

# The Christian Light

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

MARCH, 2010

## Want to Curl Up With a Good Book?

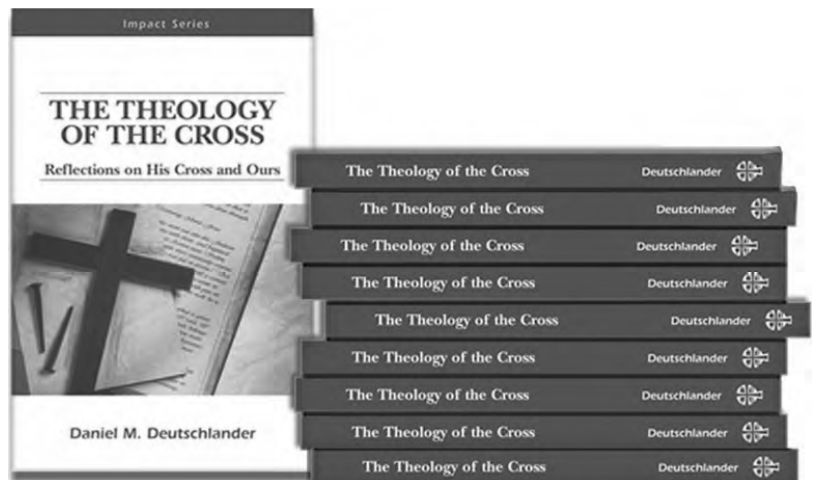
The following article appeared in the Inside Journal publication of our synod's publishing house. It describes something that we will try here at Morrison, beginning on Sunday, March 14.

For the last six years we have had a Christian Book Club in our congregation. The club meets regularly (typically once a month), usually at one of the members' homes, to discuss a portion of a book. Most often there are about ten participants. The participants select the books from a list of titles provided by the pastor. The length of the book and the discussion it generates determine the number of sessions required to finish the study. On average, our Christian Book Club reads five or six books a year.

Most recently, the Christian Book Club decided to study professor emeritus Daniel Deuschlander's *The Theology of the Cross: Reflections on His Cross and Ours* (IJ15N0746). We contacted Northwestern Publishing House to inquire about a discount for the purchase of multiple volumes. An order of 10 or more, we were told, would qualify for a 10% discount; an order of 20 or more would get a 20% discount. (Also mentioned was a 40% discount with the purchase of 100 or more, but that wasn't going to happen in our congregation.) We publicized the book in e-mail updates and service folders, using the description of the book NPH provided in one of its insert copy masters. Twenty-five people signed up to purchase the book.

Though only 10 to 12 participated in the three month discussion

of the book (and its appendices), several other members read the book on their own. One such member called it "extremely helpful," because it had provided him new insight into the Christian life. A couple of Christian Book Club participants noted that it



was the best book they had ever read. "Every Christian should read it," one commented. "It's that good." Those who participated in the discussions felt that talking about the book with fellow believers, with some pastoral direction, made the read more rewarding.

*If you would like to order a copy of this book, please sign up on the sheet in the church basement. The cost will be \$17 if 10 people sign up. \$15 if 20 people sign up.*

*On Sunday, March 14 the Sunday night Bible Study will begin a weekly discussion of this valuable book. Please join us!*

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*We exist  
to  
Honor God  
as we  
Gather  
around the  
Gospel  
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and  
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# Congregational News



## Council Meeting Notes

The council studied "Priorities in Ministry: God wants us to set priorities" in February.

The Audit committee has met once and will meet one more time to complete its work.

The water damage in the church entry was caused by problems on the roof. The roof will be repaired when it gets warmer. The estimate of repairs is about \$3,000.

Andy and Danielle Pantzlaff were granted a transfer to Good Shepherd in West Bend at their request.

Pastor Ott reported on sacred acts for the month and Bible Class attendance.

The worship committee reported on plans for palms, lilies, and the Alleluia Banner for Transfiguration Sunday.

The Outreach Committee will oversee Easter for Kids on Saturday, March 27.

Mr. Humann reported on activities at the Principals' Conferences. He also reported on the test results of our students. Our results were above the synod and national average in every category. The results are included in this newsletter.

Mr. Muchka reported on the Youth Group's activities and upcoming events (details are on the facing page.).

The Council approved Mr. Muchka's request to put new carpeting in a bedroom at his own expense.

The treasurer reported operating income of \$27,160 in January. Operating expenses in January were \$42,068. This leaves a deficit of \$14,907 for the year.

Synod Mission Offerings in January were \$1,032. The goal for 2010 is \$26,000, or \$2,167 a month.

