

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT
CHURCH(GCEPC)®,INC,

LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL
PROTESTANT CHURCH(LEPC)®

BREAKING NEWS!

Jesus declares "So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (20) Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. "And remember that I am always with you until the end of time." Matthew 28:19-20

INSIDE THIS

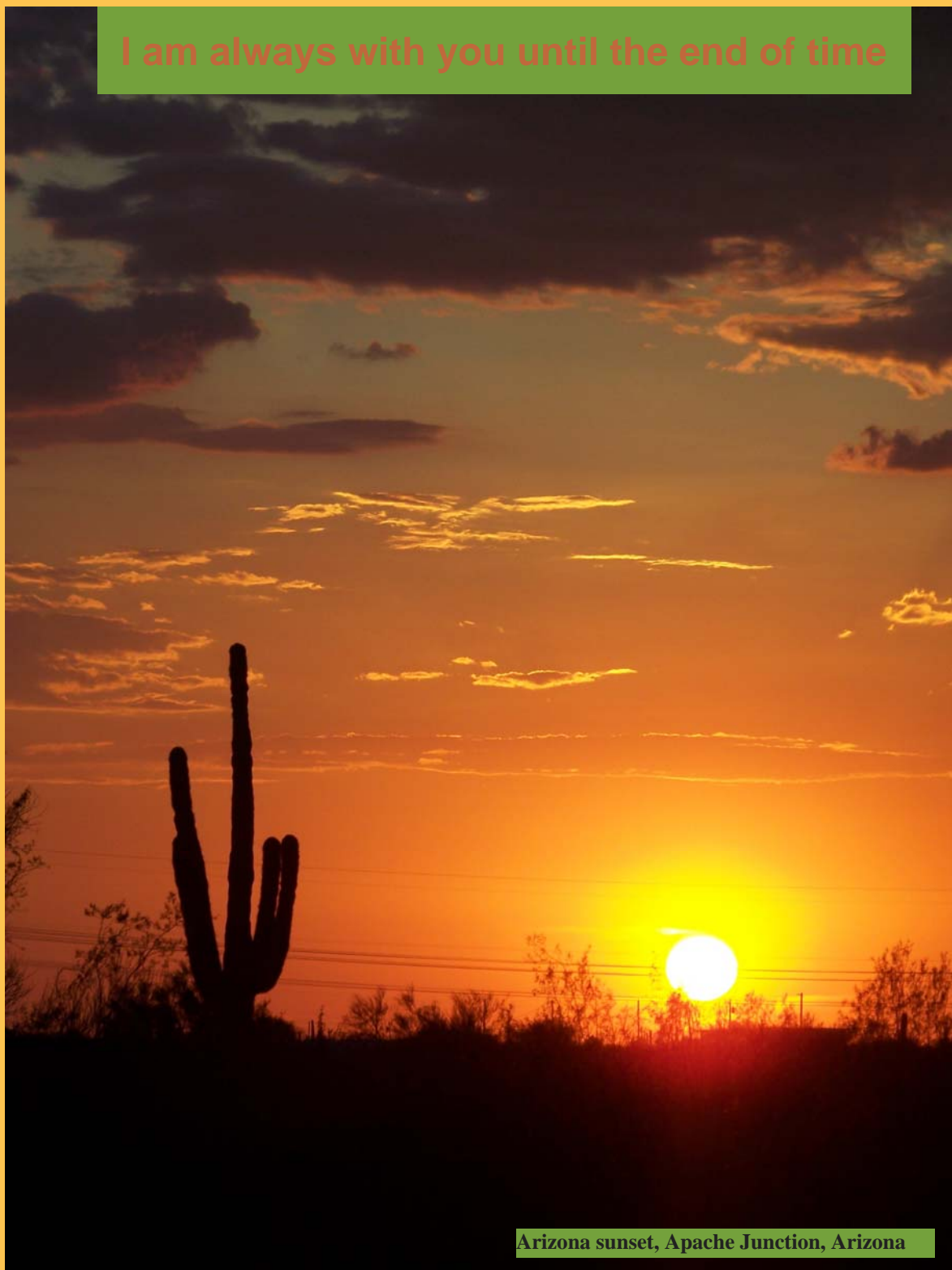
Who we are	2
Bishop's Page	3
Pregnant with a Promise	4
Failed Fatherhood	5
Spiritual Snickers Bars, The Bread of	6
Neighbor Healed and	7
Two Horses	10
Day of Prayer: for the Peace of Jerusalem	11
My Spiritual Journey	12
Bloom Where You are Planted!	14
Rev. John Haase Ap- pointed to Mission Next	15
Welcome & Congratulations	18
The "Back Page"	19

The Evangelical Protestant The Magazine of the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church

