

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 3rd is the Annual Souper Bowl of Caring when our youth will be collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations for God's Pantry. Donations can be placed in the large barrel in the entry, which will then be picked up and distributed by our local God's Pantry. There are millions of youth throughout the US who take part in this event each year on Super Bowl Sunday. It's a chance for us to take time to truly show our appreciation for the abundance which has blessed our lives, and give back.

USED BOOKS WANTED!

The Women of WOH are sponsoring a Used Book Sale in conjunction with the 'Fat Tuesday' Pancake Supper on **February 5th** and on **Sunday, Feb. 9th** between the worship services. Thrivent will be matching funds up to \$350 with all proceeds going to WOH's Emergency Reserve Fund. Donations can be left in the box in the entry. For more information contact **ANNETTE FRAZIER (231-1845)**.

FAT TUESDAY

We'll have our own "Mardi Gras" gathering at church on **TUESDAY, Feb 5th, 5:30pm**. We'll have a pancake supper and some entertainment before we head into the observance of Lent. (A Thrivent matching funds grant applied for up to \$350 to apply to the ER fund.)

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will gather for worship on Ash Wednesday, February 6th, at 7 pm. This day marks the beginning of Lent, a season in the church year when the focus is on deepening our relationship with God. The worship is rich, unique, and moving. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

On the Wednesdays of Lent, we are gathering at 7 pm for reflective worship and quiet conversation. This will be the more public side of our focus on: *Simple Gift. Simple Life—A Lenten Sabbatical*. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

NEWCOMERS RECEPTION

We have tentatively set aside Sunday, Feb 24th for a newcomers lunch/reception (@noon-3 pm.) If you'd like to know more about WOH or what membership involves, we invite you to join us—even if you're "just looking."

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

...are available in the entryway (\$2/copy). Take a copy to use for your daily Lenten reflection.

NEW WOH FOLKS LIST...

is available in the entry, including email addresses! Be sure and pick up your copy! And do let us know of any errors!

FROM THE PASTOR

The word "sabbatical" has probably made its way into mainstream awareness through its use in academic or even churchly settings (if at all.) In that context, a sabbatical is a time for an individual to get away from what they usually do and then by outside study, travel, etc. they return to daily work with new insights, refreshed and enthusiastic. At least that's the way it's supposed to work.

In that context, sabbatical seems to be an experience reserved for The Few but its roots make clear that it's actually supposed to be for The All. Here I'm thinking of "sabbatical" as in "Sabbath" as in the commandment "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." The early Israelites understood Sabbath to be a take-off from God's own regimen at the end of the first creation account in Genesis 2:3 "So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation." They understood the Sabbath as more than just a day off to go camping or shopping. It was a time to shake off the encumbrances of daily life and concentrate on God—the one who alone can give abundant life.

For those who follow Jesus, the Sabbath rest was a given—but with a twist. The Jesus people recognized that his resurrection victory over sin and death was so sweeping as to have changed everything. It's not just that the day of worship shifted to the day of resurrection (Sunday) but they considered time itself altered. The day of the resurrection became the "8th day of the week"—the launch of a new creation, eternity breaking into the present. That's pretty heady stuff but the practical application is that now each week is meant to come with its very own sabbatical for everyone!

We've gotten away from that in our weekends crammed with activities but now comes a good time for getting back into the practice of Sabbath. Traditionally, Lent is a time to re-new, re-tool, re-pent, re-fit, re-turn, even be re-created and to that end I have a Lenten proposition.

Our theme this year is "Simple Gift, Simple Life—A Lenten Sabbatical" and my proposition is simply this: REST! Take some time off! RE-LAX! Step out of the routine. Dare to let go of all the STUFF that seems so pressing and fall into the arms of the One who loves you.



I'll tell you ahead of time, we will have special materials available for Lent. We'll structure some opportunities for re-discovery of the one thing needful (as Jesus put it.) We'll have handouts, hands-on, hands down great stuff available. But here's what you're going to hear repeatedly. "Today/this week we are making

_____ available for your use in your Lenten Sabbatical. You are only permitted to take/use/attend if it will facilitate your refreshment in the Lord. If this is going to become just one more demand, you are not allowed to participate.”

May sound a bit strange but Sabbaticals are like that. A Time to contemplate The Simple Gift of God’s love in Jesus life, death, and resurrection. A time to ponder what a Simpler Life would look and feel like. A time to gather strength, insight, and enthusiasm for the opportunities God will place in front of us.

