

## **From Pastor's Desk** **The Lord's Supper as a Foretaste**

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

I've been mulling over the text for New Year's Eve ever since preaching on it then. The text is Luke 12:35-40, the Parable of the Serving Master. And it's

had me thinking about the Lord's Supper and about the nature of it as a foretaste of the heavenly feast.

Continued on Page 2

35 *“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

The servants know that He's coming back, but they don't know when. They are to be ready to receive Him when He comes back. The master withdraws from the wedding banquet. The wedding banquet isn't over. It's still going on. But He withdraws from it. He takes a short leave. Why? He withdraws in order to come and serve us.

From what we know, the expectation is that when the master returns, taking leave, he comes with a doggie bag. He comes having sneaked out some of the goodies from the feast for His faithful servants to munch on while they wait for the Wedding Banquet to end and Him to return for good. And so the parable of the master serving His servants brings into focus the nature of our waiting for Him. That He takes leave from the Wedding Banquet to serve us while we wait for Him to return for good. In other



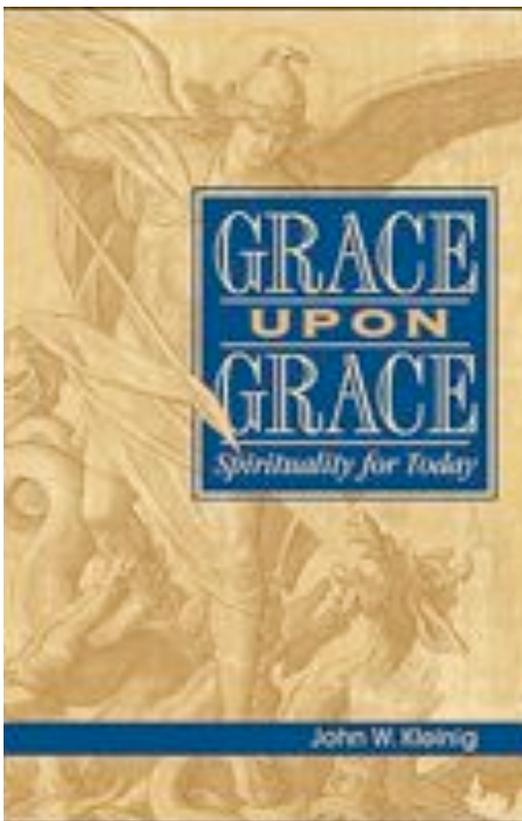
words, He returns to give us something from the Feast to tide us over.

And so our Lord comes in the Divine Service. He takes leave, he withdraws from the Wedding Banquet, the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom that will have not end, to return with some of the goodies of that feast to tide us over until He shall come at last to take us to Himself in heaven. And so He comes to in His Body and Blood to serve us with His Body and Blood. And while we do not know the day or the hour of His final return. We do know the day and the hour of His coming to serve us. Be ready to receive Him when He comes in this way so that you may be served. That by it your hunger will be sated, that you'll be nourished while you wait. But like all good appetizers and hors d'oeuvres, that which staves off our hunger also creates an appetite for more. It stimulates and whets your appetite while at the same time arresting the growls of your bellies and light-headedness so that your wait is not burdensome but enjoyed.

This is, I think, is what the church means by foretaste. He brings us the hors d'oeuvres of the



heavenly banquet, and He serves us while we wait. Perhaps, too, this is the manna in the wilderness. That which was flakey white, coarse like coriander seed, and tasted sweet like honey was for the Israelite wandering in the wilderness a foretaste of the Promised Land that would flow with milk and honey (Exod 3:8; 16:31). They despised that as worthless food. And thus also did they eventually despise the Promised Land. May it not be so among us also. Lord save and deliver us.



### The Book of the Month Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality For Today.

“Christian spirituality is, quite simply, following Jesus. It is the ordinary life of faith in which we receive Baptism, attend the Divine Service, participate in the Holy Supper, read the Scriptures, pray for ourselves and others, resist temptation, and work with Jesus in our given location here on earth.” – from the Introduction

The longing for spiritual fulfillment, inevitably paired with spiritual frustration, is common among Christians.

Do we read and study the Bible enough? Do we worship often and

in the right way? Do we pray enough, in the correct way, and for the right things? How do we become truly spiritual?

