

vise & shine

november 2012

from the pastor's study...

Thank you, Lord

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6 (NASB)

Thank You! How hard is it for us to say this simple little phrase in life? We struggle with it because we do not want to admit that we desire help and frankly need it at times. These are words we need to learn, for in them we encourage and acknowledge another who has by the grace of God helped us.

We do not deserve things in life and we should not expect things from others and unfortunately we have become a society who thinks we are owed something in some form or another. We do not acknowledge the fact that God works through people (even us) and helps us to see another in need. Are we paying heed to the Spirit when He calls us out to help another or do we laugh and say they had it coming?

We are basically at times not in tune with God. When this is the case we become self-involved and miss the cries and yearnings of another. Have you ever been so clueless in a situation that you miss someone who is asking for help because your mind is selfishly focusing on your own problems? I know I have and I am frustrated as a pastor when I miss things! The reality I find is that I want to fix or cure a situation and God wants me to shut up and just listen. *Lord, teach us to pray even before a situation comes up, so that we are in tune with You and therefore in tune with our neighbor, who might be in need. As we see in the wisdom of Solomon, "Man's steps are ordained by*

Lord, How then can man understand his way?"

We say we love God but our actions do not reflect the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts! We worry and we question and we say, "How can it be so, Lord?" When in fact it is so because He is God and we need to allow our cares to be the cares of God. "Teach me to seek out Your face, O Lord and the ways of righteousness!" If we desire the things of God we will stand back and serve Him by serving His people! We will learn to listen to others and allow them to share and serve in manners that God has taught them. We will refrain from boasting about what we have done and point rather to what God has done in and through us. Are we so self-righteous that we have forgotten to thank God and others? Do we expect without asking and demand without grace? We are a foolish people when we have become so self-conscious that we neglect God and our neighbor.

We need the Word of God because we need re-proof! We tell ourselves: "I do not want to hear that part of the scripture because it hurts my feelings!" It is time that we get over ourselves and place God in His rightful position! We have taken the Word of God and thrown it out the window because we do not want to deal with our sinfulness and neglect. We would rather hear the words of someone who pats our back and tells us it will be alright than listen to the fact that it isn't all right. We need to hear that we are sinful and wrong at times when we take our eyes off of God. *Thank You, Lord, that You are always right and know when to bring us back down to earth.*

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*inspiring you
to "get up and
get going" in
your daily walk
with christ*

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birth announcement



Jason and Toni Dahlmeier are happy to announce the birth of their son, JUSTICE STEVEN DAHLMEIER, born on October 18, 2012. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 22 inches long. Big sisters Grace and Mercy welcomed him home. Proud grandparents are Steven & Marilyn Dahlmeier, Terry Scott, and Sherry & Bryan Gill. Great-grandmother is Annette Dahlmeier.

Join us for Praise Night!

Who doesn't have much for which to be thankful? And who couldn't enjoy a night filled with praise? (You know you fit into one of those categories.)

Join us for our annual Night of Praise and Thanksgiving at Plymouth Apostolic on Wednesday, November 21 at 6:30 pm. as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our praise and thanks. Refreshments will be served following in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are able, please consider sharing your talents - musical,

spoken or theatrical - with us. A sign up sheet is on the narthex desk.

A free-will offering will be taken, with funds raised going toward Camp Lahti and The Peniel Learning Center in Tiberias, Israel. If you would like to donate to these worthy recipients, please send a gift payment to Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church.

We hope you will plan to join us as we offer up praise and thanksgiving to God for all He has blessed us with.

You can help with mission opportunity

Dear Friends,
We are writing this to tell you about an amazing opportunity we have as a family. Through prayer and discussion we believe we have been called to go to Mexico. This will be a short-term mission to go and build a home plus minister to an orphanage and many families as well.

As most of you know we have been homeschooling our children for a few years. Jacob and Hannah attend WEST, a homeschool group for junior and senior high school students. They are taking their second year of Spanish and this opportunity has come up with their class to use what they have learned to go forth and share the love of Jesus Christ. Our plan is to go with at least four other homeschooling families, leaving on Jan 2,

2012 and returning home on Jan 7, 2012. Our prayer is that we will be able to build a house for a needy family, and to minister to children at a nearby orphanage. Jacob and Hannah's Spanish teacher is going to write some skits that they and the other children will perform at the orphanage. We will also be leading a worship service there on Sunday morning.

The trip will cost \$4000 for flight, transportation, food, and lodging. We have already made a down payment for our family. As a group we are also trying to raise \$7200 for the home that we will build. The family we are building for currently does not live in a home. We are hoping to provide them with a two room house, with amenities that include bed, kitchen table and chairs, dishes and silverware.

