



Volume 25 Issue 10

Date November 2009

A message from Pastor Quinn

The Minor Prophets: Zechariah

“The LORD remembers.” The name of the prophet Zechariah matches the message of his book. In the midst of suffering and setbacks the LORD remembers his people. He never forgets his promise to save them. He will carry things out just as he has said. The fact that the LORD remembers is an important fact for us to remember each and every day.

The background for Zechariah’s book and work is the same as that of Haggai. They were contemporaries working with the remnant of God’s people who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian Captivity. The historical context for the prophets Haggai and Zechariah is found in the book of Ezra. Both prophets addressed the people at a time when their work of completing the LORD’s temple in Jerusalem had become an afterthought. They both rebuked and encouraged the people to finish building the temple. But one may say Haggai was more focused on the building while Zechariah was concentrating more on the spiritual renewal of the people who would then worship and serve there. Zechariah’s first prophecy is dated two months after Haggai’s first. His last dated and revealed prophecy was over two years later. Zechariah, who was from the priestly family, was apparently younger than Haggai and his ministry may have lasted longer than the two years we have recorded for us in his book.

The words of the first chapter of Zechariah, “Return to me, and I will return to you” (Zechariah 1:3), have often been suggested as the main theme of the book. But another theme is provided by Zechariah’s name itself. The Lord remembers his people and his promises. This truth is best seen in the humiliation and exaltation of the Messiah.

Much of Zechariah is apocalyptic in nature. This kind of prophecy is found also in Daniel and Revelation. The prophet received a series of eight night visions that reminded God’s people that he still loved them and would govern the destinies of the nations for the benefit of his people. The rule of God Almighty will endure to the end and will be realized in the work of the Messiah. As you read through the visions which Zechariah records it is important to remember a few things. Visions often involve pictures that distort normal reality. Use your imagination to picture what is described and expect unfamiliar scenes and characters. Visions often present a series of revealing scenes that appear to be disjointed rather than interrelated. Don’t expect smooth transitions or a logical flow from one to another. Focus on each scene one at a time. Listen to the explanations provided but don’t insist on explanations for everything in every vision. Focus on the primary point being made and let go of details that lack explanations.

Another thing you will notice as you read this book is Zechariah’s references to the earlier prophets. These references served to remind the people that God had not forgotten what he said through those men, that the people had correctly understood God’s promises to them, and that the Messiah would indeed be coming to save them.

As with all books of the Bible the Savior is central to this book. “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). Zechariah pointed the Old Testament believers to Jesus. He pointed them to Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem to take care of their sins once and for all. That is where Zechariah

points us, too. When you are burdened with guilt or feel the burdens of living in a sin-cursed world—sickness, loss, death—remember that the LORD remembers you. He has not forgotten you. He never will. If you want proof look to Jesus who has revealed just how much God loves you both in his suffering and death, and also in his exalted rule over all of history for your benefit. No matter what things look like on the outside, the LORD remembers you. Read through the book of Zechariah to remind yourself of that truth.

Coming up in November:

November 1— Reformation
November 2-3 Taste of Ministry here
November 7 Outside Work Day 9:AM
November 9— Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 25-27—No LES—Thanksgiving vacation
November 26—Thanksgiving

Holiday Events Coming Up

Thanksgiving will be celebrated on the last Thursday of the month, November 26th. Services at Good Shepherd will be held at 9:00 AM.

Sunday, November 29 will be the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Wednesday, December 2nd will be our first Advent service with Holy Communion being served. A soup supper at 6:00 PM will precede the 7:00 PM service. Following Advent services will be December 9th when the LES children will sing for the service. The last Advent service will be held on December 16th. Soup suppers will precede each Advent service.

Our Christmas Eve Festival Service will be held at 7:00 PM, December 24th followed by our traditional Candlelight Service at 9:00 PM.

Christmas Worship on Friday, December 25th will be held at 10:00 AM.

December 27th we will have our regular worship services at 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM. Because of so many traveling at Christmas time there will be no Sunday school nor Bible Class between the two worship services.

New Year's Eve will be celebrated with a Holy Communion Service on December 31st at 7:00 PM.

