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A message from Pastor Quinn

We study God's Word

The Minor Prophets: Habakkuk

“The righteous will live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4). The most familiar verse of this short book (it’s quoted three times in the New Testament) is also the most important. It provided a theme for the lives of Habakkuk and his people and it provides the same for believers of all time. The righteous still live by faith and that makes all the difference.

Not much is known about the Prophet Habakkuk. The only things we know about him are gleaned from the message of his book. It seems we say that a lot as we study the Minor Prophets, but this is especially true of Habakkuk. He is not mentioned in any historical book of the Old Testament, and even in his own letter he does not indicate specifically where he came from or when he lived. Perhaps not knowing all the facts about Habakkuk’s life is a blessing. Instead of focusing on the man it allows us to focus on his inspired message—a message which has much significance for us today.

Habakkuk’s book is a dialogue between the prophet and the LORD. The prophet asks the LORD about his plan for the injustice among his people. The LORD gives Habakkuk a surprising answer to his question: I’m going to punish my people by raising up the Babylonians. This led Habakkuk to ask why God would use an even more wicked nation to punish his people. It’s a question that makes sense to us. When we see the things going on in the world, and more specifically the things going on in our own lives, we sometimes wonder, “Why?” Maybe we even ask the question, “Why would God let this happen?” The question, “Why?” can often times reveal a lack of trust.

This was not the case for Habakkuk. Habakkuk’s question served a different purpose. The prophet asked the LORD about his plan because he wanted to take back to God’s people comfort from God’s word. This is revealed in Habakkuk’s words at the beginning of chapter two. “I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint” (2:1). Habakkuk would wait patiently for the LORD and relay his message to God’s people in due time.

The LORD didn’t answer Habakkuk’s question, “Why?” Instead he told the prophet that he would also punish the Babylonians in time. He didn’t say when. He didn’t say specifically how. His people would have to wait. They would live by faith—faith in an almighty Savior God who is in control of history.

You can see why this little book is important to us. It gives us a reminder and encouragement that we need to hear just as Habakkuk and the Old Testament believers did. The LORD reminds us that while circumstances may change (often going from bad to worse it seems) the LORD’s concern and care for his people never does. In fact he is at work right now for the eternal good of his children. If you ever doubt it look at what he has done for you. He sent his Son to live and die for you. He powerfully raised him from the dead to assure you of his victory and yours. Look also to the Prophet Habakkuk and remember the LORD’s encouragement to you: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Coming Up In August

August 3-7 VBS, 6 to 8 pm
August 4 Board of Trustees, 7 pm
August 11 Church Council, 7 pm
August 25 Board of Elders, 7 pm

**But this I say, brethren, the time is short.
1 Corinthians 7:29**

**I sometimes feel the thread of life is slender,
And soon with me the labour will be wrought;
Then grows my heart to other hearts more tender.
The time is short.**

D. M. Craik

We share the Truth with all people.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held at Good Shepherd August 3 to August 7, beginning at 6 pm each evening and ending at 8 pm. Registration is now in progress and you may register your child/children by calling the church office at 835-4181.

The theme this year is Dive In! and our VBS Coordinator Kim Schuette is working hard to make this summer VBS successful. Volunteers are needed to help with crafts, aides to help the teachers and to provide snacks. A sign-up sheet is available.

Volunteers are still needed for the following positions. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

- Adult teachers' aides
- Adult snack servers
- Adult art assistants
- Teen teacher's aides
- Registration table
- Photographer
- Snack provider
- Ice Cream Social organizer
- Ice Cream Social servers

School News

The opening date for our LES this year will be Tuesday evening, September 8th at 7:00 PM with a short reception to follow so everyone may get re-acquainted after the long summer vacation. This will

also give everyone the opportunity to meet the newest addition to the teaching staff at Good Shepherd, Mrs. Rebecca Seeger. Mrs. Seeger will be teaching the 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Pastor Jonathan Quinn will take on the position of principal for the school year 2009-2010.

Wednesday, September 9th will be a half day of school with a full day being held Thursday and Friday, September 10th and 11th.

There will be a School Bus Open House for all the new Kindergartners on August 11, 2009. Rides will be given at 10:00-11:00 and again at 1:00.

Scripture Readings for August

August 2 Pentecost 9

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Ephesians 2:13-22
Mark 6:30-34
Psalm 23

August 9 Pentecost 10

Exodus 24:3-11
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16
John 6:1-15
Psalm 84

August 16 Pentecost 11

Exodus 16:2-15
Ephesians 4:17-24
John 6:24-35
Psalm 145

August 23 Pentecost 12

1 Kings 19:3-8
Ephesians 4:30-5:2
John 6:41-51
Psalm 34

August 30 Pentecost 13

Proverbs 9:1-6
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58
Psalm 1

We serve others in love.

Ladies Guild

After summer vacation, Ladies Guild will have its September meeting on Tuesday, September 1st beginning at 7:00 pm.. Pam Krueger, president of Ladies Guild for the year 2009-2010, will host the group at her home. If you are a regular member or would just like to attend a meeting to see what the group is about, please come to the September 1st meeting. As with any group, the more people we have, the more we can accomplish. Contact the church office for Pam's address and directions to her home.

