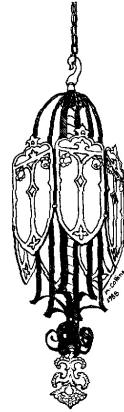




Good News From Grace



“Christ and Caesar”

Lots of sermons have been preached on the “Render Unto Caesar” text in Matthew in support of the division of church and state. Lots more have been preached in support of paying taxes to the government and in support of paying homage to God. Often we’ve been left to decide for ourselves what that means.

When we pay taxes, we recognize that the government has a way of collecting its due in the short term. And when we look at history, we recognize that God has a way of collecting his due in the long term. It is good therefore to understand the historical settings in which the government operated then and now. It is also good to understand the eternal setting in which God operates. Many historians agree that this very subject, the collection of taxes, or the refusal to pay them was the very reason that Rome sent Vespasian and Titus to destroy Jerusalem in 70 AD. The reason that taxes were such a hot, even

inflammatory subject in Judea and Jerusalem was because Rome was in the habit of collecting 600 Talents of silver (the equivalent of 360 million dollars) from Judea each year. In Will Durant’s book, “The History of the World,” published by Simon and Schuster in New York, he has a section titled “Christ and Caesar.” It talks about the huge tax appetite of Rome and of what Tiberius Caesar Augustus needed to maintain the huge military establishment. The military, in turn, was the Empire’s best source of income from booty acquired in conquest and in human slave labor acquired in conquest. In order to move its army (which had proven to be its best income generating investment), Rome built a vast complex of roads, bridges, and aqueducts, some of which are still in use today. Since most taxpayers sought to evade taxes, the state organized a special force of revenue police to examine every man’s property and income; torture was used upon wives, children, and slaves to make them reveal hidden wealth or earnings of the household; severe penalties were enacted for evasion.

In addition to Roman taxes, Joachim Jeremias, in his book: “Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus,” tells of the extravagant lifestyles of the Herodians and the “exorbitant demands” they made upon their people through taxation. This was in addition to the 360 million demanded by Rome. It was these Herodians (the

Catechism Classes Begin

Wednesday afternoon Catechism classes will start on September 1 from 3:45-5:00 p.m. These classes are for all children grades 5-8. Grades 5-6 meet with Pastor Asbury in the South Basement. Grades 7-8 meet with Pastor Wilke in the North Basement.

Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. The Ding-A-Lingers and the Jubilee Ringers will start on Wednesday, September 29. Days and times for the Carillon Ringers (9-12 grade) and the Shekinah Bell Choir (Adult choir) will be determined at a later date. Start up for these choirs will be in late September or early October—watch upcoming bulletins for exact start dates.

Choirs

Children’s choir will be starting up on Wednesday, September 19 at 5:00 p.m. for 5-8 grade and 5:30 p.m. for 1-4 grade. Adult Choir will be starting up sometime in mid-September. Watch upcoming bulletins for the exact date.



We will be starting up the Handbell Choirs again this fall. We are looking at having four handbell choirs. The Ding-A-Lingers (1st-4th grade) will meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. The Jubilee Ringers (5th-8th grade) will meet on

political party which supported the establishment of the puppet Herods as underlords of Rome) who came to Jesus to question and trap him. For the purpose of this questioning, the Herodians had formed an alliance with their rivals the Pharisees. The Pharisees hated Herod's and Rome's taxes. They felt that it was immoral to support a pagan regime that oppressed God's people and worshiped idols. And to do it with a pagan coin on which was stamped the image of Tiberius on one side and the Latin inscription on the other that read: "Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the divine Augustus." The Herodians, on the other hand, strongly supported the regime of the Herods and of Rome, because it enabled the privileged life style to which they had become accustomed. Suspecting that Jesus had come to upset the status quo of their privileged lives, the Pharisees and the Herodians temporarily dropped their animosity toward each other and formed a temporary alliance to trap Jesus in his own words. Matthew 22:15ff says: "Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. 'Teacher', they said, 'we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus,

knowing their evil intent, said, 'You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?'"

In the past, Jesus has been forceful in denouncing hypocrisy while in the province and helpful in doing miracles in the province, always concluding a miracle with "don't tell anyone!" Now he is doing miracles and denouncing hypocrisy in the Temple in the capital city. Jesus is coming down to his last days on earth in this present body. He is now openly challenging every convention that does not conform with the Kingdom of God. He struck the fig tree dead, because it bore no fruit. He openly accepts the "Lord, Save! Hosannas" of the children on his Palm Sunday ride. He threw the merchants and moneychangers out of the temple. He healed the blind and the lame right in the temple precincts. Then he told the parables of the two sons, the tenants, and of the wedding banquet; and now the question of paying taxes to Caesar. There is to be only one more question by those attempting to trap him; that is the question of marriage at the resurrection. Then they will have been so often confounded that they will dare ask him no more questions.

