

The Reporter

July & August 2019

The Reporter

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“Fake News”

by Pastor Proeber

Recently we have become more familiar with the term “fake news.” It might be a story with actual facts, but the details were twisted to suit a specific agenda. It might also be a story with no truth whatsoever, a complete fabrication. The purpose still remains the same—an agenda must be followed. So, how do we tell if a story is true or fake? Even more important, where do we turn to get the truth in a consistent and honest way?

Given the current state of affairs in our country, it is going to be hard. Read a newspaper. Watch the television. Go to the internet. Check what is trending on social media. What is real? What is fake? What should be accepted? What should be rejected? It all seems so confusing.

I suppose one could conclude it is the world in which we live, but it is more than that. There have always been, and will always be lies, deceptions, and half-truths utilized especially by the devil. His singular purpose is to sow the seeds of doubt and confusion. What better way to cause us disappointment, even despondency than by making us unsure of what is real or what is fake.

The odd thing is, the devil has always been doing this. He has always relied on fake news to draw God’s people back into his control by confusing the issue. Read through the pages of the Old Testament, particularly the prophets who wrote before the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. Certain prophets promoted a false narrative of peace and prosperity. No one was going to conquer Israel. No one was going to destroy the temple. In contrast there were the prophets sent by God. They spoke exactly what they were commissioned to say—nothing more, nothing less. There was no editorializing or manipulation of the truth.

This forced God’s people to make a decision. To whom will I listen—the false prophets who offered fake news, or the true prophets who offered the truth? There was one complication which affected the decision. The false prophets and the fake news were much more compelling and satisfying. It fit the peoples’ agenda. Consequently they listened and surrounded themselves with a narrative that scratched their itching ears. Their decision was problematic, however. They did not take into account this fake news would result in their destruction. This tragic end should make us stop and think. If fake news leads to my downfall, why should I accept it as the truth? Even more urgent is the question—where do I turn for the truth?

While it is hard to give a definitive answer for current events, there is a source of truth which will never disappoint us, or let us be put to shame for believing it. While its message is as old as eternity itself, it remains relevant because it is the Word of God.

In the pages of the Scriptures, we have the truth. Remember what Jesus said. In

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his high priestly prayer for his disciples, he asked that his Father would sanctify them by the truth, because his Word was the truth. It is one of the amazing features of God's Word. It is, it has been, and it will always be the truth. We never have to doubt God for a moment. He has never lied, nor has he ever broken his promise. In addition, he has always stood by his Word. It has always accomplished what it is sent to do, and it never has failed to comfort in every time of need.

God's Word of truth is the one reliable source of good news we have. We won't find any commentaries, editorializing, or creative use of the facts to excite our feelings or desires. He offers the truth which transforms our hearts and renews our spirits. This is why we read, learn, and apply the truth of God's Word to our lives.

Certainly what God says will often be in conflict to what we assume or feel. This is a good thing, because the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts are seriously affected by our sinful nature. We need to hear God's stern rebuke of our rebellious ways. We need to have God intervene and change our direction. We need to know the sting and smart of God's just sentence on our sin. When we realize God does mean business and holds us accountable, we will have a greater appreciation for his good news. That good news tells us he has intervened and changed our course through conversion and daily repentance. The same good news also promises there is healing for every hurt and pain. The same good news proclaims we have a Savior who secured our forgiveness and peace, and promises God will separate us from our sins and remember them no more.

You can't find better news than this! What makes it even more amazing is that it is always true. There is nothing fake about what God says and promises. Its origin is with God himself, and it is verified as true not by a pool of journalists or fact checkers, but by the shed blood and righteous life of Jesus.

Here is the good news we need. It is the very message God proclaimed through the angels the day Jesus entered our world to rescue us. This is why we are never completely troubled by the fake news around us. Let the world work itself in a frenzy. Let the devil howl and rage. Let those who reject the truth run aimlessly after fake news. We have the truth, a truth that has stood the test of time. A truth that always accomplishes what it is sent to do. A truth that never fails.

No wonder we join with our Savior to ask our heavenly Father: "Sanctify us by the truth; your Word is truth."



