



Immanuel's Newsletter

1000 Wisconsin Ave, Kewaunee, WI 54216
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December 2013

Pastor Michael P. Sullivan
388-2592; 388-6009 (H)

From Pastor Sullivan's Desk

PLEASE READ FIRST: The italicized portions of the article below are direct quotes taken from a longer article entitled: "Who is St. Nicholas?" found on this website: www.stnicholascenter.org. The information of the council of Nicaea is derived from other sources. The poem is something I found on the internet 10 years ago. I have not been able to find out who the author is.

St. Nick Wants You to Worship Jesus

Poor Santa Claus. If he were alive today, I can't imagine the grief that would fill his soul.

"The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in Patara, a village in what is now Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to sell what you own and give the money to the poor, Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships."

"One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home - providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas."

Nicholas was not merely a man of charity, he was a man of faith. Christ Jesus meant more to Nicholas than even life itself. *"Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned."* After the persecution had ended, he was released.

Nicholas attended the council of Nicaea in AD 325, from which we have obtained our Nicene Creed. That

council was called because a false teacher named “Arius” said that Jesus was not true God. Nicholas got so mad at the false teachings of Arius that he went up to him, in front of the council, and slapped Arius in the face, causing the Roman Emperor Constantine to imprison him again. After he apologized for an act unbecoming of his office (he himself realized that it was sinful to strike an enemy, no matter how much they offended him) he was released from jail, and reinstated as bishop.

To the real St. Nicholas, there was nothing more important than Christ and the Gospel. He is remembered for his acts of love, but every act of love stemmed from his faith – from the love that God showed him in sending His Son. This is what he wanted people to remember.

The following poem imagines what would happen if the historic Saint Nicholas visited a typical American home for Christmas today.

A Visit from St. Nicholas

*A sound broke my slumbers one cold winter’s dawn
Grief-laden sobs and sighs deeply drawn.
I rose from my bed and searched for the sound.
In a chair by the tree, a stranger I found.
With white hair and a beard, and eyes long turned red —
His cheeks glistened wet with the tears he had shed.*

*“Who are you?” I asked, though somehow I knew.
The things all around him gave me a clue.
Stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
And Christmas cards spilled on the floor by the chair.
My red Santa hat had been thrown at the tree
And Rudolph and Frosty played on TV.
The “spirit of Christmas” filled up the room
But reindeer and tinsel only deepened his gloom.*

*This had to be Nicholas — his beard left no doubt
— But what brought this on I couldn’t make out.
His red suit was missing, and where was his sleigh?*

*And why was he here on the wrong winter’s day?
No jelly-bowl belly and no “Ho, ho, ho!”
Something was wrong, and I just had to know.*

*So “Nicholas,” I asked him, “what’s up with the tears?
They’re hardly a symbol of holiday cheer!
You’re not looking much like a ‘jolly old elf’ —
This morning, it seems, you’re just not yourself.”*

*He lifted his gaze and the tears left his eyes.
A rage seemed to come as he started to rise.
“My ‘self’ is the problem since someone took me
And made me a someone I never would be.
I came here to visit and saw what you’ve done:
You’ve made me a rival to God’s only Son!”*

*“The children I’ve asked — they all knew my name.
But Jesus their Savior — none cared that he came.
These stories and specials and movies and songs —
They’re all about me — and that’s simply wrong.
It’s Christ you should think of and worship and praise —
Go to the manger and ponder and gaze.
Forget about me and look to your Savior —
The very best gift of God’s loving favor.”*

*“How could you do this? How dare you distract
The children’s young minds from this wonderful fact?
A babe born for sinners — what wonder, what joy!
Please focus their thoughts on God’s little boy!”*

*“I cried since my giving of gifts had been changed
from a service of love to a practice ... deranged.
I’m glad to be seen as a figure of love
But I will not compete with God’s Son from above.”*

*“I wept most of all when I saw I’d been made
A reason to make little children afraid!
To punish and frighten the ones that keep sinning?
Oh, how that must keep the old Serpent grinning!
Christmas is gospel — grace freely given;
Trust in the Lord and sins are forgiven.”*