Santa Parade

Heidi Cummings

It is getting closer to that time of year. The holidays are rapidly approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Midland Santa Parade will be Saturday, November 21st. Our church participates in the parade in order to get the word out to the community about our Christmas for Kids program that takes place in early December. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share the Word of God with our community, especially the children. Our float, which displays the message, "Jesus is the reason for the season," also serves as a reminder of what Christmas is all about, the birth of our Lord and Savior.

We will need both adults and children to participate in the parade. Tentatively, a crew of 4 to 6 adults will be needed the Wednesday before the parade to assemble the float. On the day of the parade, we will need at least 4 adults and at least 10 children to wear costumes (which we will provide) to ride or walk the parade route. Adults will be responsible for handing out Christmas for Kids brochures and children will pass out candy and portray the Nativity Scene. Volunteers would need to meet in the Midland High School parking lot no later than 9:30 AM; the parade starts at 10 AM. The day after the parade, we will need another crew of 4 to 6 adults to disassemble the float.

We are still in need of a trailer large enough to hold the stable, a manger, several bales of straw, and 10 to 15 children (possibly more). We need a volunteer and a vehicle to pull the trailer as well. We will also need candy donations. The "after Halloween" candy sales are a perfect opportunity to find inexpensive candy. If you are willing and able to help, please sign up on the sheets located on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact me, Heidi Cummings.

Thank you and God bless you during the upcoming holidays.

Call the church office if you need Heidi's phone number.

Thanksgiving Baskets

The next two Sundays (November 8 and November 15) we will be collecting free will offerings and food donations for Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets will be delivered to some members of our congregation who could use a little extra help at this special time of the year. Sharing seems particularly appropriate at this time of year.

News from the Voters' Assembly

Membership Transaction:

Transferred In:

Jim and Daphne Westphal were received as communicant members with sons James and Don as baptized member

Jeff and Sharon Crawford transferred from Gethsemane in Lee's Summit, MO.

Baptisms:

Riley Jean Mason was received as a baptized member on the basis of her Holy Baptism on 26, September 2009.

Transfers Out:

Jeff and Kelly, Garrett and Megan Schoch as communicant members and Amanda and Samantha Schoch as baptized members to St. John's in Saginaw.

Bryan and Karin Johnson as communicant members and children Weston and Evelyn to Holy Scripture in Midland.

Reception of Voting Members:

Jim Westphal was received as a voting member.

New Business:

The scholarship amounts were set as \$400 for WLS and MLC students and \$200 each for the MLS students.

The WELS VEBA Commission announced a one-month premium holiday in 2009 for the Group Health Care Plan for the month of November. It was recom-

mended that what we would have paid for health insurance in November be sent to Synod as a special offering.

Ladies Shopping Trip

Five ladies of Good Shepherd enjoyed a day exploring shops and restaurants in Caseville, Pigeon and Port Austin on Saturday, October 24. Judi Festerling, Susan Pifher, Marilyn Schwab, Joyce Tafel and Joanne Atkinson started the morning off with breakfast at Pat & Jerry's Restaurant in Auburn and then headed off for the Thumb area of Michigan. The group ate in Elkton and saw a field of wind turbines which is making a new appearance in Michigan's efforts to find suitable alternative energy sources. Another interesting point of interest was finding two different shop owners who catch female wild cats, have them spayed and give the kittens away. The shoppers had supper at the Cracker Barrel in Bay City. The weather was cool and wet but it didn't dampen the spirits of the shoppers.

Thrivent Matching Gift Change Ending

At the end of this calendar year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will end its program of matching gifts to schools such as Good Shepherd. Thrivent will introduce another gift-giving program that will not involve matching funds in the spring of 2010. If you or others you know would like to take advantage of the Thrivent matching gifts program too give a gift to Good Shepherd Elementary School, Michigan Lutheran Seminary or Martin Luther, this must be done before the end of the calendar year. Matching funds forms are available from the MLS Foundation office (989-793-7511 or toll free, 866-657-9357) or the Thrivent web stie, www.thrivent.com.