¹I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: ²Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. ³For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. ⁴They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

⁵As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

LWMS National Convention 2019

by Al Todd

Sonja and I along with our daughter Cindy (Cross of Christ, Boise), granddaughter Danielle (New Ulm, MN), and great granddaughter Evelyn joined about 950 others to attend the 56th Annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Convention held in Des Moines, Iowa, the weekend of June 27–30, 2019. Members from over 800 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregations meet at this annual event for mission support, spiritual renewal, inspiration, and fellowship.



During the convention, attendees learned about the expanding outreach efforts by missionary teams in Latin America and Africa and about the continuing growth of the mission field in East Asia. In addition, home missionaries shared their experiences with outreach in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Workshops included the topics of new mission opportunities in Vietnam, the operational support for all home and world missions, the Mission Journeys program for short-term mission trips, one woman's experiences as a mission counselor in East Asia, and a panel discussion by missionary wives who shared their experiences.

Each year the individual LWMS circuits gather offerings for several Home and World Mission projects. This year \$41,204 was given to both the East Asia Outreach and Campus Ministry projects. LWMS also raised \$49,938 for kids c.a.r.e.—kids' summer Bible camps. "The support LWMS provides Home and World Missions is a huge boost and extremely important for our outreach efforts. The people behind those gifts praying for us and the knowledge they take back home and share with their congregations is vital to our ministry," says Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of WELS World Missions.

This year's convention theme was "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus in the Heartland." The attendees were able to meet and talk with missionaries, view and purchase mission crafts, and enjoy a banquet followed by entertainment.

The 57th Annual LWMS Convention will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia, June 25–28, 2020, hosted by the Southern Hills Circuit. The theme is "2020 Vision for Missions."



Four generations of Todd's attended the National Convention—right: Sonja (Santa Barbara, CA), Cindy (Boise, ID), granddaughter Danielle (New Ulm, MN), and great granddaughter Evelyn.



Fourth of July Celebration

by Al Todd



On Thursday, July 4, 2019, Our Redeemer hosted a July 4th celebration. This event gives members an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to God that we live in a country that guarantees freedom of religion. We also recognize the national importance of July 4th as the date, in 1776, that America won its independence from Great Britain.

The event started at 4:00 P.M. with a short movie. This year we viewed "America's National Parks in Winter."

This DVD presented a fascinating picture of Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Grand Canyon National Parks in the winter time. We are used to seeing these parks in the summer when the kids are out of school and families are able to travel. However, these National parks in winter time have an attraction for those who want a little solitude and quiet. The parks in winter time have a beauty all their own that is accessible by most people either on your own or on a guided tour. The beauty, quiet, challenge, and animal behavior of the winter environment is incredible. However, there are also special precautions as well if you visit during winter because some of the geography can be treacherous in the winter time if you aren't careful and plan ahead.

As usual with these types of presentations created in cooperation with the National Park service, the video emphasized and "old earth" theory of how the geography of the National Parks was formed. However, they don't use the word "theory" and present it as fact as if there are no other competing explanations and the science is settled. This is particularly galling to Christians who know what God's word says about creation and who also know that God's word never lies and means exactly what the common understanding of the words used in the Bible says. For the true explanation of how these parks (and all of our geography) was shaped, I recommend videos from the Creation Institute whose scientists point out how the world wide flood catastrophe explains the geography we see all over the world, including the National Parks of America and how young the earth actually is when evaluating **all** the data. (By the way, you can also reserve tours of most of these parks led by Creation Institute scientists).

After the movie, we had a BBQ tri-tip meal prepared by Pastor with various dishes brought by some of those in attendance.

Around 8:30 P.M. we all gathered near Debbie's home to watch the fireworks at nearby Girsch Park. After the fireworks, Debbie hosted a time for fellowship with snacks and drinks at her home.



Progressive Dinner 2019

By Al Todd

On Saturday, June 15th, the Outreach Committee at Our Redeemer sponsored a Progressive Dinner. Progressive dinners need at least 3 people to volunteer their homes to host the 3 events that make up the event: One to host the hors d'oeuvres; another to host the main meal; and a third to host the dessert.

