



Desert Reflections Desert Reflections

January † 2010

Issue 68

A Special Publication of Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior—Green Valley, Arizona

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN SAVIOR

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Sunday Worship Themes - January

- 3rd: "Persistence Pays Off"
Luke 18:1-8
- 10th: "The Opposite of Worry
is..." *Luke 12:22-23*
- 17th: Dr. David Stechholz
- 24th: "Through Our Work, He
Can!" *Ephesians 3:20*
- 31st: "To Him be the Glory"
Ephesians 3:20-21

*We invite you to read, pray
and prepare for each time of
worship.*

jws

2010 Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat is designed to bring women together for the purpose of sharing with other women what God in His Wisdom and Love has done in our lives. So that relationship's can be built; that our faith can be strengthened and our lives can be rejuvenated and enriched, that all may know that who we are today and will be forever is to the Glory of God the Father. With the Grace of God this will be accomplished through worship and song, fellowship, bible study and sharing. Please plan on joining us on Saturday, March 6, 2010, when we will explore and share in God's Faithfulness. Our speaker this year will be Roselyn Berg. Your \$15 registration will cover a continental breakfast and lunch plus music, singing, fellowship, Bible and life application, discussions and fun! Everyone will be encouraged to **BYOB** – Bring Your Own Bible.

The 2010 Women's Retreat Committee consists of: Kay Cheney, JoAnn Meyers, Geri Thompson, Gail Fay, Bobbi Mechler, Vanessa Pedersen, Marilyn Seitzberg, Rhonda Caruso and Deaconess Jeri Morrison as Staff Sponsor. If you have any questions regarding retreat, please contact any member of the committee. We wish to thank everyone at Risen Savior for the fantastic support you give to us during our fund raisers for retreat!

Lent Devotions - Prayer!

Once again, we will write and publish a Risen Savior booklet of Lenten devotions. In accord with our yearlong emphasis, the subject will be *Prayer*. You are encouraged to contribute to the book!

Take time to think, pray, read Scripture ... and then begin to write. Many have found that they can write a devotion ... after thinking not. All of us are encouraged by the thoughts and insights from other members.

Each page (about 250 words for the devotion) includes a verse of the Bible, the devotion, and a brief prayer. Try it --- even if you do not submit it, you will be blessed!

"Living Discipleship" Class Begins

Tuesday, 12 January - 6:30PM

You are invited to join the next *Living Discipleship* class. This highly informative (for new information or review) class is a 12-week course. Pastor Stieve will lead the 2-hour sessions, beginning Tuesday evening, January 12 at 6:30PM. The class will meet in the Library-Martin Luther Rooms.

Over 350 people have completed this course here, and comments are most favorable. While a lecture format is used, there is ample time for questions and discussion. You may use this as a "membership" class, but there are no "strings attached."

Whether one "looking," a former church member or a current member --- you are invited! There is no charge for the course. Outline materials will be made available. Bring a Bible - or use one here. Please contact the church office, 625-2612, or fill out a small registration form in the church narthex (entry).

If you have any questions, please contact the pastor. We hope you will join us in January!

The Parson's Paragraphs

We end the Year of our Lord 2009 and begin 2010 . . . but we continue our "Year of Prayer"! How blessed we are: people loved by God, saved by Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit. How fortunate we are to have open communication with God - through His Word and prayer.

Dr. John Stott, British preacher and writer, has, for decades, begun each day with prayer. He greets each person of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - and worships each one individually. Then, he continues, "Father, I pray that I may live this day in Your presence and please You more and more. Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow You. Holy Spirit, I pray that this day You will fill me with Yourself" ... and then he prays that the fruit of the Spirit would be evidenced in his life. He concludes with words of praise to the Trinity.

