

PW Renewal News

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

June 1, 2011



*“She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.”* Proverbs 31:25

My husband and I love books. And it is not rare for us to spend a date night at a bookstore rather than a movie. Used bookstores are the best. Oh the treasures one can find. Last year I came across an almost new copy of The Lutheran Handbook. It's hilarious. Truthful and yet humorous in it's straight forward take on the Lutheran Church in general. Think “Worst Case Scenario Handbook.” Let me share a few chapter titles:

- How to Survive for One Hour in an Un-Air-Conditioned Church
- How to Respond When Someone Sits in Your Pew
- What to Bring to a Church Potluck (by Region)
- How to Be Saved (by Grace through Faith and Not by Your Good Works)

Standing in that book store, laughing at some of the chapter titles, I was struck by the fact that here I was laughing at something that others could see as making fun of the Lutheran Church. I mean, for the most part our traditions can seem a bit stoic and strange to those that focus more on worship styles than theology. I suppose that was what made it so funny to me. (It's funny because it's true.) I recognize that our worship services are fairly reverent, so the chapter “How to Respond to a Disruption During Worship” was particularly amusing. (I have 4 young sons.)

I think humor is one of the most wonderful things God created. Laughter can relieve stress and bring such joy. Laughter can relax and make strangers into friends. I'm not much of a comedic personality myself, but I so appreciate those in my life who are. What a gift of God!

And it is so important for us to be able to laugh at ourselves. When we take ourselves too seriously, we're forgetting a very important fact. We're sinful. We make mistakes and do ridiculous things. Thanks be to God we're also forgiven! We can look back at those ridiculous things we've done and laugh! Because they are no longer held against us, we are no longer accountable for those actions. Just knowing that my sins are now on my Saviors shoulders takes a load off my shoulders and allows me to smile. Life can get pretty serious at times. Remember to laugh at what Satan throws our way and lift one another up with a smile.

Oh, and in case you're curious, my personal favorite in The Lutheran Handbook is “How to Avoid Getting Burned at the Stake.” Very practical. *The Lutheran Handbook*. Augsburg Fortress. Minneapolis, MN. 2005. Valerie Johnson



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.

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Hope You Can Join Us

Saturday, July 23, 2011
Cross of Christ, Coon Rapids, MN

Sweet Are Your Words



A Cup Overflowing

Mrs. Christy Geiger

Life can be a mix of activity that leaves us a bit overbaked! Come, explore the attitude and perspective you have on life and how to find contentment and joy in every stage. If your cup is empty, low or overflowing, be filled with a scoop of thanksgiving, contentment, perspective and motivation as we search Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes. Find encouragement to be filled with joy as you approach your life regardless of what is on the menu!

Schedule, Break outs, Speakers and other Details online.

Earlybird Registration before July 1st, 2011

Print and mail in the attached form or Register Online.
Invite your PW friends to join you.

Registration Now Online!

September 25-27, 2011
Sunday - Tuesday

Elkwater Lake Lodge, Cypress Hills, Alberta, Canada

Renewing Our Vows



Being His Bride – by Naomi Schmidt

God's Word calls you the Bride of Christ! What comfort and encouragement to know that you have been given unconditional love and the unfailing commitment of a perfect Groom! His love also equips and motivates you to be a loving bride to your husband, and an understanding wife as he serves the great Bride of Christ, the Church. Come hear about God's beautiful plan for you as the Bride of Christ and a beloved bride of your husband.

Schedule and other Details online.

Earlybird Registration before August 28th, 2011

Join us at this beautiful lodge. If you're up for a road trip with the girls, come join us in Canada.
What a fun time and encouragement for the ladies "up there!"