana and Anthony). Her husband, Tom, is an architect.

The council has pledged \$1,200 per year as support. Each of you will be hearing more about the program and asked to assist with the program. Mike Enault is heading up the program and will be our contact person with Pastor Nelson.

Our congregation has been so fortunate with the mission partnership program that Bishop Blom created after hurricane Katrina. So many congregations have helped us in many ways since the creation of the mission partnership program. Your council feels that this opportunity to assist Pastor Nelson is a wonderful way for us to show our appreciation for the help we have received and give someone else a helping hand.

Please reference the display information, pictures, etc. in the narthex regarding Pastor Dana and her ministry in Lima, Peru.

Thrivent Seminars...

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will present information on the following subjects on the dates below. The presentation is open to the general public and all are welcome to attend. The presentations will begin at 7:00PM in our fellowship hall and last approximately 1 hour.

- March 2, 2010 *Identity Theft*
April 6, 2010 *Focus on Financial Management*
May 4, 2010 ***My Legacy Matters (Estate Planning)***
June 1, 2010 ***Job Search***
July 6, 2010 *How to Thrive in Retirement*
August 3, 2010 ***Charitable Giving: How to Make a Difference by Giving Back***

Mark your calendars...valuable information...invite a friend, relative, or neighbor!

NOTE: THESE WORKSHOPS ARE ONLY AN HOUR LONG, FREE, AND PROVIDES VERY VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR YOU TO USE IN YOUR PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE...OUR RESPONSE AND PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN TERRIBLE ... SHAME ON US.

Ministry of Care...

The St. John Ministry of Care continues to need help with food drives and with individuals to work as caseworkers. Please see Sharon Hilt for any additional information.

Each month we are going to designate the *third Sunday of the month* as **FOOD SUNDAY FOR THE ST. JOHN MINISTRY OF CARE**. Please mark your calendars and bring one or more non-perishable food items to church.

Please start shopping and saving the following items...

MAY – CEREAL	SEPTEMBER – CRACKERS
JUNE – PEANUT BUTTER	(SALTINES / RITZ)
JULY – SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER	OCTOBER – CAKE MIX / ICING
AUGUST – RED BEANS / RICE	NOVEMBER – STOVE TOP STUFFING
DECEMBER – MACARONI & CHEESE	

Thanks to everyone who donated to the April collection – we gathered approximately 120 boxes of macaroni & cheese.

Men's Ministry...

Monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

Choir...

Our choir has been busy rehearsing on a regular basis and their membership still is growing. If you haven't heard them – make it a point to be at worship and hear the wonderful sound.

We applaud them for the great program on Christmas Eve.

Anyone interested in participating in our choir please see Bret Jacobs.

Fellowship...

During Lent, we held soup suppers prior to Wednesday evening worship services...thanks to everyone who donated food items for the dinners.

In conjunction with the annual spring yard workday – we provided lunch for all our workers. Thanks to the Loisels for the great chow.

On Easter Sunday we held our annual Easter morning covered dish breakfast. Thanks to everyone who cooked and came out for the great breakfast event.

Following worship on Easter, we held an egg hunt for the children in the front yard. Thanks to everyone who provided eggs and candy for the scramble. What a wonderful sight to see all those kids enjoying themselves. A great visual sight for parish residents passing during the event.

We have a covered dish luncheon planned for Sunday, June 13.

More activities being planned for the summer...details to follow.

Evangelism...

We are currently looking for folks to head up our 'evangelism' team. For information, please talk to Pastor Ken, Bret, Mike, Adam, or Carl.

Recently several of our members attended evangelism seminars at St. Paul and Grace Lutheran Churches. The seminars were led by Pastor Kerry Nelson, our synod Director for Evangelical Mission. The theme for the seminar is ***"Becoming a Contagious Christian"***.

We hope to take ideas from these seminars to create new direction for our ministry message to our community and congregation.

