

## How Can I Be Happy When I Hurt So Badly?

“How did you ever get such peace?” Jenny asked Carol. “It’s been eight months since my baby died, and it still tears me up.”

“Oh, I still ache when I remember my son. I miss him every day. Some days I can’t stop wondering what he would be like. But as far as peace goes, I felt peace already the night Alex died. It’s always been there, no matter how much I hurt.”

“I can see it, Carol. I keep hoping to have what you have.” Jenny glanced at a framed picture of Alex on Carol’s desk.



“Sometimes I feel so angry and bitter that God took my baby.”

“I’ve gotten angry, too. It’s just not right that children die. But I don’t blame God. He made

it possible for me to have peace after Alex died. God didn’t bring death into this world.”

“How can you say such a thing?” Jenny looked surprised. “God took your son from you. He’s dead.”

“That’s where you’re wrong,” Carol responded, putting her hand on Jenny’s shoulder. “Alex is not dead. He’s as alive as we are at this very moment. Jesus said, ‘Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies.’ Death entered this world when the first human beings sinned against God, but death cannot rob me of my son—he’s safe with Jesus.”

“How can you be so sure? I wish I could be as certain as you.”

Carol smiled. “You can be certain. Before I explain, let me ask you a

question. Why did Jesus die on the cross?”

Jenny gave a puzzled look. “I don’t know. I guess some people really hated him.”

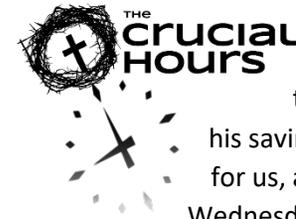
“Yes, some people hated him, but that doesn’t explain what happened. Jesus had to die. It was part of a plan. You and I and everyone else have sinned and deserved to die. But God came up with the plan to have his Son die in our place. The plan was fulfilled, and Jesus came back from the dead. Knowing what God has done gives me peace. Jenny, do you ever blame yourself for what happened? I did, sometimes. But now, I focus on God’s forgiveness and his love. And when I think of Alex, I remind myself that he’s living with God now. And by faith in Jesus, I am looking forward to seeing my son one day!”

“Thanks, Carol. Forgiveness, love, alive with God—you’ve helped me see everything in a new way.”

-WELS Outreach newsletter

## Congregational News

**Lenten Worship** The theme for the 2022 Lenten sermons is “The Crucial



Hours.” The series ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus’ passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of his saving work for us, the breadth and depth of his love for us, and the strength of his union with us. The Wednesday night service themes are as follows:

- March 2 I Will Keep the Passover
- March 9 The Semblance of Legality
- March 16 When You are Seized with Remorse...
- March 23 A Part for the Whole?
- March 30 Satan Has Asked to Sift All of You

- April 6 They Bound Him

**Sunday School Update** Our Sunday School is going strong on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. During the month of March, we'll be learning some of the key accounts from the Passion History of Jesus, from his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane to the all-night



questioning that followed to Pilate's sentence and eventual death on the cross. Please help your child's faith grow as they study these accounts that are so crucial to our Christian faith.

Be aware also that the Sunday School children will be singing in church on March 27<sup>th</sup>. We're learning the "new to us" song *The Power of the Cross*, a beautiful new hymn from the new hymnal.

**Easter Breakfast** After many years of heading up our Easter breakfast, Sue Brueggeman has decided to step back from that role this year. We would love to continue the breakfast in some form or another. If anyone or any group would like to take the lead in planning and preparing an Easter breakfast this year, please talk to the pastor.

**Zion Council Contact Information** If you ever have any questions or concerns about our congregation, you're welcome to contact the pastor or any of our Council members. Their names, responsibilities and contact information (e-mail and phone #s) are printed on sheets and can be found on the bulletin board. Just take one of the sheets from the plastic sheet protector home with you.

**Easter Lilies** It's a great way to help beautify our church for Easter Sunday...sponsoring an Easter lily or two. Order forms are now out on the



cabinets underneath the bulletin board in the entryway. If you would like to remember a loved one or sponsor a lily for any reason – please take one of the order forms, fill it out, and place the form with the payment in the Zion Ladies' Aid

church mailbox (top center). form. The **deadline for orders is March 28<sup>th</sup>** and the cost is \$10 / lily.

The lilies will be used to beautify the chancel of our church for Easter Sunday. You can take yours home after the 9:00 a.m. Easter festival service on April 17<sup>th</sup> or if you like, you can leave them to decorate the church for the Sundays to follow.

