

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Let Marriage be Held in Honor Among All"

June is a popular month for weddings. We know that a wedding ceremony can take place at any time of the year. But if a choice had to be made between, say, January or June to have a wedding, I think it's safe to say most would pick that latter, especially in Wisconsin.

The Lord gives no command concerning the time of year for a wedding to take place, we have freedom to decide those things. However, the Lord does command that we treat the institution of marriage itself in a very special way: "Let marriage be held in honor among all." (Hebrews 13:4) And as good Lutherans we then ask: What does this mean? How do we honor marriage? How is it dishonored?

Let's begin by understanding what marriage is. Since, as Christians, we are only concerned about truth, and since God's Word (the Bible) is truth (John 17:17), we're not going to concern ourselves at this point with how the world defines marriage. In the Bible our Lord says: "A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7) Pretty simple, right? Yes! God has ordained this beautiful union between a man and woman, and God expects all of us to honor this union, whether we are married or not.

Of course, that simple definition is not an exhaustive description of the nature or purpose of marriage. We do not have enough room in our newsletter to discuss the whole matter in detail, so we'll just focus on some of the main points. Let's start by looking again at that verse in Hebrews 13, the whole verse reads: "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous." (13:4)

The intimate sexual union between a husband and wife is to be cherished and protected. God will judge those who remain in unrepentant sexual sin and who show disregard for the sacred union between husband and wife. The Sixth Command-

ment also focuses on this simple rule: don't have sex outside of the marriage union! Sexual immorality is not to be treated lightly, especially among Christians who actually believe what God says! (Colossians 3:5-6) Let's continue by reviewing some of the other main teachings about marriage.

1) God created and instituted marriage. Since marriage is something God has created we don't have the right to mess around with it. Bad things happen when we ignore or oppose God's good design and plan in the things He has given us. Unbelievers have redefined marriage to be reflect the perverse, fallen nature of the world (such as the so-called marriage between two men, etc.) but that makes it neither right nor acceptable. Christians do not honor that which is dishonorable in the sight of God! (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25)

2) Marriage is a lifelong union between one man and one woman. God hates divorce. (Mal. 2:16) And although the Lord Himself allows for divorce in the instances of adultery and desertion, it is always to be lamented, not celebrated. The call to repentance is needed for those who cause the marriage union to be broken. (Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:39)

3) "Be fruitful and multiply." Procreation and nurturing children in the way of the Lord is a chief purpose of marriage; all of society is built upon the foundation of marriage and families. The other obvious truth from this is that sexual intimacy is a good gift from God that is to be expressed and enjoyed only within the union of marriage. Having sex outside of marriage is always sinful. Just because two people are attracted to each other does not mean they can engage in sexual behavior. Christians need to oppose the confused message of our society concerning sex and marriage and desire to live by God's loving plan for men and women to enjoy intimacy in marriage. (Gen. 1:22; 1 Cor. 7:1-9; Sixth Commandment; Ephesians 6:1-4)

4) A believer should only marry another believer. (1 Cor. 7:39 2 Cor. 6:14) Parents, we need to impress this upon our children BEFORE they start dating. Dating always has in mind the prospect of marriage. Why spend time dating someone who is not committed to the Lord? On the other hand,

AROUND PELLA

continued from page 1

if a Christian is already married to an unbeliever they should continue in that marriage showing love and honor to their spouse. (1 Cor. 7:13-16; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

5) Marriage is a blessing from God, but it is a voluntary union for those who desire it. A person does not have to be married, and no one should be pressured into marriage. A believer who freely chooses to remain single is also honoring the Lord. (1 Cor. 7:1-8)

6) Marriage is a public matter, it is not a secret agreement between two people. The State has an obligation to protect this public institution and it brings terrible harm on a society when it neglects this responsibility. Married couples are expected to live openly and honestly as husband and wife. If two people are not married, they should not be living together as if they are married. We need to emphasize very clearly what God expects of His people. Co-habitation is sinful behavior and unacceptable for Christians. We must be diligent in honoring marriage by resisting all the lame excuses that the world gives for why a couple should live together before marriage. Even secular studies have shown that co-habitation is harmful towards establishing a long-term, committed relationship. But even more important than that, GOD says its wrong, and it is spiritually and emotionally harmful as is all unrepentant sin; and that's the main point.

Thankfully, the Lord offers forgiveness for this sin through faith in the shed blood of Jesus. But that forgiveness does not mean we continue in the sin, we turn from it and strive to do that which is pleasing to God. We endeavor to make any sinful relationship an honorable one. Parents, we have a responsibility, even when our children are adults, to admonish them when they are tempted in these matters. Please don't ignore the situation for months or years hoping that there might be a wedding down the line, the spiritual damage caused may be irreversible by then.