And the answers from numerous self-help spirituality books only lead to confusion and the fear of missing key steps on the road to becoming spiritual.

In response, John W. Kleinig clarifies that there is no process for becoming spiritual. Instead, God graciously gives to us every spiritual gift that we need, beginning with the very gift of faith in Christ, our Savior. Because God has joined us to Christ, He continually comes to give us life.

## From the President Values and Priorities

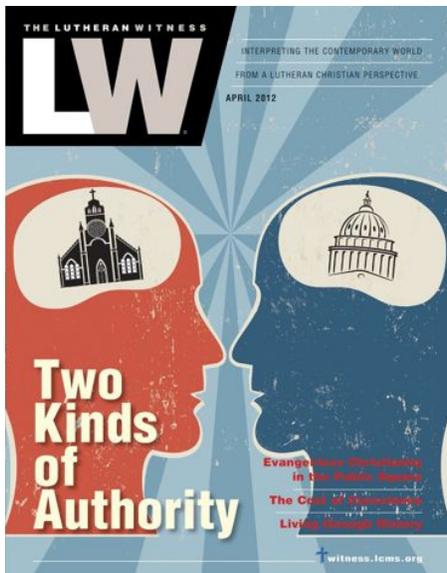
By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

When I stepped into this office in September 2010, LCMS Inc. had borrowed over \$15 million from moneys designated for other purposes. This internal borrowing is legal (so long as the donor designations are ultimately honored, and they are) and had been standing operating procedure as far back as anyone remembers. But it's not acceptable. Borrowing internally instead of paying interest to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund for operating cash may make good business sense, but I do not believe such internal or external borrowing is good stewardship. I do not believe the Lord Himself will bless it. And donors don't give so that their funds may be used for cash flow until required for the designated purpose!

Several years ago, the Bush administration assembled a team to make recommendations for standards for nonprofit organizations. That commission asserted that a responsible organization should have at least two to three months operating cash on hand. And that's where we are headed, God help us! Through much pain, hard decisions, staff



Continued on Page 4



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reductions and many blessings, the internal borrowing has been reduced to \$11 million. We've made a great deal of progress, but we have a long way to go.

I want every member of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to know exactly where we stand financially. If people don't clearly know the challenge we face, we certainly cannot expect them to help solve the problem. It is absolutely essential for the long-term mission of the Gospel that we cease a longstanding habit of spending more than we take in. And we have. In September, you will begin to see a financial "dashboard" in the pages of The Lutheran Witness and Reporter, as well as online. A simple balance sheet may tell you the bottom line but can also easily mask millions in internal borrowing. No more.

Under this general priority of fiscal diligence, we have identified five values to guide all our program work and six priorities in the way we allocate dollars. I want you to know what they are.

Values: (1) Fidelity: We are going to be who we are as confessional Lutherans and in all we do for the sake of the Gospel. (2) Quality: We are committed to the highest level of service for the sake of the Gospel and the Church. (3) Credibility: No bologna. (4) Sustainability: No fly-by-night work. Too many programs have flashed hot today and are gone tomorrow. (5) Stability: We are building for the future.

Priorities: (1) Plant, sustain and revitalize distinctly Lutheran churches. (2) Support and expand theological education. (3) Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministry. (4) Collaborate with the Synod's members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness. (5) Nurture pastors, missionaries and professional church workers to promote spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. (6) Enhance elementary and secondary education and youth ministry.



To read much more about these priorities, see [www.lcms.org/reporterinserts](http://www.lcms.org/reporterinserts). With transparency and clear mission priorities, I believe we can claim the rich promise of the blessed apostle St. Paul who wrote, "God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:7ff.).

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# Education Corner

## Teaching the Faith

By Rev. Daniel Hinton

A recent trip to the dentist with three young boys began, as it always does, with filling out the checklist. Two pages full of questions covered every possible facet of dental health. Is your child allergic to any medications? Is there any history of heart disease in his family? How often do you yourself see a dentist? The last one seemed a bit perplexing. What does it matter whether his father sees a dentist regularly? That won't change whether he has any cavities or whether he flosses every night.

But that was the wrong conclusion. Asking parents whether they themselves see a dentist provides a deep insight into how important dental health is to them and how likely they are to pass on good dental hygiene to their children. Dentists can't be there at bedtime to remind children to floss. Dentists can't go with parents to the supermarket to help parents pick out foods that won't stick to their children's teeth. Parents teach these habits to their sons and daughters and make good choices for them until they're ready to make those choices for themselves.