How do you pray? What form do your daily prayers take? How much of your prayer time and energy is praise and adoration of our God and Lord? Before and after personal petitions and intercessions for the people and things of this life and world, remember the God to whom you pray! As we pray, we pray "in Jesus' Name." What does that mean? This is not a little form or ritual to make our prayers "good" or "right" --- or to assure they will be "answered" [*according to our wills, of course!*].

Praying in Jesus' Name is a mark of obedience, submission and praying according to God's will. In essence, we are saying, "May I pray what Jesus would pray today - in this circumstance - for this person - toward this end." "May I pray according to the Word of God and work of Christ." "May I pray as if Jesus were actually praying this prayer right now!"

I hope and pray we are experiencing joy and celebration during this Christmastide! Although this is a difficult time for many people - illness, death, poverty, loneliness, etc. - we look to the Christchild Jesus for strength today and Hope for the future. We can - and will - enter AD2010 in the love, joy and peace of the Savior, who is the Prince of Peace. And, in His Name, we pray!

I share a few verses --- the author is unknown to me:

I do not know the future, But I know the God who knows.

And in His perfect wisdom, Unknowing, I repose.

What good could come of knowing? How little I could do

To meet the joys or sorrows, that I am coming to!

I do not know the future, But I know the God who knows.

I make His love my study, and follow where He goes.

The path, its joy and sorrows, I do not care to trace;

Content to know His goodness, His mercy, and His grace.

John Wm Stieve

Following Christ into People's Lives

Light in the Darkness

January 2010

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ... **18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance...**

Now that we have studied the various parts of the Full Armor of God, and the protection each provides, we are admonished to pray at all times and in verse 16 "all circumstances". This does not mean that we need to make prayer our sole vocation, its our soul vocation. We have an attitude of prayer as we attend to our vocations of family, work, hobbies, etc.

We often say quick prayers throughout the day such as "Lord please help me find my car keys" and "thank you" when He does. We also know the importance setting aside time each day for focused prayer: reading the Scriptures and responding to what the Lord has said to us.

Regarding: "praying at all times **in the Spirit**". Marcus Victorinus taught: "Let your

deep affections enter into your praying. The inner spirit,...is making his prayer with intense desire. He is praying all the time, so that even when he is not praying aloud he is still praying in the spirit."

At first, it may seem that "**with all prayer and supplication**" is redundant. The word for prayer, according to Vine's Dictionary, "always used of prayer to God". Marius Victorinus wrote "I think he has this distinction in mind: It is a prayer when we speak the praises of God and recount His great works and when we give thanks and worship Him." Supplication denotes seeking or asking for something—such as forgiveness of sins, or meeting our daily physical needs.

"How clever this blessed author is. He has armed them with the utmost protection. So now what remains? Only to call on the king and urge him to extend his hand."
~Chrysostom (a 3rd century Bishop)

As we focus on a "Year of Prayer" at Risen Savior, "keep alert" and "persevere" individually, and corporately. I hope you will be able to participate in the various prayer opportunities such as Bible studies, prayer vigils, Prayer Break, etc.

School of Religion Begins January 12

Living Discipleship, and The Divine Drama "The Biblical Narrative" will be offered. A third class will be announced soon.

Tip of the Month: Telecare

Volunteers make calls every morning (including Sundays and Holidays) to check that "all is well". You will be asked to specify close neighbors, and the location of a hidden key to your home in case of emergency. If the caller can't reach you, your neighbor will be notified. If your neighbor can't reach you, 911 will be called. Registration is FREE. They only ask that you notify them when you will not be home to receive the call. To register, call Jim 625-1636

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The number of shoe boxes that LCRS filled for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for your continued generous support of this project. Thank you to Kathy Henninger-Pyle for coordinating our efforts this year.