For this event, Jim and Margaret Brown hosted the hors d'oeuvres from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Even though we were still experiencing some "June gloom" it was nice enough to sit outside on their newly re-modeled backyard for some fellowship, food, and beverages.

Frank and Pat Florez hosted the main meal from 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. which featured a delicious pork roast, several side dishes, wine and other beverages.

Al and Sonja Todd hosted the last stage – dessert – from 8:00 P.M. to about 10:00 P.M. Although it was a little on the chilly side, most members circled the dessert buffet laid out in the kitchen and then headed outside to enjoy the food and conversation while others preferred to gather inside.

Seventeen (17) people attended all three events. Several members who did not serve as hosts, nevertheless helped out by bringing food and/or helping to set up and clean up after the events were over. Others just showed up and joined in.

These events are great opportunities to get better acquainted with church members whom you may only see at church on Sundays. It is also a place where non-members, who may be a little hesitant to come to church because they don't know anyone, can get to know congregation members on a personal level.



**Hope to see you at our next event!
Regularly check the church bulletin and
Newsletter for times and places.**





“**A** farmer
went
out to sow his seed.”

Outreach Opportunities

The Outreach Committee serves to organize events which 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 pray 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. Plan to participate, and to serve!

Upcoming Events include —

We will have an Ice Cream Social, Friday evening, July 26th at 7:00 pm. Please bring along your favorite ice cream, toppings, cookies, etc. There will also be games which will provide lively interaction and entertainment.

Beach, Bike and Barbeque will be August 18th at Goleta Beach. We will meet at Noon at our usual location—Picnic Area C. When you enter the park, turn right and look for our group. Those who bike will start from the church around 11:30 am. Please speak with Pastor Proeber if you will be riding.

There are additional events scheduled for the Fall. These include our celebration of the Reformation, Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you have an idea, please share it with the committee. The next meeting is July 16th at 7:00 pm.

Birthdays for July and August



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

July

4th - Alice G.
7th - Emily P.
8th - Elijah D.
10th - Mark G.
13th - Janessa S.
18th - Sally K.
20th - Barb F.
21st - Marietta E., Michael F.
25th - Devon J.
31st - Justin S., Susan T.

August

14th - Brittany G.
24th - Jonathan Y.

Believe.
HOPE.
Encourage.
PERSEVERE.

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

Email to Carl Schueler (cfs_home@hotmail.com)
or Pastor Proeber (pastor@orlcsb.net)

A simple and rewarding way to serve!

Thanks to Al Todd for his articles and Sonja Todd for her pictures. There is always 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 2019. 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 July-August

Church Council	Tuesday, July 9th & August 6th at 7:00 pm
Committees	Tuesday, July 9th & August 6th at 8:00 pm
Outreach Committee	Tuesday, July 16th at 7:00 pm

Congregational Meeting—July 14th following the worship service

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.

Notes & News

It is clear from the calendars, the months of July and August are a bit quieter than the rest of the year, but this does not mean nothing is happening. Behind the scenes plans are being made for the Fall schedule—handbells, mixed voice choir, Sunday School, mid-week Bible Class, and other assorted programs and events. If you have any suggestions for a way to augment our ministry of God's Word to people, now is the time to share

your thoughts and ideas.

Please take the time to speak to one of the Committee chairmen— (Jacob Martin, Elders; John Favuzzi, Education; and Frank Florez, Property / Trustees), or to Debbie Aitkins (handbells), or Pastor Proeber (choir, worship).

There is one program which remains ongoing through the summer, and that is Sunday morning Bible Study. We continue to hold it at 11:00 am every

Sunday, unless otherwise noted.

Currently the study is "Dying to Live." It is a video discussion which turns our attention to the importance of God's undeserved love offered to us, a love which completely changes our life. There are about 5 lessons remaining, so it is not too late to attend.

There will be a brief break on August 11th when Pastor Proeber will be gone, and August 18th for the Beach, Bike, & Barbeque.

Notes & News, cont'd



Updated Web Page

The long-anticipated unveiling of our website has arrived! After months of dedicated and painstaking effort, our redesigned site is up and running. The address is still the same—www.orlcsb.net—but the layout and look has changed. We thank Debbie Aitkins and Jacob Martin for all the work they willingly offered to switch everything over. Debbie also deserves a special note of thanks for “tweaking” everything to make it more inviting.

