

NEWSLETTER

June, 2010

Vol. 17 No. 6

New Officers Elected

Three council positions were filled at the May 23 Congregational Meeting. Thea Anderson was reelected as Council Secretary, Steve Schreiner was appointed as chairperson of the Board of Elders, and Lorrie Zander was reelected as chairperson of the Board of Education. We thank them for their willingness to serve in these positions. Thank you, also, to Ken Piechocki for his past service as chairperson of the Board of Elders.

Thank You Teachers!!

As another year of Sunday School comes to a close, there are many people that make our Sunday School program, the success that it is! Each Sunday from 9:10-10:15, we have a group of dedicated teachers that work with the youngsters of our church to make sure they grow up knowing and loving Jesus and knowing that Jesus loves them. They give of their time, their talents and their heart and for that, they are invaluable!!

Thank you:

<i>Stephanie Voigt & Melissa Moran</i>	<i>3-year olds</i>
<i>Lisa Anderson & Julie Erickson</i>	<i>4-year olds</i>
<i>Kerry Olson & Patti Weber</i>	<i>Kindergarten</i>
<i>Chrissy Oswald & Becky Wangerin</i>	<i>1st Grade</i>
<i>Kim Dalzell</i>	<i>2nd Grade</i>
<i>Tiffany McAlpine, Charlene Goetsch & Faith Wokasch</i>	<i>3rd & 4th Grades</i>
<i>Paul Eull & Kevin Rysdahl</i>	<i>5th & 6th Grades</i>
<i>Barb & Luther Rogness</i>	<i>7th & 8th Grades</i>

Thank you for making our Sunday School program such a success!

Life in Christ VBS 2010

August 8-12

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Age 4 through 4th grade

Hot Dog Kick-Off

August 8 at 5:45 p.m.

Have you heard the latest BUZZ?
Can you hear the HUM?



The VBS Hive is filling fast!! Please sign up your little Honey Bees soon. The deadline for sign up is July 1st!! Registration forms can be found in the Narthex.

We are still in need of Worker Bees!! This includes middle school, high school students and adults!! Students will receive community/volunteer service credits needed for graduation. Please sign-up on the bottom of the registration form if you want to help out.

If you have any questions, give us a BUZZ!

Pam Pitman (763-497-5292)
Becky Trask (763-428-2307)
Lisa Anderson (763-370-8821)

New Members

Randy & Sandy Nuelk
Kristie DuPaul
Bill & Allysa Meyer

How did the Squirrel Cross the Road?

If you've done any driving around here, you have probably had opportunity to witness the wild frenzy which is a squirrel crossing the road. The poor little guys simply do not know how to do it!

And they make such a nice start as they dash out into the street. If they would only remain committed to their course they would be successful. But no, this is not the squirrel way. The approach of a car sends them into a moment of severe indecisiveness. Sometimes they turn back; other times they turn back only to change their mind again and return to the original course; still other times they freeze and face the oncoming car. And since the squirrel twitches in different directions each time, the driver of said car cannot possibly know what to do. Lots and lots of squirrels die because of their lack of street crossing skills.

One of the highly vaunted principles of evolutionary thought is what is known as the survival-of-the-fittest. According to this doctrine, it is said that those who are smarter and stronger will survive long enough to mate and perpetuate their good traits while those who are not so strong and smart will not survive. Through this process of "natural selection", animals supposedly evolve into higher life forms.

So in our squirrel-crossing-the-road situation, the bad road crossers should die off and not be allowed to reproduce while the good road crossers will survive and be allowed to reproduce. But after a hundred years of automobiles a new species of urban squirrel should be rising; one which is street smart and knows how to cross the road safely. But sadly, this is not the case. Squirrels are just as dumb about road crossing as they ever were. They die by the droves each year all over the country.

This raises some serious questions about the whole survival-of-the-fittest doctrine which purports to be the explanation for life in all of its forms.

According to the theory, survival is what also made human beings the way we are today. So what part of having no fur works towards our survival? Almost every other mammal has fur; we do not. According to evolutionary thought, we gradually lost our fur as we evolved. Why? Why wouldn't it go the other way? So as part of survival, we lose a layer of insulation that protects us from both cold and heat? That is pure silliness!

And what about things like our aptitude and appreciation for poetry, art, and the making of music? What possible survival situation would cause the development of these very strong human traits? Did our supposed apeman predecessors fend off the T-Rex by cracking off a nice Haiku or a three-part harmony?

We would survive quite well, without poetry, music, humor, laughter and the like. True, life would be rather plain, but we would survive. Actually, one could argue that music, poetry, and art hinder the survival of our species because we tend to spend too much time engaged in it.

Survival-of-the-fittest seems like such a smart way of explaining why we are the way we are. But it doesn't really stand up to scrutiny. Most evolutionary theories are like this. It sounds great and baffles the minds of the young, but doesn't really hold up well when questioned.

