

Shepherd of Peace

The Monthly Pastoral Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church and Academy
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Our Father Who Art in Heaven...

*The following meditation is from Every Day Will I Bless Thee
By Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr.*

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Whom are we calling *our Father*, when we say the Lord's Prayer? We are addressing God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. Him we call Father here. But He is Father first because He has a Son, the Only-begotten, from eternity. God is eternally Father and Son, as well as Holy Ghost. So it is well that Jesus in prayer should address God as Father. Jesus does not pray to Himself, though He is eternal God of God; rather, He prays to His Father from eternity. But now we see what He says: When *you* pray, say, Our Father. See what high privilege is

granted in this instruction. He bids us to pray as He does, and to call His Father our Father. But if this is so, is He not likewise bidding us to call Himself our Brother? Therefore He is giving in this most excellent prayer a means of expression for our most holy baptismal, Trinitarian faith. For it is due to and springing from Baptism in His Trinitarian name that we call upon Him; thus we call upon our Father as siblings of the Son, in the faith supplied by the Holy Ghost.

News and Notes

Congregational Budget Forum was held on Sunday, March 26. Thanks to all of the members who attended. During the forum, the proposed 2006-2007 Congregation, Academy, and CCA budgets was presented. Also, the members in attendance were updated on the "Reducing the Debt" campaign, given statistical information, and information on Funding the Academy (including a copy of the *Funding the Academy* booklet). The Forum was in preparation for voting on the budgets at the May Congregational Meeting. If any who attended have questions or comments about the material that was presented, please contact Deacon Gatchell, Jason Petersen, Bob Heise, Jeannine Gabel, Pat Handlos, Randy Kirk, Doug Westrich, or Jim Weber. Elders have contacted members who were unable to attend the forum. Two make-up sessions have already taken place. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Gatchell.

The Congregational Assembly (Voters' Assembly) meets on Monday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the proposed budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Included on the agenda for this meeting will be a proposal concerning the new Lutheran Service Book hymnal.

4th Annual Academy Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, May 13, at the Songbird Hills Golf Club. Start getting your foursomes together. We encourage you to invite friends and family members to this fun day of golf. There will be various hole prizes, chances to win prizes for making a hole-in-one, a putting competition and various raffle prizes. In addition, after golfing, there will be a dinner, with a raffle and silent auction. You do not need to golf to attend the dinner and silent auction! Informational fliers and registration forms are available at the Scrip counter in the narthex.

Scrip Sales Soar! March was Scrip Awareness Month and we want to thank all of those who used the Scrip Program as a means of supporting the funding of the Academy. Hopefully, you found how easy it is to shop with Scrip and will continue to do so. Details about how to maximize using Scrip are in the **Funding the Academy** booklet (as well as several other programs). Remember, every time you shop with Scrip, you are giving a gift to the Academy!

CCA Materials to be Translated! Our congregation, through the work of the CCA, will be assisting in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to tens of thousands of people on two continents! The CCA has formed a partnership with the Luther Academy and the Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation (CLEF) to participate in mission projects in South America and Africa. The mission project in South America primarily involves the Lutheran Church in Chile. The CCA will provide two sets of our catechetical materials free of charge to the Lutheran Church in Chile. The Lutheran Church in Chile will translate the materials into Spanish and then have the right to publish and distribute the materials in its congregations and schools. The Church has already decided to use our materials for catechetical instruction in all of their schools. Additionally, the Lutheran Church in Chile will have the right to market the materials to other Lutheran church bodies in South America (the churches in Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay have already expressed an interest in them). CLEF will provide some of the funding for the project and the Luther Academy will provide coordination during the project. The CCA will receive a copy of all translated materials for our archives and have the rights to publish and market the Spanish materials in North America.

A similar project is being organized by the Luther Academy, with several Lutheran church bodies in Africa to coordinate translating our materials into Swahili, Zulu, and Afrikaans languages. Once translated into these languages, our materials will be used by the participating church bodies as part of their mission outreach.

