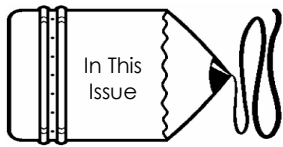


# THE PRAISE PULSE

A Publication of Praise Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

May 2011



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## *Is God Like Our Mother?*



I can think of many places in the Bible where God is referred to as our Father or compared with a human father, but there's not much in the Holy Scriptures comparing God to a mother. The closest that I can find is from Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34, which are exactly alike, and it's not even about a *human* mother. Jesus wails, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

As our Lord was entering Jerusalem near the end of His earthly ministry, He compared Himself with a mother hen who was trying to gather up all of her chicks and protect them beneath the safety of her own body. When birds of prey or other carnivores get close to the little helpless chicks, it's the instinct of the hen to cover them up, even at the risk of her own life. And of course, that's exactly what Jesus did by offering Himself as the victim, while protecting us from Satan who would carry us off and devour us if he could. The instincts of a mother bear, lion or most other animals to protect their young from perceived danger are very strong. The protective love of a mother chicken for her young was the picture that Jesus was using to show us how much He loves us.

Depending on the behavior and personality of our own parents, comparing God to a mother or father might be either comforting or frightening to us! Unfortunately, we all don't have warm, gentle, loving parents, and parents all make mistakes. Many grown adults go through years of counseling to deal with some pain or hurts associated with their upbringing. Sinful parents all, we can inflict emotional, mental, physical and other types of abuse on children without even knowing it sometimes. Even the Biblical patriarchs (and matriarchs) showed favoritism among their children, which negatively affected their sibling relationships then and later as adults. Joseph's brothers actually considered killing him because he was Jacob's obvious favorite!

The forgiveness shown to us in Christ is the same forgiveness we can show to our parents or children which can heal those wounds which sometimes never seemed to close. Loving and talking and confessing and forgiving are God's ways of healing broken and hurting hearts from wrongs inflicted long ago. Just telling a son or daughter, mother or father that you love them brings you half way there. When we forgive an abusive parent who is no longer alive or was



**Praise  
Lutheran Church**

*"Where Friends Praise  
God Together"*

never there- literally or figuratively, we can be released from the pain and lack of closure that we so desperately need to go on with our own lives...and not pass it on to our children.

While fathers are called by God to be the 'head' of their household, mothers are often the 'heart' of the home. Although some traits are not gender specific, mothers are usually nurturers, as they are more involved in the creation of life than are dads. Women don't start wars between nations; they just cry when their children go off to fight in them. Whether old or young, smooth or wrinkly, Christian mothers are one of the greatest gifts that God gives us in life. And sometimes they can be a picture of God's undying, unconditional love.

More than twenty years ago when I served as a chaplain in a maximum security prison, I noticed that it was mostly the mothers who would come to visit their sons. No matter what horrible crime he had committed, he was still her boy, and she loved him even if she hated the evil thing that he had done. That's the image of God's love for us.

Some of us really are born "with a face only a mother could love," as the old saying goes. Twenty-five years ago I visited a member child in a home for developmentally disabled and disfigured children. Again, it was the mothers who would come and hold and rock their children- some with unspeakable facial disfigurements. God loves like a mother.

Here are a few verses of hymns which talk about mothers and God...

"Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices.  
Who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way,  
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today. (LW 443, vs.1)

"For as a loving mother has pity on her children here, God in his arms will gather all those who him like children fear. He knows how frail our powers, who but from dust are made. We flourish as the flowers, and even so we fade; The wind but o'er them passes, and all their bloom is o'er. We wither like the grasses; Our place knows us no more. (LW 453, vs. 3 "My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker")

"As a mother stills her child, thou can'tst hush the ocean wild;  
Boist'rous waves obey thy will when thou say'st to them, "Be still!"  
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me." (LW 513, vs 2)

Thank God for Christian mothers! Happy Mothers Day!

*-Pastor Paul Dancy*

FROM THE  
*Senior Pastor*



## Lenten Drama

**MANY THANKS** to our extremely talented Praise actors and actresses for helping out with our Wednesday Lent dramas! This year's Lenten series on "Conversations by the Cross" was well received, and brought us into the events of our Lord's Passion in very personal ways through the eyewitnesses who were there. Thanks to Jason Hufford, Jarred Hufford, Isaac Schuller, Tracy Kumfer, Susan Pratt, Janie Degitz, Jennifer Engelsrud, Matt Meinerding, Pastor Brown, Jim Skurzewski, Chris Moran, Chris Levitt, Micah Moran, "Krummy" Kreamelmeyer and Jason Hoepfner. If you would be interested helping with dramas at Praise sometime (perhaps even for a Lent Passion Play) please let Pastor Dancy know.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



It is with sadness that the Stephen Ministry leadership at Praise has decided to place its ministry on inactive status. For the last six years Stephen Ministry has served the people of Praise and their friends/family by providing one-on-one Christian care to those enduring crises in their lives. Every helping relationship has been an enormous blessing to our Stephen Ministers. It has been an honor and privilege to channel God's loving care to the hurting this way. Should you or someone you love have a need for this type of care in the future, you may contact one of the pastors or the church office for referral to a Stephen Ministry at another church.



