



## Your Pastor's Ponderings

Summer here's – at least on the calendar. Summer is a time of baseball, picnics, family reunions, fishing, days by the pool or at the beach. In other words, summer is a time of goofing off and a time of day dreaming. Speaking of dreaming, it reminds of one of my favorite musicals number – Any Dream Will Do from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Some of the lyrics go: “I wore my coat, with golden lining – Bright colours shining, wonderful and new – And in the east, the dawn was breaking – And the world was waking – Any dream will do.”

I like to day dream at times myself. But when it comes to the church I'm dreaming too but not just any dream will do. I'm dreaming about God's vision and mission for us in the coming months. I'm dreaming about us being energized by the good news of Jesus Christ to love one another and to serve our neighbor. I'm dreaming of new ministries that we can share to bring the love of Christ to our families and our community. I want to know what you are dreaming too. In the coming weeks, I will asking you what your dreams for this parish are by posting some signs in our narthex. So be thinking about how you might answer that question (what dreams do you have for this congregation?), because you'll get your chance. Stay tuned.

That being said as I'm talking about dreams, I would like to spend my column talking about one of the Bible's great dreamers and dream interpreters and thereby continuing my series on great characters of the Old Testament. One of the Bible's great dreamers is Joseph – the eleventh of the twelve sons of Jacob. (His twelve son's represent the twelve tribes of Israel.) Joseph is one of the best known figures of the Old Testament (Genesis allots fourteen chapters to him alone). And most Sunday school children have heard the story around which the musical above is based.

The story goes like this: Joseph is the favorite son of Jacob as attested to by the coat of many colors given to him by his father and for which his brothers despised him. (Who among many siblings hasn't felt jealous when a brother or sister receives preferential treatment.) Yet, not only is Joseph favored by his father, he is also favored by God through the dreams he sends him. In one dream about

a sheave of wheat rising above eleven others and the others bowing down to it, Joseph dreams that he will become greater than the rest of his family. And this adds to their resentment.

In fact, their resentment is so great that they plot against him, they dream up a plan to get rid of him. Most of his brothers just want to kill him and say a wild animal attacked and devoured him. But Reuben the eldest, the one with the cooler head and kinder heart, prevails when he suggests that instead of murdering him they throw him into a pit and abandon him. Reuben has in mind coming back later and rescuing Joseph. But then Judah suggests selling him to a traveling caravan and be rid of him for good, without having blood on their hands. And so they do.

The caravan eventually sells Joseph into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers. As if the whole pit/caravan/slavery thing isn't trial enough, Joseph is seduced by Potiphar's wife. But when he refuses her, she gets him thrown in jail on false charges. God has been with Joseph since the start of his trials (keeping him from being killed by his brothers and keeping him safe on his perilous journey into slavery. Although it may not appear like it yet, now God has Joseph exactly where he wants him. God is starting to turn an idea meant for evil into something good even though Joseph still has many challenges ahead of him.

This is the big dream/idea from the Joseph story that can resonate in our lives – what you/we intended for evil or harm, God used for good. Sometimes what we can see only as trial and tribulation when we're going through it, God can turn into something better for us (not that God causes it but rather that God's helps us in our circumstances to turn it into something good). We will read more next month about how this affects Joseph when I will continue the rest of his story about his time in Egypt.

Until then, keep on dreaming and trusting in God.

Of course, that's what I think.

*Pastor Will*



### Attention Married Couples

What is the most important thing you can give your children? **Your own loving relationship!** Lutheran Marriage Encounter has 2 fantastic opportunities for ALL MARRIED COUPLES this fall to take off from daily pressures and responsibilities to serch out and discover a warmer, closer, more joyful relationship with each other. This fall's weekends are scheduled for: **September 8-20 at the Lutheran Camp Sequanota motel-style retreat center** situated in 400 beautiful wooded acres in Jennerstown, PA, and **October 16-18 at the Radisson Hotel in Sharon, PA**, just an hour north of Pittsburgh, where each room has a king size bed and its own hot tub. The weekends run from Friday night at 8PM to Saturday at 5PM, and all costs are covered by a \$45.00 per amount you couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you choose to make toward the end of the weekend. Registrations are limited, so sign up to day to ensure that you can attend the weekend of your choice. Simply got to the website: [www.GodLovesMariage.org](http://www.GodLovesMariage.org) and register, or for questions or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Western PA Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber @ 724-325-3166 or email: [fjchamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjchamber@comcast.net).



### Parsonage Open House

In celebration of our seventh year of ministry partnership, Pastors Will and Elisa and Lydia would like to invite the members of both the parishes to an open house picnic at the parsonage on Sunday, July 12. The open house will be from 1:30pm to 5pm. Stop by any time you like during those hours.

We will provide burgers, sausage, chips, salad, and drinks. We will also be having a cake to celebrate Lydia's first birthday. Just bring yourselves. (Please no gifts.) Come celebrate with us, have some good fun, and enjoy the hospitality of our togetherness.



### Praying the Directory

Pastor Will is praying for families in our directory because at all times we need God's care and blessings and are part of a larger faith community. Please join him in this effort.



**Thank You!!!**- to everyone who participated in Samuel's Shoe Project. We collected over 200 pair were shipped to Soul's for Soul's.

Thank You,  
Samuel's WELCA



### VBS Planning Meeting

Pastor Will would like to meet with VBS Helpers on **Monday July 13th at 7pm @M** to go over additional VBS details and last minutes needs before he leaves for New Orleans.