High School offerings in January were \$635. Our commitment for the year is \$13,000, or \$1,183 a month.

The balance on our operating

loan at the end of January was \$253,000. The monthly interest paid on this loan was over \$1,296 in January. The limit on our line of credit is \$300,000.

The loan on the school addition stands at \$9,258 as of the end of January. The amount will be paid in full before our next meeting. The council discussed having an acknowledgement of God's grace to us in repaying the loan as a part of worship sometime after we have paid off the loan. We also would like to have a special meal or event outside of worship to thank God for this blessing. Watch the bulletin and newsletters for details.

The council also discussed a request for our congregation to make a public stand on the windmill issue in the community. After discussion we felt it was not within the work God has entrusted to us to offer up an opinion on the matter.

## Church Band

Our church band will again meet in March to prepare for the Easter festival service. Rehearsals will be held Sunday, March 14 and March 28 after worship. A final rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. We will also discuss opportunities for the band to perform during the summer. All instrumentalists are encouraged to join. If you're unable to make rehearsals but would still like to play, please contact Mrs. Kuchenbecker.

## Easter for Kids

Easter for Kids is being planned for Saturday, March 27. We are looking to have an outreach focus, with this event, and it would be great to see kids there from the community at large as well as from our own church and school. We will incorporate the Easter story in the day's lessons and will also be giving tools and tips regarding outreach using the Easter story as a guide. Look for sign-up sheets in the church basement--thanks for your help, and God's continued blessings in your everyday outreach!

## Easter Lilies

The worship committee is ordering Easter lilies to decorate our church. The cost per plant is \$7.00. A sign up sheet is available in the church basement. Please sign up before March 28 if you wish to purchase a flower.

## MLHS Sunday Showcase

The Sunday Showcase is March 7, 11am – 2pm. Silent & live auction items, food, musical entertainment, kids games, and much more make this a great event for all ages! Bring the family and enjoy a great day on MLHS' campus. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to replace the gymnasium bleachers. Preview the auction items by visiting the MLHS website: [www.mlhslancers.com](http://www.mlhslancers.com). Can't wait to see you there!

## Baptisms

On Sunday, February 7 Caleb Adam Otto was baptized into Christ. Caleb, the son of Alec and Shannon Otto, was born on January, 25, 2010.

On Sunday, February 14 Kora Meili Pingel was baptized into Christ. Kora, the daughter of Tim and Jen Pingel, was born on January 26, 2010.

On Sunday, February 21 Otis Kenneth Jaschob was baptized into Christ. Otis, the son of Nathan and Gretchen Jaschob, was born on February 8, 2010.

Please remember these new children of God and their families in your prayers!

## Youth Group Notes

The youth group continues to meet for Bible class each Monday night at 7:00 p.m. The number of teens attending over the past few months has been amazing! We have begun a new study on 1 Peter.

On Friday and Saturday, March 12-13, the youth group will host our annual Blindmens Volleyball Tournament. We will also serve a Pancake and Porkie Breakfast on Sunday, March 14. All youth are encouraged to help out each of the days. Contact Mr. Muchka for more information.

The youth group is also preparing for our district youth rally which will be held in Trego, WI, July 14-17.

## Bible Classes

**Adult-Christ Light** meets in the church Sunday at 9:00 a.m. basement and Thursday at 8:30 p.m. Each week we study the same Old Testament stories that the children of the congregation are learning. The Thursday class will not meet during Lent.

The Sunday morning **Commons Study** meets at 8:00 a.m. We are digging deeply into the book of Hebrews.

The **Monday morning class** meets at church at 7:00 a.m. We are studying what God says about homosexuality and how he wants us to minister to homosexuals.

The **Tuesday afternoon class** has started a study in the *Fifth Pew From the Front* series. We are studying "The Daily Grind" episode in this video based series. Join us for an enjoyable study that applies to daily life!

**Naomi Circle** and **Bread for Life** Women's Bible studies are both studying Zechariah. Naomi Circle will meet at the Oak Street Café at 10:00 a.m. on March 15. Bread for Life will meet at school on Tuesday, March 16. If you have an idea for a menu item contact Paula Ott.

**Men's Bible Study** We will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 14. We will continue our study of Men in the Church with the study, "Strengthening and Supporting One-Another". Dennis Griepentrog will lead this study. Join us!

## Funerals

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Norma Timm to her eternal home. Norma died on Wednesday, February 3. Her funeral was at Morrison Zion on Saturday, February 6.

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Victor Blauert to his eternal home. Victor died on Monday, February 8. His funeral was at Morrison Zion on Saturday, February 13.

Please remember all who mourn in prayer.