*“So don’t use my name to threaten or plead
The gospel of Christ is just what you need
To change your dear children from naughty to nice
And give them their place in God’s paradise.
Forget me, I beg, if I get in the way
Of Christ and his coming that first Christmas
Day.”*

*The darkness was lifting as light filled the room
And Nicholas faded, along with his gloom.
He’d freely confessed, and did not deny
His place as a servant of Christ crucified.*

*A dream or a vision?
I couldn’t quite tell.
But he’d corrected my Christmas
and broken the spell.
And back to my slumbers I slowly returned
And dreamt of the Baby whose story I’d spurned.*

*Since then the Santa’s and reindeer are gone
From my mantel, my window, my roof and my
lawn.
Instead there’s a manger scene down by the way
—
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay —
It’s part of my witness to God’s saving grace
And Nicholas is happy to give Christ back his
place.*

President’s Letter

What a blessed time of year! I so enjoy the Christmas season, the music, the Christmas decorations, the happy faces, visiting family, the church services, and even the snow and the hustle and bustle at the stores. Although I should be as joyful the year round because of God’s grace and the hope of salvation that we have, the Christmas season really brings a refreshed joy. You know what I mean? But of course we need to tune out the negative worldly things that obscure or outright attack the real reason for our holiday joy as well, which seem to get worse every year. But even the negative reminds me of what I have in the Lord. I hope everyone will have a blessed Christmas this

year and will be refreshed as well.

In our annual meeting we will be voting on a revision to our Constitution and Bylaws. We have revised the Bylaws in order to make them better reflect our administrative processes and to reduce unnecessary verbiage where we could. It is important everyone take a look at the changes so we can efficiently move through the process. A draft copy is posted on the website and we will make copies available in the Narthex. If you have questions or comments please get them in soon so they can be properly addressed. We will also be discussing the 2014 budget. It is important that we understand what we are voting for. The budget depends on not just plate offerings collected, but also designated gifts and special offerings. Our special ministries are: Manitowoc Lutheran HS, St. Paul’s Elementary School, Student Aid, and WELS Congregation Mission Offerings. Remember some of our other ongoing ministries like Evangelism. Please remember to budget for the Lord’s work in the upcoming year when you plan your household budget so that we can continue our ministries, as well as pay the electric and heating bills. Thanks.

Do you have some feedback for me? Always feel free to give me a call or send me an email at glennbrunner1@yahoo.com).

Your brother in Christ,
Merry Christmas,
Glenn Brunner

Membership Changes

Baptism: Austin Nemecek
Transfer In: None
Received by Profession of Faith: Carl Pelnar
Adult Confirmation: None
Release: None
Loss to Eternal Life: John Siegmund

Elders Board Report

We come together for the many holidays here at the end of the year. The season slows and allows more time, for stress and over eating, but by tradition we take time to observe these events. One definition of tradition- because Grandma said so, and we don't question Grandma.

If you have a moment, take time to research or Google the celebrations that are part of our shortest day. It is interesting, how many cultures and Christianity celebrate this time of the year, and the beliefs and customs involved. The beginning of the days growing longer, nature renewing, is time for celebration. As Christians we certainly celebrate the coming of the Light, and the fulfillment of the Promise so long foretold, and this is a good time to do it, or that's what Grandma says.

As the year comes to a close, the Elders Board is looking at the past year's activities and planning the next year's goals. While there has been no major event or accomplishment to highlight, there is certainly the feeling of satisfaction in that our church has been running smoothly. But as Bach put it, "To God be the Glory", for all the blessings we certainly have enjoyed this year. It does not mean however, that we can relax, as there is much we can focus on, to provide support for our members and Pastor, and to carry out the goal of spreading the Gospel, in our community and the world. If anyone has comments or ideas for 2014, please bring them to our attention. To you a Merry Christmas. "Now bring us some figgy pudding, Now bring us some figgy pudding...."

Adult Discipleship Board Report

“If you live in My Word, you are really My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will free you.” (John 8:v31-32)

In this last quarter we have completed some work for our library. We have replaced desks with tables and chairs that were donated by the Kewaunee Power Station. We also put finishing touches on our index by transferring the information from a WORD document to an EXCEL spreadsheet. Thanks to Paul Jerabek for his help with that. This allowed us to sort information by book title, author and shelf location to make it easier for people to find a book or to see what was available on the shelves. We hope more of the congregation will utilize this wonderful resource of Christian reading material.

