



The Reporter

September 2019

The Reporter

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“Details”

by Pastor Proeber

There is an old proverb which reminds us, “the devil is in the details.” I’m sure all of us have heard it. I’m also fairly certain, all of us have had the rude awakening when we overlooked one or more details. We were shocked to find there was just one more thing to do, one more step to be completed, one more part to be tightened. The shock was particularly painful when we thought we were finally done.

Recently I have come very close to relandscaping the parsonage backyard. For the last several weeks I thought I saw the light at the end of the tunnel. I was wrong. There was always one more thing to do. One small step to be completed. One detail to be addressed. Painfully I learned, you never overlook the smallest of details, because this is where a bigger problem may originate.

The devil is in the details. This proverb could apply to the work Jesus did as our Savior. From the time of the fall and the first sin, God carefully crafted his plan for the rescue of all people. That plan started simply, “the seed of the woman would crush the serpent’s head.” Subsequent details were added generation after generation until the entire plan was complete. When “the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

Jesus had the incomprehensible task of fulfilling every requirement God set forth in the Scriptures. This included the perfect completion of the Law and the Prophets. It also included a life free from spot, stain and accusation. There were no short-cuts. There were no steps which could be omitted or substituted. There were no insignificant or trite details.

Jesus completed every righteous requirement. Along the way benchmarks were provided. At his baptism and transfiguration God the Father proclaimed, “This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased.” At his ascension, when Jesus returned to take his place at the right hand of his Father, the final exclamation point was provided. All was complete. Not one detail was overlooked. The rescue of all people, for all time was secure.

For you and me, as well as every believer, this is a precious truth. We are by nature incomplete in all we say and do. We are also ready and willing to overlook a few details because it would make everything we do easier. This will never accomplish anything with God. In fact, it separates us even more completely when we believe good enough is acceptable to God. We need to be perfect in everything and in every way in order to be saved. This is why only faith in Jesus can save. He accomplished everything we couldn’t, or didn’t want to do. As a result, we live with confidence and peace that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus alone. This is a truth to be savored and treasured.

The devil is in the details. This proverb applies to another aspect of our life. It is

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the work we do as a congregation of believers, and it follows that two questions need to be asked: what is *our* ministry as a gathering of believers in Jesus; and, what is *my* ministry in that gathering? Both of these questions are based on unique details.

As a gathering of believers our ministry is straightforward. When Jesus ascended into heaven he said, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” The only way this is accomplished is through the gift of Baptism and the teaching which comes from the Word of God. There is no other way to make disciples than through the Gospel.

You could think of it this way. Try answering the question—what is our ministry—without the directive given by Jesus. It might sound something like this. Our congregation’s ministry is to feed the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, build houses in South America, promote social justice and equality, save the environment. All of these are arguably noble causes. Some could even become useful bridges to connect people to Jesus. Still, in and of themselves, they do nothing to accomplish the ministry of reconciliation God gave his church. Yes, the devil is in the details, and the one detail which can never be overlooked or assumed is Jesus’ Church exists to make more disciples.

Now, the second question still looms. What is my ministry or role in the work of Christ’s Church, namely the gathering of believers we call Our Redeemer? One could say, this is where the rubber meets the road.

Personal ministry is just what its name implies—personal. It is specific to each of us as members of the Church. We know from Scripture each of us has been blessed with gifts by the Holy Spirit, so we can be an effective part of the overall work of the church. We also know from experience here is where the devil is the most active, and sometimes the most effective. His desire is that none of us recognize our role in the ministry of the church. If that doesn’t work, then he makes us doubt our ability to serve. To both of these he further adds the deception, you are really not that important. As I said, the devil is in the details, and the one significant detail we can never overlook is how important it is for each of us to participate in the ministry of the Church.

It is easy to succumb to the temptation that if I go to church every once in a while, I’m doing my duty. In addition, if I attend an event when there is nothing else better to do, then I’ve more than done my fair share. How sad, and how unfortunate.

Remember what Paul said, “you are the body of Christ and individually you are the members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). We all have a role, the place where we serve. And, let’s be honest, the more people who do serve, the more work gets done. Furthermore, the ones who are already faithfully serving will not be overwhelmed with all there is to do, or possibly suffer burn out.

Serving takes an increased level of commitment. Time and effort are always precious commodities, but what is the best way to use these gifts? A good starting point might be to recognize my time, my abilities, and every opportunity I have to serve is a gift from God. In love and thanks I will want to serve with gratitude and appreciation, and in faithfulness.

Yes, the devil is in the details. He will always be lurking to make us think everything is impossible. There is too much to do. And, there is nothing I can really do. Here is when we need to turn to our Savior who gives us his own blood-bought assurance, he can “do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:30).



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That's something to think about, and it is certainly something to which we need to turn our complete attention. Remember it is our Savior who not only assures us he can do more than we could ever imagine, he is also the one who said, "If he is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31-32). With our faithful Savior, his incomparable strength, and his unfailing direction, we can accomplish every aspect of a detailed and comprehensive ministry.