## Ladies Aid Notes

The Ladies Aid had a busy February. On February 4, we had our monthly meeting. In addition to enjoying wonderful desserts, we discussed the sending of welcome cards to visitors of our church as well as the importance of distributing Meditations booklets. We thought the congregation should know that the Ladies Aid purchases the Meditations books for the congregation. Members are not required to pay for them, but we do take donations. You can place your donation in the box provided. The books cost around \$3 each. We also had the privilege of serving for the funerals of Norma Timm and Victor Blauert. What a wonderful blessing that we are able to help provide lunch for their family and friends. Want to know what else the Ladies are up to? Join us for our next meeting on Sunday, March 7, immediately after church!

## Memorial Gifts

Thank you to the family of the late Ralph Kitzrow for memorial money to update the bathrooms in the church basement to make them more accessible.

Thank you to the family of the late Ellner Detke for the memorial money to purchase 4 tables for use in the school gym for events, 6 hymnals for church, and money for books in Mrs. Kuchenbecker and Mrs. Wegner's room.

## Family Bible Retreat

March 5-7 is our school's Spring Break. During this weekend 11 families will head to the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells for a Family Bible Retreat. During the weekend we will dive into God's word, enjoy the indoor water park, and relax in a 10 bedroom condo. Plans are already being made for 2011. If you are interested watch for further information in the months ahead.



## Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Mrs. Wegner

It has been a busy month in the Kindergarten and Preschool room. Both classes learned stories about the children of Israel as they were in the wilderness and the Promised Land. They enjoyed many different Valentine projects and activities and had a Valentine exchange. Both classes continue to learn new letters and numbers, and the Kindergarten class continues to read new words.

The Preschool class has been enjoying a Circle Time unit "I Am Special." They enjoyed a trip to the Fire Station.

The Kindergarten class had a field trip to the Best – Kraft Furniture Factory. They finished their community helpers unit on "My Country." In Science, we have been learning about "Penguins" and "Bears."

Thank-you for the books that were donated to our room from Ellner Detke's memorial money.

## 1st and 2nd Grade News

Mrs. Kuchenbecker

The first and second graders studied map reading in Social Studies. In Science they studied nutrition and the food groups. A representative from the Dairy Council visited our class. Together they built Mr. Health from the healthy foods from each food group produced in Wisconsin.

In first grade we worked with long vowel sounds and counting money. The second graders studies digraphs and two digit addition, subtraction, and place value to hundreds. Both classes studied present and past tense verbs.

The class enjoyed some special mixed up days. They had backward day during spirit week where their clothes, desks and the entire schedule ran backward. They celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by making hats, and necklaces, sharing collections of 100 and doing 100 lots of things. The latest reading challenge is collecting bubbles for reading from Spongebob's bubble box. Most of the class are well on their way to meeting their goal and earning the prize.

## 3rd and 4th Grade News

Mr. Humann

The third and fourth graders enjoyed a trip to Barkhausen in January where they learned about tracks and signs, dissected an owl pellet, and learned how to survive in the wilderness. The students had to build a shelter, make fire, and melt water to drink. In March we head back to Barkhausen for a maple syrup demonstration. Also in March we will head to FVL for their spring children's theater. We all look forward to warmer weather and beginning our new Science unit on the earth. In Language Arts we learned about contractions and comparative and superlative. Math is also keeping us busy as we are studying arrays and long division.

## Fun Day

We studied Bible stories about Jesus' miracles at Fun Day. We also continue to learn new letters and numbers and do many different stories and games to help remember them. In Circle Time, the children enjoyed Valentine activities and stores about Clifford.

Your child is welcome to join us after they turn three years old. We enjoy sharing Jesus with the children and doing other fun activities.

## March Academics

March is an exceptional busy month academically for our school with competitions at both high schools. On March 19 two students will head to Fond du Lac to compete in the annual Spelling Bee. On March 18 and 23 the 5-8 grade students will go to FVL for a Math Meet. On March 20 students in grades K-8 can compete in the Academic Fair at MLHS. These opportunities are a great way for our students to use their gifts and abilities to the fullest.

## Children Feeding Thousand

The Children Feeding Thousand mission offering that our students are collecting from January through March is doing great. As of today we have raised \$961.14 toward our goal of \$1200. On April 23 the entire school will go to FVL to package these meals to be sent to Africa. Our school will supply over 8,000 meals and as a federation we hope to make more than 285,000 meals for starving children. For more information on this program you can visit FVL's website.

