



Pastor's Perspective October 2011

At the center of the Christian faith are the notions of sin and redemption. Christianity is not just a pretty tale of being nice to each other. Christianity is about life and death. Eternal life and death.

Sin, like the weather, is something everyone can talk about, but nobody does anything about. Just about everyone (at least in western culture) has some notion of sin. Most people would probably agree that to sin is to do something bad. They might not agree (and they probably wouldn't) on what "something bad" is, but surely to sin is to do something bad, wrong, evil.

Clearly, the Bible teaches that to sin is to do something bad, something contrary to God's will. But in the New Testament, there is additionally a deeper, sharper understanding of the nature of sin. Sin can be understood, says the New Testament, as a state of being. The Apostle Paul speaks of being "in sin." By that he means a state of being out of favor with God. It is not characterized by any particular deeds as such, but is rather like a state of non-citizenship in God's kingdom. The Christian faith teaches that we are born "in sin." This is the meaning of the term "original sin." Every human being is born into the human race which is by its very nature estranged from God. It's rather like being born in prison. On death-row, in fact. And nothing one can do can bring about release from that prison-house of sin. To be in sin is to be helpless to do anything to bring oneself into right relationship to God.

If there is to be any salvation, it must come from outside ourselves. It must come from God. Here we come to the term "redemption." To redeem means to pay the ransom for. It commonly used of pawn-shop transactions. One takes an item to a pawn shop and hands it over as security on a loan. When one has enough money (including interest), one goes back to the pawn shop and *redeems* one's property.

That is what Christ did through his death on the cross. He paid the price so that we could be set free and be reconciled to God. The penalty for sin is death. That was our sentence. But Christ paid our penalty so that we could go free.

Why did God do this in Christ? John 3:16 puts it better than I ever could: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." It was out of infinite love that God gave Jesus as a ransom for us.

In a sense everyone of us is like Barabbas. You'll remember that Barabbas was a convicted murderer being held in prison in Jerusalem when Jesus was arrested. When the crowds grew unruly, Pontius Pilate hoped to appease them by releasing Jesus, so he asked them, "Do you want me to release Jesus?" They replied that they wanted Barabbas to be released instead."

One imagines Barabbas being released from prison and leaving Jerusalem for his home. As he goes along, he sees Jesus on the cross. And then he realizes that Jesus is paying the price for Barabbas' sin. Barabbas is saved because Jesus died.

We are each of us Barabbas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH SESSION MEETING

- Clerk Craig Faulkner reported on Attendance and One Marriage.
- Pastor Stan gave an update of his activities.
- Ann Camp gave an update for the Calling and Membership committee activities. Ann gave a report on the spaghetti supper
- Lynn Curtis gave a report of Fellowship activities planned. An update on the upcoming Annual Turkey Supper was given. Many plans are being made and much help is needed. (see information on page 3)
- Finance Committee update was given by Drew Wilkin. The committee has requested budget needs for 2012.
- Nurture committee report was given by Teresa Ray. Teresa reported that first day of Sunday School went well with the Ice Cream Social and Cake. The committee will pass out Bibles to the sixth grade students and those that do not have Bibles in the middle school on October 2.
- Outreach committee report was given by Todd Gravert.
- Properties Committee report was given by Jim Balk.
- Webmaster Lisa Colgan gave a report including the number “hits” the church was getting on it’s web site.
- Worship Committee update was given by Bill Wilkin. Bill said that a skit was planned for September 25. Also discussed was a farewell for Pastor Stan and Sylvia. It was decided December 4th would be a good date. More Information will follow
- Craig Faulkner gave a report on the recent Presbytery meeting.

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS AND FESTIVALS SCRIPTURE

October 2 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19:1-14 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	October 9 Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	October 16 Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99:1-9 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22	October 23 Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46	October 30 Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12
--	---	---	---	--

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers

Harlan & Evelyn Schaver
Marsha Norman & Morgan Wierema

Greeters

October 2 Keith & Marie Johnson
October 9 Jo Mensch
October 16 Jim & Joyce Moore
October 23 Odetta Swanson & Ruth Bos
October 30 Larry & Ruth Letcher



JAN STUART'S PANTRY CORNER MONTH OF OCTOBER

Detergent
Shampoo
Toothpaste



Annual Turkey Supper

NOVEMBER 13, 2011



On October 9th, we will be posting the sign-up sheets requesting contributions of both food articles and your time toward preparation of the 2011 Annual Turkey Supper. This annual congregational fundraiser has always created a joyful beehive of activity for all of us and has been one of our most profitable fundraisers during the year. In the past our congregation has faithfully come forward with very generous donations of cash, provisions, and the sharing of their time to prepare and serve the supper. **For your continuous support we send a resounding THANK YOU!** We trust that we can again join together in 2011 to have a very delicious and successful meal.