Our first meeting will begin at 7:00 PM with refreshments and fellowship until 7:30. Bible study will follow and after the Bible study, we will have our monthly business meeting.

LWMS Rally

The October LWMS Rally will be held at Emanuel in Tawas City, Michigan on Saturday, October 17 beginning with registration at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited. You do not have to be a member of Ladies Guild to attend any LWMS meeting.

We are assigned missionaries through Befriend A Mission through the Lutheran women's Missionary Society (LWMS).

Please contact the church office for the information about the missionaries we have been assigned.

We are asked to remember them in our prayers and to send cards or letters. Notes of encouragement are appreciated greatly. People have sent supplies and money, but this is not always easy to do. If you do decide to correspond with them, you could ask them what they need and what is the best way to get it to them.

Questions? Please call Joanne Atkinson or the church office.

Meals Needed?

Did you know that one of the services provided by the Ladies Guild at Good Shepherd is providing meals to those who are in need of a hot meal because of illness or some incapacity preventing them from preparing meals at home? Please call the office if you could use a little help with meals or contact Pam Krueger, president of Ladies Guild.

Secret Sisters

This year's Secret Sisters met at Shirlene's for supper and finding out who their Secret Sister was. Ten showed up to enjoy fellowship and a meal. Below are the Secret Sisters and who they were paired with:

Dina Mieske had Erica Lindesmith
Joanne Atkinson had Mischael Pitt
Paula Pretzer had Sarah Lindesmith
Ros Lehman had Marianne Perry
Heidi Lehman had Angie Beyersdorf
Karen Prince had Amy Lindesmith
Amy Lindesmith had Ros Lehman
Virginia Florey had Norma Lewis
Norma Lewis had Joanne Atkinson
Diana Johnson had Jill Butler
Angie Beyersdorf had Judy Krueger
Judy Krueger had Dina Mieske
Jaunita Dilloway had Heidi Cummings
Jill Butler had Virginia Florey
Marianne Perry had Paula Pretzer
Mischael Pitt had Diana Johnson

Paula Pretzer is in charge of the Secret Sisters for the 2009-2010 year. This year invitations have been put in the mailboxes of all the ladies of the congregation. A form is attached so you may list your favorite colors, your birthday, your hobbies and numerous other things so your Secret Sister will know a little something about you.

If you are unable to celebrate your secret sister's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasions, then please let someone else have the opportunity to do so. Remembering your secret sister monthly should not cause a financial burden to anyone. You do not have to give an extravagant gift. A letter, a scripture quote in a card, or their favorite type of candy bar is enough to brighten someone's day.

Our shut-ins

Please call the church office for the information about our shut-ins.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Make somebody's day. Send a card!

Birthdays in August:

August 3	Effie Bauer
August 5	Megan Marquardt
August 9	Mike Schwab
August 10	Andrea Butler
August 10	Brady Wirth
August 14	Joan Beeman
August 19	Norma Lewis
August 20	Dorothy Retzloff
August 25	Jeff Schoch

Anniversaries in August:

August 4	Irvin and Dee DeLong
August 11	Jeff and Kelly Schoch
August 25	Ron and Mary Shaffer

News from the Voters' Assembly

Call Meeting Adjourned:

Mrs. Rebecca Seeger accepted the Divine Call to serve as our 6th-8th grade teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. Therefore, the special call meeting of the Voters' was adjourned before beginning the regularly scheduled July Voters' Assembly.

Bible Study:

The Voters' began their meeting with a study of God's unique plan and role for man and woman in his world and the blessings which come from them.

Membership Transactions:

R.D. and Mary King, Karen Williams, and Jean Korte were received as communicant members by transfer from sister congregations.

Cheyenne Lehman, Emily Maraskine, Morgan McGinnis, Ethan Peil, Aaron Pretzer, and Megan Schoch were received as communicant members on the basis of their confirmation.

Logan Delane Hollenbeck Whitmer was received as a baptized member.

Two members were received into voting membership. They are Tim Jezowski and Joe Shaffer.

The Voters also acted on the transfer of Jeff and Sharon Crawford to our sister congregation, Gethsemane in Lee's Summit, MO. David and Juanita Dilloway also transferred to St. John's in Zilwaukee.

Reports:

Along with the regular reports, Mr. Joe Tafel reported on the Michigan District Convention at which he served as our congregation's delegate. There is information available from the convention in the church library.

Business:

The Voters asked that the congregation's debt of nearly \$100,000 be better publicized and avenues to repay the debt be offered.

In connection with the Bible Study the Voters discussed their responsibilities as servant leaders, especially their responsibilities to women and other non-voting members when it comes to communication and relaying information. Different means of communication were discussed.

A nominating committee of Tom Fryer, Matt Beyersdorf, John Pifher, and Steve Umphrey (alternate) was ratified. The nominating committee develops a slate of candidates for the December election meeting of the Voters' Assembly.