So what’s the clutter that gets in the way of your spirituality? How might you let it go in order to grab hold of God? Not sure? Take a break. Linger at The Oasis. Consider *The Simple Gift*. Learn *The Simple Life* of *A Lenten Sabbatical*.

PS Please note some special readings further on in this newsletter—one of which is a short story by our own PAUL STRATTON. Enjoy!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our Light and our Salvation, you alone are the one who has come to save us. We thank you for your coming, and for your will to perform in us again your saving work. Rule us by your Holy Spirit, that henceforth we may wait for none other and put our trust in nothing in heaven or earth except you alone, our Lord. Amen. Martin Moller (1547-1606)

WEEKLY FAITH GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY: 8:15 Classic Grace

9:30 “TRUE NORTH”—Christian education for all ages

10:45 Celebration Service

6:30-8 pm “Bible Basics” confirmands AND adults

Wednesdays 7-8 pm: During Lent, worship & conversation

LIFE LINE, our Sunday morning, between-worship-services, small care group with a variety of topics. **No preparation needed. Walk-ins expected**

Pastor Thom Duval: 272-8515 Office times: Monday- Friday 7:30am-10:30am

KID’S NITE OUT

It’s a night for a very special activity! We’ll need some adult/parent involvement as we rejuvenate our manger scene with some new figurines. We’ll have the experts on hand to give us direction and we’ll still find time for some food & a little fun! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Feb. 23 5-9pm!** Invite your friends and neighbors – **DON’T MISS OUT!** (Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR: 327-7508** or **BOB COOK: 327-3796** for more information).

KID’S SUMMIT

Our next meeting is Monday, February 18. We’ll look ahead to our CPR Training event, the summer Vacation Bible School program and our summer Sundays. **All with an interest in kids are wholeheartedly welcome.**

KID’S SAFE POLICY UPDATE: As we continue to implement the policy, we are putting together “Participant Information Sheets” for every child at WOH. If you have not yet filled this out for your child, see **JENNIFER POLNISCH** or stop in the church office. As we plan activities for our youth keep in mind the importance of **ADULT PARTICIPATION - NO YOUTH FUNCTION WILL TAKE PLACE UNLESS THERE ARE TWO ADULTS.** We invite everyone to make WOH a SAFE Place of Grace.

“Letters to God” A 6 year-old boy wrote: Dear God, I believe that Cain would not have killed his brother Able if their mom would have given them separate rooms – it works pretty good for me and my brother! Andy

CPR TRAINING

All those who have already completed the Kid’s Safe training are eligible to take part in a CPR training to be held Saturday, Feb., 16 at 9am – Noon (approximate time). There is a minimal cost of \$5/person for the verification card. In order to fully implement our Kid’s Safe Policy we need to have adults who have had the Kid’s Safe Training AND been trained in CPR. Only 25 spots are available so we need to know who is interested ASAP. Contact **JENNIFER POLNISCH** (japsigns@juno.com) for more information or if you would like to be included in this training.

COMMUNION CARE



is needed for cleanup following 10:45 service. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, see **JILL WATSON**. We are also looking for folks to serve regularly as ushers and communion assistants. See **Pr. DUVAL!** Or sign up on the **CLIPBOARDS**

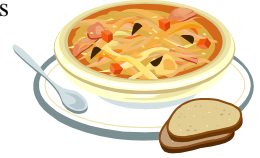
MEN’S BREAKFAST



On Saturday, Feb 9th, the men of the congregation will meet for their monthly get together at 8am – location to be announced (yes, we’re moving the time up to allow for a few more zzz’s). It’s a great time to gather, get to know each other, and grab a meal. Contact **FRANK ADAMS** at **Daddo99@hotmail.com** for more information. **PLAN TO BRING A FRIEND!**

CAMPUS MINISTRIES MEALS

During the month of February we will be providing meals for the students at Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministries. The dinner follows their Sunday evening worship with meals arriving between 6:15 & 6:30pm. The dates are: Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 17 & Feb. 24. They ask for a simple meal (main dish, salad or vegetable, dessert) – anything that doesn't come from their cafeteria is greatly appreciated! If you're interested just check the clipboards or email **DARLENE TAYLOR** (dtaylormom5@aol.com) at the church office.