Details of what we've accomplished over this last year are covered in the annual report. This will likely be the last newsletter input from the Board of Adult Discipleship. As part of the revision to our Constitution and Bylaws the board is to be dissolved following the annual meeting. We hope we have served the congregation well with our efforts over the last couple of years. Other boards will pick up discipleship work and we hope the Lord will bless their efforts even more.

We also hope you have enjoyed and found inspiration from the board's devotions and short Bible studies that we have periodically included in past newsletters. Please encourage our young people to stay active in the church and everyone to be ever more active in the Word. These areas have been a primary focus of the board out of concern for the welfare of our congregation. We encourage members of Immanuel to stay involved with your boards and to give them your support. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

We wish you the Lord's blessings and a Merry Christmas.

Your Board of Adult Discipleship (Glenn Brunner, Gordon Mueller, Larry Walechka and Kurt Burmeister)

Adult Discipleship Lesson

Live in the World but Live in the Word

Have you ever noticed how many times you hear the word “deserve” in TV commercials or on the radio? You should get this or that, or something should be given to you because you *deserve* it. Just what do we really deserve, if anything? What does the Lord say? Because of our sin what we truly deserve is eternal damnation, separation from God. Yet God is gracious and trustworthy. “So you know the Lord your God is God, the faithful God, Who keeps His covenant of mercy to a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commands.” (Deuteronomy 7:v9) So when we turn to him in love and penitence and true belief in our loving Savior, he forgives us and covers our sin with the blood of his beloved Son. He will never leave us nor forsake us; he is waiting, like the father of the prodigal son. What comfort there is in those words! And there is so much more, *so much more*. Where? In his Word, that’s where we can truly find lasting comfort and true wisdom. “Blessed is the man who doesn’t go with the wicked in their planning, stand in the ways of sinners, or sit in the company of mockers, but delights in what the Lord teaches and reads it thoughtfully day and night.” (Psalm 1)

In this Christmas season we remember those beautiful words of the Christmas story in the book of Luke, chapter 2. “ Our Father sent his Son to be born of a virgin in a lowly stable, for us, for you and I. Wow! And think of what he suffered for us. God incarnate allowed himself to be spit upon, slapped, beaten, whipped and crucified, for us. While his body was dying on the cross he knew us, not just the people of his day, he knew you and I, who we are, what we’ve done, what we are going to do, he knew everything about you and I even then, not just now; he knew you and I in our mother’s wombs. What joy should fill our hearts knowing God has chosen us to be one of his children! How much does he love us? “I’m convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, nothing now nor in the future, no powers, nothing above or below, nor any creature can ever separate us from the love God has for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:v38-39) Wow again! We don’t deserve anything here on earth, yet the Lord blesses us continually and loves us more than we can even fathom. Let’s share the comfort that this gives us by loving and giving to others. “Love one another as I have loved you. By your loving one another everyone will know you’re my disciples.” (John 13:v34-35)

We can live feeling secure in the knowledge that the Lord is with us. “When the storm has passed the wicked man vanishes, but the righteous person has an everlasting foundation.” (Proverbs 10:v25)

What knowledge and comfort is found in the Word. Perhaps one of your New Year’s Resolutions might be to spend more time in the Word. *There is so much joy and wonder to be discovered and rediscovered.* “... and like newborn babies, thirst for the pure milk of the Word so that you’ll grow and finally be saved.” (1Peter 2:v2) “God’s Word is living and active. It cuts better than any two-edged sword. It pierces until it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow. And it can judge thoughts and purposes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:v12)

Merry Christmas, and hope you spend more time in the Word (a New Year resolution?). You won’t regret it.

With love, your Adult Discipleship Board.

Planned Giving Committee Note

Year-end information from your Planned Giving Committee

Good planning can carry you and your heirs safely over many dangerous and potentially costly pitfalls. Consider that God has given you everything, especially His Son, Jesus. We respond to His Grace with grateful gifts to our family, friends, church, and other charities.

