

The Spotlight

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March 2010

Lent is a Time to Repent

Great Lent is the 40 day season of spiritual preparation that comes before the most important Feast of the Christian year, Holy Pascha (which means 'Passover') and is commonly called 'Easter'. The main theme during this time is 'repentance' - mankind's return to God, our loving heavenly Father. The two great means of repentance used by the saints throughout Christian history are those of prayer and fasting.

Melinda and I are engaged in our Lenten fast which you already know means we go 'vegan'. This year I ramped it up a notch and did a strict fast (nothing but water) for the first three days. That was an interesting exercise, but now that the days of strict fasting are over until Holy Week I've settled into thinking about the whole concept of repentance. The word is well-known to us Christians but how well do we really understand it?

-John the Baptist came preaching:

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

-Jesus began his ministry by saying:

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

-The Twelve were sent out to preach that men should repent.

-On the day of Pentecost Peter preached:

"Repent, and let each of you be baptized

in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

-On Mars Hill the Apostle Paul proclaimed to the Athenians: "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent."

So, what does the word 'repent' mean? Here is a clear description from one of my Greek Lexicons: Repent - to change one's way of life as the result of a complete change of thought and attitude with regard to sin and righteousness.

In English a focal component of repentance is the sorrow or contrition that a person experiences because of sin. The emphasis in Greek seems to be more specifically the total change, both in thought and behavior, with respect to how one should both think and act. Whether the focus is upon attitude or behavior varies somewhat in different contexts.

So why the emphasis on repentance each year during the Lenten season? I suspect because during the rest of the year it is all too easy for us to drift back into old patterns and habits that lead us away from God rather than closer to him. Repentance is the change in direction we must make in order to set ourselves back on the path to God and nearer to Jesus.

Lake Beauty Sunday is March 14

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! You have been called to freedom and to serve one another in love. This summer we invite you to come and meet Jesus, King of Eleutheria ("Freedom") as we learn what it means to live in freedom! Discover how in serving one another in the name of the King you can find freedom and purpose for the life to which you have been called.

Please join us for Camp Sunday on March 14th for an informational time during the Sunday school hour with Brian Alnes, Lake Beauty Bible Camp's executive director, to hear what has been happening at LBBC and what great opportunities are available for the entire family this summer.

Information sheets on summer camp, including dates and prices are in the boxes of families with kids eligible for camp. Lake Beauty summer camp registration

brochures for youth and family camps are in the hall rack. Summer camp registrations are due to Lisa Lucas on March 28 for the early registration discount.

Brian Alnes will also be bringing our morning message during worship on the 14th. We look forward to having Brian and his family come back to SRCC. Brian served as youth pastor at SRCC in 2000-2001.

March Retreats

3 Quilting Retreats - March 12-14, 15-18, 19-21. See registration brochures in the hall rack.

Men's Retreat March 26-28

See the March LBBC newsletter posted on the bulletin board along with the 2010 schedule.

Bible Quizzing Update

February Results

Little League - *Bought at a Price*
Ashton & Taylor's team placed 1st.
Taylor placed 1st and Ashton tied for 2nd for individual standings.

A-B League - *New Batch of Dough*
Seth, Grace, & Kohl's team placed 2nd.
Grace placed 4th for individuals.

March 13 is the last quiz for this season. There will be a special event during this quiz called "Jump Start" for kids in elementary school through high school

who are interested in finding out what quizzing is all about. You will have an opportunity to review and answer general Bible knowledge questions on the book of John and then answer questions in a fun, friendly, and competitive way. No preparation is required. You are invited to stay for pizza afterward. Jump Start will be from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Worship and devotions begin at 1:00 p.m. For which you are welcome. Visit rochesterbiblequizzing.org for more information. Boyums and Hansons would also be glad to answer any questions.

FIRST SUNDAY FIKA March 7

Please join us from 8:50 - 9:20 a.m. for some good fresh baking, coffee, tea, and juice along with good visiting.

New Sunday School Class

Beginning March 7, Dave Danielson will teach the adult class titled : *Elijah & El-isha: Stories of history and mystery, heroes and villains, miracles and faith.*

He will begin with Solomon's reign and how that got derailed in later years, and led to the nation splitting into two kingdoms. Then he will do a quick run through the various kings; looking at who was a good guy and who was a bad guy, up until Ahab. Then enters Elijah, and his story is off and running.

Sticks and Scones

You are invited to Melinda Evinger's on Saturday, March 13 from 10-12. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other handwork. RSVP to Melinda so there will be plenty of scones for everyone.

April Dates

April 4 - Easter Brunch right after Easter Worship Celebration at 11 a.m. Watch for sign up sheets.

April 18 - Women's Spring Fling - An evening of great food and a guest speaker

Weddings

Congratulations to Val Williams and Zach Magnuson who will be married on March 27th in Northfield. Val will be moving to Northfield and will be missed here at SRCC.



