

PW Renewal News

A Monthly Devotion written by a WELS/ELS pastor's wife with some encouraging updates, prayers & news.

May 1, 2011

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18



"No one is ever willing to help me on the altar guild." "I've noticed that so-and-so hasn't been to church yet this month – what is Pastor doing about this?" "Oh, dinner is at 7:00 – why would anyone plan it for so late?" Complainers. My guess is that most congregations have a few folks who at times fall into this trap. When I'm spending time in the word, I find I can listen to the complainers and try to be positive and encouraging in response. At other weaker times, I find myself wanting to throw up my hands and say, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Perhaps you have found yourself in the same spot, saying things like – "Lord, I could probably be a better pastor's wife if you had given me a more enthusiastic mission-minded group of people to serve with." We all have a sinful nature that wants us to complain, make excuses, put others down, or give up. When my life is filled with complaining, there's little room for joy.

But joy is exactly what God wants our lives to be filled with. We know that our true joy does not depend on the attitudes of those around us or what's going on in our lives. Our joy doesn't come and go like shifting shadows, or the latest fashion trends, or the contentment of your two year old child. Our true joy is anchored to the unchanging truth of the salvation won for us by Jesus on the cross – it's a joy that humbles us, that fills us with love for our Savior, and that gives us the hope we need to persevere until we reach our home in heaven. Jesus defeated sin (even complaining), death, and Satan for us – our victory is won and our eternal salvation is secure . . . truly we have a reason to be filled with joy!

Sandwiched in between Paul's reminders to be joyful and thankful always, we are also urged to pray continually. Prayer and time spent feeding our souls in God's Word are the recipe for reflecting that joyful attitude in our everyday lives. In the daily struggle to push back our sinful natures, we are encouraged to lay all of our impatience and frustration at the foot of the cross and pray that God would bless us with the strength and Christ-like attitude we need to serve joyfully. The picture Paul paints of God's will for us in Jesus is truly a happy one filled with joy, prayer, and thanksgiving – may God fill your life with this cheer and contentment as you serve our Savior, the source of true joy.

Alicia Cortright



PRAYERS FOR LINDA HENKEL

Mrs. Linda Henkel is in a hospital in Illinois. I don't know all the details, but did learn that she was having pains in her feet and legs for a while. The doctors could not discover the problem and then serious pain and complications sent her to the hospital a few days ago.

Her daughter Kara has set up a CaringBridge to keep everyone informed of Linda's status.

You can find current information at: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lindahenkel>

You will be asked to enter an E-mail and password.

Feel free to share this with anyone who might be interested.



REGISTRATION NOW ONLINE!

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103

Sweet Are Your Words

Saturday, July 23, 2011

8:30am-4:30pm

Cross of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Coon Rapids, MN

Join us for a day of celebrating the Sweetness of the Scriptures!

\$25.00 Early Registration til July 2, 2011!

Hope you can join us!



PLEASE SHARE!

If you have prayer requests, news you'd like to share, or would like to help by writing a devotion for the newsletter, please let Valerie know.

In fact, right now, I'm really in need of devotions for future newsletters. Let me know if you'd be willing to write or if you have any questions.

VALERIE@PWRENEWAL.ORG

