

Cross Words

Monthly Newsletter of Cross Ev. Lutheran Church

September 2012 Volume 12, Issue 9

****Prominent People of the Bible**

***Peter***

*Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16)*

 One of the more interesting figures we meet in the Bible is Peter. He was a unique individual. At times, he could be impulsive, bold and brash—brushing up against arrogance. At other times, he was a lonely, insecure man. Perhaps, that is what makes Peter so appealing to us because we see a bit of our own selves in him.

 Peter was a fisherman, a seasoned veteran who had navigated and fished the waters of the Sea of Galilee. Fishing was his life—or so he thought.

 It was after an unsuccessful night of fishing that Peter’s life changed—forever. As he and his brother, Andrew, rowed towards shore, a crowd began to gather at the shoreline. The center of attention was Jesus. This wasn’t Peter’s first meeting with the renowned prophet. A previous encounter had brought the two together. On that occasion, Jesus told Peter that he would be known as Cephas, Aramaic for “rock.”

On that day Jesus reached out again to Peter. “Follow me, and I will make you fishers-of-men” were his simple but powerful words to Peter.

 Peter, indeed, did follow. He could only marvel at what he observed. He witnessed firsthand the miracles performed by Jesus: changing of water into wine; feeding of the 5,000; healing of the blind, lame and mute; raising of the dead. Peter knew that Jesus was no mere prophet as some had thought. Given the opening to express his faith to Jesus, Peter boldly proclaimed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

 Peter’s proclamation identified Jesus as the Messiah that the prophets had written about in the Old Testament. He was the Savior, the Son of God, whom God promised to send because he loved the world that he created. Jesus was the “Lamb of God,” who came to be sacrificed on a cross to take away Peter’s sins and those of the entire world.

 Peter needed that Savior. He wasn’t always the rock he appeared to be. At times, he was more like shifting sand blown by every wind of thought or brushed aside by selfish pride and arrogance.

 In faith, Peter turned to his new friend and Savior who gave him hope and peace—even when his life hit rock bottom. Isn’t that the peace you want too? Like Peter, we would like to share it with you!

**Graphic for Peter: *Fish***

Peter was a fisherman before Jesus called him. The fish is a symbol for Peter's work of sharing the gospel as a “Fisher of Men”.

**More information is located online at WhatAboutJesus.com. Look for the *What About … Prominent People* link.**

**Important Questions –**

 **Important Answers**

# How do you know your church is the right one?

 Sometimes people grow up in a church and never think about whether they are in the right church. They get married in a church perhaps because their family always belonged to the church. Perhaps they liked the way the church looked. Maybe they liked the pastor or priest. Maybe the church was warm and friendly. Maybe it was just down the block from their house. Which church is the right one? Before we answer that question, don’t we need to find out what is meant by “the right one”?

 Does right mean what is right for you? If it’s right for you, does that mean it might not be right for someone else? If we mean which church is right for you, then what is right means what you decide is right. With that thinking, churches become like flowers. All you have to do is pick the one that looks the prettiest to you. You decide which pastor or priest you like the best and which group of people makes you feel the most welcome. People decide what is right and what is not right—one church is right for you, and another is right for someone else.

 But what if right means something different? What if right means “correct” or “true”? Then we are asking which church has the right teaching. That changes things, doesn’t it? When we ask which church is the correct church, we want to know something about what the church stands for and teaches. We can skip over how beautiful the church is or how large it is. Those things may be important, but something more important is at stake.

 In order for a church to be right, it has to teach what God wants. People don’t decide which church is right, God does. He says the church is right when it teaches the truth of his Word. Remember Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). If a large, beautiful church doesn’t stand for the right things, it can’t be true or right.

 Only the Bible teaches what is right about Jesus. Our church teaches what the Bible teaches. So we know that our church is right because it teaches the truth about Jesus. We might not be the largest church or the most impressive on the outside. We try to make everyone feel welcome, but sometimes we fail. We’re sorry about that and promise to do better. But people come to our church because that’s where they hear the truth about Jesus. Without him, nothing else matters.