# Worship for Shut-Ins

## Fort Wayne, Indiana Area

*(also in Northwest Ohio)*

Sunday – 6:30 am on WPTA-TV Channel 21 (Flagship Station)  
 Sunday – 8:00 am on FiOS Channel 9, Digital Channel 33.2 and Comcast 252  
 Sunday – 11:30 am on TCT Network Channels & DIRECTV Ch. 377  
 Sunday and Monday – 4:00 pm on Comcast Cable Channel 55 and FiOS Channel 25 (Public Access)

## May 2011

### May 1, 2011 - 1 Peter:3-9

**"A Living Hope"** by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN

The resurrection of Jesus proclaims His victory and the victory He won for us. Trials in life help us to focus on that which is truly important

"The salvation of (our) souls. (v.9)."

### May 8, 2011 - 1 Peter 1:22-25

**"Hold Fast to the Word"** by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier, III, Concordia Theological Seminary~Fort Wayne, IN

I. Through the Word we have spiritual life. II. Through the Word we have strength for godly living. III. Through the Word we have comfort and guidance, and everlasting life.

### May 15, 2011 - Psalm 23

**"I Shall Not Want"** by Rev. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church~Decatur, IN

Trusting in his Good Shepherd, the Psalmist begins by confessing, "I shall not want." The remainder of Psalm 23 explains how our Good Shepherd provides for our needs and wants. He ultimately provides the eternal mansions, in which we will dwell forever.

### May 22, 2011 - John 14:1-3

**"Don't Let Your Hearts be Troubled"** by Rev. Karl Frincke, Concordia Lutheran Church (retired)~Fort Wayne, IN

While there may be many things that trouble us, including dying and death, we need not be troubled over them. Jesus meets us in trouble with His presence now and forever.

### May 29, 2011 - John 14:20

**"Christ in You"** by Rev. James L. Elsner, Prince of Peace~Hudson, IN

Our risen Lord and Savior Jesus reassures us of the close intimate relationship He has with every believer.

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.  
 "Worship for Shut-Ins"  
 5 Martin Luther Drive  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996  
 (260) 471-5683  
[www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org)

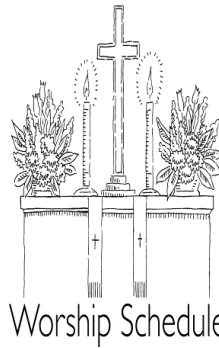
# Justice Bread available at Praise

JUSTICE BREAD is baked the old fashioned way as a round loaf of either wheat, white or a monthly specialty bread. It is available once a month at 18 participating Lutheran Congregations and Concordia Theological Seminary.

Justice Bread monies go to help the poor and working poor through LSSI's Emergency Assistance Program.

**Next Sale:  
May 8th, 2011**

All loaves: \$3.00



**Sundays**  
8:00 & 10:45 AM  
Holy Communion:  
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays  
**Saturdays**  
**(Will Begin again Sept. 10th)**  
5:00 PM  
Holy Communion:  
Saturdays preceding the  
1st & 3rd Sundays  
**Mondays - Beginning May 2nd**  
6:00 PM  
Holy Communion:  
Mondays following the  
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

# Praise Lutheran Church

*"Where Friends Praise God Together"*



You can reach the church office  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Monday through Friday  
unless the office and daycare are  
closed due to a holiday.  
490-7729  
office@praiselc.org



## PRAYER CHAIN

Our Prayer Chain will gladly offer prayers for you or a loved one who is suffering a crisis in their life.

Requests should be directed to:  
Lois Gumbert at 637-3010 or  
lgumbertlig@yahoo.com

"Keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere." Ephesians 6:18 TLB

What a special day Sunday, April 17, 2011 was in the history of Praise Lutheran Church. Not only was it Palm Sunday, but also the dedication & celebration of our new facilities. It is hoped that everyone was blessed by the special Palm Sunday Worship Service, the wonderful music, the food that was provided, and the 15 minute video that was shown. Plans are being made to have the DVD available in the near future. There may be a small fee to oversee the cost of the DVD. A special "Thank You" to Jim Kremer for volunteering countless hours over the last year to tape the progression of the building project. Thank you also to Jim for interviewing the individuals shown on the DVD, and for the countless hours he spent in putting the video together.



May 8, 2011

## Community Open House Event Summary



On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Outreach Ministry hosted from 3:00 to 7:00, a combination Open House, Easter Egg Hunt, Bingo event. Over 60 children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt, which was preceded by the telling of the Resur-

rection Egg story by Pastor Brown. During this story, Pastor Brown describes the contents of 12 special eggs, each containing a symbol representing the true meaning of Easter. Over 200 people enjoyed the activities of the open house and bingo. The food included Dawson hot dogs, chips, popcorn and drinks. Those attending the event were treated to 2 special presentations. First, 42 Little Praisers entertained everyone singing songs of worship and fun songs. Later in the evening, Jason Huford and Pastor Brown performed a Martial Arts demonstration where yet another brick was broken. 16 hams and various other prizes were given out during the bingo games. Everyone enjoyed the activities and was amazed at the new building. This event provided a great opportunity to introduce others to who we are at Praise Lutheran Church.

