



ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL — APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Monthly News and Notes

FEBRUARY 2012 — VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

OUR MISSION IS TO GLORIFY GOD, GROW IN GOD'S WORD, AND GO WITH THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

The Passion Previewed

Midweek Lent Observance 2012

The term *Lent* is from an Old English word for Spring, the time of year when the days “LENgThen.” Centuries ago Christians set aside 40 days before Easter to fast (deny oneself all food or some foods), just as Jesus did during His forty days in the wilderness (Matthew 4). The purpose of this time of self-denial was to focus on the sacrifice of Christ, and to remember His passion by which our sins were paid.

Some Christians still practice the ancient custom of fasting during Lent, choosing to voluntarily go without something they ordinarily enjoy in order to recall the suffering of Christ.

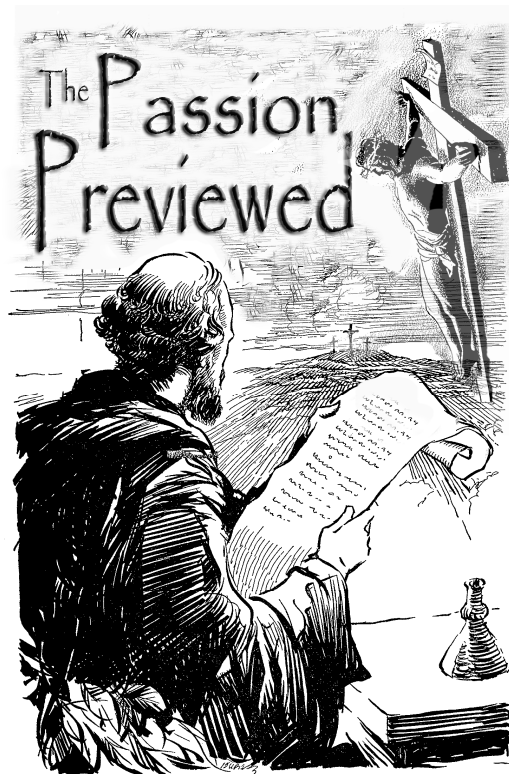
However, for many years now, Lutherans have observed Lent with a series of special Midweek worship services in which they meditate on the passion history of Jesus. Eternal Love has done this since its beginning 22 years ago.

As usual, this year a series of six special services will be held on Wednesday evenings during Lent so that all of us may focus on the beautiful story of our Savior's amazing grace and perfect love.

Ash Wednesday, the first of the 40 days of Lent, is **February 22, 2012**. That evening we will hold our first **Midweek Lent devotion beginning at 6:45pm**. The Sunday School children will sing an anthem that evening.

The theme of our meditations this year will be “*The Passion Previewed*,” with sermon texts selected from the Old Testament. Our own pastors will lead the first service, and then a pastor from one of the other Appleton WELS churches will come to lead each of the other services. A schedule of the themes and guest preachers may be found in this newsletter.

During Lent we put purple in our church. Purple has long been used as a symbol of humility and repentance. It also recalls the purple robe that covered Jesus when He was mocked by Pilate's soldiers.



Jesus, I will ponder now,
On Thy holy passion
With Thy Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Thy suff'ring, pain and death —
That I may not perish.

Monthly News and Notes is the monthly newsletter of Eternal Love Lutheran Church, 1011 E. Midway Rd., Appleton, WI 54915. The editor is Pastor Robert Balza. For more information, go to these web sites. www.eternal-love.org or www.eternal-love.ctsmemberconnect.net. Eternal Love is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Eternal Love Lutheran Preschool

Mrs. Rebecca Iles, Teacher ☺ Mrs. Rae Scherschel, Director



Preschool Begins New Enrollment

Eternal Love Lutheran Preschool is blessed by the Lord. In our eighth year, we have been able to touch the lives of 26 beautiful children. They have been learning the Word of God and experiencing Christian love every day in our preschool. **Enrollment for the preschool sessions for the 2012-2013 is open.**

We will be offering two sessions this year. The 3-year-old sessions will be on Mon/Wed from 9-11:30am. The 4-year-old session will be on Mon/Wed/Fri from 12:30-3:30pm.