- 1 - Joel Heuton
- 1 - Karen Novinger
- 3 - Calli Reihnart
- 3 - Laura Dewanz
- 3 - Sonja Reimer
- 4 - Bettie Capps
- 6 - Samuel Ouverson
- 8 - Lydia Gustafson
- 9 - Curt Capps
- 10- Terry Therneau
- 19 - Jim Hopkins
- 21 - Mikkell Johnson
- 22 - Ian Naatz
- 23 - Olivia Reimer
- 24 - Lisa Lucas
- 30 - Matt Iott

March Anniversaries

- 7 - Al & Beth Bergstrom
- 20 - Seth & Donia Robinson
- 21- Jerry & Margaret Huebner
- 30 - Curt & Bettie Capps

Set Up

- 7 - Heikes
- 14 - Hokanson
- 21 - Huebner
- 28 - Iott

Ushers

- Reimer
- Hanson
- Therneau
- Engstler

Greeters

- 7 - Roberts
- 14 - Bjaastad
- 21 - Lewis
- 28 - Stewart

Nursery

- Evinger
- Robinson
- Roberts
- Reimer

Community Events

March 4 - 7:00 p.m. Haiti Benefit Concert
at Calvary Evangelical Free Church
by Jill Pearson and Dorkham

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March 5 - 7:30 p.m. Aaron Shust Concert
Autumn Ridge Church

Tickets: \$20 general or \$30 gold circle
On sale at Cristos Bookcenter or online:
AutumnRidgeChurch.org

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March 6 - 8 p.m. Choral Arts Ensemble
at Zumbro Lutheran Church

March 7 - 2 p.m. Choral Arts Ensemble at
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

Tickets: \$25, \$15, \$10 (students)

At the office: 252-8427 or
www.ChoralArtsEnsemble.org

See the poster in the hall.

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March 7 - 5:00-7:30 p.m. Taste of Town
Rochester International Event Center
To support Salvation Army's Good Samaritan
Health Clinic

Tickets: \$40 at Salvation Army 288-3663
or from Ann Sand at Sterling State Bank
252-7220

March 2 - Hearing the Voice of God
7 week Prophetic Ministry Course at Des-
tiny Church at 7:00 p.m.

One of the ways God speaks is through
prophetic words. I Corinthians 14:1 says
"Follow the way of love and eagerly de-
sire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of
prophecy - for everyone who prophesies
speaks to men for their strengthening,
encouragement and comfort." Contact
Ron Peterson for more information.

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April 9 - *Laugh for Life* Fundraiser for
New Life Family Services at Assembly of
God Church

Entertainment by Covenant Comedian,
Bob Stromberg with opening act by
Kristen Spielman

More details at www.nlfs.org

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April 23-24 - Devoted Hearts Women's
Event, *The Treasured Truth* at Autumn
Ridge Church

Tickets: \$39 through March 31
\$44 after March 31

See the poster on the bulletin board.

Community Opportunities

March is Minnesota FoodShare
month. The Channel One barrel will be in
the hall for five Sundays, February 28 -
March 28. Your donations of non-perish-
able food items are appreciated to help
feed people in need and reduce hunger
in our community. The Food Shelf distrib-
uted more than 2.96 million pounds of
food during 2009 - much with the assis-
tance of the faith community.

Elder Network needs volunteers for
Friendly Visiting and driving to appoint-
ments. This opportunity to help an elder-
ly person in our community is flexible
and can fit your schedule when you are
available. Call 285-5272 to find out more
and help make a difference in the life of
someone who needs your help.

What Do These Places All Have in Common?

Achaia, Antioch, Asia, Athens, Azotus, Berea, Bithynia, Caesarea, Cilicia, Colosse, Corinth, Crete, Cyprus, Cyrene, Dalmatia, Damascus, Derbe, Ephesus, Ethiopia, Galatia, Galilee, Hierapolis, Iconium, Jericho, Jerusalem, Joppa, Judea, Laodicea, Lydda, Lycia, Lystra, Macedonia, Miletus, Nicopolis, Paphos, Perga, Pergamos, Philadelphia, Philippi, Phoenicia, Phrygia, Pisidia, Pontus, Ptolemais, Puteoli, Rome, Salamis, Samaria, Sardis, Sharon, Sidon, Smyrna, Syria, Tarsus, Thessalonica, Thyatira, Tyre...

As recorded in Acts 2 through Revelation 3, these 57 places are where new churches were planted in the first 60 years after Pentecost. Several of these are regions, so there are many more churches that are not identified by name.

In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus speaks to seven of these churches and openly evaluates their spiritual state. Paul, Peter, James, and others wrote letters to believers at many of the other churches warning them about worldly temptations and the consequences of their behavior. Most churches received some praise as well as warnings and encouragement to keep doing better.

What would Jesus have to say about Salem Road Covenant Church? What kind of praise might we receive? How might He admonish us to do better? Is there anything about us that would grieve Him? The New Testament highlights three categories of Christians:

Paul praises wholehearted believers - *"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching*

to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Romans 6:17-18. James admonishes doubters - *"...for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."* James 1:6-8.

Paul rebukes the worldly - *"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it."* 1 Cor. 3:1-2.

All these were accepted as true believers in Christ, but at three different levels of maturity. I have found myself in each of these three categories at one time or other.

Although we may strive to serve wholeheartedly, we often fail. To succeed consistently, always take God at His word, seek His guidance without doubting, and obey His commands without wavering, then He can complete His work in us.

How would Jesus evaluate us at Salem Road Covenant Church? That's a good question to ponder.

~ Jerry Huebner

