



The Cross and Crown

March 2018

Revelation for Lent

I'm hurrying to write this down so that we can get this newsletter out before Lent is too far gone, and my lead article becomes pointless. I feel at least a little like the apostle John when the Lord suddenly appeared to him on the island of Patmos, and told him to write down everything that he saw and heard. John, too, had to write hurriedly for there were series upon series of visions swirling before him. The inspired product of John's writing? The Book of Revelation.

We're reflecting a little bit on this Book of Revelation as we move through the weeks of Lent and Holy Week. Specifically, we're looking at the seven letters John was told to write to the angels (or were they pastors?) of seven ancient churches in Asia Minor (what is today Turkey). Admittedly, this has been a little different approach to preaching the Savior's Passion, rather than simply revisiting scenes from the upper room, Gethsemane, Pilate's court and Calvary. Be assured that we will be doing some of that too. But reflecting on these Letters to the Seven Churches of Revelation will provide us opportunities – as a congregation – to reflect on the impact Christ's Cross and Passion has had – and still has – on our congregation and the church at large.

I must admit that I've been a little anxious about taking this different approach to Lent. I'm much more comfortable preaching on the traditional Lenten scenes. But then again, Lent wasn't comfortable for our Lord either. These Letters to the Angels of the Seven Churches will, no doubt, bring to mind the weaknesses of our own church today. But when we are confronted with our own weaknesses, failures and sins, it will also be my task as your pastor to lift your sight to Calvary's Cross whereon the price of every last one of our sins was paid. All our sins on Jesus were laid.

At any rate, do pray for me and for our Lenten series, that it will be meaningful, worshipful, and edifying for all.

Pastor Smith

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“Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in the springtime.” Martin Luther (LW 37:62)

What baseball means to me

By Bob Androff

I have been asked to write an article on the one subject that I feel I have the knowledge to do so. But what to write? I could dazzle you with stats or trivia. Maybe an update on what the Cardinals have (or have not) done this off season. If you are a big fan, you would already know the stats and trivia, and read the Post's updates on the Cardinals' moves. If you're not a big fan, I would probably lose you before we got started.



So I'm going to go another route.

I had a 22 year airline career, the last portion in a management position. On an annual basis I attended a management seminar. At one of these seminars we were each told to pick one word that would best explain to the others in the group "who you are". A strange request. Being named Androff, I am used to being first in line when I least want to be. So I was up. Just one word. I said the first word that came to my mind: BASEBALL. This got a few chuckles and a few questioning looks. Now I was asked to explain my answer.

St. Louisans love baseball. I more than most. To me, baseball is more than a game. Baseball teaches you almost everything you need to succeed in life. Here are some of the things baseball has taught me.

Hard work pays off: Sometimes you can get by on talent alone. Sometimes the less talented will out-work you, and you will lose.

Teamwork: You cannot do everything yourself; sometimes you need to rely on others.

Sometimes it's all up to you: At the plate it is you against the 9 players on the other team.

Practice makes perfect: No matter how good you are, practice will make you better.

Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good: Every once in a while something good happens for you that you never saw coming. But don't count on it.

Learn the fundamentals: The small things matter. There is a right and a wrong way to do everything.

Sportsmanship: If you do something good, remember it's only what's expected. If it's anything great, others will let you know.

Sometimes you just have to go for it: There are times when the safe path is not the correct path.

You can't win them all: Sometimes you are going to lose. Get used to it, but don't give in to it.

Some things are hard: A batter is considered excellent if he succeeds 3 out of 10 times.

You are never done until the last out: Never give up. Give it your all, all of the game, until it is over.

Life is not fair: Sometimes calls go against you. *(Continued on page 3)*

Being right is not always enough: You may have tagged a runner out, but if the umpire calls him safe, he's safe.

You've got to know the umpire's strike zone: Not everyone sees things the same way. If you're not in charge, you might need to yield to someone else's opinion.

Sometimes you get rained out: Some things are out of your control.

Injuries happen: Always have a backup plan.

There is no I in team: You might have had a great day, but if the team didn't, what does it matter?

Don't judge a book by its cover: Never underestimate your opponent.

Know your role: Not everyone is a star. Accept it, and work as hard as you can to improve your station.

Always be prepared: You never know when you will get your chance to shine. Don't let it find you not ready.

Each and every day is a new start: It doesn't matter how good or bad the last one was. What matters is what you do from now on.

A Season: Every thing comes to an end. When it does, there is nothing else you can do.

There is a GOD: Who else could come up with this glorious game? In the 1800s, the distance between the pitcher and the batter was set at 60 feet and 6 inches, and 90 feet between the bases. Man has grown bigger, stronger and faster, but these distances still work today. I say divine intervention.

There must be a GOD.

When I finished, I could see that my points allowed the group to see baseball as more than just a game, and a part of who I am. I hope you do as well!



