

Compassion

Sharing hope...



2020 - First Quarter

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God's 20/20 Vision

A twentieth century proverb tells us that hindsight is 20/20, meaning that it's always easy to envision something after it has already occurred. God's vision, however, is not limited to mere hindsight, for His vision of the past, the present and the future is always 20/20. What's more, God's vision concerning His own (those who belong to Him now and those who will belong to Him in the future) is always crystal clear. God envisions how and when His own will be brought to *faith*, and how they will be kept in that *faith* till he comes to call them home. God also envisions how the certain *hope* that they have in His Son, Jesus Christ, literally changes their lives, both now and in eternity. And finally, God envisions how the *love* of Christ burns in their hearts, moving them to reach out to others, wherever they may be, so that everyone who belongs to God is brought into His family.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul speaks of the spiritual gifts that God bestows upon the body of Christ, to nurture, bless and grow the Church. And, at the end of chapter 13, Paul highlights three of these gifts of the Spirit, which play a prominent role in the building up of His Church. He writes, "And now these three things remain: *faith, hope* and *love*. But the greatest of these is *love*."

Two years ago, we began a 3-year countdown to the year 2020, using these three gifts of the Spirit (*faith, hope* and *love*), to help us stay focused in carrying out the work that He sets before us – reaching out to the institutionalized – so that *God's vision for His Church* is at the heart of all that we do together. Many of the stories we shared with you over the last two years highlighted the spiritual blessings of *faith* and *hope*, which God continues to bestow upon His Church through your partnership with us in this ministry. This year, we will be sharing stories with you that highlight the last of these gifts of the Spirit – *love*. May the LORD continue to pour out His blessings upon His Church through the work that we carry out together.



by Chaplain Joseph Radsek

NEWS

SAVE THE DATE:

Join us March 7th for Suicide Prevention Training and Certification. Go to www.IM.Life for details.



The Mirror of Sin vs Christian Beauty

“In fact, if anyone hears the word and does not do what it says, he is like a man who carefully looks at his own natural face in a mirror. Indeed, he carefully looks at himself; then, he goes away and immediately forgets what he looked like. But the one who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues to do so—since he does not hear and forget but actually does what it says—that person will be blessed in what he does” (EHV James 1:23-25).

Clara was an attractive woman, who regularly looked into a mirror to check her makeup and make sure her hair was just right. Because of a sinful mistake she made when she was younger, however, she was in an accident and bore an ugly scar on the side of her face. She gave thanks for her beauty, but the scar on her face was a constant reminder of her sin.

Interestingly, when she was away from a mirror, she forgot about her past sins and lived a beautiful Christian life. When people saw her from the one side, they saw only her beauty. But when she turned, people would see her scar and wonder what had happened. Thankfully, her close friends only saw Clara as a beautiful Christian woman who devotedly served her Lord and was a blessing to others.

Clara lived in the beautiful forgiveness of sins, which Jesus had won for her upon the cross. Even though the scar regularly reminded Clara of her failures, she lived in the peace of forgiveness and happily served others with beautiful kindness, patience, and courage. Like her friends, the Lord Jesus only saw a beautiful Clara. The mirror’s reflection of sins had been erased and replaced with true Christian beauty.

What a privilege for this hospital chaplain to remind and encourage Clara in her godly beauty with the words of St. Peter: “Do not let your beauty be something outward, such as braided hair or wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather let your beauty be the hidden person of your heart - the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in God’s sight. In fact, this is also how the holy women of the past who put their hope in God made themselves beautiful” (1 Peter 3:3-5).



*“Let your
beauty be
the hidden
person of
your heart”*



by Chaplain Kenneth Wenzel

“The Fruit of the Spirit is...Joy.”

