

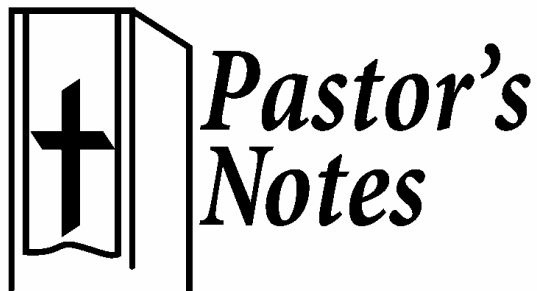
# June Newsletter

June 2006  
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June 2006

*For this month's installment of my pastor's page, I thought I would let the confirmands share with you the essays they wrote for their confirmation day, June 4<sup>th</sup>. In these essays, they describe the various parts of our worship services, where they come from and what their significance is. Many thanks to Ryan, Amy, Samantha, John and Mark for their hard work. Good reading.*



## **The Invocation**

**Ryan Cornford**

At the beginning of every service the pastor will say the invocation "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." These words remind us that when we are in God's house we are home. The church is our refuge. These words were first spoken over us when we were baptized.

In Matthew 28:19 it says: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." We baptize babies because in Luke 18:16-17 Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child, will never enter it." We come to baptism dressed in white, for white symbolizes the innocence and perfectness of Jesus that God bestows on us in baptism.

Babies have faith because faith is not a decision but a gracious gift from God. The benefits of baptism are the forgiveness of sins, and rescue from death and the devil. Baptism gives eternal salvation to all who believe. But most importantly it enables us to act with great boldness for Christ, just like it says in John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, but apart from me he can do nothing." We renew our baptism every day when we arise to the new day and determine to live this day for Jesus.

## **The Confession and Absolution**

**Mark Prusha**

Confession has two parts to it. The first part is that we confess our sins and the second part is that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness of sins from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it, our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. God has given authority to forgive sins to pastors and confessors. God has also promised that "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." But "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve tried to run away from sin instead of confessing. They also tried to blame it on somebody else instead of taking the blame. God wasn't too pleased. In Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah confesses to the Lord: "Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." After he said that, a seraph flew to Isaiah with a live coal in his hand and with it, touched Isaiah's lips and said "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Another example of someone confessing is in Luke 5:4-11, when Jesus told the disciples to put their boats into deep water and to let down the nets, even though the disciples hadn't caught anything all night. After they let their nets down, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

## **Pray, Praise and Give Thanks**

**Samantha Schmidt**

After we hear words of forgiveness our hearts are drawn to prayers and thanksgiving. Many prayers and songs in our worship come from bible verses.

“Glory to God in the Highest” comes from Luke 2:14 when the angel and the heavenly host praise God for sending His son into the world in front of the shepherds. Hundreds of thousands of angels also sang the song of praise out of which we sing “This is the Feast of Victory.” When the scroll was opened by the Lamb in Rev. 5:12, they sang “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain.” We also sing the following scriptures in our worship: “What shall I render to the Lord” is similar to when Ps. 116:12 says “How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?” “Create in me a clean heart” is a psalm of David. The prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

God had promised Simeon He would not die before seeing Jesus. So when Simeon saw Jesus in the temple he praised God by saying “Lord now let your servant go in peace” in Luke 2:24, which we also sing in worship. Another word we use often in praise is Alleluia which means praise God. We praise God for anything and everything that is good, that He has done or provided us with, most importantly, forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. The last thing I’ll talk about is the collect where we collect together everything we’re praying about and praising God for that day, which is what we’ll do right now.

## **The Scripture Readings**

**Samantha Schmidt**

Has it ever crossed your mind that our worship is like a conversation between us and God? At the beginning, God tells us about the forgiveness we have received. Then we thank and praise Him until the end of the collect. When God talks to us again it is through the words of scripture. Those words come from the Old Testament where we learn the day’s lessons and read stories which, like all of scripture, are written by God. Scripture was written to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It teaches us, rebukes us, corrects us, and trains us in righteousness. Of course Jesus is with us in all of scripture but we stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel to show Him respect and to honour His presence. Now, let’s hear from God.

## **The Heart of the Gospel**

**John Scharrer**

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. We read this from Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 and 7.

