

## **A Wedding and a Funeral**

Luke 23:14-15

I'm preparing for a funeral this week. In two days Stacey, Alannah and I will be at the funeral of a dear, dear friend, and the family has asked me to take part in the funeral. It's going to be hard for all three of us – we really loved this person and her family. Our friend's new life in Heaven began the moment she took her last breath here, and took her first breath there. Her husband was with her in those final moments, and held her hand as death parted them.

I'm also preparing for a wedding this week. I've been privileged to meet with the soon-to-be Bride and Groom over the past several weeks, and this weekend is when it all comes together. Friday will be a rehearsal, and Saturday will be the wedding. A new life as husband and wife will start for these two until death do them part.

It seems odd, in a way, to be preparing for both a funeral and a wedding in the same week. I know some would say, "It comes with the territory of being a pastor." They would be right, of course, but I can't help but think of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

I know I've mentioned this before, but indulge me for a moment: God the Father experienced in the space of a few days both the funeral of His Son, and the engagement to His bride, the Church. The moment Jesus called out "It is finished!", God the Father called out, "It has begun, my engagement to my bride!" When Jesus came out of the tomb a few days later, the engagement period went into full swing as the 'rehearsal' for the actual wedding began.

One day those who have clung to the faith of Jesus as their crucified substitute and risen Lord will be invited to a great wedding banquet. The last time Jesus shared this celebratory meal was on that first Maundy Thursday before His 'funeral.' The next time He has it will be with us at our wedding banquet in the place where He has gone to prepare for us.

I will see my friend again in Heaven. We visited her last week, and she told us through her pain that if it wasn't for her faith in Jesus she didn't know how she would be coping.

I will see on Saturday a shadow of what waits in Heaven for those who clung to Jesus, as a celebration of a new life together starts. Husband and wife will be an image of the perfect union of God the Father and His bride, the church.

One day Jesus will come for His bride, and I will see my friend again. One day Jesus will say, "Well done, good and faithful servants. Come to the feast I've been preparing for you. I've been waiting so long for this day. I know you're going to like your new home."

Yes, this week I am preparing for both a funeral and a wedding. It feels a bit odd from one perspective, but it makes perfect sense from an eternal perspective. It's just another way God reminds us of His love for us. A love that killed Him, brought Him back to life, and waits to bring us Home soon.

*Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

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*From the Consecrated Stewards team*

“All Saints”

On November First Christians around the world join in celebrating All Saints Day. Among the saints in heaven are our loved ones who have died in the faith and now share in the joys of heaven. The recommended Epistle reading for All Saints day comes from Revelation 7 and includes these words: ***“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Revelation 7:14-17 NIV)***

This beautiful picture of the saints before the throne brings us comfort as we remember our loved ones who have passed before us and strengthens our hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. On the last Thursday of November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day which provides us with the opportunity to pause and thank our God for his mercy which endures forever and his providing of so many spiritual and physical blessings day after day.

How fitting it is to remember the example, instruction and encouragement of those saints who have been special blessings to us. Many of us learned about the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Savior at the knees of Christian parents. Many of us have also learned from them what it is like to live as God’s children who receive his gifts with thanksgiving. We thank God for those who have been teachers and examples of good stewardship. It is so true that only the Holy Spirit can change us from selfish, self-centered sinners into faithful stewards of all that God has given to us. But the example of good stewardship that we learned from our parents and other important people in our lives is a great blessing.

One day we will join the saints in heaven but until then God empowers us to be teachers, models and examples of good stewardship for our children and other people who are special to us. ***“Christian stewardship really is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for his purposes.”***

One of our common table prayers contains these words: ***“Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest and may these gifts to us be blessed.”*** The godly ladies who are part of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) have added these great stewardship thoughts to this prayer: ***“And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere and may we help to put it there.”***

May God bless us as his stewards so that our management of all of life and life’s resources (money, time, talents, relationships, etc.) honors him, blesses our neighbors and serves as an example and encouragement to those around us.

