

OUR REDEEMER'S *PULSE...*

February 24, 2010

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Lent is a time for us to spend dedicated time in God's Word. On Ash Wednesday, we relied upon God's Word to direct us in our confession of sins. For the Law of God points out to us how we don't measure up to the perfection required by God. Our confession during midweek services centers on a penitential Psalm. This reminds us that we are not the perfect beings God created us to be, but have flaws, cracks, and darkness dwelling within us. Yet, God is merciful and full of steadfast love for His people. He doesn't leave us in our sinfulness, but rather speaks His Word of forgiveness which is the Gospel. Jesus Christ, His death to pay for our sins and His resurrection to show forth His power over sin, death and the devil proclaims freedom and forgiveness to all who believe in His name and His sacrifice.

Martin Chemnitz in his book *Ministry, Word, and Sacraments* says "That the Word of God is the wisdom of God hidden in a mystery (1Cor 2:6-7) by which God has made known and revealed to mankind, by a certain Word which has been given, His essence and will (at last so far as it is necessary for us in this life), so that we thereby recognize sin and the miseries into which we fall through sin, and know how and through whom we are freed from these evils, so that we as a result rightly recognize and worship God and learn well to arrange and conform our life according to the norm and rule of His commandments, and finally that we be taught what will be and what is to be expect for us after this life.

The first Sunday of Lent each year brings us the reading of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness where Satan tempts Jesus by twisting God's Word. As we learned from Jesus' own example, we need to know God's Word well enough to refute the devil's twisting of it. But, we also need to be careful not to take verses out of context, but use the clear parts of Scripture to illuminate the less clear parts. Our Christian Education Board has numerous times scheduled to better equip you with the "Sword" of God's Holy Word. Please plan time into your schedule to be in God's Word and meditate upon it.

Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio

NOTE: *These pages come from handouts provided by Professor John T. Pless at the 2005 Pastor's Conference, combined with notes taken at Professor Pless' lecture on this subject. "Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio: A Right Way to Study Theology" (287-289) in The Minister's Prayerbook edited by John Doberstein is taken (in an abridged form) from the "Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther's German Writings, 1539" (AE 34:279-288).*

I. Luther's "right way to study theology" is anchored in the three rules set forth in Psalm 119: *Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio*.

• For Luther "Everything centers around the practice of meditation, for prayer prepares for it and its results are confirmed in the experience of conflict. For Luther, meditation is the key to the study of theology. No one can become a true theologian unless he learns theology through it" (Kleinig, "The Kindled Heart", 142).

- For Luther, theologians are made not simply by "understanding, reading or speculating" but "by living, no rather by dying and being damned" (WA 5/163:28-29) as he said in a lecture on Psalm 5:11 in 1520.
- "Holy Scriptures constitute a book which turns the wisdom of all other books into foolishness, because not one teaches about eternal life except this one alone" (AE 34:285).
- You cannot study theology the same way you study engineering, or medicine, or law. God works through his Word on the hearts and minds of his people. Therefore the study of theology begins with prayer, continues with study, and becomes complete through spiritual affliction. This is the path of the theologian of the cross. The natural man is a theologian of glory. He wants to begin with study, (reason,) end in prayer, and skip the spiritual affliction altogether.

- Oratio* is prayer. Prayer begins with the ear, with God speaking first to us. Prayer grows out of the Word of our Lord; prayer is the voice of faith.
- Meditatio* is the continual study of God's word, of letting the Word of God dwell in you richly.
- Tentatio* is the place of the cross: of spiritual affliction, trial, and temptation. Christ's suffering is His alone. Our place is to bear our cross in the vocation to which we are called.