It is truly amazing to our family that so much can be provided for a family at such a small cost.

We are asking for you to cover us with prayer as we embark on this journey. If you feel that you would like to help us financially it would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be mailed to Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth, MN 55441. Please put in the Memo - "Bergstedt Family - Mexico Missions". Thank you for your time and for your prayers.

God Bless You,
Pastor Charles, Leann, Jacob, Hannah, and Samantha

Youth travel to Esko Rally



PALC youth and family members traveled north to Esko, MN for the Fall Youth Rally in September. Pictures provided by Brigette Olson and Kris Walters.

thank you from page 1

Teach us to pray and seek You out in all matters with thanksgiving because You have indeed granted us all that we need.

If you read this article, THANK YOU for listening to one who needs to remember the wonderful gifts granted to us every day by God! We have

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brews 13:6 (ESV)

(Somehow, just seeing those words helps me feel less anxious.)

I've been reading a book called "The Bronze Bow" to the boys for history and I'm continually reminded that if the Jewish people, who were longing and yearning for freedom under Roman rule, could continue to hope and trust in God, then there is little reason that I can't. I have more freedoms than they ever dared to wish for at that point in history. And even if those freedoms are taken away for future generations, we can simply look back to history to know that God delivered his people from persecution, martyrdom, oppression AND the eternal con-

reason for hope and joy TODAY because we worship a Risen Savior, Jesus Christ! May the Lord richly bless You and Yours in this time of Thanksgiving!

-Pastor Charles A. Bergstedt

sequences of sin.

It shouldn't be too difficult to ask: "What can man do to me?" in that context. The best thing I can do is to teach my children about those promises, pray they will remember them and that God will continue to protect all of us as He has never failed to do since He created us. His track record alone proves that we can rely on the promise that He is with us and He will strengthen us.

I can and should take courage in the fact that I may not know about tomorrow, but I do know who holds my hand. And my children's.

on the calendar...

sunday mornings

9 am - Sunday School; 10:15 a.m. - Prayer time; 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service; 11:30 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship
first Sunday of the month - Healing Prayer Service, 10:30 a.m. (if desired)
third Sunday of the month - Worship Service with Holy Communion

wednesday evenings

We have activities for all ages beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring the whole family!

saturday, november 30

Senior Outing to Velkommen at Augsburg College.

saturday, december 15

Monthly women's Bible Study in the Fireside Room, 9 am.

sunday, december 16

Sunday School Christmas program and Choir Cantata. Programs begin at 9 am with the Sunday School program and the choir cantata will take place during the morning worship service. Please join us as we celebrate Christmas.

monday, december 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 pm.

saturday, january 26

Monthly women's Bible Study in the Fireside Room, 9 am.

from the editor's desk...

I don't know about tomorrow..

It's hard to be a parent and not worry about the future—not mine so much—but the future of my children. What will this country look like when they are my age? What will culture dictate is appropriate and what isn't? In 30 years, will it be better for Christians or worse?

It sometimes keeps me up at night.

And even though I know it shouldn't, I can't keep myself from worrying. I worry that my sons will be influenced by atheist college professors. I worry that they will be unable to speak about their faith without being ridiculed or mocked. I worry that they will be unable to worship freely. I worry that they'll face persecution like many Christians around the world already do. I sometimes even worry that I haven't done enough to prepare them for living as a Christian in today's (or tomorrow's) world.

And yet I know my fears and worrying, while perhaps not irrational or unfounded, are not what God wants. He is the one who prepares hearts. He is the one who shields hearts and minds. He is the one who is in control, no matter who may control our government, our society or our religious freedoms.

When I worry, I put the focus on me. Or I give too much power to things of this world and not to God. I fret about things that God has told me not to fret about. I disobey many, many biblical commands to "fear not."

I worked with the boys to memorize Joshua 1:9 last year. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (ESV) Even though those words are on the tip of my tongue, I still have trouble believing or trusting that God really is with me wherever I (or my boys) will go.