In order for your gifts to affect tax savings in any one year, they must be made by December 31st. Careful planning can help maximize tax benefits at year-end.

Charitable gifts can result in tax savings. Your income tax rate determines how much you save. The higher your rate, the more you save for each dollar given.

Please remember your **Planned Giving Current Needs Table** located on the narthex bulletin board and also the church website if you are considering an end-of-year contribution. There are many other tax saving options available through your congregation. One such option is the **Donor Advised Fund**.

A Donor Advised Fund is a charitable giving vehicle wherein an individual, family, or corporation makes a tax deductible contribution of cash, securities, or other property to the WELS Foundation and at any time thereafter can recommend grant distributions to qualified WELS ministries.

What are the features?

- Gift size: The minimum initial gift is \$10,000. Donors can add funds in \$100 increments at any time.
- Individual: You may name your donor advised fund. You, or the persons you designate, may recommend distributions to organizations listed in the WELS Yearbook from your fund—anonously if you so choose.
- Grant recommendations: The minimum amount that may be recommended is \$250. Each fund must distribute at least five percent of its asset value annually.
- Lasting legacy: You may designate others to continue recommending distributions after your lifetime (usually for a period of 20 years) to support your home congregation or other favorite WELS ministries.

What are the benefits?

- Joy: Arrange to benefit the areas of the Lord's work that are closest to your heart, including WELS congregations (Immanuel, Kewaunee), mission work, schools, agencies, and other ministries.
- Tax savings: You receive an income tax charitable deduction in the year of your gift to your donor advised fund, regardless of when grants are made. As with all gifts of long-term appreciated securities, none of the appreciation is subject to capital gains tax.
- Recommend gifts when ready: Contribute to your donor advised fund this year, and decide later which of the WELS ministries you want to support.
- Encourage family stewardship: Help your children and other loved ones experience the joy of giving by involving them in the decision making process for the grant recommendations

The Planned Giving Committee hopes you find this information useful. We will provide you more information on various giving options in the future.

Contact our Planned Giving Committee or our synod Christian giving counselor, Pastor Dennis Kleist, for further assistance with any of the giving options.

Planned Giving Committee - Charlie Novak, Larry Schneider, Lou Richard, David Siegmund

Pastor Dennis Kleist

Dennis.kleist@wels.net

920-740-5899

Important Information Regarding 2014 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are being handled a little bit differently for 2014 than in the past. They will be **MAILED** to each confirmed member on a quarterly basis by **United Envelope and Mailing Co.** A handful of Sunday School Children who have requested envelopes will also receive them through the mail. Excluded from the mailing are those on the Automatic Transfer program called Simply Giving.

I'm sure some of you are questioning this change and that's understandable. We've had envelopes available in the Narthex for member pick up for a long time. The mailing program will ensure that **ALL** of our members receive envelopes, and for some it will be a reminder that they still have a church home.

Some may question the cost for this program and it's very reasonable at **ONLY** \$2.75 per envelope set per year. The total cost for envelopes and mailing them will be under \$800.

An updated mailing list will be e-mailed to the company on a quarterly basis, which will allow for changes due to transfers, marriage, death, etc.

We will still keep a supply of **WHITE** envelopes in the Narthex as a courtesy to our members. Just remember to put your name or envelope number on it for tracking purposes. We also have **PINK** envelopes in the Narthex which are used for special designations – Missions, Family Life Center, Student Aid, Debt Reduction, etc.

This is an excellent opportunity to sign up for the Automatic Transfer Program. Your offering can be transferred to the church account at various times and frequencies each month and doesn't cost you anything.

Please call Julie Siegmund at 388-4541 or e-mail her at juliesiegmund@charter.net if you have any questions or concerns about your 2014 offering envelopes.

It is possible that the envelopes will not arrive in time for church on January 5th so I've included an envelope for you to use just in case.