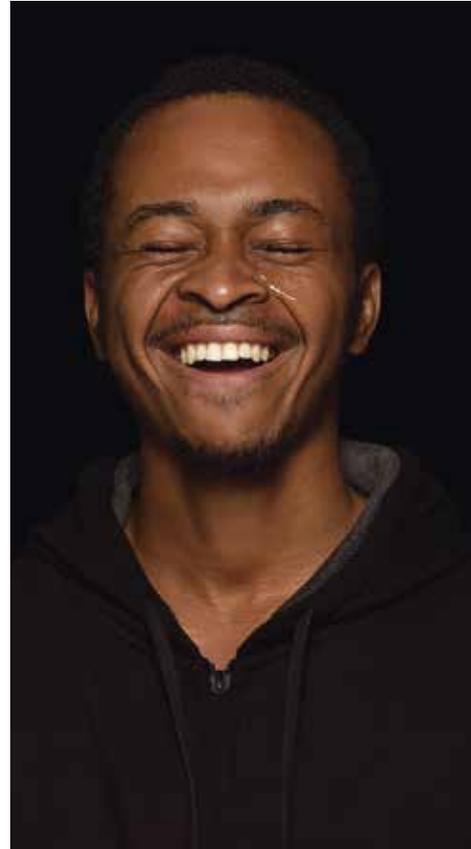
Like other emotions, joy is often evident in what someone says or does. And sometimes, you can actually see the joy in another person’s heart and soul.

Nearly two years ago, I began meeting with Jason, an inmate at one of Wisconsin’s prisons. Another inmate on Jason’s housing unit encouraged him to request a pastoral visit with me. And that’s what Jason did.

We spent the first several weeks searching the Scriptures for God’s answers to Jason’s many questions. And when I suggested to Jason that we begin a more thorough study of the most important teachings of God’s Word, Jason quickly said “Yes!” to my offer. This past July, we completed that study and I had the privilege of receiving Jason as a communicant member of the WELS through the Rite of Adult Confirmation. To say that Jason was happy would be an understatement!

But he was even happier a few weeks later when he received the Lord’s Supper for the very first time in his life. He smiled warmly as tears of joy filled his eyes, joyful tears which were followed by a soft “Thank you, pastor.” My eyes also began to fill with tears of joy, and I thanked the Holy Spirit for his work in Jason’s heart and mine too.

I am continuing to meet with Jason each week as he looks forward to his release from prison in early 2020. He plans to join one of our WELS congregations in the town in which he will most likely live. He will continue to hear and learn God’s Word at that congregation. With God’s blessing, Jason’s son will also be learning about his Savior, Jesus at the congregation’s preschool. And joy will be the blessed fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work!



by Chaplain Charles Iles

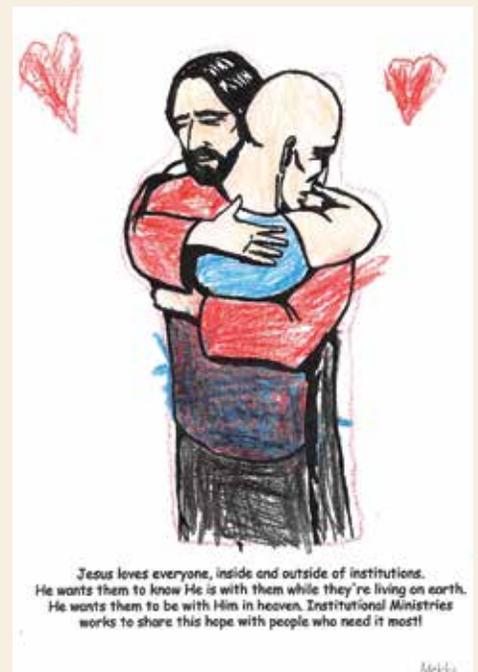
Grade School Contest Winners

Last quarter we asked students, grades K-4, to submit coloring projects and grades 5-8, to compose prayers focusing on people living in correctional institutions. We thank all of the students for their wonderful entries. Here is a look at our winners.

Thank you, Mekhi (Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee), for this picture of Jesus hugging a man who is incarcerated. Mekhi added hearts to his picture reminding us that Jesus loves everyone, even people who have committed crimes and find themselves in jail or prison.

Thank you, Morgan (First Lutheran, Elkhorn), for your well thought out prayer for people living in prison. Your prayer reminds us that we truly have much to be thankful for – forgiveness, life and salvation, and God’s continued presence throughout all our troubles.