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## ***LCC HAPPENINGS***

*November is here! Daylight savings time is gone until spring. But we do have Thanksgiving to look forward to and Christmas won't be far behind. Fall always seems to be a busy time of year, and October was no exception, including the following...*

- **Many thanks** to Kyle McGivney and all who helped with Mainspring on October 10<sup>th</sup>. . We continue to feed a large number of people, upwards of 100!
- **The Adult Discussions** during October started a study of the gospel of Matthew.
- **The women's Bible Study** continued during October, every Monday evening from 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM. . The book being read this fall is "*Having a Mary Spirit*" by Joanna Weaver.
- **The Women of the Cross** went to the Sweet Life Café fall retreat at the Hope Floats Retreat Center in Kingston. Thank you Lea Bouchard for treating the ladies to some outstanding cooking!
- **Our Student Ministry** started up in October, thanks again to Lea Bouchard. Care packages were sent to our students away from home. I have heard from Sara Hendrickson and Marc and Matt MacDougall that the treats are much appreciated. So thank you Lea, cookie bakers and other financial supporters of this ministry!
- **Outdoor Cleanup.** Many thanks to John Muller for arranging an outdoor clean-up on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. A special thanks also to Don and Nolan Burroughs, Jay Freeman, Kyle McGivney, Patty Owen and Pastor Michael who came and gave John a hand!
- **Confirmation was held on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**, also Reformation Sunday. Confirmed this year were Thomas Leonard Chiarelli, Derek Tyler Koertje, Lyndsay Jessica Levin, Kayla Elizabeth McDermott, and Davis Tyler Muller(on November 8<sup>th</sup>). Several of their creeds are included later in the newsletter!
- **A HUGE Thank You to George Olson** for helping out as organist for the last year! We miss your playing George, but understand the difficulty of holding two jobs. We all look forward to having you sing with us in the pews!

## ***NOVEMBER AND BEYOND***

**There are several important congregational meetings coming up:**

- November 8 – 10:30 AM (following the church service)  
Budget and informational meeting
- November 15 – 10:30 AM (or at conclusion of the service)  
Voting meeting

**The Big Fall Country Cupboard fundraiser.** Mark your calendars for November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sandy Sweetser is orchestrating another fundraiser for our congregation. Pies, fudge, bread, cookies, soups, handmade crafts and more will be available – just in time for Thanksgiving! Items will be available for purchase after the service that Sunday. Please call Sandy at 781-934-7515 if you would like to help!

**The New Bethlehem Coffee House** will be starting up on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This program for mentally challenged adults, is coordinated by Jill Chiarelli and is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Jill can use help each month, so keep the dates open and come help out!

**Mainspring for December** is being coordinated by Kyle McGiovney and Walter Seamon on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Watch the bulletin board for the menu and sign-up in a few weeks.

**Thanksgiving Eve** – This year, Christ Lutheran Church in Scituate will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve service, beginning at 7:30 PM

**The Hanover Ecumenical Thanksgiving service** will be held Monday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

**The flower chart needs some attention.** There are still a few Sundays in 2009 that are open. Sign-up is on the bulletin board.

**The women's Bible Study** continues to meet Monday evenings from 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM. If you have an interest in joining this group, please see Stacey Stahl.

## ***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, which is even more important as we help support a new pastor. There are many ways each of us can choose to help. Below are just a few...

**Hanover Habitat for Humanity** – The Hanover Habitat for Humanity just started work on the house being built in Hanover. The project is on hold due to budget issues, but should be starting up soon.

- Stacey Stahl and Kyle McGivney have volunteered to coordinate food. We will be supplying lunch every sixth week once building gets going. A sign-up is on the bulletin board for people to volunteer for food detail. Please sign-up and include phone number and email address so that they have the means to contact you when it is our turn. If you would like to help this month, please see Stacey or Kyle.
- LCC Habitat Volunteer Coordinator needed: Please contact Nick Iovino (volunteer@sshhabitat.org or 781-843-9080 x18) if you would be willing to coordinate volunteer workers on behalf of our church. Also, please let our office know (781-826-5121) if you volunteer for this position so that we don't keep asking...