Christmas Worship Schedule

**Sunday, December 22nd
9:00am**

**Children's Service (24th)
5:00pm**

**Christmas Eve Service (24th)
7:00pm**

**Christmas Day (25th)
9:00am**

***Sunday, December 29th
9:00am***

**New Year's Eve (31st)
7:00pm w/Holy Communion**

*****Please note there will not be worship on Monday,
December 23rd or 30th.**

Property Board Report

Budget planning for the new year has begun. We spent our last meeting sharpening pencils in an attempt to get the budget to a bare minimum. Well, enough to keep the operations division busy with the day-to-day functions necessary to stay open. Our major projects for the next calendar year, involves the restroom updates which focus on the plumbing that is in need of repair. A second project continues with the stained glass window repair, as defined as a long term project. The window repair is billed as a “hands on” task and time consuming, which makes those repairs costly. It is the board’s intention to keep our windows in good repair. The windows needing attention will be scheduled as a priority needed basis. Stand by for further developments.

The furnaces are in service, already pumping heat into the buildings. We are preparing for a cold/snowy winter season as predicted in the farmer’s almanac. Joe’s yard service has been contracted with snow removal again this winter season. He has done this task for many years and has knowledge of the church schedule.

The holidays are a special time of year. Whether you celebrate Christmas or New Year’s, there is always potential for fire and accidents. Take all the usual fire safety precautions. Check all smoke detectors and change batteries. Install carbon monoxide detectors. Have chimneys, fire places, and central heating units inspected by professionals. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family. Make sure escape routes are not blocked. Common sense can keep a celebration from turning into a tragedy.

Have an enjoyable Christmas/New Year.

As always, you’re hard working property board keeping god’s house in good order.

Greg Hlinak, Steve Ihlenfeldt, Gary Hardtke, Fred Steffen

Manitowoc Lutheran High School (MLHS) Delegate Report

Projected enrollment for 2013 is around 221 students (13 international). Next year’s freshmen class is expected to be 53.

The annual free-will offering for sweet corn raised \$6, 407 for academic vouchers, which were given to our elementary students. Immanuel provided over \$300.00. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The Phase III Capital Appeal gifts and pledges reached \$1,120,758.00. \$980,777.00 (88%) has been collected to date. A portion of this was used to pay off a significant portion of the school debt (expected to be cut by half). Thank you to all who have contributed. Upgrades to the football field have been completed; new bleachers and fencing around the field have been installed. Phase III of the HS site plan is almost complete.

In the coming months we will need to consider whether we want to participate in the Wisconsin school voucher program. On one side of the issue it brings in students and money, and some consider it a form of outreach. The program would open the possibility for some lower income WELS families to get their children to MLHS. However the state program requires selection based only on family income and residency, so it depends on the number of applications received verses seats available and ultimately the family need (income level). Children qualifying under the Parental Choice program may not be WELS or even Christian and do not have to participate in religion classes, etc. Because of this, some people are concerned the school’s education

program and school “atmosphere” could be affected. It is reported by other Parental Choice WELS schools that the latter concern has not been a problem in general. Let me know how you feel about this issue to help me know how to vote.

There will be a new administrative structure for the school. A new position titled “President” to which two directors, the “Principal” and the “Director of Mission Advancement” will report has just been approved. This structure moves office staff, custodial, financial/human relations, and IT under the Director of Mission Advancement and frees the Principal from these concerns. A pastor has been called to fill the office of President. Principal Steinbrenner is planning on retiring after this school year. A call has been extended to Mr. Ryan Rathje (presently teaching math/science) to fill the principal role under the new administrative structure. Teacher Scott Reinhard would be requested to take on the role of Director of Mission Advancement.

Don’t forget SCRIP is available from MLHS if you want it for yourselves or perhaps as a Christmas gift. Your purchase of SCRIP from MLHS is a simple way for you to support Christian education. You can put money into an account for future Immanuel HS students if you designate it to Immanuel’s account.

Glenn M. Brunner
MLHS Lead Delegate

December ALMS Recipient

Immanuel has established a “*Member Help Committee*” that will report to the Church Council and shall consist of the President, Chairman of the Board of Elders, the Treasurer and the Pastor. Its purpose is to receive input from any member, or anyone who has a concern regarding the welfare of another member, who may be in need of some form of financial or material help. They will disseminate funds or other forms of aid as made available by the congregation within the limits and guidelines as set forth by the Church Council.