These biblical teachings make it clear that marriage is honored when we hold to God's design and it is dishonored when we foolishly disregard God's teachings. "Let marriage be held in honor among all." Marriage is a good and honorable estate, it is a blessing for those who seek to live within God's plan and purpose for marriage. Just as God's grace and forgiveness keeps us in our relationship with Him, so too the mutual love and forgiveness shared between a husband and wife will continue to strengthen their marriage and will glorify God as they honor one another.

For more information about co-habitation please read the booklet, "Second Thoughts About Living Together", by our LCMS president, Matthew Harrison. Copies are available in the office.



Newsletter Prayer List

Our monthly newsletter prayer list will include the names of those who have long-term illnesses

or who are in the military. If you know of someone who should be included on this list, please contact Laura at 324-3321, ext. 10. Thank you.

Long-Term Prayer List:

Pastor Jim Herbolsheimer, Marvin Groth, Rose Farvour, Ed Bernthal

Sue Wilson (*Sister-in-law of Cheri Witkowski*)

Allison Townsend (*Friend of Cheri Witkowski*)

Meagan Schellpfeffer (*Granddaughter of Darlene Seering*)

WELCOME

We welcome Kevin and Lisa Hahn and their children Noah, Anna, Nathanael, and Luke to Pella. They were received as new members on Sunday, May 20. They transferred their membership from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Reedsburg, WI.

Congregational Mtg
Monday,
June 25, 2018—7PM

Agenda:

Proposed Constitution & Bylaws
Changes

AROUND PELLA

Relay for Life



The Relay For Life of Waupun will be held at the track at the Waupun Area High School on Saturday, June 9th. The opening ceremony starts at 10:00 a.m. and the event ends at 2:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the community center.

Pella Relay For Life team members are Pat and Milford Hopp, Heather Buhalog, and Donna Klosterman. Please contact Donna Klosterman at 324-3962 if you have questions or would want to join Pella's team. Please support the fight against cancer!

June Birthdays

1 June Hammann	18 Dustin Zuhlke
2 Mason Dykstra	19 Carter Harmsen
2 Aiden Hawkinson	20 Zane Cornelius
2 Adam VandeZande	20 Crystal Harmsen
3 Calvin Landaal	20 Gloria Harper
4 Alice Hennig	20 Matthew Shadley
4 Michael Pluim	20 Deborah Teachout
5 Navaeh VandeZande	21 Scott Fairbank
6 Candis Zills	22 Nathanael Hahn
7 Austyn Maldonado	22 Kirstie Riese
9 Lloyd Dykstra	22 Cory Schultz
10 Anthony Maldonado	22 Austin VandeZande
10 Steve Wiersma	25 Jeffrey Reihbandt
11 Elizabeth Knuth	25 Kyra Verheyen
12 Evelyn Walsh	26 Darlene Fuhrer
13 Shaunalynn Hiner	26 Kim Luchini
14 Alexandria Stephens	27 Barbara Gentz
14 Sharon Stephens	27 Stephen Parsons
14 Derek Teachout	28 Edna Heilmeyer
16 Theodore Harris	29 Claire Buchda
16 Dane Wachter	29 Alexa Bunkoske
16 Jeanne Wagner	29 Stella Pulda
17 Auden Landaal	30 Colten Hawkinson
17 Sandra Panzer	30 Jordan Mitchell
17 Cheryl Witkowski	30 Ava Stobb
18 Noah Ingersoll	30 Aaron Streblow

June Anniversaries

1 Phillip and Amy VandeZande	16
6 Casey and Alexa Bunkoske	4
7 Larry and Charmaine Holz	49
8 Jerry and Victoria Belleville	44
8 Michael and Karla Ceman	33
8 Gerald and Alice Rahn	60
9 Kyle and Shaunalynn Hiner	6
9 Edwin and Kathleen Swan	62
13 John and Sharon Stephens	48
13 Darwin and Mary Wetzel	4
14 Michael & Susan VandeSlunt	32
15 Nathan and Julie Trauernicht	22
18 Jeffrey and Lynne Reihbandt	35
19 Tom and Mary Mariani	3
21 Ronald and Judith Homan	60
23 Samuel and Morgan Mattheis	1
23 Michael and Julie Nolan	28
24 David and Jean Goodall	33
25 George and Rosemary Baumann	52
25 Kenneth and Loretta Gedamke	42
25 Douglas and Judy Zuhlke	30
26 Lyle and Jayne Hull	53
26 John and Marilyn Meyer	53
26 Craig and Julie Verheyen	25
28 Dale and Renee TerBeest	38

1stPlace4Health

1stPlace4Health will begin a new Bible Study this summer. The study group will meet Thursdays at 5:30pm at Pella Lutheran Church in Waupun from June 7th - August 30th (13weeks). The first session will be an opportunity to check out the new book and decide if you want to commit to a summer of transformation.