In this second to the last confrontation with his accusers Jesus asks for a coin. Matthew 22:19 says: "'Show me the coin that pays the census tax.' Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, 'Whose image is this and whose inscription?' They replied, 'Caesar's.' At that he said to them, 'Then repay to

Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.'" In asking for the coin, Jesus lets Caesar speak for Caesar. It is Caesar's realm. It was minted in the Temple of Juno Moneta, the Roman goddess of reminding and warning. We get our word for "money" from the temple of "mone-ta". The English language dropped the "ta" and borrowed the money. Their question was a trap. Matthew 22:17 says: "Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful (according to God's law) to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Notice that Jesus does not render a judgment on the morality of Caesar's administration. But by holding up the coin of the goddess of Mone-ta, you are under the reminder and the warning of Mone-ta. And when dealing with the Law of God, you are under the reminder and the warning of God. Jesus whole time in Jerusalem has been about the Reminder and the Warning of God: Repay to God what belongs to God! Jesus raises the debate to a new level when he reminds the Pharisees and the Herodians that they should be concerned rather with repaying God with the good deeds that are His due. This was the message to the Fig Tree-bear fruit! This was the message to the Tenants-bear fruit! This was the message to the Two Sons-bear fruit! This is the message to Us-bear fruit! Repay to God what belongs to God.

A young man Brian, in an old Pontiac, stopped to help an old woman from St.

Louis driving a Mercedes. She had a flat tire on a rainy night. He skinned his knuckles and dirtied his clothes. He required no thanks, just said help someone else. The woman drove on, then stopped for soup at an old gas station and eatery. A sweet young woman who looked 8 months pregnant waited on her and gave her a towel for her wet hair. The woman with the Mercedes left a note on a napkin and \$400. The waitress went home and kissed her sleeping husband, Brian, saying: "It's going to be O.K. now"- "Bear Fruit!" *Pastor Wilke*

Address Changes

Please notify the church office if your address changes. The Post Office charges us 50¢ for each address change they return to us.

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6 Founders Way Unit A
St. Louis, MO 63105-3096

Magel Suhr
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Oshkosh, NE 69154-0115

Linda Rosacker
3700 S. Westport Ave. #3900
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Stewards in Partnership

Faithful stewards live their lives in service for Christ because Christ dwells in them and they desire to please Him. As His steward, you are *“an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work”* (2 Timothy 2:21). God calls us into His fellowship and partnership through His Son and equips us to be faithful stewards.

In John 15:5, Jesus explains fully what it means to be in partnership with Him. Jesus said *“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”* We are branches which have no life by ourselves, but we receive life from the vine. The vine supports and sustains the branches on which the fruit appears. Faithful stewards are branches that bear much fruit as Jesus, the vine, nourishes them. In this way, God calls us into partnership with Himself.

As stewards, our partnership with Christ is made possible because God dwells in us. 1 John 4:15 reads, *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son*

of God, God lives in him, and he in God.”

When God dwells with in us, we are no longer the same. He transforms and molds us into stewards who willingly surrender our will to seek His will. No longer is it “I” or “me”, but God who works through us to accomplish His purpose. Our lives are dedicated to Him, and we are prepared for tasks given to us as God takes us into full partnership.

On our own we can do nothing. Only as we stay connected to Jesus can we be faithful and fruitful stewards. In comparison to what Jesus provides, our part in the partnership is small, but God has chosen us to extend His Kingdom. On earth, we are God’s hands, feet, and mouth. We have been created to do good works which He has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). With God as our senior partner, we can make a difference in our families, churches, places of work, and our communities. When we allow Christ to work through us, we will see how God can multiply and magnify our talents, gifts, and resources.

Births

The Lord blessed Josh and Jessica Moenning with a son, Henry Elliot. Henry joins a sister, Amalia (Molly). We share in their joy.

**Voter's Assembly
July 20, 2010**

The meeting was opened with singing of "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less." and a verse from Colossians and a prayer.

President Rob Mercer established a quorum and a motion was made and 2nd to approve the minutes from the April Voters meeting. Motion carried.