**Altar Flowers** Speaking of flowers, Kewaskum Floral in Kewaskum has not found new owners and the ladies aid has not been successful in finding any area florists who are able to supply and deliver our weekly standing order of altar flowers for a comparable price. For the near future, we'll be using linen flowers on the altar. If you would like to supply altar flowers on your own, you are welcome to do so.

**Bags Tournament** It's BAAAACK! Call it Cornhole, Bean Bag Toss, Bags or whatever you like. After taking a year off for Covid and being rained out during the church picnic this past summer, our Evangelism committee is planning another Bags Tournament **on March 19<sup>th</sup>**, beginning around suppertime. Start getting your throwing arms in shape, bring your family and friends, and enjoy some light-hearted competition, light refreshments and light exercise along with a lot of fellowship. More information will be coming...watch the bulletin board for sign up information.



**Thank you from LMSG** Dear Zion, Thank you for your steadfast support for our LMSG (Lutheran Military Support Group). We recently made a substantial grant to the Jesus Cares Ministry...they will hold their services on military bases for special needs dependents. Thank you for your help.

In His Service,  
Semper Fi, John

**Designate Your Choice Dollars** Eligible Thrivent members can make an impact in their charitable giving by designating where Thrivent donates its charitable outreach dollars each year. Eligible Thrivent members who have *choice dollars* available have until **March 31, 2022**, to direct any remaining 2021 Choice Dollars. Don't let Choice Dollars expire! To direct your choice

dollars to Zion, go to [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more, or call 800.847.4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

## WELS News

**Pray for Ukraine** WELS President Schroeder and World Mission leaders met recently with the bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC),



**WELS**

Slavik Horpynchuk. Bishop Horpynchuk reports that several congregations in the ULC are located in regions where war has broken out. The pastors are staying connected and working on plans to keep members connected to their Lord spiritually and as safe as possible physically under the present challenging circumstances. The WELS has been in fellowship with the ULC since 1991.

Learn more about the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and its history by going to <https://wels.net/serving-others/missions/europe/ukraine/>

Other WELS news includes the following:

- Representatives from the Conference of Presidents will be meeting with the Board for Home Missions leadership and with several members of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary faculty as a part of the planning process for the effort to open 100 new home missions in ten years beginning in 2023.
- There are currently 143 pastoral vacancies in the synod, 124 of which are parish pastor positions. 40 of the pastoral vacancies are in associate pastor positions (meaning those congregations are still being served by at least one pastor). Next year's graduating class at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will be larger than those in recent years, which will help to reduce the number of pastoral vacancies.
- With expanding enrollment at our WELS schools, the growing shortage of teachers continues, especially in the area of early childhood.
- The COP expressed thanks to God for the high level of Congregation Mission Offerings commitments for 2022. By God's grace, 98 percent of congregations submitted CMO subscriptions for 2022 totaling

\$22,309,572. In January, our churches gave \$1.43 million in CMO, which is 21.9 percent (\$256,000) more than January 2021. We thank the Lord for continuing to bless our synod through his people's generous gifts!

## Area Events, Invitations & Opportunities

**OWLS Meeting** The next Flyway Chapter of the OWLS will be held on **March 8 beginning at 1 p.m.** The meeting place is the all-purpose room at St. Peter's, Fond du Lac, just off the entrance of the church.

Kevin Festerling, founder of our newest WELS Lutheran High School - Kingdom Prep Lutheran - will be giving us in-depth information about the school. It is an all-boys choice high school launched in Milwaukee County in 2018. We will hear firsthand from Kevin and some original students as they discuss the why, the who and how of Kingdom Prep! It is located in Wauwatosa and is building a founding brotherhood in Christ for lives of Christian purpose.

At this meeting dues will be collected for 2022. Dues are \$15 per person. These dues go directly to the National OWLS office in New Ulm, and are used to support the WELS prison ministry, gospel outreach, nursing home ministry and our European military chaplain program. Hope to see you March 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Multiple Job Openings at KML** Come join the staff at KML and work in a Christian environment. No experience necessary - training is provided.

- Part Time Janitor: Start at 3:00 PM (flexible), general cleaning of classrooms and bathrooms, 4-5 hours a day, 2-5 days per week. \$13 - \$15 per hour depending on experience.
- Outside Maintenance: Prep athletic fields and grass mowing, Monday-Friday, 6 hours per day. \$14 - \$16 per hour depending on experience.
- Assistant to Food Service Manager: Prepare sandwiches and salads 3 days per week during the school year, 4-5 hours per day. \$11 - \$13 per hour depending on experience.

