

Looking Up Newsletter

MAY / JUNE 2010

“... look up, and lift up your heads;” Luke 21:24 KJV



A Publication of the Vancouver Apostolic Lutheran Church
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Looking Up

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VANCOUVER APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

Little Things . . .

“For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” 2 Cor. 4:17

The choice of the word “slight”, above, is simply astonishing. For Paul used it to describe the nature of the Apostles’ dire fate of rejection and death for the sake of Christ. How many of us, in the middle of trial, could accept an appraisal of our woe as “slight”? Yet, this is precisely what Paul was inspired to believe in regard to his own woes. Even the severest of trials –beatings, imprisonments, severing of limbs and family ties, and, yes, even death itself – are counted as “little” and “slight”, indeed, for they are all nothing but ...“momentary”. It is only in the eternal Christ where these temporal weights lose their enormous pull and become as the gnat upon the shoulder of the great ox from Aesop’s fable who replied to his transient guest, “I neither noticed when you landed, nor will notice when you leave.” The trials of this life, taken and suffered in contrast with our eternal reward, are likewise minimized.

The Faith of Christ grants a release from the gravity of earthly trial in exchange for a new center of infinite gravity that has come and even now draws us with cords of love. As the Lord draws us toward himself, it cannot be but that the things of earth *will* grow “strangely dim”.

Among these “dim” things ought to be our appraisal of death. Having been released from its frightful grasp in Christ we are no longer to treat it with the awful majesty of which it falsely boasts. The emotions we experience in relation to it or any other difficulty are not, however, disqualified; for Paul encourages us with the sympathy of Christ himself when he pleads with us to “weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who

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rejoice.” [Romans 12:15] Nor do we dismiss Christ’s own emotional conflicts: His exasperation with His own generation at their lack of faith, His anger at the money changers who defiled His Father’s house, His grief over the lost city of Jerusalem... but ... standing over against all this emotional conflict, all this grief, anger and rejection to which Jesus submitted himself, sharing “flesh and blood” with us, he bids us, here, to give these things their proper place, assuring us that none of these provocations are ultimate. Isn’t this what is in the heart of the Apostle Paul as he, in another place, calls us to celebrate our possessions in Christ, one of which includes death itself? – “So let no one boast in men. For **all things are yours**, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life **or death** or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” [I Cor. 3:21-23] Who would celebrate death as his own possession except he over whom death holds no threat or power? Who would dare make such a strange claim? Those who are Christ’s have the daring, even audacity, to belittle the false majesty of death and loss, ruin and chaos. These things are all, in reality, very little, indeed “slight”, for the

one whose mind is “set on things above” [Colossians 3:2].

We are convinced of the true littleness of our trials only in Him and by Him who has already both suffered and triumphed over them all— rejection, dread, death, hell.... He is risen victorious from the dead and has transferred ownership of all things into the hands of His own who can now confidently join the Apostle’s song, “O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is victory?” [I Corinthians 15:55]

Pastor Nathan



Family Night

May 12th - 6:30 pm
 game night
 @ church

May 26th - 6:00 pm
 end of year picnic
 location tba

Beginning September 2010 this newsletter will primarily be sent via email, please see the insert for further information.

Congratulations to
 Jason & Brooke Salmi
 on the birth of their daughter

Jewel Brooklyn

April 8, 2010
 8 lbs. 7 oz. 20 inches



Memorial Day Campout

May 28-31, 2010

Wasco County Fairgrounds

Tygh Valley, Oregon

Pre-Registration Deadline: May 15

Contact Connie Christopher with questions:
 360-263-2936 or connie@wondernomore.com

Please Remember in Prayer :

Stan Swank

Amy Johnson

Larry Questad and Family

Waldal Family

Bisila Family

Ray & Rachel Stenersen

CONTACT INFORMATION

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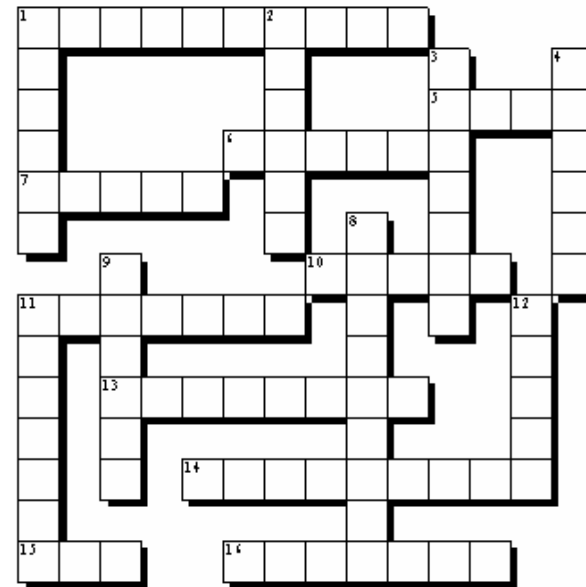


Kids Corner

Jesus and the Children

The words in the following puzzle are from Mark 10:13-17, the story of Jesus and the Children. The clues have the letters of the answer scrambled. Unscramble them and place them in the puzzle.

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch them and bless them, but the disciples told them not to bother him. 14 But when Jesus saw what was happening, he was very displeased with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 I assure you, anyone who doesn’t have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God.” 16 Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. (New Living Translation)



ACROSS

- 5. seobnlg
- 7. sdahe
- 8. daplce
- 10. ohetrb
- 12. tpso
- 15. eanprst
- 16. dlirecnn
- 17. rsma

DOWN

- 1. uohtc
- 2. koot
- 3. sreuas
- 4. ealispesdd
- 5. sbleeds
- 6. ahtfi
- 9. dpieclis
- 10. rthguob
- 11. sejus
- 13. dhans
- 14. reven

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School 9:45 am Service 11am	3	4 Board Meeting 7pm	5 Ladies Bible Study 10am	6 Mens Bible Study noon @ Godathers Pizza 164th & 4th Plain	7 Bible Study	8
9 Mothers Day Sunday School 9:45 am Service 11am Communion	10	11	12 Ladies Bible Study 10am Family Night 6:30pm @ church	13 Mens Bible Study noon @ Godathers Pizza 164th & 4th Plain	14 Bible Study	15
16 Sunday School 9:45 am Service 11am	17	18	19 Ladies Bible Study 10am	20 Mens Bible Study noon @ Godathers Pizza 164th & 4th Plain	21 Bible Study	22
23 Sunday School 9:45 am Service 11am Communion	24 Memorial Day	25	26 Family Night 6:00pm End of year picnic Location tba	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting 7pm	2	3	4	5
6 Service 11am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Service 11am Communion	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Fathers Day Service 11am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Service 11am Communion	28	29	30			