Together in His service,

Deaconess Jeri

CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

We are looking for ringers!! 🎵 If you have a gift for ringing bells or just love music and want to have the experience of ringing bells, 🎵 please join our Risen Savior's Bell Choir. The Bell Choir is open to anyone who reads music. New members are welcome at any time! Rehearsals are held each Thursday afternoon at 4:15PM in the Sanctuary. Interested persons should contact Ann Johnston at [625-5330](tel:625-5330) or by email at annford@q.com

We are looking for singers!! If you love to sing, please consider sharing your musical gifts with the Risen Savior's community. The choir is open to all singers, and new members are welcome at any time! The Chancel Choir participates regularly at the Communion Worship Services (8:00 a.m. -1st & 3rd Sundays; 10:45 a.m. -2nd & 4th Sundays) from Oct.-May. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in the choir room. Interested persons should contact Ji-Sun Lee at 520-325-3199 or by email at jisunL@risen-savior.org Why join?

- Strengthen your faith through the preparation and presentation of fantastic choral music
- Lead the community in meaningful worship experiences
- Get to know wonderful people
- Develop your voice and individual singing ability
- Ensemble singing cannot be done alone; become part of something greater than yourself

NORDIC CHOIR IN CONCERT

Luther College of Decorah, Iowa will present the Nordic Choir in concert on January 28, 2010, 7:30PM at Catalina Foothills High School Auditorium, 4300 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ. Conducted by Dr. Craig Arnold, the choir will perform sacred choral works, including selections from Fritschel, Gjeilo, Schumann, Paulus, Christiansen, Vaughan Williams and Courtney. Tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the concert. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. For more information see Barb Haak, 625-1773 or Geri Thompsen, 625-9585 or visit www.luthertickets.com.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

It's not just Santa Claus who's coming to town? The Grand Canyon District of the International Lutheran Layman's League is sponsoring Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker for *Lutheran Hour Ministries*, as the speaker for the convention.

Date: February 20th Time: Morning session will begin at 9:00. Lunch will be served at Noon.

Where: Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Chandler, AZ on Alma School Rd.

Contact: Bob Becker at 408-802-1008 for reservations (bobarlyce@hotmail.com) Seating is limited!



Life Counseling Network

Pastor John Stieve Receives the Spirit in Social Ministry Award

On December 8th, at Lutheran Social Services Annual Christmas Board Meeting, Pastor Stieve was awarded the Spirit in Social Ministry Award. Pastor Stieve was awarded this special honor due to his dedication and commitment to the agency's Board of Directors, and to the Life Counseling Network.

Over the last five and half years, Risen Savior Lutheran Church and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest have partnered together in ministry to deliver counseling services to the greater Green Valley community. Because of Pastor Stieve's commitment to the viability of the program for the greater good of the congregation and the community, services have benefited over 300 individuals, 8 congregations and four community service organizations.

The Life Counseling Network and Lutheran Social Services are indebted to Risen Savior and Pastor Stieve for their ongoing commitment to the greater Green Valley community, the agency, and its clients.

God Bless you Pastor Stieve for all that you do!

Holly Brown-Sisson, Director of Counseling Services and Church Relations

Prostate Wellness Group to have Greenberg Speak

The men's Prostate Wellness Group will meet at a special time and date in January to hear Dr. Jerry Greenberg, local urologist, speak about prostate wellness and take questions on any prostate issue. NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE: Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010 at 7:30 A.M.! To accommodate Dr. Greenberg's schedule we shall meet at this different day and time than we regularly meet.

Coffee and goodies will be available, of course!

Dr. Greenberg has spoken to our group a number of times and has been gracious with his time to give us his expertise on prostate care, issues, disease, and choices for disease remediation.

Come and join us! Again be aware of the day and time changes for this month only: Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:30 A.M at Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Contact: Dave Schmidt, 399.0154

WOMEN'S CANCER SEMINAR

Plans are in process to present a seminar featuring guest speaker Dr. Bruce Porterfield, oncologist with Arizona Oncology which is sponsored by the Breast Cancer Support Group. All women interested in the topic of cancer are invited. A future date will be announced based on Dr. Porterfield's availability. For more information contact Mary Bath, 399-4821 or Wilma Brockmann, 625-1130.

