



# “Way More! Ephesians 3: 20-21” “Pastor John’s Blog” July 5, 2009

**Pre-call meeting:** President Joel Hoelter (Wisconsin North district president) will be with us on July 7th at 6:30 p.m. for a pre-call meeting with our congregation in the church fellowship hall. While our Board of Directors has authorized the forming of a call committee, this pre-call meeting with the congregation is our first step. Thank you for putting this on your calendar and attending. As we focus on our needs as a congregation, you will be given the opportunity to submit names.

**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.

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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

**8th Street Parsonage.** We have looked into a number of options with our 8th street parsonage. These include fixing it up (We did not have any stated purpose for the house), selling the house and moving it to another location (the information we received showed it was too expensive to do this), selling off the house and part of the lot (this would make our current church lot too small). The Board of Directors will be following the will of the congregation as you voted on this last year, to raze the house to provide a better appeal to our current church and property. The cost to do this was included in the operating plan. You are free to help with some additional financial help if the Lord moves you to do this. Our former president Brian Hanson and I have fielded many questions concerning this move. We know this home carries memories for some in the congregation, and now it seems time to move forward. Thank you for your help and understanding. This process will begin within the next couple of months.

**... 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. . . .**

**Even life itself is a gift, not fully one’s own, but rather it is a gift of God to be managed to fulfill God’s purposes.** (1 Cor. 6:19) This means that God’s stewards (you and I) are stewards by virtue of creation and their re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore, we belong to the Lord. Being one of God’s stewards from the Biblical point of view, is a matter of identity. It’s about knowing the ONE to whom we personally belong. It’s about being known by and knowing the Triune God. The God of the Bible, the Lord and Giver of Life, the Creator and Re-creator of all life; God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. From our Scriptures, we believe and teach God made us, body and soul, for the present and for eternity for Himself. Even when we wander away from God and deny this, we are still spoken for by God. The Bible teaches that it is the gracious action of God-in-Christ who accepts, forgives and makes stewards out of people who are inclined to ignore and even rebel against God. It is a grace-filled response to say, “I am God’s steward!” That is a privilege to be valued highly everyday of life. Our stewardship involves all of life and we are discoverers, developers and deployers of all the gifts God has given to us. Our purpose is to let our life be an offering. The implications of saying, “I am God’s steward” are enormous. It means we can give credit to God as the source of all gifts, talents, skills and time that we have. God’s stewards are entrusted with life and life’s resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for God.



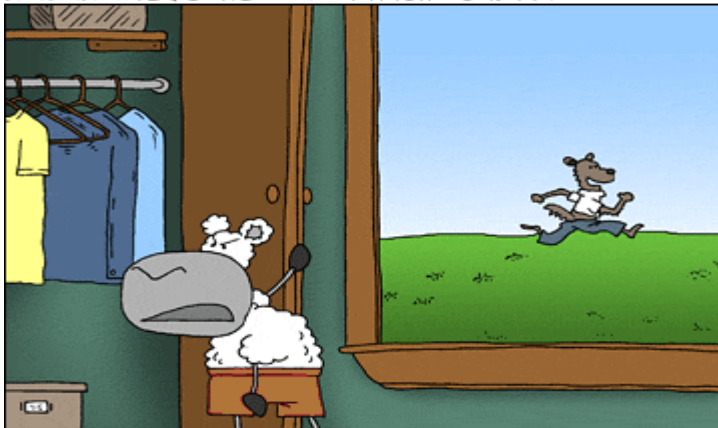
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**“Now to God who can do immeasurably more than we can ever ask or imagine!”**

**Open forums are planned for July 12th and 19th between services, and on July 12th at 6:30** to gain more input from you concerning our staffing and to share with you some of the committee’s findings and recommendations. These kinds of changes will need your support and your vote, so come and be involved. See you on the 12th or the 19th.

**“Just Walk Across the Room”** We will begin a Bible Study for our whole congregation, beginning our “Kick Off Sunday” September 13th. Bill Hybol takes us into what it is like to intentionally walk across the room for God’s Purpose. We will need small group leaders to help with this video drive study. Times will include Sunday Morning and other times during the week. Books will be available next week and a donation will be appreciated. You can share with your spouse or with another person. The reading is easy and you will learn about your area of comfort and . . . .

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(See Matthew 7:15)

06-22-2009

HEY MARTHA ... IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF MY CLOTHING HAS GONE MISSING AGAIN

### **Biblical Virtue to Pray for your kids!**

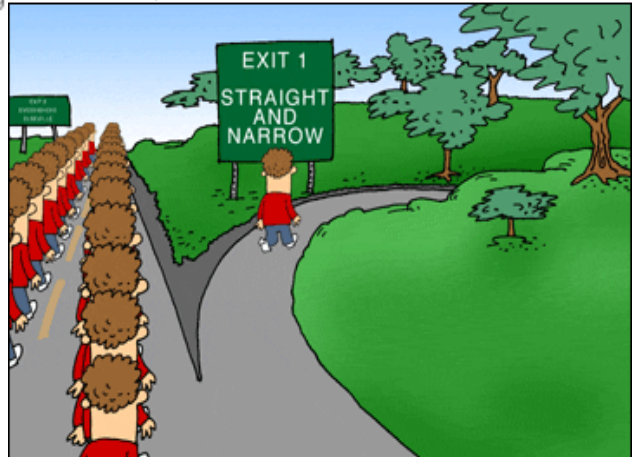
“Salvation”—Lord let salvation spring up within my children through Your promises that they will obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory!” Isaiah 45:8 & 2 Tim. 2:10

### **“Cruise-In” a success!**



**Bible Study Walk**—We continue our walk through the Bible on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Learning Center. We are began 1 Peter on Tuesday, 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 is coming!) If your schedule permits you to attend, please consider the possibilities.

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Thanks to Jeff Hastings

08-26-2003

**Our Father’s Day Cruise-In** was a blessing as many people took the opportunity to show their vehicle, car, rod or roadster at Immanuel last Sunday. Some fathers, sons and daughters helped with the brat fry and fun (& sun) was had by all. There were some prizes given out from car owner’s registration and \$140 ended up going to the Family Center here in town. Thank you for your part in helping make this an outreach to our community.

### **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. Does vision drive our programs here at church and school? Or do programs drive the vision. 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?