

From the Pastor:

HIM WE PROCLAIM

The “Him”, of course, is our Lord Jesus Christ. Who else would we proclaim? For He alone has the power to cancel the debt of sin. He alone has conquered death, hell and Satan. He alone can lead us through the chaos and darkness of this world and give us the Victory!

But how do we proclaim Him? Paul wrote, “Him we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ”. (Col. 1-28) Perhaps you don’t consider yourself a soul-winner. Perhaps you find it difficult to be . . . Christ’s witness in everyday contacts with people. Yet, all God’s people are commanded to proclaim Him.

One of the most obvious ways to proclaim Christ is by going to church. You might be surprised to know how many people notice when you go to church, particularly, **IF** you go consistently. You are giving a silent testimony to CHRIST by coming to church even when there is bad weather, or when there are other excuses you could give for not going.

Better yet, don’t just go to church, ask a friend or neighbor to come with you to church. 70 to 90% of all adult converts attended church for the first time, not because of the Pastor or Evangelism callers, but because they were simply invited by a friend or relative.

How can Hope Lutheran proclaim Christ? The same way the church has always proclaimed HIM.

“And continually they were in the temple and from house to house they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ”. Acts 5:42

Pastor Riddering



Deadline Approaches for Conversations of Grace

Have you registered for Conversations of Grace, a personal evangelism conference, Nov 2-3 in Denver? If not consider registering today. This conference will assist you in sharing that Christ died for all to take away the sin of the world, and those who believe this promise will have eternal

life.

Don’t miss out on joining hundreds of other enthusiastic Lutherans in being lifted up spiritually. Join in the fellowship and interactive learning sessions to build your skills for telling others about God’s grace through Jesus.

There is much to be learned from the three Keynote speakers, many workshops and panel discussion. Why do you hesitate to share your faith? Is it fear of rejection or fear that your own beliefs will be changed? The conference interactive workshops and speakers will help you overcome those fears and help you to identify mission moments. You can be intentional about sharing God’s promises.

Many don’t know the forgiveness that is theirs to be found only in the death and resurrection of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you courage to act on His prompting that God’s will be done through you.

In addition to topics mentioned in previous newsletters, presenters will address: Reaching Millions of Muslims, Jews and Atheists, Understanding Mormonism and an Evangelical Christian Response, Reaching Rural America for Christ, Conversations of Grace in Action **###** a personal evangelism small group presentation.

Conference registration, including Saturday lunch, is \$45.00 **###** Child and family rates are offered. Registration is available on line at www.conversationsofgrace.org or mail registration to the LCMS District office, 14334 E. Evans, Aurora, CO 80014. Lodging at the Double Tree Hotel, 3203 Quebec, Denver, is \$79/night based on double occupancy, triple and quad \$89/night. Phone the hotel directly, 800-222-8733 and mention Conversations of Grace Conference to receive this special rate.

Friday Mornings at the Pentagon

**By Joseph L. Galloway
McClatchy Newspapers**

Over the last 12 months, 1042 soldiers, Marines, sailors and Air Force personnel have given their lives in the terrible duty that is war. Thousands more have come home on stretchers, horribly wounded and facing month or years in military hospitals.

This week, I’m turning my space over to a good friend and former roommate, Army Lt. Col. Robert Bateman, who recently completed a yearlong tour of duty in Iraq and is now back at the Pentagon.

Here’s Lt. Col. Bateman’s account of a little-known

ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause and many tears every Friday morning. It first appeared on May 17 on the Web log of media critic and pundit Eric Alterman at the Media Matters for America Website.

“It is 110 yards from the “E” ring to the “A” ring of the Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine, the hallway is broad, and the lighting is bright. At this instant the entire length of the corridor is packed with officers, a few sergeants and some civilians, all crammed tightly three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands here.

This hallway, more than any other, is the ‘Army’ hallway. The G3 offices line one side, G2 the other, G8 is around the corner. All Army. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way and renew.

Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center. The air conditioning system was not designed for this press of bodies in this area.