If you haven’t visited our website recently, check it out. One of the more practical additions are the podcasts of the Sunday sermons. These can be played if you miss worship on Sunday. They can be replayed if you want to catch a specific lesson. They can also be shared with others. In addition to the sermons, you can find the newsletters, monthly activities, links to other websites, and a simplified confession of faith. All in all, it will become a valuable tool for the future.

If you would like to assist with pictures, content, or making updates, please speak with Debbie.

Evangelical Heritage Bible

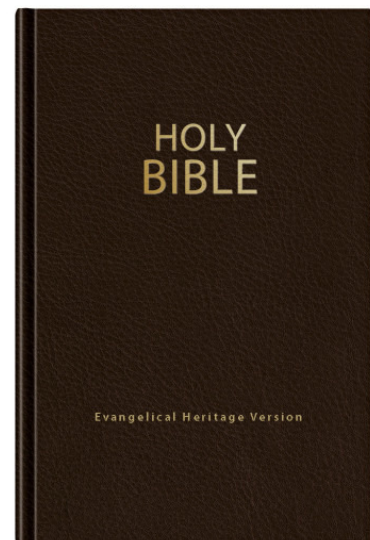
After several months of patiently waiting, the complete EHV has been printed by Northwestern Publishing House. We thank those who pre-ordered and have paid for their Bibles. There is still time to order one for your personal / family use.

I suppose a FAQ regarding the EHV is, “why do we need another new translation?” NPH addresses this question —

“The Evangelical Heritage Bible is a new translation of God’s Holy Word that proclaims the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The accurate and trustworthy Bible translation is presented with a readable style that will feel at once both fresh and familiar to you.”

If you remember, the NIV was published in 1984 with several revisions through the years. The final revision in 2011 was not to the quality of the 1984 version. It was more difficult to read and there was some confusion in the way the 2011 translated certain critical passages. The Wartburg Project undertook a different approach. The EHV was translated and edited by pastors and professors from the Wisconsin Synod, as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Consequently, all of the major issues with the NIV 2011 were addressed. While no “translation” of the Bible carries the same authority as the original version penned by the divinely inspired authors, the goal of the EHV translators was to come as close as possible. From some of the study we have done in our own Bible Classes, they have done an excellent job.

Once again, if you would like to order a copy, we will have the sign-up sheet up for the 14th and the 21st of July. We would like to get the order placed shortly thereafter. If you have any questions, please speak with Al Todd, or Pastor Proeber. A 6 x 9 hardcover Bible is roughly \$20.00. A leather bound version is also available at \$59.99.



Devotional Corner

Turn from Empty Promises

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

There is an old saying, "promises are like pie crusts; they are easily made and easily broken."

We are surrounded by promises given by others. We are also committed by the promises we make. What every promise shares is the responsibility to keep it. There is also the reality that many promises are broken. Hence, the proverb.

We rely on promises which is why we are disappointed when they are broken. The promised family outing is usurped by work. The promised gift is put on hold because of lack of funds. The promised change of a bad habit is broken because it is not easily overcome.

There is one promise which does stand apart from every other promise, and from the proverb. It was not easily made, and it will never be broken. It is the promise Jesus gives.

As he prepared his disciples for his suffering and death, Jesus promised they would have peace. With that peace they would also receive comfort and courage. The disciples came to enjoy this blessing of peace when they finally understood what Jesus said. We can know the same blessing, but first we need to turn away from the empty promises of the world.

Only Jesus' promise stands unbroken because he is the ever faithful God. He perfectly accomplished everything he promised to do. Furthermore, we can rely on his promise, because he has given us a blood signed guarantee. In his crucifixion, death, and resurrection we have his lasting testimony he will never go back on his word.

This is what we desperately need for this life. Because of Jesus' faithful and unbroken promises, we can be confident and courageous, even when every other promise fails.

Prayer

O gracious Savior, you know how much I rely on your promises. Remove every temptation, every uncertainty, and every doubt which would make me question your faithfulness. Then, through your never-failing promise give me peace, courage and confidence.

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."