



# *The Tie That Binds*

*The Newsletter of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church*

Dear friends at Beautiful Savior,

A while ago I was encouraged to write a little article for *The Tie That Binds*, maybe also as a way of getting acquainted with people in our sister congregations here in Winnipeg.

I was elected President of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) at the national convention last June. Although I took office on September 1, our move from Kitchener, Ontario, was delayed because of the slow sale of our house. I had served as senior pastor of a large congregation there for over 14 years. I finally arrived here in mid-November with my wife, Gail, and our youngest son, Nathanael. Our three older children "stayed put" because they're now fairly grown up and were not living at home anyway: One daughter is a licensed funeral director in Waterloo, Ontario; our older son is in the U. S. Navy, stationed in Florida; and another daughter studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo.

The work for LCC is a real adjustment for me. My entire previous ministry ... all 26+ years of it ... was spent in congregations, so bylaws, procedures, boards and commissions are a totally new and strange world! I'm gradually "learning the ropes," and deeply appreciate the patience and encouragement of pastors and people across the country.

Our family holds membership at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, but in addition to my work for LCC from coast to coast, I'm also eager to make any contribution I can in strengthening the fellowship of all our local congregations in the city. I asked our area pastors last winter if they might be open to having a "Ukraine Mission Festival" this spring, since our mission partners in that country are having a tough time moving the Lord's work forward there because they've been unable to complete their new seminary building.

-- continued on page 2

## *In This Issue:*

Letter from Pres Bugbee -----	page 1	Fun -----	page 7
From a School Parent -----	page 3	The "Little" Things -----	page 10
LWML-C News -----	page 4	News from the School -----	page 11
How to Meditate on God's Word --	page 6	Garage Sale! -----	Page 12

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Gail Wise

**The Tie That Binds Editor**

Gail Wise

[wgail@mts.net](mailto:wgail@mts.net)

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Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church,  
1541 St. Mary's Road,  
Winnipeg MB R2M 3V8

*continued from page 1*

It's located in suburban Odessa, on the Black Sea, in southern Ukraine. The building has been under construction for six years, but the work keeps getting interrupted because they run out of funds time and again.

This Ukraine Mission Festival is set for ***Sunday, May 3, starting at 5:00 p.m.*** at Peace Lutheran Church on Gilmore Avenue. Peace congregation is hosting a Ukrainian dinner for all the rest of us. Then at 6:00 p.m., we'll move upstairs to the church for an evening service, at which I'll preach on the theme, *"God Opens Even Doors Long Closed"*. At the close of that brief service, I'm anxious to show pictures to everyone of my winter visit this past January to our churches, pastors and other mission partners in the former Soviet Union.

The Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) is attempting to raise \$40,000 in Canada as soon as possible so that this seminary project may be finished soon at long last. I'm so glad that our Winnipeg churches will have an opportunity to participate in this work. And I'm convinced that the time we'll have together socializing, praying, singing, and hearing God's Word will benefit *us* first of all. We need each other, not just around the world, but across this big and bustling city! In the coming weeks you should see announcements in your Sunday bulletins at Beautiful Savior, as well as a flyer with details on how you can participate.

Thanks for this opportunity to write a greeting to all of you, to introduce our family briefly, and to wish you God's mighty blessing for the faith and work you're doing at Beautiful Savior. God in Christ watch over you and keep you in His care.

Sincere greetings to one and all,

Robert Bugbee, President  
Lutheran Church-Canada

## **From a Parent of Children Attending Beautiful Savior Lutheran School**

One other member of our Church and I had the opportunity to venture out in minus 30 degree weather for three days and two nights in February to attend winter camp with the grade 5 and 6 class at Camp Arnes (north of Gimli, MB on the west shore line of Lake Winnipeg).

