

Breath of Life

VOL 27 NO 1 • WINTER 2010

What's New?

A message from Pastor Clark Schultz • Faculty, Lakeside Lutheran High School

A friend may ask this question, when he or she hasn't seen you in some time. What's new? During this holiday season, some of you may have been given or may have received some "new" gifts that were on your Christmas wish list. What's new? You have your new list of resolutions you plan to keep for 2010.

The trouble with "What's new" is that the "new" doesn't last very long, does it? During this time of the year where the days get longer, and our patience gets shorter, depression sets in and we can't find anything "new" to be excited about in our lives. The "new" gifts that you just had to have, are now boring, out of style or date and are one box away from the rummage sale or donation pile. One day into the new year, our resolutions are cast aside in the hopes that we'll get to them next year. ...MAYBE. Yes, if we wanted to be honest with ourselves, what is new? The answer is NOTHING.

King Solomon was right when he said in Ecclesiastes 1:9: "there is nothing new under the sun."

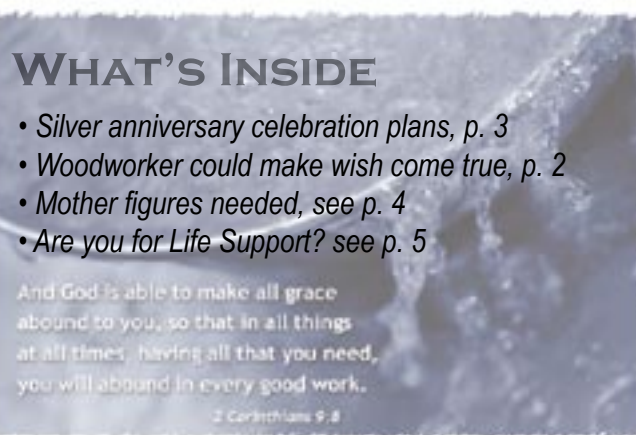
If you're like me, you're going, ok, so far this devotion hasn't given me one thing to cheer about...well, listen to what the apostle Paul has to say..."Therefore, if anyone is

in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2nd Corinthians 5:17)

What's new? Did you catch it? We have something "new" to be fired up about. In this world, where things fade and lose their luster, our attitudes lead us to think there isn't much "new" to be excited about. WRONG! We can be excited because we ARE a "new" creation. We do not depreciate one bit. Why? Consider the source. Listen again to what the writer to the Hebrews says..."For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." (9:15)

I love to buy books online and you can even get used books online with the tag line "like new" "slightly new." Is that how this covenant is? "like new?" NO, Why? Because it rests on Christ. It doesn't rest on this sinful world, which is constantly getting older and soon to be obsolete. This covenant was something that God established in his SON Jesus. When God created the world it was "NEW"—it had that new world smell to it. Our first parents, Adam and Eve,

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Pray, Praise and Give Thanks



Thank you, PC (Pastor Clark), for helping us focus on the opportunities that a new year brings, along with the comfort that comes from knowing the One who never breaks His resolutions is on our side.

A new year often has us resolving to do better or be more faithful in various aspects of our lives. Praying, praising and giving thanks are probably areas ripe for improvement, and as an organization, the Alpha Center is no exception. It's easy to remember to pray for more volunteers when the schedule is hard to fill, and it's easy to thank someone when he or she is standing right in front of you. May He help us make time for improvement:

Lord, Thank you for another year in which to serve you. Let this be the year that we spend more time in conversation with you—not only thanking you for food and asking for blessings, but in remembrance that yours would be the best conversation of the day. You speak to us through our reading of your Word—maybe a Psalm a day, or a subscription to a daily e-mail devotion?—and we could talk to you about what your Word might mean for our day. Give us thankful hearts that praise you in every circumstance—even when things go wrong. For you have promised to work it out, in time and to your glory. We can do nothing to change that truth, but we can stubbornly refuse to see it. Make us more thankful to those silent helpers around us, who need no recognition but can be blessed by it regardless. Let us each in turn be one of those quiet