How about this: we are the way we are because God made us this way. We are different from the animals because he ordained us to be so. We are hairless, poetry, art, and music liking creatures with a sense of self and a desire for purpose and meaning because God made us in His image. How about that? It's not about survival, it's about a God who lovingly created us and all living things in all of their poetic variety.

Pastor Trask

Men's Bible Study

On Tuesday, June 1, we are going to start a study of Islam via a CD program entitled: "Islam Rising." There are four 40-minute segments. Hopefully, we can cover one segment each week during the month of June. Our task will be to review the Quran passages against what Scripture says or doesn't say. We invite the men of the congregation to join us as we review these presentations with an emphasis on "what does the Bible say".

The Men's Bible Study class meets every Tuesday evening beginning at 7:00PM. Our goal is to finish by 8:30PM. Each class begins with prayer, usually the assigned Collect for the Day for the coming Sunday worship. We close each session with individual prayers and the Lord's Prayer. Come join us. The CD presentations are "stand alone" lessons and you can pick and choose sessions based on your interest. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Zander [612-816-5830] or Fraine Zeitler [763-497-3468]. As Phillip told Nathanael, "Come and see." [John 1:46] See what God is doing here in the midst of the men here at Life in Christ.

Congratulations High School Grads!

*Jacob Barker
Sarah Bauer
Ariel Ehlenz
Nathan Knop
Taylor Marsh*

*Ryan Scharlau
Brandon Smith
Coley Thompson
Anthony Trebesch
Tiffany Wiskur*

ДУПАК-do-ROCK—fool

1 Corinthians 1:18 ¶ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

April fools day is not really a big Russian holiday, but it is beginning to catch on. Why Russia imports so many of the questionable practices from Western Culture and not the more positive aspects, I suppose is more evidence of original sin, but that is not where I want to go with this introduction. Christians by worldly standards are “fools.” Why? Well, from a worldly perspective, because we often sacrifice things in our own lives, comfort, material wealth, and so forth, in order to spread the Gospel and help others, it often happens that some people will take advantage of our kindness and mercy. We may also be considered fools for forgiving those who have wronged us, allowing those who have sinned against us to “get away” with something at our expense. And woe to us if we actually turn the other cheek, respond to evil with good (how foolish does it look to the world if someone curses you out while driving down the freeway and you smile and wave?).

I remember back in 1995 when I was getting ready to go to Russia as a volunteer missionary with LCMS World Mission. What city I would be placed in, what my exact duties would be, where I would live and so forth, I was told, would be decided during on field orientation—so I had to go forward in trust. My friends, however, thought I was crazy traveling half way around the world and not knowing where I was going to live or what I was going to do—besides “try to spread the Gospel.” Most foolish.

Still, I do not think I am fool enough for the Gospel—I still get concerned about how we are going to live, what I am going to do next, whether or not people really care (I know they need the Gospel, but so often they don’t seem to want it—and sometimes when I witness, their rebuffs can make me feel foolish for opening my mouth). But I pray that I may be more of a fool for Christ, a more brave, more foolish witness to the Gospel, for in truth, the fools are those who reject God’s existence, His Word, reject His Wisdom. As Christians we need to pity the fool, love them and reach out to them.

In Between

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

This month, like all months, I had the usual work to do—a seminar on God as Father for the St. Mary’s “admission free—discussion club.” I traveled to Turyo to help with Bible study, work with youth and work with the Church leaders, I led English worship, led morning devotions at the central Church offices, continued to work with the local scout troop and so forth (this month I was also asked to write an article for the Ingrian Lutheran Journal). I list these things to make a point—not all the work I do, as I always feel I could do more—but rather, when I see the pictures I take every month, I realize that most of what I do doesn’t get photographed.

What do I mean? Well, as much as I enjoy seminars and leading worship, the most effective witnessing I do happens in between—one on one with unbelievers, nominal believers and believers. For instance, a couple times a month I go to the public banya with a doctor I know. Although he considers himself a Christian (Russian Orthodox), he sees no conflict with this and believing in incarnation, past lives and so forth. So we talk, I listen, and answer along these lines—that is not my faith, my understanding of death as a Christian is different, as it says in the Bible, we die only once (Heb 9:27). Then we join our Heavenly Father and await the resurrection. Who would want to live this life all over again?

I occasionally go to a local café with one of the scout leaders after the scout meetings. Again, he claims to be Christian, but as we sit and talk about different things, usually about the time I need to leave to go home, he pops up with a faith question that necessitates another hour of discussion (there have been times I have had to say, “let’s save that for next time, as it is already late.” Talking with people after seminars, talking with pastors over lunch or tea, talking with parishioners after worship service, a chance conversation with strangers waiting in line at the Russian immigration offices, or my son or daughter asking a question while we are walking to the park—these instances may even be more important than my “scheduled” events. No matter how hard I have worked on a sermon or seminar, no matter how well I have prepared and no matter how well things seem to have gone, I have come to learn that it is especially during the in-between times that I need to be most prepared to listen, witness, teach, correct and encourage.