FALL 2013

FIRST ISSUE 1917

I am always with you until the end of time



Arizona sunset, Apache Junction, Arizona



Evangelical Protestant
Church (GCEPC)® Inc.,

Lutheran Evangelical
Protestant Church (LEPC)®,

GCEPC "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8

The Most Rev. Nancy Drew
Presiding Bishop/President
The Rt. Rev. Jessica Johnston
Executive Bishop/Vice President
Board of Advisors - Council of Bishops
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. David Church
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. William Dorn
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. Harvey Menden
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Linda Dabney
Bishop The Rev. Dr. Israel Ikpeka
Bishop The Rev. Dr. Fred Macharia
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Ralf Muller
Bishop (Interim) Rev. Dr. Michael Norton
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dennis Overlien
Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. Francesco Reale
Bishop The Rev. Elijah Ruboneka

The Evangelical Protestant Journal "Kirchenbote" (Church Messenger) was established in 1885, Gustav Schmidt became editor. In 1917, the German Evangelical churches in the Pittsburgh area began publication of a monthly entitled The Evangelical Protestant. (Archives Smithfield UCC)
Members may reproduce and distribute this issue.
Members may upload this issue to their website.
The Evangelical Protestant is the magazine of the Evangelical Protestant Church, Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church, General Conference of Evangelical Protestant Churches, GCEPC, Inc.
The full color *Evangelical Protestant* is published quarterly.
Editor Rev. Steve Bacon

We Believe

1. The Holy Scriptures, in the original tongues, is the inspired and inerrant word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

2. There is one God, eternal and self-existent, Creator and Ruler of the universe, and manifested through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, Matthew 3:16-17) We are Trinitarian.

3. Jesus Christ is truly divine and truly human having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Matt.1: 18)

4. Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His blood as a Sacrifice

for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (1 John 2:2)

5. Humankind was created in the image of God, but fell into sin causing separation from God. (Gen. 3:1-24)

6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all; and those who repent and believe on Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life and become the children of God. (John 1:10)

7. Water baptism identifies us with the death and burial of Christ and that we should arise to

walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19-20)

8. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ, to convict of sin, to enable the believer to live a godly life, and to empower the Church to carry the gospel into all the world. (Matthew 12:31, Acts 1:8.)

9. In the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ for His Church. (Matthew 24:30, Rev 1:7)

10. In the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting separation from God of all those who reject Jesus Christ. (John 1:10-13, Rev 20:11-15)

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

Bishop's Page



Greetings and hello to All,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Above everything else guard your heart, because from it flow the issues of life Prov 4:23.

I have a running series of short writings that I do on the issues of life that I regularly share on my Facebook page and occasionally on the EPC/GCEPC LEPC Facebook page. The purpose of these posts is to take a look at the issues of life that we face every day and how the Bible, God's Word by the Holy Spirit can help us understand and work with them in a way that is both practical and honoring to Christ. The writing I am sharing here deals with how to have a wise mouth.

There is an adage that says "if you can't say something good, don't say anything at all." Wisdom says if you cannot speak wisely it is better to be quiet. Any fool can run their mouth...and many do!

In many cases even the mouth that is not speaking but is quiet is showing wisdom in its quietness and shows the wisdom of the person who possesses it as well.

But what about when it is time to speak, when something needs to be said? Don't know what to say? Speak wisdom. And how shall you do that? By listening. Cause your ears to listen to the words of the wise.

To hear in scripture also includes obeying. So incline, listen, keep, obey. Many listen but do not keep. Many listen but do not obey. Some do not bother to incline or listen at all. Ah, but to those who do, their mind will then have the tools, the data for their mind to feed on, to chew on, to think about and that wisdom become part of their mind and way of thinking. That wisdom becomes pleasing to them, part of how they think. Wisdom becomes part of their own knowledge, how they live, what they say, who they are. They then are pleasing to God and pleasing to others. Then wisdom stored in them finds its way to their lips so that when they speak they have something worth saying and something worth hearing by others.

"Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips" (Proverbs 22:17-18 NASB)

Seek out the wise. Listen. Make wisdom your companion and it will cause you to deplore what is foolish. It will protect. It

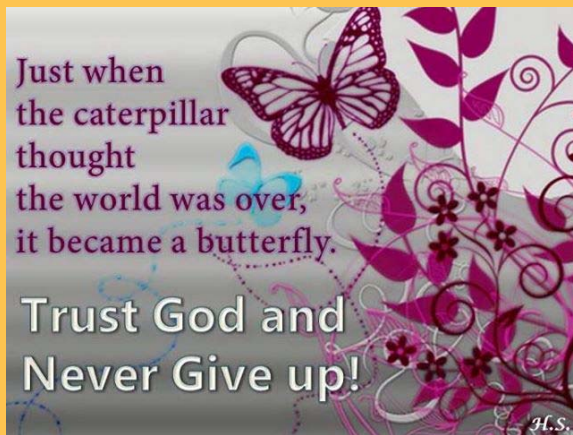
will cause you to hate what God hates, it will cause you to love what God loves, with great compassion and give you good understanding. Wisdom will cause you to hold on to what is good and cast away what is evil. It will help you make good and right choices and grow in common sense. Wisdom will bless you and be pleasing to you and cause you to be pleasing to God and to others. It will give you favor. Wisdom will give you a wise mouth to speak or not to speak.