Now, who do you think the child is in this reading? That’s right, it’s Jesus being mentioned in the Old Testament hundreds of years before he was even born. This verse is connected to Luke chapter 1, verse 10, when the angels told the shepherds that the Saviour has been born in a stable in the town of Bethlehem, and that he is Christ the Lord. In the heart of the gospel we read of Jesus foretelling about his death and resurrection. Also, he explains why he had to die and the importance of the resurrection.

In Mark 8:27-31, Jesus tells us that the Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law. He also says that he must be killed and rise again in three days. This tells us that Jesus knew about his death before it happened. And in Luke chapter 9, verse 28-31, he talks to Moses and Elijah about his exodus at Jerusalem. Hopefully everyone is familiar with the story of Moses and how he led God’s chosen people out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. What you may not know is that Jesus did the same thing. Jesus is taking us out of sin and death, and leading us to the new Promised Land, heaven.

Now, for one of the biggest questions. Why did Jesus have to die? Well, as you all know, it was to conquer death and the devil. But why couldn’t an average person like you or me die for the sins of the world? Well, since there was so much sin in the world it had a godly price tag on it, and since God can’t die, the Saviour had to be part man. This is where Jesus comes in: being part man and part God he was the only one that could save us.

Finally, the importance of Jesus’ resurrection. If Jesus didn’t die on the cross to save us it would disprove our entire faith. I can say this because our faith is manly believing that Jesus is our Saviour and

that he did die on the cross for us. Also, if he didn't die on the cross the "Great Exchange" wouldn't have happened. Some of you may be wondering what the great exchange is. Well, it is Jesus taking sin and death from us and replacing it with righteousness. This is the importance of Jesus dying on the cross.

The heart of the gospel is the Old Testament prophecies coming true. It tells us why Jesus had to die and the importance of Jesus' resurrection.

## **The Confession of Faith**

**Amy Kazlovskis**

When I confess my faith it is a statement of what I believe as God's message to me from hearing the message through the word of Christ. When I confess that Jesus is my Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead, I know I will be saved. As the scripture says in John 3:16, "for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

When I say that I believe in God it means I trust God and his promises and accept as true all he teaches me in the Holy Scriptures. It is the Holy Spirit that makes it possible for us to believe. When I confess my faith I am talking to God, the devil, everyone and myself. We confess through the words of the Nicene Creed, the Apostolic Creed or the Athanasian Creed.

When I confess my faith, God promises me in Matthew 10:31 that "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before me Father in heaven."

## **The Prayers**

**Mark Prusha**

The confession of faith is the first response to the gospel and consequently, faith comes from hearing the words of Christ. The second response to the gospel is prayer. Christ the Lord says in John 15:7, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you." Prayer, as we all know, means speaking to God in our words and thoughts. We should pray in the name of Jesus, with faith in Him as our Redeemer. We should also pray with confidence, that is, with firm trust that for Jesus' sake our prayers will be answered, and we should most certainly pray according to God's revealed will. We should pray for ourselves and for all other people such as those who mourn, those who are in hospitals, and those with birthdays. We should pray even for those who hurt or persecute us, but we should never pray for the dead. We should not pray for the dead because where they will spend eternity is already decided by God.

We pray in Jesus' name because He intercedes for us and He brings our prayers to God. Jesus wants us to pray for daily bread, even if He gives it without prayer, because He wants us to realize that our entire life depends on God and also that we do not take our daily blessings for granted. If we have a good place and time to pray, then it becomes part of our daily routine, and we acknowledge it as a top priority in our lives, for God invites and commands believers in Christ to pray.

## **The Offering**

**Amy Kazlovskis**

In Genesis, God talks about offerings and indicates to us that Cain gave an offering that was careless and thoughtless, while Abel gave a choice and generous offering. This is meant to show us that our motivation and heartfelt attitude are what's really important when we make an offering to God. An offering to God should be given as a sign of our faith and not just as something to do each Sunday, as a formality.

An offering is given to the Lord as thanks for setting me free from the guilt of sin. Because God sent his Son to die for us, we should give ourselves to God as a living sacrifice that he should find pleasing and holy.

Luke 21:1: As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had.

Abraham gave one tenth of everything he owned as the standard of his giving in his gifts to God. It is pleasing to God that we bring our offerings to the Lord regularly and give to him first because it proves our faith is strong and that God is first in our lives.

