



The Reporter

November 2013

The Reporter

Volume 11, Issue 9

“Holding on to What We Have”

by Pastor Proeber

There is a proverb which says, “the grass is always greener on the other side.” Its lesson is simple. Before you desperately desire what you don’t have, or can’t have, consider what you do have.

I’ve found this lesson to be particularly helpful in evaluating my personal life, as well as my ministry. From painful experience each of us knows how easy it is to fall into the trap to covet what someone else has. Now, there is nothing wrong with working toward goals, yet the Lord’s will should never be forgotten. He may put up road blocks and obstacles to keep us from attaining something we may think we need but is not good for us. This is why the Lord caused Paul to write: “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” Another way to understand this important lesson is, hold on to what you have.

I know I have used this illustration before, but it is helpful. A child approached his mother for some cookies. The mother consented to her child’s request, but she

also wanted to teach her son the dangers of greed. So she said, “you can have as many cookies as you can hold in your hand.” Sheer delight filled the child as he stretched out his hand and plunged it into the treasure trove. His claw-like fingers grabbed at the prize until he hand was full. As he retracted his hand, he came to a stark realization. He couldn’t get it out of the jar. He was panic-stricken. He knew the moment he released his grip on a few, the entire prize would be lost. There he stood perplexed. He had the treasure in hand, but he couldn’t enjoy it. Soon his mother gently coaxed him to let the cookies go. The child was filled with chagrin, but did what his mother requested. The mother, recognizing the lesson was learned, invited her now wiser son to take five cookies out of the jar. One at a time the child reached in and pulled out more than his usual allotment

The child’s lesson reinforces what Paul writes, and what you and I need to understand about our

church.

It is easy to say we should be more like this church or that church. We should make this change or that change. We shouldn’t be so strict about everything. There is a very real danger when we compare ourselves to other churches, because we can forget what we already have in our hands.

This thought occurred to me during a recent Bible Class on the “Augsburg Confession.” If you are unfamiliar with the historical account, the young Lutheran Church was being pressured by both the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (Charles V) and the church at Rome to compromise their beliefs in order to fight the Ottoman Turks (Islam). Certainly it would have been easy for the Lutheran princes to compromise for a “greater good,” yet for them there was only one way to establish unity. It was on the basis of God’s Word. They were not willing to sacrifice what they already held in their hands for a façade of unity

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and peace. In a very real way, they drew a hard line and declared we can go no further than what God's Word permits. These were strong words and they conveyed an even stronger position.

This is the heritage we hold as Lutheran Christians. Unfortunately the devil, through his use of the world and the weakness of our flesh, wants us to reject this heritage. What you and I need to understand is the precious nature of what we already hold in our hands. This can be summarized in three words: confessional, historical and traditional. Each needs to be understood for what it is and what it offers.

Confessional

In a time of uncertainty and change we have something that never changes. First and foremost, it is the Word of God. In addition we have the confessions of the Lutheran Church. These were statements forged out of confrontation. They were strong stands established on the truth of God's pure and error-free Word. These include the Creeds—Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian. They also include all the confessions contained in the Book of Concord of 1580. Now, it might be easy for some to offer the disclaimer that these are out of date and out of touch with society. Some might even be tempted to say, "why do we even need them?" The real danger is how easily our minds are manipulated by the devil. He would prefer us to go through this life without a foundation, an accurate map, or a compass (GPS). If we try to rely on our own understanding, we will get lost. We may even exchange what we have for something which has no lasting value (Esau and Jacob—Genesis 25:27-34).

We need to hold on to our confessional stand because it is the only way to identify and confront those changes which lead us away from the truth. It is also the only way to proclaim the uncompromised and saving truth of the Gospel to a corrupt and sinful world.

Historical

I had to chuckle when I received an unexpected answer to the question, "What does historical mean?" It was quipped, "something old." While not entirely wrong, it is not completely accurate. In the 21st Century history is becoming more and more important. With disappointment we have to admit the lessons of history are not being taught, and there is a very real danger of not being able to learn from the mistakes of the past. As a confessional Lutheran Church we have something precious to which we need to hold.