Remember...evangelism is something that all of us should be doing on a regular basis...not just a committee. PLEASE ASK A FRIEND, A RELATIVE, A NEIGHBOR, AND A CO-WORKER TO WORSHIP. DO YOU REMEMBER WHO ASKED YOU TO COME TO WORSHIP AT THE GALILEAN? YOU CAME, YOU SAW, YOU JOINED...WHY NOT GIVE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Friday Night CHILL...

Are you looking for a great way to wind down after a long week? Join us for the Friday Night CHILL. We meet once a month at a different member's house to wind down from a long week and have a meal prepared by your fellow Galileans. This is a great way to get to know other members and enjoy adult conversation.

The gatherings begin at 7:30 PM. The location and dinner theme will be announced in the bulletin and on the website so please stay tuned for further updates. Please see Maria Jacobs if you have questions or need additional information.

If you haven't tried a "Friday Night Chill" please consider starting a new habit. Dinner is provided and there is always a lively conversation and it is a great way to get to know your fellow Galileans. Hope to see you there! Thanks, Maria Jacobs

Book Program...

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING BOOKS FOR BOTH CHILDREN & ADULTS.

Steve Dupre has been heading up our book outreach program and he is now collecting books for children and senior citizens. Steve has delivered books and they are very appreciative of them. Please continue to bring your used books to church and Steve will see that they get to facilities where they can be used. Thanks.

Best wishes to our high school grad, Toni Gray!

God Bless Our Mothers!

Building /Property News.....

We are getting two new stained glass window pieces for the two side upper windows in the chancel area...Carl Hilt is donating his time and talent to construct the two new stained glass pieces – one an old testament theme and the other a new testament theme. Check out the display in the narthex.

The Friday Night Care Group is planning on painting the fellowship hall and hallways in the very near future...thanks to that group.

With our Thrivent matching funds we ordered new carpeting for the fellowship hall, halls, and narthex. The carpeting has been ordered and is ready for installation waiting on completion of the painting efforts.

In addition, we have just contracted to have an awning placed on the patio area covering the windows and double doors in the fellowship hall prior to the installation of the carpeting.

We recently entered into an agreement with a local Cub Scout Pack to meet in our building. Tentatively they are planning on meeting Thursday evenings. The pack is still in the organizing stages and from the new Emily Watkins Elementary School here in LaPlace.

Saturday evening, March 13, the St. John Battered Women Organization used our fellowship hall for their annual meeting and dinner. We just recently received a thank you letter from them.

On Saturday, March 27 we held our annual spring clean-up. Due to the limited turn-out we did not accomplish everything that we had planned.

We are currently waiting for our lighting contractor to adjust and repair our parking lot lights.

We need someone to repair several of the basketball back boards on the parking lot, to repair the water fountain in the back hallway, and to dig out the two tree stumps in the back yard.

There are still a number of projects around the property that still need addressed. Why not make it a family work project ... your help is needed...please see Mike Enault.

HOSPITALITY THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH...

SHARE YOUR LIFE IN GOD WITH SOMEONE.

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A LUTHERAN WHEN...

DOUGHNUTS ARE IN THE OFFICIAL CHURCH BUDGET.

CHURCH BULLETIN TYPO FUNNIES...

THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH ARE HAVING A RUMMAGE SALE AND THEY HAVE CAST OFF THEIR CLOTHING OF EVERY KIND.

Haiti Earthquake Relief...

We want to thank everyone who donated to our campaign to gather funds to assist in recovery efforts for our brothers and sisters in earthquake ridden Haiti. We were able to raise \$880 which was matched by the Galilean.

Many of our members, who are members of Thrivent, also had their donations matched with funds from that organization.

Thanks again for taking time to care. Anyone who has not donated to this effort and wishes to, please see Bret, Carl, Mike, or Adam.

Mission Partnership Program...

We continue to be so blessed to have more than thirty mission partners who have helped us with ideas and finances...2009 was the last year of a three year program. We have been so fortunate and blessed to have their support, concern, and prayers ... we truly hope that each of you appreciate and comprehend what these friends of the Galilean have done. We applaud and thank them for coming forward to be there for us.