Bev Waters Called Home

by Al Todd



On Saturday, August 24, 2019, Our Redeemer conducted a Memorial Service for Beverly Ann (Bev) Waters after more than 88 years as a member of the Church Militant.

Pastor Proeber officiated at the Memorial Service which featured some of Bev's best loved Christian hymns, as well as words of comfort from the Holy Bible by Pastor Steven Degner and by Bev's grandson— Justin Schroeder. Bev's daughter Julie Schroeder also spoke movingly about Bev as a wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother and how much she meant to Bill (Bev's husband of 65 years) and to all the members of her extended family. The church was filled to capacity with friends and family from near and far.

Pastor Proeber's devotion was based on Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2 and emphasized how Bev's kindness, her compassion, and her walk with Jesus made her a special person to all who had the privilege of knowing her. I personally recall how Bev always had a compliment and an encouragement for me almost every Sunday before the church service began.

The service closed with the song "Heaven's Now My Home" sung by Avril Goldrick.

A lunch was served by members of Our Redeemer after the service in the fellowship hall. Thanks to all who contributed to this inspiring and comforting Memorial Service.

Pastor Proeber pointed out that this is Bev's victory celebration as she is now with her Savior and with all her other family and friends who died in the Lord. We look forward to seeing her again at the heavenly feast in the kingdom of heaven.

I fought the fight I finished the race
Throughout the trial I kept my faith
No longer do I suffer
My body's been made whole
I am flying with the angels
And heaven's now my home.

"Heaven's Now My Home"
Words by Libby Allen
Performed by Avril Goldrick



Beach, Bike & Barbeque

by Al Todd

On Sunday afternoon, August 18th, Our Redeemer hosted its annual Beach, Bike, and BBQ event at Goleta Beach. Sixteen (16) members showed up and all drove to the beach this year except for Pastor.

People began arriving in Area C at Goleta Beach around noon where we had reserved tables and a BBQ pit. It was overcast and cool; very similar to our 2017 event. Folks were wearing light jackets. We expected a very crowded parking lot because the Parks Department warned us that the McConnell's Endurance run was scheduled to end at Goleta Beach around the same time our event started; however, almost all the runners had cleared out by the time we arrived and parking was no problem.

The gear and food for the event was trucked in and after quickly preparing the site (covering the tables, getting the BBQ started, arranging the plates and utensils, etc.), Pastor started grilling the hamburger while folks visited for awhile.

When the grilling was completed we all gathered around for a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings. All the condiments, side dishes, and drinks were set out on a table and the saints soon lined up to fix their own hamburgers and sample some of the side dishes brought in by those in attendance.

After about an hour of eating and fellowship around the picnic tables, the weather started to warm up. A bean bag game was set up and a Ladder Ball game was also set up. Teams were formed and some good natured competition ensued for the remaining time. About 2:00 P.M. the sun finally made an appearance and it turned out to be another patented Santa Barbara day.



Folks started to head for home around 3:00 P.M. and after returning the area back to normal, the work crew headed back to the church. A very enjoyable 3 hours. By the way, the erosion and generally poor quality of the beach and open ground at Goleta Beach was very apparent as it was a couple of years ago.



Please keep these events in mind when you plan your schedule. In addition to affording a great opportunity for fellowship, they are perfect for inviting guests who can get to know church members in an informal setting.

BLESSINGS
FROM
GOD

Outreach Opportunities



“A farmer went out to sow his seed.”

Outreach needs to be the “life-blood” of our congregation. Every member needs to be aware of the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus. Yes, there are many challenges. Yes, people are regularly disinterested, even hostile to the message. And, yes, we have our doubts and fears. To these we need to apply the word of our Savior who commands us, who inspires us, and who gives us the very words we are to speak.

As we approach the end of 2019, we need to be aware of the opportunities we have to invite someone to come and meet Jesus. Sunday Worship, Sunday Bible Class, mid-week Bible Class are good connecting points. There is also a private “Come and Meet, Jesus” class that can be arranged. Finally there are the regularly schedule events for October through December.

Make it you personal goal to invite at least one person in the next three months. You just might be surprised when someone says, “Yes, I would like to come.”

The Outreach Committee will meet this Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 pm. The meeting is open to every member of Our Redeemer.

Future Events and Opportunities

Reformation Movie / Dinner	October 27th at 5:30 pm
Circuit Reformation Service	November 3rd at 5:00 pm
at St. Paul's First, North Hollywood	
Pre-Thanksgiving Pot Luck	November 24th at 5:30 pm
Thanksgiving Worship	November 28th at 9:30 am
Advent Worship Begins	December 1st at 9:30 am
Christmas Eve Worship	December 24th at 7:00 pm
<i>with fellowship after the service</i>	
Christmas Day Worship	December 25th at 9:30 am

September 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.