Please join us at Prince of Peace for Lenten Worship

Wednesday, March 7th, 7:00 p.m. The Letter to Thyatira: "Immorality - Highway to the Grave"

Wednesday, March 14th, 7:00 p.m. The Letter to Sardis: "Lethargy – Slow Death"

Wednesday, March 21st, 7:00 p.m. The Letter to Philadelphia: "Neglect – Locked Out in Death's Night"

Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion)

Wednesday, March 29th, 7:00 p.m. The Letter to Laodicea: "Complacency – Death by Indifference"

Good Friday (Tenebrae)

Wednesday, March 30th, 7:00 p.m. "Seven Words For Seven Churches"

Garden Committee Report

Greetings to all Garden Committee Teammates and Supporters as we approach the Spring 2018 garden season!



Your Garden Team Leaders, Farmer Dave (Weisheit) and Builder Dave (Witbrodt) have coordinated with Debbie at the St. Trinity Food Pantry to determine what worked best for their Food Pantry in 2017. Using this information, the Two Daves met early in February to prepare recommendations for the 2018 Garden Plans.

A summary of the 2018 Garden Plans was emailed to the Garden Team in mid-February, for review and comments. Some comments have already been received.

The Garden Team had a brief 15 minute meeting immediately after the Sunday morning service on February 25th, before Bible Class at 10:30 am. All those who attended the Garden Meeting received handout charts summarizing the recommendations for the 2018 Garden.

Besides the vegetables that were successful in 2017, we will be planting several new vegetables and also a fruit for the first time. New plantings include: cantaloupe, celery, cabbage, and okra. We also will be planting according to the moon phases as recorded in the Farmer's Almanac. In addition, we will be attempting to grow cucumbers and cantaloupes on two trellises constructed from 16 foot long cattle panels. Finally, we recommended the addition of a small 2 x 8 foot raised bed near the garden shed to provide space for growing the okra.



With the addition of the new 2 x 8 foot raised bed, we could use some small donations to fund the new construction and the new trellises. We currently have about \$260 in the Garden Fund.

The first 2018 Spring Garden planting will be in early March. Come out and join in the fellowship of gardening. Notices of the various planting dates will be coordinated via emails and notices on the Garden White Board in the church vestibule.

May God Bless the Prince Of Peace Garden.



Please attend the

Easter Breakfast and Children's Egg Hunt

Sunday April 1st, after worship on Easter morning

A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board near the front door. Please indicate if you are able to provide an egg casserole, fruit salad, pastry/bread item, juice, help with setup on Saturday, March 31st, or cleanup afterwards.

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Board submitted by mail a 2018 Time & Talent Survey to all church members on the weekend of February 17th, challenging them to increase their involvement in church programs and activities. Members were asked to prayerfully consider, complete, and return the survey form on the weekend of February 24th.

At times, church leaders are in need of some assistance in completing a project. This survey will help them organize a group to complete the project. Many items in the survey are intended to encourage people to attend services more often, attend the Lord's Supper, or join a Bible Class group to study God's Word. We also want to kindly remind everyone of fellowship opportunities like Advent and Lent soup suppers, and helping with the annual Church Picnic or Rummage Sale.

You'll find great Christian fellowship during your involvement with your fellow congregational members, and the personal satisfaction of a job well done when you help out with projects and events. Checking survey boxes indicates that you have an interest in participating with others when projects and events are scheduled.

Additional Time & Talent Survey forms will be available in the church narthex for a period of time to provide everyone the opportunity to respond to this survey. Consider getting more involved in your church. You will mutually encourage the lives of others.



Report from the Trustee Committee

There has been a lot of progress on several work projects to make improvements in our church facilities.

- **Exterior Lighting** - Three LED lights have been installed on the front porch of the church building, providing much improved lighting during entry and exit from church at night. Those attending Saturday evening services and other church events in the evening are hopefully enjoying safer conditions.
- **Additional Exterior Lighting** – LED spotlights to illuminate the crosses on the roof, the sanctuary, and the exit area will be installed in the next 4 to 6 weeks. An additional LED exterior light fixture will be installed above the north exit door of the church. These will all be installed in March or April. *(Continued on page 6)*

- **Interior Fluorescent Light Replacement** – Some of the fluorescent lights on the lower level in the Fellowship Room and kitchen are original 1965 lighting equipment. There are 95 fluorescent fixtures containing 236 light tubes throughout the facility that utilize outdated and expensive bulb and ballast technology. A fluorescent light replacement project using LED technology requiring no ballast hardware was approved at a Voters Meeting in December 2017. As the result of a generous Ameren UE rebate program for the return of all removed fluorescent bulbs, the net cost is estimated to be under \$700. Our electric bill should be reduced significantly with the use of the LED technology throughout the church facilities. The effort to install the LED fluorescent bulbs should begin in March or April and last a couple of months. A request for volunteers to assist in this project will be going out to everyone as we get closer to starting this project. There will be tasks to complete that will not require any previous experience with fluorescent lights.
- **Sign Near Church Driveway** – The lettering on the sign is badly damaged by years of weathering. A volunteer has offered to remove old lettering and replace it with new lettering that will last for years to come. This project will be performed when warmer weather arrives later in the spring.
- **Refinishing Exterior Front Door** - There has been a lot of wear and tear on the original finish coating of the exterior front door. Repair of the front door is long overdue. A volunteer who has a lot of experience has offered to refinish the exterior front door with finish coatings that are designed to last for years. This project will also be performed later in the spring.
- **Sealing and Restriping of the Church Parking Lot** – Cracks are developing in the asphalt surface and the existing striping of the parking spots are badly faded and worn. Bids are being requested from subcontractors to reseal and then restripe the asphalt parking lot. In addition, we hope to resolve a rain puddling condition directly in front of the church. This project will be scheduled for work this summer.