**![C:\Users\church office\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\QDEIEE37\MC900383922[1].wmf]()BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

 Sunday Morning Bible Study begins Sunday, Sept 9 at 10:15 am. We meet in the basement fellowship hall. Coffee, juice and goodies are served.

 We will begin a study called ***Families of the Bible.*** We will look at some biblical families and see what they can teach us concerning issues that face families today. Make plans to attend (especially if you are waiting for your children to get out of Sunday School).

 Walnut Bible Study (named for where it meets – in the family room at the Walnut Apartments at the west end of town, behind Nortog’s meats) will start on Monday, Sept 10 at 9:30 am. The ***End Times –*** *Jesus is Coming Soon* will be our subject, as we look at what the Bible teaches and does not teach about this sometimes confusing and frightening subject.

**Men’s Breakfast Bible Study**

This month’s edition of MBBS will be held on Saturday, Sept 15 at 9:00 am. The breakfast menu will include the ever-popular “Toads-in-a-Hole” (a unique version of French toast).

 We will be starting a new study – ***How Can They Teach That?*** *(And Still Claim to Believe The Bible).* This study looks at how some church bodies adopt doctrinal positions so obviously contrary to Scripture, for example, concerning creation, women in the ministry, homosexuality and life issues. This is a good opportunity to review what the Bible teaches on these subjects, and how some twist or ignore what God’s Word says.

 Men, plan to come and enjoy the fellowship, food and growing in God’s Word.



**CROSS LIGHTS** will have a special meeting on Thursday, **SEPT 6, 7:30 PM**, to discuss a plan for funeral lunches and other special events at church, as well as the future of Cross LIGHTS as an organization.

**![C:\Users\church office\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\TJAA29L5\MC900310354[1].wmf]()Sunday School** begins on **Sunday, Sept 9 at 10:15 am.** Children in preschool through 8th grade are invited to attend. Sunday School is a tool parents can use to help them in the spiritual training of their children. It is also an outreach tool that can be used, as you invite unchurched friends or neighbors to send their children. Support our Sunday School with students and prayers.

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**Our BANNER COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, Sept 10th & 24th at 7:00 pm.**

**Senior Fellowship – 9/27**

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Thursday, Sept 27 is the day Senior Fellowship will meet here at church when we will have a soup & sandwich lunch, a brief Bible Study and set the agenda for the next few months

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**CHOIR**

 The Choir will begin practice for the 2012-13 year on Sept 5, at 8:00 pm.

 The choir is in need of more and new voices, especially female voices. Don’t worry if you can’t read music. The choir director is very patient and supportive!!

**HANDBELLS STARTS PRACTICE ON**

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**SEPT 4TH AT**

**7:00 PM .** If are in-

terested in being part of

Handbells, contact Lorriane Roush at 763-682-3138.

**![C:\Users\church office\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IV3N3RDP\MC900391328[1].wmf]() MT OLIVE 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**SERVICE**

**Sept. 16 – 2:00 PM**

The members of our congregation are invited to join our sister congregation in celebrating 100 years of God’s blessings on their congregation.

**Crow River Conference Fall Pastoral Conference**

The pastor will be attending this pastors’ conference Sept 24th and 25th in Morris MN.

**Mission Festival Sunday**

Sunday, September 30th will be “Mission Festival Sunday” at Cross. Rev Charles Degner of St Peter, MN, president of the Minnesota District of the WELS, will be the guest preacher.

 There will be a Mission Festival dinner following Sunday School and Bible Study on that day. (More details will be forthcoming in the bulletin.)

**CATECHISM INSTRUCTION CLASS**

On Monday, Sept 10, the 2012-13 year will begin for our Catechism Instruction Class (6th through 8th Grade). Class runs from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information, speak to the pastor.

**New from the**

**Central Africa Medical Mission**

Lutheran Mobile Clinic

July End-of-the-Month Letter

The dry and cool month of July lived up to its name of being a typically slow month for the clinic. Don’t worry, we still had plenty of work to keep us busy, but instead of having 300 patients in our sick line, the numbers decreased to about 150 patients each day. I’m thankful there were no measles outbreaks like in July of 2010, and no riots in the city of Lilongwe like in July of 2011. The fuel shortages that kept us worrying for over a year have seemed to dissipate… Overall, July has been as expected.