Dear God, I am truly sorry for my sins. Thank you for leading me through harm, sickness, sadness, depression, anxiety, and panic-attacks. Thank you for forgiving my sins and sending Jesus, your one and only Son to die for us so that we could have eternal life in heaven. Thank you for everything you have given me and the people you had come to bring me to faith. Praise be to you O Lord! Amen.





Sharing hope...
with those who need it most!

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OUR MISSION

*To provide
direction, comfort
and hope by sharing
God and His love
with individuals
(and their families)
who are, or have been,
in an institution.*

Special Gifts & Memorials 12/06/2019 to 1/15/2020

IN CELEBRATION OF

The Birth of Jesus
Mrs. Janelle Peters
The Ahrens/Frisky 19th Annual Christmas Party
Mr. & Mrs. Steve A. Ahrens
Marion Schweitzer's 97th Birthday
Ms. Paula Rauth

IN HONOR OF

Beverly Kramer's 75th Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Kohls
Our 70th Wedding Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Proeber

IN MEMORY OF

Adolph Fehlauer
Mrs. Carol Ryan
Alfred P. Wendt
Mr. & Mrs. John Willis
Allen Krause
Prof. & Mrs. Steven Westphal
Ann Ruschmeyer
Rev. & Mrs. Phillip Henselin
Rev Arnold H Schroeder (Grandpa)
Mr. & Mrs. Ric Stuebs
Bill & Arlene Reinemann
Mr. William Reinemann
Charles Amera
Mrs. Ann Amera
Christine Scheele
Rev. & Mrs. Martin Scheele
Pastor David Tetzlaff
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Johnson
Mr. Larry Debbert
Donald Zuelsdorf
Mrs. Gloria Zuelsdorf
Frank & Hazel Just
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Just
Craig Maxwell
Mrs. Gail Maxwell
Gary & Bernice Schwalbe
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Avery
Hazel Krowas
Mr. Herbert Krowas
Jack Fieldhack
Mr. & Ms. Joseph Weinkauf

Karen Behmer, My Wife

Mr. James Behmer
Mom
Mr. & Mrs. James Boisen
Jim Theisen
Mrs. Judith Theisen
Janet Stirmel
Mr. & Mrs. David Stirmel
Jean Schwantes
Mrs. Sharon Zinke
Pastor Julian Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Berg
Karen Bartholomew
Mr. William Bartholomew
Kathy Strey
Mr. Fred Strey
Kenneth W. Krueger
Mrs. Jane Krueger
Lester Zubke
Mrs. Judy Zubke
Lewis White
Mrs. Lois White
Lois Born
Ms. Barbara Bohn
Mara Scherbarth
Mr. Mike Scherbarth
Marilyn Paschen
Mr. James Paschen
Marjorie E Toepel
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Toepel
Mark Weber
Mrs. Lois Weber
Marvin & Phyllis Feller
Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth Wenzel
Marvin Seevers
Mrs. Joann Seevers Wolfgram
Matthew Martens
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Martens
Matthew & Mark Reineck
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Poetzi
Peggy Stiemke
Mr. David Beyer Sr.
Mylon & Rand Lange
Mrs. Janet Lange
Richard & Louise Beyer
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bingen

Robert Young

Mrs. Dorothy Young
Sharon Ozminkowski
Mrs. Faye Hoffmann
Stewart & Leona Golner, My Parents
Mr. David Golner
Rev. Theodore & Althea Sauer
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sauer
Walter & Patricia Sievert, Mom & Dad
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sievert
Wayne Krueger
Ms. Kristin Krueger
William Jurgens
Mrs. Joann Jurgens
Wilma Brehmer
Mrs. Patricia Piippo

IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Pastor Ken Wenzel
Mrs. Ann Amera
God's Blessings
Ms. Arlene Sennhenn
Blessings Received
Ms. Bea Pamperin
John Martin Steinke, PhD.
Mr. Paul Steinke
Our Gracious God
Rev. & Mrs. Joseph Radsek
All US Military, Police & Firefighters
Ms. Katherine Wendland
Eric, Monica & Paula
Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Dargelies
66 Years of Marriage
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pfeifer
Blessings Received
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lawonn
Abundant Blessings
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Wendler
Many Blessings
Ms. Ruth Lampe