



Lake Superior Light

Volume XXXV Issue 4

April 2015

Lake Superior Christian Church



We read in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 from The Message that:

“It’s better to have a partner than go it alone.
 Share the work, share the wealth.
 And if one falls down, the other helps,
 But if there’s no one to help, tough!
 Two in a bed warm each other.
 Alone, you shiver all night.
 By yourself you’re unprotected.
 With a friend you can face the worst.
 Can you round up a third?
 A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”



I’m sure that everyone would agree that living life alone is extremely difficult, and it’s clear in scripture that God never intended for that to be the norm. I understand that it is tempting for us to remain anonymous when it comes to our involvement in church activities. We feel safer that way. If we are being honest, we are pretty good at blending in and not making waves, receiving but not contributing. The truth is that if we continue to do this, we will never fully understand the benefits of sharing life together with others. The power of these verses will never be applied.

I want to encourage you to come out of the shadows. Satan would love nothing more than to keep you isolated and vulnerable so don’t let him take you out! Make a healthy decision to become involved in one of our newly forming Life Groups. We will launch our new groups on April 12th, so there is still time to connect with us and ask any questions you may have.

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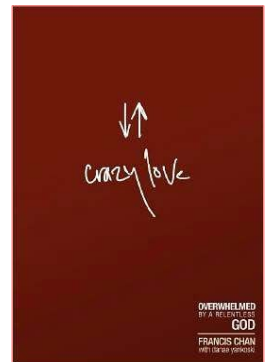
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I believe we need an awakening. I believe we need to be challenged in our love of God and in our love for those around us. I believe we need to inject a Crazy kind of Love into our daily lives; a love that God would be pleased with and a love that others cannot deny.

To help us accomplish this, we are going to study the word of God and use Francis Chan’s exciting book, “Crazy Love” as a supplemental tool. Sunday morning messages will tie into what these new Life Groups will be studying. Life Groups will meet together in homes to watch engaging videos, and answer thought-provoking questions that will aide us on our journey towards possessing that “Crazy Love” God desires in us. Again would you please prayerfully consider joining us and taking this next step in your relationship with God?

You won’t regret it!

~ Brandon





Mission Meeting

10 March 2015

The missions committee met on 10 March, 2015, with seven members present. We had 17 newsletters and 3 “thank you” letters to discuss. Many of these are on the mission board for you to check out and see where your money is going and what it is doing for the Lord. There are also several different magazines on display at the missions board. Feel free to take any of these to see what that particular organization is about.

We will continue to support the two hostels run by SEACM in Thailand. This will be on a six month trial basis to see if we can have a positive degree of accountability. Please pray for the hostels to be able to continue to operate (and for those overseeing the children.)

One of our members is working on a mission trip to Sala Springs Farm in New York next October. If you want further information, or are interested in going, please contact Pam Beauchamp.

Your generosity allows us to continue to give one-time gifts to individuals and organizations. This month we were able to help the following: Global Radio Outreach, radio ministry to Muslims; Christian Freedom International, security cameras for churches; White Fields World Ministries, provide medical treatment for orphan girls; Gospel for Asia, provide sewing machines; Crossroad Bible Institute, to continue prison work.

Thanks for being a part of God’s work all over the world. Lake Superior Christian Church has been a mission-minded church from day one. God is pleased with churches that function for Him.

The Committee



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Christian Freedom
International



Library Book Review - Sunrise Song by Catherine Palmer

Sunrise Song by Catherine Palmer

This novel is set in Kenya where an elephant research scientist struggles with her faith. Secluded from the world, Fiona has become an expert at protecting herself as well as the animals she loves. When wealthy, adventurous Rogan arrives at their camp, the walls around her life and heart begin to crumble.

For his part, Rogan enjoys his life, but feels like something important is missing. He is

fascinated by the faith of Fiona’s African mother figure. Together he and Fiona work through the obstacles keeping them from a relationship with God and with each other.

Although this is the fourth in a series titled “Treasures of the Heart,” it is easily read as a stand-alone. It is a pleasant, light Christian romance with a touch of adventure. The elements of faith and self-discovery encourage the reader to honestly evaluate his/her

own walk with God and honesty in relationships. I enjoyed the whole series.

~ Pamela Withrow (pjwithrow on Goodreads)



Quiz the Minister



Question:

In Leviticus 27, the Lord set the value of a man 20 years old — 60 years old, at 50 shekels and a woman of the same age span only 30 shekels? Also, in Lev. 12:1-5 God says a woman is unclean for 7 days after giving birth to a boy, but unclean for 14 days if she has a girl and can be purified after 33 days for a boy and 66 days for a girl. Doesn't the Lord consider a female as valuable as a male? I thought we are all created equal in God's eyes.