II. *Oratio* (prayer) is grounded in the Word of the Lord.

- This is the prayer that is modeled by David in Psalm 119: "Teach me, Lord, Lord instruct me, lead me, show me" (Psalm 119:26 et al)...Although he well knew and daily heard and read the text of Moses and other books besides, still he wants to lay hold of the real teacher of the Scriptures himself, so he may not seize upon them pell-mell with his reason and become his own teacher. For such practice give rise to factious spirits who allow themselves to nurture the delusion that the Scriptures are subject to them and can be easily grasped with their reason, as if they were *Markolf* or Aesop's Fables, for which no Holy Spirit and no prayers are needed" (AE 34:286).
- Prayer is the voice of faith. That is to say, that prayer grows out of the Word of the Lord. It acknowledges Him as the Lord who speaks. "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (I Samuel 3:9). Note the hymn "Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear" (5-TLH).
- Prayer that invokes God (calls upon the name of the Lord) is grounded in the first three petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Note Luther's explanation in the *Small Catechism*.
- "The richness of the Word of God ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart" (Bonhoeffer, *Psalms*, 15).
- Prayer is "responding speech" (Peterson, 5).
- "Prayer escapes the danger of disorder and confusion only when it is enkindled by the words of Scripture. From the Word proceeds its inner justification, as well as its life-giving power and the clearness of its petitions. A prayer that does not stick to Scripture will soon become poor in ideas, poor in faith, poor in love and will finally die"(Koeberele, 176-177).

III. *Meditatio*

- We meditate on that which we love. In 1516, Luther comments on Psalm 1 : "But no one meditates on the law of the Lord unless his desire has first become fixed on it. For what we desire and love we chew over inwardly and diligently" (Kleinig, "The Kindled Heart", 12). By way of contrast, the ungodly do not love God so they do not desire His Word. Note the connection with the 1st Commandment.
- Mary is the model for Christian meditation (see Luke 10:38-42).
- *Meditatio* is the continual study of the Scriptures. In 1518, Luther wrote "You should not only meditate inwardly in your heart but also outwardly by repeating the words out aloud and rubbing at the written word (like a sweet-smelling herb), by reading and rereading it, carefully, attentively and reflectively, to gather what the Holy Spirit means by them" (quoted in Kleinig, "The Kindled Heart", 143; see AE34:286). Meditation is verbal.
- *Meditatio* is grounded in the *externum verbum*. See Smalcald Articles III:VIII "In these matters, which concern the external, spoken Word, we must hold firmly to the conviction that God gives no one his Spirit or grace except through or with the external Word which comes before. Thus we shall be protected

from the enthusiasts-that is, from the spiritualists who boast that they possess the Spirit without and before the Word and who therefore judge, interpret, and twist the Scriptures or spoken Word according to their pleasure" (Tappert, 312). Luther: "Let him who wants to contemplate in the right way reflect on his Baptism; let him read his Bible, hear sermons, honor father and mother, and come to the aid of a brother in distress. But let him not shut himself up in a nook...and there entertain himself with his devotions and thus suppose that he is sitting in God's bosom and has fellowship with God without Christ, without the Word, without the sacraments" (AE 3:275).

- Note Luther's comment in his pamphlet of 1521, *A Brief Instruction on What to Look for and Expect in the Gospels*: "When you open the book containing the gospels and read or hear how Christ comes here or there, or how someone is brought to him, you should therein perceive the sermon or the gospel through which he is coming to you, or you are being brought to him. For the preaching of the gospel is nothing else than Christ coming to us, or we being brought to him.

When you see how he works, however, and how he helps everyone to whom he comes or who is brought to him, then rest assured that faith is accomplishing this in you and that he is offering your soul exactly the same sort of help and favor through the gospel. If you pause here and let him do you good, that is, if you believe that he benefits and helps you, then you really have it. Then Christ is yours, presented to you as a gift" (quoted in Kleinig, "Meditation", 47). In a Christmas sermon of 1519, Luther makes the same point as he emphasizes a sacramental meditation on the Gospel: "We meditate properly on the Gospel when we do so sacramentally, for through faith the words produce in us what they portray" (quoted in Kleinig, "The Kindled Heart", 146).

- Luther likened meditation to a cow chewing its cud. In his commentary on Deuteronomy 14:1 of 1525, he writes: "To chew the cud, however, is to take up the Word with delight and meditate with supreme diligence, so that (according to the proverb) one does not permit it to go into one ear and out the other, but holds it firmly in the heart, swallows it, and absorbs it into the intestines" (AE 9:136)

- See Luther's advice in his "A Simple Way to Pray" (1535) where he suggests taking each of the commandments, each part of the Creed "in their fourfold aspect, namely, as a school text, song book, penitential book, and prayer book" (AE 43:209).