PARENTWEEN GROUP (PTG)

Our next gathering is on Sunday, Feb 3rd, 6:30 pm. All parents of Middle School & High School youth (teens & tweens) are invited to this informal conversation about parenting joys and challenges—neighbors and friends are also most welcome. For more information: Call Pastor 272-8515. (We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm)

BLOODMOBILE AT WOH

The Bloodmobile will be at WOH on Sunday, March 2. Mark your calendar now so that you can “Share the gift of life” as part of your Lenten observance this year!

DINER'S NIGHT REMINDER

We've had some extraordinary gatherings over the past few months! There have been some great conversations and just 'get to know ya' times! The fun continues.....

January/February Gatherings:

HOST: Mary & Steve Adams

Guests: Kristin & Andrew Slavik; Julie & Jerry McEwen; Toby & Darlene Easter; Darlene & Bob Taylor

HOST: Jason & Mary Romain

Guests: Chuck & Dawn Webb; Rob Moore & Kelly Morris; Marjorie Floro; Bill & Joanne Brown

If you'd still like to be a part of the gatherings, contact **JULIE McEWEN** (552-0062).



PRAY/Z THE LORD III



Our unique, combined “Worship & Annual” congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 20. In the renewal of Baptismal vows, we re-dedicated ourselves to God's new future for Word of Hope. In the midst of worship, a renewal to the work of the church and Bible study, we received the annual reports, elected council members, and passed the 2008 budget. We continue to seek the direction God is guiding us and look forward with great anticipation to all that He has in store for this Body of Christ in the coming year. Our **THANKS** to outgoing church council members: **KRISTIN SLAVIK & JENNIFER POLNISCH**, and **WELCOME** to new council members: **MARJORIE FLORO, JOANNE BROWN, CHARLOTTE WONG, JASON LAMBIRTH** and, re-elected, **JOHN McMULLEN**.

In additional Church Council business, our January meeting included discussion on the year--end financials noting the deficit but encouraged that we were able to reduce it in December; general discussion in preparation for the annual meeting; 2008 Council Retreat dates--Feb 1-2; and a brief discussion regarding a possible sabbatical for Pastor in 2008. As always, the congregation is invited to participate in the Council discussions. The next meeting will be at noon on Sunday, Feb.10th. —**JOHN MCMULLEN**, Council president

WOH YARD SALE

The WOH Yard Sale is still a ways off, which means you have plenty of time to gather your odds and ends as you start your spring cleaning – we'll take it all! **April 26th** is the date so mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors! Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** (868-9769 or dtaylormom5@aol.com). We'll be looking for plenty of help in April so mark your calendars now, the more the merrier!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT



On the weekend of February 22-24, our confirmands will be on a retreat with other Lexington Lutheran youth at the Aldersgate Retreat Center, Ravenna, KY. This is always a great event. Ask them about it when they return. They are, **OLIVIA COTTRELL, JOE MCMULLEN, MARY WEBB, & SHELBY VERHOEVEN**.

SANCTUARY CANDLE CHART

If you would like to sign up to provide the sanctuary candle for a given Sunday, see the charts posted on the bulletin board in the entryway. (The cost is \$5/ Sunday) You may do this in memory of someone or to honor a person or event. It will be acknowledged in the weekly sheet. Simply fill out the information on the chart.

CARE TEAM

The Care Team meets on Tuesday, Feb 12th, 7pm at **JULIE MCEWEN's**. The Care Team helps coordinate support for folks in time of need as well as confidential material assistance. Contacts are **COLLEEN BLACK, JULIE McEWEN** or **PASTOR DUVAL**. *And, by way of expanding the spirit of what we do, we urge each person to make a phone call to someone in need of an encouraging word.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



We need a few people to take down the garbage cans on Thursday and bring them back up on Friday. If we could get 3-4 people, we could rotate this job every month or so. We also need a few volunteers who are willing to change the filters on a regular basis. Same as above, if we could get a couple people that would be great. Please contact **JENNIFER POLNISCH** at 231-7119 or japsigns@juno.com.

PEOPLE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION to **JENNIFER POLNISCH** for her dedication to the Kid's Safe Policy. Through her many hours of training, work and organization we can proudly say that WOH is a welcoming AND SAFE place for kids. Thanks Jen!

CONGRATULATIONS TO KATELYN SLAVIK, who was recently selected for the part of, Queen of Sweden, in the upcoming production of "The Big Friendly Giant". Katelyn will also perform with chorus in the play at Lexington Children's Theater, which is under the direction of **JEREMY KISLING**. Check out the website (<http://www.lctonstage.org>) for more information. Way to go Katelyn!