Let Your Light Shine Wish Tree

The Christmas Wish Tree is available for anyone to take an ornament and purchase a needed item for church. Example of some items needed: Batteries, Windex, White paper toweling, hand sanitizers, communion wine, gift certificates which can be purchased through scrip, etc. Check out the items on the tree in the back of church. Thank You and to God be the glory.

St. Paul’s School Christmas Service

St. Paul’s (Algoma) Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 1:30 pm at the Church.

Daily Devotions

Pastor sends out daily devotions via email. They consist of a bible lesson, brief commentary and prayer. If anyone wants to receive these devotions, they should send Pastor their email address. Send the addresses to: navilluspm@gmail.com

Sunday School

Sunday School meets from 7:45am to 8:50am each week. If you know of someone who would like to send their children to our Sunday School program please have them call Pastor.

Little Lambs

Little Lambs is meeting again on Tuesday’s at 10:00am. This free playgroup is for babies through preschoolers and their caregiver. For more information or to register please call Laura Sullivan at 388-6009 or check out the Little Lambs page on the church website. If you know anyone who might be interested in the program, feel free to give them my number. Personal invitations are really the best way to get people to join our group and is a super easy way for you to help with this awesome ministry at Immanuel.

Hospital Visits

The church office was recently informed that Hospitals will no longer be calling Pastor Sullivan when one of our members is admitted. If you would like Pastor to know you are hospitalized and/or you would like a visit, please give him a call. Thanks!

Altar Guild Flowers

If you wish to donate flowers or an arrangement to beautify the altar for worship, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact any of the Altar Guild members for that particular month.

Address Updates

In an effort to stay in communication with our members, please keep the church office updated on your current address and telephone number. Thanks for your help!

Ink Cartridge Recycling Program

Please donate your old ink and toner cartridges to Immanuel. Office Max has a recycling program that earns us "points" towards future purchases (like paper). They will even take copy machine toner! A collection container is located in the 1st classroom by the copy machine. Please contact Julie Siegmund with questions.

Jr. Lancer Wrestling Registration

Open to boys in grades K-8, instruction and coaching are designed for teaching technique, conditioning, and exercise appropriate for each age & skill level. Practices will be held at MLHS beginning Jan. 7th. Registration forms available on the "Athletics – Jr. Lancers" page at www.mlhslancers.org. In addition, a Parent Info night will be held on Jan 7th at 5:00pm at MLHS for all questions and those who might be interested in more information.

Automatic Transfer Available for Church Offerings

Immanuel participates in a program called Simply Giving that will automatically transfer funds from your bank account to ours either Weekly, Semi-Monthly, or Monthly. There is NO cost to you. This is a great option for many reasons. It encourages regular giving, eliminates the need to write a check (which saves you money) and saves Immanuel money on purchasing church envelopes. Please contact Julie Siegmund at 388-4541/juliesiegmund@charter.net if you are interested in this option. You would also cancel or change your authorization directly with Immanuel.

WELS Marriage Retreat

Have you heard someone say, "Marriage shouldn't be this hard." Who says so? An aspiring pro baseball player would never say, "Hitting a fastball shouldn't be so hard!" An aspiring novelist wouldn't say, "It shouldn't be so hard to create compelling characters." So why is marriage so hard? Here's God's answer: "Marriage is a profound mystery." The word mystery seems to imply it can't be solved but there is an answer and it's entirely possible to know it. It's entirely possible for you to know, feel, and act on the secret to a great marriage. Find out how at the Mysterious Marriage Enrichment & Get-Away Weekend February 28 – March 2 at the Heidel House Resort & Spa in Green Lake, WI. Find out more and register at www.eternal-love.org/marriage.

Department of Corrections

Would you like to correct prisoners and not be afraid of them talking back to you? WELS Prison Ministry sends correspondence courses to thousands of inmates, and they send back multiple-choice exams at the end of each course. Volunteers are needed to correct the tests and write a brief, encouraging message on each one. If you have a heart for those growing in faith, and your handwriting is legible, you can help this ministry. (Spanish-speaking correctors are especially appreciated.) For more information, contact David Nack at (507) 354-3130 or email prisonministry@wels.net.