Alpha Center Wish List

- Attention wood crafters! The Center would like a new “open” sign! There is an example of great homemade painted sign hanging in the window of Tribeca bookstore (SE corner of Main and 4th St in Watertown). Who is willing to make one for us “something like” theirs?
- a new hot/cold water dispenser for the office
- disposable diapers & wipes
- Christian children's books
- People's Bible: Psalms, Isaiah
- de-icing salt (for use outside building)
- AA & AAA batteries (for baby eqpt.)
- cocoa or tea packets, tissues, toilet paper (ofc)

Donations of any new or clean, gently used baby clothing or maternity clothing or other baby items and equipment are always welcome and can be dropped off at the center during our office hours. Any questions, contact Nancy Schmitz at 920-253-8984.



hearts who actively look for ways in which to further your Kingdom and bring souls to know you as the loving Friend and Father you are.

We pray, praise and thank you—never often enough—but always in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen!

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ruined that by believing the devil's lies. As a result, you holding this in your hands right now, are sinful, and will soon be obsolete because of your sin. I'm no different and I feel your pain. Take heart, God being the gracious God that He is, loves you and the world. How much? So much so that he wants to make things “new” again. How did he do that? By his Son Jesus. By Jesus leading a perfect life in your place, dying a death on the cross in your place and by rising from the dead for you, you now have FORGIVENESS OF SINS, a new life and a new hope....Listen to the writer of the Hebrews... “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. By calling this covenant ‘new,’ he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.” (8:12-13)

Yes in time, we will all disappear, this past year or the coming year has given us some tears over saying goodbye to loved ones. But even in the midst of our tears, God comforts us with the words of Job, where even though our earthly bodies will see decay, we will be made “NEW” in heaven.

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.” (Job 19:24-26) We will see our loved ones again in heaven!

Yes my friends, by being IN CHRIST, we have a new outlook on life. We have lost the greatest amount of weight—SIN. We have a LIGHT to guide us, carry us and help us through these dark dreary winter days. Finally, we have the SURE hope that when we die, we will be with Jesus forever in heaven, where everything is and will always be NEW, forever. So my question to you is: What's new? A LOT. God bless your new year.

Breath of Life

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News about Alpha ... know it, use it, share it!

October Banquet and Auction a dream



We are humbly grateful to the many businesses, church groups and individuals who donated items or money toward our very successful banquet and silent auction on October 17, 2009. With the theme from Psalm 42:8, "A Prayer to the God of my Life," this year saw major changes, as we moved from Luther Prep's auditorium to the gymnasium, and benefited from a committee of organizers who worked long hours to make it another lovely evening of fun and fellowship.

The Center would like to publicly thank Trinity, Watertown member Lisa Brauer for her continued invaluable efforts in making our fall event what it is. She has been integral for years as she lends her skills of organization, creativity and persistence to our organization. Joining her this year were Carol Burow (St. Mark Richwood), Wendy Ellwein (Trinity) and Debbie Rothe (St. Mark Watertown), who combined their varied and considerable skills to make this year's banquet and auction a resounding success. Thank you, ladies, as well as the many other volunteers, who set up, emceed, worked the event and cleaned up afterward.

More thanks to the Jefferson County Board of Thrivent Financial for supplementing our proceeds. With its supplement, we raised almost \$10,000 that will go a long way toward ensuring the Center's continued stability as a refuge for those in need. And of course, we certainly wouldn't have had such fun without the many friends who joined us for great food, music and tables of fabulous auction items! God's continued blessings on all who support this ministry with prayers, time, talents and treasures.