- The goal of meditation is described by Jesus in his explanation of the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4-15 where he says "And as for that (seed) in the good soil, they are those who, in hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience."

- To start with *Meditatio* is to start with the self. This eliminates the place of the trinity by anointing and exalting the self. This is the path of the theologian of glory.

IV. *Tentatio*

- God uses *tentatio* (spiritual affliction, trial, and temptation) to drive away from self and to His promises alone.

- *Tentatio* happens within the context of a person's vocation. "*Tentatio* is testing, temptation, and trial which occurs when God and his Word intersect with us and our world" (Pfeiffer, 113). Suffering happens precisely because a person is faithful to his calling. See Luther's comments on "cross bearing" (see AE 51:195-208). "Peace with God brings conflict and adversity with the world, the flesh, and the devil"(Hein, 33).

- Pastors are not exempt from *tentatio*. In fact God uses it to draw us away from our own abilities to the gifts He gives in the Gospel and the Sacraments. See II Corinthians 4:1-12.

- "I did not learn my theology all at once, but had to search constantly deeper and deeper for it. My temptations did that for me, for no one can understand Holy Scripture without practice and temptations. That is what the enthusiasts and sects lack. They don't have the right critic, the devil, who is the best teacher of theology. If we don't have that kind of devil, then we become nothing but speculative theologians, who do nothing but walk around in our own thoughts and speculate with our reason alone as to whether things should be like this, or like that" says Luther in a "table talk" of 1532 (AE 5450).

- Luther is thankful for his enemies: "For I myself...must be very thankful to my papists for pummeling, pressing, and terrifying me; that is, for making me a fairly good theologian, for otherwise I would not have become one..."(Doberstein, 288).

- The devil gets into the act. Here the devil must fulfill God's purpose thus Luther can speak of him as "doctor consolation." The devil is used by God against his own evil purpose. "As soon as a person meditates and is occupied with God's Word; as soon as God's Word begins to take root in and grow in him, the devil harries him with much conflict, bitter contradiction, and blatant opposition. But these assaults (Anfechtungen) prove to be spiritually counterproductive, for by driving him to the end of his tether, they teach him 'to seek and love God's Word' as the source of all his strength and being. In such a situation of temptation, he experiences for himself the power and truth of God's Word. Temptation turns the student of God's Word into a real theologian, because it exercises and reinforces his faith in Christ. He experiences the power of God's Word in his own weakness. Paradoxically, he sees the presence of God and his grace most fully displayed under its apparent negation in adversity and trouble. Because he bears the word of Christ in himself, he must also bear the cross for it. But, as he bears his own cross, he gets to know himself and Christ whose glory was revealed by his death on the cross. Meditation, then, ultimately elucidates temptation and is itself elucidated by it" (Kleinig, "The Kindled Heart", 147).
- Luther (Galatians 15:35): "Therefore I admonish you, especially those of you who are to become instructors of consciences, as well as each of you individually, that you exercise yourselves continually by study, by reading, by meditation and by prayer, so that in temptation you will be able to instruct consciences, both your own and others, and take them from the law to grace, from active righteous to passive righteousness, in short from Moses to Christ. In affliction and in the conflict of conscience it is the devil's habit to frighten us with the law and to set against us the consciousness of sin, our wicked past, the wrath and judgment of God, hell, and eternal death, so that he may drive us into despair, subject us to himself, and pluck us from Christ" (AE 26:10).

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Classes

- Three year olds through fourth grade- meet in room 303 at 9:40am for their opening and class in a rotational format.

Topics:

- 2/28 - Jesus teaches us to love enemies
- 3/07 - Jesus and the Good Fruit
- 3/14 - Jesus and the Lost Son

- Pre-confirmation- meets in room 311 and class will continue for fifth grade with Ken Wedell.
- Confirmation- meets in room 306 with Kala Redlin and Delores Schwartz

- Topics: Confessing my Faith 2/28
- Confirming my Convictions 3/07
- Claiming my Calling 3/14

Confirmation II – 2/28 – Meets in the Library at 12:30pm
Initial draft of Faith Story completed/review

- Post-confirmation - room 305 with Chris and Jennifer Noah
- High school class - will meet in the Luther Inn.
- Adult 307- Greg Murray – "Worship"
- Adult 309 - Bill Bowers – Book of Revelation