God is with me in these moments, and I often think that God has me here more for those side moments than the “big” things I try to accomplish. Although such moments don’t make for a photo op, I am learning I need to make more “in-between” time for my family, for my co-workers and fellow pastors, for those attending seminars and for strangers in line. I think of Jesus—the Samaritan woman at the well, Peter on the beach, Zacchaeus at the dinner table, Pilate in the courtroom. Each individual soul is important, and reaching them does not take a preacher, an new evangelism program, or a revival movement—it just takes each Christian finding time “in-between” to listen, to witness to the truth of Jesus Christ and His love for each of us.

Prayer Requests

Continue to pray for our good friend Marilyn Wolf (she has a great love for Russian and Lutheranism and has been a great source of help and encouragement). She has pancreatic cancer and by human reckoning will soon join the Church triumphant. Pray for Zhanya as she continues working at the central Church offices heading up the pro-life project. She has been asked to write an article for the Church journal and she needs to write her first pro-life prayerletter (which I will then translate). Pray for Karl and Nastya as they study—Nastya especially is struggling with spelling in English. Pray for the preparations that are underway for summer evangelism—we are helping with some short term evangelism groups that are coming over to do English language camps with the Ingrian Church (this is rather intensive). Pray for my work with the various individuals, that my witness may remain strong without compromise, but at the same time in the spirit of our Lord’s love and truth. Pray for Pastor Kudratzov, Pastor Boichenko in Nizhniy Novgorod, Herman, Alexander, Denis, Pavil, Sergei, Eduard,

Another Word for Fool

Russian language like all human languages has many different words for insulting a person’s intelligence. Another word which transcribed into English would be “tupitza” –pronounced “two-pizza” is even more insulting than the “dorock.” So the urban legend in St. Petersburg has it that one poor tourist got himself punched in the nose when he walked into the local pizza hut and told the cashier, “two pizzas please.” Not everyone understands good English.

*If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, you can say He died for all,
If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment’s dread alarms
You can lead the little children to the Saviors waiting arms.*

TLH #496 v2

In Christ,
Leif & Zhanya Camp

CONTACT ADDRESSES Feedback, questions, whatever are most welcome.

Our Russian home address: Leif and Zhanya Camp 18 line V. O. dom 43 Kv. 7 St. Petersburg, Russia, 199178	Stateside contact address: Leif and Zhanya Camp, C/O Marli Camp 902 N. 12 th Melrose Park, IL, 60160	Russian Lutheran Church Address: Ev. Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia Bolshaya Konyushennaya dom 8a St. Peterburg, Russia, 191186
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Telephone: after getting an international line by dialing 011, dial 7- 812 (our area code) 321-1508(our phone number)

Note—Between St. Petersburg and central US time, the difference is 9 hours. Stateside contact telephone: 708-344-4472

E-MAIL: izkcamp@mail.ru & leif.camp@elci.ru. Please feel free to share this prayerletter with your Church, friends, or enemies if it might help (just please do not quote things out of context or edit my words in such a way as to change their intent). If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, simply email me directly and ask!



Missionaries Jack and Kathy Carlos update

Jack and Kathy Carlos are completing their French studies in Albertville, France, and will be returning home on June 25 for the summer before their departure to Guinea, West Africa. Please keep them in your prayers as they make their final preparations.

You can keep up-to-date by visiting their blog at carlostribe.wordpress.com

“June—what a crazy month!” June used to be the most popular month for weddings so much so that “June brides” became a part of our vocabulary. Now there may be months when more weddings take place, but June is still a hectic, busy month. Not only are there weddings, but there are also graduations, vacations, plans for vacations and other summer activities. So much happens that it can get overwhelming and take the joy out of such a special month.

The same thing can be true of our lives as God’s stewards. When we starting thinking about stewardship as the managing of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes, we can also get overwhelmed. Stewardship is not just about time, talents and treasure [the well-known three T’s] but also about our stewardship of sharing the good news of Jesus, the building and maintaining of relationships, the care of our bodies, the care of God’s creation, and so much more. The challenge of being a good steward of all that God has entrusted to us can be so big that we might be tempted to simply give up! But, to do so would rob us of some of life’s greatest joys!

Stewardship is not meant to be an overwhelming thing but rather the best way to live in this world. People seek purpose and meaning in their lives. They want to make a difference! They want their lives to be bigger than themselves. Being God’s redeemed stewards is one of the best ways for bringing that real meaning and purpose to our lives. It helps us to identify who and whose we are. We are God’s redeemed stewards who have been chosen and equipped to manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Can anything be better than that??? Not for people who appreciate the great sacrifice that Jesus made to set us free from our sinful and selfish condition and help us to be the children of God in thoughts, words and actions.

St. Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote these words to Titus and us: ***“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘no’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.”***

How wonderful it is that by God’s grace we are called, gathered and enlightened to live in a way that gives due glory to God and blessings to our fellow stewards! As God’s children we are in this together so we can encourage others and, in return, be encouraged by others!

“God’s redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes!” What a blessed life that is!