The temperature is rising already. Nobody cares. “1036 hours: The clapping starts at the E-Ring. That is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. this clapping is low, sustained, hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway.

“A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier in the wheelchair who marks the forward edge with his presence. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are still suppurating. By his age I expect that he is a private, or perhaps a private first class. “Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Three years ago when I described one of these events, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder, perhaps in private guilt for not having shared in the burden . . . yet.

“Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheelchair, also a combat veteran. This steadies the applause, but I think deepens the sentiment. We have all been there now. The soldier’s chair is pushed by, I believe, a full colonel.

“Behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal, or sergeant assisted as need be by a field grade officer.

“1100 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. My hands hurt, and I laugh to myself at how stupid that sounds in my own head. My hands hurt. Please! Shut up and clap. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway - 20, 25, 30. Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts.

They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of

honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along. Some insist upon getting out of their chairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching handshakes and smiling like a politician at a Fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.

“There are families with them as well: the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husband’s wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this, the boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear is crying; the older immigrant Latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20s son, an appreciation for the emotion given on their son’s behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of the officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.

These are our men, broken in body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home. This parade has gone on, every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years.

“Did you know that?”

The media hasn’t told the story.”



What Is A Veteran

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can’t tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn’t run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by

four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She - or he - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battle field or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the

darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, the greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot,
"THANK YOU."

Author - Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC

IRAN: Leaders of Open Doors and other ministries promoting Christian witness in Muslim-dominated countries have reported "remarkable" growth among house-based churches in Iran. The growth, they say, coincides with the increasing popularity of SAT-7 PAR, a satellite Christian television channel serving Farsi-speaking Iranian viewers. The channel is a semi-autonomous affiliate of Cyprus-based SAT-7, which has been beaming Christian programming in Arabic by satellite across North Africa and the Middle East since 1996 and now estimates a viewership in the millions.

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BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP:

Hope Lutheran Church has enrolled as a 2007-08 *Adopt-A-Student* Sponsor. Our support makes it possible for Concordia Seminary students to complete their theological education and enter the Lord's harvest fields with less stress from overwhelming student loans and debt.

For this 2007-08 academic year, we will be hearing from:

Mr. Melvin John Mertens

Box 271

801 Seminary Place,

St. Louis, MO 63105

Emertens@sterlingcomputer.net

We try to keep the same student/sponsor relationships each year to strengthen and grow these partnerships in Christ.

We will receive letters keeping us updated as he progresses through the year. We will participate in his theological formation at Concordia Seminary by encouraging him and praying for him.

Stewardship Chairman,
Linda Tyler

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PRISCILLA CLUB

Priscilla club will be celebrating LWML Sunday on Nov 4. We will be participating in the service as ushers, lectors, special music and a bio of women in the Bible. We will also have a cake to serve during coffee time.

Ladies please remember to bring food staples for the sharing center as our November mission project. Don't forget the Lighthouse Pregnancy Center has invited us to tea at the Tea Room on Nov 15. Please arrive between 11:45 and 12:00 noon.

The 1:00 pm meeting will be hosted by Carol Wallestad; Devotions: "Search Light"

Mission Project: Prepare baskets for Share Center for Thanksgiving.

Bible Verse: THANKSGIVING

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Dear Wayne,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the entire congregation for praying for me during my time in Iraq. The power of prayer is incredible and it means a tremendous amount to me and every service-member.

I look forward to seeing everyone on my next visit to the valley. Again, thank you very much.

God Bless,

Matt Kaufman

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In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872-1918)
Canadian Army

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Keep Smiling

Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then realized its worth.
A single smile just like mine could travel 'round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

To all the Wonderful Folks at Hope Lutheran,

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate all of your love and service for the benefit dinner. I was overwhelmed by the response of the community and by your sacrifice in preparing, serving, cleaning and hosting. How wonderful it was to see so many friends from our days in Westcliffe. No doubt, you are all aware of what an amazing place Custer County is.

The children and I will always count it a privilege to have lived and worked among you. Our lives were enriched and blessed by the friends we came to know and cherish. Thank you for persevering with me during the dark times and so warmly accepting me as God healed and transformed.

