



"Immeasurably More!"

"Pastor John's Blog" June 21, 2009

Men's Ministry—Tim "the tool man" Taylor lived a make-believe life on TV of being "the man of his world!" Tim raised three boys, loved his wife, had a mentor next door and worked with and picked on a single guy as he struggled with life. His life was all about being a tough guy, making the sounds of a tough guy—having the emotions of a tough guy—eating like a tough guy. Being a host on a home improvement show, Tim could build his life with just about anything he needed. For Tim, being a man was a 24 hour job. I'd like to see us explore what it means to be a man in today's culture. In the past, we had a men's club and yet that was yesterday, so what might a "men's ministry" look like today? I am inviting you to a campfire for a few grunts, a few treats, a few drinks and a few conversations to consider this—SO—On Monday, June 22 at 6:45, you're invited to my house for a campfire. Bring your throne (chair) and your beverage of choice (some will be provided) and let's begin a conversation about how we are and can serve our Lord! (bring your Harley if you want to!) (3830 Brookwood Lane, Wisconsin Rapids) See you there! We'll probably invite a few mosquitoes too, so come prepared. In the event of rain, we'll still meet in my tool room in the garage.

Revive! Renew! Reach Out! —Some 232 voting lay and pastoral delegates gathered in Green Bay last week. President Hoelter was reelected to a 2nd term on the first ballot along with Paul Weber, William Plautz and Timothy Wenger were elected as 1st, 2nd and 3rd VP. You will be able to go to our website to connect to the district for all the results. Resolutions passed included an encouragement to reaffirm our Baptism covenant in our churches; amend the district handbook for policy-based governance; to faithfully uphold the teaching of Biblical Creation. President Kieschnick spoke at the opening worship, gave his report and took questions from those gathered. We were reminded of our calling to be "One People, One Message and One Mission" as we seek to connect people with Jesus Christ! Cliff Starr and I served our congregation as voting delegates as Brian Betts and Brian Wilhorn served our congregation as Advisory delegates. We also heard a "Blue Ribbon Task Force Report" on the Synod Structure and Governance. Our current structure simply doesn't serve us very well and is costing many dollars that do not need to be spent and so can be spent on mission instead of structure. This will be addressed at the 2010 convention.

Palin versus Letterman—Speak out or ignore?? The headlines this week had much ado about the inappropriate and crude joke that Letterman told about Governor Palin's 14 year old daughter on live TV. Humor today is cruel and if you are any kind of public figure, you seem to have declared yourself to be fair game to be abused. Letterman's joke received much laughter from the crowd. Letterman finally, a week later, apologized, and yet made the excuse that he was telling the joke about Palin's 18 year old daughter and not her 14 year-old daughter, in fact he checked to make sure she was 18. In other words, it was OK to tell an inappropriate crude sexual joke about an 18 year-old but not a 14 year-old. To top it off, a poll was taken that showed more that 2/3s of those polled saw no wrong on Letterman's part. While some votes in this poll may have been politically motivated, it still tells us the kind of culture we are living in and how easily we can be convinced that these kinds of events are just fine. Over 2/3s of our people claim to believe in Jesus as their Savior, yet 2/3s are also fine with this kind of coarse behavior and thinking. 1 John 2—We are called to "walk as children of the Light!" I believe the only way this kind of thing will be stopped is for us to be willing to speak out and protest! Speak out or ignore?

A question: Our Synod is asking the question: Is it time for a new name? Lutheran Church Missouri Synod or LCMS—what does this mean? What does this convey to the world around us? Do they have any clue that we hold the most precious message of eternal salvation? The truth is that our culture does not seem to know why we exist. We exist to invite people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ by our deeds and words so that they too may have eternal life. So LCMS—Lutheran Church of Mission and Service? Lutheran Church of the Cross? What are your thoughts? Please remember that we have had at least 3 different names in our synod's history. Oh, another question what is a synod?

