

2010

Matthew 7:24-28

2010. I remember when it turned to 1999 and Stacey and I celebrated in an outside New Year's Eve fest much like "First Night" in Downtown Boston. We froze with some good friends, but had a great time.

When it turned to the year 2000 we were at our neighbor's house, all secretly wondering if there was any truth to the Y2K scares. At midnight the neighbor thought he would be funny, so he hit the circuit breaker, leaving all of us in the dark for a few seconds.

2001 brought us Alannah, 2002 brought the Seminary, 2005 brought us our vicarage and 2007 brought us to LCC.

You know what I notice? Nothing stops time from moving forward. Not to sound too corny, but it's true: the sun will come up tomorrow; bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow, there'll be sun.

There'll be sun, and there'll be the Son; the Son that shines His light of new life on all who would receive Him. John tells us that "He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him." Their own way was more important than His Way; their own thoughts and opinions were more important than His Truth; the way they lived their lives was more important than the Life He brought.

And still He proclaimed that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and the only way to get to Heaven. He spelled out what He wants us to know in His word, and then gave His Holy Spirit.

Two thousand plus years later, nothing has changed. He still comes and proclaims His unalterable, unchangeable truth. He still sends His Spirit to admonish, teach and change those who will simply submit to His Lordship. He still stands on tiptoes and watches down the lane for His prodigal children to come Home, and then runs to meet them.

Christian writer Max Lucado says it best: He still moves stones. Stones of heartache and pain; stones of hard hearts and stubborn minds; stones of rejection of the truth of God Word. Stones that stand in the way of coming out of the 'tomb' we find ourselves in, and walking into the light He has for us.

2010. A year of opportunities for growing closer to Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit as given in the unchangeable, unalterable truth of God's Word. A year of second and third and thousandth chances; a year to apologize, to forgive, to establish healthy boundaries and to dive deep into the blessings of baptism.

It is my prayer for LCC that 2010 brings with it clarity and a solid foundation on which to build for the rest of the 2000's. May the solid foundation not be one that looks at the past, nor even one that

is based on future hopes, but rather one that is built on the Rock of Christ Jesus. All other foundations are ultimately sand and will wash away.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael

LCC HAPPENINGS

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This will certainly be a year of change at The Lutheran Church of the Cross now that we are in the midst of another pastoral vacancy. Let us pray that 2010 will be a Happy New Year for our church and one of unity and healing! The events of the final month of 2009 included the following.

- **Many thanks** to Kyle McGivney and Walter Seamon and all who helped with Mainspring on December 12th. Once more we fed over 100 people!
- **Another Thank You** to **Sandy Sweetser** for coordinating a second mini fund-raiser. Through the sale of cookies and some crafts, as well as many Honey-Baked Ham Company gift certificates for which the church is receiving 50% of the gross sales, we made over \$400.00! This money has already been matched by Thrivent! Way to go!
- **The New Bethlehem Coffee House** Christmas program, scheduled for December 20, 2009, featuring Maria Moyer playing Christmas carols, was canceled due to the snow storm. This is the second year in a row we've had to cancel this program due to snow! The next New Bethlehem coffee house will not be until May, 2010, when we have the cookout with the Flintlock Band.
- **Many thanks to Sandy and Bill Sweetser, Elsie Vuilleumier, Chuck Lemke, and Davis and Jennah Muller** for all their help putting up the Christmas decorations this year.
- **The DSS Family to Family program** was a great success again this year. Many thanks to Dana and Kyle McGivney for stepping up and coordinating this wonderful program for us. I am sure the Department of Social Services is ever so grateful. And of course thanks to all of our generous members who so willingly gave to these children in foster care.
- **Music at LCC** – In addition to a new pastoral vacancy, we are currently functioning without an organist. **Many thanks to Jay Freeman** who has managed to locate some very talented musicians to fill in while we search for a permanent organist. Our guest musicians include **Maria Moyer, Claire DeCusati, Yasko Kubota, Donald Zook and Barbara Hutchinson** and we thank them for their wonderful gift of music.
- **We said “Good-bye” to Pastor Michael, Stacey and Alannah** on December 27, 2009. Many thanks to all the cooks who helped with the brunch held after our church service on Dec. 27th in honor of the Stahls, and especially to Patty Owen for all she did coordinating the event.

JANUARY AND BEYOND

The New Bethlehem Coffee House in 2010 will only run the May cookout featuring the Flintlock band. More details on this event will be forthcoming as we approach May.

Mainspring for January is being coordinated by Kyle McGivney on January 9th. We have volunteers for the months of February and March, but the rest of the year looks mighty bare!

The 2010 flower chart is up! Please sign-up for flowers for next year. The cost is \$30.00. Thank you.

Scrip Program – The order date for January Scrip cards was January 3, 2010. “On Demand” cards, as available, can be purchased any week. The next order date will be February 7, 2010.

A tentative Congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2010, following the Sunday service. Please watch the weekly bulletins for confirmation on this meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

The strength of our church has always been largely due to the commitment of our members. It is important that we all continue to help and volunteer. There are many ways each of us can choose to help. Below are just a few...

Church council – At present we have a few deacon positions available, as well as an elder position. If interested in serving our church during this time of transition, please talk to Al Hieber, Bob Jackson or Jim Darcy.