## The Lord's Supper

John Scharrer

And he took bread, and having given praise, he gave it to them when it had been broken, saying, this is my body, which is given for you; do this in memory of me. And in the same way, after the meal, He took the cup, saying, this cup is the New Testament, made with my blood which is given for you. We read this from Luke chapter 22, verses 19 and 20.

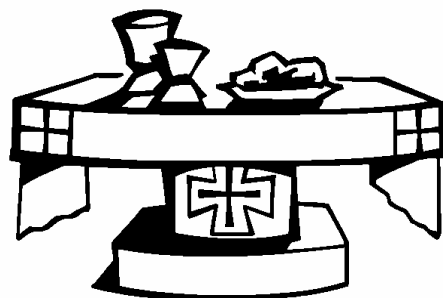
Some of you may ask, "What is the Lord's Supper?" Well, in Luther's small catechism on page 227 we read. "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink."

When we receive the Lord's Supper we do not receive bread and wine like some think. When we drink the wine and eat the bread we aren't just drinking and eating them, we're eating and drinking Jesus Christ's own true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Why is it important to receive the sacrament worthily? Well, if we eat and drink the bread and the wine and do this without knowledge of the Word or do not believe in God, we are drinking judgment on ourselves.

What do you do when you approach the altar? You need to know how to examine yourself. Now, you may be wondering what questions you need to ask yourself before you take communion. Well, the first question is, are you truly sorry for your sins? Second, do you believe in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and what He said in the sacrament? And finally, are you willing to plan with the Holy Spirit, to change your sinful life? If you ask yourself these questions and answer them truly that will let you know if you are worthy of taking communion.

Lastly, why is it important to take communion often? First, because Jesus commands us saying, "Do this in remembrance of me." Second, his words "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" is a fantastic blessing. And finally, we need the forgiveness of our sins so we can live a new holy life.



## The Blessing and Benediction

Ryan Cornford

In Luke 2:29-32 we find a song called the Benedictus. In it, Simeon talks about him being ready to die in peace because he had the peace of God in him and he had seen the glory of God. He has held the infant Jesus in his arms.

The blessing part of the service comes from where the Israelites had escaped from Egypt and were in the desert and God told Moses who then told his brother Aaron the priest to bless the people with these words . . . "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and +give you peace." The reason that "the Lord" is repeated three times is because God is three in one, a triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In Numbers 6:27 it tells us that when the pastor is blessing us God is really blessing us through the pastor. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 it tells us that we are redeemed and forgiven. And with this we, like Abraham in Genesis 12:2, can be a blessing to others. "The blessing of the Lord brings wealth and he adds no trouble to it." Proverbs 10:22



## A Dad's Wisdom

4 years old	My daddy can do anything.
5 years old	My daddy knows a whole lot.
6 years old	My dad is smarter than your dad.
8 years old	My dad doesn't know exactly everything.
10 years old	In the olden days when my dad grew up, things sure were different.
12 years old	Dad doesn't know anything about that. He's too old to remember his childhood.
14 years old	Don't pay any attention to my Dad. He is so old-fashioned.
21 years old	Him? No way! He is so out of date.
25 years old	Dad knows about it, but then he should because he's been around so long.
30 years old	Maybe we should ask Dad. After all, he's had a lot of experience.
35 years old	I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.
40 years old	I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise.
50 years old	I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him.



Father's Day

# YOUTH NEWS .....



It's time again to plan for our annual summer retreat to Pastor's cottage near Minden. Based on the responses so far, July 21-23 is a go!

Get ready to Soar, because our planned theme is "Soaring Like Eagles" from Isaiah 40:31:

***"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."***

The sign up poster is on the Youth Bulletin Board. Let us know today if you can join us.

Sign me up for "Soaring Like Eagles" July 21-23.

My parents could help drive one way.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

High in the mountains, a baby eagle is born. Like all other babies, there are two things that baby eagles, known as eaglets, love to do: eat and sleep. The baby eagle would spend its initial life in the comfort of the nest. Every day, mama eagle would find food and drop it directly into the open mouths of the hungry eaglet. With a satisfied stomach, the eaglet then goes to sleep and the cycle continues when it becomes hungry again.