We have a tie to the historic Christian Church. This includes both the Old and New Testament churches. That historical perspective is seen particularly in our worship. Certainly there may be some who say it is old-fashioned and no longer relates, but is that actually the case? Yes, music and worship continue to evolve, and there are many excellent elements which can be included in a worship setting. Still, why sever the connection we as 21st Century Christians have with Christians who have endured persecution, trial and tribulation? What we hold in our hands right now is what held the Church together for thousands of years! Maybe we don't think about it often enough, but our worship is a compilation of what has served God's people day after day and generation after generation. It is a precious heritage. It is our history.

Consider the Aaronic Blessing (The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace). It unites us with God's people of the Exodus. Their history is ours. While they wandered in the wilderness, they could always rely on the Lord. When they faced their enemies in battle, they knew the Lord would give them victory. When they inventoried their blessings, they recognized the Lord had put his name on them in a special way.

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To this we can add the invitation to confess our sins, God's assurance of forgiveness through the Lamb of Sacrifice, the prophecies, and especially the psalms. We can even add the Apostolic Blessing (the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; be with you always), as well as the words of the Order of Service for the Lord's Supper. This includes the Greeting and Response (The Lord be with you; and also with you), in addition to the words of the Institution (Our Lord Jesus Christ on the night he was betrayed took bread), and the *Angus Dei* (O Christ, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world).

We have a history, but it is not a blind adherence to the past. We hold on to a history where God has revealed himself to be faithful and merciful—time and time again. If we were to let go of this historical perspective, with what could we replace it?

Traditional

If there is one area within the church which has caused all kinds of difficulties, this is it. Traditions can be good and can serve a beneficial purpose. Still, when that purpose is forgotten, it no longer serves the Gospel or our Savior's plan of rescue.

Allow me share one example. Early in my ministry there was a stir caused when the congregation decided to go from the use of the "common cup" to the "individual cup" to receive the Savior's blood during the Lord's Supper. There was a young man who was adamant about not making the change. His words were sincere, but somewhat confused. "If the silver chalice was good enough for Jesus, then it is good enough for me." While we can commend his sincerity in remembering Jesus in the sacrament, his traditional perspective caused a few issues.

At times we can be like that young man. In all sincerity we can elevate traditions to the level of doctrine. When that happens problems arise. The only safeguard is to know what is traditional, what is historical, and what is confessional (doctrinal). This will help us determine what can never change, what may change, and what must change. It will also give us a clear understanding of what we already hold in our hands.

We live in a world that is changing dramatically and rapidly, and it does affect us. There is a real danger to let it infect us. This is why you and I have to have a thorough knowledge of God's Word. We also need to know what we believe, teach and confess. In this way we will hold on to, and cherish what we already have. We will also be able to add what is good and beneficial from every generation. In the end we will enjoy the blessing which our Savior promises: "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old" (Matthew 13:52).

In trembling hands, Lord God, we hold
Our heritage, your gift of grace,
Your gospel bringing wealth untold:
All blessings here, in heaven a place.

In trembling hands, for how could we
Retain your gift by our own power?
The pearl of priceless worth would be
Soon lost—attend us every hour!

"In Trembling Hands"

Christian Worship 199 st. 1 & 2

Reformation Celebration

by Carl Schueler



By GRACE

Alone;

By FAITH

Alone;

By SCRIPTURE

Alone;

By CHRIST

ALONE.

On Sunday morning, October 27th, Our Redeemer celebrated the Reformation and Martin Luther's (b. 10 November 1483—d. 18 February 1546) efforts to reform the Roman Catholic Church. This year, ORLC also participated in a "big way" at St. Paul's First North Hollywood's traditional WELS Los Angeles Circuit Reformation Service later that afternoon. Pastor Proeber published the worship service folder, introduced and closed the service, and the members of Our Redeemer also prepared and served supper to over 175 of the approximately 275 souls who attended the service.

More than a dozen ORLC members attended the service after preparing the meal the day before. It was a tasty supper leading to many requests for seconds—and not a few requests for thirds—of Sloppy Joes, cole slaw, and potato chips. Our sister congregation from Canyon Country provided nearly ten attendees for worship, and prepared and served beverages and dessert, including an excellent cake and ice cream combination.

The Reformation: Not what Luther Sought

Every year, the WELS and Our Redeemer celebrates the "Reformation." This is traditionally marked by the date that Martin Luther posted his famous "95 Theses" on the front doors of the Roman Catholic "Castle" church in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther did this on October 31, 1517, and therefore we celebrate the event on the closest Sunday which this year was the 27th of October.