My greatest desire for all of our ministers is that they would have a close walk with Our Lord, learning His ways, hearing His voice, knowing Him.

Blessings to all as we now anticipate the fall season, cooler nights and days as nature prepares for rest and we hopefully, too, slow down our days.

Enjoy our Fall 2013 Issue of the Evangelical Protestant!

Bishop Nancy Drew



“Pregnant with a Promise”

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries



My prayer and blessing for you is that you will discover and uncover the mysteries of God in His ways and His word. I pray for you a revelation of His grace in your life and that all lessons imparted to you through your mess will become revelatory teaching for the flock of God.

Are you pregnant with a promise from God? Are you waiting on the fulfillment of something the Lord has spoken to you? I would imagine many, if not most, of you would say “yes”. Promises are part of our development with God. He is not a man that He would lie. He is truth. He does not flatter or deceive. He is holy and pure. This being His nature, any promise He makes He will fulfill. His nature guarantees the promise.

The thing we must understand is that all promises or personal words from the Lord relate to the possible, not the inevitable. There are steps and conditions, pathways that lead to the fulfillment of this promise. Mostly, there is a transformation within.

A process begins when a promise is given. A sense of expectation comes. The promise must be embraced. However, that is not the end and then we wait. We are to study and seek to understand the promise and the heart of the One who has spoken it. This is where the Holy Spirit is there to help you understand what God is truly saying and if there are conditions that need to be fulfilled.

Just as in natural pregnancy we rejoice and share the good news, but then we begin planning, reading, researching, preparing. There is a period of time for the baby to develop and also the parents to be. In the same way you should take your promise to the Lord and ask what you are to do to prepare for this promise for you will be a steward of the promise fulfilled and only He knows what this will require of you.

Sometimes the promise requires patience. Sometimes, a fight. Sometimes giving up a fight. With any development process a transformation is occurring. He is developing in us the ability to carry the promise and walk in it. The bigger the promise the bigger the training ground.

And, with all promises He gives grace. Grace to you through the Holy Spirit. Unmerited favor to help you through the process. We are nothing within ourselves so do not strive in the process but receive His grace and seek His face.

Remember, promises are relational. His ultimate goal is intimacy with you. Rather than chasing the outcome, pursue the heart of God and his goodness and faithfulness will follow. And, then know that His word never returns to Him void.

Isaiah 55:8-11 (NIV)

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,”

declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Bishop Jessica



©Spirit Soul and Body, Inc.

“Failed Fatherhood”

July 17, 2013

For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. ... Hosea 8:7a

Hosea's words about reaping the whirlwind have found a new application in the 21st century of North America. That calls for an explanation -- an explanation which begins with a quiz. And, lest you're wondering, it most certainly is not a *trivia* quiz. Just fill in the blank:

- * According to the U.S. Department of Health, 63 percent of youth suicides come from _____ homes.
- * According to the Center for Disease Control, 85 percent of all children with mental or behavioral disorders come from _____ homes.
- * According to the National Principals Association 71 percent of high school dropouts come from _____ homes.
- * According to *The Christian Post*, teenage girls are 711 percent more likely to have children as a teen, 53 percent less likely to marry as a teen, and 92 percent more likely to get divorced if they are from a _____ home.

Well, did you figure out the answer?

To get 100 percent on the quiz you can put the word "fatherless" into each of the blanks above.

In spite of those frightening figures, in my lifetime I have seen society "sow the wind," as fathers have gone from knowing best to knowing nothing at all. The king has been evicted from his castle and is now confined to his man cave. No longer revered and respected, dads are discounted and disregarded.

And where does the whirlwind come in? In this: even as the percentage of women who respect marriage is rising dramatically, the percentage of men who value marriage is dropping -- like a stone. And who will pay the price for this shift in society? It will be the children, of course. You need not be a rocket scientist or brain surgeon to see the downward spiral this situation creates.

Now you may wonder what does all this have to do with a Daily Devotion. Simply this: the homes of Christian men and women are to be different. We have a different standard, a different goal, a different direction. Most certainly, in the Savior, we have a different model to follow.

Paul showed us that Model when he wrote, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

That is a concept the world has never understood. The best, the most noble idea it can come up with is "Marriage is a 50-50 proposition." That is not what the Bible says. In Scripture fathers are told to emulate the Savior; they are told to give as Jesus gave.

That means giving when it's not wanted, giving when it's not appreciated, giving when it is not applauded. It means putting the welfare of others above that of yourself. It means giving until it hurts, giving even to the point where you are ready to sacrifice yourself.

We are to give because that is what Jesus has done for us. From start to finish, from beginning to end, Jesus' life was dedicated to us. And we fathers with our families can honor our Lord and impact the future by doing as He did.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, may our homes be blessed by the Savior's presence. May our lives be lived trying to follow His example. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,



Pastor Ken Klaus

Speaker emeritus of [The Lutheran Hour](#)®
Lutheran Hour Ministries



Spiritual Snickers Bars, The Bread of Life and Food for Thought.



Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy

“We only trust people we know,’ says Martha Tennison...’If you’re struggling to trust God, it may be because you don’t really know God.”
 – Joanna Weaver, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life*

As I continue to read Joanna Weaver’s book, “Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World,” and discuss the contents with my Sunday school class, we have come to see parts of the content that hit a spiritual chord with us. As we read and discuss, we have begun to see that the spiritual lives we have grown to accept as usual for us may be in need of some examination. We agree that our prayer life, scripture readings and relationship with God are satisfying. What appears to be an issue is the impact of our daily life and schedule on those relationship and the resultant barriers to intimacy with our Lord. Getting to this place has been a journey and one we will continue to travel as we read this book and examine ourselves in our relationship with God.

Recently, we have discussed a chapter that presented the concept of Spiritual Snickers Bars as a type of relationship that fills us with completely innocent things which take the edge off our hunger for God. These innocent things, like friends, books, shopping and the host of other activities we have identified, when looked at more critically, led us to conclude that at times we were involved in consuming Spiritual Snickers Bars that take the edge off the appetite for God. We agree that we have to cultivate our friendships, enjoy shopping, read books and participate in the life of our community and church. God does not intend for us to be isolated, however, we also have to acknowledge that at times these very things have intruded into our hunger for our relationship with God.

In our effort to better hear the Holy Spirit, we have found that sometimes we can’t accept that silence so we try to fill it with the noise. Things like television, sitcoms, talk shows, Christian music and news distract us. We have discovered that loneliness, as Joanna describes it, is a place where we fill a need with phone calls, mall visits, community and church events and other activity. With this cacophony of distraction we fill the silence and loneliness. These times are much like a visit to the dessert bar at a buffet. The trip there is filling and we fill ourselves on sweets while passing the more substantial foods by. Our bodies are satisfied yet we have missed the real food.

In Deuteronomy 8:3, God’s word speaks to us stating that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Then again in Matthew 4:4 and in Luke 4:4 Jesus answers and states that man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. When we read these verses in our Sunday school class we agreed that the bread of life we know is from these very words that feed us spiritually, yet, we recognized how our time has been filled with other foods. This acknowledgement gave us pause and allowed us to reflect on our spiritual Snickers Bars and how we could find ourselves in conflict with our consumption of spiritual food. We are now in a place of redefining our diet of spiritual food. We are seeing the Bread of Life in ways we have not entertained previously and we are appreciating the gift. We are better able to recognize Spiritual Snickers bars and pass them by for the “Real Food” found in our relationship with Him. Perhaps our journey can be food for thought as it is shared with others. It has certainly given us vision for a redefined spiritual diet that is more fulfilling. All praises and Glory be to Him for His revelations to us.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy



Neighbor Healed and Nobody Cared

The EPC GCEPC/LEPC partners with Gospel for Asia in the digging of Jesus Wells. A Jesus Well can provide clear, clean water free of contamination and disease for a whole village for a life time. Each well has a church and pastor nearby to teach the Good News and spread the Gospel of Jesus to the villages.

A man doesn't suddenly walk after four years of paralysis. But perhaps the strangest part of Tanveer's miracle was that no one dared to ask questions. Tanveer and his family would have been happy to answer them, but there was a power the villagers feared more than the strange God who healed their neighbor. That power was named Ekanath

Daughter-in-Law Suffers Hemorrhage,

Finds No Cure If anyone should have been excited about Tanveer's healing, it was Ekanath, who was searching for healing for his own daughter-in-law Haadiyaa. She had been suffering from a hemorrhage for the last year, and the blood loss was slowly wilting her away.

Medical treatments failed, so Ekanath and his son Qays asked witchdoctors to sacrifice animals and perform special rituals for Haadiyaa's healing. They took her to the temple and pleaded with their deities, but each day, Haadiyaa only grew weaker and her family grew less optimistic.

In the midst of their search for a cure, their neighbor Tanveer was healed of paralysis, but even this didn't bring the Ekanath's family hope. It couldn't because Tanveer had received healing from the Christian God.

When Tanveer started walking again, Ekanath immediately became too busy ostracizing his neighbor from the community to let anyone listen to the man's miraculous story.

Father-in-Law Opposes Pastor, New Believers When Tanveer's pastor, Lahar, began visiting, Ekanath made sure he knew he wasn't welcome.

"Don't try to convert the people into a new faith," he shouted. "You are polluting our community!"



GOSPEL FOR ASIA Stock Photo

Haadiyaa's family tried everything for healing—except listening to their neighbor who had been miraculously healed of paralysis.

(Continued on page 8)

Neighbor Healed and Nobody Cared

(Continued from page 7)

Pastor Lahar tried to share the Good News of Jesus with other villagers, but Ekanath warned them not to listen to the pastor. He threatened Tanveer's family, too, saying the village wouldn't help them in times of trouble or with their wedding and funeral ceremonies. "Don't believe on this God and pastor. They are liars," he said.