Building relationships through events within the church is an excellent way to spread the Word of God and continue the growth of Praise Lutheran Church. Thanks to the Outreach Ministry, the youth, and everyone else for all the time and efforts contributed. This event was sponsored by a grant from the Lutheran Foundation.

### Participating Volunteers

Matt Meinerding, Leigh Meinerding, Amy Boston, Eric Boston, Dana Sargeant, Michelle Lambert, Barb Wright, Denny Wright, Wayne Jungemann, Christian Nitz, Kyle Meinerding

Outreach Ministry Event Coordinators: Lola Weaver, Mary Rich

**Note: Look for pictures of the Event at our new Welcome Center!**



### Attention all members of Praise!

We will be having a Health Fair hosted by the nurses of Praise after services on May 22nd. As a part of the Health, Help, and Healing Ministry here at Praise the nurses have come together to share our knowledge with you. Please plan on walking through our fair and learning about the services we will be providing to the congregation.

The first fair will be from 9:00-9:30 and the second will be from 12:00-12:30 in the back of the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you there!

If anyone has any ideas for booths or is willing to provide assistance to the members of Praise by sharing their talents (does not have to be medically related) and would like to be a part of the fair please contact Shannon Scheumann at 260-705-1832. Thanks!



E-mail your articles by  
**May 15th to:**

Jennifer Engelsrud  
engelsrud@frontier.com

Or call 490-8047

## Sunday School NEWS

Submitted by Barry & MaryJane Brown

### *This Month in Sunday School:*

Parents – May is the last month for Sunday School before we take a break for the summer! Please continue to reinforce what your children are learning in their weekly Sunday School lessons. Check out your child's lesson leaflet from their class – it usually has some beautiful artwork of a famous Bible story along with discussions and family devotionals.

*May 1, 2011:* In learning the story of Stephen (Acts 6–7), the first martyr, the children learn how we are crushed and enraged at the accusations of the God's Law, but the Gospel comes to bring peace and quietness with the forgiveness of our sins. Point out to your children that in church we hear from our pastors the same Word of God that Stephen preached: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

*May 8, 2011:* In this Sunday School lesson the children learn that like Jesus came to the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26–40), He also comes to us in our weakness, because we cannot by our own reason or strength come to Him. In your family faith talks, discuss how the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies us, keeping us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

*May 15, 2011:* The children learn in this lesson that like God did with Paul, so God does with us. Through the Law we are crushed by the weight of our sin and are helpless. As God revived Paul through Ananias (Acts 9:1–31), He revives us through our pastors with the proclamation of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments granting forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who believe. Talk to your children about how the Sacraments and God's Word revive you so that you may live as God's child.

*May 22, 2011:* Our **Bible Bucks Celebration Party** (for PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> graders) marks the end of Sunday School for the summer!

## Perfect Attendance!

for February:

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: Harrison Beard

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: Marshall Beard, Claire Engelsrud, Natalee Garrison, Noah Garrison

6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Eric Boston, Breanna Bush, Lauren Fugate

8<sup>th</sup>: Danielle Degitz, Hannah Engelsrud, Olivia Hannon, Micah Moran



1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation Class News: This year we studied the New Testament and completed the second half of our lesson book, 100 Bible Stories. We worked very hard, sometimes covering two and three lessons a week. We also became familiar with Luther's Small Catechism, what is in it and where it can be found. We plan to do some fun things the last few weeks together including an end-of-the-year party. Everyone is welcome to visit our class anytime.

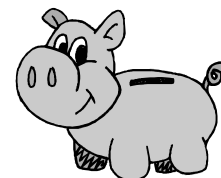
### *High School Sunday Bible Study*



The high school Bible class has decided to continue to meet during the summer. The newly confirmed 8<sup>th</sup> graders are also invited to join us! If you have questions, see Stacie Brown or Isaac Schuller.

### *Sunday School Mission Project*

The offerings that the elementary school Sunday School children have contributed will be going to the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission. Please encourage your children to dig into their piggy banks for this worthy effort – the last opportunity to give is May 22<sup>nd</sup>.





### Little Praisers May News

The month of May brings lots of fun and excitement to Little Praisers. First we will celebrate our mothers with Muffins for Moms on Friday, May 6, from 6:30 to 8:30am. Our Preschool Graduation will be on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All are invited to come and see our students receive their diplomas, and wish them well in Kindergarten. On Friday, May 20, many of our classes will walk next door to Salomon Farm Park for their Fiber Arts Celebration. Finally, we will close for Memorial Day on May 30. It will be a busy month!