The tuition for 3-year olds will be \$84.00 per month, and tuition for the 4-year olds will be \$121.00 per month. Members of Eternal Love Lutheran Church receive a discount; ask for details. In addition, there will be a \$50 non-refundable enrollment fee, payable with the application. This fee will assure a place for your child in Eternal Love Lutheran Preschool.

Why choose Eternal Love Lutheran Preschool for your child?

- A quality learning experience
- Daily lessons from the Word of God

- Instruction from a caring, Christian teacher
- A beautiful classroom environment
- Help for parents

Please continue to keep this important ministry to the children of our community and church in your prayers. Tell others!

Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. Iles!

We give our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Iles on the birth of their healthy (and yes, beautiful) baby girl. Noel Marie Iles was born on January 5th, 2012. She was brought into God's family through Baptism on January 15th, 2012. Welcome, Noel! Congrats to the Iles family!

Can you help?

We have two preschool families that are currently cleaning our toys weekly. It is a quick and simple job that we need to find two more people to help with. If we can, each person would only need to help once a month. Could you spare a 1/2 hour of time on Wednesday? Let Rae know if you are interested, and she'll get you more info.

Fantastic Family Fun Night

Games

This is our final opportunity for us to show our Christian Love to the preschool families with a Fantastic Family Fun Night. If you have children ages 3-9, this night is for you. Come enjoy a free kid-friendly meal (pizza) and family time with no preparation or clean-up.

Join us and let your light shine!

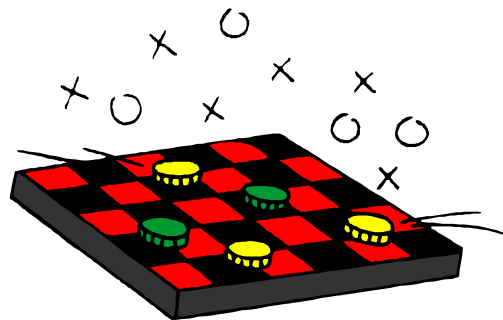
Tuesday, February 2nd

Time: 5:30pm

Eternal Love Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to Rae

(How many children and adults)



Voters' Meeting Summary

Pastor Balza

The annual voters' meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, January 22, 2012, with 32 voters present. Here is a summary of the results of that meeting.

State of the Congregation

A "State of the Congregation" report noted that our current membership is 341 souls and 257 communicants (almost the same as a year ago). Some statistical trends were noted. A copy of this report was in your church mailbox and will be posted on MemberConnect in the Documents section.

Financial Reports

The Financial Secretary's report was "good news/bad news." The good news is that offerings to our debt reduction effort were more than \$19,000 in the last six months, and our debt has now been drawn down to approximately \$82,000.

The bad news is that a rather serious shortage of operating income has developed in the first six months (July-December) of the current fiscal year. In fact, we are \$12,000 behind the amount needed to fund our ministry plan. In fact, offerings are tracking lower than they were a year ago. The voters expressed concern about this trend and asked the council to keep everyone aware of things as we move forward.

The Treasurer reported that expenses are running almost exactly according to what was budgeted so far. However, the Church Council will be developing a plan to cut spending as necessary in light of the current income figures.

Auditor's Report

The 2010-2011 auditor's report was reviewed, and our financial officers gave a written response to its findings and recommendations. The report and responses were approved and thanks was expressed to the auditor, Barb Witthuhn.

Surplus Funds

The voters approved the recommendation of the Church Council that we continue to retain all of the funds carried over from the last fiscal year (\$11,719.71) and delay any disbursements until the end of the current fiscal year. The fear is that we may need to use some or all of these funds to complete our current ministry plan.

Elections

Six Church Council position terms had expired. Two of the six incumbents expressed their desire to continue to serve, and their new terms of service were approved by the

voters. They are:

- Christian Education Director — **Matt Clark**
- Fellowship Director — **Steve Schultz**

Bill Neubauer, who served as our church President for the last six years, and who has been on the Church Council for the past ten years, has stepped down to take a break.

Bob Broehm was elected as the new President.

Our Outreach Director, Joel Schmidt, also stepped down after serving for the last six years. **Tim Kruse** was elected as the new Outreach Director.