Whether they believed him or not, Ekanath's neighbors were too afraid to find out for themselves. When Pastor Lahar came to their doors, they didn't answer. Meanwhile, Haadiyaa's condition worsened without her ever knowing the man her father-in-law yelled at was the man who knew her cure.



Elkanath spoke so forcefully against the believers that no one would talk to them or listen to Pastor Lahar's message

Pastor Meets Village's Desperate Need Pastor Lahar didn't give up easily. Perhaps the people could dismiss the miraculous healing of one man, but after visiting the village several times, Pastor Lahar realized there was a way he could help that would allow everyone to see his good intentions.

The village already had a well and a hand pump, but that didn't provide nearly enough water for the 500 families in the village. Every day, people walked two miles to get water for drinking, cooking and cleaning.

Pastor Lahar realized what the people needed was a Jesus Well, and his leaders agreed. Soon, a new well was drilled near Tanveer's house, and 200 families were able to fulfill their daily needs through it.

The generosity so touched the hearts of the villagers that even Ekanath stopped opposing Pastor Lahar, and everyone began talking to Tanveer and his family. Then Ekanath's son Qays met Tanveer at the well one day. As the two men talked, the former outcast finally got to share his story.

Son Hears Believer's Story at Jesus Well Tanveer had been paralyzed for four years when Pastor Lahar showed up at his house. The pastor normally ministered in a place 18 miles from Tanveer's village, but when a local believer asked him to pray for a crippled man, Pastor Lahar willingly agreed. When he arrived at Tanveer's house, Pastor Lahar shared the Gospel with Tanveer and prayed for him. The same day, Tanveer received complete healing and eternal life.

(Continued on page 9)

Neighbor Healed and Nobody Cared



After Pastor Lahar provided a Jesus Well with enough water for 200 families. Everyone was happy to talk to him and the other believers again.

(Continued from page 8)

Qays was excited to hear this story, and he shared with Tanveer about his wife, Haadiyaa's illness. Tanveer encouraged him to bring his wife to Pastor Lahar's church. The following week, Qays and Haadiyaa attended a Sunday morning service and shared their problem with the believers. The entire congregation prayed for them, and afterward, Pastor Lahar shared the Gospel and asked them to trust Jesus for healing. When the couple returned home, the whole family was astonished at what they found: Haadiyaa had stopped bleeding.



When Haadiyaa's husband heard how Jesus had healed their neighbor, the couple decided to visit Pastor Lahar's church.

Daughter-in-Law's Healing Brings New Life Just like Tanveer and his family, Haadiyaa, Qays and their son chose to follow Jesus the same day He demonstrated His healing power to them. Every week, Pastor Lahar visits the two families to pray with them and teach them from the Bible. And most weeks, the two families take the journey between villages themselves, leaving at 6 a.m. so they can arrive on time for Pastor Lahar's 10 a.m. worship service. Ekanath no longer opposes the believers at all. He respects Pastor Lahar, heartily greets Tanveer and, though he doesn't follow Christ himself, knows his son and daughter-in-law serve a God who does good and powerful things. A Jesus Well does even more than provide water for an entire village; it opens the door for those who oppose Christ to hear the Good News.

"Two Horses"

Chaplain Deborah Mejchar



Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it.

From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him.

This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she, trusts that she will not lead him astray.

When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God The Father God the Son and God the Holy Spirit does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems Or challenges. He watches over us and even brings Others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by The little ringing bell of those who The Creator places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see.

Good Sisters and Brothers In Christ are like this

You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours. "Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is Fighting some kind of battle".

*Chaplain
Mejchar
ministers at
the
Fox Lake
Correctional
Institution,
Fox Lake,
WI.*



THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

Sunday
October 6, 2013

Why pray for the peace of Jerusalem?

God Almighty gave Jerusalem to Israel as an everlasting covenant. He swore by his own name through Abraham and his seed, Jacob (Israel). It is a "forever" covenant that He commanded to a thousand generations which He made with Abraham and swore to Isaac. He confirmed the same covenant to Jacob for a law and to Israel saying "Unto you I will give the land of Canaan as the lot of your inheritance." When God swore to Abraham that this land would be theirs and made the forever promise, He swore by His Own Name because there is no greater Name that anyone including God can swear by that He would do as He had promised.