Please contact Wendy Vick at (920)296-0240 by text or calling with any questions and if you plan on attending June 7th.

Select Mission for June: Gideons International

The Gideons International is the result of a meeting between two men who wished to band commercial travelers together for evangelism. What began in 1908 as an Association of Christian businessmen placing Bibles in hotel rooms has evolved into an expanding mission to provide Scriptures to all people in nearly every facet of life. Today, we have taken more than 2 billion Scriptures in more than 95 languages to 200 countries, territories, and possessions across the globe.



In the narthex you will find cards that can be given "In memory", "In recognition" and "Thinking of you" along with envelopes that can be used to send in your donation for Bibles. Gideon Expressions are always cherished. Each card you give to a friend or loved one sends a Bible or New Testament to a lost person—somewhere in the world. And, each Gideon Expressions card shares the testimony of someone saved after receiving God's Word.

We provide many opportunities to partner with us through either prayer or financial support. Join us, and let's spread the Good News. For more information please go online: www.gideons.org

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In this issue

- Pastor's Desk..... 1-2
- Prayers, Welcome 2
- Congregational Mtg 2
- Relay for Life 3
- June Select Mission 3
- 1st Place4Health 3
- Birthdays and
Anniversaries 3



Church office hours will change beginning June 4th. They will be:

- Monday 8AM–4PM
- Tuesday 8AM–1PM
- Wednesday 8AM–1PM
- Thursday 8AM–4PM
- Friday Closed

Website
www.pellalutheran.org

Contact Us

920-324-3321

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June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		Pella Lutheran Church 315 S. Madison Street Waupun, WI 53963 Phone 920-324-3321			 <p style="font-style: italic; font-size: 1.2em;">This is the day the Lord has made!</p>		1 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
3 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Board	4	5 9:30 AM Prayer Group	6 9:00 AM No Quilting (due to summer cleaning) 1:00-3:00 PM Jr.-Sr. Youth Scavenger Hunt 7:00 PM Divine Service/ Holy Communion	7 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	8	9 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10AM-2PM Relay for Life	
10 9:00 AM Divine Service/ Holy Communion 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	11 9:00 AM Pella Life Group 7:00 PM Elders' Meeting	12 9:30 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Trustees' Meeting	13 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Divine Service	14 10:00 AM Bible Study 12:45 PM BP Clinic by Carol's CBRF Training 2:00 PM Ladies Aid/LWML 5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	
17 9:00 AM Divine Service 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 	18 7:00 PM Church Council	19 9:30 AM Prayer Group	20 9:00 AM Quilting 11:30AM -12:30PM Sr High Bible Stdy-Culver's 7:00 PM Divine Service/ Holy Communion	21 10:00 AM Bible Study NEWSLETTER MAILING 5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	22 6:00 PM Card Night	23 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	
24 9:00 AM Divine Service/ Holy Communion 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Orientation Mtg. with Acolyte training	25 7:00 PM Congregational Meeting	26 9:30 AM Prayer Group	27 9:00 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Divine Service	28 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM 1st Place 4 Heath	29	30 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	

June 2018 Serving Calendar

Date	Time	Organists	Elder/ Altar Assistant	Finance	V/PA-Radio	Greeters	Acolytes	Ushers
6-3	9:00 AM	Ca. Zills	B. Kuenzi	D. Beder	V. Loehrke E. Swan ®	D. Klosterman		H. Flier C. Lund
6-6	7:00 PM	L. Huizenga	G. Woock					
6-10	9:00 AM	L. Huizenga	D. Wetzel C. Lund	M. Bowe S. Bowe	H. Schmitz W. Schmitz ®	J. & J. Quade	K. Ordonez	D. Buss N. Buss
6-13	7:00 PM	Ch. Zills	N. Trauernicht					
6-17	9:00 AM	Ch. Zills	W. Schmitz	M. Peachey C. Pater	D. VandeZande G. Baumann ®	H. & C. Schmitz		G. Baumann R. Baumann
6-20	7:00 PM	Ca. Zills	B. Kuenzi					
6-24	9:00 AM	Ca. Zills	D. Wetzel M. Hopp	B. Kuenzi D. Kuenzi	S. Schmitz C. Landaal ®	M. & P. Hopp	C. Fischer	H. Westhuis M. Hopp
6-27	7:00 PM		N. Trauernicht					

Altar Circle Committee: Jean Goodall, Sharon Friese, Bernice Schultz, Phyllis VanHierden
Soul Accounting: Tori Wedman & Marion Birkholz