The itinerary of outdoor activities was ambitious, considering that the weather was frightful for the three days that we were there. What delighted me the most about this trip is what some of the students did to make sure that at least one of the cancelled activities would go ahead was amazing to me. It was amazing in the fact that I am talking about people who are 10 to 12 years of age. They were presented with a problem that was caused by the cold weather and time of day in an area of little shelter from the cold northerly winds, with this activity being located on Lake Winnipeg. The activity was tobogganing, and Camp Arnes has a Toboggan run on which our children/students were sliding up to 60 feet out onto the lake.

What amazed me is that they did not just mope and complain about not being able to go tobogganing; what they did do was devise a plan to make the activity happen. The first thing that the students did when they heard the announcement of the cancellation of tobogganing was begin to survey themselves on whether there was enough interest by all the classmates to try and resurrect the activity back onto the itinerary as originally scheduled. Once they had found that there was enough interest, they then went around surveying the adults on this trip to see if there was an interest in at least one of us to supervise the activity. Once they found an adult that expressed interest in being in attendance, the students then once again canvassed their fellow students to see who would be interested in going.

The end of this story is that I, Robert Katyrnuik, and Jen McCrea went with over half of the students and tobogganed and had a great time until it was too dark to safely slide. And yes it was cold and windy, but I will always have the memory of watching these children planning and playing on the slide at Camp Arnes.

I cannot say enough about the ability that Beautiful Savior Lutheran School gives to these young people in developing the skills to overcome obstacles that are presented to them. By helping them to believe in themselves, by nurturing the strengths that they have and nurturing a caring community from within, I would not be surprised to see many of these students being very successful in their adult years because of the benefits of attending our mission, Beautiful Savior Lutheran School.

I wish that all children could have a place to learn like mine do.

**Robert Katyrnuik**

## *Lutheran Women's Missionary League News*

**A**t our meeting on April 7 we welcomed Helga Downey and Agnes and Fred Luciw who traveled to China with MOST Ministries to fit people with eyeglasses. It was wonderful to hear the stories of so many individuals. The oldest was in his 90's and the youngest was six. One elderly lady had never seen her granddaughter clearly until she was fitted with glasses.

MOST are already making plans to go somewhere in October, so if you would like an inspiring tropical holiday with a bunch of amazing Christian people, contact Agnes Luciw for information. There is always a need for used glasses, so don't throw them out – turn them in to our LWML-C society and help make a real difference in the lives of others.

### *Looking ahead . . .*

Our May meeting will see us elect a new President and Vice-President, and then we will have a video and learn more about LAMP.

On June 2 we will have our windup dinner at Maxime's. Sadly, this will be our last meeting with Nancy before she moves to Edmonton so be sure to come out and let her know how much we are going to miss her. The dinner is open to all ladies of the congregation; if you would like to come please let Lorraine know.

June 6 will see us at Siloam Mission again, to serve lunch from 11:30 to 2:30. Those who went last time know what a wonderful experience it was and most will be able to go again. Please sign up and join us – you will be glad you did!

On the weekend of March 20-22 Lorraine and Gail went to the Winnitoba Zone Retreat at St Benedict's Retreat Centre. It was a lot of fun, especially seeing ladies I hadn't seen since last year. St Benedict's is just outside the perimeter on Main Street but it feels like it's a million miles away. The whole place is so peaceful and serene, just walking in the door you can feel it. The theme was "If the Shoe Fits" and focused on our fitting in where God wants us to serve Him. We had opening devotions on Friday evening, followed by games and snacks. Saturday was a Bible Study with Pastor Borchart, and then we planted some slips in shoes to take home. That was followed by more games and snacks in the evening. The most difficult part was remembering that there was a silent retreat going on elsewhere in the building and having to keep the jocularity down. Sunday morning we had a worship service and then more fun. The meals were fantastic, the company was wonderful and even the weather was warm. I highly recommend that you find a way to attend next year, even if it's only for a day.

*Gail Wise*



*Lorraine was the big winner at Dominos*



*Gail never heard of Sequence, but didn't do too badly anyway*



*The ladies pose with their plants*

## **How to Meditate on God's Word**

By Rev. Dr. John Kleinig

"Christian meditation differs from all other kinds of meditation because it concentrates on what Jesus says; it is meditation on His Word as it is given to us in the Scriptures. We meditate on His powerful Word. His Word has an impact on us as we pay attention to it, does its work in us as we listen to it, and reshapes us inwardly as we let it have its say. The words of Jesus actually produce our meditation. Yet that does not happen automatically but only as we put our trust in it.