New voting member, Shanna Wright was approved with a motion to accept and 2nd. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report-Kirsten Rosner: She submitted a balance sheet and profit and loss for voters to look at. She said synod mission, Christ Lutheran and Lutheran High tuition are all paid up to date. Capital repair note and operating note were renewed and interest on those notes were paid to date. A motion was made to accept the treasurers report and a 2nd. Motion carried.

Pastor Wilke's report: Transfers out include: Jolene Ellenberger, Vic Heggemeyer, Hailey Shoemaker and Roxanne Kline. Motion to accept these transfers was made, 2nd and motion carried. Those seeking to be removed were Monty and Scott Hoskinson and Amber Frank. Motion made to accept and 2nd motion carried. LCMS convention concluded Sunday and Matt Harrison was elected President. VBS went well. Congratulations to Rachel Baumann and Christy Owen to a job well done. Bill and

Sue Heermann continue contact with both Pastors. Pastor Wilke said to keep them in your prayers. National Youth Gathering going on now in New Orleans. Everyone having a very good experience. They will be home on Thursday.

Pastor Asbury's report: He said he is encouraged by all church boards. Lord continues to work in great ways with these boards. Please continue to pray for the sick at our congregation. Kelly Asbury and baby girl doing fine. Her due date is in September.

Elders Tim Ferguson: Family Life Board approached Elders about updating the family room/baby room. The Elders approved and changes are being made. The TV monitor in that room needs to be on at all times during church. The Elders and Ushers will make sure this happens. Shut-in visits are resuming and are being received very well by those being visited. Discussion with the Elders on ways to help the Heermanns with tuition. It was decided to give them \$4000.00 from the Wagner funds to help pay for Bills' schooling. There were 6 Lutheran High scholarships awarded and 3 Concordia scholarships awarded totaling \$7500.00.

Trustees-Dave Pinnt: Security system, monitor and cameras were all replaced for a total of \$4000.00. Lightening took out the fire alarm system. Replacement was \$1450.00. Sidewalk and drainage work is complete. Had a few extra repairs than thought but everything went well. The

water heater and water softener need to be replaced at the parsonage.

Education-No report

Welfare Committee-Paul Warneke: Last report they had \$3357.00 with income of \$1100.00 and total expenses of \$919.58 leaving a balance of \$3557.59. There are more requests and they are trying to cut down on the re-requests that they are receiving.

Evangelism Committee-Paul Warneke: They are still an active group with visitation being done on visitors who sign the pew books or guest book.

Stewardship Committee-Pastor Asbury: Laura Jostes is working on the church brochures while LeAnn Rathke recovers from surgery. Waiting for permission slips to be returned from those with pictures in brochure. 65-70 gifting surveys were returned. LeAnn Rathke will be compiling them soon.

Memorial Committee-None

Lutheran High Northeast-Paul Leckband: Paul left an information sheet for all voters to read. Beef Blast is coming up soon—August 29th. Steel structure for new practice gym is up and coming along nice. School starts August 14th. There will be two new teachers this year. Rebecca Jabs replacing Trevor Osten and a part-time teacher will be replacing Bob Cook.

Endowment Committee-Phil Zastrow: Management team was changed to Elkhorn Valley Bank and Steve Kimes

was there to answer any questions. He gave an investment sheet to all voters to look at. Question was asked as to what the ministry fund was to be used for. Pastor Wilke said that fund was established to be used for education, scholarships, enhancing confirmation programs etc. There are many possibilities with this fund.

Family Life Committee-Pastor Wilke: Chad Wright is the chair person. The group just had a baby shower for all expecting mothers in the congregation with about 30-40 people attending. They are also working on updating the family/baby room. Ablaze monies are being used by the committee. Hope chests are being hand made for all new baptism's. 85 and over group meet at Beth Cooks for a gathering-another meeting is coming. Pastor Wilke said he is very proud of this groups progress.

Building Committee-Rob Jenkins: They have had 3 meetings so far. Very productive gatherings. Congregation will soon be getting a letter about the feasibility of building onto our church. Shawn Fuhrman showed a picture that JEO Associates made of what the church could look like from the outside with a new addition. To date the committee has spent \$987.75 for JEO and envelopes and brochures. A lot of discussion was talked about the new addition. What are the plans, etc. Nothing has been decided and it depends on the feasibility study and

how much money is raised and pledge to this project. Discussion on when to start construction? This is too early in the stage to know when. They do know whatever project is done with whatever money is raised that the parsonage would have to be moved. There was a motion made and 2nd that if money is available and consent is given by family living in yellow house next to parsonage that we purchase the house for additional parking. Motion carried with 2 opposed. This would have to be ratified at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business: Voting on changing the Articles—Article 5 would be changed to add Family Life Board. This needed to be voted on 2 consecutive meetings. Motion made to change 2nd and motion carried. Voting on changing the By-laws—Motion was made and 2nd to accept the change in the By-laws as stated to add Family Life Board to the By-laws. Motion carried.

