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A message from Pastor Quinn

The Minor Prophets: Micah

“Who is like the LORD?” When we look at our glorious and gracious God that is certainly a question we are led to ask. “Who is like the LORD?” No one. No one compares to our wonderful Savior God. “Who is like the LORD?” That is also the meaning of the prophet Micah’s name and it certainly fit the important work he carried out as God’s prophet to God’s people.

Micah was from the small town of Moresheth in southwestern Judah. His important work would take place in the capital city of Jerusalem. Yet, he was not intimidated or afraid of preaching in that great city because the Spirit of the LORD filled him with power to do his work. Micah was a contemporary of the prophets Hosea and Isaiah and served during the “golden age” of Israelite prophecy. Since they served in the 8th century B.C. and served the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Micah’s and Isaiah’s prophecies often mirror each other. They deal with many common subjects: the people’s serious sins, God’s just judgment and a promise of restoration. Together with their words about restoration come beautiful and instantly recognizable prophecies about the coming Messiah.

During Micah’s ministry the people of Judah faced two major issues. One was with foreign policy and one was on the home front. Both issues were merely symptoms of their larger problem. Judah’s political instability stemmed from its relationships with her neighbors. Israel and Aram, Judah’s neighbors to the north, had invaded Judah, killed 120,000 of her fighting men, and took away 200,000 prisoners of war. Because of this Ahaz, the king of Judah, called on the world power, Assyria, for help. But the king of As-

syria brought more harm than help. Judah was forced to give up her independence and to send tribute taxes back to Assyria. The Assyrians eventually wiped out Israel in 722 B.C. but did not stop there. Two decades after the fall of Israel the Assyrian king laid siege to Jerusalem, Judah’s capital. Only the Lord’s miraculous intervention saved Judah from sure destruction.

At home things were no better for Judah. King Uzziah, who reigned before Micah’s ministry, had brought great prosperity to Judah. But this prosperity brought about social evils to those who lived under the subsequent kings. The greedy persecuted the poor. Luxury and vice lived next door to poverty and filth. There was no trust between neighbor, brother, and friend. All of Judah’s issues stemmed from their spiritual problems. Even their priests and prophets were caught up in greed. Worship was a mere formality, performed for the right price. Outward sacrifice, they thought, was enough to ensure God’s favor no matter what was in the heart of the one making the offering. Idolatry was prevalent.

It was a lot like our times. The things we see in our “Christian” society are often far from Christian. But let’s not look at society. Let’s look at ourselves. Have your priorities been skewed by the ungodly things of this world—by the love of money and vice? What is the driving force behind the decisions you make? Is it love for the LORD and all he has done for you or some other purpose? Has worship become a formality for you? Is it something you do to be “right with God” while your heart follows the idols of greed, pleasure, and self? These are important questions to ask of those who live in a nation which is prosperous in spite of the recent economic downturn. To the ones asking those kinds of questions Micah has something to say.

Micah's prophecy denounces the corruption and lack of compassion that rules the sinful heart. He speaks of the terrible consequences of sin—God's terrible judgment. For God's Old Testament people that meant exile and captivity. For people of all time it means eternal condemnation in hell. Take Micah's words of judgment to heart. Take the rest of his message to heart too. For Micah also speaks of the One who did make things right with God for us. He prophesies about the one who brought spiritual peace to God's people—the peace of sins forgiven. That peace comes from the Messiah—true God born as true man as a babe in Bethlehem. *“But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Therefore Israel will be abandoned until she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be there peace”* (Micah 5:2-5). Who is like your gracious and forgiving LORD? No one. Take a look at the book of Micah as a reminder.

Coming up in June

June 6 Outside/Inside Work Day 9 AM

June 7 Eighth Grade Graduation

June 9, 10, 11 District Convention at MLS

Preschool News

Director Mrs. Dana Schwab

As the weather turned warmer this year we ventured outside for field trips to the butterfly house, the farm and the MPS bus garage. As we learned about the natural sciences, we were able to see living examples of plants, animals, and their habitats. We raised butterflies from the larvae stage until we set them free outside. We grew flowers from seeds and sent them home in time for Mother's Day. We finished the preschool year on May 22nd with six four-year olds and six three year olds. The Young Fives and Kindergarten Complement class finishes on June 4th with five students.

I asked the students recently what they think heaven will be like. These are a few of the responses:

“A little bit of light. Like a candle with a little fire.”

“There will be a castle. There will be love and flowers.”

“Jesus will be there. Like I'm at home.”

“Heaven will be like a big building. Jesus is there. We will have party hats.”

“There will be angels everywhere. The animals won't hurt each other, even if they used to.”

I looked back at the pictures and rosters of the children that attended since our opening on September 11, 2000, until June 2009. (If children repeated a year, they were not counted twice.)

Total Number of children who attended: 108

Number of families served: 84

Children who were members of WELS: 36

Children who were non-members: 72

We were able to serve children and families from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, churching and unchurched. The seed was planted by us and nourished by the Holy Spirit. We may have not always seen the fruit of our efforts, yet we are confident that His Word will not return to Him empty.