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Thanks to Becky (See Matthew 7:16-20)

06-08-2009

WHEREFORE BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM ... AND, TO CLEAR UP ANY CONFUSION, TOMATOES ARE TECHNICALLY FRUITS



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Happy Dad's Day! What does this mean? Today, I just want to say thank you to all those Dads who are fully engaged in their mission to be the best Dad they can be. This means different things for Dads who may be and are at different stages of their life. It has been my privilege to be a Dad to my kids. I remember bringing both Paula and Kevin to church when they were a very young age—less than a week old and giving them to the Lord! Helping their faith to grow. I remember ice cream cones, pizzas, movies, hard work in the garden, yard and cabin. I remember praying for wisdom when they asked to borrow the car for the first time. I remember the countless hours of prayers (still praying). I remember my own earthly father, Harold C. Grohs who unselfishly gave so that his boys could have life—even when I didn't always treat him the best. And most of all, I remember my heavenly Dad, who gave His own Son, Jesus for me.

To me, Dad means someone who is involved in their children's lives, not just an obligation, but a mission, passion and love. Being a Dad doesn't end—Thank Dad it doesn't end. Our Father (Dad) in Heaven—Thank you for the opportunity!

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(See Matthew 17:20)

FAITH—MOVE THE MOUNTAIN BACK!

05-04-2009

New Property debt? The question was asked at our open forum concerning how much we owe on the land purchase next to Home Depot. The answer (in round figures) is \$34,343, minus the \$4,359 we have in the checking account that our monthly payment of \$3,538 comes from. So, we owe about \$29,984. We are very close and with some short-term focus on this project we can have this paid off very soon. Please note, this also, is the only debt our congregation has.

God has blessed us as we are now able to move forward as He wants us to. Offerings from "Moving Toward Tomorrow" goes toward this fund.

"Now to God who can do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine"

Bible Study Walk—We continue our walk through the Bible on Tuesday Mornings at 9:00 am in the Learning Center. We are beginning 1 Peter on June 23rd. The letters of Peter and John will go quickly and we plan to begin a study of Revelation in September. Come as you are able as there is always some overlap from week to week. It looks like we will finish the Bible by the end of the year. (Genesis might be coming!) Consider the possibilities.

We have had a small group getting together to talk about our Vision and Mission Statement. We are trying to help you focus upon why we exist and what our tasks are and should be. There is more, we just don't want to overwhelm anyone.

Welcoming (Inviting)—people into a relationship with Jesus

Nurturing—people to grow in that relationship.

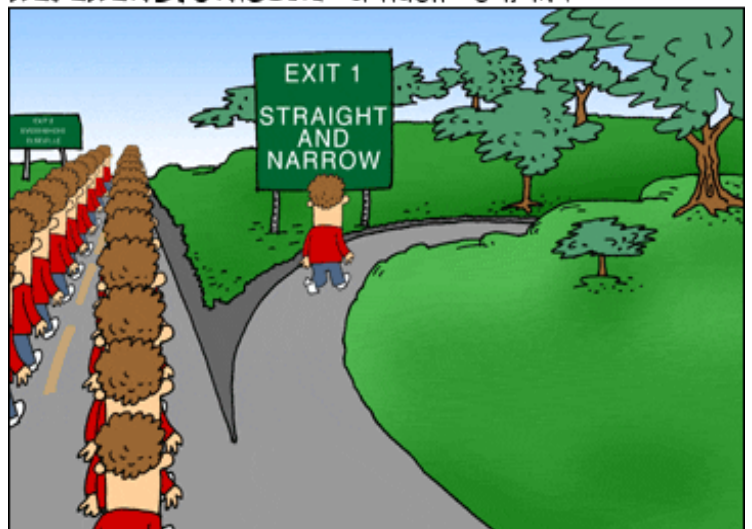
Following—Jesus into the community for a life of service in His name!

We are a Family of Believers! Welcoming (Inviting) others to know, love and follow Jesus Christ! Can you remember it?

Call Committee—The Board of Directors has authorized the forming of a "call committee" to call another pastor. Please consider how God might be calling you to serve with us. Please talk with Dave Frater or Brian Hanson concerning this opportunity.

Shirts for mission! Tee shirts with our name on them and our Theme for next year for a donation of only \$8. Help join our cause! Give your donation to an usher or to pastor. We have some at the office as well. Thanks for your support!

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Thanks to Jeff Hastings

08-26-2003