8th Roseanne C.
 17th Sheila J.
 23rd Thomas P.
 24th Kathy B.
 30th Pastor P.

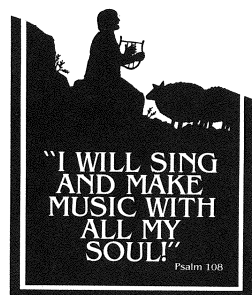
Notes & News

Handbell Choir

The handbell choir will resume its Monday evening practices on September 9th. They begin at 7:00 pm and usually last about an hour and one half.

Throughout the last several years, the bells have added a special beauty to our worship services. It is truly a blessing from the Lord that we can have a group of people who are willing to give of their time to practice.

If you are interested, or just want to see what it is like, come this Monday, or speak with Debbie.



Choir

Practices for our mixed voice choir will start shortly. After a refreshing summer, we will restart on September 19th at 7:00 pm.

Remember, the choir practices every Thursday evening. Both female and male voices are welcome. Instrumentalists are also

needed to add an extra dimension to our songs of praise. There is still time to come. If you would like more information, please speak with Pastor Proeber.

Wednesday Evening Bible Classes

Beginning September 11th, the Fall Bible Study will start. Last year, at the end of June, the class completed a series of lessons on "conversion." At 7:00 pm, we will begin a new study on the Book of I Kings.

We may be familiar with some of Israel's history as a monarchy, but this study will dig deeper in man's response and God's plan.

Bible Class meets every Wednesday evening.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

As always there is a regularly scheduled class after the worship service. Currently we are studying the DVD series—"Dying to Live." The first two major sections have been completed, now the third will cover our "sanctification," or how we live reflecting we have died to sin.

Classes meet at 11:00 am following the worship service.

Sunday School Starts

On September 15th our education classes for young children and youths will restart. Stories will cover both the Old Testament and the New Testament helping the children understand God's plan of salvation in Jesus.

Remember, Sunday School meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the worship service.

Parents, make sure you fulfill your God-given responsibility to bring up your children in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord.

For more information you may contact John Favuzzi, or one of the teachers—Sonja Todd, Sue Proeber, or Pam Schueler.

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.

Did You Know?

There are times when people miss the Sunday Worship service. Did you know you can listen to the Sunday sermon on our website? Check it out—www.orlcsb.net.



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 Alan Todd for his articles, in addition to Sonja Todd and Sue Proeber for their pictures in this month's *Reporter*.

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 might provide an article in 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 September

Church Council	Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:00 pm
Committees	Tuesday, September 3rd at 8:00 pm
Outreach Committee	Tuesday, September 10th 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.

Lutheran Women's Mission Society—Fall Rally



The Fall meeting of the Golden West Circuit will be **October 12th** at Zion Lutheran Church, 1001 West 223rd Street, Torrance, California. The featured speaker will be Sheila Frey speaking on outreach work in Russia—“To Russia with Love.”

Registration starts at 8:15 am, and the rally will end around 2:15 pm. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. A light breakfast and lunch will be offered at the church.

For more information, you may speak with Sonja Todd. Bulletin inserts with maps are available on the table outside. Car-pooling will be available.

Devotional Corner

A Meaningful Life

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."
Ecclesiastes 1:2

"Absolutely!" If someone asks the question, "is your life meaningless?" there would be little hesitation in your response. Zero accomplishments come to mind. Few endeavors are significant. Hardly a single achievement can be remembered.

Life has a way of becoming meaningless. There is the routine, the mundane and the monotonous. Worse, nothing seems to change and only the drudgery of sameness remains. So life is absolutely meaningless, or is it?

From one perspective it maybe is. However, there is a different one which needs to be considered. That is the one Solomon eventually learned. Here was the man who had it all - fame, fortune, and power. As each of these grew greater day by day, the Lord became more distant. Fortunately, Solomon was given a reality check. With that he reviewed his life and came to the obvious conclusion. Without the Lord everything is meaningless.

What a lesson to learn. We are constantly assaulted by the world's mantra of more, bigger, newer, and better. Once we have acquired it, then what? The pursuit starts all over again and offers only an endless cycle of trying to get what we don't have at the moment. This tyrannical cycle is what Solomon called meaningless. So, where do we look to achieve a meaningful life?

Every good and perfect gift is from God. A meaningful life begins with recognizing what we have with the Lord is truly meaningful. Through Jesus we have a new and obedient life. Through Jesus we have the peace of forgiveness. Through Jesus we have an unsurpassed joy. Through Jesus we are set apart for a blessed life now, and in heaven.

This needs to be our final goal in the search for a meaningful life. Only Jesus can give lasting glory. Only Jesus can give lasting honor. Only Jesus can give lasting treasures. Even more important, what he offers never diminishes in time or throughout eternity. This is why we look to the Lord to be freed from a meaningless life, and live a life that is truly meaningful.

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see the emptiness of what the world offers, and seek only those things which you have prepared for me, and given me in love.

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."