This goes on for a few weeks, until one day, mama eagle would just hover over the nest. This time, there is no food. After hovering a few rounds, mama eagle makes a dive into the nest and begins to shake it violently. She then takes one of her babies in her mouth and starts rounds, mama eagle would make a dive into the nest and begins to shake it violently. She then takes one of her babies in her mouth and starts soaring into the skies. The baby eaglet begins to tremble, "Mama is mad! Mama is mad!" Suddenly, she drops the baby eaglet who starts to struggle.

Just before the eaglet smashes against the rocks, mama eagle would sweep down and pick it up. This goes on for about five to eight times. The eaglet starts to wonder why mama is doing this. Every time it is being dropped from the sky, the eaglet would struggle by flapping its wings. "Mama can fly. I want to fly like her too!", the eaglet says to itself. What beautiful picture! Mama is teaching her young to fly. At about the fourteenth to fifteenth try, the eaglet begins to fly.

Christians are like baby eagles, comfortable in the nest. They come to church once a week for food. They would wait for pastor to drop "spiritual" food into their mouths. When service is over, they would go home, "sleep" for a few days and the cycle continues, until one day, something happens and they struggle. The nest gets shaken and they don't know what to do. "It's the devil! It's the devil!" they exclaim. No, it's not! It's just our loving Father who allows our nest to be shaken because He wants us to grow into maturity, so that we can fly. It's no point being an eagle if you cannot fly.

Hard times come, but after a couple of times you start to pray a little bit more. You start to read God's word a little bit more. And suddenly you realise that the answers to your prayers are coming. Hard times always come but you find you're not helpless. You see that you can stand on God's word. What has happened? You've learned to spread your wings! You've learned to fly.

## Vacation Bible School - Treasure Cove

It's just one month away from this year's exciting VBS July 10 – 14<sup>th</sup>. The children will be involved in a treasure hunt that leads them to the greatest treasure of all – Jesus.

In June the entranceway will be transformed into a treasure cove thanks to Donna Prusha's creative talents. Donna may be looking for more items to complete the beach scene. Check the weekly bulletin for items needed.



Delaine Magwood has almost completed the staffing. We require a few more helpers. We are indeed very grateful to the many people who have volunteered their time to be part a fun-filled week.

There still is time to deliver a bundle of fliers in your neighbourhood. Pick one up from the table on your way out of church.

If you know of children, grandchildren, friends or neighbours planning to attend VBS, now is the time to phone Delaine (905 822-1432) or fill out the form on the back of a flier and leave it in Delaine's mailbox.

Continue to check the weekly bulletin for VBS updates. Please keep this important children's ministry and community outreach in your prayers. Pray that the children will grow in their faith and that others will come to know Jesus as they discover the riches of God's grace.

## Nursery School News

Another school year is coming to an end. Both Miss Cathy and Miss Lynda are planning some exciting activities for the month of June. Outdoor water play may just be the way to keep cool on the hot June days.

The nursery school and kindergarten will celebrate Father's Day on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> with a "Dads and Dogs" party. The dogs are the kind you eat, not the four-legged ones. Our year end celebration will be held on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5 – 7 pm. The children will delight their parents with songs and poems. The cameras are already being dusted off and charged up for this special occasion. A picnic supper will follow.

Registrations are now being accepted for the fall term. Children must be 2 ½ years of age or older by September. For more information, you can attend our Open House on June 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 7 pm to 8:30 pm or you can phone the nursery school at 905 823-1961 and arrange a visit at another time.

## From the Principal's Desk - Greetings from Lois Munz Christ Our King Lutheran School - May 31, 2006

"Why did the school bus stop at the railroad tracks? I didn't see a train!"

"Where are the strawberry plants? I just see flowers."

"Why does the tractor have such big wheels?"

"How do the bees get inside the glass picture?"

"Who gets the honey away from the bees?"

"Why are the baby chicks different colours?"

"When do we get to go through the maze?"

So many questions, and so little time to discover the answers!

This seemed to be the case when the combined Nursery School and Kindergarten classes, along with parents and siblings, traveled by school bus to visit Springridge Farm in North Halton on Thursday, May 25, 2006. God blessed us with a day of good weather, stimulating activities, hands-on experiences with Nature and shared friendships.



The students have been working on units of plants and insects, so the field trip consolidated the classroom learning.