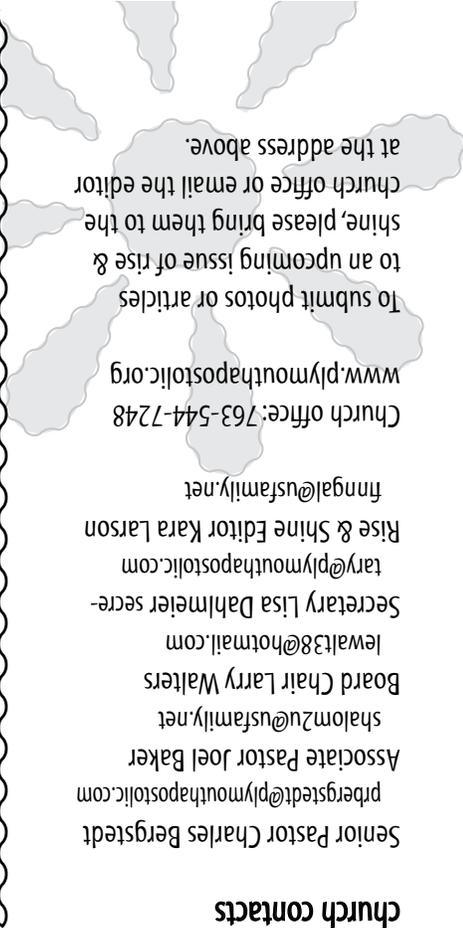
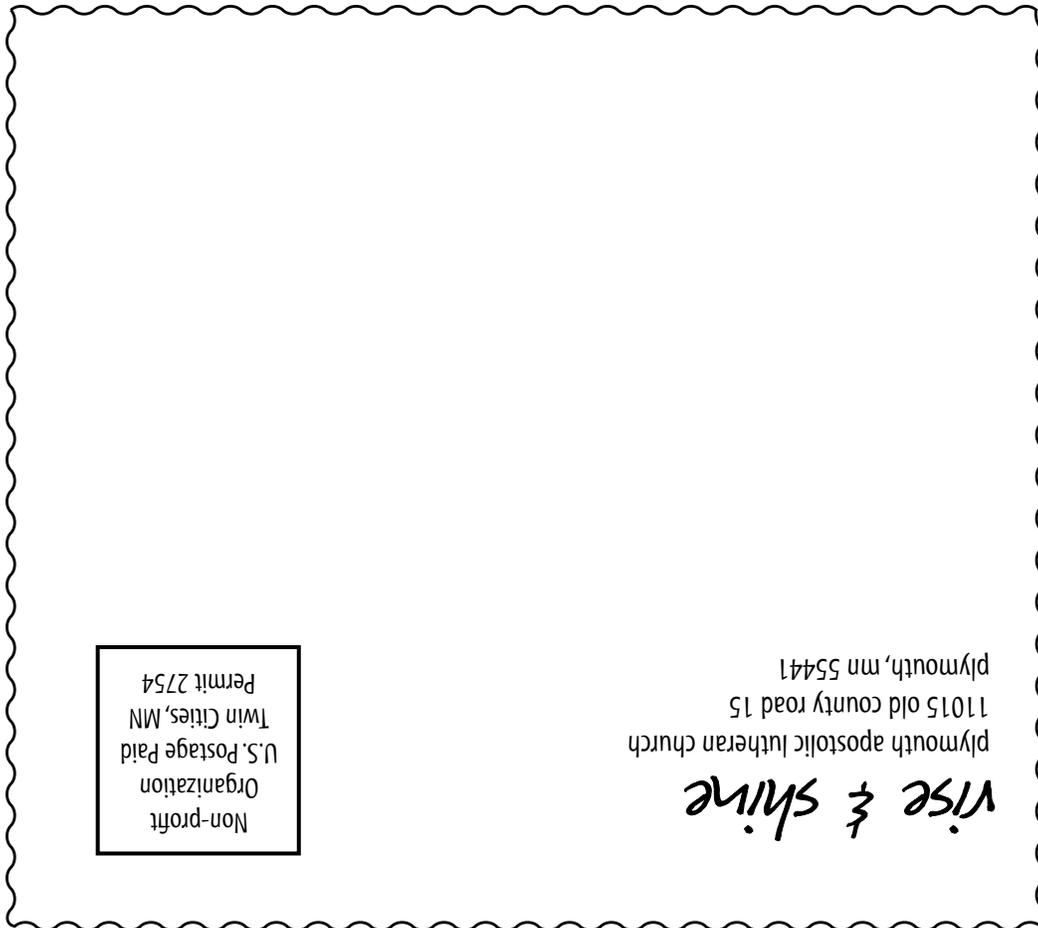
I've often wondered why we as humans can be so distrustful and fickle. God has proven Himself over and over and yet we're still not confident in what He can and will do. We still aren't sure how things will pan out and if we can truly count on Him. His promises don't seem to mean much, even though they're repeated over and over in His Word.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? -Psalm 27:1 (ESV)

Fear not; for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. -Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: what can man do to me?" -He-

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church contacts