Motion was made and 2nd to accept Lynn Walmsley as the new secretary for the congregation. Motion carried.

New Business: None

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Closed with voters reciting the Lords Prayer.

Hospitalizations: Please call the church office to let the pastors know of any hospitalizations in your family. Hospitalizations since the last newsletter:

DuWayne Eucker	Larry Hoffman
Lyle Nelson	Bev Baker
Rob Jenkins	Gene Stortvedt

Please remember them in your prayers.

Deadline for articles for the October newsletter is Wednesday, September 22.

Bible Quiz

The 12 men in Jesus' inner circle of followers had a variety of backgrounds, but most of their occupations are unknown. Which combination of jobs listed below correctly matches two of Jesus' disciples?

- A. Fisherman and Doctor
- B. Fisherman and Tax Collector
- C. Carpenter and Tax Collector
- D. Fisherman and Farmer

Answer on p. 11 of Newsletter

September Birthdays

Mattalyn Boning..... 9/1
 Amanda Gross. 9/1
 Marvin Pospisil.. 9/1
 Marge Simpson..... 9/1
 Paeton Coler..... 9/2
 Brad Hoelscher..... 9/2
 Don Mertes..... 9/2
 Kayla Shaver. 9/2
 Megan Walmsley. 9/2
 Bill Heermann. 9/3
 Sydney Owen..... 9/4
 Mark Dyer. 9/6
 Katelyn Marotz..... 9/7
 Ray Wilke..... 9/7
 Josh Moenning. 9/8
 Curtis Tunink. 9/8
 Dana Wright..... 9/8
 Greg Alder. 9/9
 Heidi Bonsall. 9/9
 Carrie Hoelscher..... 9/9
 Steve Kimes. 9/11
 Marilyn Krueger..... 9/11
 Gene Lorang..... 9/11
 Scott Tunink..... 9/11
 Marla Meyer..... 9/12
 Megan Scheffler..... 9/12
 Joyce Gansebom..... 9/13
 Aspyne Westerhold..... 9/13
 Jill Winkelbauer..... 9/13
 Lee Obermeyer..... 9/14
 Phil Zastrow..... 9/14
 Sherry Dinkel..... 9/15
 Jerry Janssen..... 9/15
 Rick Klug..... 9/15
 Amber Nielsen..... 9/15
 Lori Boning. 9/16

Linda Plouzek..... 9/16
 Jay Baumann Sr..... 9/17
 Shari Blecher. 9/17
 Brian Boning. 9/17
 John Dinkel. 9/17
 Dave Pinnt. 9/17
 Kevin Baker. 9/18
 Sandy Swanson..... 9/18
 Ruby Timmerman..... 9/18
 Zachary Baumann..... 9/19
 Jim Scheer. 9/19
 Brandon Scheffler..... 9/19
 Marge Wendt. 9/19
 George Kern..... 9/20
 Audrey Miller..... 9/20
 Helen Schmidt. 9/20
 Trevor Buckels..... 9/21
 Paula Winkelbauer..... 9/21
 Alyson Wilke. 9/22
 Karen Christiansen..... 9/23
 Dylan Grey..... 9/23
 Jessica Moenning..... 9/23
 Wendell Newcomb..... 9/23
 Lacy Kimes..... 9/24
 Adam Baumann..... 9/25
 Waylon Petsche. 9/25
 Jonathan Allen..... 9/26
 Johnana Peterson..... 9/26
 Dustie White..... 9/26
 Eileen Hoskinson..... 9/27
 Arlene Riege..... 9/28
 Annika Thomas..... 9/29
 Alexis Wright..... 9/29
 Harry Lorenzen..... 9/30

Answer to Bible Quiz: B (See Matthew 4:18 and 10:3.)

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 Daryl Freudenburg Steve Weaver
 Jim Schaefer

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 Shawn Fuhrman

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 Sherry Dinkel Barb Schaefer
 Adam Marotz Ray Wilke II
 Josh Moenning Sue Wyant

September 2010 Vol. 34, No. 9

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