**Remember the Hanover Food Pantry**, Thanksgiving is coming and the the shelves are bare right now! At this point, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 are feeding close to 100 these days! 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! (So far no one has signed up!)

**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. People to help with counting, Altar Guild and communion assistants would be more than welcome! We are working on an instruction session for those interested in Altar Guild, and for counters as well if need be. Please call Kathy in the office, 781-826-5121, if you would be willing to help with one of these groups.

**New Bethlehem Coffee House** – Please come help Jill Chiarelli on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM!

***Personal Mention***

- **Happy Birthday wishes in November** are extended to **Greg Chiarelli, Cathy Hayes, Kevin Hayes, Maurine Lindquist, Kevin MacDougall, Marc MacDougall, Bill Orrall, Hunter Shields and Alannah Stahl!**
- **Happy Anniversary to Rob and Gracia Clyde, Chuck and Gail Lemke and Chris and Heather Staples!**
- **We welcomed into the Lord's Family** through Holy Baptism, **Brett William Orrall**, son of **Lisa and Bill Orrall.**
- **Congratulations to our 2009 confirmands:**

<b>Thomas Leonard Chiarelli</b>	John 14:6
<b>Derek Tyler Koertje</b>	1 John 3:9
<b>Lyndsay Jessica Levin</b>	Matthew 28:20
<b>Kayla Elizabeth McDermott</b>	Ecclesiastes 3:1
<b>Davis Timothy Muller</b>	Deuteronomy 5:11
- **Congratulations, a few days in advance, to David Jonathan Bakeberg and Melissa Ann Poland** who are to be married on November 7, 2009!

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*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...*



**Chris Donahoe**, hospitalized with a blood clot  
**Family of Felisha**, co-worker of Sarah Boiselle, whose brother was fatally shot this past week

**Marie Bain**, for good health  
**Ed Beck**, for continued sobriety and related health  
**Ethan Darcy**, for continued healing related to his congenital heart defect  
**Carla Errichiello-Hill**, for continued health and healing  
**Rob Hendrickson**, for continued health and healing  
**Joyce Linde**, for health and healing  
**Bella, Brayden and Brett Orrall**, for continued health and growth.  
**Bill Williamson**, for health and healing  
**Harriet Williamson**, recovering in the hospital from a broken hip  
**Audrey Yeingst**, undergoing treatment for cancer of the liver and bile duct  
**Bill Abbott**, Dana Abbott's husband, living with ALS  
**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  
**Anna Fitzgerald**, Agnes Abrahamson's granddaughter, dealing with epilepsy and autism  
**Jodi Gries**, Jerry and Barbara Gorichs' daughter, recovering from cancer surgery  
**Jerry Haley**, friend of the Sweetsers, diagnosed with a brain tumor  
**Lloyd Prestridge**, Dan Prestridge's father, living with cancer  
**Jill Sidney**, for healing, after losing a leg in a car accident in Italy

**Ministry to the Persecuted Church:**

Further Charges Brought Against Iranian Prisoners.  
 On Oct. 7, Maryam and Marzieh were unexpectedly taken back to court, where they faced charges of anti-state activity, propagation of Christianity and apostasy. The judge acquitted them of the charge of anti-state activity, and the other charges will be considered by a general court. Continue to pray for Maryam and Marzieh, who remain in prison awaiting their next hearing. Pray for their health, as they have been denied proper medical treatment.

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(See Matthew 14:14-21) 11-24-1999

HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES AND 2  
 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR THE  
 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE INVITED?!?

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**Tom Chiarelli**

## **Confirmation Creed**

My name is Tom Chiarelli and the bible verse I chose was John 14:6. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." And this is my creed.