Martin Luther had no intention to replace the Catholic church with a new organized religious movement. He had no intention of creating numerous "protestant" churches, much less creating organized church groups calling themselves "Lutherans," but instead of a Roman Catholic "reformation," that's what followed.

Martin Luther convinced sufficient numbers of Christians of the errors of the Roman Catholic Church (which continue as demonstrated by official Roman Catholic published doctrine) that his "95 theses" led to the Protestant movement and numerous church groups including Lutherans. This is termed the "Reformation" even though the reformation Luther sought did not happen.

Our Celebration at St. Paul's First

We celebrate with churches in fellowship with Our Redeemer (WELS) whose confessions are consistent with Luther's "95 theses" and other Lutheran doctrine published since, such as the *Augsburg Confession* of 1530.

St. Paul's First North Hollywood is the natural location for this Circuit-wide service. It is centrally located within the circuit which extends from Santa Maria and Lancaster (north) to Torrance (south), including all WELS congregations in between, as well as those in Hawaii.

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St. Paul's First is also a great location as it accommodates up to 400 worshippers in a "cathedral-like" Sanctuary with beautifully designed stained-glass windows and a pipe organ capable of "lifting the roof" during hymn accompaniments. North Hollywood provides additional wind and string instrumentation to accompany a choir of North Hollywood members and others from the Los Angeles circuit.

Service Highlight

For me, the highlight at St. Paul's First has been the Reformation sermon. Some years this is a pastor from within the Los Angeles Circuit, some years it is a pastor from within the Synod at large. This year it was delivered by Pastor David Valleskey, a retired WELS pastor and Seminary professor who resides with his wife Janis in Victorville and serves as their vacancy Pastor. Pastor Valleskey is well-known as a former President of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and a prolific author, with numerous WELS publications to his credit. This includes several volumes of the Peoples' Bible Commentary series and the book, "We Believe, Therefore We Speak." You can find those on ORLC's Library shelves.

Pastor Valleskey preached a sermon emphasizing the power of the Lord to use individuals to accomplish amazing feats. He likened Luther's efforts to those of Gideon in the Old Testament, whom the Lord used to overthrow the Midianites. Initially Gideon was able to organize an army of about 30,000 to fight 132,000 Midianites. Yet the Lord demonstrated his power by forcing Gideon to reduce his army to merely 300 (three hundred!) unarmed men who routed the Midianites without a battle.

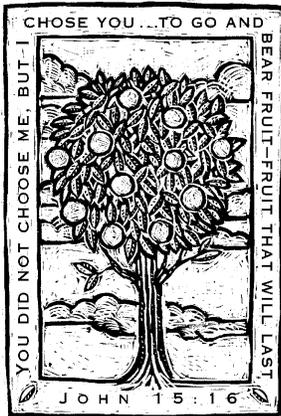
Pastor Valleskey made the connection that Martin Luther's fight against the errors of the Roman Catholic Church in the early 16th century was similar in terms of "odds" to Gideon's miraculous victory against the Midianites. Luther could not have succeeded without the Lord. Church and state were one—Luther went up against the most powerful nation in the world. Pastor Valleskey finally noted that one individual backed by the Lord is invincible.

Pastor Valleskey encouraged all of those listening to redouble their efforts to reach the lost, reminding us that we have the Lord's backing and are each invincible against the "spiritual forces of evil the heavenly realms."

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
 He helps us free from every need That has us now o'ertaken.
 The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
 On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done;
 Soon were our loss effected.
 But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
 You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
 The almighty Lord. And there's no other God.
 He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,
 We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
 One little word can fell him.



*But everything
should be done in a
fitting and orderly
way."*

[1 Corinthians 14:40](#)

3rd Quarter Congregational Meeting

by Carl Schueler

Following October 13th worship service Erle Pettus called the meeting to order at 11AM. Pastor Proeber opened with a devotion reminding us of many blessings we have enjoyed and many opportunities the Lord has given us. Seven Council members, 2 additional men, and 7 women members present, and 1 guest. Minutes July 2013 meeting approved as read.

Unfinished Business: None

Reports:

Board of Elders— Greg G.

- The Elders and the Pastor are allocating every other monthly meeting to inactive member visits. There is an ongoing need to encourage these blood bought souls to become more regular in their worship and in their reception of the Lord's Supper.
- Wood Glen Hall Bible reading ministry has moved to Wednesdays, attendance 7- 8 each week.