The Kindergarten students held a lovely Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to celebrate with their moms. The event included roses, china dishes and shortbread squares that they baked themselves. The moms were very appreciative of the entertainment as well (songs, poems, games and art work).

Cathy Sookhoo spent a very worthwhile day on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the "Equip Conference", held at Park Bible Church in Burlington ON. She continues to incorporate many of the workshop ideas into her daily programs.

Cathy continues to do an excellent job in all aspects of her teaching responsibilities.

We are now discussing plans for next year (curriculum units etc.) as programs will have to be prepared for the students who are returning as SKs as well as the new JK students.

Our calendars are marked for the End of Year Celebration (NS/K) planned for Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The NS/K families will be gathering for a “bring your own” picnic, to enjoy fellowship together and to encourage the little ones as they make transitions into the future.



With songs such as “God Gives Us Special Things” and “Take It To The Lord”, Paul Behnke was able to convey the Bible’s message as well as use relevant examples (ie “Moms Are Wonderful”) to relate to shared everyday experiences.

The attendees of the Paul Behnke concert participated in and were entertained by an interactive presentation that was God focused and Christ centred. The concert was high energy, good fun, appropriately paced and had thought provoking content. It was an excellent way for both parents and children to enjoy a musical experience together and for the parents to chat about its messages afterward.

Seventy-five dollars worth of merchandise was sold, so our school got fifteen dollars in return. I used it to purchase a CD for the school and we were given a free video as well.

The thirty children, along with numerous adults, enjoyed refreshments and a lively fellowship time after the performance. Many thanks to the participants and also those who generously gave of their time, baking and encouragement to have this event.

Three families new to the church/school came to inquire about our facilities. One was an inquiry about the Kindergarten and two for the Nursery School. We pray that the Lord guides them to consider our Lutheran School in providing a Christian education for their children.

To publicize this event, along with the initial distribution of flyers, information was sent either via e-mail or regular mail to families on our accumulating (VBS, prior attendees etc.) mailing list, and

announcements were made at Sunday School and after Sunday services at Christ Our King. The information about a children's concert was on the portable sign at Erin Mills Parkway, a banner was on the signage at the front of the church, ads were in the Mississauga News/Booster, announcements were on the Community Calendar on local Cable TV, and AM 740 radio included information about the event on their public service announcements.

I had scheduled an Open House for local Pastors and Teachers for Tuesday, May 23 from 10:00 a.m. – noon. Forty-six invitations were sent to the staff of licensed child care centres in the Erin Mills/Erindale/Oakville area and to the Pastors of the churches in this area as well. If that was not a convenient time, the other Open House date was included – Tuesday, June 6, 2006, or a tour at one's convenience.

Pastor Jeff Miskus from St. Mark's Lutheran Church toured our facility and remarked at how inviting it is. He said that he would support us by encouraging his contacts to explore what we have to offer.

As I look back on what has already been accomplished with regard to the beginnings of establishing Christ Our King Lutheran School and look forward to future possibilities, one word comes to mind – patience.

Patience, in the Biblical sense, is waiting on the Lord. Patience stemming from faith enables us to inherit the wonderful promises of God. The Bible assures us, "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:12).

### **Thought Sharing:**

The stories of the Bible reveal the rich history of three of the world's major religions – Judaism, Islam and Christianity, yet more and more of our children do not know these factual accounts and therefore faith foundations. It is so important to be introduced to the Old Testament lessons in order to understand how the prophecies have been fulfilled in the New Testament – culminating in the message of Jesus, our Saviour who gives us the promise of eternal life.

Relatively recently the popularity of the "Veggie Tale" media presentations has heightened the interest of relating Bible stories, which is a positive thing, yet interpretation and follow-up are still needed. Therefore media aids are useful tools for parents, teachers and youth workers to use, but children still need to interact with devoted adults to become familiar and comfortable with the Scriptures.

Christ Our King Nursery School and our JK/SK indeed share these truths on a daily basis. These early foundations begin the process of lifelong learning and appreciating.

Another opportunity for the children to be immersed in the riches of Christ is to have them attend Vacation Bible School. This year the theme is "Treasure Cove". Through stories, music and songs, crafts, snacks and games the children will be taught how Jesus treasures us all.

The atmosphere and structure is more relaxed to match summer mode, yet the enthusiasm and dedication will be at a "fever pitch"! Please have your children join us!