Dar Tiede has been our Treasurer for the last six years. He is also taking a breather, and he has been replaced by **Dan Wallander**.

Harold Berry also stepped down after serving six years in the position of Financial Secretary. **Ray Vales** will be our new Financial Secretary.

We are grateful for the faithful service given to the Lord and our congregation by all those who have stepped down. May the Lord bless the work of all the new men who begin their time of service on the Church Council.

Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

Dozens of proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws were presented. Almost all of them were proposed to reflect the changes from four voters' meetings down to two and from one pastor to two. All of the proposed revisions were approved, subject to the review of the district constitution committee. A document containing all of these revisions has been posted on MemberConnect for anyone to read.

Expansion Needs Committee

A Needs Assessment Document has been developed and is currently being reviewed by a group of congregation leaders. The next step will be to revise the Needs document and then begin to develop a master campus plan based upon it.

Next Meeting

The next regular voters' meeting will be the budget meeting in June, 2012.



Summer Bible Adventure 2012

Pastor Johnson

The annual Vacation Bible School (Summer Bible Adventure) is our foremost community service and outreach program. It has grown in reputation and attendance over the years and is enjoyed by volunteers and children alike.

Some thought is being given now to the 2012 Adventure. The dates we are THINKING about are —

July 16-20, 2012

We know that many of you are in the process of

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planning your summer vacation times, and we hope you will include the Summer Bible Adventure as part of your summer planning. The children will love it, and any volunteers who participate will be uplifted by the energy, fun, and opportunities to learn God's Word that it offers.

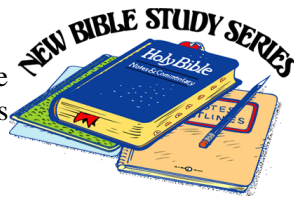


Sunday Bible Study

Pastor Johnson

Sermon Writing 101

Ever wonder what goes into the sermon on Sunday morning? What's the difference between a text study and a text analysis? Together we will discuss different techniques involved in developing a sermon and actually work through the process together on a text that Pastor Johnson will later preach on!



Women's Study Groups

Kara Witthuhn

The Tuesday Morning Mom's Group is continuing through the study *Great Women of the Bible*. You are invited to join us on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00am at various participants' homes. Bring your children if you'd like. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Kara Witthuhn with questions or to be placed on our email list. The upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

January 31	No meeting
February 7	Michelle Giese's
February 14	Traci Schwalbach's
February 21	Kara Witthuhn's
February 28	Michelle Giese's

Jenny Colling

The Wednesday Women's Study Group is still working on the book *Having A Mary Heart in a Martha World*. This group is children-free, and we meet on Wednesday's at 1:00pm. New members are always welcome. Our upcoming meeting dates and locations (subject to change, of course!) will be as follows:

February 1	Laura Zimmerman's
February 8	Christine Heckmann's
February 15	Patty Ferrante's
February 22	Kelly Broehm's
February 29	Jenny Colling's



LWMS

Sue Balza

Offerings for the two mission projects will be sent to our circuit soon. You still have time to contribute to help

spread the gospel. Please mark LWMS on one of the lines of your envelope or give the offering to Sue Balza. Thank you!



Women's Ministry

Valentine Card Making

Sue Balza

Please come to enjoy fellowship and Valentine card making at the Balza's home on Monday, February 6. These cards will be used to spread God's Word and cheer to the residents and staff at Oakridge Gardens. We will start at 6:30pm. You do not have to have special talents besides gluing, cutting and encouraging each other. Please call Sue at 915-5826 with questions.

Seminary Food Pantry

Hannelore Sherman / Karen Swendrowski

Starting Sunday, March 4, and going through Sunday, April 1, there will be boxes by the information area for a collection of non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, paper products, diapers and personal items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.) for our Seminary students and their families. Donations to the pantry help sustain them during the long years of preparing to be a minister. Let's make this Easter season a happy one for our future pastors.

If you have any questions, contact Hannelore Sherman (920-574-2054) or Karen Swendrowski (414-588-2122).



Book Club

Kirsten Krowas

Join us in the fellowship hall for the Eternal Love Book Club on February 7, 2012, at 6:30pm. The Book Club does read secular books, but they are always discussed from a Christian perspective. All are welcome to join us!