Little Praisers has been working hard on the voluntary certifications for the State of Indiana, so that we can participate in Paths to Quality, the statewide quality rating system for child care. We have completed almost everything on the list, but have just two issues that hold us back. Neither directly affects the quality of care given here. One involves the arrangement of cribs in our infant room, which we cannot change without major renovations. The other is our plumbing, which unfortunately runs through the slab on which we sit and is not easily amended. Don't worry, our plumbing is safe and adequate, just missing something we cannot easily add!

We have worked with several different experts to determine how best to solve these issues, but the costs are quite restrictive. Because one goal of our ministry is to make quality, Christian preschool and child care available at reasonable rates, we may need to wait on these two things for now. It is frustrating to be so close to our goal and not yet there, but our time will come. Once we are able to get on Paths to Quality, we will qualify for more grant money. I guess this is an example of the phrase, "you have to spend money to make money"! Meanwhile, we are proud of the improvements we have made in the quality and safety of care we provide. My thanks to the staff at Little Praisers for their hard work!

Summer Camp will start for school age children on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Some spots are still available. We also have a few spots available in our part-time preschool for next year. Please call if you are interested, 490-9529.

In His service and yours,

*Alicia*

# Puzzle BROOCH

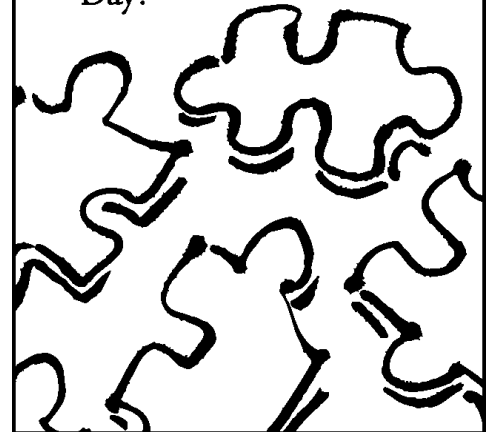
Make this keepsake to let your mom, grandma or aunt know that you wouldn't be complete without her!

### What you need:

- Several old puzzle pieces
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue
- Sequins or small buttons
- Metal jewelry safety pin (flat on the bottom)

### What you do:

1. Paint the puzzle pieces and let them dry.
2. Come up with a design; for example, place two pieces on the bottom and one on top.
3. Glue the pieces in place so they form one brooch. Decorate by gluing on sequins or buttons.
4. When the brooch is completely dry, glue a jewelry safety pin on the bottom.
5. Give the gift on Mother's Day!





## MAY YOUTH GROUP

By Pastor Brown



May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Launch (3-5 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Regular youth group at The Edge – 5:30pm.
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Revolution (9-12 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Regular youth group at The Edge – 7:00pm.
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Navigation (6-8 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Regular youth group at The Edge – 5:30pm.
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Revolution (9-12 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Regular youth group at The Edge – 7:00pm.
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	YOUTH BOARD MEETING	5:30pm. Open to everyone.
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Revolution (9-12 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Regular youth group at The Edge – 7:00pm.
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Current 8 <sup>th</sup> graders and all senior high students	Special youth group (graduation celebration) – 5:30pm.
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Current 12 <sup>th</sup> graders and all College age students	Special youth group (graduation celebration) – 7:00pm.



By Pastor Brown

- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation & Youth Sunday
- June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – FCA Sports camp for 325ers  
(High school invited to be leaders)
- June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> – FCA Sports camp for Jr. high  
(High school invited to be leaders)
- July 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – Middle youth mission trip to New York – leaving after 2<sup>nd</sup> service.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> – Martial Arts ministry camp
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Indiana District (Sr. High) Youth Gathering
- Sunday, January 22 – Winterjam 2012

## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

By Pastor Brown



The theme for the 2013 National Youth Gathering has just been announced. “Live Love (d)” is our focus for the July 1-5, 2013 event in San Antonio, Texas. Based on John 4:9, that theme will help remind us that as God’s people, we live confidently in the love shown to us in Christ and respond by loving others. There are so many young people hungering to know they are loved and for whom the Gospel of Christ gives the ultimate benefit and encouragement. This gathering will be the third one to be held in San Antonio. Last year, the 2010 gathering was in New Orleans, LA. Gatherings are only held every three years.

## YOUTH SUNDAY

By Pastor Brown

Our next Youth Sunday will take place May 15<sup>th</sup>. Normally, we use the fifth Sunday as our opportunity to give our kids more of an opportunity to participate in leading worship. However, since the confirmands will be leading, and Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>, we have decided to move Youth Sunday to the 15<sup>th</sup> so it coincides with Confirmation. Confirmands will read their “Statement of faith” papers in lieu of the traditional sermon during all three services (8am, 10:45, and 6pm). May 29<sup>th</sup>, the fifth Sunday of the month, will now be a regular worship service.

## YOUTH T-SHIRTS

By Pastor Brown

It's time once again to place an order for Praise t-shirts. This year we will order shirts that both highlight the youth group and celebrate the completion of our building project. The shirts will be coffee color with orange ink. They will profile a large cross on the front with decorative flair and the words, "The Edge." Underneath it will say, "At Praise Lutheran Church – Psalm 103:12" If you would like to order a t-shirt, make your \$8 check payable to Praise Lutheran Church and write "T-shirt" and your size(s) requested in the memo portion of the check. Leave the check in Pastor Brown's mailbox by May 24<sup>th</sup>. Sizes include CHm(10-12), CHl(14-16), Asmall, Amedium, Alarge, Aextra-large, Add \$2 for XXL and \$4 for XXXL.



## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

By Pastor Brown



You may have noticed that the soda/pop machine has recently been removed from the main entrance area of the church. There are no plans at this time to replace it. However, the Youth Board is now selling cans of soda/pop for the same price. It's a self-serve system. Thirsty folks at

Praise are encouraged to walk down to the new break room (near The Edge) and help themselves from the top shelf of the refrigerator. An honesty box is located on the counter for people to leave their seventy-five cents. Also, the break room now offers gourmet coffee and hot chocolate too. The price is the same as a can of soda/pop and money can be deposited in the same container.

The Youth Board has decided to allow a high school student of Praise to be in charge of restocking the soda/pop, gourmet coffee / hot chocolate, and managing the honesty box. In return, that particular high school youth will receive a portion of the funds as a way for them to use it as a fundraiser for their youth group financial needs. If you are in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades and want to be considered as the person we pick to manage the fundraiser, please see Pastor Brown for details.

## **THE EDGE**

### OUR NEW YOUTH ROOM AT PRAISE

By Pastor Brown

The Youth Board at Praise has decided to begin locking the doors of The Edge. The purpose for this is not to limit use of the room. The Youth Board still wants to encourage everyone to enjoy all that God has provided with our facilities at Praise. However, the board did see a need to both maintain supervision for our younger members and also to provide opportunities for increased accountability for those who are using the space. If you would like use The Edge, please reserve the time on the master calendar and then see any of our professional church workers or members of the Youth Board at Praise for the key.

## GRANT MONEY RECEIVED

By Pastor Brown

Praise be to God and thank you to the Lutheran Foundation for the grant that Praise recently received. Praise recently heard that it was approved for a ten-thousand dollar "fostering healthy congregations" grant. The church council has decreed that five-thousand would be used by the Outreach Board and five-thousand would be used by our youth of Praise. At the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Youth Board decided how to distribute these funds to our youth. For those in the Launch, Navigation, or Revolution youth groups, please see Pastor Brown for details as to how you can immediately begin to take advantage of the money granted to us by the Lutheran Foundation.

## YOUTH ORIENTATIONS

By Pastor Brown

Each year we like to hold a special youth group for two of our special graduates. We traditionally honor the 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they prepare to enter high school and we honor the high school graduates as they prepare to enter college. This year is no different. May 25<sup>th</sup> will be that day. On this Wednesday, we will ask the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders to come at 5:30pm. All current high school youth are invited at 5:30 to welcome the new high schoolers. At 7:00pm, only the 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to stay. We will invite college age students to join you at 7:00 to give you advice on what to expect as you make this important transition in life. Pizza and snacks will be available both days as we celebrate your accomplishments, talk about where you'll go from here, and open the Bible to hear God's Word on some of the issues you'll be facing as you take this next step on your journey of life.

## YOUTH BOARD

By Pastor Brown

We are excited to announce that all positions are now full on the Youth Board. We welcome Jackie Scheumann to the board and note that Katy has moved into the fundraising position. While we do have a full board now, that doesn't mean that we don't still need help with many projects and events for our kids. If you can help, please see one of our Youth Board members or simply show up to one of our meetings. Monthly meetings are open to everyone. The board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. Thank you to the following list of board members for your continuing service to our church and its youth:

**Ben Saurer** – Special ministry coordinator

**Jim Skurzewski** – Assistant coordinator

**Lisa Brindle** – Secretary

**Jackie Scheumann** – Treasurer

**Katy Teitzel** – Executive fundraising coordinator

## **Youth and their church**

Many kids drop out of their congregations as teenagers. Religion – or organized religion – no longer seems relevant to their lives. Their parents may want them to keep attending services, but they get so tired of arguing that they eventually give up and stop making them go. The more involved you become, the more meaningful the service will be for you and the less likely you are to walk away.

– Peter L. Benson, et. al. in What Kids Need to Succeed

## YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

By Pastor Brown

Launch (3-5 <sup>th</sup> grades)	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Game night at The Edge. Come for pizza, snacks, and lots of fun. The Edge will be open from 5:30-7:30pm. Parents are welcome to stay to help chaperone. Bring your favorite games.
Navigation (6-8 <sup>th</sup> grades)	May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bike riding on the river greenway. Leave Praise at 11am. Pack a lunch for a picnic. Please arrange transportation in advance for both you and your bicycle.
Revolution (9-12 <sup>th</sup> grades) And any college age Praisers	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Come and chill at The Edge. Coffeeshouse will be open from 8-midnight.