No father would say, "I personally believe that it is important to brush twice a day, but I'm not going to force that on my son. When he gets old enough, he can decide for himself."

Parents show children how to care for teeth long before they can understand the interplay between sugar, bacteria, acid, and tooth enamel. If they waited until children could comprehend all this it would be far too late to keep their teeth from decay. So, why can't parents just wait until children are ready to decide for themselves how seriously they should take their Christian faith?

It's far too important to wait so long. As children grow, we teach them lots of things before they are able to understand what they mean. For example, we teach children to wash hands before we teach them microbiology. Parents do not usually wait until their children have decided to believe in the germ theory of disease before showing them how to wash their hands. Parents do not accept their child's decision to use a dirty rag instead of warm water as soap. There is simply too



much at stake. Likewise, parents cannot take a hands-off approach and allow children to piece together their own faith.

Most important, children learn from their parents—especially from their father—whether the faith is important. If a child sees his father and mother praying with him before and after meals, in the morning, in the evening, during times of stress and doubt, in church, in the car and any number of other times, he learns that prayer is an important part of life. If they read Scripture to him daily, he sees that reading Scripture is something grown-ups do. If he sees them receive the Lord’s body and blood, he wants to join them.

Why is all this so important? Jesus says, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). There is only one way to the Father: through Jesus, His Son.

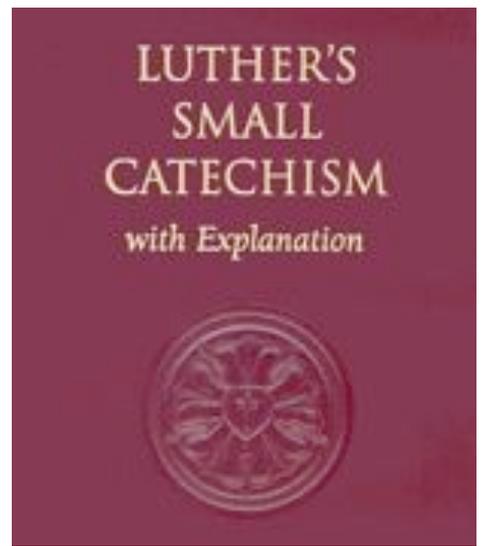
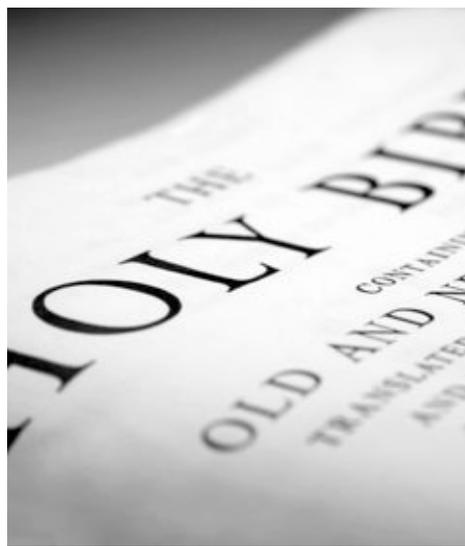
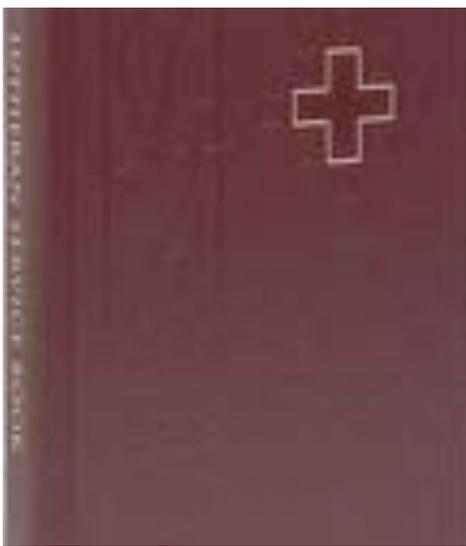
The world often teaches that there are many roads that lead to God, but Jesus says there aren’t. He is the only way to the Father. Nothing else will do. Because Jesus is the only way to the Father, we teach our children from the beginning of their life about Jesus. It is Jesus who has redeemed them—

body and soul. It is Jesus who promises them eternal life. No self-help book or false god can promise that.