News from Michigan Lutheran Seminary

MLS Christmas Cards and Ornaments

MLS Guild Christmas cards, designed by MLS students, are again available. You can see the design on the MLS website at www.misem.org. Each set of a dozen cards sells for \$8.00. Commemorative MLS centennial Christmas ornaments will soon be available. They will be brass ornaments featuring images of Seminary's Old Main and the clock tower of the 1950s portion of our campus. Watch for announcements for ordering an ornament

Calls

The MLS Governing Board has called the Reverend Kenneth Brokmeier to be the next president of MLS. Pastor Brokmeier currently serves at Our Savior, Brookings, South Dakota. He formerly served at Northwestern College; Martin Luther Preparatory School; Northwestern Preparatory School; St. Paul's, Lake Mills, Wisconsin; and Luther Preparatory School. Dean John Boggs recently received a Divine Call to be the communications and mission advancement director of Winnebago Lutheran Academy, the WELS area Lutheran high school in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Attention Eighth Graders

It's not too early for this year's eighth graders to apply to MLS. You can go online at www.misem.org. You'll find the application under Future Students. MLS looks forward to hearing from you.

Offerings for the 2009 Special Services will be as follows:

Thanksgiving: WELS Jubilee offering

Midweek Advent services: MLS Foundation

Christmas Eve & Candlelight services/Christmas day: Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

New Year's Eve: Cadillac Mission

School News

Box Tops for Education

Good Shepherd Lutheran Elementary will receive \$511.00 from Box Tops for Education for the 2008-2009 school year. Please keep saving box tops and place them in the container in the fellowship hall or give them to Mrs. Tafel. A complete list of products that have the Box Tops for Education coupon on them is in your mailbox.

There is a wide variety of items from companies such as Betty Crocker, Nestles, Cheerios Cereals, Chex Cereals, Nature Valley, Pillsbury, Ziploc, Cottonelle and Hefty that have coupons on their numerous products.

We are once again collecting Campbell Soup Labels for our school. Daphne Westphal is coordinating the program. There is a container for labels in the fellowship hall or you may put them in Daphne's mailbox. Thank you for your help.

Monday, November 9 will be Parent/Teacher Conference Day so there will be no school for the children.

There will be sign-up sheets on the school bulletin board for your convenience.

We serve others in love.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

November 1	Jacob Lewis
November 4	Tyler Glessner
November 5	Dave Rummel
November 6	Bailey Glessner
November 8	Ros Lehman
November 8	Andy Arbury
November 10	Kevin Hennig
November 20	Dorris Wills
November 22	Mitch McGill
November 26	Jim Johnson
November 28	Alex Hocquard

Wedding Anniversaries in November

November 6	Andy and Kim Arbury
November 25	John and Susan Pifher

Our Shut-ins

Please see your paper copy of the newsletter for information about our shut-ins.

We study God's Word

November Scriptures

November 1 Reformation

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Revelation 14:6,7
Mark 13:5-11
Psalm 46

November 8 Last Judgment

Malachi 4:1,2a
Hebrews 9:24-28
John 5:19-24
Psalm 90

November 15 Saints Triumphant

Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-18
John 5:25-29
Psalm 118

November 22 Christ the King

Daniel 7:13,14
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37
Psalm 45

November 26 Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 8:10-18
Philippians 4:10-20
Luke 17:11-19
Psalm 100

Ron Daniel's Address

Ron Daniel, a member of our congregation is serving his country at the current time and is stationed in Afghanistan. Please see your paper copy of the newsletter for his address.

2009 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Food Bank Drive

The Food Bank at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is run to assist the married students attending there. These students work part-time jobs around their classes and their intensive studying and preparation, as they try to make ends meet to provide for their families.

The donations provided by the congregations in our Michigan District are greatly appreciated by these future pastors and their families.

Monetary gifts are also welcomed (*checks made payable to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary*). These gifts are used to purchase grocery store gift certificates, basic food supplies, paper products and diapers.

Monetary donations are also welcome to help St. Paul's in Saginaw cover the cost of the rental truck and gas. *Those checks should be made out to St. Paul's*. For more information, please speak with Pastor.

Choir

More voices are always needed to sing praises to God in our choir. The choir now meets each Thursday evening beginning at 7 PM. New members are always welcome to join the choir. Using your talents to sing praises to God is one way of thanking him and the choir always brings much joy to the congregation. Please see Amy Lindesmith, our choir director, if you are interested

Good News & Glad Tidings

Brought to you by Good Shepherd Ladies Guild

The next meeting of Ladies Guild will begin at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 3rd at the home of Kim Schuette. Feel free to call Kim or the church office for directions or her address. Bible study and the business meeting will begin at 7 followed by snacks and fellowship. If you are on a Penny Team, this is the last chance to turn your pennies in for 2009.