Our current book is *The Turtle Catcher* by Nicole Lea Helget. Amazon gives the following synopsis: "In the tumultuous days after World War I, Herman Richter returns from the front to find his only sister, Liesel, allied with Lester Sutter, the 'slow' son of a rival clan who spends his days expertly trapping lake turtles. Liesel has sought Lester's friendship in the wake of her parents' deaths and in the shadow of her own dark secret. But what begins as yearning for something of a human touch quickly unwinds into a shocking, suspenseful tragedy that haunts the town of New Germany, Minnesota, for generations."



Eternal Love Dartball

Mickey Stratil

The second half of the dartball season is underway! We have three games left and all of them are home games,

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The 2012 Church Council

President

Bob Broehm

Vice President

Steve Schultz

Treasurer

Dan Wallander

Recording Secretary

Mike King

Financial Secretary

Ray Vales

Shepherding

Paul Griepentrog

Education

Matthew Clark

Outreach

Tim Kruse

Fellowship

Steve Schultz

Stewardship

Brian Rasmussen

Worship

James Hildeman

Properties

Dave Huebner

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so it would be easy to stop by if you wanted to see what it is all about. If you are at all interested, feel free to drop in for our remaining games or at our Spring Fun Day hosted by Immanuel, Greenville, at 1:30pm on March 18.

Here is the remaining schedule for the 2011-2012 season. All games begin at 7:00pm, with the exception of the Fun Day Potluck:

Jan. 29 St. John @ Eternal Love
 Feb. 12 Mount Olive I @ Eternal Love
 Feb. 26 Mount Olive II @ Eternal Love
 Mar. 11 Eternal Love—BYE
 Mar. 25 **Fun Day Potluck** @ Immanuel
 All teams invited!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mickey Stratil at mickey.stratil@gmail.com or 920-858-4316.



Making A Special Gift

Pastor Balza

We are currently using a unified budget system, which means that all of the programs, causes, and ministries of the congregation are considered in the budgeting process so that a balanced program of ministries is carried out. Once a year, when the budget is adopted, all of the ministries and programs are put on the table and the Budget Committee (currently the Church Council) weighs them all when proposing funding for the coming year. This enables our congregation to keep priorities straight and to prevent “pet” programs or ministries from crowding less popular ministries into the background.

We know that from time to time our members want to make an offering to a special cause. As our financial officers handle your gifts, they channel them to

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THE EVIDENCE OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS WORD

SUNDAY/ FESTIVAL	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			OP. FUND OFFERING	BLDG. FUND OFFERING
	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	RECORD		
December 24, 2011 Christmas Eve	310	320	320	\$4,661.85	\$5.00
December 25, 2011 Christmas Day	196	138	196	\$3,443.75	\$95.00
December 31, 2011 New Year's Eve	72	82	85	\$2,116.50	\$0.00
January 1, 2012 New Year's Day	111	No service	131	\$1,844.75	\$60.00
January 8, 2012 Epiphany	282	231	282	\$5,604.43	\$140.50
January 15, 2012 Epiphany 1	247	290	290	\$3222.13	\$174.00
January 22, 2012 Mission Festival	260	238	259	Unavailable	Unavailable
AVERAGES	219	224	232	\$3,528.77	\$117.38



WELS Connection

A monthly report of the latest news about our synod and its work
Eternal Love's commitment of offerings to the WELS is \$36,000



Translation Workshop at WLS

Representatives from all 12 districts met with the Translation Evaluation Committee (TEC) in early January for a two-and-a-half-day workshop at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis.

The workshop was dedicated to a study of translation theory and practice, with special application to the NIV11, an updated translation of the New International Version.

Rev. Paul Wendland, WLS president and chairman of the TEC, says, "Our goal was to have a productive conversation on the complexities of evaluating translations and doing translations, and I think that goal was very much achieved."

The workshop comprised two representatives from each district, the TEC, the Translation Feasibility Committee, and representatives from each area of ministry. Holding a smaller workshop allowed for more discussion and the free exchange of ideas, as well as small group task work.