Other Bible Classes throughout the week:



- Adult Information Class / Review of Christian Doctrine – Pastor Schwartz leads this class in the upstairs conference room for 8 weeks on Saturdays at 10:00am.
- Women’s Bible Study at Jennifer Noah’s – “Living Beyond Yourself” focusing on the Gifts of the Spirit as found in the Book of Galatians. Meets on the 3rd Saturday each month.
- Ladies Adult Midweek Bible Study (LAMBS) – Led by Lois Axson, this group meets each Thursday at 9:30am in room 309. They are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.
- Wednesday Midweek Study – Led by Pastor Schwartz each Wednesday at 9:30am to 10:45am. They are currently beginning a study of the book of Amos.
- Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (MBBS) – “That the World May Know” is the title of a new study led by Chris Noah each Friday morning at 6:30am. Breakfast is included!

FAMILY EDUCATION NIGHT - The next one will be held on **March 10th at 6:15pm**. Please take advantage of this opportunity as we pray it will be a blessing for you and your family to grow closer to God and to one another. This one will include a Pizza meal for you and your family and will include a family Lenten Worship experience as well as our normal family night break-out sessions. Come and join us on this special night as we continue our family focus under the cross of Jesus our Savior.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Splink is a useful tool for Parents who would like help to connect biblical teachings with something fun or creative that you can do with your children in your own home. If you go to <https://www.d6family.com/splink/register> you can sign up to receive weekly emails that will offer you different ideas for Bible stories. Splink is part of the D6 Curriculum that we are using for Family Education Nights. This could be a resource for you and your families so please check it out.



BOARD OF YOUTH



HEY YA’LL

(Young American Lutheran Leaders)

Please call Susan Shipman at 706/210-9251 or Louise Meadows at 706/855-7985 for more information.

Youth Group Schedule February/March:

February 28	12:30 Lunch & project at Mrs. Woodruff's
March 7	5pm Dinner and Bible Study
March 12	6:00pm-10:30pm Parent's Night Out
March 14	5pm Dinner and Bible Study
March 21	5pm Dinner and Bible Study
March 28	5pm Dinner and Bible Study

PARENTS NIGHT OUT - FUNDRAISER NAT'L YOUTH GATHERING

Attention all Parents! Does it feel like you haven't had any time for just you? Do you and your spouse need a free evening to have a date night? Maybe you just need to run some errands with out having to entertain your child/children? Well, look no further than **Friday, March 12** from **6-10:30pm** here at **ORLC**. The Youth group will be babysitting any and all children for \$15/child or \$25/family up to 4 children. We will charge overtime fee of \$10/hr after 9:30pm. Please pick your children up no later than 10:30pm. All proceeds will go to support the National Youth Gathering this July for our Sr. High youth. Sign up will be in the walk thru area or contact DCE Lamar if you have any questions or want to sign up.

YOUNG ADULTS, we will be meeting March 19, at 6:30pm at the Redlin's home. Pizza or some other food will be provided so please come out for fellowship and fun with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Also, April 24 we will be helping out with a local service project. More information about this service project will be made available in the weekly worship guides, online, or through email communication. If you are not currently receiving email communication and would like to please contact DCE Lamar at lqstewart@gmail.com, or call the church office and let him know.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Special Worship Services

3/3 – Lenten Service

11am and 7pm

Topic: His Battered Back – John 19:1

3/10 - Lenten Service

11am

Topic: His Faithful Feet - Matthew 28:9

3/10 – Family Night Lenten Service

6:15 – 8:00p.m.

Modified Family Night format and Lenten Service
and Pizza Dinner

DEVOTIONALS - Pick up your copy of a Lenten Devotional on the table in the walk-thru area. There are several to choose from thanks to Lutheran Hour Ministries.

EASTER LILIES - Anyone interested in purchasing a Lily Plant to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday? Cost this year is \$11.50 per plant. Please make your check payable to ORLC along with the Lily order form which will be available in the worship guide on Sunday, February 28th and Sunday, March 7th. Forms can also be picked up from the table in the walk-thru-area and placed in Sheri Agee's box or in the offering plate.

PALM SUNDAY PALMS - Anyone interested in purchasing Palms for beautifying our sanctuary for Palm Sunday, please contact Sheri Agee at the Church Office.