Today's Christian Women's Retreat will be held at the Lexington Lansing Hotel on April 9-11, 2010. The theme will be "I am the vine and you are the branches." John 15:5. For more information please see the web site www.tcwr.org or email them at info@tcwr.org.

Attention Coupon Clippers & Bargain Hunters: We will soon be collecting items at church for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Gift Baskets. For those who would like to shop the sales ahead of time, Norma Lewis has provided the following list of sug-

gested items: hot and cold cereals, canned or dried soup, canned fruit, peanut butter, jam or jelly, pancake mix and syrup, Jell-O, pudding, canned meats, pasta, rice, spaghetti sauce, crackers, nuts, microwave popcorn, juice, baking mixes (cake, brownies, bread, muffins), frosting, boxed dinners like macaroni and cheese, flour, white or brown sugar, hot cocoa mix, coffee, pickles, applesauce, stuffing, etc. Please call Norma if you are able to purchase any of these items in large quantities.

The December meeting of Ladies Guild will be at Barb Seifert's home on Tuesday, December 1st. The Christmas get-together is hosted by Barb and Joyce Tafel and you are cordially invited to attend. A white elephant gift exchange will be held immediately after Bible study. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Outside Work Day

An outside work day has been scheduled on Saturday, November 7 beginning at 9:00 AM. A lot can be accomplished if we have a good turn-out. Mark your calendar and plan on spending a few hours sprucing up the outside of Good Shepherd.

Basketball for Men

Any men interested in playing basketball on Sunday evenings in the Bay Area WELS Basketball League should contact Mike Krueger. Looking for something to do? Check this out!

Mistake?

Ever think you had made a mistake and then the occasion turned out better than you planned? You're in good company. We found these serendipitous mistakes in a school magazine that came in the mail.

James Wright was trying to come up with a new kind of silicone rubber to use on army boots and airplane tires. But he came up with a silicone that was bouncy, stringy, and mushy. Nobody knew what to do with it. In 1949 Peter Hodgson bought a batch of the stuff just for fun. Then he tried to sell it just for fun and that's how Silly Putty has been used ever since. For fun.

Bakeries have long put their name in the bottom of their tin pie pans for identification. Some boys found out it was fun to throw the pie tins to others who in turn would catch it and return it zinging through the air. Thanks to the Frisbie Pie Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut the popular Frisbee is now every-

where, just spelled a little differently.

In 1878 a worker at the Gamble Soap Company was making soap. When his lunch break came he left the mixing machine on and the machine whipped too much air into the soap mixture. Thinking about it and not wanting to waste it, he poured the liquid into bar molds and sold the soap like that. Letters began pouring in to the company. People wanted more of the soap that FLOATED. And that's how Ivory Soap came into existence.

“Here I stand.”

Summoned before Charles V, the emperor over much of Europe, Martin Luther was told to recant what he had written in his 95 theses. Facing the emperor, his court and church leaders, Luther said, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen!”

Fortunately for the Reformation and the Lutheran Church, Martin Luther continued to stand firmly on the Word in spite of persecution, declared an outlaw, Fortunately Luther had a friend in Frederick the Wise who also believed that the church needing reforming badly.

Kidnapped by friends, Luther was taken to the safety of a fortress called Wartburg by the town of Eisenach. While there Luther translated the Bible into German so that the people could read it, not just the clergy. Before this, everything was written in Latin.

With the beginning of the Reformation, monasteries and nunneries were closed, religious art, music, stained glass and statues of the saints were vandalized. Philip Melanchthon, Luther's right-hand man, declared, “The dam has broken, and I cannot stop the waters.”

Luther could. He preached. He explained teachings and traditions of the church that were against Scripture. His intent was never to leave the church that he had grown up in. He wanted only to do away with the parts that had infiltrated the church and make it pure again.

Over his lifetime, Luther's writings were prodigious and today we still have the use of them. Fortunately for the church, Martin Luther took a stand.