Rev. Philip Hirsch, pastor at Hope, Manhattan, Kan., says: "Brothers in faith got together around the Word proclaimed and then discussed, honestly and openly, the work that our synod had given the Translation Evaluation Committee to do—to give a recommendation regarding a serviceable translation for our publishing house to use. Just getting a broader audience together in one place with enough time to listen and then speak was most helpful."

The idea is that delegates will take what they learned back to their districts and share what was discussed.

"Knowledgeable pastors around the synod can now much better talk with other pastors and church leaders to help them understand what the TEC has concluded so far," says Rev. Daniel Witte, pastor at Risen Savior, Lakewood Ranch, Fla. "I came away sensing camaraderie and concord among us, and eagerness to spread God's Word."

The districts will vote on which translation to use in

the synod's publications at their 2012 summer district conventions. A two-thirds majority is required for any translation to be selected. If two-thirds is not met, the issue will go to the 2013 synod convention.

To learn more about the TEC's work, go to www.wels.net/translation.

COP Winter Meeting

The Conference of Presidents (COP) met last month for its annual winter meeting.

The COP discussed the issue of vicar assignments that will be made in May. Because of the small size of the vicar class this year, some congregations that have received vicars in previous years will not have that opportunity in the coming year. The COP will work closely with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and the Board for Home Missions to determine which congregations will receive vicars.

Other items discussed by the COP included:

- Continued work on the development of guidelines for congregations considering a reduction of ministry staff.
- The appointment of a committee to update and expand, if necessary, a previous COP statement on marriage, divorce, desertion, and remarriage.
- A report from the Translation Evaluation Committee on the recent translation symposium, as well as an update from the Translation Feasibility Committee, which is exploring the possibility of producing a new translation and/or a new study Bible. The issue of Bible translations will be considered by all the district conventions this summer.
- A lengthy workshop discussion on philosophy of ministry and how we can best walk together in evaluating and providing evangelical guidance when it comes to differing practices among us.
- Plans to carry out the synod-wide every member visit as called for by the "In Christ Alone" long-range plan adopted by the synod convention last summer.

Serving in Christ,

Mark Schroeder

WELS Connection Video

The February WELS Connection introduces the International Youth Rally "Fill Up." We're also introduced to Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Beach, FL, that is working with teens.

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the ministries and purposes which you designate. However, there may be times when it is necessary for them to encourage us to re-consider placing offerings to ministries that are already included in our congregation's budgeted program. That's because our financial officers are instructed by policies and procedures that have been adopted in our congregation.

Policy 22 is one of those policies. This is what it says:

All members shall be notified that it is our policy that requests to apply an offering from a member to a specific budget category will not be honored in order to preserve the unified budget practice and maintain balance in our ministries. Any such offering from our members specified for a certain budget category will be applied to the general operating budget and will not be credited to a specific account.

The financial officers are herewith instructed to apply all such special offerings to the general operating fund and report them to the Church Council.

Exceptions to the above policy may be considered under certain circumstances (such as a gift designated for loan repayment which can be applied to principle above and beyond our normal repayment schedule). The Church Council will rule on all such exceptions.

Grants from outside sources designated for a certain cause or ministry covered within the budget or not shall always be presented to the Church Council for approval and acceptance. An example of such a grant might be an "outreach grant" from the synod which is specified for outreach use only. The Church Council retains the right to approve acceptance of such grants and to approve the purposes for which the grant monies are used.

If you wish to make an offering to a ministry that is already part of our church budget (such as the WELS or WLIM), you are encouraged to make that offering directly to the recipient. Our financial officers would be glad to supply you with all the information you would need to do that.

If you have questions about this, don't hesitate to ask any member of the church council.



Debt Free in 2-0-1-3

Brian Rasmussen

As we begin 2012, it may be helpful to reflect on the journey of our debt reduction efforts. In Pastor Balza's report to the January Voters' Meeting, he noted six years ago our indebtedness was \$283,878. Then in 2008, we began a debt reduction



program as one of the goals of our mission/vision. Debt reduction was re-emphasized again in 2010, with a firm goal of eliminating our long-standing debt by the year 2013. The Treasurer's report in early January 2012 stated the loan balance was \$86,327 as of mid-December. We still have much work to do in order to reach our goal of debt elimination by the end of 2013. Please keep this effort in your prayers.



