

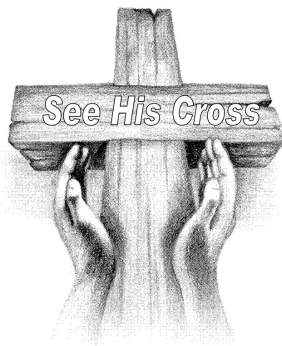
From your pastor...

*“When I survey the wondrous cross,”* I see my sins as the cause of Christ’s pain and punishment. I see the futility of coming up with my own workable saving plan. I see the stark reality of my lost condition and the absolute necessity of Jesus’ divine intervention. *“My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.”*

*“When I survey the wondrous cross,”* I see my Lord’s *“sorrow and love flow mingled down.”* I see the hurt and pain he willingly endured for me. I see the love that led him down that way of sorrows. I see the unselfish sacrifice my Savior made to deliver selfish me. *“Did e’re such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?”*

*“When I survey the wondrous cross,”* I see myself as a forgiven child of God. I seek ways to praise the One who died in my place. I see the new life I have been granted as one endless opportunity to shout *“Thank you!”* to my Rescuer. *“Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”*

“See His Cross” this Lenten season. See and repent! See and rejoice!



## Lent 2012

**Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.** We will be having a noon and 7pm service each week.

### SEE HIS CROSS

Feb 22	Pastor Bare	John 18:4-11
	Put Your Sword Away!	
Feb 29	Pastor Johnson	Luke 23:26-31
	Shed No Tears for Jesus!	
Mar 7	Pastor Kunde	John 17:1-5
	Glory Be to Jesus!	
Mar 14	Pastor Franck	John 18:19-24
	It's No Secret!	
Mar 21	Pastor Voss	Mark 14:61-62
	It's God's Plan from Beginning to End!	
Mar 28	Pastor Bare	John 18:36-37
	Our King Is Crucified!	

**Kindergarten Round-Up** will be February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the school.

**Pie Sale:** Our Sisters Serving Christ organization will be selling pies. This time, they are going to do it a little different. There will be a sign up sheet on the information table in the back of church on February 26 and March 4 for you to sign up for a pie. Pies will be made and you will pick up your reserved pie on April 1. By doing this we will not run out or have too many pies left over. The monies received will be given to our local LWMS treasurer for mission work.

**Confirmation parent meeting #1** is scheduled for 11:30am on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will be during the 10:30am service on May 6.

## **News from Church Council**

Below are some highlights from the February Church Council Meeting.

The Treasurer presented the following report:

### **General Fund Report – January 2012**

	Month	Y-T-D
Offerings	45,086.67	266,932.37
Tuition/FEF/Registration	1,952.72	24,480.77
Other	125.90	1,183.90
Total Receipts:	47,165.29	292,597.04
Actual Expenses:	41,031.54	304,893.37
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>6,133.75</b>	<b>-12,296.33</b>
Budget:	43,801.42	306,609.92
Other Detail		
Thrivent	123.00	817.00
Miscellaneous	2.90	366.90
Other Total:	125.90	1,183.90

Three baptisms occurred during the month – Cooper Collard, Levi Gardner, and Charles Ciarlino.

There will be no Thursday services during Lent.

Pastor Aaron Frey will be preaching February 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert Choir will be singing at both services on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bible Class topics include the study of Colossians (February into

March) and Bible Translations (March-April).

— Sam Norder, Recording Secretary

### **News from the WELS**

Taken from the [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net) website

Rev. Mark G. Schroeder, president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, has issued the following statement regarding the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' new requirement that all health care plans cover contraceptives, abortive drugs, and medical procedures:

“Recently the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that it will require all health care plans, including those provided by religious organizations, to include coverage for contraceptives, abortive drugs, and medical procedures that are contrary to the doctrinal positions of many Christian churches and denominations. This action is a clear and unprecedented threat to the religious liberty guaranteed to all citizens by the First Amendment. No religious organization should be required by the government to support or facilitate activities which are in clear violation of its principles and beliefs.

“The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod holds to the biblical teaching that human life begins at conception and that the unborn are fully human beings, created by God. We are deeply distressed that the government of the United States would require the health care plans of our church-affiliated organizations to provide abortion-inducing drugs or other procedures that would end the life of an unborn child and would require coverage for any other medical treatment that violates our teachings and conscience.

“More recently, President Obama has announced an

‘accommodation,’ saying that religious organizations will not be required to pay directly for such coverage. Instead, insurance providers serving religious organizations will be required to make these services available free of charge. As one congressman has correctly said, this is a ‘distinction without a difference,’ since such costs would still be provided indirectly by the religious organizations through the insurance premiums they pay.