Remember the Hanover Food Pantry. The Hanover Food Pantry can use as many donations as possible! All things are needed; paper products, soaps, pasta, juices, snacks – you name it! **Please help out!!!** Many thanks to all who continue to make contributions.

Mainspring – We supply meals to Mainspring on the 2nd Saturday of each month. A menu is usually posted around the first of the month and we can always use a few more cooks and bakers. We have been feeding 100 people the last few months! The monthly schedule for 2010 is on the bulletin board. Kyle McGivney has been doing the lion’s share of the work, so it would be great to find a few more people to help him coordinate the meals in 2010! As always, thank you Kyle for all you do!

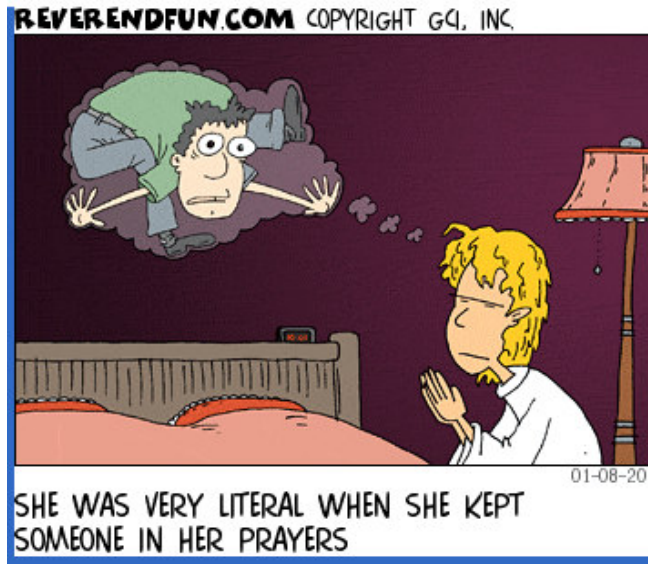
Coffee Hours – This year we need people to supplement the confirmation families in hosting the weekly coffee hour after church. A sign-up is on the bulletin board for volunteers to help out! We can still use a few more volunteers this year, so thanks in advance for all your help!!

Worship assistants – We can always use more worship assistants. Right now we have a special need for more counters. People to help with Altar Guild and serving communion would be more than welcome! Please call Kathy in the office, 781-826-5121, if you would be willing to help with one of these groups.

Personal Mention

- **Happy Birthday wishes in January** are extended to **Agnes Abrahamson, Joe Chiarelli, Alison Costa, Janet Costa, Madison Dwyer, Heather Graden, Matt MacDougall, Susan Obreza, Claire Olson, and Noah Yeingst.**
- **Happy Anniversary to Bruce and Kay Bakeberg, and Sandy and Bill Sweetser!**

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...



Marie Bain, for good health
Ed Beck, for continued sobriety and related health
Ethan Darcy, for continued healing related to his congenital heart defect
Dottie Hayes, undergoing surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome next week
Rob Hendrickson, for continued health and healing
Joyce Linde, for health and healing
Bella, Brayden and Brett Orrall, for health and growth.
Bill Williamson, for health and healing
Harriet Williamson, recovering from a broken hip
Audrey Yeingst, undergoing treatment for cancer of the liver and bile duct
Vickie Beck, dealing with serious health issues
Eva Churchill, the Hendricksons' friend, for healing from multiple health issues
Harrison Collett, brother of one of our Nursery School students, diagnosed with bone cancer
Carla Errichiello-Hill, for continued health and healing
Anna Fitzgerald, Agnes Abrahamson's granddaughter, dealing with epilepsy and autism
Jerry Haley, friend of the Sweetzers, diagnosed with a brain tumor
Erik Johnson, 6 yr. old cousin of Stacey Stahl, diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma

Lloyd Prestridge, Dan Prestridge’s father, living with cancer
Pastor Riss, recovering from surgery in December
Jill Sidney, for healing, after losing a leg in a car accident

Ministry to the Persecuted Church:

On Dec. 23, two separate bombs struck churches in Mosul, Iraq, according to VOM Canada and Agence France Presse. One bomb was detonated near the Syrian Orthodox church of St. Thomas. Elsewhere in the city, three people were killed — one Christian and two Muslims — when a bomb hidden in a cart of vegetables exploded outside the Chaldean church of St. George. These attacks are the latest in a series of bombings in the city in recent months. These recent bombings have intensified fears among Mosul’s Christian community, but many Iraqi believers remain unshaken in their commitment to serve Christ. Pray for those who have lost loved ones in these attacks. Pray for healing of those injured. Pray that the presence and peace of Jesus will sustain Iraqi believers and compel them to share God’s truth with their Muslim neighbors.

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ADOPT AN EXPENSE PROGRAM

(January – December 2010)

Here we go, a new year for our Adopt-An-Expense program. Last year we raised \$1,335.00, \$265.00 short of the \$1600.00 goal set by Church Council. We are starting fresh this year, with only a few expenses incurred at the end of the year carried forward. Let’s see if we can do better this year, but of course any “adoptions” help our church. Thank you in advance!!

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approx. cost</u>	<u>Remain. Amt</u>	<u>Adopted</u> <small>(this year)</small>
2010 Expenses			
Eternal Candles (6 month supply)	135.00	135.00	
Christmas bulletin covers	30.00	30.00	
TOTAL ADOPTED:			\$ 0.00