Coming in August –

**THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL!**

# OUR JOINT PARISH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

Come with us on a journey through the lands of the Bible. Come travel on the Road to Damascus; come see ancient Athens, come spend a night in prison in Philippi, come visit extraordinary Ephesus; and come be shipwrecked on the mysterious island of Malta. Come travel the roads of the Bible as we go on an adventure with Paul as he makes his way to various churches.

We will be taking a similar journey in our VBS adventure. Each night of VBS will be held at a different location (one night at Messiah, one night at Samuel's, one night at Mt. Calvary, one night at Mt. Zion, and another night at Messiah). Each of these places will be transformed into one of Paul's stops throughout the Holy Land. In each of these places, we will spend time in a different Bible story, doing a Bible craft, and singing Bible songs.

The Adventures of Paul will begin at Messiah on August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup>. We will conclude our Adventures with a journey to the Bakersville Grove on August 9<sup>th</sup> for a Joint Parish Worship Service. Worship starts at 10:30am followed by a pot luck picnic.

The fun begins each evening at 5:30pm with a Repast for the Road (in other words, we will have a meal each evening). Then at 6pm, the activities kick off with large gathering followed by our workshops – Mission Music, Aquilla's Arts & Crafts, Gamaliel's Games, and Tent Tales.

Transportation will be available for those who request it OR you may drop you child off at each location. Directions will be available. **To sign up, please call the church office at 926-2215 or fill out a registration form by July 19<sup>th</sup>.** Let's Hit the Road.



## **On the Horizon: Worship Happenings in July** **July 5<sup>th</sup> – Missionary Sunday/Blessing for Travelers**

Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from our gathered assembly every week to witness, we are asked to be vulnerable to others. The Spirit always operates in the between:

between Jesus and God, between Jesus and us, between you and I, between us and others.

Today during worship we remember those who have been sent out (our missionaries and our summer travelers) and ask God's blessing on them and us.

## **July 12<sup>th</sup> – Justice for All Sunday**

The church like John the Baptist (whose martyrdom we remember today) is called to speak the truth to power. We know this carries risk. The church's integrity to speak out for the less fortunate and oppressed can lead the world to recognize the resurrected Christ in us.

## **July 19<sup>th</sup> – Remember the Sabbath Sunday/Parish Outdoor Worship & Picnic**

In today's gospel Jesus advises the disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. In this spirit of caring and rest, we will have a relaxed atmosphere in worship today as we gather outdoors to worship and celebrate with a meal following.

## **July 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of Fishes and Loaves**

Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally make the difference: it is the power of Jesus working the littlest and the least to transform this world into the world God desires.



## **Some Summer Fun**

Here's a sneak peek at some things coming up this summer:

- 1) Parsonage Open House – July 12<sup>th</sup> (1:30pm – 5pm) in New Centerville
- 2) Parish Picnic – July 19<sup>th</sup> @Sam Picnic Pavilion
- 3) National Youth Gathering Trip – July 21-27
- 4) Joint Parish Worship – August 2<sup>nd</sup>\*\*!
- 5) Vacation Bible School – August 3-7 (@various locations)

**\*\*Joint Parish Worship in August – CORRECTION!!!**

**Due to circumstances beyond our control (ie. the Bakersville Grove being already booked), our Joint Parish Worship Service in August has been moved up to Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

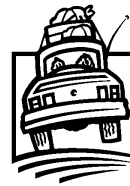
On that day, as a Kickoff to Vacation Bible School (rather than a wrap-up), we will be having a Joint Parish Worship Service between New Centerville Parish and the Lavansville-Bakersville Parish. This time we will gather at the Bakersville Grove in Bakersville for worship and potluck picnic. Worship begins at 10:30am with the picnic immediately afterward.

This will be the only service that day so please plan accordingly.



### **New Orleans Youth Meeting**

As we prepare for our departure (only two and half weeks away), Pastor Will would like to meet with all youth, chaperones, and parents next Sunday, on **July 12<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship** to go over any final preparations and to hand out What to Bring sheets, etc.



### **Blessing for Summer Travelers**

During worship on July 5<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Will would like to include a blessing for anyone traveling this summer – be it for vacation, work or some other adventure. It's is good to ask God's blessing on us where ever we go. If you would like to be mentioned by name in this blessing, please speak to Pastor Will or leave a message on the church voice mail and be sure to include your name and your destination.



### **PARISH PICNIC: Worship the Lord in the Beauty of His Holiness – Outdoors**

Our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Parish Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic is July 19<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for some fun in the sun and for some praising of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Come on out and enjoy God's great outdoors through worship and fellowship.

Our service and meal will once again be held at Samuel's Picnic Pavilion. Come worship and stay afterward for food, fun, and togetherness with all the people of our parish.

Worship begins at 10:30am in the pavilion next to Samuel's church parking lot. The space is handicap accessible and for those who don't care to soak up too much sun, there is space to sit in the shade. Please note this will be the only worship service that Sunday. Members of all three congregation are encouraged to come worship the Lord together.

The Joint Council will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, sloppy joes, and buns for your eating enjoyment. Please bring your favorite covered dish to share. Also, please bring your own picnicking items – drinks, dishes, utensils, napkins, etc.) See you there!



**Where Did You See God this week!**

Please share your stories with Pastor Will about where you saw God this week by email, bulletin insert, writing a letter, leaving a message on the voice mail, or in person. I got a number of stories at first but now they have started to slow down to a trickle. Please continue share with me where you saw God.

Example: I saw God in the joy and fun that the church group from Ohio was having in helping to construct the Habitat/Thrivent houses.  
I saw God

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**There's Wisdom in the Word – Summer Break**

Our monthly parish Bible study is still on summer break. We will resume our study in August.