We continue to send our Lutheran brothers and sisters a monthly newsletter and quarterly letters.

President's Report... Bret Jacobs

It's hard to believe that spring is upon us and, before we know it, summer will be here in full force. Since our last newsletter, much has happened at the Galilean.

We celebrated Lent and Easter and the resurrection of our Lord. During Lent, we were blessed to share our mid-week worship with our brothers and sisters at First United Methodist Church. We shared fellowship, Lenten suppers, worship and even our choirs! I look forward to continuing our relationship with our Methodist friends.

Easter Sunday began with a wonderful breakfast, an inspirational worship service and culminated with an Easter egg hunt for the children. It was truly a joyful day.

We continue to undertake maintenance work on our building. In the very near future we will install a canopy over the door and windows in the fellowship hall to prevent water intrusion. Shortly thereafter, we will re-carpet the narthex, hallway and fellowship hall. Before this work can begin, we will paint both the hallway and fellowship hall. The property team will be reaching out to each of us to help with painting and other interior work and I encourage each of you to help wherever you can. Remember that our facilities are part of our ministry, not only to house our own worship services, but to serve the community.

Several of your council members attended an Evangelism workshop focused on encouraging each of us to use our strengths to share our own faith story. It was a very interesting approach to Evangelism. Personally, I realized that each of us not only has a personal "faith story", but, can share it in a multitude of ways. I encourage each of you to reflect on your personal "faith story" and find ways to share God's good news through your words and actions.

Your church council has been hard at work re-forming our ministry teams. I am pleased to report that every member of the council has stepped-up and taken an active role on one of our ministry teams. But, more importantly, there is a tremendous opportunity for each of you to find a place to use your talents in God's work in our ministry. From Evangelism to Fellowship, Education to Music and Worship, Property to Finances, Staff Support or helping to foster Communications to our membership and the community, there is an opportunity for each of us to get involved and share our "faith story." Our web site has been updated to reflect the leaders of each of our teams. Team leaders will be reaching out to us over the next few weeks to take an active role on one of our teams. Find your passion and join us in mission. God Bless!

Financial Secretary... Carl Hilt

Within the last several weeks each of you should have received along with your first quarter statement of giving two questionnaires. The first is a 'time and talent sheet'. The second is a 'congregational survey'. Please take time to complete both of these documents as they will be used to evaluate programming and direction for the Galilean. It has been several years since we did such a survey --- so, your response is very critical at this time to the future of our ministry and spiritual outreach.

We are currently running behind with our pledges to the mortgage. Please remember that we have made commitments based on these pledges. If you are behind because of personal financial problems, please contact Carl Hilt. If you are not giving to the mortgage fund and would like to start, please see Carl Hilt for special envelopes.

What does 2010 hold for us? We can make it only if we continue to pray and pull together... all of us! Imagine how much more we could do as a congregation if everyone was involved.

Our new church council and officers have a tremendous challenge ahead of them ... as stated above, when they ask for your help and talents – step up, get involved, and be a part of the growth of the Galilean. Our membership and our community need each of us.

Housekeeping Items...

We are in need of some items for housekeeping and for the kitchen. We need bathroom cleaner, hand soap, air spray & deodorizers for the bathrooms, paper towels, and toilet paper; and, for the kitchen - coffee, coffee creamer, sugar packets, and sugar substitute packets. Keep your receipts and turn them into Carl Hilt and get credit for the donation.

Flower/Candle Chart...

If you are interested in donating candles or flowers for a special event ... charts are on the hall bulletin boards.

'The Fisherman's Log' Newsletter...

Articles or messages for the newsletter need to be given to Carl Hilt by mid-month to be published in the following month's issue.

Membership Address / Phone List...

Our membership listing has been updated and copies are available in the narthex.

Website Updates...

Checkout the Galilean website...lots of new updates.

God Bless Our Fathers!

Thrivent News...