OUR THANKS TO MUSIK MATTERS and director, **KIM BUCKNER** for providing entertainment for our children during the Annual Worship Meeting. What a great time!

WELCOME HOME to **AMANDA TAYLOR**, daughter of **DARLENE & BOB TAYLOR**. She just returned to Norfolk following a 6 month deployment in the Mediterranean aboard the USS Kearsarge. We pray God's continued protection over all our military men & women.



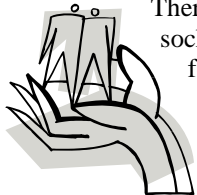
WE REJOICE with **DALE & SCHARLENE AUSTIN** at the birth of their newest grandchild, **DANIELA MARIE VALLEJO**. She is welcomed by parents, **BECKY & SERGIO** and big brother, **CALEB**. Thanks be to God!

Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people.
-Mother Teresa

A PAUSE THAT REFRESHES

Each weekday, we send out a brief devotional reading by e-mail. If you would like to have a look, send a note to **TADWrig45@cs.com** and we'll send one your way.

SOULFIRE



There is still a bit of cold weather ahead, and our SoulFire ministry is still out there! We are in need of shirts, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, shampoos, soaps and washcloths, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wet wipes, individual food items. Monetary donations can also be made – simply indicate that you would like the donation to be directed to Soulfire. We will head out on **FEBRUARY 10th** at noon! For more information contact **RICHARD SAUNDERS** (272-5693 or levi9266@alltel.net). If you have never been a part of this ministry you are welcome to join us, and we hope you will share our enthusiasm for this incredible venture!

VISION TEAM

...looks for ways to implement the Vision Statement and discerns new opportunities. We'll meet next from 8-9 am on Thursday, February 7th at the ROC Café at Immanuel Baptism Church on Tates Creek Rd—we can get a great breakfast cheap while we pray and seek the path God puts before us as a congregation. This is open to all who have a love for God's work in and through this community of faith.

A STORY OF GRACE

This story started about 50 years ago, when a 15 year old boy was pedaling his bike to work at a motel at New Circle Road and North Broadway. In the 1950s, as today, this was used car heaven. There were several used car lots within walking distance of that intersection. Half a block into town the railroad tracks crossed over North Broadway and took a 90-degree turn to cross over New Circle Road, heading out of town. The train tracks then curved back toward North Broadway, after the gas station, motel and Everybody's Used Car Lot, until the tracks ran within a few feet of the road.



Our young man, let's call him Bob, was looking at the cars to the left as he biked along the side of the road, and he noticed something he had not seen before. There was a small car lot nestled between the large, bustling Everybody's Used Cars and the woods running between the train tracks and the roadway.

The sign in front read "New Cars for Everybody," but behind the sign there was only a small parking lot with one beat-up old car parked next to the door of a small office, which looked more like a fairy tale cottage than a business. A single-car garage snuggled up next to the office. There appeared to be no evidence of activity other than a whiff of smoke coming from a small chimney. Bob went on to work that day without giving any more thought to his curious observation.

Over the years Bob passed that way many times and occasionally looked over at New Cars for Everybody. Occasionally he would notice someone driving a new car out of the parking lot, and sometimes there would be an old man walking into the office. Oddly, over the years nothing seemed to change. The sign, office and garage never looked the worse for wear, and the old man looked like he wore the same clothes every time Bob saw him. But Bob never gave it a second thought.

Over the years Bob grew older, married his high school sweetheart, worked a job he mildly tolerated, drove used cars, and raised two boys, who went on to have families of their own. As his marriage became stale, Bob took more pride in his boys and later in his grandchildren. Bob and his family had moved away from the North side of town, and he saw New Cars for Everybody less often. When Bob was getting ready to retire, he went looking for a gift to give to himself, a new luxury car he would purchase with his retirement gift from work.

Driving out North Broadway on his way to the Cadillac dealer, Bob turned into the driveway of New Cars for Everybody. He had determined that he would satisfy the curiosity that he had had for the past 50 years. As he opened the door to the office, he was surprised to see only a desk and no computer, file cabinet, water cooler or anything that looked like a new car salesroom. He was about to walk out when the old man behind the desk looked up and said "Welcome. Bob, I'm glad you're here. What new car can I get for you today?"

Startled to hear his name from a total stranger, he stammered, "A new car. Yes, I am looking for a new car."

"Well, Bob, you came to the right place, even if it took you a while. What can I get for you?" said the old man.