**Wish List** The church and school wish list has been updated. Take some time to look it over. If you have questions, do not hesitate to speak to Mr. Humann

## 5th and 6th Grade News

Mr. Pingel

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class enjoyed a fabulous February! The students have been busy learning many new things. In Christ Light the students learned about the Israelites and how they trusted in the Lord as they entered into the Promised Land. In science, the students learned about weather and God's amazing wisdom and love in creating Earth. In reading class, the students engaged in learning about some explorations in space, underwater exploration of the Titanic, and an expedition to the arctic.

The students also finished with their basketball season and did a great job! They had fun competing in the games as well as learning how to show Christ in the way they play.

## 7th and 8th Grade News

Mr. Muchka

What a month February was! The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been working very hard in and out of the classroom this month. We currently are studying the Book of Psalms in our Religion class. In Reading, we just finished Mark Twain's classic, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. This was a great book to tie in with our investigation of the Civil War times in Social Studies. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders created a three dimensional map of a variety of states in the New England area that will be visible in the commons the first week in March. We are also currently working on a research paper of a famous American landmark in Shurley Method.

On Thursday, March 4, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take a trip to Fox Valley Lutheran High School for their annual "Discover FVL!" day. Students will meet teachers and other FVL students and learn what it could be like to be a Fox. If any parents or grandparents are interested in coming along, contact Mr. Muchka.

Thank you for your prayers and support. God's blessings as we look to Easter and Christ's resurrection!

## School Picnic

The annual school picnic is fast approaching. It will be May 23 right after church. We will change it this year by eliminating the all school play. Instead of the play we will have a program with a Carnival Theme. Anyone interested in serving on a committee of 3-4 people to dream up ideas and plan the day should speak to Mr. Humann.

## School Board Notes

At our last school board meeting we discussed how much support to give the two federations for their advertising campaign. We have decided to support both with \$200. A report was also given on classroom observations and it was noted that all teachers are doing very well and are very dedicated to their calling. We thank them for their service. We also looked at the test results and were very pleased how we compared to the synod and national average. Our students as a whole beat both averages in every subject. You can find a complete listing of test scores on our church website. We are also in the beginning stages of setting the school calendar for 2010-2011.

## Sports Notes

The A and B team tournament has come and gone. All five teams did exceptionally well. B Boys #1 placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, B Boys #2 placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, and B girls placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, A Boys placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, and A girls placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. A huge thank you goes out to all the coaches for their many countless hours of volunteer time. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you!

Parent player games will be on Saturday, February 27. Boys A play at 10, Boys B at 10:50, Girls B 11:50, and Girls A at 12:40. Afterwards the teams will go out for bowling and back to school for pizza.

Our next sporting event is May 8<sup>th</sup> as we will be hosting the softball tournament at the Wayside Firemen's Park. Look for details in the future on how you can help make this tournament a huge success!

## Thrivent

At the time of printing we have received \$4,000 toward the Thrivent Challenge Grant. In order to receive the maximum amount to our school we need to raise an additional \$3700. If you wish to donate toward this grant, please make the check out to school and write "Challenge Grant" on the envelope. These envelopes can be given to Mr. Humann or placed in the church offering. All donations will be recorded on your church giving statement. Please make any donation by March 14. The new program is still under construction and we should know more in the next month or two. Watch the newsletter or bulletin for more information

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Church & School

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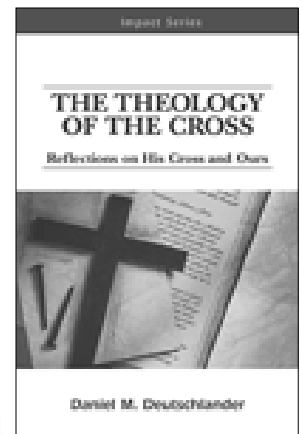
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THE CHRISTIAN LIGHT  
MARCH 2010

## The Theology of the Cross *Reflections on His Cross and Ours*

By Daniel M. Deutschlander

A book on Christian doctrine that reminds readers that all biblical doctrine relates to Scripture's central teaching that God sent his Son to save lost sinners. The Old and New Testaments make it clear that our salvation is found in the cross of Christ. However, there is a seeming paradox between the theology of the cross and the theology of glory. Sinful people tend to overlook the cross and its demands and, instead, focus on the glory that they think they should now enjoy because they call themselves Christians. This is a matter of urgent concern. Deutschlander helps us to see Christ's cross as our cross. He reminds us that our good works have no value for our salvation. Yet good works are valuable as fruits of faith done out of gratitude to God for his gift of salvation. It deepens our understanding and appreciation for God's gift of life in Christ. It warns us of Satan's efforts to turn us from Christ to ourselves. It comforts us with the assurance that the cross of Christ leads to heavenly glory



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