## FEEDING ON THE WORD OF GOD – Part II

By Pastor Brown

Last month I wrote an article in the Pulse that encouraged parents to step forward and take action in training their children in the Word of God. I noted that parents don't let their kids make unhealthy decisions for themselves in regard to their mental or physical health. Instead, good parents step in and mandate what needs to be done to keep their children healthy and safe. I exhorted parents to treat their children's spiritual lives with the same, if not more, kind of critical care. The bottom line was that parents need to force their young ones to come to church, Sunday School, and youth group.

I do hope, however, that it wouldn't have to come to forcing young ones to come to church. One way to instill it in their lives and help to make it a desirable activity is if they witness mom and dad exuding a healthy and happy faith life both at home and in the church. If mom and dad make church a priority, kids will see the importance of regular spiritual encouragement and strengthening. If mom and dad make Sunday School and Bible Study an integral piece of their life within the church, kids will see the importance of growing in a greater understanding of God's holy Word. If mom and dad make service to the church (with both time and finances) part of their regular routine, kids will see the importance of getting involved (youth group) and sharing in the community of God. If mom and dad make family and private prayer time a necessity, kids will learn that there is no real life without being regularly connected to God. Think of 1 Corinthians 11:1 as Paul said, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ." Also consider Titus 2:7, "In everything set them an example by doing what is good."

And yet, your ultimate goal is not simply to get them involved for the sake of keeping busy or even to just immerse them deeply into the institution of the church to perpetuate its existence. Instead, we have the very best in mind for our children. Our efforts are there to set for them an example as Christ set an example for His church (1 Peter 2:21) and to model a healthy Christian life so they will not stray from the path when they get old (Proverbs 22:6). We want to show our kids what it is like to live out our faith and become recipients of God's grace which is given to us by the Holy Spirit and found solely in the arms of Jesus Christ, the one who sacrificed His very self that we might be His own. With this our children will be well on their way to being rooted in the faith and having their lives securely built upon the strong foundation (Ephesians 2:20) of that which is most important for their spiritual health.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### GRADUATES

By Pastor Brown



We're Proud of You!

We're looking for all who graduated (high school or college) this year or are expecting to graduate this coming month. We would like to post your name in the church bulletin and celebrate with you by offering a special blessing for you on May 15<sup>th</sup> during the worship service at 10:45pm. Please give your name to Chris Klopfenstein by Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please include any future plans as a result of your graduation. i.e.: future employment or plans for college or graduate school.

## CHRISTIAN MUSIC LIBRARY

SUBMITTED BY JASON HUFFORD



We are so blessed to have our very own music library at The Edge. Due to a regular subscription, we receive several Christian CDs every couple months to add to our library. Now you can enjoy the artist that you love and discover artists that you may have never known about. So how can you access these albums? At the music library (next to the air hockey table) there is a sign-in sign-out sheet. If you want to take a CD out, you will have to fill out your Name, artist of the band, CD name, phone number, and date taken out. When you return it, you will write the date that you've returned it. You are allowed to have the CD for two weeks until you have to return it. We will help remind you after two weeks (that's why we need your phone number). If you accidentally lose or break the CD or the case, that is okay. If it happens, it is a \$1 fine and we will replace it. Finally, we ask you not to copy the songs to your own music player. These are the church's property and we want to respect that. So enjoy the library and start Jammin'!

# BREAKING BARRIERS

## NEWS AND UPDATES FOR MAY 2011



Pastor Brown will be travelling to **Texas, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**, for a Breaking Barriers mission trip. We are planning a very busy week as we share the Breaking Barriers presentation with groups all over the state. Please pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to reach many needy souls with the saving message of the Gospel!



Last month, during a ski trip to Colorado with some of the youth group, Pastor Brown brought the Breaking Barriers presentation to **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Leadville, Colorado**. Chad Potts, the current vicar at Good Shepherd (and a former field worker here at Praise) was delighted to share his thoughts about the presentation with us:

***“Breaking Barriers is AWESOME!!!***

***My favorite part of the presentation was the clear message that meets the needs of ALL generations. This is not just a message for kids...this is not just a message for young adults...this is not just a message for those experienced in age...this is a message for everyone who still has breath in them!***

***My favorite comment from a church member was "Pastor Brown didn't say 'Don't try this at home' and so I am going to try this at home! - well at least the principles! - I don't know about breaking boards and concrete." Pastor Brown's message is intended to be applied to our everyday Christian life.***

***The entire program is powerful for me...but the most powerful thing for me was what someone who doesn't go to our church told me. She said, "I have never seen such a clear presentation of the Gospel in such a powerful way." The message Pastor Brown communicates through this awesome presentation is necessary for life and salvation!***

***We also had a good friend of Pastor Brown's open for him. His name is Isaac Schuller and he also had a powerful presentation of the Gospel in combination with Breaknastics as he testified to God's goodness in his life. His presentation touched many in my congregation who are going through struggles and searching for the comfort that only God's love can bring them!"***

We give thanks to Vicar Chad and all the members of Good Shepherd for inviting us to share the presentation with their congregation. All glory be to God alone!

## LCMS donors give \$1 Million-Plus for Japan Relief

As of the morning of April 15, donors had given \$1,010,214.89 for The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and its partners in Japan to aid those affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

But, by the time you read this, that figure will have gone up, as "it changes by the minute," according to Hans Springer, associate executive director for Fund Development with LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC).

