



LWML Trinity Zone

September 2011

www.lwmltxdist.org

Fall Rally

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The women of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington invite all women of the LWML Trinity Zone to the 2011 Fall Rally.

The rally is Sunday, October 16 at Beautiful Savior, 5851 New York Avenue in Arlington, TX 76018.

Registration is 2-2:30 p.m.

Carolyn Shugart from Eagle Mountain Pregnancy Center will speak to the group. Each person or society is encouraged to bring a baby shower gift for the Center.

For more information, call 817-465-3164.

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

What is "tithing" about?

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30 NIV

Tithing is just a fancy word for offering - right? If you're like me, the answer to that question is yes. But God gives clues throughout the Bible that the two words are not the same.

Early on in the Old Testament, we learn that God commands his people to dedicate a tithe of everything they have to the Lord. Leviticus 27:32 says every tenth animal will be holy to the Lord. Deuteronomy 14:22 reminds the Israelites to set aside a tenth of the fields bounty each year as a tithe.

Jacob, in Genesis 28, also sets up the idea of a tenth belonging to God. He has a vision of God promising great things to him and his descendents. When he awakes, he proclaims, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I

Please see *Tithing* on page 3

“Serve the Lord in gladness.” Psalms 100:2

Bible Cake

Borrowed from a Meals on Wheels volunteer

¾ c. Jeremiah 6:20
 ¼ c. Psalms 23:5
 1 c. Isaiah 10:14
 1 1/2 c. II Kings 7:1
 1 tsp. Exodus 35:28
 2 tsp. I Corinthians 5:6
 ¼ tsp. Colossians 4:6
 ¼ c. Job 10:10
 ½ c. Matthew 7:16
 ½ c. Numbers 6:3
 Leviticus 26:26
 2 T. Exodus 3:8
 ½ T. Genesis 24:43

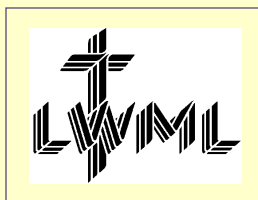
Mix Jeremiah 6:20 and Psalms 23:5. Add Isaiah 10:14. Mix well.
 Sift together II Kings 7:1, Exodus 35:28, I Corinthians 5:6 and Colossians 4:6.
 Add Job 10:10 alternately with second mixture to first mixture.
 Stir in Matthew 7:16, Numbers 6:3 and Leviticus 26:26.
 For glaze, mix Exodus 3:8 and Genesis 24:43. Spread evenly.

News from Ascension

By Sandra Juroska

Women of Ascension will be hosted a pot-blessing meal with a birthday cake for our pastor, Joe Ardy on Saturday, September 10th. After dinner, the group traveled to Glen Rose to enjoy a performance of "The Passion".

Also, the ladies have been busy making pumpkin rolls to sell and provide funds for POBLO and its mission work among Muslim people in the Dallas area.

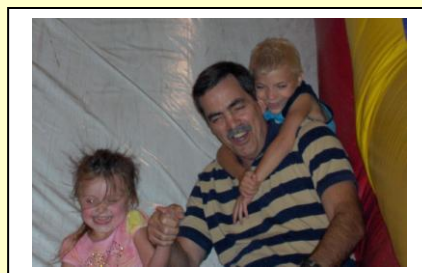


Happenings at Faith Lutheran

The women of Faith Lutheran Church in Stephenville have been busy.

In August, they hosted an ice cream social for all the families at the church. Some of the adults played card games with the kids (and Zone Pastoral Counselor Tom Konz) enjoyed a giant slide.

In September, the women participated in the first session of a Bible study called “Beautiful Feet.”



Tithing from page 1

return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and *of all that you give me* I will give you a tenth." (Genesis 28:20-22 NIV)

In Numbers 18:21 we start to see what God has in mind to do with His tithe: "I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting."

Deuteronomy 26:12 expands on this idea, saying: "You shall give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied."

So how is this different from an offering? Consider what Moses' tells the Israelites to do when they start building the Tabernacle after he has received the Commandments. "Moses said to the whole Israelite community, 'This is what the Lord has Commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone *who is willing* to bring to the Lord an offering...' All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do." Exodus 35:4-5a; 29 NIV

In the same chapter, Moses also asks the Israelites to give of themselves and help build the Tabernacle itself according their given talents. It's not enough to bring the fine linens, gold, silver and other supplies needed for the Tabernacle - *someone needs to put it all together as well.*

Abram, before tithing was established as a law, sees the importance of financially supporting God's workers here on Earth. After Abram rescues Lot, he is approached by Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a "priest of God Most High," (Gen. 14:18) who blesses Abram and brings him a gift of bread and wine after the great military victory. In verse 20, "Abram gave him a tenth of everything."