HAITI RELIEF PANCAKE FUNDRAISER - the Board of Elders along with the Board of Parish Fellowship will be hosting our next Game Night! On Saturday, March 6 the Elders will be cooking a Pancake and Sausage dinner to help raise funds for Haiti Relief - we will be collecting a free will offering. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the walkway so you can let us know how many of your family and friends will be attending. Don't forget to bring your favorite game(s) to play!

THANK YOU – so much to all who joined us for the Valentine Dinner! A very special thanks to all of you that helped to decorate, setup the dinner, clean up (especially all those table cloths cleaned by Nancy Missey!), those of you that helped in the nursery and of course to Bob Eubanks (Norm Diebold) and all of our couples that played the Newlywed Game.

“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life - "Maybe you've had an abortion and don't think that God can ever forgive you. You're wrong. Jesus suffered on the cross for ALL your sins and all MY sins. Pray to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness (Colossians 2:13)." *Diane E. Schroeder, president of Lutherans For Life*

ME A PASTOR? ME A DEACONESS? If you found yourself asking this question, now is the time to do something about it! Rev. Steve Wagner of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana is going to be at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC on Monday, March 1 from 5:00-8:00pm, Messiah Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC on Wednesday, March 3 from 5:00-7:30pm and at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Warner Robins, GA on Friday, March 5 from 5:00-8:00pm. Come and explore the possibilities! Men of all ages are invited, as are their wives, children, or fiancées. Women interested in the deaconess program are also invited, along with their families. Conferences are individual and informal and reservations are NOT needed. Please contact Rev. Wagner at (936)203-0240 or e-mail him at wagnerse@ctsfw.edu.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

MISSION CELEBRATION MONTH - Many within our congregation actively support various mission efforts within our community and beyond. Most of our fellow members cannot begin to grasp the full scope of these combined efforts. This year, as a part of our Pentecost celebration, we would like to give members involved with these efforts an opportunity to put up a display in the Fellowship Hall. These can be as simple as a display board or more involved if you wish. The plan is to put up displays prior to Pentecost and then leave them up for the month of June to educate our members and visitors to our facility. Please start thinking about putting together a display. In order to organize space for each display, we would request that, if you would like to put up a display, please provide us with a title for your display, a list of names or the group supporting the mission, and any special space needs that you might have in mind. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Schwartz or any member of the Board of Stewardship (Eddie Kyser, Mary Jo Wans, Paul James or Marvin Timm). You can turn topics in by leaving a note in Eddie Kyser's mailbox.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Without question, Jesus is the Chief Steward. None can compare to His example of selflessness and giving. He laid aside His rights as Son of God in order to be the Son of Man. He was willing to endure ignominious death on the cross so that we could be rescued from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He taught us to think and live a new way – as servants who are available to serve, not to be served.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Architect renderings and cost estimates to enlarge our narthex/greeting areas will be presented in the near future to ORLC members and friends. Next Trustee work meeting is March 13th at 8:30am.



CHURCH WORK DAY – The next series of work days are set for March 12th and 13th. Reserve these dates as we strive to get our facility cleaned and shined up before the Easter season. Sign up lists are in the walk-thru-area to note what day you and your family will assist us in this very important work. Everyone can share in the privilege and responsibility of keeping our facility clean and welcoming for visitors and guests.

No help will be turned away! We need you! Please find time on Friday, March 12th or on Saturday, March 13th to assist. You won't be alone! Remember: This is Our Church Home.

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – You and your family can assist by signing up as a sponsor of a fellowship hour. These are typically held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's each month and the duties include: picking up donuts and juice, making the coffee, and cleaning up afterwards. It is very easy and it helps you get to know others, too! Call Sandy Boysworth at (706)738-2197 if you are interested in sponsoring one. Thanks!



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – All of the photos that were taken in January were mailed out this week and should be arriving at your home very soon. If you had your photo taken and you are only receiving the free 8x10 – they will be delivered to Our Redeemer and we will put them in your mail folder.