As Christians, we have all experienced the power of God's Word in us as a word of judgment and salvation. Its impact on our conscience is described most vividly in Hebrews 4:12-13: For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

As we meditate on God's Word, we stand spiritually naked before God and in His sight. His Word puts us face-to-face with Him. That Word penetrates and exposes the secret reaches of our hearts; it lays us bare before God and holds us accountable to Him. But, best of all, it does all this so that it can give us life and do its work in us.

### **Luther's Insight**

Martin Luther explains the power of meditation on God's Word most memorably in a sermon that he preached on Christmas Day in 1519. There he speaks about "sacramental" meditation on the Gospels and their stories about Jesus:

"All the words and stories of the gospels are sacraments of a kind, sacred signs by which God works in believers what the histories signify. Just as baptism is the sacrament by which God restores us; just as absolution is the sacrament by which God forgives sins, so the words of Christ are sacraments through which he works salvation. Hence the gospel is to be

taken sacramentally, that is, the words of Christ need to be meditated on as symbols through which that righteousness, power, and salvation is given which these words themselves portray. . . . We meditate properly on the gospel, when we do so sacramentally, for through faith the words produce what they portray. Christ was born; believe that he was born for you and you will be born again. Christ conquered death and sin; believe that he conquered them for you and you will conquer them." (WA 9:439, 442; author's translation)

When Luther speaks of the words of Christ as sacraments, he is not using the term in its narrow sense, but more broadly as a divine enactment, a sacred sign that conveys what it signifies. Neither God's Word by itself nor faith in itself produces the kind of meditation that God desires. Rather, meditation is the exercise of faith in Christ and His performative Word, for faith receives what Christ gives to us through His Word. We receive, as we believe. . . .

### **Our Spiritual Director**

Luther, in his teaching on meditation, highlights this role of the Holy Spirit as our teacher and guide. His basic assumption is that the same Spirit who inspired the Scriptures still animates them and us through them. Thus he says:

"You should meditate . . . not only in your heart, but also externally, by actually repeating and comparing oral speech and literal words of the book, reading and rereading them with diligent attention and reflection, so that you may see what the Holy Spirit means by them. . . . For God will not give you his Spirit without the external Word; so take your cue from that. His command to write, preach, read, hear, sing, speak, etc., outwardly was not given in vain." (AE 34:286)

So we receive the Holy Spirit from God the Father by meditating on the external Word, the Word that comes to us from outside, the Word that speaks to us from the Scriptures. This understanding of how God's Spirit is given through God's Word shapes the evangelical practice of meditation. Before we meditate on what is written for us in the Scriptures, we do well to pray to God the Father through His dear Son for the gift of the Spirit to



guide, enlighten, and empower us. Yet we do not just pray for the Holy Spirit to direct our meditation on His Word; we actually receive the Holy Spirit as we meditate on the Word. Thus we meditate on the Word so that the Spirit will tell us what God the Father has to say and to give to us through His Son.

### **The Preaching of the Holy Spirit**

This gift of the Holy Spirit is most evident in what Luther calls the preaching of the Spirit. By this he refers to the occasional flood of inspiration and enlightenment, jubilation and empowerment that breaks in on us as we meditate on God's Word. We can't force inspiration but can only receive it when it happens. Enlightenment is given as we attend to the Scriptures and become engrossed in them as they speak personally to us. Luther gives this advice about the enlightenment that comes in meditation:

"If such an abundance of good thoughts comes to us, we ought to . . . make room for such thoughts, listen in silence, and under no circumstances obstruct them. The Holy Spirit himself preaches here, and one word of his sermon is far better than a thousand of our prayers." (AE 43:198)

