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God's Gift of Forgiveness

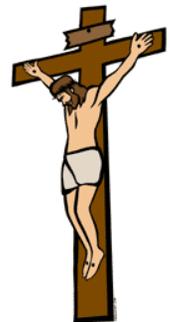
*"Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.
For Your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in Your faithfulness"
(Psalm 26:2-3).*

When you read Psalm 26, you are struck by the confidence King David has in both God's ability to help and his own right to ask for God's help. He appeals to the Lord on the basis of his innocence in the face of his enemies and his moral integrity. All of which begs the question in the minds of those who know about King David and his sometimes checkered life: *"Hmm ... David ... innocent? ... moral integrity?"*

But let us switch the discussion to ourselves. Read Psalm 26 with yourself in mind. On the surface, this seems like a pretty bold prayer. Should I really be asking God to prove and test me? I have the Old Adam living within me, I am filled with sin, and my guilt is ever before me. What would possibly convince me that God should prove and try and test me? That sounds like a bad idea.

To walk before the Lord by our own works would be a terrible mistake. If we had to walk before God according to our own deeds, no doubt we would try to hide from God, like Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. It is just not possible!

But we need not walk before God on our own. His steadfast love and grace are before our eyes. God vindicates us and declares us innocent because of the great work of His Son (Psalm 26:1).



Notice that we do not walk in OUR faithfulness. We walk in HIS faithfulness. It is His faithfulness that matters, not ours. *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful – for He cannot deny Himself"* (2 Timothy 2:13). When we ask God to test us and prove us, we are really asking God to keep His promises. He has and He will.

*Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.
Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.
(LSB #610, v. 1,2)*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I pray that You would guard and keep me in Your love and faithfulness; for it is only when I walk in You that my path is straight and secure. In Jesus' Name. Amen

-Pastor Sherry

MONTHLY MONITOR

March 2015



Stewardship Minute *Trusting in Money*

The Apostle Paul urges Timothy, his brother in Christ, to charge the rich not to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches but on God who gives us all things to enjoy. The spiritual danger in possessing lots of money is that a person's trust will be placed in things rather than in God. This was the danger that Jesus saw in the life of the Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-22). For this reason, Jesus placed His finger on the thing that stood between this man and the surrender of his life to God. Jesus knew that the man lacked faith. Jesus asked the young man to give his money to the poor, but he was unable to part with his money, so the Rich Young Ruler turned away very sorrowful. In speaking to His disciples, Jesus said, "*Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God*" (Mark 10:24).

Much of life revolves around money. Money is used to buy our necessities of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, etc. With or without wealth, God promises to provide for our needs (Philippians 4:19). Those who have lots of money are always aware of moral values that money cannot buy. Wealth used in the right way can minister to many needs and do great service in God's kingdom, such as printing Bibles, supporting missionaries, building hospitals, schools and churches, etc. Unfortunately, when a person grows rich and sets his/ her affection on those riches, that immoral love for wealth can obscure the many positive uses for money. Money and the things money can buy in order to enhance our physical existence can become overly important. The person who puts together a large sum of money is able to say to himself, "*relax, eat, drink, be merry* (Luke 12:19). Perhaps the greatest spiritual danger connected with having much money is that almost unconsciously people will depend on their money in such a way that a life of complete dependence upon God is no longer possible.

May God grant us the strength and wisdom to control our money rather than being controlled by our money.

God Is the Source of All Things

Remembering that God owns everything prompts a remarkable shift in our view of stewardship. Usually when we think of stewardship, we define it as our giving to God or to the church something that belongs to us. However, stewardship is just the reverse, because it is our freely using, enjoying, and giving what already belongs to God (Psalm 50:9-12). The air we breathe, the water we drink, the land on which we live are all gifts from God. All that we have are gifts we enjoy out of God's love for us.

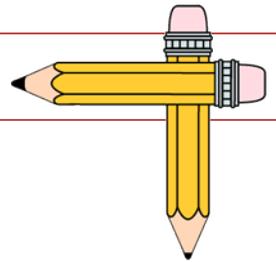
Prayer: Lord, You are the owner of the animals in the forest and all the cattle on a thousand hills. Help me to acknowledge You as the owner of all things. I thank You for allowing me to be Your steward. Grant me faith to be faithful in my stewardship. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship journey!



MONTHLY MONITOR

March 2015



The Classroom Chronicles

Our Mission is to provide a Christ-centered education for all of God's children.

Our Vision: We prepare students for the future by equipping them with **spiritual strength**, establishing a foundation of **academic achievement**, and creating **Christian leaders**.

FANTASTIC FEBRUARY!