We are still looking for small business owners and those who work for businesses around town: examples – Banks, Doctors, Lawyers, appliance needs, printing services, home improvements, beauty needs, etc.... What we need is a business card along with payment and any other information you would like to include. The cost is \$25 for ¼ page, \$50 for ½ page and \$75 for whole page. The net proceeds will go to the Elders' Aid Fund to help those in need and also helps our members know who to recommend and trust for these services. Anyone interested please contact Kala Redlin at (706)550-0528.

Also the last day to turn in photos for the directory is Sunday, February 28th. Please place them in Kala Redlin's mail folder or email her at elmok2@juno.com

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

HAITI DISASTER RESPONSE - We are working with the LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Mission Haiti, as well as President Marky Kessa of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Haiti (ELCH), and President Revenel Benoit of the Lutheran Church of Haiti (LCH) to distribute supplies. We've raised \$2090 thus far.

LWML THINGS by LaVon Dunker

1. **Portals of Prayer** for Edgefield Federal Prison - Please do not write in them!
2. **Used eye glasses** for Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Warner Robins' mission trip to Ecuador in June of 2010.
3. **Plastic grocery bags** for DCCM. - Collection containers will be placed in the LWML corner located in the Cross walk.



THE MARY MARTHA CIRCLE – will meet on Wednesday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m. (***Please note the time change!***) in the Fellowship Hall. They will have a Bible Study and then finish the Confirmation banners. All ladies are welcome to join them for this time of fellowship.

LETTER FROM SEMINARIAN JOHN NINKE: I am so thankful for the prayers and support. There have been a couple tough days this quarter and knowing I have partners on this journey really lifts me up. I thank God every day for such dedicated supporters. I can't thank you enough for the gift you gave us while we were home for Christmas, it couldn't have come at a better time.

I realized I haven't updated you on all the happenings of this quarter. I had a challenging and very rewarding quarter. I had five classes; Worship, Intro to Old Testament, Acts and Pauline Epistles, Confessions I, and Reformation. The most rewarding was Worship and Reformation. I had wonderful professors that had a real passion for their subjects and they really formed us. The worship class prepared us to preside as a liturgist. One of the main projects for the course was to do a worship service presentation which was graded and critiqued by the professor and the class. I did quite well and actually had a good time doing it. The reformation class was very interesting, getting in the head of Luther was quite fascinating. Acts & Pauline Epistle was very challenging because it was very heavy in Greek. I'm coming along but I'm still struggling. I had to take this course out of sequence because of the program limitations, so, all the other students were 2nd or 4th year students. The professor referenced classes I had not had yet, but I made it through, at least I hope I did since I don't have my grade yet.

The choir tour was a success and Laurie was able to come along for the ride. We had a Chicago style pizza at Pizzeria Uno for lunch on Saturday, what a treat! We met some really wonderful people in the Chicago area. One elderly man was brought to tears while he was thanking us at the meal after the service. That was very touching. Unfortunately, I had to quit the choir. I needed more time for studying and so I had to make a tough choice.

It was so nice seeing everyone again over Christmas. I really enjoyed assisting in the Christmas services, thank you for giving me that opportunity. It was a real unexpected honor to help with a service with Pastor Dunker. I never thought I would see the day I could help the pastor that married Laurie and I with a worship service.

We are anxiously waiting the new "Muni" summer musical season in Forest Park. They do such a good job with the musicals. We formed a small family unit with several of the seminarians both single and married. We have a family night dinner at our house once a week. We play card games most weeks; it's a nice study break! We plan to go to the Muni as a group this summer. I am looking forward to this quarter. I have five classes again; Homiletics I, Confessions II, History of the LCMS, History of the walk out, and Synoptic Gospels. I am taking Homiletics I from the president of the seminary, Dr. Dale Meyer. As you may know he was the voice of the Lutheran Hour for twelve years and he really delivers a good sermon. I am very excited to see what he has to say.

CHURCH MOUSE NEWS:

This mouse was so impressed... On one Wednesday recently, we had bunches of families here with ash on their foreheads. At first thought, the Church mouse thought they had all forgotten to wash up prior to coming into the Lord's house. Then, he realized, that they were as an act of confession and contrition, making themselves dirty as a holy God would see them. It was then, that amazingly, God took their dirty lives and made them forgiven, new creational beings. While, still dirty, they were also forgiven. Seems like this mouse had heard this before... sinner and yet saint? Both together in those who trust in Christ as Savior. WOW!