Springer says that, while he's "delighted" to reach the \$1 million milestone, he's not surprised.

"The people of the LCMS have a heart for wanting to help people who are in need" -- they "always want to help," he told *Reporter*. "And we're thankful that they continue to respond."

So far the Synod has sent \$300,000 to its Japanese Lutheran partners and has pledged a long-term response.

Recovery and rebuilding efforts in Japan are expected to be needed "a minimum of four to five years out," according to Rev. John Fale, WR-HC interim executive director. But that's what the LCMS is called to do, Fale said -- "commit to our partners and ... assure them that we aren't going away and we will be there for the long haul."

Shipments of rice, water, instant foods and bananas are being distributed to disaster survivors along the coast of Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures by Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief, a partnership of four major Lutheran church bodies in Japan. That partnership includes the Japan Lutheran Church (JLC), an LCMS partner church body.

Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief plans to provide food and water for three months to those who need help, according to the report, and sees "mental care" as a priority for a "long time." Counselors and "education" will be provided to those who are still fearful, depressed because of lost jobs, grieving lost loved ones and caring for others.

To contribute to the Synod's disaster response in Japan:

mail checks (noting "Japan Disaster Relief" in the memo line) to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

call toll-free 888-930-4438.

give online at [Disaster Relief Fund for Japan](http://DisasterReliefFundforJapan.org).

For more information and resources, visit [www.lcms.org/help](http://www.lcms.org/help) or [www.lcms.org/worldrelief](http://www.lcms.org/worldrelief).

Posted April 15, 2011

# A Year In the Clouds!

## The Lord's Grace and Peace to you!

We have had a whirlwind of a Lenten season and are excited to share with you some of what has been going on at the church and in our family.

This year has been an incredible learning opportunity for me. As a Vicar serving a congregation where the supervisor is in another town, I have had the opportunity to learn in the trenches. During the Lenten season our churches took a look at people who "met at the cross" and I had the opportunity to present a weekly monologue, where I acted out the part of someone in Scripture who was present at the cross. These messages were a fun and creative way to present the Gospel to our members.

A blessing for our whole family was an opportunity to welcome some friends from Fort Wayne to our town and church. The Senior High Youth Group from Praise Lutheran, Fort Wayne came to visit for a ski trip over their Spring Break. We enjoyed the fellowship with our Praise family. They brought with them Pastor J. Brown and Seminarian Isaac Schuller who gave a presentation to our congregation and community members. The evening started with Isaac presenting his testimony and *Breaknastics*. After a fellowship time with food, Pastor Brown presented his *Breaking Barriers* presentation, combining his Martial Arts skills with the Gospel to a crowd of 70+ from the Leadville area! We were truly blessed by the visit and thankful for the opportunity to offer these presentations to our community. Pray for the Lord to water and grow the seeds planted during this time.



## On the family front...

JJ turned 8. We enjoyed celebrating his Birthday with a Nerf War. There were three boys who celebrated Birthdays within 2 days of each other and we took over the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Gym for a Nerf War Birthday Bash for all 3. The moms all agreed it is much easier to plan a party when you share the work!

We finished up the ski season with another injury... Also JJ! Coming down the last run of the year he went over a small bump, his ski stuck in the snow and his leg tried to keep moving. This resulted in a partial tear to his MCL. It is healing up nicely, but he is still meeting with a therapist to rebuild some of the strength lost in his leg.

Spring is in the air and while the snow is still falling every few days, the days in between the snowfalls are warmer. Our

bikes are out. I am getting together with a friend 3 days a week for a bike ride. We are debating signing up for the 50 mile bike race that takes place this summer. Michelle is out running again. The boys are enjoying their bikes and the puddles created by the melting snow. We are enjoying the fellowship of good friends and the opportunity to get outdoors in the beauty that is Colorado.

Thanks again for your prayers and support!





## May Birthdays

- 1 – Arthur Eiffert
- 3 – Angie Evans
- 4 - Parker Evans
- 6 – Nicole Cocklin
- 7 – Austin Casey, Wayne Jungemann,  
Spencer Leeper, Victoria Nitz,  
Brian Hess
- 8 – Grant Gumbert, Ella Swinehart
- 10 – Harold King, Ashley Hess
- 12 – Hannah Engelsrud, Bill Serstad
- 14 – Harrison Beard,  
Todd Klopfenstein
- 15 – Sally Smith
- 17 – Zachary Minnich
- 19 - Nadia Sargeant
- 24 – Michael Koenig
- 25 – Katie Calkins
- 26 – Bill Johnson
- 27 – Kristen Roberts
- 28 – Brent Brown, Joshua Gross
- 30 – Gary Gross, Mary Habegger
- 31 - Whitney Luley



## May Anniversaries

- 1 – Tim & Michele Anger
- 9 - Dave & Laura Fisher
- 11 – Perry & Cathy Hart
- 14 – Glen & Amy Boston  
Jim & Betty Noffze
- 19 – Jim & Kathy Skurzewski
- 20 – Dave & Stacy Krueger
- 22 – Bob & Marie Zigler
- 24 – Dale & Jackie Scheumann
- 28 – Dan & Linda Stewart
- 29 – Jay & Retta Melcher
- 31 – Clay & Kathy Neuenschwander



Dear Friends in Christ at  
Praise Lutheran Church,

Happy Easter! Let us rejoice as  
God has kept His promises and  
our Lord Jesus Christ has risen  
from the dead! "He is Risen!"