Board of Education – John F.

- Children's activity bags have been prepared to hand out to parents with small children to help them during the worship service. They have been well received.
- The Abraham set for the "Journey of Grace" project will be completed and used during the Christmas worship season.

Pastor's Report

- Bible Class on Sunday mornings continues to have maintained interest. The current study of the Augsburg Confession has been beneficial.
- Shut-in visits continue with usually 4 to 6 people being visited.
- Adult instruction class planned soon for several prospects – monthly two hours
- Study continues on a Biblically based marriage policy for the Bylaws of the Constitution.
- Currently evaluating Age-to-age program to gain better community involvement and outreach.
- Will be contacting younger members to get more information regarding "facebook," "twitter" and other electronic means of communication.
- ORLC will serve supper after Reformation service North Hollywood 27 October

Board of Trustees – Jim B.

- Fellowship Hall roof façade shingles done
- September work day was well attended, and the lunch offered an opportunity for fellowship during the day.
- Workday on October 12th to seal some of the "worn" areas of the flat roof went well and should add extra life to the surface.

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Congregational Meeting, Minutes

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Financial Secretary's Report – Jim E.

Total Offerings to 30 September \$ 114,800

Treasurer's Report – Alan T.

Beginning Balance 1 July \$ 20,369
 Net Income \$ 36,129
 Expenses \$ 40,635
 Ending balance 30 September \$ 15,863

Mortgage Balance 30 September \$ 19,122

	<u>Equity</u>	<u>Fixed</u>
WELS Connection 1 July	\$ 50,045	\$50,321
WELS Connection 30 September	\$ 53,602	\$52,618

New Business:

1. A letter to the members of the Congregation regarding finances will be written by Erle Pettus, and distributed to the members. The two fold purpose is to inform the members of the decreasing balance of the General Fund, and to encourage God-pleasing stewardship of the gifts God has entrusted.
2. Council Elections for 2014
 - Council thanked Greg Grunewald for his term of service as Elder.
 - Slate of candidates: Alan Todd (to Board of Trustees), Carl Schueler (to Board of Elders), Joel Degner and Dan Grunewald (to Board of Education [Board of Education needs two new members])
 - Motion to accept candidates.
 - The motion was seconded.
 - Erle called for discussion
 - No discussion
 - Erle called for a vote by show of hands to accept the slate of candidates
 - Unanimous acceptance of slate of candidates listed above
3. Work on the Ministry Plan and Budget for 2014 will begin shortly.

Next Voters meeting will be after the service on January 12, 2014.

With no further business to be conducted, the meeting adjourned with the Doxology at 11:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Carl Schueler



GO OUT
TO THE WHOLE
WORLD,
PROCLAIM
THE GOOD NEWS
TO ALL
CREATION

Outreach Opportunities

The Outreach Committee continues to sponsor events to provide opportunities for members to invite friends and relatives to Our Redeemer. Some events are conducted outside the formal worship service. There are also special worship services with food and fellowship afterwards. We hope these events will encourage you to invite people you know to learn more about our church and to hear the message of Grace we proclaim. Please plan to participate, and to serve!

As we look at 2014, the Outreach Committee would like to invite all our members to think about new and possibly different ways to “reach out” to those who need to know their Savior. Please share your thoughts with Al Todd or Pastor Proeber.

Thank You!

Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner at ORLC

Sunday, November 24th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend or relative for our traditional pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving celebration!

Thanksgiving Worship

The psalmist said it the best, “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his love endures forever.” On Thursday, November 28th we will have the opportunity to thank the Lord in a 9:30 am worship service. There will be songs of praise, as well as handbell music, and the adult choir.

Advent Services begin in December

Sunday, December 1st marks the beginning of our Advent season of preparation. This year we will join with the Apostle John who wrote, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

Mid-Week Advent Worship

On Wednesday, December 4th and December 18th we will have two 7:00 pm services to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior at his birth. Through Scripture and song we will come to know the “message of good news and great joy” God proclaimed to all people.

Christmas Worship

Please check page 10 in this issue of the “Reporter” for more information regarding our service schedule.



November Birthdays

We rejoice in the many blessings God has given the members of our family of faith. May the Lord continue to bless them richly.

- 1st - Sonja T.
- 7th - Erle W. P.
- 10th - Carl S.
- 27th - Bev W.
- 24th - Darby J.
- 30th - Chad W.