Thanks,
NT

Answer:

Wow, thanks NT for a great question! There are certainly a lot of contemporary issues wrapped up in what we see here. Gender and equality is a very big concern in our culture. I want to draw a distinct division between our culture today in the U.S. versus the ancient Israelites in the Middle East.

Almost every culture during the time period that Leviticus was written, and especially in the geographic area, had a very patriarchal vibe. So much so, that indeed amongst the people, men were valued more than women. Men were seen as the providers and women were seen as the ones who needed to be taken care of. Sons were desired and daughters were accepted. Women had very low status and rights, in a culture that was ruled by men. In today's world this has changed somewhat, but we still see it in many places. (Now, I say that in terms of how people relate to people as in the cultural norm, not as how God sees people).

"...I thought we were all created equal in God's eyes."

I think when you are asking the question of value, you are also asking about worth. Is a woman worth as much as a man? To God, absolutely yes. Please allow me to help dissect some of what we see happening.

The world, by and large, at the time we are looking at, was unapologetically patriarchal. Today, we live in a world that is striving against that system. A world that is looking to create equality amongst sexes. In some ways that has happened, in some ways it hasn't.

When we read back into the Bible, we always tend to read ourselves into it. What I mean is that we take our backgrounds, our experiences, our life with us as we read, and so we interpret what we read through our lenses. If we were reading the same pages a few hundred years ago, we might not even stop to ponder why men and women were treated differently. It simply was the way things were. That doesn't make it right or wrong, it simply was how the world was. I'm afraid I don't have the space to go through the exact context of both of these passages you bring up, but, in fact, there are many, many, passages that address the same question you are asking.

What I DO want to express, is that when God spoke to people in the Bible, it was always through a language and norms that they could understand. This treating of women as inferior to men in the Old Testament would not have been considered odd or demoralizing. It would have been as normal as anything else they knew. It had been that way since "the Fall". But, and this is a big but, when Jesus came, He put into play a treatment of women that was unseen and unheard of for the time. In many ways, Jesus set into motion a return to equality that hadn't been seen since Genesis 1.

(continued on next page...)



Quiz the Minister Continued...

Jesus spoke with women (very taboo for a man to do); He taught women, He healed women, and He often honored women over men. If you look at many stories in the gospels, women were treated kindly while men in the same periscope were scolded (the story of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet comes to mind; Matt: 26, Mark 14, Luke 7, & John 12). Jesus had female followers and that was a big deal. The Pharisees and Sadducees of the time had followers, but you had to be male, and Jewish, to be one. Jesus called women, slaves, gentiles, anyone who was marginalized in the societies at the time. Jesus pushed His treatment of women well beyond the expectations of many, and frankly caught some heat for it from the culture around him.

For my thought, Jesus is God, and if God in the flesh treated women and men with equal honor; if Jesus showed no partiality for men over women, then His actions teach that He valued women the same as men. That equality would continue into today's world, challenging many of the accepted patriarchal norms that had been the status quo for thousands of years until the life of Christ. If the laws of Leviticus were just that, the law, then we have been brought out of that by Christ. I conclude with an affirming verse from Galatians.

23Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave⁹ nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:23-29

Thanks for the great questions! Keep 'em coming

David Celeskey



Our Good Friday service will be at 6:00 p.m. on April 3rd.

Come and join us as we spend time reflecting on what Christ did at the cross.

Please join us at either 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. on April 5th as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!



April Messages

April 3

Good Friday ~ Dave Celeskey

April 5

Made New ~ Brandon Morey

April 12

Life Together ~ Dave Celeskey

April 19

Crazy Love: Stop Praying
~ Brandon Morey

April 26

Crazy Love: You Might Not Finish This Service ~ Brandon Morey

EVENTS in APRIL



Vacation Bible School!

Join us at **6:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday, April 8th** in Room 21/23 as we begin planning this summer's VBS program.

VBS will take place the week of **August 3-7.** We hope to see you there!



ROOM AT THE INN: L.S.C.C. will be opening our doors to the homeless of Marquette during the week of April 26 - May 3, 2015. We need your help to staff the 4-hour shifts, provide food and supplies, and pray for our mission of compassion and care. Sign-up sheets can be found in Connection Central. If you have any questions, please call Mary Stunkard at 360-8700.

Women's Event Night Wednesday, April 15 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

*Jana Alumbaugh will share the journey to Janelle:
a God-led adventure in adoption*



We will be collecting a free will offering for Lutheran Social Services, the agency that was a Godsend for Jana and Jason as He brought Janelle to their loving arms.