The Lord's Handymen

Pastor Balza

The Lord's Handymen is a service group formed to help members who need assistance with chores around the house, either because they lack the skills or the physical abilities to do the chore. Those chores might include ...

- Computer, internet and tech set up, problem solving
- Fixing electrical or plumbing problems
- Putting something together/set up of a new purchase
- Carpentry, window repair
- Fixing a broken chair
- Carrying something to the basement
- Moving furniture
- Much more

If you need help with something, fill out a request form (copies are available online or in our information area) and place the form in the "Lord's Handymen" mail slot at church. You will be contacted by one of the "handymen/women."



Souper Bowl of Caring

Steve Schultz

On Sunday, February 5, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 5th. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts. All funds raised this day will be sent to the Apple Valley Food Pantry. Last year we raised about \$250. Let's surpass this number this year!





FVL News

Faculty/Staff News:

- ♦ **Mrs. Judy Hildeman** has been hired as a part-time worker in the Scrip Office. She is a member at Eternal Love. We welcome her.
- ♦ The Guidance Office secretary position will be posted in late February, and hiring will take place in spring. It is a school-year full-time position of about 37 hours per week.

School News:

- ♦ There still are a few openings for the STEM Academy, which focuses on educating students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. Call either Alan or Nathan Nolte at FVL to learn more about it and the possibility of enrolling your student in the program.
- ♦ At its annual meeting, the Bargain Garden gifted towards a number of FVL projects: \$12,500 towards the cost of the new all-weather surface track, \$10,000 towards costs to install wireless Internet equipment, and money towards a blower for outside use and landscaping. We thank the Bargain Garden for its continued support. Federation members can support the Bargain Garden through their donations or service.

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ March 13—*Discover FVL!* 1:00-4:30pm. For all Federation 7th grade students.

Financial Update:

- ♦ January Federation commitments for operations to date are at **\$62,350**, about \$20,000 below the monthly needed average. Currently Federation congregations are about \$80,000 below the average monthly amount needed to meet the **\$860,000** commitment, which will allow a balanced budget. We appreciate the continued support of all congregations and individuals as they assist with the FVL ministry operations.
- ♦ *Growing in Grace* gifts for the month to date are at **\$12,300**. Total to date for this fiscal year is nearing \$165,000 towards the \$300,000 goal. Thanks to the many generous donors, churches and groups who continue to support this debt retirement effort, keeping it from impacting tuition costs.



Member Connect

Pastor Balza

Member Connect is being used more and more by members of Eternal Love, especially by the leaders of our church's organizations. To make sure you are kept up-to-date on any schedule changes or announcements, it is extremely important that your information is complete and accurate. Please take a few minutes to go into Member Connect and fill out/verify your family's information. If

you need help logging into MemberConnect, give the church office a call.



OWLS

Eileen Weeks

Our local OWLS Chapter 42 will get together on Tuesday, February 14. We will gather for lunch at noon at Old Country Buffet (4531 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton). All seniors are welcome to join us as we plan our schedule and activities for the up-coming year.



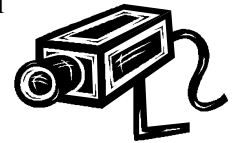
New Video Capture System

Pastor Balza

Thanks to a generous gift in memory of Jeff Clarey, a new video capture system has been installed in the chapel. The system consists of a camera attached to the front of the balcony and a control unit in the sound booth.

This new video capture system will provide us with several new capabilities:

- Project the service (video and sound) into the fellowship hall using the screen and speakers in the fellowship hall.
- Record the service (or any part of it) as a digital file that can be uploaded to a web site or burned on a dvd.
- Project whatever the camera is looking at onto the wall in the front of the church.



The camera is able to focus on virtually any part of the chapel and can zoom. It will enable us to extend the service into the fellowship hall or even over the internet.

Many thanks go to Jim Hildeman and Dan Wallander who volunteered dozens of hours to run many wires and set everything up.



Men of His Word Conference

Pastor Balza

There is still room to attend the **Men of His Word** Men's Conference on **February 11, 2012**. If you want to register, do so online at www.menofhisword.org.