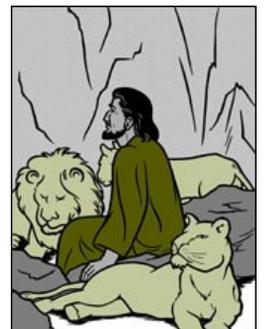
- Our mission project for January and February was **Hearts for Jesus**. ABAN is the focus for this year – A Ban Against Neglect. The classrooms had a contest to raise additional money for this program. We'll publish the Penny War winners next month. :D
- The **100th Day of School** celebration was held on the 12th of February. Students in several classrooms brought in 100 things to share, made necklaces, and even sang Psalm 100. This was also the day for sharing Valentines and going bowling!
- Amidst our several snow (too cold) days, the students were also learning songs for the upcoming **operetta** in March!
- The faculty, staff, board members, and an army of volunteers continued diligently working to complete the paperwork for our **Accreditation** process!

MARCH'S PLETHORA OF HAPPENINGS!!

- **Dr. Seuss' birthday** will be celebrated in many of our classrooms on Monday, March 2nd. Our students will spend some time reading his wonderful books with their Prayer Partners.
- We will be attending the **Lutheran Schools Week Service** at Saginaw Valley State University on Tuesday, March 3 with other Lutheran Schools from around the Great Lakes Bay Region. What an awesome gathering of Lutheran staff and students for worship!
- March Chapel dates are the **4th and 18th**. Join us for worship at 8:20a.m. these mornings! Our new mission project is **Gospel Nets**.



- Trinity's 7th and 8th Grade **Spelling Bee Team** will be representing us on Thursday, March 5th in the area's Lutheran School Spelling Bee. Come and cheer them on at Zion, Bay City at 7:00pm. Contestants will be Jeremiah Iseler and David Appold. Alternates will be Alex Friebe and Blake Howard.
- Then the 5th and 6th Grade **Spelling Bee Team** will have their turn to spell on the Thursday, March 12th. This time you can support our team at Immanuel, Bay City at 7:00 pm. Contestants will be Mason Burk and Michael Harding. Alternates will be Riley Greene and Bayli Kernstock.
- Several of our teachers will be attending a **LEAP-sponsored event for Early Childhood** on Tuesday evening, March 17th. Valuable information will be gleaned for our program!
- Our school **Operetta** will be presented on the First Day of Spring (yes, it IS coming!) on Friday, March 20. We will be presenting a **SPECIAL PERSON PERFORMANCE** at 1:30pm and then the actual performance will be at **7:00pm**. This year's musical is "**Rescue in the Night – The Story of Daniel in the Lions' Den**". Rumor has it that the Scholarship Fundraising Committee will also be hosting a spaghetti dinner that evening.



MONTHLY MONITOR

March 2015



The Classroom Chronicles

~Continued~

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD ROUNDUP for Preschool and Kindergarten** is slated for **Monday, March 23 at 6:30pm**. Come and meet our Early Childhood teachers, hear about our GREAT program, and tour the classrooms. Registration packets for the 2015-2016 school year will be available for you to register your child with us! If you know of any family with children of Early Childhood age, help us spread the word!
- Speaking of registration, our **re-registration packets** will be coming home soon! If you know of any new family that would like registration information to join our Trinity school family, ask them to call the office. Thanks!

APRIL AND SPRING EVENTS

- Join us for **Chapel** on these Wednesdays: April 1 (no foolin'!) and April 15 (before you file your taxes!) at 8:20a.m. Our Gospel Nets mission project will continue throughout the month of April.
- **Spring break** is scheduled to begin on Good Friday, April 3rd through the 12th. School will resume on Monday, April 13 at 8:10am.
- The annual **Lutheran Schools Music Festival** will be hosted at Faith, Bay City this year on Friday, April 24th. Some of our musical students will be preparing for this exciting day!
- The students are scheduled to **sing for worship** on Sunday, April 26 at the 10:30 service.
- **Chapel** dates for May are the 6th and 20th.

Announcements

LENTEN DINNERS: Trinity will once again be hosting dinners every Wednesday throughout the Lenten season. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will go towards the 7th and 8th grade Washington D.C. class trip.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP: The Tri-City Good Friday Worship Service will be held on April 3rd, at the Horizon's Conference Center at 6200 State Street in Saginaw Township at 1:00 p.m. The Professor at Valparaiso University, Reverend John Nunes, will be the guest speaker. In order to underwrite the cost of this service, we are seeking support from congregation members as we have done in the past. If you would like to donate, contact your congregation representative, Lyle Walter. Checks should be made out to "Good Friday Service". Thank you for any support you can give, and invite your relatives, friends and unchurched acquaintances to join us. There will be a box in the church entrance for your contributions. Thank you.

VALLEY LUTHERAN HONOR ROLL-2ND QUARTER: High Honors-Megan Friebe, Emily Peruski; Honors-Kate Liberacki, Kenzie Pomaville

RESCUE IN THE NIGHT: The K-8 students of Trinity invite you to attend their presentation of the operetta "Rescue in the Night". Performances will be Friday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this operetta about Daniel's trust in God.