

# The Word

A Publication of  
Crown of Life  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church

AUGUST 2011

## The WELS View: By Scripture Alone

<http://www.wels.net/news-events/wels-view-scripture-alone-0>

Recent news reports have thrust the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) into the middle of a presidential campaign. What has catapulted this relatively small Lutheran church body into the media spotlight is the fact that, until recently, presidential candidate Michele Bachmann had held membership in a WELS congregation.

As often happens in controversies both religious and political, people tend to view issues through the prism of their individual perspectives and beliefs. That often results in obscured facts and distortions of the truth. The discussion of the WELS position on the Antichrist is a perfect example of this.

With 390,000 members, WELS is the third largest of the Lutheran churches in the United States. It is often described, properly so, as the “most theologically conservative” of the three.

WELS does hold to the historic Lutheran position that the Roman Catholic papacy fits the biblical characteristics of the Antichrist. We do this without reservation and with no apologies. We believe that our doctrines cannot be tempered by political correctness or modified to align them with changing culture or public opinion.

WELS draws all of its teachings from the Bible. “By Scripture alone” was one of the major themes of the Lutheran Reformation, and WELS has not retreated from that core belief. WELS is also a “confessional” Lutheran church, which means that we hold to the teachings of the Lutheran Confessions because they are a clear and accurate articulation of biblical truth. These confessional writings, produced at the time of the Reformation and in the decades that followed, identified the fundamental ways in which the Roman Catholic Church had departed from the teachings of the Bible. Even though Martin Luther had sought only to reform his church and return it to the correct teachings of Scripture, he was excommunicated by Rome and targeted for death because of his beliefs. The birth of the Lutheran church was not Luther’s preference; it was made necessary by the decisions of the Roman Catholic Church itself.

Luther and the Lutheran Confessions identified the Roman Catholic papacy as the Antichrist for three main reasons: First, the papacy claimed to speak with an authority – even infallibility – that was equal to or surpassing the Word of

God itself. By doing so, it put itself in a position of being “anti” or “in place of” Christ. Second, the papacy claimed that there is no salvation outside of the Roman Catholic Church, making membership in a human organization a condition for salvation; finally, in emphasizing that faith and obedience are necessary for salvation, the papacy undermined the very heart and center of the biblical teaching that salvation is by God’s grace alone and comes to individuals through faith in Christ alone. In holding to each of these teachings, the Roman Catholic papacy placed itself in clear opposition to the foundation of the Christian faith, and therefore in opposition to Christ himself.

Although the Roman Catholic Church may have softened the way in which it refers to these doctrines, it has never repudiated or corrected them.

While WELS continues to see the characteristics of the Antichrist in the Roman Catholic papacy, it is wrong and dishonest to portray this belief as stemming from anti-Catholic bigotry. We do have strong convictions, and we identify what we believe are teachings that depart from the Word of God. But we hold no animosity toward Christians who hold the Roman Catholic faith, and we respect the right of people to hold beliefs different from ours even as we point out the error. Furthermore, we

rejoice that even in the Roman Catholic Church, where we believe that the gospel has been distorted, there are many Catholics who hold to a simple faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and who will ultimately be saved. Testifying to the errors that still exist in Catholic doctrine is itself an expression of love; remaining silent or glossing over doctrinal differences would express the opposite.

Media reports have portrayed the WELS position on the Antichrist to be a prominent or even signature doctrine in our church. Certainly we do not deny this teaching or attempt to hide it. At the same time, it is not a topic of daily discussion or a regular theme in Sunday sermons. Nor is this a view peculiar to WELS; it has been the historic position of the Lutheran church for almost 500 years – a position still held by confessional Lutheran church bodies around the world.

Michele Bachmann is no longer a member of our church, and we are not in any position to comment on her current religious views. But we can say that her previous membership in our church does not make her guilty of being an “anti-Catholic bigot.” To accuse her – or her former church – of that is patently unfair and wrong.

Serving in Christ,  
Mark Schroeder



# Christ's Love, Our Calling.

We all have different gifts,  
according to the grace given us.  
*Romans 12:6*



On Sunday, September 18, our congregation will begin a four-week stewardship series. We will join with hundreds of congregations across our synod to celebrate the second part of the four-year stewardship emphasis *Christ's Love, Our Calling*. This year will focus on what the Bible teaches us about our stewardship of our talents. We will see that we all share different gifts but the same grace. Each one of us is gifted by the Spirit. Each one of us is a recipient of Jesus' precious grace. May the Lord richly bless us as we roll up our sleeves to put these talents to use – to God's glory and our neighbor's good!