Joe Tafel was appointed as our congregation's delegate for the Pastor-Delegate Conference of the North-

ern Conference of the Michigan District to be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary on September 13th.

The Voters decided to have special offerings for the scholarship fund in the months of August and September. This fund supports the sons and daughters of Good Shepherd in their training for the public ministry.

Finally, the Voters called Pastor Quinn to serve as Principal for the 2009-2010 school year.

Mission Festival Sunday

Sunday, September 13th has been designated for Mission Festival this year at Good Shepherd. Pastor James Hoogervorst from our mission congregation in Cadillac will be here that day and a potluck meal will be served after the 10:45 AM worship service. You are cordially invited to set aside time to attend this once a year occasion.

Thank You From Tim Thies

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Good Shepherd,

As I hang the beautiful picture that I received from all of you in my office at Bethany, I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks for all of the gifts, cards, letters, and thoughts that you extended to me at my going away picnic. Once again, I have learned much during my time with you at Good Shepherd. I am extremely grateful to all of you for your support, friendship, kindness, and love. I enjoyed serving our Lord among you, and pray that he will continue to bless you as you continue to "feed his lambs the good news of the Gospel."

In His Service,

Timothy J. Thies

Tim's new address and phone number are available at the church office

Little Lambs Bible School

The Little Lambs Bible School will begin at Good Shepherd on Thursday, October 1st and will be held each Tuesday and Thursday from that date on. The children will meet with Mrs. Kim Schuette from 9 to 11 on those days for a Bible story, a craft project, singing and snacks. Children from the age of two years to young five's are welcome to attend this new program.

With the closing of our Preschool, the Board of Education and the pastors thought that there should be something for small children so they may learn about God before they begin LES. Each Tuesday and Thursday there will be a bible story with a craft and singing that will tie in with the bible study for that day. Snacks will also be provided. Children from the age of 2 to young 5's are cordially invited to attend. There is no charge for this new program.

If you know someone who has small children you might pass the word along about our Little Lambs bible School. Please contact Kim Schuette, or call the church office for more information.

News from Synod Convention: Budget Proposal Adopted

Delegates have adopted a resolution of the Finance and Budget Floor Committee for the 2009-11 biennium, which provides enough funding for Ministerial Education to retain WELS' present three-tier, four-school system as contained in the Synodical Council's proposed budget Option A.

The resolution also keeps funding for the Boards for Home and World Missions at the same level as the proposed budget Option B so that no further missionary cuts are needed.

Instead, the budgets of Communications, Financial Services, Technology, the Congregational Resource Team within Parish Services, Mission Counselors, and corporate travel expenses will be cut by a total of \$1 million.

Meet Our New Teacher Rebecca Seeger

Before she was Rebecca Seeger, she was Rebecca Hahn, the daughter of Jim and Judy Hahn. She was born on July 23, 1983 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her dad was teaching grades from Kindergarten through the eighth grade in a one room Christian school in Albuquerque at the time.

Jim Hahn decided to leave the teaching profession and worked for an Arizona financial business before becoming a manager of several restaurants with Pizza Hut transferring him and his growing family to Salt Lake City, Utah. Today Jim and Judy Hahn live in New Ulm, Minnesota here he is a Chief financial Officer for Martin Luther College.

Becky became big sister to Joel, Jason, Lindsay and Eric. She attended Emmanuel in Tempe, Arizona during her grade school years. One year in High School was spent at the Arizona Lutheran Academy followed by a year in a public high school in Utah. Her junior and senior years were spent at Arizona Lutheran Academy. After graduation she attended Martin Luther College where she met Zach Seeger.

Becky and Zach were married on July 29, 2006 in Salt Lake city, Utah.

Taking a deferment for three years, they joined the Friends of China, a group organized to provide people with the opportunity to teach English in China. Both Becky and Zach taught English as a second language. She said, "This really worked out well because our schedule was light and could spend time with at home bible studies.

When 2009 dawned, Becky and Zach decided that it was time to come back to the United States and take up the teaching careers they had prepared for at Martin Luther College. Zach took a Divine Call at St. John's in Hemlock, Michigan to be principal and teach grades 5-8. Becky accepted a Divine Call to teach grades 6-8 at Good Shepherd.

Going from living in a city of 8 million people to a rural area like Hemlock has been a change. Currently Becky and Zach live in the teacherage in Hemlock. A new life is opening up for them and we hope they enjoy the change.

Letter from Adam Gawel

Please take a few minutes to read the very informative letter from Adam Gawel on our bulletin board and his marriage to Sherry. Adam has been a blessing to this congregation from the very beginning and it is a pleasure to see him now started on a new career and marriage.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School 2009 Soccer Program

Letters were mailed out Friday, July 31st to parents who will have children participating in this year's soccer season with our team being coached by Daren Roehl. Kickoff will be Saturday, August 8th from 8:00 to 11:00 AM at Northwood. Soccer season will end on Thursday, October 1st with a game at St. Bart's. If your child is playing soccer, please post the schedule where it can remind the whole family about the next practice or soccer game.