In Exodus we see a clear separation between tithe and offering. Offerings are given (or offered) beyond the tithe. And offerings are given freely - as we are willing or feel so compelled to give. With tithing, there isn't a sense of suggestion, God isn't asking, He is telling. Every tenth animal is holy to the Lord; a tenth of the fields' bounty - our first fruits - belong to the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30 summarizes for us quite nicely - a tithe of everything belongs to the Lord and it is holy.

In a world redeemed through Jesus' blood in the New Testament, what does this mean to us today?

Consider Matthew 19:21: "Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'"

If a tenth of everything seems steep, Jesus' answer seems down right outrageous - give up everything? But His answer underscores the point God is making all the way back in Leviticus - it all belongs to Him anyway.

That passage carries a little bit of a sting with it. And I'll admit there has been more than one occasion where I sat at my desk with my paycheck in one hand and a stack of bills in the other and groaned about wondering how the one would ever satisfy the other - much less deduct a tenth off the top.

Deuteronomy 8:18 says: "Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

But tithing is intended to only be one piece of the total package of our worship and service to God. Luke 11: 42, "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone."

We cannot earn our way into heaven through good deeds, but our faith encourages us to "love one another," John 13:34. They are two sides of the same coin. We cannot buy our way in through tithing, but our faith encourages us to give back to God what is rightfully his.

The New Testament offers us a gentle reminder once again of God's grace. As you consider your commitment to tithes and offerings, meditate on 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Gretchen Willis, VP of Servant Resources, is moving. Her husband will be transferred to Wisconsin and they are moving in October. We are very sad to see her leave but pray that this will be a good move for her and her family. Since she has one more year to serve, the executive committee needs to appoint someone to fill her place (Article V, Section 4 of the bylaws). This needs to be done before our Oct. 16th Fall Rally so she can be installed then.



Devotion: Go ahead – Live life!

From the Lutheran Women's Quarterly

As teens, we often think we are invincible, that nothing could ever happen to us. We spend our time on things like being cool, playing games, and endless texting and tweeting. God's Word tells us, however, that a life based on people, things, or popularity is worthless.

Psalm 90:12 says: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

We often do not know the way to true joy and heavenly peace. In John 14:6, Jesus tells us that *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

His words show that the way to peace, joy, and eternal life is only through our faith in Him. God reminds us to live each day with heaven in mind because our Redeemer has already prepared the way for us and our eternal life has already begun in Him.

Each day we can live life as God taught and be full of joy in the Lord.

Go ahead! Have fun hanging out, playing games, texting, or tweeting. God wants us to enjoy life, but remember that through the Holy Spirit's guidance, we can enjoy life with true heavenly peace and joy focused on our Savior.

A word from Trinity Zone Prez

By Marlene White

And they realized they had been with Jesus. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:13b and 20 (NKJV)

I pray that all of you are doing well as we begin this season of fall. The temperatures are thankfully getting cooler, but we continue to pray for rain. We pray also for all those, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have been affected by the numerous wildfires across our state. In spite of all the bad news, we know the "Good News" - that we have a Savior who loves us and promises to be with us always. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming season of Advent, we remember that he loved us, and the world, enough to be born as a human baby, live a perfect life, die on the cross and be resurrected to assure us that we will share eternal life with Him in heaven.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our District Retreat in Glen Rose October 7th through 8th and also at our Fall Rally at Beautiful Savior in Arlington. Invitations will be coming soon! Don't forget, we will need to **nominate a new Zone YWR** to replace Whitney Lee who is now a District YWR. Also, if you know of someone, or yourself, who would be a good candidate for a district office, please bring a nomination form for that person. I will also have extras available. Let us "Serve the Lord with gladness."

Why Purple?

The official colors of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League are purple and gold. According to the Southern Illinois Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Supplement, October 1948, the Southern Illinois district was the first to adopt the colors of purple, symbolizing royalty, and gold, symbolizing value and integrity.

The LWML Executive Board adopted purple and gold at their board meeting held on July 24, 1951, at the Commodore Hotel New York, New York. The minutes of this meeting state: "Motion was made by Mrs. Emil Frank to recommend that the colors Purple and Gold as suggested in the Handbook, be adopted as the official League colors. Action - Adopted." This historical decision is noted on page 77 of Wings (© 1991).