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Special Points of Interest

- Pastor's Message
- New Bible Study

“WHY THE NEED FOR DOCTRINE”

“En route to serve people in Chechnya, Slavic Gospel Association president Bob Provost handed some Russian Scripture booklets to an American pastor to distribute on their Areoflot flight. Sixty minutes later, with a joyfully shocked expression, the pastor returned to President Provost and exclaimed, “Unbelievable! Two men tried to give me bottles of vodka as payment for their brochures, several attempted to hand me money, and some asked for more than one copy”

Contrast that hunger for biblical truth with the experience of seminary professor, David Wells. In his book, ***No Place for Truth***, he recalls a seminary student inquiring after theology class, “Was it right to spend so much money on a course of study that was so irrelevant to my desire to minister to people in the church?”

The student’s confusion about the importance of

“doctrine” in every Christian’s life is not limited to the college or seminary campus. It is to be found among the broad spectrum of those calling themselves “Christian” today. By rejecting the “**doctrines**” of the Bible they have in fact rejected the very “teachings” of Jesus Christ. The English word “doctrine” merely translates the New Testa-



ment Greek words “**didache and diskalia.**” The 51 appearances of these words all point to Jesus’ teaching in Scripture. Jesus’ last words to His Apostles before ascending into heaven was “...teach(ing) them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matt. 28:19).” Our command from Christ, the heaven-sent Son of God, who gave the Apostles the very words which God

the Father, gave to Him (John 17:8), is clear, “GIVE THE WORLD MY TEACHINGS!” That is also why the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy, “Watch your life and **doctrine**, closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers (I Timothy 4:16).

Doctrine based solely upon Scripture is the only way we can rebuke or reject false teaching (Rom. 16:17). It is the only way that we can know the true God of creation (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1). It is the only way that we can know about Jesus Christ and the great salvation He has prepared for us (John 3:16; Eph. 2:9) Thank God for faithful professors, pastors, and lay people who find great joy in hearing, reading, studying and proclaiming Christ’s “**Doctrines**” in the Bible. They are indeed becoming a rarity in an age of liberal churches which espouse the relativistic “**doctrine**” of “I’m OK, Your OK.”

Have a blessed New Year!
 Yours in Christ,
Pastor Knapp

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy New Year! This is a time to rejoice in the blessings of the past year and to renew our

A big **THANK YOU AND A WARM HUG** to all those folks who braved the falling snow, icy streets and frigid temperatures to join us in celebrating the *Children's Christmas Worship Service* on Sunday morning, December 14th. Friends, family and congregational members were blessed by a display of the God-given talents of our young Sunday School students in drama, recitation, vocal

and instrumental music as they expressed their faith by sharing the Good News of the Savior's birth.

The children dedicated more than 10 hours to Saturday morning rehearsals during November and December and they did a fine job of presenting the story of our Salvation through Jesus Christ. We thank their families, too, for

bringing them to practice, reviewing speaking parts and lyrics to songs, and encouraging them to play their musical instruments during the service. The result was a meaningful experience for the kids and a wonderful opportunity to give glory to the Living Savior by using the gifts He has given to them. A video copy of the program is available. Contact Paul Dumke.



Thank you to Eady Broscheit and Lora Davidek for directing the Sunday School children when they provided music for the **Candles of Advent** at church on Wednesday evening, December 10th and thanks, also, to the children for singing and to their families for accompanying them to the worship service.

Kids in the divine service bulletin inserts are a very good teaching tool. A Table of Contents for the fliers used last year is available in the church office

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Mornings 9:10am

Adults

The Study of Matthew

Children

Growing in Christ

Youth

"Circle of Friends"

Tuesday Mornings

10:00 am

LifeLight study of 1 John

Tuesday Evenings

6:00 pm

Youth Confirmation

Tuesday Evening 7:00 pm

"In Walks Jesus"

Tuesday January 13

5:30pm

Ladies – "A New Song"



February



WRELC families mark your new 2009 calendars for a special Winter Activity being planned for our Sunday School kids by the Board of Christian Education.

A **"Valentine Party"** will be held Saturday morning, February 14th, from 10:00 until Noon and will include crafts, a snack, some recreation and perhaps a story. We hope all the children will come to join the fun and create a lasting memory that reflects the believer's assertion *"We love because He first loved us and gave Himself for us!"*

Lutheran Women In Mission

Thank you to one and all for making the cookie walk a huge success. A little over \$400 was raised to help support our mission projects.



Mite Sunday is January 18th

Pray for Christian literature for China. Visual and written resources are provided for the adults and children.

The next regular meeting will be January 13th at 5:30 pm

We will looking at Psalm 37 in the Bible study "A New Song"

Do you know of a service man or woman serving over-seas in the Armed Forces? The LWML is planning to send some packages to these men and women serving our country for our February service project. If you have a name, please submit it to Val Smith or Martha Broscheit.

CHOIR

We would like to thank the members of the choir who offered so much of their time and talents to make the Christmas worship and celebration so beautiful. As we enter the New Year we will be work-

ing on music for the Lent and Easter seasons. If you enjoy singing please prayerfully consider joining us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.



EPIPHANY

Epiphany begins on January 6, and ushers in a new season of the Christian year lasting nine weeks and continuing until Ash Wednesday.

Epiphany was, in fact, the first accepted date for celebrating Christmas. Even after the December 25 date was settled upon as the day to celebrate Christmas, Epiphany played an important role. The Christmas celebrations which began on December 25 culminated in the 'Twelfth Night' celebration of Epiphany.