Often we are quick to think our children don’t notice what we do or say. Nothing could be further from the truth! Parents are their children’s first teachers. For example, children who daily to the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer often can say each of them from memory by the time they are two years old. Older children who have attended church regularly for 18 years are far more likely to continue once they go off to college.

Martin Luther addressed his Small Catechism to fathers: “As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household.” Luther had no room for do-it-yourself religion; fathers were to teach the faith to their children. To be sure, faith is far more than knowing facts about God or the Bible. But through teaching and by example, parents can cultivate a life of faith within their children. God blesses those who hear His word with the gift of faith: “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17).

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What is drawn from the Scriptures is confessed in the Catechism and expressed in the hymnal



**JOHN <sup>THE</sup> BAPTIST**  
**Wilderness Prophet**  
**Vacation Bible School**

Sunday, 22 July–Thursday, 26 July  
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Learn how God uses the events of our birth, our life, our struggles, and even our death to bear witness to the work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

<http://immanueltuscola.org/Site/VBS.html>

# Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

## Greeters List

1 Jul Laverl Byers – West  
 Ruth Sims – East  
 8 Jul Becky Kappes – West  
 Tim & Teri Pollock – East  
 15 Jul Harold & Irene Wattjes – West  
 Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East  
 22 Jul Jim Dyer -West  
 Ruth Sims – East  
 29 Jul Joan Vukelich -West  
 Laverl Byers – East  
 5 Aug Ruth Sims – East  
 Becky Kappes – West  
 12 Aug Tim & Teri Pollock – East  
 Harold & Irene Wattjes – West  
 19 Aug Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East  
 Jim Dyer -West  
 26 Aug Ruth Sims – East  
 Joan Vukelich -West

## Coffee Committee

May Arleigh & Mary Jane Jones  
 Jun Pastor & Lauren Braaten  
 Jul Ruth Sims

Aug Josh & Jaimee Whitson  
 Sep Laverl Byers

## Altar Committee

8 Jul Wanda Long  
 15 Jul Delores Ford  
 22 Jul Delores Ford  
 29 Jul Delores Ford  
 5 Aug Ruth Sims  
 12 Aug Ruth Sims  
 19 Aug Ruth Sims  
 26 Aug Sherrie Hoel

## Elder On Duty – Communion

1 Jul Josh Whitson  
 8 Jul Josh Whitson  
 15 Jul Greg Nau  
 22 Jul Greg Nau  
 29 Jul Greg Nau  
 5 Aug Geof Danielson  
 12 Aug Geof Danielson  
 19 Aug Geof Danielson  
 26 Aug Jack Appleby

ATTENDANCE			OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	General	Missions	Building
3 June	24	86	\$2,981.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
10 June	24	65	\$1,595.26	\$0.00	\$0.00
17 June	17	68	\$1,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
24 June	20	85	\$1,929.58	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	85	304	\$7,766.34	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>\$7,766.34</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

July 2012 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																				
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class John &amp; Owen Study Teresa Pollock</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's 8:00 PM Bible Mark Watson</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Eucalyptus Mark Watson</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Church Offices Closed Fish &amp; Juice Sweets</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Secretary's Office Closed</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Patrol Day ☐</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>5:30 PM Divine Service Communion</p>																																																																				
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:45 AM Church Council Susan Wynn Ingram Oye</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Men's Men's Men's</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Check &amp; make Ely Fish Market</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Patrol Day ☐ Gummy Campbell John &amp; Owen Study</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>5:30 PM Divine Service Communion</p>																																																																				
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<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's John &amp; Owen Study Cory &amp; Theresa Fields Myra-Kyle</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's James Hainbaugh</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Lynne Hilly David Worsell Natalie Appley</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>1:30 PM Ladies Aid Bible Study 7:30 AM Men's Murray Scumbar</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Men's Bible Retreat Patrol Day ☐ Cindy Easton John Siders</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>2:00 PM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Divine Service Communion Maggie Hays</p>																																																																				
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class 7:00 PM Youth Group Jason Boone</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Richard Spomer</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Evan Robinson Open Book Jason Boone</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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August 2012 Church Calendar

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.