Our Galilean congregational coordinators for Thrivent were Carl Hilt, Bret Jacobs, and Colleen David...thanks to this trio for their work. Their terms have come to an end...due to changes in the Thrivent system each church is now being asked to appoint up to four new advocates for their church. There are lots of changes being implemented by Thrivent for congregational funds. The above three persons have agreed to continue serving as Galilean's advocates and their names have been submitted to the local East Jefferson - River Parishes Chapter for approval.

The congregational matching funds program has been changed. Each Thrivent product member will have the opportunity in the future to designate where their donation funds from Thrivent should be directed. There will be detailed information in the upcoming *Thrivent Magazine* with instructions on how each member can cast their vote.

The Goodwins will be visiting with us at the Galilean on both Mother's Day and Father's Day. Plan to be there and visit with them.

The next Thrivent membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 30 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Kenner, LA at 6:30PM.

JUST FOR KIDS...

Teachings of Jesus

PARENTS LEAD BY LISTENING...

If we want to connect with our children, we often need to listen first. This is a leadership principle; as parents, we are our children's leaders, not their peers. Good leaders know that the way to connect with others is to listen first and then talk.

If children don't feel like we are giving them our full attention when they share their feelings, they may "shut down," stop talking, get frustrated with us or learn to keep their feelings to themselves. Our children face many challenges; relationship issues, peer pressure, stress, and identity. As parents, it's important to "be in the loop" with our kids.

That's why this principle of listening first is so valuable. When we really listen to our children, without rushing to judgment or trying to fix their problem, they will feel comfortable talking to us when it really matters.

When we listen to our children respectfully, they experience the kind of respect that we want them to give us. By modeling good listening when they have a feeling or concern, we are teaching our children good listening skills. When it is time for them to listen, we can expect them to show us the same respect that we have given them.

(This article was taken from *Parenting Partners* Copyright 2008 by Dave and Patty Bunker. Watch for their new book on discipline at www.heritagebuilders.com)

New Orleans Mission' Needs Help...

Hello Everyone!

With all of this past winter's cold weather we have had to help more people than usual which has really been a strain on our resources. Unfortunately that brings me to ask all of you to try and help us if you can. Anything will help but below is a list of things that are needed ASAP.

Bleach

Laundry Detergent

Toilet Paper

I deeply appreciate all of your help and keep us in your prayers.

God Bless...Loretta Kimmick

God's Word...

'Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.'

Acts 9:31 NRSV

FIND THESE WORDS...

**BELIEVE; BLESSED; COMFORT; LOVE;
GALILEE; HUMBLE; JUDGE; MATTHEW;
PRAY; SERMON; SHARE**

All these words listed are in the puzzle on this page...left, right, up, down, or diagonally.

Find the mystery word...advise Mr. Carl for a reward...kids only.

From the Pastor's Desk...

2007 was an eventful year for the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod with the election of Pastor Michael Rinehart as Bishop. The new Bishop was installed in late August 2007 and made his first official trip to the 13 congregations in LA. The Bishop worshiped with two congregations and met with the members of the Galilean on Tuesday evening.

The Bishop began asking questions with all congregations he visited which culminated in the 2008 synod assembly asking the voting members to vote with their feet in the many topics made available during meetings at the assembly. The top four areas selected were evangelism, spirituality, intergenerational ministry and worship; or, 'WISE' the four areas spelled backwards.

In 2009 we began our discussions and leadership training with the emphasis on evangelism and now in 2010 our emphasis is on spirituality. This does not mean we stop evangelizing, we must continue to reach out to others and invite them to come and see.

What is this year going to look like for us as we begin to understand what spirituality is and what it means to each of us. Our Bishop writes that our worship is (or ought to be) a profoundly spiritual hour of the week.

The keynote speaker at the assembly was the Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill, Assistant Professor of Worship and Christian spirituality at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH. Dr. Dahill entitled her 3 presentations as "The Fire of the Heart" with the question, "What is Spirituality"? She started by telling us spirituality is ultimately what we do with our desire, the Fire in our Heart. Luther wrote "A God is that upon which one relies for all good things and in whom one takes refuge in all times of trouble. Now anything upon which you hang your heart and rely, I say is your God."