Limited number of 2010 calendars available

The Center has a handful of beautiful 2010 "Life Before Birth" calendars available at the Center. If you would like a full-color wall calendar that shows month after month of babies as they were in utero (through amazing 4-D ultrasound technology) and then in their unmistakably similar "post-birth" photos, please stop down soon and pick one up! (Hours are M&Th 10-7, T&F 9-12, W 12-3)

2010 marks the chapter's silver anniversary

Through the Lord's blessing, the Tri-County Chapter and Alpha Center will celebrate 25 years of ministry in 2010. In commemoration of this silver anniversary, a number of special events are planned

• Logo design contest

Details will be sent out to area WELS high schools, colleges and churches describing an opportunity for artists to create a new logo that the Alpha Center would use all on identifying pieces such as letterhead, brochures and perhaps even the facade of the building on Main St.

Plans are to unveil the new design at our anniversary celebration in April. If you or an (aspiring) graphic artist you know would like more information on how to participate, please e-mail office@alphalifecenter.org

• Anniversary service and dinner

On April 11, Jesus-enabling, a special worship service of commemoration will be held at St. Luke in Watertown, at the 10:15 service. All supporters are invited to participate in this "Alpha Sunday" worship service, as well as current and past volunteers, Board members and founding members of the chapter. A fellowship meal is planned at St. Luke following the service. Make plans to join us!

• Special Center project

Alpha supporters will also have a special opportunity to participate in an effort to rejuvenate aspects of the Main St. Center, to potentially involve fixing the front window cracks, replacing carpeting and/or updating our older copier and/or computer at the Center. Look for information to follow in the next weeks and months on how you can be a part of these special silver year projects.

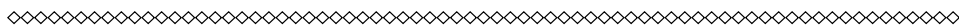
• July Social and October banquet

Plans remain for an ice cream social on July 11 and a banquet on October 16, and expect that these events may have a bit silver anniversary flair to them. Have an idea? Want to help? We'd sure appreciate hearing from you!



Welcome Wanda Fredrick, office assistant

November brought the Center a welcome addition in the person of Wanda Fredrick, member of St. Mark in Watertown and Alpha's new office assistant. With the Lord's blessing and your continued support, the Board has approved her role as the Center's sole paid staff member. She has begun to tackle office organization, correspondence and will serve as frontline for many administrative calls and requests. Her paid time will extend the time during the week when the door is unlocked for visitors and donors to stop in; while this will be helpful for those wishing to drop off clothes or equipment, those in need of a counselor will need to make an appointment to return during our regular office hours, when counselors are available. Wanda's hours are 10–1:30 Mondays and Thursdays, and 9–noon on Fridays. Stop in and meet her—she'd be happy to show you around!



URGENT NEED FOR MOTHER FIGURES

- JOB DESCRIPTION:** NURTURING, SPIRITUALLY MATURE LISTENERS NEEDED FOR SERVICE TO GOD'S CHILDREN.
- NEED LEVEL:** IMMEDIATE. RIGHT NOW. PLEASE.
- BENEFITS:** OUT OF THIS WORLD.

Sometimes they're called counselors, but ask any of the six women who volunteer in this position at the Center: it's motherly qualities that are most often called upon to minister at Alpha. There are myths out there that make some think it's about knowing all the answers, or being able to talk someone out of a lifestyle or plan of action. Ask Sharon or Chris or Linda or Kay or Kris—that is not how it's done at all. Know-it-alls and argument hounds wouldn't help the situations our visitors bring in with them. We wouldn't even say it's a case of mother knows best, unless that means that mother knows best how to lend a sympathetic ear. Mother knows best when she takes it to the Lord in prayer. Mother knows best when she knows when to call in reinforcements. Mother knows best when children of God need to hear a mother's voice—re-minding, reassuring—a voice that may be soft, but is loudly and clearly caring, caring about that visitor's physical and spiritual life.

Alpha Center volunteers continue to try to meet and work with many different needs visitors bring with them—sometimes it's the traditional pregnancy test situation, when we get to help a woman through a stressful moment in her life, and then make sure she gets the right information and care after the results are in. Sometimes women or families come in who feel at the end of a rope because of some other stress—money problems, relationship struggles, parenting issues, family trouble. Sound familiar? Sound like life issues you have taken to the Lord in prayer about people you already know? It's no different with strangers.

