



# NEWSLETTER

July  
2014

## Jesus is...Our Righteousness

*“In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.” (Jeremiah 23:6)*



There is nothing that feels better than a crisp, clean set of clothes. I've been trying to take up running this summer. After I come in from a three mile run, my shirt is gross! It's smelly and drenched with sweat. It feels so good, after I've showered, to put on a shirt that is dry and clean.

We have all made our *spiritual* clothes sweaty, dirty and gross. Our unkind words and self-centered thoughts are like mud caked on our spiritual shirts. God is not going to let us into his house (heaven) wearing those kind of clothes!

But there is nothing that feels better than a crisp, clean set of clothes! Jesus lived a completely righteous life. His spiritual clothes were never stained with a single sin. And then he said to you, "Change shirts with me." He

put on your shirt that was stained with sin, and in exchange he gave you his crisp, clean shirt. That's what the Bible means when it says, ***“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).

Jesus was wearing our sinful clothes when he suffered and died on the cross. In exchange, he gave us his sinless clothes. Now, when God looks at us, he does not see dirty, sinful clothes. Instead, he sees the crisp, clean clothes of Jesus. The Bible puts it this way: ***“He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness”*** (Isaiah 61:10).

We haven't lived a perfect life, but Jesus has. And he lets that perfect life count for us. He is ***“The LORD Our Righteousness,”*** (Jeremiah 23:6). Because Jesus' perfect life (his righteousness) counts for us, that means that we can get into heaven!

So the next time you finish some strenuous activity, remember with joy that Jesus put on your grimy, sinful clothes. And when you open your dresser and find a neatly folded shirt, remember that Jesus has put a fresh, clean shirt on you. You are clothed in his perfect righteousness, and there is nothing that feels better than a crisp, clean set of clothes!

## CHURCH NEWS

**“Come Follow Me” Video:** Our church has copies of “Come Follow Me” DVDs available for members to share with family and friends. We showed the video in church on June 8<sup>th</sup> and had a brief discussion about it afterwards. The movie depicts what it means to be a disciple of Jesus by mainly focusing on the experience of Peter. We encourage congregation members to share the video with others or watch it with them. After watching the video, discussion can be opened by considering these two questions: 1) In what ways do you see yourself in Peter? 2) What peace and hope did the movie convey? If you have any questions you may speak with Pastor Reichow.

**District Convention News:** The delegates at our Minnesota District Convention learned about some of the new resources that our synod leaders are currently developing. These resources will include online tools that congregations can use to encourage and train lay people for various types of ministry. Also, there will be tools that congregations can use for planning and evaluating their gospel ministry. If you would like to learn more, please speak with Pastor Reichow.

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### THANKFUL FOR DECADES OF SERVICE

All of the districts in our synod have completed their conventions. The conventions provide an opportunity for districts to receive comprehensive reports on synodical matters and to provide input for next summer's synod convention.

This year's conventions saw three long-serving district presidents decline further nominations. Together, they have served their districts for more than 50 years. They are Rev. Peter Naumann, who has served the Dakota-Montana District since 1994; Rev. Theodore Lambert, who has served the Pacific Northwest District since 2002; and Rev. Douglas Engelbrecht, who has served the Northern Wisconsin District since 1994.

These faithful servants have served their districts in the role of supervisor of doctrine and practice. They worked with congregations in the call process for pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. They have encouraged congregations to support the work of the synod through Congregation Mission

Offerings. They have also served on the Conference of Presidents, one of the two main leadership groups in the synod.

During their years as district presidents, these men have spent untold hours on the road and have devoted themselves to encouraging called workers, addressing a wide variety of problems and issues that arise from time to time, and providing spiritual leadership to the congregations of their districts. We thank God and them for their faithful service, dedication, and zeal in what can be a difficult and sometimes thankless position. We also thank their wives and families for their understanding and support for these faithful workers.

Serving in Christ,  
President Mark Schroeder

### Synod News

You can receive the latest messages from our synod president along with current synod news and developments via email. Subscribe online at: [www.wels.net/subscribe](http://www.wels.net/subscribe) .

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### LADIES AID

Members of the Ladies Aid are reminded of their meeting on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

#### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

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| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Jennifer Koenen   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Gavin Ittel   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Jeffrey Muchow, Blake Schmiege, & Jessica Wills                         |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Theresa Siers   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Darvin Scherer  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Bruce Goette and Derek Ortloff  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Jerome Ehlers<br>David and Jael Schmiege (12 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Mike Daugaard   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Kristen Budahn  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Joyce Rund and William Rabe   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | John Glawe  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | John and Althea Mathwig (29 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)                  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Joshua Rabe<br>Darvin and Jenny Scherer (14 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Daniel Dittmer and Robyn Siewert  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Kenneth Ortloff   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Barbara Heidemann and Ryan Schuth                                       |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Barton Brelje and Erica Goette  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Sarah Kubesh  |