She said Christian spirituality is the world-encompassing and life-transforming action of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ in the life of a person or community and his/her/their experience of and response to that action of God. God's longing and desire, passion and fire for us and the world is love. God's love is what has saved us by grace.

Dr. Dahill also asked the questions of what takes away your spiritual breath and what gives you spiritual breath. With these questions she talked about the importance of having a prayer life. She concluded on Sunday morning by introducing us to an "Examen of Consciousness" (see attachment) looking at reflecting on the happenings of the day and for what you were grateful.

We will hear more about Christian spirituality in the coming months.

Pastor

Synod Assembly Report

The TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod Assembly was held April 16 -18 at the Sheraton New Orleans hotel. There were 276 voting members present along with 66 visitors. The assembly was entitled "Walking the Way" an assembly for spiritual pilgrims.

Numerous items of business were conducted including elections of new Synod Council members, voting on several resolutions and a discussion and vote on the budget for the synod. The Bishop talked about the need to reduce the synod staff because of reduced giving last year. The giving was over \$200,000 less than expected with the spending over \$100,000 less than budgeted leaving a deficit of approximately \$86,000. All donations given at the assembly were going to help our two companion synods, The Central African Republic (CAR) and the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru. The money for the CAR was to help buy motorcycles for the pastors to travel to their churches instead of having to walk and the money for Peru was to help pay pastor's salaries.

On Saturday afternoon groups of assembly participants traveled to different locations in the New Orleans area to be involved in a justice immersion experience.

Next year's assembly will also be Friday through Sunday and will be held in Galveston, TX on May 20 - 22.

Pastor

Waldorf Wind Symphony presents concert in New Orleans on May 5

Forest City, Iowa – The Waldorf Wind Symphony will perform at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Orleans, 5800 Canal Blvd. & I-610 (exit 1A), on Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. The group will tour five states May 3-11, under the director of Dr. Brent Dodson, director of instrumental activities at Waldorf. The concert will also feature Waldorf piano professor Dr. Kristín Jónína Taylor performing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. The concert is free and open to the public.

The performance tour, entitled, "Festive Overtures," will feature music from composers such as John Philip Sousa, Frank Ticheli, Percy Grainger, Leonard Bernstein, and George Gershwin.

The Waldorf Wind Symphony, founded in 1935, reflects the instrumental music tradition represented in American higher education, and more specifically, in the Lutheran Church. One of the premier wind ensembles in northern Iowa, they strive to perform a harmonious blend of classic and modern wind literature. The Wind Symphony is chosen from the college's 550 students, with members representing a wide variety of academic programs. The ensemble tours annually, domestically and internationally.

The Wind Symphony's spring tour includes the following dates and locations:

- Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. – Faith Lutheran Church, (Prairie Village, Kan.)
- Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m. – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Orleans, (New Orleans, La.)
- Saturday, May 8, 6 p.m. – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, (Foley, Ala.)
- Sunday, May 9, 4 p.m. – Trinity United Methodist Church, (Homewood, Ala.)
- Monday, May 10, 7:30 p.m. – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, (Manchester, Mo.)
- Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. – New Hope United Methodist Church, (Des Moines, Iowa)

Located in Forest City, Iowa, Waldorf is a four-year, liberal arts college that delivers engaging experiences through innovative classroom instruction. The college offers residential and hybrid online bachelor's degree programs including business, communication, music, psychology, theatre, education, fire science administration, criminal justice administration and more.

"Your willingness will help reshape our future."

STEWARDSHIP...

As many of you know, we elected a new church council this past January. The council has embarked on a review of its processes and is seeking to define new ways to engage all of our members in ministry. As we work through this process, one question I have asked is "Why are we doing a review at all?" Many of us have sometimes heard people say things like, "If God wants His church to grow ... He will do it!" While I agree with that statement, is there any way that God is calling us to play a role in that work?