The Luther Academy would like Pastor Bender to travel to Africa and South America to conduct classes on catechesis with the Lutheran pastors in these countries. Deacon Gatchell may also visit with the translators and leaders during each project. Because of the poverty of these fledgling church bodies, the CCA's participation may include paying for Pastor's and Deacon's travel expenses.

These are exciting opportunities for our congregation to have direct involvement in international mission work. We ask that our members keep workers involved in these projects in your prayers and pray that the Lord of the harvest will bless these efforts.

Reducing the Debt Update

March 1, 2006

Every month the bulletin or newsletter reports progress on reducing our debt for "past due bills and member loans."

Running Total of Outstanding Debt:

October 14, 2005	\$80,500
November 10, 2005	\$81,400
December 23, 2005	\$79,750
January 8, 2006	\$55,425
February 12, 2006	\$55,425
March 1, 2006	\$58,225
April 2, 2006	\$38,625

As the chart notes, we have improved significantly since last October in "reducing the debt."

So that we do not fall behind again but continue to make progress, we need our members to continue their strong giving to the General Fund and the Building Fund of the congregation. As God enables you throughout 2006, we hope that additional contributions can also be made to the "Reducing the Debt Campaign."

Outstanding Debt:

- \$11,125 Past Due Bills (IRS Payroll Taxes)
- \$27,500 Member Loans
- \$38,625 As of 4/2/06

Current May Bills:

- \$38,000 Mortgage, Utilities, Current State & Fed Payroll Taxes, Health Ins, Retirement Plans, 5/15 & 5/31 Payroll, and Other Bills (for both church and academy)

Peace Lutheran Academy

Sussex, Wisconsin

“The Year of the Academy 2005—2006
Celebrating ten academic years of God’s grace

Classical Christian Education in the
Lutheran and Liberal Arts Traditions

March 2006

2001 Graduate: Kyle Verage

“After the Benediction Presentation” given March 12, 2006

INTRODUCTION by Pastor Bender

Kyle Verage is the son of Jim and Cathy Verage. Jim is a carpenter and general contractor and owns Aurora Construction. He served as the general contractor for the Academy addition, which was dedicated in 1999. Cathy is a nurse by trade and now works as the business manager for the family business. Kyle attended Marquette University High School, accomplishing many things and participating in a host of activities. Included in Kyle’s High School resume is the following: Junior Varsity Cross Country (Marquette University High School) 2001; Junior Varsity Swimming (Marquette University High School) 2001; Varsity Swimming (Marquette University High School) 2002-2005 Captain senior year; Marquette University Scholar Athlete Award 2005 (Grade point 3.5 or better for four years); Latin Club (Marquette University High School) 2001- 2005; School Yearbook Staff (Marquette University High School) 2005; Germantown Seahawks Swim Club (Germantown, Wisconsin) 2001-2005; American Red Cross Lifeguard, First Aid, CPR, and AED certified 2004 to present; Badger Boys State (Marquette University High School Representative) 2004.

The Verage’s attended Didache and became members of the congregation in 1998. Prior to this they had no church home. Kyle tells the story of how Peace Lutheran Academy and the pursuit of excellence in education led them to the Academy and ultimately to faith in Christ their Savior. Kyle entered the Academy as a sixth grader and without any prior knowledge of the Catechism was able to learn the text by heart in his first year. Not only did the environment of catechesis in the Academy lead Kyle and his family to faith in Christ, it also became the foundation for Kyle’s future life’s work: He intends to become a Lutheran pastor. Kyle is currently enrolled in the pre-seminary program, majoring in classics, at Valparaiso University.

ACADEMY GRADUATE PRESENTATION by Kyle Verage

Good morning. I would like to ask you to recite with me a portion of the Catechism. What is the Second Article of the Creed?