Your Fellowship Committee is taking the leadership role in guiding us through another Annual Turkey Supper. However, as always, we definitely need your help in order to make this happen.

Join us by.....

- Donating cash for the purchase of needed provisions purchased in bulk quantities
- Donating some of the other listed provisions to make the dinner
- Being a worker-bee, donating your time and talents when available over the 4-day dinner preparation period.

We will also start selling tickets for the turkey supper on October 9th. The ticket price will be the same as last

LumberKings Baseball Night



32 people attended our Saturday night baseball outing this year. The beautiful evening was topped off with the LumberKings winning the game and awesome fireworks! Owen Radke and Brady Schaver took home special baseball bats filled with mini baseballs (gum balls). We hope they enjoyed them.

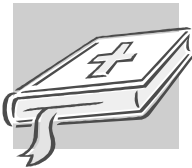
Thank you Harlan and Evelyn for being our ticket masters prior to the game.

Ice Cream Social



The Outreach Center was rockin' with music by the Gathier's as approximately 105 people enjoyed ice cream with all the trimmings, cookies, and a special cake provided by the Nurture Committee as a kick-off to the start of Sunday School for this year. The children's door prize was won by Emma Wainwright and the adult door prize was won by Judy Jordan. Thank you Evelyn Schaver for organizing the Ice Cram Social this year. Lots of wonderful comments indicated that it was enjoyed by everyone attending.

Sunday School News!



Middle School and High School classes: 10:30-11:15AM. Join Sylvia or Bill!
On October 2nd there will be a Bible Presentation for Middle School. Please attend.

Pre-school and Elementary Schedule for October:

October 2nd – class at 10:30-11:15

October 9th – class at 10:30-11:15

October 16th – Music class with April, they will practice for the following week

October 23rd – Sing during the service - Class this day will start at 10:15 so that the children can get in enough time to have a lesson and decorate pumpkins. Pumpkins are provided. Come join the fun!

October 30th – class at 10:30-11:15AM

Parents:

Please have your Sunday School registration forms filled out and turned in.

Please have your children to church 15 minutes early on October 23rd.

Please remember to come to the room and pick up your children.

If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact me: 563-321-3657 or lynn.richards@dybb.com

Thank you, Lynn Richards





CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

To: Congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery
From: Church World Service-Illinois, and Mission Strategies and Resource Board
Date: May 10, 2011
Re:

2011 Kits Challenge

Dear colleague,

Recently, the Westminster Stateline Ministry Project, Blackhawk Presbytery's New Church Development, participated in the Ro/Ro (Roscoe/Rockton) Expo, where we were raising awareness for our developing faith community. It has been said that people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care. I believe that people don't care what you believe until they know what your faith means, practically. So, inspired by the 4,800 Kits assembled and made by congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery in 2010, at our booth we invited the community to join with us in hands-on mission. We had all the supplies present for CWS Hygiene Kits, and we invited the community to join us in putting together Hygiene Kits. The Stateline Project put together 203 Hygiene Kits for CWS while at the same time raising awareness for our developing faith community AND demonstrating God's love and what our faith looks like when we put it into action.

Because of this experience, CWS and MSRB, in partnership with the Westminster Stateline Ministry Project, are issuing a new challenge for Blackhawk Presbytery:

The hands-on mission challenge for 2011 is for each congregation to create 50 Hygiene Kits.

Invite your church and invite your community to join with us in creating these much needed kits.

Each Kit contains:

- 1 Hand towel measuring approximately 16" X 28"
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Wide-toothed comb
- 1 Nail clipper
- 1 Bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 Toothbrush (in original packaging) (often dentist offices are willing to donate)
- 6 Standard size Band-Aids

All of these items should be placed in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure – remove excess air from the bag and seal it. Kits should be boxed and brought to the **November 8** presbytery meeting at Stronghold Center. Please write the name and address of your church and the number and kind of Kits on the outside of each box. (Although the challenge is to assemble Hygiene Kits, all Kits are needed and will be accepted in November.)

While we will get the Kits to the warehouse for free, a **gift of \$2 per Kit** enables CWS to get them from the warehouse into the hands of those in need. Checks can be made out to Church World Service and brought in November. Let's put our faith in action!

May the peace of Christ be with you,
 Rev. Brad Rogers
 The Westminster Stateline Ministry Project