

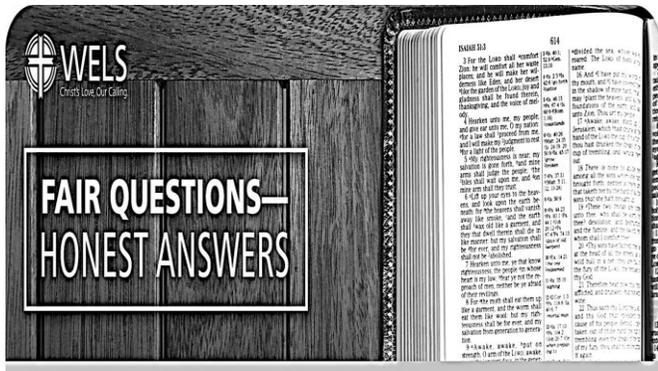


# NEWSLETTER

January  
2015

## I'm not perfect; I make mistakes. So what?

*"God saw all that he made and it was very good"* (Genesis 1:31)



In 2013, the Florida State Seminoles were celebrated as college football's BCS Champions after completing a perfect 14-0 season. In the 135 year history of Major League Baseball, only 23 pitchers have tossed a perfect game. Each of those 23 pitchers is widely celebrated for accomplishing one of baseball's rarest individual feats. In 2009, USA Today reported that a Michigan teen got a perfect score on her ACT—and her SAT—and her PSAT! She was rewarded with a full-ride scholarship to Princeton University.

If perfection is so celebrated because of its rarity, should the opposite be true as well? Should imperfection be condemned? I mean, if perfection is considered the rarest of all feats, shouldn't it be considered acceptable if the rest of us don't achieve such a vaunted status? Nobody's perfect at life! We all make mistakes. Who cares?

God cares. While imperfections are an accepted part of life for us, they are not acceptable to our God. Imperfections run contrary to the way God

intended this world to function. When he finished his work of creation, God was pleased to know that everything worked in harmony. There were no imperfections; *"God saw all that he made and it was very good"* (Genesis 1:31).

Our imperfections are therefore an offense to our perfect creator God. They are not excused; they are not overlooked. They are punished for the offense that they are.

Sure, nobody's perfect. That's why we need someone to be perfect for us.

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yes, Jesus Christ who had no sin or imperfection became our imperfection so that he might receive all of the punishment that we deserved, paying for it all by his death on the cross. In return, he grants us the perfection that we could not achieve on our own. In Christ we become "the righteousness of God."

As much as we celebrate individual accomplishments of perfection—the perfect season, the perfect game, or the perfect test score—how much greater can we celebrate the perfection that is ours by faith in Jesus Christ! In Christ you are perfect; believe it! Celebrate it! Live it!

For more Questions & Answers, go to [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com), then *Questioning God.*

## CHURCH NEWS

**Jesus Cares Bible Class** We continue our ministry to people with developmental disabilities. Bible class is scheduled here at church on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Members of the congregation are welcome to join in this ministry.

**Wish List** If you have any suggestions for the Wish List team, please contact Dennis Dittmer or Corky Milbrand.

**Annual Reports** All groups and organizations of St. John's are reminded to complete their annual reports and turn them in to Pastor or leave them in the back office by Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your prompt attention.

**Annual Meeting** Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> following our morning worship service. All members are encouraged to stay and be involved in the work of our congregation. Items that will be on our agenda include: our support for synod and Minnesota District ministries, sharing information on local ministry programs, salaries, and others.

**The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA)** As the year comes to a close, we again want to pause and remember the many blessings God has given to his ministry at The Lutheran Home. The year 2014 was unique in several ways. Let us recount just a few. In May we hosted the first ever NATIONAL SUMMIT ON SENIOR AND DISABILITY MINISTRIES. This was our first attempt of organizing such a conference and were pleased that we had about 200 in attendance. We expect to do this again in 2016.

We were blessed again this year with all our pastoral staff positions filled. In Watertown, due to the death of Pastor Ron Uhlhorn, Pastor Mark Bartsch accepted the call to Heritage Homes. Pastor Kenley Mann accepted the call to Wellhaven Senior Living in River Falls and our Fountain City, WI location.

TLHA is one of the sponsoring organizations that will host the first ever CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE in Phoenix in January. This is a joint effort of The Lutheran Home, WELS Kingdom Workers, Time of Grace, Truth in Live to Mormons, Grace in Action and The Antioch Foundation. Currently the conference is full at 500. The Lutheran Home dedicated its newest facility, Regency House on the campus of Martin Luther

College in August. This is a joint effort of MLC, TLHA and a private investor to provide senior living facilities on the campus of MLC. Residents have full access to the events on campus, including concerts, sporting events, the cafeteria and daily chapel services.

Our Jesus Cares Ministry continues to experience greater demand than we can meet. Pastor Joel Gaertner continues to lead JCM as well as direct all Spiritual Life activities at all campus locations.

In August, Mike Klatt suffered a serious accident and while he continues to recover, he has yet to take his first step. It is hoped that in January he may begin to walk. We thank God for giving Mike the gift of healing for his many injuries.

As always the field of health care, especially for the elderly and developmentally disabled, is a challenge. The Affordable Care Act has and continues to present many issues that we must deal with each day. As we prepare to enter the year 2015, our 117<sup>th</sup>, we pray for God's continued blessings, continued opportunities and yes even the continual challenges he presents to us. What a privilege we have to proclaim his message of grace and salvation to the thousands of people at our facilities.

**Directory Updates:** If your address or phone number has changed over the past year, please contact Carol Dammann to get the updates in the 2015 directory.

\* \* \* \* \*

## YOUTH NEWS

We are planning some activities and a lock-in sometime in the next two months. Watch for updates via email and the Sunday bulletin.

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kim Lange and Brett Rund
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bryan Budahn
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mitchell Dammann
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Siewert
7 <sup>th</sup>	Althea Mathwig
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Willmsen
14 <sup>th</sup>	Caleb Schuth
17 <sup>th</sup>	Shem Goette
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Siers
20 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Reichow
26 <sup>th</sup>	August Sickmann
28 <sup>th</sup>	Miranda Litzau
30 <sup>th</sup>	Owen Schmiegl