Membership Changes

Pastor Balza

Barb Zeatlow has completed a class in the basic teachings of the Bible and became a communicant member by adult confirmation on December 11, 2011. If Barb looks a little familiar, it is because she is Louise Scheelk's sister. When you see Barb (who also likes to be called Breezy), introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome.

Speaking of the Scheelks, we now have **four**

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generations of Scheelks in our congregation — the first time this has happened. There is an article and four generation photo posted on MemberConnect. Check it out!

Troy and Erica Rodman have also completed a class in the basic teachings of the Bible and became communicant members by adult confirmation on January 29, 2012. Troy was thrilled to finally be baptized. Their son, Damian (2), was also baptized in our church last August. Both Troy and Erica work at Graphic Packaging, and they are expecting their second child in March.

When you see them at the early service, introduce yourself and welcome Troy and Erica into our family of faith.

As of the end of January our congregation numbers 344 souls and 259 communicants.



2012 Seminars for Christian Service

Kathy Arnold

The 2012 seminar will be held, God willing, on Saturday, March 24, 2012, from 9:00am until 3:00pm, at FVL. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in up to three workshops.

Register by March 10 to ensure your place in the workshops of your choice. But last minute registrations will be accepted for any workshops that are not already full.

A booklet with a registration form and complete seminar information is available on the information tables. Eternal Love will pay the fee for your workshops, but you will need to pay the expense for your lunch. Information about purchasing a lunch ticket is included in the seminar booklet.

The topics for this year's seminars cover a wide range of topics from evangelism to counseling to stewardship.



Kwik Rewards

Pastor Balza

Many of you use Kwik Trip cards to purchase gasoline and other items. If so, you probably receive a quarterly rebate. Did you know that you may designate Eternal Love to receive this rebate? In addition, Kwik Trip, Inc. will make an additional donation of 5% of your in-store credit purchases, excluding certain items subject to statutory minimum mark-up requirements, or which are otherwise prohibited by law from earning such rewards, to Eternal Love.

Four of our members have already designated the church for the rewards, and we've been receiving about \$40 each



quarter. Please consider joining those who have designated our ministry as their charity of choice. Our rewards are going towards debt reduction.



Understanding Alcoholism and Other Addictions

If there are addicts in your family, your congregation or your community, and you would like to understand them better and be better able to minister to them, plan on attending this one-day education and training seminar. Pastor Phil Merten and his wife, certified addiction counselor Pam Merten, will present information and lead discussions on issues like the physical and spiritual aspects of addiction, the disease vs. sin question, the impact on families, and how recovery can and does happen.

The event is being held Saturday, February 18, from 9:30am-3:30pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. The cost is \$20, and lunch is included. If you plan to attend, contact Kathy in our church office, and she will get you a registration form.



Recovery Through Christ

Recovery Through Christ is a Christian 12-step program designed to provide a safe, Christ-centered atmosphere in which participants feel comfortable sharing their struggles as they continue a God-enabled path to sobriety and hope. The purpose is to equip participants to live free.

This program is open to all men and women struggling with addictive behaviors of any kind. The group meets on Fridays, from 7:00-8:00pm, beginning January 20, 2012, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. They meet in the lower-level Fireside Room (enter at the north atrium entrance of the building).

For more information, contact Dave at 920-233-0437 or Phyllis at 920-739-2439.



Camp Phillip

Kathy Arnold

Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI, is a year-round camp facility run by the Wisconsin Synod. It is located within easy driving distance from Appleton (a little over an hour).

Brochures for the summer camps were put in the mailboxes of the Sunday School children in grades K-8. Extras copies are available in the information area. Summer



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programs for young people in grades K-8, plus a grandparent/grandchild camp, are included. Be sure to register soon to get the weeks you want and to receive the early bird discounts.

Because this is Camp Phillip's 30th year of summer camp, they've chosen a theme full of fun and adventure! They are going "Down Under" to take you on an incredible journey as you "Walkabout With The Spirit!" All the camps include hilarious campfires, rockin' song periods, awesome games, great friendships, creative Bible studies and so much more.

Eternal Love is a member of the Camp Phillip federation, so our members receive a 10% discount on all fees. To learn more, visit www.campphillip.com or call the office at 920-787-3202.