Child care is available **if you sign up in Connection Central**
Questions? Call Sarah Schober at 284-1051
or email: women@lscv.tv



MEN'S BREAKFAST
FAITH, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

**Saturday,
April 4, 2015**
8:00 a.m.
Room 33

A NIGHT OF

PRAISE & PRAYER
Psalm 33

GIVING ALL GLORY TO GOD

Please join us on **Friday, April 24th** at **6:30 p.m.** for a family friendly evening of Prayer & Praise.

Childcare will be provided for children pre-school age and under.

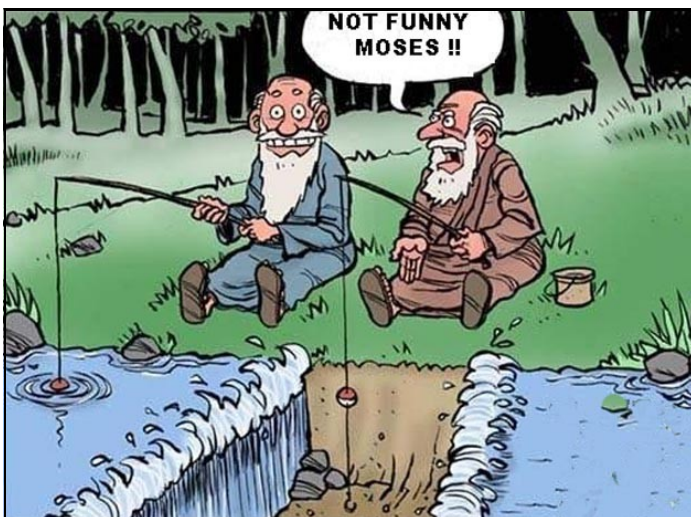


Sometimes “I Don’t Know” is the Right Answer

We hate to admit when we don’t know something. Whether it’s parents to their kids, teachers to a student, or as a Christian to our non-believing friends. We like to think that we have all the answers, but sometimes we simply hit a spot where our knowledge is lacking. My daughter (who is 4) asked the perpetual “why?” question. I’m pretty good about getting the facts out to a point, but inevitably I hit a wall where I don’t know any more. My default response is “because God made it that way”. That’s usually followed again by “why?” and then I laugh and change the subject or give her a cookie to forget the question ;)

Unfortunately, my answer is isn’t really an answer, it’s a defense technique. I really don’t know the answer to whatever the question may be, but instead of saying “I don’t know”, I hide behind God. Now, at the root of all our answers is God, so don’t get me wrong. But when we are engaged in actual, real-life discussions with our peers who don’t believe in God, that answer finds itself lacking. I was recently talking with a few atheists and the number one thing they said that makes them not take Christians seriously, is when they get to the point where Christians don’t know the answer they respond with, “Well, it just takes faith.” That’s a frustrating answer. If you are person who wishes to engage in a real discussion with a Christian about real issues, and are given an answer to which you can’t go any further with, it makes the whole conversation feel moot. Faith is vital for us Christians, but it shouldn’t be a trump card that we play when we simply don’t know something. I think a more appropriate response would be, “I don’t know the answer to that. That’s where I need to have faith.” Even that small admission of our human weakness alongside the sovereignty of God, speaks more authenticity to the non-believer. In my conversation with said atheists, a number of issues came up regarding religion and the world, religion and science, religion and sexuality. My answer in many of these exchanges was; “I don’t know, that’s something I don’t have a lot of experience with”, or “I don’t know, I wrestle with that question myself”, or “I don’t know. I know that Scripture says this, and I take it on faith to be truth”.

Faith alone is great for the believer, but when we engage with those who don’t have faith like we do it doesn’t work to tell them that they just need to have faith. Sometimes, if we want them to explore Christianity further, then we admit when we don’t know something (I mean we are all human, aren’t we?). If we expect others to admit that they don’t have all the answers as humans, then we as humans also need to admit the same, the difference being, we know where to point them to the answers.



~ Dave



~ April Schedules ~

GUEST CENTRAL



- April 5** **9: 00** Mary Kay Johnson, Gloria Price, Pam Beauchamp
 11:00 Emily Hagge, Brenda Bickler, Mary Stunkard
- April 12** 9:30 Marcia Waters & Wendy Leukuma 11:00 Kelly & Mitch Koetje
- April 19** 9:30 Valerie Wrightman & Doug Boyle 11:00 Jen Nylander & Wendy Schuster
- April 26** 9:30 Cheryl Schram & Randy Yelle 11:00 Judy & Tom Rogers

