

NEWSLETTER

August
2010

How can I be happy without doing anything dirty?

"Blessed are the pure in heart."
Matthew 5:8



Wash your hands. Wash your hands! So often we are reminded of the need to wash our hands. After using the restroom, before eating, after eating, before cooking, after cooking. It's so hard to keep them clean.

And that's just our hands! Try keeping our hearts clean, and we have an impossible task! How hard it is to have perfectly pure motives! When I cut that little section of grass between my neighbors' house and mine, the good deed is spoiled with the self-serving intent that maybe he'll let me borrow his edger. I give some money for a worthy charitable cause, but only because I don't want to disappoint the sincere person asking.

We may be able to hide our impure motives from others, but not from God. The Bible

says, "*The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart*" (1 Samuel 16:7). We can't fool God. There is no covering false notions or hidden deception. God looks right through the outward act and inspects the inner motivation. He is looking for the pure in heart.

What is the measure for that kind of inner purity? God holds us up to his perfect will and measures us against it. The conclusion is that all of us have sinned and fall short of the sinless standard that God has set for us. Under God's inspection, our hearts are not pure.

What's the solution? Our hearts need to be washed. But how? We can't wash them on our own, so Jesus did it for us. The Bible says, "*The blood of Jesus, [God's] Son, purifies us from all sin*" (1 John 1:7). By his death for us, Jesus washed our hearts clean; he has cleansed us of sin's stain. Through him all our sins are forgiven and our hearts are now pure in God's sight.

The forgiveness of sins and purity of heart that we have received freely from Jesus powerfully motivates us to stay away from anything dirty. We'll not want to dirty our hearts again with sinful things. Rather, we'll be happy to strive to live according to the pure way that God teaches and thereby indicate our great appreciation for the sacrifice that Jesus made to wash our hearts clean.

CHURCH NEWS

Summer Bible School will be held Sunday–Thursday, August 8th-12th from 6:30 to 8:30PM. Children ages 3 through adult are welcome and encouraged to participate. The theme for this year is the “**Circle J Ranch**”. Grab your cowboy hats and boots and join us for a week full of fun and Christian fellowship! Parents and grandparents are always welcome to spend time here with their children and grandchildren. Please use the registration forms on the table in the narthex. You can place your completed registration form in the basket. **Please note: We are still looking for helpers! We will be having a final prep meeting on Thursday, Aug. 5th at 7pm. Your attendance and participation are much needed and appreciated. See you there!**

Items Needed For Summer Bible School: This year we are asking for specific items to be used for snacks. On the Happenings board in the narthex there are notes with items requested to make snacks that go along with the stories. If you care to donate any of these items, take the slip with you and when purchased, please place it down in the kitchen no later than August 4th. Any questions, speak to Lonnie Rabe.

Worship and Picnic in the Park: On Sunday, August 15th we will enjoy an outdoor worship service at Oak Leaf Park beginning at 9:30am. (The shelter and parking lot are handicapped accessible.) Following the worship service there will be a potluck picnic lunch and entertainment. Hot dogs, buns, beverages and dinnerware will be provided. Please bring a dish to share (outlets available), a comfy lawn chair and a great attitude. We will also be playing softball, so bring your gloves and bats! If anyone is in need of a ride, please speak to Bryan Koepp or Chad Koenen.

Sunday School: As we get past the middle of August, we once again focus our attention on the start of Sunday School on September 12th. If you have any concerns, ideas or are interested in helping with Sunday School you may attend our meeting on Monday, August 30th at 7pm. You may also speak with Pastor Reichow.

A Reminder To Save Your Aluminum Cans:

Please remember to bring your cans to have them recycled. You can place them in the bin behind the shed at any time. The money earned from our aluminum cans will go towards various projects at church and our Youth Group Fund.

McLeod County Fair: Our local WELS churches will once again have a booth at the McLeod County fair on Aug. 18th-22nd. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for interested helpers. Please sign up A.S.A.P. to get your choice of times. Passes for volunteers will be available at Grace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. Thank you for all your help and support.

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LADIES AID

Members of the Ladies Aid are reminded of their meeting on Monday, August 2nd at 6:30PM.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth had a great time at Valleyfair last month. We are trying to get some photos on our church's website...so be sure to watch for those!

Please watch the Sunday bulletins for information on our September meeting.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Ronald and Suzanne Schuth (19 th Anniversary)
3 rd	Shay Goette and Benjamin Schuth
4 th	David Schmieg
5 th	Werner and Arleen Schmidt (54 th Anniversary)
10 th	Carolyn Lange
11 th	Kenneth and Pearl Ortloff (53 rd Anniversary)
13 th	Taylor Schmieg Loren and Darlene Mackenthun (44 th Anniversary)
16 th	Jared Mathwig
18 th	Jennifer Scherer and Jonah Scherer
22 nd	Dennis Rabe
23 rd	Roger Schuth
24 th	Marshall Dammann
25 th	Nathan Litzau
26 th	Bruce and Donna Goette (40 th Anniversary)
27 th	Keith Hardel and Laurie Litzau
28 th	Mike Kettner Roger and Cindy Schuth (34 th Anniversary)
29 th	Helen Milbrand Gene and Leah Roush (18 th Anniversary)