

ZION'S GOOD NEWS

February 2010

Online edition Volume 1, Issue 2

How can I be happy when I'm poor?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Matthew 5:3



The hand is out. The face is pleading. In this case, the need is real. When one has run out of options and is desperate for help, begging seems the only choice. It's hard to imagine that one who is forced to beg would be happy about it. Being so poor in physical things can make life very hard.

Yet when it comes to a person's spiritual condition, God says that it is very important to be a beggar. In fact, true happiness only comes when you see that you are a beggar.

Do you see yourself as a spiritual beggar? However wealthy we might be financially, it is very tempting to feel that we—just naturally—have what we need in our spiritual bank account. We think that striving to be a good person has to count for something before God. We may not be perfect, but we reason that surely God doesn't expect us to be.

Have you ever tried to reassure yourself with thoughts like those? And yet have you had lingering fears, wondering whether you've really done enough

good? Does guilt for things you have done wrong keep coming back, robbing you of happiness?

Rather than trying to shout louder than those frightening voices, hear God speak a hard truth: *"The wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). When I disobey God's perfect will in my life, I deserve to die eternally in hell. For God demands that everyone be perfect—that we never sin, even once.

This makes it quite clear that by nature we are all spiritually bankrupt. Yet Jesus says, *"Blessed (happy) are the poor in spirit."* But isn't being spiritually poor—even bankrupt—reason to be sad and afraid?

Yes. But this is also the moment to hear God tell us a most amazing truth from his Word: *"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich"* (2 Corinthians 8:9).

When we see that we have nothing to give God, we are so grateful that God has lavished us with spiritual riches. Jesus freely came to earth to take all of our sin on himself. He became poor—he humbled himself to become the victim of the greatest suffering, paying on the cross the penalty of sin that we owed. He now assures you, "Your sins are forgiven." With sins forgiven and the eternal kingdom of heaven yours because of Jesus, you are truly rich!

It is a blessing to be a poor beggar before God because in Jesus we are filled with the riches of salvation.

Mr. Bush's Room

The Wonders of His Creation

It never ceases to amaze me. The vast complexity and amazing intricacy of how our God has created this body he has given us is truly awe inspiring. The human body, with all its systems and inter-dependent organs, only grows all that much more marvelous as I continue to learn more about it. In our Life Science class we are beginning to look at the wonderful way that God has designed our bodies. From the Musculoskeletal system, to the Cardiopulmonary system, to the amazing way God has provided us with sight and hearing; our God truly is an awesome God and is most worthy of praise.

Spreading His Word

Here at Zion Lutheran we have truly wonderful tools to help spread His Word. During this time of the year many parents begin looking at schools for their children for the next school year. If you can think of anyone—friend, neighbor, coworker, anyone—who might be interested in an excellent Christ-centered education for their child, please let them know about what we can offer them! No matter the age of their children, from Kindergarten to High School and College, Zion Lutheran can help with what each soul needs most—God's pure and precious Word. If you would like more information on how we can help them provide this one most needed thing, please contact me. I would LOVE to help out.

Knights' Basketball

The basketball tournament season is in full swing now! While our practices have been hampered and shortened due to weather, we are still determined to improve our skills and play to the best of our abilities for our Lord and Savior. The Reformation Invitational Basketball Tournament promises to provide some tough competition for us this year and will give us the opportunity to compete against fellow Christians from as far away as Phoenix, AZ. Also still coming up this year is the CLHS West Coast Shootout. This year promises to be another great year for competition amongst our local WELS schools. Come on out and cheer for your Knights as we play to give glory to our God!



Dates to Remember

February 12-14 – West Cost Shootout
No School Friday (2/12)

February 13 – CLHS Art Fair

February 15 – No School – In Service

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

School Fundraising Opportunities

Box Tops for Education

Do you purchase any of these items?

- Total
- Cheerios
- Trix
- Pillsbury products
- Fiber one Bars
- Fruit Gushers

If you do purchase any of these items, plus many others, then you have the opportunity to earn ten cents for each item you buy. I know it doesn't sound like a lot of money. But, if everyone remembers to turn these box tops in then we have the opportunity to raise a significant amount of money. Check out the box tops website where you can find a complete list of participating products plus other helpful information.



www.boxtops4education.com

All box tops can be turned in the collection bin located in the upper grade classroom near the copy machine. Please be sure to turn in non-expired box tops on a regular basis. We will be submitting box tops soon, in order to have them appear on the next submission check. Please turn in all you have prior to **February 20th**. Remember to continue to collect throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support over the years. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

Campbell's Labels for Education

Campbell's Labels for Education is a program that has been around for many years to help schools earn needed supplies. By collecting the UPC codes from the participating products and turning them into the school, we are able to accumulate points and when enough points have been earned, various items can then be purchased. They have many items to choose from, including playground equipment, art supplies, office items, computer software, etc..

Some of the products that count in the program are Campbell's soups, Prego spaghetti sauce, Pepperidge Farm goldfish crackers and many more. To get a full list of participating products, collection sheets and other useful information, please visit their website.

www.labelsforeducation.com



Ralphs

Do you shop at Ralphs? If yes, then every time that you make your purchases at Ralphs using your shopper card, you can earn money for our school. If you already have a card and have signed up with Ralphs.com then follow the instructions below, if not you will need to sign up for a card. To register your card so that purchases will apply to Zion, go to www.Ralphs.com and log in then click on "My account". Click on Edit Community Contribution Program Information. Type in the following number: 92045. Click to select Zion then save changes.