Growth Groups Update

Pastor Johnson

The Winter Quarter is well under way. We have six Growth Groups this quarter and are enjoying being reunited with group members after the Christmas break. The Winter Quarter will finish the week of February 12 and recess for Lent starting the week of February 19. Blessings on your growth!



Lent Suppers Are Coming!

Steve Schultz

We have a wonderful tradition at Eternal Love of families serving families during the Lenten season. Each Wednesday evening from 5:30-6:30pm, one family group prepares the Lent Supper. We are looking for one family to serve as the lead in each of 5 groups. This lead family chooses the type of meal (soup, spaghetti, salad bar, etc.) and communicates to the other families what they are to bring. It's a great family project to involve everyone! Steve Schultz, Fellowship Director, provides basic instructions on how to set up the Supper. Plus, he is usually at the Suppers to lend a hand. The Youth Group has agreed to prepare the meals for Ash Wednesday and the Easter Breakfast. That leaves five suppers to arrange. The family groups are (by first initial of the last name):

- **Ash Wednesday, February 22** Youth Group
- **February 29** A-F
- **March 7** G-J
- **March 14** K-M
- **March 21** N-R
- **April 28** S-Z

If you can't be a lead for one of the Suppers, please help contribute food and a willing hand when your family group is serving. For one night's labor, you can eat

MemberConnect

Tip of the Month

This month we continue with the options on the left-hand side of the Main Menu:

The PRAYER REQUESTS option allows us to post prayer requests for all of our members. Ministry leaders can enter requests for their groups. The pastors include prayer requests they've received from members. Remember to get permission from the person being prayed for before including a prayer request.

The TASKS option assigns tasks to specific ministry/group members. Individuals can see tasks assigned to them and can check on the status of each task. This is a great way to keep track of all the projects going on in the church.

The NEWS option provides a place for groups to post individual news items or an entire newsletter. By posting newsletters online members can access important information from anywhere without having to hunt down a newsletter.

The PHOTO ALBUMS option provides a place to upload your groups' pictures to MemberConnect. All pictures are only available to members of Eternal Love.

If you'd like help with any of these options or with finding ways to put these options to good use for your group, feel free to talk to Kathy in the church office.

at five other Suppers with no cleanup or cooking! What a deal! Please contact Steve Schultz at 659-2077 or at gardenmasterguy@aol.com by Sunday, February 12, if you can lead one of these Suppers. All profits from these Suppers will support our Youth Group Summer Mission Project.



Usher Training

Pastor Balza

A training session for all experienced and new ushers is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, at 6:30pm. The 60-minute meeting will review the usher manual, discuss the best way to handle communion, get scheduling preferences, and iron out any problems that we may have been experiencing.

Dan Wallander, our Usher Coordinator, will lead the meeting. If you have been thinking about volunteering as an usher, this is a perfect time to get plugged in.



Midweek Lent Series 2012



Wednesdays at 6:45pm

Once again this year, we will participate in a “pulpit exchange” for the six Wednesday evening worship services. This exchange will give us the opportunity to hear pastors from two other WELS churches in Appleton, with whom we share a blessed doctrinal fellowship.

The theme this year will be **THE PASSION PREVIEWED**. Each devotion will highlight an Old Testament prophecy or type that previewed the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for the sin of the world. All services begin at 6:45pm and will last about 50 minutes.

Date	Theme	Preacher
February 22 Ash Wednesday	Leviticus 16:2-10, 29-30 The Passion Previewed in Prophetic Ceremony	Pastor Johnson
February 29 Midweek 2	Genesis 3:15 The Passion Previewed in Prophetic Promise	Rev. Tom Mielke St. Matthew Lutheran
March 7 Midweek 3	Numbers 21:4-9 The Passion Previewed in Prophetic Picture	Rev. Dennis Belter Riverview Lutheran
March 14 Midweek 4	Psalms 22:1-19 The Passion Previewed in Prophetic Poetry	Pastor Balza
March 21 Midweek 5	Isaiah 53:2-6 The Passion Previewed in Prophetic Sorrow	Rev. Paul Schuler St. Matthew Lutheran
March 28 Midweek 6	Jonah 1:15-17 The Passion Previewed in Prophetic History	Rev. Adam Bode Riverview Lutheran