Thank you for your generous  
support of my Seminary edu-  
cation this year. John and I  
only have a few weeks left of  
class. Please remember us in  
your prayers as we await  
"internship assignment" and  
"call night" on May 3rd.  
Thank you again for your  
thoughts, prayers, and finan-  
cial support.

Your sister in Christ,

Becca Bumgardner

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to  
heaven and voices raise: Sing  
to God a hymn of praise; He  
who on the cross a victim for  
the world's salvation bled - Je-  
sus Christ, the King of Glory.  
Now is risen from the dead."

LSB Hymn 477



## Parenting Basics

Grow Regularly



"Train up a child in the way he should  
go; even when he is old he will not  
depart from it." Proverbs 22:6


One of the respon-  
sibilities of Christian par-  
enting is teaching children  
about the saving grace of  
God through Jesus' death  
and resurrection. One of  
your child's most observ-  
able lessons will be the  
way you live your faith in  
that grace. That's why it's  
important for you as  
parents to nurture your own  
faith as well as your chil-  
dren's. Reading scripture  
for guidance on how to  
be a strong, Christian par-  
ent and spending Sunday  
worship services renewing  
your Baptism through re-  
pentance and forgiveness  
best equips you for the  
challenging days ahead.



Concordia Plan Services of The  
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Volume 27/Number 1

# May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 8 & 10:45 AM (Holy Communion) 9:10 Sunday School NOON Voters' Mtg. 1:15-5 Private Party 6-7:30 Martial Arts	2 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 6PM Worship (Holy Communion)	3 7PM Praise Team	4 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 5:30-6:30 LAUNCH 7-8PM REVOLUTION	5 10AM ThuMBS 6-7:30PM Martial Arts	6 5:30-7:30PM LAUNCH Game Night	7 Martial Arts Tournament - Off Site
8 "Justice Bread" Worship 8 & 10:45 AM 9:10 Sunday School <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 6PM Worship 7PM Church Council Mtg.	10 7PM Praise Team (Both Pastors @ English District Conference through the 12th)	11 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 5:30-6:30 NAVIGATION 7-8PM REVOLUTION	12 NO ThuMBS 6-7:30PM Martial Arts	13 6PM Confirmation Dinner/Rehearsal	14 8AM-12PM YMCA Soccer 9AM Worship Ministry 8PM-12AM REVOLUTION - Coffeehouse Open @ The Edge
15 Worship 8 & 10:45 AM (Holy Communion) Confirmation & Youth Service 9:10 Sunday School 12-4PM Private Party 3PM Martial Arts Mtg. 6-7:30 Martial Arts	16 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 6PM Worship (Holy Communion)	17 7PM Praise Team	18 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 5:30 Youth Board Mtg. 7-8PM REVOLUTION (Pastor Brown gone - Mission Trip - Returns 5/25)	19 10AM ThuMBS 6:30-7:45PM Little Praisers' Graduation	20 6PM Confirmation Dinner/Rehearsal	21 8AM-12PM YMCA Soccer
22 Worship 8 & 10:45 AM 9:10 Sunday School 9AM-1PM Health Fair 6-7:30 Martial Arts	23 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 6PM Worship	24 7PM Praise Team	25 3:30-5:30PM Tutoring 5:30-8PM Special Graduation Celebration @ The Edge (See page 8)	26 10AM ThuMBS 6-7:30PM Martial Arts	27	28 11AM NAVIGATION River Greenway Bike Ride
29 Worship 8 & 10:45 AM (Holy Communion) 2-3:30PM Martial Arts	30 Memorial Day NO Monday Worship	31 7PM Praise Team				

## THE PRAISE PULSE

Praise Lutheran Church  
1115 West Dupont Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

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**P**raising God in vibrant Worship  
**R**eaching out with Christ-centered witness  
**A**nchored in God's Word and Sacraments  
**I**nterceding for others  
**S**tewards of God's varied gifts for the  
building up of His Kingdom  
**E**quipping the saints for works of service



### PRAISE LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

"Praise Lutheran Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, strives to be a joyous body of Christ-followers, united by God's grace to P.R.A.I.S.E. Him; equipped to passionately serve and witness."

## PRAISE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sundays**

8:00 & 10:45 AM  
Holy Communion:  
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

### **Saturdays - Through April 9th**

**(Will Begin again Sept. 10th)**

5:00 PM  
Holy Communion:  
Saturdays preceding the  
1st & 3rd Sundays

### **Mondays - Beginning May 2nd**

6:00 PM  
Holy Communion:  
Mondays following the  
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