I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that he gave His only son for us. I chose John 14:6 for my bible verse because I believe that we all need to follow in Jesus' foot steps and try to show the world God's will. God's will is that we love him more than anything in the world and that we help others to find faith in Him. In John 14:6 Jesus is saying that through him we can all get to Heaven. We can all get to heaven through Jesus because he died on the cross for us to forgive our sins. As a result of following in Jesus' footsteps and trying to do God's will we will show signs of our faith everyday in many ways. We may open a door for someone, help carry in the groceries, or even help a friend or neighbor with yard work. This is important because we should all want to follow the commandments God made for us and treat our neighbors as ourselves.

This has made a difference in my life in many different ways. One example is at Mainspring. Even though it is hard for me to want to give up one Saturday of my life to help feed the homeless, once I'm there I know I've made the right choice. Seeing how thankful the people there are and how they needed our help has made me want to do more good as Jesus did.

Another way my beliefs have made a difference in my life was at Coffee House. Even though it might have meant missing a Patriots game it was all worth it when I saw how happy everyone there was. They were all smiling and dancing and I was glad I had had faith in God and as a result volunteered my time.

I promise to continue to try to complete God's will for me as best I can. Only God knows what is to come in the future but I promise to continue to strengthen my faith in Him by going to church and learning more about Him all the time. I will also continue to show others that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life and the only way to the Father is through Him.

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Derek Koertje

## Confirmation Creed

My name is Derek Koertje, and this is my creed. My Bible verse is 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

One day when I was 8 years old and we were on our way to church I smacked my brother Mitch because I wanted the last donut in the bag because I was still hungry. Then my mom said, "Derek that wasn't very nice" and then I said "We are on our way to church that means I can sin as much as I want up to the front door and once I get in I will be forgiven of all my sins." My mom then said "But that is not the point you should be kind to everyone all the time. Just because we are on our way to church that doesn't mean that you should try to sin all the way there." At that moment I then thought to myself that she was right.

God is ready to forgive anyone who seeks him. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God can forgive our sins and restore our relationship with him. To receive God's forgiveness we must confess our sins to him and turn away from the sin. God loves me so much that he wants to forgive my sins. Although I try to please God I still struggle with sin. I know that I sin all the time. I am still mean to my brothers sometimes and I don't always do what my mother asks me. I sin when I do things that don't please God but I also sin when I don't do things God wants me to do. Through Jesus I know my sins will be forgiven.

I believe there are two ways to go in life. We can go the way the Holy Spirit leads us or we can go the way our sinful nature leads us. Galatians 5: 16-23 tells us very clearly the consequences of following sinful desires, we will not inherit the kingdom of God. However, if we follow the Holy Spirit we can live in a way pleasing to God.

I will try my best to be kind caring and loving to all and try to spread the word of the God to as many people as possible, but when I fail to live up to God's expectations, through my faith in Jesus I know I will be forgiven. My name is Derek Koertje and I am loved by God and Jesus.

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Lyndsay Levin

## Confirmation Creed

My name is Lyndsay and this is my creed. The Bible verse I chose is from the book of Matthew 28:20...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Jesus has been with

me for my whole life, although as a child I did not know it. I grew up in a household that practiced both Judaism and Christianity. I was brought up to believe in my Mother's faith, but at the same time to respect my Father's. I remember in the weeks leading up to the Holiday season watching "A Charlie Brown Christmas" then when that was over, I'd watch "Tales and Tunes of Hanukkah". I was going through a photo album not too long ago and I came across a picture of myself as a toddler lighting the Menorah, with nothing other than a Santa Claus place-mat underneath to catch the falling wax. It would be an understatement to say that I was confused as to where I belonged religiously as a child. I didn't know it at the time, but I already had a home waiting for me.