As I've wrestled with that question, I am reminded of a parable that Jesus teaches in Matthew 25:14-30. In the parable, he speaks of three men who were given a sum from their master and were called to invest it. Two of the men wisely went and invested what had been given to them, while the third simply buried it because he feared his master. The reality is in a church each of us has been given entrustments that God calls us to invest. These include all kinds of things from money, time, our talents, our energies, and our passions. As human beings, we don't have unlimited access to any of these, so we have to be wise in where we invest. The biblical word for this thoughtful investing is "Stewardship."

As you may know when the master returns, the two men who wisely invested what had been given to them were rewarded, while the one who did not was called "wicked" and "lazy." Seems like a harsh rebuke since the man brought back what had been entrusted to him. The trouble is this man missed the point. This man was given an allotment with the purpose of bringing back a return. He failed to be a wise steward. This is why I think working through this study and strategically planning for the future is so critical. It encourages us to be wise and shrewd in the financial, directional, and ministry decisions we make as a church. As we prayerfully seek God's will, I know that He will continue to show us how we can be more effective for Him.

Though God will build his church, he has also invited us to be a part of that work and to be stewards for this congregation for his glory. This call is for prayerful discernment, challenging questions, and an ongoing willingness to encourage one another. This kind of stewardship excites me, because I know that when we are wise, God will bless us and will bring a reward that we might see more and more people come to know and love Jesus Christ. "May His Kingdom come and will be done".

Recently each of you received a *Time and Talent Sheet* and a *Congregational Survey* for 'your' church council to use in studying the future ministry direction of the Galilean. Please take time to complete and return it ... please return it as soon as possible by mail or drop it in the offering plate. It is time for each of us to do a self-study. Since our 'mission partnership program' is phasing out, each of us need to evaluate our giving of our time and talents, our financial giving (regular; and, mortgage), and our attendance and participation.

God Bless! Carl Hilt / Chairperson

*memorial day...remembering our
fallen military heros...*

ADDITIONAL STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS...

The following is from the newsletter of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church / Chalmette, LA / Pastor James Shears...part of their Stewardship program entitled "FAITH LIVING / GRACE GIVING".

Bible references to stewardship...

God told Abram (Abraham) to pack up everything he owned and head out to a land that he would show him (Genesis 12: 1-9)

God told Joshua and the children of Israel to step out into the flooded Jordan River in order to cross over into the promised land (Joshua 3)

God moved David to face Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

Jesus told Peter to get out of the boat and come to him on the water (Matthew 14: 22-29)

Jesus called his disciples to follow him, then empowered them to do mighty things and sent them out (Act 1 & 2)

The Bible is littered with stories of ordinary people who were asked to take serious risks as a demonstration of their faith to God. And, in every instance, the result was powerful demonstration of God's faithfulness to them and to his promises. God never asks anything of anyone without empowering them to accomplish it.

God has also invited you to follow him. He has called you to a life of faith, faith in his promises. He has promised to love you, care for you, support you in the tough times. He has promised to use you in ways that bring glory to him and to always work things out for the best in the long run. And, he has promised to be with you always, right to the end (Matthew 28:20).

The way we demonstrate faith is by accepting the invitation to follow. That means we have to do something. Abram could have believed God when he said to pack up and go; but, having faith meant he had to do it. Joshua could have believed that it would be okay to go into the river; but, having faith meant jumping off the bank. The same is true for David, Peter, the disciples and all other examples Scripture gives us.

Having faith is not merely believing in God. It is not just coming to church to sit for an hour a week. Having faith means taking seriously the invitation to follow. And, doing something. The Bible tells us to "not be bearers of the Word only; but, doers also." (James 1:22) Faith is only evident in action. If we say that we are followers of Christ; but, it does not move us to follow his example in our lives of service to others, then we have deceived ourselves and are not living lives of faithful obedience.

How do you live out your faith? Do you feel like you are doing enough to serve God? Have you felt some urging to be involved in some way other than you are doing now? God might be speaking to you in some way to move you toward living out your faith by taking some new action. How will you respond?

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