One year I had a boy from India who professed his faith in the Hindu god. He never professed his faith in Jesus. I gave a children's Bible to him, as well as a Bible to his mother. Two years later he returned to say hello and he told me he was “reading his God book,” referring to the bible I gave him. I pray that he will eventually come to faith in Jesus.

A different boy didn't know about Jesus in September but as the year went on he continually shared his faith with his family, and by the next May he gladly shared the Good News with anyone who would listen. He told me how his family laughed at him yet he wouldn't give up. Praises to our Savior and King!

Thank you to all the parents, members, and staff who have shared their skills and time and who offered prayers and encouragement. Many hands make light work! I will treasure the times I was able to serve the Lord at Good Shepherd. May God continue to bless and keep young children in his loving hands, at Good Shepherd, in our community, and everywhere.

Your Sister in Christ,
Dana Schwab

Why Are We Closing the Preschool?

The decision to close our Preschool came after lengthy discussion and prayerful considerations into an alternative way to keep the program available to both members of our congregation and the families of our community. Our firm belief is that we have an excellent program with a gifted, talented, and dedicated director. We also feel that our program was a useful outreach tool to the Midland and surrounding area for not only education but the most important of tasks, to spread God's word.

The Preschool program is but one of many good things that our congregation at Good Shepherd has chosen to take on in our quest to "Preach the Gospel to every nation." Unfortunately we as a congregation, at this time, have to choose which of these good programs we are able to continue to support considering our current financial situation.

The need for education and continued exposure to God's word for this age group remains of chief concern to our teachers, pastors, and members. Discussions are continuing, in order to establish some form of young children's play and Bible information group with involvement of the Board of Education: Craig Schuette, Jeff Schoch, Tom Ross, Matt Beyersdorf, the parents and pastors of Good Shepherd Lutheran. At this point they are in the formulating stages and any input from members and parents would be greatly appreciated. Any further updates will follow as interest and information come together.

We ask for your continued prayers for both Dana Schwab, and the good work that Good Shepherd Lutheran church and School continue to do for our members and our community. Please contact any of the teachers, pastors, or board members to get any questions or comments forwarded to the Board of Education for review and consideration. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to these matters.

Your brother in Christ,
Kevin D. Hennig, Chairman
Board of Education

Outside/Inside Work Day

The Board of Trustees have scheduled Saturday, June 6th for an outside/inside work day for Good Shepherd. Outside work will consist of picking up sticks, trimming bushes, raking the lawn, cleaning out the flower beds, etc. A list of potential projects has been outlined by the Board of Trustees.

Inside work will consist of washing and polishing the pews, cleaning the walls in the bathrooms, dusting, and cleaning out the refrigerator. A complete list of chores to be done is on the bulletin board.

Invitation

The members of Christ, Oakley invite you to join them for the installation of their new pastor, Rev. David Mielke on Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 p.m. You are also invited to a dinner at the church immediately following worship. Please come and join us in thanking God for this blessing of our new shepherd and his family! If you have any questions, please contact vacancy pastor Jason Baldwin at (989)865-9875.

Scripture Readings for June 2009

June 7 Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:14-17
John 3:1-17
Psalm 150

June 14 Pentecost 2

Deuteronomy 5:12-15
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-28
Psalm 126

June 21 Pentecost 3

Genesis 3:8-15
2 Corinthians 4:13-18
Mark 3:20-35
Psalm 51b

June 28 Pentecost 4

Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:1-10
Mark 4:26-34
Psalm 92

Schedule Change for Summertime

Our worship schedule has changed for the summer months. Our worship services are at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. This will continue until Labor Day weekend in September. Then beginning on Sunday, September 13th our Sunday services will go back to the 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM schedule.

Our Shut-ins

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers. Call the church office for contact information if you'd like to send them a card or note.

Ron Daniel Address

We have a new address for our member Ron Daniel who is now deployed in Afghanistan:

**Ronald Daniel
OCC-P Ghazni
FOB Vulcan
APO AE 09354**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Here are the birthdays and anniversaries for June. If you would like to be included in Good Shepherd's roster, please check with Pam Krueger (835-9467).

Birthdays in June are:

June 4	Lisa Ross
June 4	Guyan Lange
June 7	Joan Foster
June 10	Daren Roehl
June 11	Nancy Ehlers
June 16	Rose Krueger
June 18	Dana Schwab
June 19	Nathan Brandt
June 20	Ben Cummings
June 20	Paul Farquharson
June 22	Millie McGinnis

Wedding Anniversaries in June are:

June 15	Mitch & Deb McGill
June 17	Ernie & Marianne Perry
June 26	John & Paula Pretzer

Pentecost Flowers

We want to thank the following people for supplying geraniums for the altar to celebrate Pentecost:

Pat Brandt, Ernie and Marianne Perry, Joanne Atkinson, Len and Roz Lehman, Tom and Lorna Fryer, Bob and Chris Erkkila, Norene Garchow, Jim and Diana Johnson and Bob and Jo Beeman.