Many thanks to the members who have volunteered to assist in making this progress possible.



Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte
Called to Serve our Lord in West Africa

6 B.P. 10662
Ouagadougou 06
Burkina Faso

Support Page: lcms.org/schulte

February 6, 2018

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
8646 New Sappington Road
Saint Louis, MO 63126-1908



Dear Pastor Smith and all our friends at Prince of Peace,

Greetings in Christ from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso! Thank you so much for your recent generous congregational gift to our ministry of \$2,348.00! Wow!!! As, during this Epiphany season, we recall how Christ our Savior was revealed to the nations, we are so thankful to partner with you in revealing Him and His light to so many living in darkness today.

We have a lot going on these days. Our home is currently a warehouse and trans-shipment point as we are in the process of sorting and sending off twenty-three pallets of mostly theological books to churches in seventeen countries. In the midst of all that, Steph and I just spent a week in the Gambia getting things in place for the second West African MMT ever in March. In about ten days, we travel to Dapaong, Togo where I will take part in the annual meeting of the CAU, which is the governing body of the CLEAT, our international francophone seminary. Representatives from eight different countries will all converge on northern Togo to discuss our strategy for advancing theological education throughout French speaking Africa. There is never a full moment!

We simply could not do any of these things. We could not go anywhere, and we could not serve in this way without the prayerful partnership and support of good Christians such as you. I say this with all humility. We are unworthy servants! Christ is our strength and our song! Thank you again so very, very much for your gift! God's richest blessings to all of you and all of yours!

In Christ,

Pastor Gary and Steph
Your Friends and Missionaries to West Africa

Our mission emphasis for the first quarter of 2018 (January, February and March) is Lutherans for Life.

Lutherans for Life (LFL) began with a meeting of seventeen people in May 1977, four years after the decision of Roe v. Wade. Its objective was to reverse those years of silence in the Lutheran churches, and finally speak up with a Christian defense of life. Its first official action was to ask all Lutherans to observe a Respect Life Sunday, and “with prayer and meditation, express thanks for their own lives, and also sadness for the lives of pre-born children that have been terminated because they were unwanted.”

From that small group of seventeen, LFL quickly grew into an organization that crosses national boundaries. In the 1980s, the Academy of Sciences in Moscow requested LFL’s help in creating a program that would provide an alternative to abortion. In the 1990s, with the dismantling of the Soviet Union, LFL helped form ProVita, a Christian pro-life organization in Romania. LFL also has assisted in the development of Lutherans for Life of Australia, Lutherans for Life of Canada, and Lutherans for Life-Latvia.

The philosophy of LFL (1992) states that,

Lutherans for Life believes that the Church is compelled by God’s Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our time is the repudiation of biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion on demand and the growing threat to others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, we will strive together, as Lutherans for Life, to give witness from a biblical perspective to the Church and society on these and related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living.

As the threats and challenges have evolved, LFL has become increasingly active in its mission, “equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life.” In the past year, the organization has responded to the problem of human trafficking. LFL supports high school and college student groups, pregnancy resource centers, and “universities” to teach parenting and job skills to new parents. Word of Hope (word-of-hope.org) is its post-abortion ministry that provides Christian counseling to women and men whose lives have been damaged by abortion.

Owen’s Project was started by former LFL executive director Rev. Dr. James Lamb after his grandson, Owen, died during prenatal surgery in his twenty first week of life. Owen’s Project hopes to present every Lutheran school with an educational program including a set of weighed models that can vividly illustrate to a child what an unborn baby is really like.

In legal battles which threaten the sanctity of life through euthanasia or abortion, LFL has presented a biblical defense of human life in all its stages with amicus curia briefs to the Supreme Court.

Although LFL welcomes any Lutheran who agrees with its mission, the majority of its members and leadership have been LCMS Lutherans.

As executive director Rev. Michael Salemink has said, “...the Gospel is not just a movement or an institution but a Person, and Lutherans for Life is not simply a message or a cause, but relationships.” For forty years, LFL has been a voice for unborn children and others who are ignored, and an advocate for life wherever it is threatened. What else could we, as Christians, do?

Five Core Values of Our Ministry Together

1. God’s Word informs and God’s Spirit empowers our work and witness. *2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:14*
2. Faithfulness to biblical truth and integrity of witness are more valuable than political expediency. *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*
3. The mind of Christ determines our response to life issues; prayerfully with humility, compassion, and speaking the truth in love. *2 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 2:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:24-26*
4. Education remains our focus, trusting the Holy Spirit to change hearts and minds. *2 Timothy 2:24-26*
5. We uphold the sanctity of human life because all people are created and redeemed by God who intends they bear His image for time and for eternity. *John 10:10*

From the Lutherans for Life website