Still unsettled, Bob grew even more ill at ease when he noticed that the old man appeared to be wearing the same clothes and looked about the same as he did every other time he had seen him over the years.

"Ah, I was thinking of a Cadillac. Maybe a CLS with leather seats, navigation system, DVD and all the top-of-the line stuff. Can you get that for me?" Bob asked, thinking this would challenge the old man into getting serious.

"What color?" was the old man's matter-of-fact reply.

"White, with wire wheels and an On-Star system hooked up to the internet," was Bob's response, noticing that the old man was not writing anything down. Bob was sure that this was all a joke, an old man's senile role play.

"Well, it looks like you are in luck. I have one right here," he said as he pointed toward a door leading to the garage.

Playing along, Bob got up out of his chair and walked to the door. Slowly he opened the door and was surprised to see a sparkling white Cadillac CLS waiting for him.

Recovering his senses somewhat and curious about how this would play out, Bob asked, "what's the tariff on this baby?"

"The terms are right here on this contract," said the old man as he pushed a paper across the table toward Bob.

Bob returned to his seat and looked over what appeared to be a standard contract for purchasing a new car. It was completely filled out, including his name, social security number, and everything. "There must be some kind of mistake. The 'amount due' is zero."

"That's right," said the old man, tossing Bob the keys. "It's all yours."

Bob bolted up from his chair. "OK, this joke has gone too far. This isn't real. No one gives away new cars, not without some kind of gimmick; a balloon payment, a first-born son, or something."

As Bob turned for the front door, the old man said, "The car is yours. All you have to do is sign the contract, take the keys and drive out the door."

"OK," thought Bob. "A contract is a legal document, even if it is crazy."

Bob carefully read over the contract and could find nothing out of the ordinary. It appeared that he was going to get the car of his dreams for nothing. He signed the contract, took the keys and walked into the garage.

As he started the car, he felt a wave of satisfaction with the purr of the engine and the aroma and comfort of the leather seats. He looked back at the office door and saw that the old man smiling and waving to him.

"Hey, thanks!" Bob said nudging the car forward, half expecting it not to move as part of the joke. As a last thought Bob asked, "What's your name?"

"You can call me Grace," said the old man.

"Well, thank you, Mr. Grace," shouted Bob as he drove out the door.

All doubts cast aside, Bob drove down the driveway and out onto North Broadway. As he pulled through the traffic light at New Circle Road, he never saw the Hummer speeding through the intersection, trying to beat the light. He never felt the crushing weight as darkness enveloped him.

Bob awoke bathed in a bright light, standing in line with other men, women and children silently awaiting their turn. Soon Bob stood before The Golden Arches, and even Bob recognized that this was not a McDonalds. A voice coming out of everywhere got his attention.

"Bob, you get one question before entering heaven."

Puzzled, Bob asked the only question he could think of, "if I was going to die so soon, why did it take so long for me to get a Cadillac?"

The voice replied, "Bob, today was just your day to die. But Grace was there all the time. All you had to do was walk through the door. Until then you lived with used cars."

A Lenten Prayer

O Christ,
You take upon yourself all our burdens
so that,
freed of all that weighs us down,
we can constantly begin anew to walk
with lightened
step,
from worry towards trusting,
from the shadows towards the clear
flowing waters,
from our own will towards the vision of
the coming
Kingdom.
And then we know, though we hardly dared
hope so,
that you offer to make every human being
a reflection of

WORD OF HOPE'S MISSION

Share the love of Jesus with ALL others and grow disciples

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE—OUR VISION

We accept and will live out God's call to be a Christ-centered, growing, place of grace for all. Day by day, we expect to welcome those whom the Lord will add to the number of his people in this place, doubling every 3 years. With glad and generous hearts we will be faithful stewards of God's gifts with financially sound operations and solid plans for future building. Day by day and together, we will devote ourselves to lives of prayer and praise, going out as apostles into the world and making disciples.

Grace—a welcoming, safe place
Growth—spiritual, numbers, facility
Glad/Generous hearts—financial & whole life stewardship
Go—outward focus on “the world”

CALLED TO SERVE: Leadership Discernment

If you have a sense/inkling? of God's nudge to serve at Word of Hope, we invite you to contact **Pr Duval** or **John McMullen**. We will explore with you the possibilities of serving on church council or in some other area of ministry.

THANKS KROGER CARD!