My plan is to move back to Ohio in the next few months. I will live with my parents and help them as much as I can in their last years. Colorado has been home for a very long time and it will be hard to leave, but it is a reminder that we are all truly just sojourners on our way to a "better country". May God bless you richly as you walk with Him each day.

Love,
Jenny West



We would like to thank everyone for the beautiful framed sketch of Hope Lutheran Church. We shall treasure it always.

It has been a great honor and joy to be part of this wonderful church family.

Pastor, you have been such an inspiration in our spiritual growth the last 4 years. You have armed us with a much stronger Christian faith. We will miss hearing your sermons.

God bless you all. We will miss you.

In Christ!
Love,
Jack & Debbie Yanacek



The Custer County "Over 40's Club" is sponsoring a 'pie ala mode social' open house and fundraiser today, October 28, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Senior Center which is located downstairs in the Silver Cliff Town Hall on 612 Main Street in Silver Cliff.

The fundraiser is held to help us cover our overhead expenses to keep the Senior Center open.

Jack lee, a local guitarist and entertainer, will provide entertainment for the event.

The "Over 40's Club" hosts the Council of Governments Subsidized Nutrition program for senior citizens furnishing lunches for senior citizens on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of each week. It is a community meeting place and lunch is a time of fun and fellowship, puzzles and games. All seniors are welcomed. Lunch is provided for a modest \$2.00 for those over 65.



A SOLDIER DIED TODAY

He was getting old and paunchy,
and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories

From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so many times
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier #####
His home, his country his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."



Happy Birthday!

01 Ted Ballard
01 Harold Godbersen
03 Lynn Holstad
03 Joanne Nelms
04 Michelle Gindlesperger
05 Brian Olomon
06 Suzanne Roberts
06 Tabitha Beightel
07 Darryl Achenbach
07 Wilma Olquin
08 Wilma Kattmig
11 Eric Custer
15 Gloria Platt
15 Vickie Hammersmith

- 15 Craig Bosse
- 16 Nichole Harms
- 17 Patrick Craven
- 19 Madeline Ballard
- 20 Brittany Wood
- 20 Alice Kelling
- 20 Brett Bennett
- 22 Vera Kleine
- 23 Jack Yanacek
- 23 Alicia Hobby
- 25 Troy Hobby
- 30 Steve Desponette

Happy Anniversary:

- 11/04/1961 Ernie & Kathy Koon
- 11/06 Dave & Kathy Tonsing
- 11/30/1958 Vince & Susie Engelman

Lector Schedule:

- 04 Amy Perschbacher
- 11 Jon Wallestad
- 18 Richard Henderson
- 22 DeDe Riddering (Thanksgiving Day)
- 25 Chuck Kastendieck

Acolyte Schedule:

- 04 Corey
- 11 Abe
- 18 Matt
- 22 Tabitha
- 25 Corey

Ushers:

- 04 Chuck & Sue Poehlein
- 11 Harald & Lisa Frank
- 18 Chuck & Phyllis K.
- 25 Doug & Linda Tyler

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be a Thrivent dinner on November 7 at the church from 5-7 pm for Len Radford. All Thrivent members are asked to bring two dozen cookies.

Choir members are needed for fall thru Christmas season. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. For more information, call Gwyn at 783-3500

The American Legion will do the American Flag folding ceremony on Veterans Day in our worship service. All veterans are encouraged to come to church in uniform that day.

Our veterans will be the guests of honor on November 11 at the noon potluck. So, please bring a little extra.

There is power in prayer and even greater power when Christians join together in prayer. "Westcliffe Pray" is inviting you to prayer and praise November 3rd at 6 pm at Hope Lutheran Church.

All Men are invited to "The Truth Project" ### a 12 session look at how God's word addresses the tough issues of our day. We meet at 6 am every Monday in the church basement. The coffee will be ready. Bring your Bible.

Women's Thursday Bible study: November 15th will be the last class until after Christmas.