Notes & News

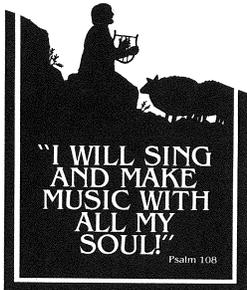
Handbell Choir

Practice is every Monday in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. Please give prayerful consideration to participating in this special area of service to the Lord and Our Redeemer.

Choir

Practice is every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. If you have ever thought about singing, come! New voices are always appreciated.

Also, note one change in the practice schedule. On November 27th we will have a Wednesday evening practice because of Thanksgiving.



Wednesday Bible Study

This past week we completed the study of the book of Job. It was an informative and comforting study on how God surrounds his people with his love. Because of Thanksgiving and Advent, we will not meet until January 2014.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

As always there is a regularly scheduled class after the worship service. This class covers a number of topics and utilizes a number of different presentation formats - general studies, DVD's, and topical studies.

We are now studying the Augsburg Confession. In a day of constant change and the "watering down" of the Word of God, this study is important as it is refreshing. It also makes us recognize how blessed we are to have this solid confessional foundation.

In the next few weeks we will look at such topics as the Sacraments, Confession, Repentance, Civil Government, Free Will, the Cause of Sin, and more.

It is not too late to join in the study. Each week is a new unit and topic of study. Previous lessons are also available from the pastor.

Other Opportunities

We are always looking for new opportunities for service, outreach, study and encouragement. Please share your ideas with a Board member or with Pastor Proeber.

Sunday School Starts!

On November 17th we will begin our children's Christian Education program, also known as Sunday School. It will meet once a month to start and be held during the sermon portion of the worship service.

Classes will start with 3—6 year olds, and the materials will be age appropriate. As more children come, we will offer additional classes. God willing, we hope to add more and more children to this updated offering of a tried and true program.

If you have questions, please speak with John Favuzzi as soon as possible.

Adult Instruction

During the month of November the pastor will begin a series of lessons which will lead to Confirmation and the reception of the Lord's Supper.

Because of scheduling challenges, the classes will be held one Saturday a month and last for about 2-3 hours with a break half way through.

There are already a few people ready to begin, if you are interested, please call Pastor Proeber for more details and date for the first class.



Serve the Lord with Gladness

Reporters Wanted

Book review? Personal Story of Faith?
Event report? Potluck-gathering? Party? Field Trip?

Half-page to three pages
Reviewed for scriptural consistency
Due by 25th of month to appear in next issue

Hard-copy to Carl Schueler, or email to Carl Schueler (cfs_home@hotmail.com)
or Pastor Proeber (pastor@orlcsb.net)

A simple and rewarding way to serve!

Thanks to Carl for his article on the Reformation Service at St. Paul's First, and Al for his book review.

There is a standing invitation to provide material for the *Reporter*. Throughout the past volumes, articles authored by members have really made every issue more interesting. We pray that every member will provide an article for 2013. If you have an idea, and you are not sure whether to act on it, please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Proeber or Carl Schueler for advice. Thanks!

Meetings for November

Church Council	November 5th at 7:00 pm
Board of Education	November 12th at 7:00 pm
Board of Elders	November 19th at 7:00 pm
Outreach	November 16th at 10:00 am
Board of Trustees	November 26th at 7:00 pm

If you have a question regarding a specific area of ministry, please contact a member of the appropriate Board. He will be happy to help.

Christmas Service at Our Redeemer

The festival worship season of Christmas is always special at Our Redeemer. There are many opportunities to prepare oneself for the coming of the Savior, and to enjoy fellowship with our family of faith.

The first opportunity is Sunday, December 15th. We will have our annual afternoon of church decorating, the

chili dinner, and caroling for our "home bound" members. Everything starts at 2:00 pm. The evening ends with dessert and time to share the joy of this special time.

