

Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

June 29, 2014

Good Enough

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" (Matthew 9:10-11)

The Pharisees were quick to criticize Jesus for the company he kept. At the heart of their criticism was the conclusion that the tax collectors and "sinners" were not good enough. On the other hand, they felt they were more than good enough and should have been Jesus' preference.

While I might be incensed at the arrogance of the Pharisees, I have to honestly confess I am not that different. I like to compare myself with others who are less than me. I like to feel good about myself while looking at the evil of others. I like to think Jesus would accept me because I am good enough the way I am. Jesus quickly reveals the

futility of this thinking. While I may think I am good enough, good enough never approaches Jesus' standard.

What Jesus desires and accepts is a humble and repentant heart. This is a heart that makes me long for his forgiveness and the assurance of his peace. It is a heart that directs me to look away from the good I think is enough to the perfection he offers in love. It is only through a heart that has been changed by Jesus where I can find peace. It is never in my good works or my good intentions. Only the sinless life and death of Jesus makes me acceptable to God. Only by his blood am I cleansed of all my sin. Only through faith in his work can I have confidence of life with him now, and in heaven.

The Pharisees never understood or appreciated what Jesus came to bring, because they always maintained they were good enough. In contrast, the tax collectors and sinners rejoiced to know Jesus



because they desperately longed for what he offered them.

Now I need to ask myself an important question: Am I still going to try to convince myself that I am good enough before God by the way I am? If so, I am deceiving myself. God teaches me to depend only on Jesus for his peace, his forgiveness, and his acceptance through his undeserved love. Through my Savior God has declared me good enough for him!

Prayer: O blessed Jesus, thank you for being my substitute, securing my forgiveness, and offering me the confidence of life in heaven. Help me rely on what you have done, and turn me away from my insufficient efforts. Amen.

Devotion from
www.WhatAboutJesus.com

Contact Information

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This Week at Lamb of God (June 30-July 6)

Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: Flunker and Wagner Families
- Bulletins: Jocelyn Ritter
- Accompanist: Destinee Fiecko
- Ushers: Chuck Sigrist & Charlie Genteline
- Bible Study Refreshments: Fiecko Family

Events

- **Sunday, July 6**
9:30 am—Cross-Generational Bible Study
10:30 am—Worship

Stay Connected on the Road: If you will be traveling this summer, be sure to visit www.wels.net/locator to find worship locations and times near your destination.

If you have news, upcoming events, or prayer requests that you would like published in the weekly newsletter, contact Katie Chen (katiesl@hotmail.com).

Mission Prayer: LWMS Convention

Lord of the Church, you once proclaimed to your disciples, "You will be my witnesses." By your grace and power that is what your people are and strive to be. Bless our Lutheran Women's Missionary Society



national convention taking place under that theme. Fill the convention

attendees not only with the desire to be your witnesses but also with the zeal and the means to support your witnesses around the world. Bless them with safe travel as they make their way home and may they

continue to inspire other Christians to be your witnesses. Amen.

Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center

The woman, whom I will call Irene, who came into the Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center last week, said she was definitely planning to have an abortion. But her eyes kept going to the fetal models on the window sill. As she told me her story, tears ran down her cheeks. I discovered she had been pressured into an abortion when she was 17. Shortly thereafter, she became pregnant again with her son. Trying to hide her affair from her son was the main reason Irene planned to have a second unwanted abortion.

The longer we talked, the more she realized the terrible toll it would take on her emotionally, physically, and spiritually. When she left, she said she definitely would NOT have an abortion. Praise God for changing her heart! She went out the door thanking Him for bringing her to us before she made a terrible mistake she would

always regret.

The Alpha Pregnancy Counseling Center is operated jointly by central Ohio WELS congregations. We share the love of Jesus with women facing the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy. By providing a free pregnancy test and information, we hope will lead them to continue the pregnancy. We also provide diapers, wipes, clothes, toys, books, and other items on an ongoing basis to families facing hardship. These families also come to hear monthly devotions at the Center.

If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, would like to volunteer, or would like to contribute financial support, please call Cindy at 614.804.4773. We need your help!



Vacation Bible School Update

VBS is July 14-17. Here is the latest:

Registration: Registration is now open on our website for children age 3 -grade 6. Sign your children up today!

Volunteers: We can still use more

volunteers both before and during VBS week. Contact Elisabeth for details.

Supplies: The list of needed supplies is posted in the entryway. Please consider donating or lending items to support this outreach ministry.

Church Picnic

Following Vacation Bible School, we will enjoy a church picnic on Sunday, July 20, after worship. Plan to be here for a day of fun with Christian friends.

Mission Festival

Join us on July 27, as guest pastor David Sigrist, son of Chuck & Kathy Sigrist, will preach and share what God is doing at Saviour of the Nations in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for altar setup, greeting, lawn mowing, church cleaning, and refreshments. See the list in the fellowship hall or contact Pastor Wagner for details. Thanks!

Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Our shut-ins (Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Dick)
- Our expectant mothers (Elisabeth, Destinee)

Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers

Give Thanks to the Lord!

Attendance (6/22):	
Worship:	27
Cross-Generational Bible Study:	19
Offerings:	
General Fund:	\$1147.52
Year-to-Date Average:	\$1991.82
Weekly Budgeted Ministry:	\$2217.52
Sunday School:	\$12.00
Building Fund:	\$125.00