Not only did God make the promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but he established the covenant with their descendents and the generations that would come after them. He promised to be their God as well as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He declared to all of them up until present day therefore that the land would be theirs for an everlasting possession. Psalms 105:8-11, Hebrews 6:13, Genesis 17:7-8

God pronounced blessing and cursing. God promised Abram that if he would leave the land of his father and follow the Lord that He would take him to and show him a land that he knew not and God did exactly that. He promised Abram that he would make of him a great nation of many people and make his name great. Abraham's name has been told, said and taught throughout the generations all over the earth through the Holy Scriptures. God said He would make Abraham both a blessing, and indeed He has, as well as bless Abraham himself. Then God added the additional promise that He would bless those who blessed Abraham and He also said He would curse those who did not bless Abraham but instead cursed him and wished evil and trouble to him. In Zechariah God spoke of the burden of the Word of the Lord when He said He would make Jerusalem a cup of trembling to all the earth and a burdensome stone to all people and we have seen this to this day. God said that Jerusalem was His own city and there He had put His name. No other city on earth has this designation. God said His city shall not be divided. God pronounces judgment on all nations that come against Jerusalem. Genesis 12:1-2, Zechariah 12:1-6, 3. Zechariah 2:8-9, Psalm 132:13-18

The return of our Christ Jesus Our Lord relates to Jerusalem. When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem we are praying for the Lord's return. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, that is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." "When the Lord shall build up Zion (increase in people), He shall appear in His glory." The church was birthed in the Book of Acts. During the message preached by Peter, he prophesied in Acts 3:19 that a time of refreshing would come from the presence of the Lord, and then Jesus Christ would return. That time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord (revival) will impact the nation of Israel; Arab and Jew alike. Jesus broke down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile with His own body so that one new man could come forth (reconciliation), Psalms 102:16." Hebrews 9:28, Acts 1:11, Ephesians 2:14

Why Pray for Jerusalem? Because it delights God's heart! Because it is His Holy City. Because He has asked us to pray and because we love Him we want to do what He says. Because we want to share in His heart's desire concerning Israel and His people.

My Spiritual Journey

"I have called you by name. You are mine."

Rev. Ed Burns



Pastor Ed Burns

I was born and baptized into a Roman Catholic family . Although my mother and father were not religious they sent me to a Catholic Grammar School , Assumption School in Jersey City NJ. It seems to me all these years later that it was more a matter of Academics and convenience than anything religious. The school was highly rated and within walking distance from our apartment.

In about the sixth grade it was a custom for the Sisters who taught at Assumption to ask students if they believed that they had a vocation to a Religious life. The boys were also asked about the priesthood. As I had for a time thought about this and had spoken to my Mom about it, I told them "yes" I believed I had such a vocation. In doing that I was referred to the Director of Vocations at Divine Word Seminary,

Bordentown NJ. We began a correspondence and continued for about three years of writing.

In my freshman year at St Anthony's High School, I witnessed a Sister abuse a fellow student. Because I did not understand such things, I blamed God for allowing this to happen . The incident caused me to reject any and all things religious. About the same time my father lost his job and my parents were no longer able to afford the tuition for St. Anthony's. Actually, it was a relief because of my internal conflict regarding my faith. I transferred to Lincoln public High School in Jersey City but still I continued to sense a calling to ministry.

After High School I worked for about a year and then joined the Army. It was 1968. Vietnam was in full swing. In 1969 I went to Vietnam and there I saw what men can do to each other, which didn't help with the conflicts I was having about my faith. Still there was this sense of a calling.

When I came home from Vietnam I met the "Love of My Life." We were married in 1972. Over time we had two children. I attempted to live my life decently while trying to ignore this sense of calling that always was in the back of my mind. For about 30 years or so I believed I had put this calling thing to rest. But, I learned that if God wants you, He doesn't give up. As Isaiah says, "I have called you by name, you are mine." We had been out of church for a very long time. About 15 years ago, around the time my first grandchild was born and at the urging of our daughter, my wife and I started to again attend church. We attended King of Kings Lutheran in Middletown NJ where we got involved in the work of the church.

(Continued on page 13)

My Spiritual Journey

"I have called you by name. You are mine."

Rev. Ed Burns

(Continued from page 12)

In November 2003, I was looking into Early Retirement so we sold our home in Monmouth County NJ, and moved to a Adult Community Mobile Home Park in Jackson NJ. Soon after our move we located a ELCA congregation not far from our new home's community. We visited and became members of Immanuel Lutheran, Lakewood NJ. We got involved and I got very involved. Within a year I was on the Church Council replacing someone who resigned due to illness. I became an Assisting Minister at Worship, a Eucharist Minister. My wife and I were Co-Directors of the Food Pantry. In 2006 the congregation at Immanuel began talks about starting a second site in Jackson called God with Us Lutheran. In October 2010 God with Us morphed to Alive in Christ Lutheran as a result of a shift in mission territory. So here I am, at 63 years of age knowing that our awesome God still has a plan for me, and that plan led me to ordained ministry, yet again that sense of a calling. I graduated from NJ Synod (ELCA) Diakonia Program, a Lay Ministry Program but It wasn't enough. Taking classes at Koinonia Institute wasn't enough. I enrolled in Bachelor of Religious Studies at another theological school but it was not enough and still that sense of calling.

For six years I was an active and faithful disciple of two "New Plant" congregations, first "God with Us" then "Alive in Christ" Lutheran Church. Because of the recent changes in the ELCA teachings and the direction the denomination was going, I was very uncomfortable remaining a member.