# August 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b>	2	3	4 2:30 p.m. <b>Southview Service</b>	5	6
7 8:00 a.m. <b>Worship (C)</b> 9:15 a.m. <b>Bible Class / Sunday School</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship (C)</b>	8 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship (C)</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Fellowship</b>	9 6:30 p.m. <b>Education</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Properties</b> 6:45 p.m. <b>Stewardship</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Evangelism</b>	10 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. <b>School Cleaning</b>	11 2:30 p.m. <b>Southview Service</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Elders</b>	12	13 9:00 a.m. – noon <b>School Cleaning</b>
14 8:00 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 9:15 a.m. <b>Bible Class / Sunday School</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship</b>	15 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Worship Committee</b>	16 7:00 p.m. <b>Council</b>	17 6:30 p.m. <b>School Parents' Meeting</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	18 1:00 p.m. <b>Circle C</b> 2:30 p.m. <b>Southview Service</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Riverview Cemetery</b>	19	20
21 8:00 a.m. <b>Worship (C)</b> 9:15 a.m. <b>Bible Class / Sunday School</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship (C)</b>	22 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. <b>School Open House</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship (C)</b>	23	24 8:30 a.m. <b>SCHOOL STARTS</b> <b>APE STARTS</b> for Kindergarten only 	25 2:30 p.m. <b>Southview Service</b>	26 8:30 a.m. <b>Matins</b>	27
28 8:00 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 9:15 a.m. <b>Bible Class / Sunday School</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. <b>Pioneers Kickoff Picnic</b>	29 8:30 a.m. <b>PRE-K STARTS</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b>	30	31			

## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

God's Word is clear about our need to give and how we are to give. For example, in Exodus 23:16, God tells His people that they are to bring their best to the Lord. In Proverbs 3:9, He directs His people to give their firstfruits. In the writings from Paul, we read that we are to give on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2). So how does God react if we are not faithful in our giving? Through the words of the prophet Malachi, God showed his displeasure to those who were depriving Him of their tithes and offerings. Are you pleasing God through your attitude toward giving and what you give?

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Scripture tells us that we cannot be free to be God's servants or stewards until death to ourselves takes place in each of us. This death is not a physical death, but a spiritual death. It is the death of the old nature in us so the new nature or new life in Christ can be raised. Paul wrote, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). All things in Christ are created anew. It is this new life in Christ that people see as we give generously and serve freely. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

Source: *12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 1)* by Ronald J. Chewing, Stewardship Advisors



In June the CARE Committee provided meals to two families. One family has a loved one who is battling cancer and the other lost a loved one. Please keep these families and all other families with needs in your prayers. If you know of anyone who might benefit from a meal please contact Liz Oldfield at 651-455-4483.

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Carla Koeppen   | 15 Cadence Moe   |
| 2 Elizabeth Dohrn<br>Brandon Wales<br>David Wright  | 16 Shelby Constable<br>Sandra Gerber<br>Ronald Johnson   |
| 3 Timothy Burdorf<br>Lorin E. Greer<br>John McCall<br>Bradley Oberstadt<br>John Schindeldecker                          | 17 Danielle Bethke<br>Kiara Boyer<br>Michael Kohnke  |
| 4 Vicki Tillman<br>Charles Velin  | 18 William (Will) Gydesen<br>Mark Kruse<br>Jameson Pieper  |
| 5 Cydney Bluhm<br>Luz Cenicerros<br>Myrtle Kijenski<br>Debra Montgomery<br>Alissa Osland<br>Kara Plath<br>Karissa Plath | 19 Zackery Bejblik<br>Kristine Krogman<br>Peggy Morse<br>Beth Plath<br>Savannah Valenzuela                           |
| 6 Alicia Chernohorsky<br>Jonah Kurth<br>Mary Jo Myhre   | 21 Ronald Burkhardt<br>Keith Danner<br>Todd Eichmann<br>Amber Rall<br>Karl Schnobrich                                |
| 7 Danielle Marzinske  | 22 Clifford Footh<br>Louis Sachs<br>David Westphal   |
| 8 Lynette Klocow<br>Denise Lemmer<br>Richard Radmer<br>Charlene Schindeldecker  | 23 Lois Hoeft<br>Taylor Olson<br>Marcia Stueber<br>James Wakefield, Jr.<br>Stuart (Stu) Waldhauser<br>Sara Wiplinger |
| 9 Michelle Koker<br>Jacob Stensland   | 25 Karner Boyer<br>Marina Nigg<br>Cheryl Schindeldecker  |
| 10 Christopher Hunter   | 27 Teddy Dohrn<br>Ruth Morgan  |
| 11 Gary Sachs   | 28 DuWayne Fries<br>Kathleen Mommsen   |
| 12 Kenneth Morse<br>Lloyd Pomerence<br>Ryan Swiderski   | 29 Aaron Wanless   |
| 13 Carl Constable<br>Braden Fischer<br>Derek Lander<br>Beverly Monjeau<br>Pauline Pagel<br>Brenda Roberts               | 30 Cameron Biggar<br>Richard Kraupa<br>Johnathon VandenBosch   |
| 14 Aubrea Bluhm<br>Derek Neubauer   | 31 Rachel Boehlke<br>Dianne Brecht<br>Erik Johnson<br>Jazmyn Solseth   |



Have a  
COOL day!