The word 'Epiphany' means 'appearing' or 'manifestation.' The season celebrates the appearing of Truth, or the revelation of God in Jesus Christ as Savior and Redeemer.



GOOD SHEPHERD AUXILIARY WORKSHOP



The Good Shepherd Auxiliary supports the Good Shepherd Homes in the Denver area with donations and crafts sales. Wheat Ridge hosts a workshop the third Friday of the month to work

on handcrafts, quilts and other items to for the crafts sales. There is always good fellowship to accompany busy hands so join us January 16 9am-1pm (bring a sack lunch.)

Time is so fleeting that if we do not remember God in our youth, age may find us incapable of thinking about Him. —Hans Christian Andersen

EVANGELISM

“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15

In Walks Jesus

“Always be ready.” Those are important words. You never know when the faith sharing opportunity will arise, so readiness is the order of the day. All of us are called upon to be witnesses for Christ. This Tuesday evening study begins January 6 at 7:00 pm and invites you to be trained to effectively prepare to witness.



VOLUNTEER

Your are vital to the ministry of the church. There are many opportunities for you to be involved in sharing in the ministry of spreading the Gospel.

Consider one of these areas and contact the church office if you have questions:

- **Sunday morning worship GREETERS**
- **Altar Guild**
- **Counters**
- **Ushers**
- **Altar flowers**



Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church, hosted by the Board of Evangelism, will be having a “Talent Show” with dinner on Friday, February 13, 2009 at 6:00 pm . The cost will be \$5 for individuals or \$10 for families. People interested in sharing their “talents” in this fun-filled evening of fellowship and entertainment should sign up on the “Talent Show” sheet in the narthex.

PLAN NOW THE GUESTS YOU WILL INVITE TO THIS FUN EVENING

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you to all the volunteers who took part in our Christmas outreach. We were able to provide a total of 25 Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to the Karlis Family center of Wheat Ridge. Our homebound members were so thankful for our

Christmas visit. And the program at the Senior Care center was warmly received.

Now that the holidays are over we don't want to forget our friends in need of our love and attention. We need you

to help us call on our more fragile members through our CARE program. Please prayerfully consider make one visit a month to the homebound. Call the church office for more details.

We will continue to visit the care center on the second Thursday of each month and welcome all to come along and share the love of Christ. January 11 at 1:30 pm is this months visit.

SOWRS SENIORS OF WHEAT RIDGE

Thursday
January 15
11:30 am

Sign up in the narthex

Join us for a time of fellowship overlunch at the Great Wall.



Glory to God
in highest heaven,
Who unto all His
Son hath given,
While angels sing with
tender mirth,
A glad new year to all
the earth.

-Martin Luther

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Concordia University, Nebraska Chamber Choir will perform in several cities in Colorado during its tour from Feb. 4-8. Their schedule includes concerts at churches, participating in worship services and performing for school assemblies. The concerts are free and open to the public.

The choir's repertoire covers a wide range of classical and contemporary chamber choral works. On this tour they will premier David von Kampen's *Matins*, an innovative, five-movement choral work based on the historic liturgy for the early morning prayer service written for the choir.

"The Chamber Choir is a select group of 16 singers including both music majors and non-majors," said Dr. Kurt von Kampen, associate professor of music and director of the choir. "These students have great vocal flexibility as they perform chamber choral works from all historical periods as well as vocal jazz selections. This diversity serves them in their future careers as educators and performers."

Performance schedule:
 Thursday, February 5
 Denver Lutheran High School, 3201 West Arizona Avenue, Denver, Colo., 2:15 p.m. Chapel
 Peace Lutheran Church, 5675 Field Street, Arvada, Colo., 7 p.m. Concert

Friday, February 6
 Lutheran High School Parker, 11249 Newlin Gulch Boulevard, Parker, Colo., 10:15 a.m. Assembly
 Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 11500 East Iliff Avenue, Aurora, Colo., 7 p.m. Concert



Concordia University, Nebraska Chamber Choir (upper left, left to right) Theron Jenkins, Kathleen Garner, Chad Wilshusen; (lower left, left to right) Nick Lee, Rebecca Kaaz, Michael Palomaki, Holly Petersen; (center group, left to right) Jessica Werner, Tobiah Elbert, Matt Elmshouser; (right group, front row) Julia Gremmer, Lindsey Auten, Krista Johnson; (right group, back row) Matt Hartwell, Megan Heidemann, Paul von Kampen.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

A Day With Beth Moore Saturday, January 24 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Please join us for a video study led by Beth Moore. Beth Moore is a writer and teacher of best-selling books and Bible studies whose public speaking engagements carry her all over the United States and the world. The day will also include devotions, prayer, music and lunch!

Lutheran Family Services would like to thank you

for all your help and generosity in making Thanksgiving and Christmas special for our dients. We collected 307 Thanksgiving baskets and over 2000 Christmas gifts for foster children, refugees, older adults, care givers and many others in need. Thank you again for making the holidays special!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH GATHERING

Plan ahead for next year, July 5-8, 2009 at the Colorado Convention Center.

Inviting all congregations and their 9th through 12th graders to "BE?"

Registration opens in January.

CHURCH FINANCE

As of November

Receipts \$176,366
 Expense \$177,675
 Difference (\$1,309)
 Bldg Fund \$166,690

ENJOY YOUR GIVING
 Giving to God a weekly amount from the top of your income makes giving an act of love and easier knowing that as you spend the rest of your income, you have given God the "first fruits" rather than the "leftovers."