Thank you for your continued use of the “re-loadable” Kroger gift cards! The church receives a 4% rebate for all purchases for which the cards are used—a nice extra. *Imagine the increased benefits to WOH if every member purchased their fuel at Kroger using the re-loadable gift card!* If you are not yet participating in this program take a minute to stop by the church office to get started! And please continue to use your rechargeable Kroger Gift Cards, which help supplement our church income. **See DARLENE TAYLOR for details.**

JOB OR MINISTRY?

(Author unknown)

How can you tell the difference between a job and a ministry? Some Christians merely have a job(s) in the church. Others are involved in a ministry. There's all the difference in the world! How can you tell the difference between a job and a ministry?

... If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

... If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job. If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.

... If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

... If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job. If you stay with it even though no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.

... If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done, it's a job. If you are doing it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.

... It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

... *If our concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry.*

... People may say "well done" when you do your job. The Lord will say "well done" when you complete your ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people involved in ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, for heaven's sake (literally), don't treat it like a job. If you have a job in the church, give it up and find a ministry! God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited, fulfilled, and faithful to Him in a specific ministry.



WHO NEEDS JESUS?

Christ said “Blessed are the poor” and “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom,” and no doubt he primarily meant the economically rich and the economically poor. But do not His words also apply to another kind of riches and poverty? One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you may be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing checks, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God. Now quite plainly, natural gifts carry with them a similar danger. If you have sound nerves and intelligence and health and popularity and good upbringing, you are likely to be quite satisfied with your character as it is. “Why drag God into it?” you may ask. A certain level of good conduct comes fairly easily to you. You are not one of those wretched creature who are always being tripped up by sex, or dipsomania, or nervousness, or a bad temper. Everyone says you are a nice chap and (between ourselves) you agree with them.



You are quite likely to believe that all this niceness is your own doing: and you may easily not feel the need for any better kind of goodness. Often people who have all these natural kinds of goodness cannot be brought to recognize their need for Christ at all until, one day, all the natural goodness lets them down and their need for Christ at all until, one day, all the natural goodness lets down and their self-satisfaction is shattered. In other words, it is hard for those who are “rich” in this sense to enter the Kingdom.

It is very different for the nasty people – the little, low, timid, warped, thin-blooded, lonely people, or the passionate, sensual, unbalanced people. If they make any attempt at goodness at all, they learn, in double quick time, that they need help. It is Christ or nothing for them. It is taking up the cross and following – or else despair. They are the lost sheep; He came specially to find them. They are (in one very real and terrible sense) the “poor”: He blessed them. They are the “awful set” he goes about with – and of course the Pharisees say still, as they said from the first, “If there were anything in Christianity those people would not be Christians.” (C.S. Lewis)

**“There is a God-shaped vacuum
in the heart of every person,
and it can never be filled by any created thing.
It can only be filled by God,
made known through Jesus Christ.”**

Blaise Pascal



WEEKLY FAITH GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

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Pastor Thom Duval: 272-8515 Office times: Monday- Friday 7:30am-10:30am



(Wohly's ready for some football!!)

WE'RE WOHLY! W(ord) O(f) H(ope) L(utheran) Y(outh)

SUPER BOWL PARTY TIME!!! Sunday, Feb.5th –Watch for details in the weekly sheet and emails! Bring your friends and don't miss the fun!

YOUTH STUDY GROUP Thursdays 5:30-7pm. Need help with school work? Come join us! It's a focused one-on-one study time – food too, and we'll even carve out a little time for a group-building activity (???)!

YOUTH TO LUNCH Sunday, February 10th. We'll gather at NOON and head out to lunch! It's time to catch up with friends (or chat with someone new!) and it's a great time to introduce your friends to the group so bring them along! Bring funds to cover your appetite and **DON'T MISS OUT!!**

WINTER'S NIGHT OUT Saturday, February 16 at 6:00pm –The weather outside may be frightful, but we'll create a wonderful dining experience at WOH. Reservations are for 6:30pm at a candlelit table for about 6. The delicious spaghetti dinner will be prepared and served by the Sr. High youth. It's one of their specialties! **YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**

YOUTH TO SHRINER'S Thursday, February 21st at 5:30pm. We'll meet at the church then head out to have some fun with the patients at Shriner's. Bring a few bucks to grab a bite to eat afterwards! We'll have time to chat about our experience. Friends are welcome!

YOUTH AND PARENTS! WE WILL HAVE AN INFORMATION MEETING FOR YOUTH MISSION '08 IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS - WATCH THE WEEKLY SHEET FOR INFORMATION AND DATES!