# Bits & Pieces

## Northwestern Publishing House Store Coming to Stillwater in September

Northwestern Publishing House will be at Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater **September 9-11**.

**All NPH published merchandise will be offered at a 20% discount.** Items for sale include books for all ages; clothing; jewelry; sheet music; CDs and DVDs; toys; confirmation gifts; paper goods; invitations; and more.

### Store hours are as follows:

Friday, September 9.....8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, September 9.....6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 10.....8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, September 11 .....9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NPH will be set up in the Family Center (Gym) just inside the doors, so feel free to stop in to shop anytime! Contact Tom Kuehl at NPH with any pre-orders. You can reach Tom on his cell phone at 414-698-9245. Or, call NPH at 800-662-6022 and ask for Tom.

## Simply Giving® Program

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Crown of Life offers an automated giving program sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called Simply Giving®, which provides this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to their church's account. Contact the church office for more details, or look for a Simply Giving® enrollment form in the information center.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### ■ School Cleaning Days

Wednesday, August 10, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, August 13, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### ■ Informational Parents' Meeting

*Mandatory for all parents of incoming K-8 students.*  
Wednesday, August 17, 6:30 p.m.

#### ■ School Open House

*Students are invited to bring their backpacks to school and meet their teachers.*  
Monday, August 22, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

#### ■ First Day of School APE Begins for Kindergarten Only

*All parents are invited to attend the opening service.*  
Wednesday, August 24 – Opening Service at 8:30 a.m.

## School Supplies

School supply lists are now posted on the school website. Visit [www.colwsp.org](http://www.colwsp.org) and click on "Forms" on the School dropdown menu.



## Annual St. Croix Golf Classic



All skill levels are welcome to enjoy the fun and fellowship at the Golf Classic and support St. Croix Lutheran High School students! The event will take place **Monday, August 8** at the Oak Glen Golf Course in Stillwater.

Admission of \$125 includes: \$40 charitable donation, green fees, cart rental, driving range, dinner and prizes. You can also register for great challenges like *50/50*, *Beat the Pres*, and the *Cooler Challenge*.

For more information, including registration forms, visit [www.StCroixSchools.org/golfclassic](http://www.StCroixSchools.org/golfclassic). Registration deadline is August 1.

# CROWN OF LIFE

# Bits & PIECES

## LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

115 Crusader Avenue  
West St. Paul, MN 55118  
651-451-3832

**Mark C. Kom**  
Senior Pastor .....651-552-7014

**Richard Schwerin**  
Associate Pastor .....651-578-9661

**Daniel L. Plath**  
Principal .....651-451-3832

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Monday ..... 6:30 p.m.

*Praise Service is held the second Sunday and Monday of each month.*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

Sunday .....9:15 a.m.

## VISION STATEMENT

*We seek to be a vibrant community of faithful Christians who worship together, enthusiastically witness to God's Word, provide lifelong Christian education, compassionately minister to our members' and families' needs, and wisely use the gifts God has given us.*

Please direct any questions, comments or ideas about this issue or any future issues to the church office at 651-451-3832 or Pastor Kom at PastorCOL@gmail.com.

## Quotefalls

Place the letters in each column into the boxes below them to form a Bible passage. The letters are not necessarily in order. You determine which letter goes into which box below it. Each letter is used only once. Gray squares are used as word spacers.

S	W	W	H	B	E	A	L	W	S	N	S	F	T	H	E	A
N	E	H	S	O	H	F	O	I	A	Y	T	H	E	A	M	R
B	R	E	O	T	O	A	A	R	L	S	B	I	E	S	O	
H	L	A	H	E		L		D								

D	U	T	R	W	N	H	H	L	A	S	T	N	O	L	T	T
A	W	O	R	I	O	T	O	R	D	R	H	E	W	N	S	H
B	E	A	R	N	S	T	T	L	O	V	E	N	E	C	E	H

### ANSWER TO THE JULY QUOTEFALL:

**He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the son he loves.**