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at that right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I made you recite this, not only to gain your attention and focus, but because it captures the true gospel with perfect purity. Nothing is more central in the life of a Christian than the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that it be preserved. One of the signs of the end times is that people will not want to hear the Gospel and that many churches will no longer preach it. I am so thankful that we have it here at Peace. Peace Lutheran Academy was founded on the Gospel, teaches it, heralds it, preserves it. If for no other reason, I wish that all the children of our congregation were sent here. I would like to assure you, however, that there are many other reasons for enrolling your children here.

I was a student of public schools until 5th grade. Frustrations at my public school were among the reasons I came to Peace Lutheran Academy, came to Peace Lutheran Church, came to be a Christian. Yes, before I enrolled here at the Academy,

my family members and I were not believing, confessing Christians. Yet, because I wasn't being taught the basics of math at my former public school, I ended up here and my family and I soon learned of the Gospel. My mother, keen to overcome the growing wrong in my public school, sent me to a math tutor, whose husband happened to be a Missouri Synod pastor, whose church happened to have a school—Peace Lutheran Academy. So, one thing led to another and I soon became a student at Peace Lutheran Academy and subsequently, a student of Christ.

I was skeptical of Peace at first. The classes were so small. There were so few students. There were no sports. And we had to wear uniforms. I hadn't even worn a tie up until that point, much less tied one. But my skepticism soon faded with every day that I went to Peace and sat among my classmates. I eventually learned how to tie a tie and learned that class size was nothing considering the strong character of each of my classmates. To fulfill my desire for sports, I played rec. baseball, joined private basketball and football leagues, and played sports wherever and whenever besides. And for all Peace Lutheran Academy students there are endless opportunities to participate in extra-curricular and social events such as, neighborhood friends, rec. league sports, club sports, community events, boy scouts, girl scouts, playing instruments, orchestra etc. The opportunities are endless, just waiting for you to find them. So I was happy at Peace. I loved it, even though it was small, had no sports, and even though I had to wear a tie.

The skepticism that I spoke of had to do with the sociality of Peace. But, perhaps I was wrong to think such things were more important than my education or my faith. But I soon learned the value of the education that I received at Peace. This congregation should be supremely proud of its school, for it features an outstandingly knowledgeable faculty who teach an exceptionally sound and distinguished curriculum. In my case, Peace Lutheran Academy contributed directly in helping me score in the top 3% on my high school entrance exam. This rank I credit solely to what I learned at the Academy since that rank very quickly teetered off as my high school experience progressed.

Let me now focus the rest of my time here on matters of faith. Some of you may know that my cousin Betsy Quick was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. I received the news from my mother in my comfortable dorm room, miles away from Betsy, while I studied for the next day's Latin quiz. Previous to that, I listened every Sunday during the *Prayer of the Church* while the same countless names were rattled off as they were treated for cancer, recuperated from cancer, died from cancer. Sadly (and I've come to realize that it truly was sad), cancer was a phantom idea to me. I truly did not understand cancer's horrendous effects on body and soul until Betsy's diagnosis. After my mother's call it hit me like a brick...Betsy could die...She could die. I guess her relatively close relationship with me caused me to assimilate what must have been her internal feelings, so that it was not her that was dying, but me. I soon found myself struggling with matters of death. My only consolation was what I learned (point) here and, by extension, what I learned (point) down there. My only consolation was the Grace of Christ. I know because of what I learned in opening prayer, daily bible class, catechesis with Pastor, choir, closing prayer, and ultimately Sunday Divine service that our purpose in life is to know Jesus. Cancer would mean death to the unbeliever, but to those that believe in Christ, it paradoxically means life.

Ironically, a faulty math program led my family to Peace. If I hadn't come here, I wouldn't know Jesus. I am grateful for Peace Lutheran Academy. I am grateful for the friendships I developed here and the quality education I received here. Moreover, I am grateful for such things in light of the overriding purpose of Peace Lutheran Academy: that its students know Jesus and His sacrifice for them. Thank you.