“The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod clearly understands and teaches that Jesus has directed his followers to ‘give to Caesar what is Caesar’s’ (Mark 12:17) and that secular government is used by God for the good of all society. Christian citizens recognize their responsibility to pay taxes, support the government, obey its laws, and pray for its leaders. While it is not normally within the sphere of the church to become involved in secular politics, we do recognize that individual Christians have a responsibility to exercise their rights as citizens, to express their beliefs, and to encourage the government to act in the best interest of society.

“Therefore, we encourage all of our members, as Christian citizens, to express their convictions boldly and to urge the government to be faithful in carrying out its primary responsibility to protect and preserve life. We also encourage our members, as many others in various denominations and church bodies have done, to recognize and speak out against this clear threat to the blessing of religious liberty American citizens have enjoyed since the founding of the nation.

“We also confess and affirm that if the government directs us to do something in clear violation of the will of God, ‘we must obey God rather than men’ (Acts 5:29).”

## Helping in Nigeria

The Lutheran church has had a presence in Nigeria for 75 years—since the first missionaries journeyed to the nation to help quench spiritual thirst with the gospel message. Now, funding from Christian Aid and Relief is helping give life-giving water in another way—by digging wells to provide clean water.

Water-borne parasites in unsafe water sources are a problem in both rural areas and cities. Clean water can be the difference between life and death. Through Christian Aid and Relief funding along with supporting congregations, the wells (boreholes) are dug next to the churches and are open to anyone. Besides providing fresh water, the wells get people onto the church's property for countless outreach opportunities, in addition to building goodwill in the communities. Many people come from miles around, especially in the bush areas, where dug wells are harder to come by.

Getting the water is no small undertaking. Project organizers work with local Nigerian companies to conduct geophysical surveys for water and to do the actual digging and installation of pumps and pump houses. Once the wells are installed, the congregation is responsible for maintaining its operation.

The goal is to have wells dug next to every church in our fellowship in Nigeria. To date, about 20 wells have been dug. Additionally, Christian Aid and Relief is involved with well digging all over the world, such as Zambia, Malawi and India.

Nigeria is home to two sister synods to WELS—Christ the King Lutheran Church of Nigeria and All Saints Lutheran Church of Nigeria—comprising more than 10,000 members, served by 23 pastors. Though Nigeria is no longer a regular mission field, a WELS liaison and volunteer pastors make semi-annual visits to advise, encourage, and assist our Lutheran brothers and sisters.

Christian Aid and Relief grants funds for numerous humanitarian aid projects ranging from medical care to wells to literacy programs, in addition to helping with disaster relief efforts.

*Today's Devotion is brought to you by WELS and [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com). You can sign up to receive these daily devotions on their website.*

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

### [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#)

#### **What is your goal in life?**

July 27, 2012. Does this date have any significance for you? It might, if it's your birthday, the start of your summer vacation, or possibly an anniversary. But for most, it's just another day... unless you are an Olympic athlete. This summer date marks the beginning of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. For four years and more, athletes have been dedicating hours upon hours to work and train to compete on an international scale with one goal: winning a gold medal.

As far back as 776BC ([www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org)), athletes have gone into strict training to gain the top prize. Today it's a gold medal. For ancient Greek athletes it was a sacred olive tree wreath placed on their head in the vestibule of the temple of Zeus. The effort was immense, however the losers were many

and the glory of the victor often short-lived.

While we admire the discipline and dedication of an Olympic athlete, the apostle Paul encourages the same dedication, discipline and determination in pursuing a life with the Lord Jesus. Life can easily become consumed with the temporary and transient. Perhaps today is an opportunity to ask, “What am I doing today to spend time and energy pursuing the one thing that will last forever—a close and growing relationship with Jesus Christ?”

Paul “beat his body” and made it his slave to proclaim Jesus to others and to grow in his personal walk with Jesus. To what do I have to say “No!” in order to have time each day to spend reading the Bible or in personal devotion and prayer? What disciplines do I need to practice to reflect the love of Jesus in my attitudes and actions each day? What priorities do I need to adjust to ensure that my family and I are intensely pursuing that which really matters—the love of the Lord Jesus and a life honoring him?

Today, with the Lord’s help, run in such a way to gain the prize that lasts forever! Tomorrow do the same...and the next day... and the next! Jesus says, “Be faithful to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life” ([Revelation 2:10](#)).

Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, we thank you for pursuing us with a focus and intensity that took you to the cross for each of us. Instill in us the discipline, determination and dedication to pursue a closer and growing relationship with you so that when our final day on this earth comes, we will enjoy standing in your temple receiving the crown of life you won for us. Amen.*