It’s also a month of transition for LMC. Kari returned from her vacation in the USA ready to continue work with the clinic as I wrapped up my work and prepare to leave Malawi in a few weeks.

Naturally, this is a time to reflect on the past few years of life in Malawi with Lutheran Mobile Clinic. I feel privileged to have witnessed some of the experiences here. I will never forget when a mother brought her premature infant to clinic and the pastor was able to baptize the child before we took them to the hospital. I will never forget the teenage boy diagnosed with diabetes and abandoned by his family. That young boy joined in to sing the hymn that morning at clinic. I will not forget the struggles and joys I shared together with my fellow Malawian nurses. I will not forget the sound of the church choir on a Sunday morning. Yes, this has been a great privilege.

It was very fitting today as I joined in with the two Kingdom Workers Volunteers as they were playing with a group of children. They were teaching the children some new songs and we ended with one of my favorites, which you also might have learned in Sunday school: “He’s got the whole world in his hands.”

I also wanted to end with a sincere thank you to all who support this mission. My work and experiences here would not have been possible without the support from churches and schools in the USA and Canada.

Together in Christ,

Melissa

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever”… This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else… Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:8-15 (selected verses)*

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

[**Psalm 1:1-3**](http://biblegateway.com/cgi-bin/bible?language=english&version=102&interface=print&passage=Psalm+1%3A1-3&KeepThis=true&TB_iframe=true&height=400&width=600)

Amazingly, there are many people who feel that their life has amounted to nothing. You hear it from all kinds and all ages, “I’m just not happy.” Are you one of those people?

If living for pleasure has been your life’s mission, if self-indulgence has been your mode of operation, and if doing what you want when you want has been your rally cry, don’t be surprised that you are not happy. You are chasing foolishness. You are living a meaningless life. You are following the way of the wicked. And perhaps what makes you the unhappiest is the guilt of it all.

But what if you could be the person who lives forgiven and guilt-free? What if you could be the person who knows exactly where life is going? What if you could be the person who impacts people’s lives forever?

In Christ Jesus, you are that person. Because of Jesus’ perfect life and innocent death, you are forgiven and guilt-free. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and your faith in him, you are going to heaven. And because of Jesus’ salvation for the world, you are privileged to let others know what he did for them. Now that’s being blessed. That’s true happiness. That’s prospering.

So that the happiness you have right now lasts more than the brief moments of this devotion, continue to grow in faith. Never forget that you are like a plant that needs a regular water supply. If you are going to survive, even thrive, you need to be connected to that water supply. That supply is the precious words of the Lord in the Bible. And you’ll find every day you meditate on those words “that you have life, and have it to the full” ([John 10:10](http://biblegateway.com/cgi-bin/bible?language=english&version=102&interface=print&passage=John+10%3A10&KeepThis=true&TB_iframe=true&height=400&width=600)). Because of Christ Jesus!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me see that true lasting happiness is found in Jesus and the power of your Word. Amen.

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**SEPTEMBER**1 – Tyler Hanson2 – Joseph Hickman3 – Al Witte3 – Carl Mutterer3 – Don Pivec3 - James Reader4 – Bruce Vergin7 – Mike Kettenacker7 – Becky Torgerson10 – Joe Marschel11 – Aaron Ernst12 – Bart Skafte14 – Ervin Vergin14 – Brittany Hesse14 – Millie Dorma14 – Jeremy Heibel16 – Becky Barlow17 – Diane Krause18 – Sarah Ebling19 – Dain Biorn19 – Sue Hulzebos24 – Paul Norby25 – Janice Skafte25- Doris Leerssen29 – Raya Zimmeermann30 – John VanDeWalker30 – Ken Barlau30 – Rose Krause30 – Cindy Wandersee  Happy Birthday to all !!! If we missed your birthday contact someone in the church office!Thanks |

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