I began attending the Lutheran Church of the Cross at 10 years old. Before coming here, I had never regularly been to church. I had not been baptized as a baby, and I had not been communed either. I was new to the concepts of this church, and it truly intrigued me. I was captivated from the beginning, and I can sincerely say that my feelings have not changed. I believe in God the Father who gave his only son, so that I may be closer to Him, I believe in the Holy Spirit that is always with me, and I believe in the God the Son who died for my sins because he loves me just that much. I believe that the Holy Bible is God's inspired word and is without error. Above all, I believe in an eternal salvation with my Lord in Heaven because I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I am blessed to have been brought to this church, where I have grown not just as a person, but as a Lutheran.

My belief has always been a constant in my life. The seasons change, life happens, people around me may come and go, but my faith never leaves me. As I grow more comfortable with myself, I've found that I've grown more comfortable with my faith. I am no longer embarrassed to openly say to my friends that I am a Christian and I attend church regularly. I'm not afraid to say 'God bless you' instead of just 'bless you' when somebody sneezes. I don't just wear my cross necklace as a fashion statement, I wear it because it is a symbol of something bigger than us all. I am proud to say that I was baptized when I was 12 years old, and communed not long after my baptism. I did not have a traditional Christian upbringing, but this church has made up for it. I may not have known where I belonged as a child, but there is no mistake as to where I belong now. I belong to Jesus, and this church is just one of the ways He shows me how much He loves me. He provides me with a place I can come to so I can connect my heart with the heart of God. I belong here every Sunday, and I intend to be here as much as I can be. I've helped out at the Vacation Bible School at the church for two summers now, and I plan to come back next summer to be an

assistant teacher again. I will continue to attend youth gatherings and retreats, and attend adult Bible studies.

To me, getting confirmed is not the end of my faith. It is anything but. Getting confirmed is just another opened chapter of my life that I cannot wait to discover. I realize that I still have plenty to learn about my Savior Jesus and his plan in my life. I am thankful for this church that helps me learn more about that unique plan each time I come here. But I'm not afraid; For Jesus is with me always, to the very end of the age.

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## ADOPT AN EXPENSE PROGRAM

(January – December 2009)

Below is the list of “Adopt-An-Expense” program items for 2009, so far. As mentioned at the January congregational meeting, the **goal is to get \$1,600 of adopted expenses by the end of the year. We are three-quarters of the way there!** Does this mean we can beat the goal??? There are still many expenses which can be adopted. Many thanks to Cory and Don Burroughs, Gudrun Davis, Carla and Ernie Hill, Jackie Johnson, Patty Owen and the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School, and Audrey and Ray Yeingst for their contributions. Please remember that you can adopt a portion of any expense. Every little bit helps!!!

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approx. cost</u>	<u>Remain. Amt</u>	<u>Adopted</u> (this year)
<b>2009 Expenses</b>			
Sunday School Supplies			
Fall material	380.00	140.00	240.00
Winter material	380.00	380.00	
Spring material	380.00	380.00	
VBS Supplies	1000.00	1000.00	
Offering envelopes	500.00	500.00	
Disposable Communion Cups	110.00	0.00	110.00
Portals of Prayer	160.00	160.00	
Confirmation Scarves	40.00	40.00	
Certificates (Baptism, 1 <sup>st</sup> communion...)	60.00	60.00	
Altar Candles	500.00	500.00	
Eternal Candles	125.00	125.00	
Calendars	30.00	30.00	
Communion cruet	94.00	0.00	94.00
Holy Week bulletin covers	90.00	90.00	
Pastors' wives conference	90.00	0.00	90.00
Financial Secretary expenses	280.40	0.00	280.40
Confirmation Scarves	35.00	35.00	

Confirmation Robes	240.00	240.00	
Confirmation Bibles	165.00	165.00	
Luther's Small Catechism (12)	125.00	125.00	
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bibles	95.00	95.00	
Puppet Ministry			
Deluxe Puppet Pack	116.00	0.00	116.00
6 Inbetweens	144.00	39.00	105.00
6 Full/Half Body Puppets	240.00	40.00	200.00
Stage Materials/Props	300.00	300.00	

**TOTAL ADOPTED: \$1,235.40**

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