#### *Source:*

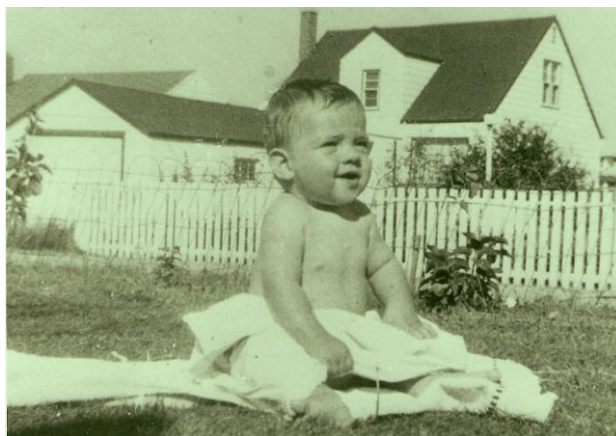
John W. Kleinig, *Grace upon Grace: Spirituality for Today* (St. Louis: Concordia, 2008), 100-102, 110-11.



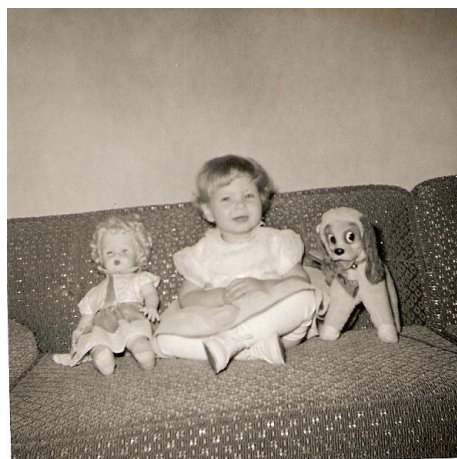


*What a racy picture . . .  
Who is this posing topless?*

*The answer will be in the  
next issue . . .*



*Who is the livin' doll?  
Did you recognize . . .  
Linda Rodewald?*



## The “LITTLE” Things

As you might know, the head of a company survived 9/11 because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time.

One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an auto accident.

One of them missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change.

One's car wouldn't start

One went back to answer the telephone.

One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have.

One couldn't get a taxi.

The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work, but before he got there he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today.

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone... All the little things that annoy me... I think to myself, This is exactly where my guardian angel wants me to be at this very moment...

The next time your morning seems to be going wrong, the children are slow getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys, you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated; it may be just that Someone is watching over you.

May God's love continue to find you with all those annoying little things. And may you remember their possible purpose.

*shared by Debb Bomback*

## ***News from Beautiful Savior Lutheran School***

The **Spring Tea and Craft Sale** will be next Saturday, May 2 from 10:30 to 2:00. Time is running out – get your tickets today. There will be 43 vendor tables – don't miss it!

Wednesday, May 27 will be the “**Evening of the Arts**”. This is An evening of entertainment performed by the students. There will be a Jump Rope performance, as well as baton, violins, band and choir. Mark your calendars.

Friday, June 12 will be the **Golf Tournament!** This will start at approximately 2:00 pm. Children, students, staff, parents and grandparents (anyone!) are welcome to play. It will be a fun, exciting day at the golf course. More information will be going out in May, but you can start thinking about who you want on you team, and your team costume!

PIP received a grant of \$12,500 from the City of Winnipeg, and they are now very close to the goal of purchasing a new playground structure.



## GOT JUNK



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church will be holding a ***Yard Sale*** on Saturday May 30th, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you have items you wish to sell, donate, or provide for the ***Yard Sale***, bring them to the Church any time, even now. We have a room downstairs nearly full of items that we will be selling at the ***Yard Sale***. If you need help getting items to the church, speak to Randy Popp or contact him by phone at 489-3891, to arrange pickup.

We will need about four people to work at the ***Yard Sale***. Even if you can only help for a couple of hours your help would be greatly appreciated.



We will also be selling Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Soft Drinks.

Lutheran Life will provide a matching grant up to \$750.00.

All funds raised will be used to upgrade the lighting in the worship sanctuary.

God Bless Us All