Christmas Eve worship will be December 24th at 7:00 pm. This year we will consider the promise given to Abraham— "through you all nations of the earth will

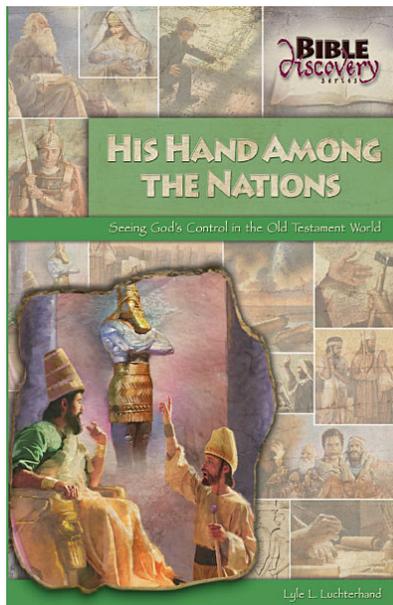
be blessed." The service will include the familiar Christmas songs of praise, as well as handbell and choir selections.

Christmas Day, December 25th, while not as involved as Christmas Eve it is still an important service which gives us the opportunity to recall the great gift God gave us— his Son and our Savior. The service is at 9:30 am.



Book Review

by Al Todd



His Hand Among The Nations

Seeing God's Control in the Old Testament World

Northwestern Publishing House; 150 pages; \$16.00

Lyle L. Luchterhand

If you are like me, then reading the Old Testament and trying to keep track of all the nations surrounding Israel, their Rulers and Kings, and the shifting alliances between each of them can be difficult and confusing.

In his book, Pastor Luchterhand provides a concise resource and guide for identifying the nations that affected, and were in turn affected by, Israel. More importantly, he explains, using God's word, how God controls all the events in the lives of people and nations to bring about His plan of salvation.

This often meant using the nations surrounding Israel (e.g. Assyria, Babylon, Egypt) to discipline His people when they failed to uphold His Old Testament covenant with them. Pastor Luchterhand helps the reader understand that regardless of the way God chooses to deal with us, no matter how difficult and seemingly hopeless our situation appears, it always serves his loving purpose and keeps us faithful to him.

Time and again Judah's kings did not trust that God would provide the help they needed and instead relied on the trust and friendship of the nations around them. In every case, they suffered severe consequences as a result.

May we never forget who is in control of our lives and the words of Proverbs 3:5-6:

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

This is another good book from Northwestern Publishing House's Bible Discovery series whose purpose is to provide insights that will remove the speed bumps on your road to a greater understanding of God's Word.

Pastor Luchterhand served as a WELS parish pastor in Illinois and Wisconsin for more than 40 years. He is now retired.

Devotional Corner

"Know What I Have"

Jesus replied, "I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them - bring them here and kill them in front of me."

Luke 19:26-27

Bigger is better. Greed is good. Selfishness is acceptable. This is the world's message, and it is alluring. It puts "me" first. It also gives me permission to get whatever I can. Jesus offers a different perspective, and it demands my full attention.

Jesus addressed the many misconceptions people had regarding the kingdom of God. Some thought it should be a clearly visible and an immediately recognizable earthly kingdom. Others thought it didn't make any difference how one lived, God would be more than happy to welcome all.

Strange as it seems, nothing has really changed. People still have the wrong idea about God's kingdom, and I am confronted by the same misunderstanding. This is why I need to listen to Jesus' lesson, and know what I have.

The temptation is to always want more, bigger and better. It is just as tempting to put myself first. Unfortunately the pursuit of the things of this world and self-gratification puts me outside of God's kingdom. It also places me under his just judgment.

I need to listen to Jesus' clear call to look at what I already have. Through God's undeserved love in Jesus and the gift of faith, I am already a member of God's kingdom. Not only do I have the assurance of his care and protection, I also know what the future holds. When I leave this world I will be with him in heaven. My life under his ruling care will only get better. This is why I delight in living under his loving rule as my Lord and Master. Yes, serving myself brings certain joys, but these will eventually be lost in death. When I serve the Lord and put him first, I know I have an even greater treasure waiting for me in heaven.

So, I have to make a decision. Do I choose what the world offers? Will I indulge myself and satisfy my selfish desires? Or, do I choose what the Lord offers? Will I serve him and rejoice in his loving direction? My answer is found at the cross of my Savior Jesus Christ. Here I see what God has done for me. Here I know what I have.

Prayer

O gracious Lord, open my eyes to see the great blessings which are already mine through faith. Remove every earthly desire and rid me of my selfish ways. Renew me by your undeserved love and restore my joy in living under your good will and direction. Amen.

Daily devotions can be accessed through www.whataboutjesus.com or www.wels.net. Please follow the instructions to view daily devotions and to subscribe to them. They are also available as "podcasts."