Interested? Questions? Contact Director of Operations, Mr. Jody Hansen (262.677.4051, x4004; [jody.hansen@kmlhs.org](mailto:jody.hansen@kmlhs.org)).

**Join Us in the Roaring '20s!** Registration is now open for KML's 2022 Gala, *The Roaring '20s!* We invite you to join us for an incredible evening on **Saturday, April 23, 2022**, as the KML gym is transformed into a



speakeasy from the 1920s. This gala has it all ... silent auction, live auction, fellowship, seated dinner, murder mystery, games ... all kinds of fun to raise money to benefit the KML ministry. Proceeds go toward the purchase of a special acoustical shell in the

PAC auditorium as well as to the student assistance fund. This is one event you DON'T want to miss! Register now to secure the password to the speakeasy! Early bird price is \$90/person before March 27<sup>th</sup> and the registration deadline is April 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, to register, secure your sponsorship, donate money or items, or volunteer, go to [www.kmlhs.org/gala](http://www.kmlhs.org/gala).

**Marriage Enrichment & Getaway Weekend** How is your marriage? Would you like it to be healthier? God designed marriage and only he can improve the health of your marriage. Join us for a marriage enrichment weekend at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, **March 18-20, 2022**. The cost is \$385 per couple. That cost includes lodging for two nights, breakfasts both Saturday and Sunday, lunch on Saturday, six enrichment sessions and resources to continue to use at home. Spend your weekend learning how to know each other better, appreciate each other more, gain trust, manage conflict, nurture intimacy and connect with each other intentionally – all in the light of God's grace. The result? A healthier marriage. Space is limited but you must register by March 6. Make it a memorable anniversary or Valentine's gift! See the poster in our lobby or take a brochure for more information. Register at [www.gshep.net](http://www.gshep.net) or <https://forms.gle/3vL85FH7WCbqUPmy6>

**Camp Phillip Summer Camps** It's never too early to consider registering your child(ren) for one of the many camps at Camp Phillip in Wautoma this summer. In fact, early registration already began on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Camp Phillip serves thousands of people each year by providing a safe, fun, and memorable atmosphere to gather around God's Word for spiritual growth. Songs, games, campfires, creative activities, fun at the lake, amazing friends...all contribute to a memorable and spiritually uplifting time in God's beautiful creation.

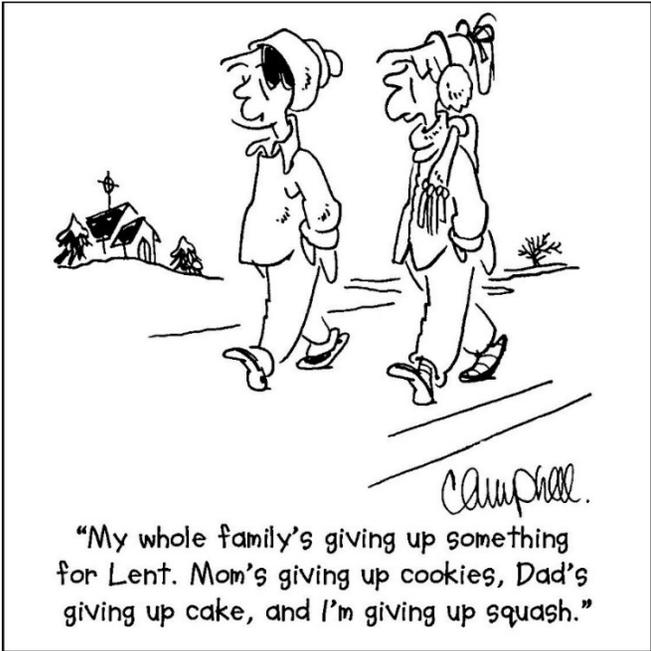
A classic camp experience can be had at the Son Shine or Son Rise camps.



In addition, there are many specialty camps to choose from, such as archery, art, horseback riding, fishing, camping, even culinary arts. The one thing in common for all of them is that *they fill up fast!* Grab a Camp Phillip postcard from the cabinets in the entryway or go online to [www.campphillip.com](http://www.campphillip.com) to register or for more information.

Discover the opportunities for your children to grow in faith and enjoy God's creation!

**Recycle Your Meditations** When you are finished reading the old Meditations booklet, please consider recycling them...bring them to church where they will periodically be forwarded to the WELS Prison Ministry. The devotions are then distributed to thousands of incarcerated individuals who are searching for answers to their spiritual questions. They truly appreciate the devotional materials, even if they're older issues. Thanks!



"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."