Ushers

April 5th		April 12th	
<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>
Bob Hodges	Dale Eltman	John Bolm	Steve Barr
Brian Johnson	Mike Paternoster	Robin Brock	Jim Beran
Steve Pellinen	Jordan Takalo	Lou Praznik	Jim Kantola
Randy Yelle	Tim Takalo	Tim Tebby	Ben Sebaly
	Jeffery Trudeau	Randy Yelle	James Smiljanich
April 19th		April 26th	
<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd Service</u>
Doug Boyle	Dale Eltman	John Bolm	Steve Barr
Fred Baij	Mike Paternoster	Robin Brock	Jim Beran
Bob Hodges	Jordan Takalo	Lou Praznik	Jim Kantola
Brian Johnson	Tim Takalo	Tim Tebby	Ben Sebaly
Steve Pellinen	Jeffery Trudeau	Randy Yelle	James Smiljanich
Randy Yelle			

Again, thank you for serving and for continuing to help us give the best we can to God every week!
 Please remember to check in with Gary Bovan each week you are here to serve, so he knows you are here.
 If Gary is not in church on a Sunday, please check in with Randy Yelle. Don't forget to wear your nametags!
 If you don't have one, please contact Sara in the church office and she will make one for you. Thank you!

Greeters

April 5

9:00
 Jackie Baumler, Walt Aho,
 Cindy Asher, Barb Koski,
 Steve Buteyn, Terry Copp

11:00
 Brian & Shirley Johnson,
 Susan Bovan, Carl Johnson,
 Steve Buteyn

April 12

9:30
 Jackie Baumler, Susan
 Lane, Walt Aho, Barb
 Koski, Terry Copp, Steve
 Buteyn

11:00
 Kayla Argeropoulos, Brian
 & Shirley Johnson, Jim
 Kent, Carl Johnson, Steve
 Buteyn

April 19

9:30
 Jackie Baumler, Susan
 Lane, Walt Aho, Barb
 Koski, Terry Copp, Steve
 Buteyn

11:00
 Kayla Argeropoulos, Jim
 Kent, Cindy Asher, Duane
 DuRay, Steve Buteyn, Carl
 Johnson

April 26

9:30
 Jackie Baumler, Susan
 Lane, Walt Aho, Barb Koski,
 Terry Copp, Steve Buteyn

11:00
 Brian & Shirley Johnson, Jim
 Kent, Cindy Asher, Carl
 Johnson, Steve Buteyn

Lake Superior

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Debt Free in Three

On March 1, 2015, Lake Superior Christian Church refinanced our mortgage. Thanks to the sale of our old building on Oakridge, we were able to put a substantial amount towards the reduction of our debt. We have just signed a three year note for \$431,676.45. For most of us this sounds like a lot of money and it is, but look at what we've accomplished. Originally on March 1, 2002, we signed a note for a mortgage of \$1,430,669.23. That means in the past 13 years we have paid off almost a *million dollars!!!*

Bringing BUILDING Sending

Before we order the cake and punch for our celebration, we should discuss a few details. The elders have agreed to continue an aggressive monthly payment of \$9600. Continuing this payment will leave us with a balance of about \$122,000 at the end of our three year term (March 1, 2018).

We're on the
web! www.lscctv

We look forward to the day when the building will be paid off. It is our goal to arrive on March 1, 2018, with no remaining mortgage balance. By paying off the debt early, we can save on the additional interest a longer term loan will cost us and give us the satisfaction of complete ownership. We ask you to look to God in prayer and see if you could be a part of completely erasing this debt within the next three years.

We understand there are some that are financially strapped and aren't able to give any more at this time. We also know there are many of us who can give extra and we ask that you prayerfully consider this. As well, there are some who are financially blessed and we ask you to consider giving generously. If God has placed on your heart to help LSCC become debt free, please specify your additional financial gifts are to be designated to the mortgage.

In our zest to become debt free, please remember we continue to utilize your normal weekly giving to further the kingdom of God in Marquette County and the surrounding areas. Simply reallocating your normal weekly giving to the mortgage will cause financial deficiencies in other areas. Please consider giving additional monies towards the mortgage.

We are very excited to think how close we are to being debt free. For those of us who have attended Financial Peace University, we know Dave Ramsey would be pleased.

Please join us in our goal to be debt free in three!!



LSCC Elders

March Statistics

	<u>March 1</u>	<u>March 8</u>	<u>March 15</u>	<u>March 22</u>	<u>March 29</u>
Worship Attendance	342	327	419	408	422
Bible School Attendance	63	62	63	48	57
Operating Fund Budget	\$14,205	\$14,205	\$14,205	\$14,205	\$14,205
Operating Fund Offering	\$15,152.14	\$14,888.50	\$14,808.50	\$13,368.55	\$14,795.17