About two years ago I learned about the EPC GCEPC/LEPC. I tried to keep connected through the web-site and supported the work with small monthly contributions. At this point in my Faith Journey, I truly began to believe that the LEPC and Concordia Theologica Institute was where God was calling me to be.

On May 2, 2013 I received my credentials as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. May God help me in this Calling! I covet your prayers as a new minister member of this faith community of the EPC GCEPC/LEPC serving the Lord in the spreading of His Gospel message and ministry.

Bloom Where You are Planted!

By Reverend Gladysrose Rusch



Pastor "GR"

I was credentialed on July 24, 2013 as an Ordained Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament with the EPC GCEPC/LEPC. I also received a Ministry Charter for the "Word of God Christian Ministry" LEPC on August 28th, at Bella Terra Senior Lifestyle Community in Jackson, NJ. This is a great accomplishment in my life. It allows me to serve the Father, Son and Holy Spirit whom I greatly love.

Pittsburgh, PA is where I was born and raised and where I met my husband of 54 years. We were married in 1957. We lived in New Mexico for two years while my husband, Darwin, served in the Army. Our first daughter, Lauralynne, was born there. After discharge from the service, we returned to live in Pittsburgh until 1968, when my husband's work transferred us to New Jersey. By then our second daughter, Karen, had been born.

We lived in South Plainfield, NJ for five years and then built a home in East Brunswick where we lived for 16 years. Our daughters graduated from high school and college and were both married from there. Lauralynne was blessed with four children, three boys and a girl; both she and Karen and their families reside here in New Jersey. I enjoy having them all close by and being able to see children and grandchildren regularly.

My husband, Darwin, and I were members of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kendall Park, NJ for 16 years. We were very active there. I was Council president for 6 years, Leadership Chair, Evangelical Deacon, choir member, Member of Building Team, Nurture Discipleship Team Leader and a lot of others areas within the church. My husband worked side by side with me in most of our Church activities. We enjoyed being involved. We felt called to be involved.

In 2000 we retired from the secular jobs we held for many years. My husband was Assistant Vice President of Payroll for Merrill Lynch in Hopewell, NJ and I was an Executive Administrative Assistant for NEC in Princeton, NJ where I worked for an Executive Vice President for the site. At my previous job at Exxon, I was an Administrative Assistant as well as a Graphics Center Manager. Upon retirement we both became active in the Building Project at Christ the King with my husband being the manager and myself as his assistant.

Darwin passed away in 2011. I moved to Bella Terra Senior Lifestyle Community in Jackson, NJ where I now reside and where my ministry is located. I immediately saw an opportunity at Bella Terra to serve the Lord among the community but this time the Lord was calling me to become ordained and serve communion as His minister.

I have a cross-denominational or non-denominational ministry at Bella Terra where I preside, work and pray with the residents of our community. We have a weekly Church Service here with Holy Communion and song. We also have a weekly Bible Study for the residents to attend. On Christmas Eve we have a Worship Service for families and friends. Ours is an outgoing and ongoing Ministry. Our doors are always open to anyone who wishes to attend. Jesus Christ, our Father and the Holy Spirit are an intricate part of our Ministry. Our hearts and door swings open to all who wish to be part of our Ministry as we share in God's love together.

Rev. John Haase Appointed to Mission Next



Rev, John and Barb Hasse

been active in church and ministry activities, and as a 4-H leader for over 20 years.

Rev. John Haase and his wife Barb met with the Mission Next leadership team in Chandler, Arizona on September 15-16, 2013. **Effective, September 24, 2013, John & Barb Haase have been appointed to serve with Mission Next.** John is the new Regional Director of Agency Relations and Barb will support his work in various ways. John will work from his home office and travel regularly, meeting with mission agencies, attending mission conferences, and recruiting missionaries for the 50+ mission agencies that Mission Next partners with. Rev. Haase (BA, MDiv, ThM, ThD), ordained with the LEPC, has worked in business, corrections with youthful offenders, as a Foster Care Specialist and involve in the Fatherhood initiative (see EP Mag Summer 2012) . He has served in various ministry roles for over 20 years, spent time in Africa, and served on two mission boards. Barb (BSc, CPhT) is a certified pharmacy technician. She has worked in bookkeeping, billing, pharmacy, and more. Barb has long

Who and what is Mission Next?

- Mission Next is a non-denominational, Evangelical, U.S. recruiting and mobilization ministry that partners with over 50 U.S. mission organizations, placing over 100 people every year in full-time mission assignments, and many more in short-term mission assignments. It is the largest ministry of its kind in the world.
- Mission Next was officially "launched" in 2006, with the full support of over 80 mission agencies like Wycliffe, OM, Frontiers, SIM, SEND, Pioneers, WEC, and UWM - and many U.S. churches.
- Mission Next hosts conferences, retreats and forums around the U.S., at which, those considering mission service are informed, counseled, coached, prayed with, and encouraged. Candidates and mission agencies are brought together - which is good for both.
- Mission Next also provides a unique web-based matching service that helps candidates "connect" to that special place of service the Lord may be calling them to. Mission Next has about 30 staff and volunteers, scattered around the U.S., with its administrative headquarters located in Chandler, AZ.
- The work of Mission Next is critical towards placing many career and short-term missionaries in "front-line" placements.
- All staff raise personal support. Some, like John, travel a lot, which adds to yearly costs. To save money, all staff work from home offices. **Mission Next has been ECFA accredited since 2008.**

Rev. John Haase Appointed to Mission Next

(Continued from page 15)

Why is mobilization and recruiting necessary?