How about sharing your Christian wisdom with the visitors to the Alpha Center? The Center treasures each of its counselors, and we are in urgent need for additional loving hearts to join the team. Your commitment would involve two 3-hour shifts a month. The work is not for know-it-alls—it's for humble hearts with a desire to see the Savior's love spread through physical assistance and spiritual witness.

If this is the first time you have wondered whether you could be a part of the Alpha Center ministry—or the twentieth—please, please think about January 2010 being the time when you act on those thoughts. Here at the Center we get to act on the Great Commission in a very real way. Just like a mother's job, the pay is nothing, but the benefits are priceless.

The first step for WELS members is to ask for no-obligation info about whether it might work with your schedule. When you're ready, call 261-9207 or 800-924-6073 or e-mail office@alphalifecenter.org



Please join us! Come for part or all—our ministry needs prayerful, supportive people like you to know what's going on! Each member of our supporting congregations is also member of our Chapter.

Tri-County Chapter, Christian Life Resources

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010



LUTHER PREP CAFETERIA
1300 WESTERN AVE., WATERTOWN, WI

4:30PM MUSIC & FELLOWSHIP
5:00PM LIGHT SUPPER (FREE WILL OFFERING)
NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED
ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS READ THEIR ENTRIES; AWARDS PRESENTED
BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING

LIFE SUPPORT: YOUR URGENT ACTION NEEDED

Every year our local chapter of Christian Life Resources places an ad in the Watertown Daily Times on January 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion. We invite you to join us in showing your support of God's gift of life.

Abortion is not solving problems, abortion is not helping women and abortion is always the death of a living human being. Each child is a gift from God, "unplanned" or otherwise.

Join in showing your stand against abortion by returning the form below by MONDAY, JANUARY 18. It's a small but important way to show your support of Life. Thank you!

Please return by 01/18/2010 to:

Alpha Life Resource Center
313 E Main Street • Watertown, WI 53094

OR donate online! <http://alphalifecenter.org/main.html>

* Please include my name as listed below

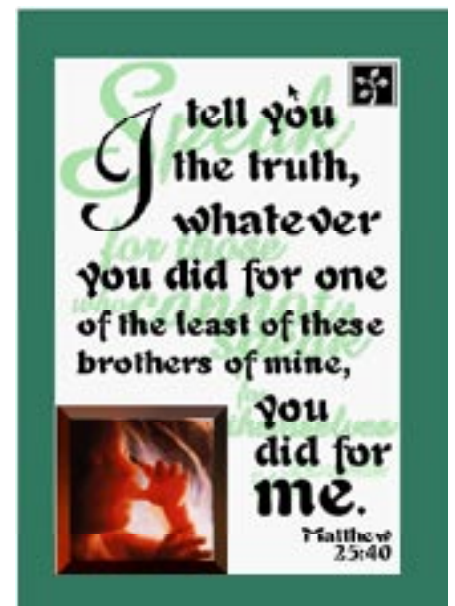
* Accept my donation but do NOT include my name.

Donation: ___ \$8 ___ \$15 ___ \$25 \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Church Home _____



Annual Meeting • Sunday Jan. 24, 4:30
Come for the fellowship, come for dinner, come to hear the state of the Center. View coloring contest entries and listen to our winning essayists as they proclaim the profire views of the next generation! Held in the Luther Prep dining hall, we'll begin with music and fellowship at 4:30, devotion and dinner at 5 PM, followed by student speakers and awards. All of our supporters are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Ad in Daily Times • January 22, 2009

On the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, we have opportunity to take a stand for God's Word on Life. Join with us as we publish a signature ad in the Watertown Daily Times to remind all that human life is a gift from God, to be respected and protected always. Send your name(s) by January 18 to the Center with a note saying you'd like to be a part of this reminder! (See inside for the form to fill out.)