#1 Reason: The growing shortage of full-time missionaries.

- While the number of people involved in short-term missions has grown since the mid-1980's, the number of U.S. career missionaries (1988-2008) dropped by 45% - from 65,000 to 35,000 (Joshua Project).

What is Mobilization? Stirring God's people to action and involvement:

- Many Christians are unaware how much work remains to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).
- As a percentage of world population, they are more Christian today than in 1800, but slightly less than in 1900 (World Christian Database).
- Christians comprise about 32% of the world population [50% Catholic, 37% Protestant, 12% Orthodox, and 1% other] (www.pewforum.org - 2012).
- In 1800, 99% of world Christians lived in Europe-North America. Today, 70% of all Christians live in Latin America, Africa, and Asia (Joshua Project).
- "Last Sunday . . . more believers attended church in China than in all of so-called 'Christian Europe'" (Mark Noll, *The New Shape of World Christianity*. IVP Academic, 2009).
- 86% of all Hindus (15% of world population), Muslims (23%) and Buddhists (7%) globally do not know a Christian (Lausanne Pulse & World Christian Encyclopedia).
- Operation World (J. Johnston) data suggests that after peaking in the mid-1990s the growth rate of global Christianity has slowed significantly.
- Operation World also states that, "..probably 24-27% of the world's population have not had the good news presented to them in a way they could appreciate and meaningfully respond to" (2006:10) -- that equates to about 2 billion people globally who have not heard the Gospel.

(Continued on page 17)

Rev. John Haase Appointed to Mission Next

(Continued from page 16)

Recruiting focuses on:

- Finding, informing, counseling, screening and assessing candidates for qualifications, character and agency "fit" - all this prior to hiring and placing.
- Mission work is challenging and difficult, even for the best prepared and most committed believers.
- So, while about 200,000 people yearly inquire about full-time mission service - only about 1% actually get to the field.

Finding and keeping good people is difficult.

- In the past twenty-five years, the missionary retention rate has declined significantly (Worldwide Missionary Retention Study, 2010. World Evangelical Alliance).
- Hiring and keeping good people is essential to the health and effectiveness of any organization, no less so the mission agency.
- There is a direct correlation between missionary "recruiting" and "retention." Reality: The better trained and prepared missionaries are, the longer they stay on the field.
- Recruiting new missionaries is time-consuming and expensive, and money is never in abundance for mission work.
- Loosing good people means fewer people are evangelized and disciplined.

Known factors that improve missionary retention and longevity begins with pre-field screening that assesses:

- pre-field ministry experience
- pre-field education and training
- pre-field demonstration of mature Christian character, and the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Scripture study, etc.
- pre-field family support
- pre-field prayer support

The “Back Page” Time for an Upgrade?

The Pope said in a recent interview that the church is spending too much time on issues like abortion and homosexuality. The church is obsessing about these issues and needs to be all inclusive, the church needs to find a new balance.

His words not mine.

Jesus warned us about times like this. Jesus said that there would be those who come and say they are from me, but are not.

The Pope has a point, we do obsess about minor points and ignore the major point.

Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

That is the major point and all others

are minor points.

If Jesus Christ is indeed your Lord and Savior then abortion and homosexual relationships are not part of your makeup.

You can't kneel down to Jesus and ignore the rest of the teachings of the Bible, because, you have died to sin and been born again of the Spirit.

You are indeed no longer of the world but merely living in the world, now a member of Christ's Kingdom.

You think different, act different and live different.

If you merely mouth Jesus Christ

but live of the world you are not living in faith.

No matter how much you complain, petition, insist or protest, the laws of God are the laws of God.

God indeed wants to embrace all of mankind. God indeed wants to save everyone.

That is why God sent His Son to be our sacrifice, to atone for our sins.

After all that, why would you expect God to say, “Gosh here it is 2013, time to do an upgrade to my Word.”

If Christ is your Savior, if you acknowledge Him as your King, then you follow Biblical teachings, you hold all life sacred and you abhor sexual sin.

Does the church need to find a new balance, do an upgrade? I don't think so. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is all inclusive. I think the church needs to reinforce the main message!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Evangelical Protestant Church(GCEPC)@,Inc,

Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church(LEPC)@



Steve & Teddy 9/28/1951

From the Editor

Thanks for all of your contributions. Remember, for this magazine to be a success you must be the reporters and the photographers. I will try and put it together in the best light and we will all praise God in the process.

May the blessings of Christ be with you all. ED.



Is he done yet?