

April 2009

# The Messenger

## The End of the Jesus Creed...or is it Just the Beginning?

Last month I completed the message series on the Jesus Creed, Dr. Scot McKnight's term for the foundation of Jesus' mission, a summary of our calling as His disciples, and a tool for our transformation. Throughout this series I have challenged us to memorize the Jesus Creed, to pray the Jesus Creed several times a day, and, most important, to live out the Jesus Creed. In case you have forgotten, Jesus spoke these words:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. And the second is this, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. (See Mark 12:28-31 and compare with Matthew 22:36-40 and Luke 10:25-37).

These words didn't originate with Jesus. The first part of the Jesus Creed is a portion of the Hebrew Bible that every Jewish person knows and prays (even today!). This Scripture is called the Shema, Hebrew for "hear" and "obey." Check out Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The second part is from Leviticus 19:18, part of the Holiness Code. What is new with Jesus is his new formulation of putting two disparate scriptures together, tying them together to bring into sharp focus His expectations for His followers. Connecting loving God with loving our neighbors as the baseline for our lives is genius and was revolutionary in Jesus' day. But we wouldn't expect less from Jesus, would we?

As we approach Easter, we see in brilliant light how the words of the Jesus Creed reveal Jesus' mission. Because of Jesus' perfect love and obedience to the Father, Jesus came to save us. Through His suffering on the cross, Jesus demonstrates His incredible love for us, His neighbors. By the power of His resurrection, we experience the life-giving results of this great love. Our job is to do our best to model this love in our lives.

Memorizing and reciting the Jesus Creed won't guarantee our perfection. But these practices will help us become the people God wants us to be. Remembering the words of Jesus helps ensure that we keep the Ten Commandments. If we are loving God with our whole being – heart, soul, mind, and strength – then it will be easier to ensure that we won't worship anything else, bow to any idols, misuse the Lord's name, forget the Sabbath, dishonor our parents, murder, commit adultery, steal, lie, or covet. And if we begin loving our neighbors as ourselves, then following the example of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 or feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, helping the stranger, or visiting the prisoner won't be such a burden.

Actually doing living these things each day as a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ may be easier because of the Jesus Creed. In my own life, when I have had the Jesus Creed on the tip of my tongue, I have noticed that I am more patient with my kids, more helpful around the house, and more compassionate to the needs of others. But the fact is, I, like the rest of us, still stumble. The drive for power, the push to have my own way, and the passion to meet my needs ahead of others', remain potent in my life. Everyone's pride, jealousy, prejudices, frustrations, lusts, failings, and overall sinfulness still can overcome our best efforts to live out the Jesus Creed. But I am convinced that having the Jesus Creed on the tips of our tongues, in the front of our minds, and in the deepest recesses of our hearts will provide us with the best chance of being who God wants us to be, people who love others and love Him with all that we are.

So although this sermon series has ended, our responsibility to love God and love others has just begun. And we need one another to be who God is calling us to be.

Trying desperately to love God and one another, Pastor Eric

## A Movable Feast

With the advent of the Saturday Night Worship Experience, Jerry Jacobs joining our staff, and our worship format change, Sunday morning worship has seen some slight modifications. For example, the choir assists in leading the worship band songs. Also, the band and its instruments are centered on the platform. By centrally locating the musicians and singers rather than confining them to the side, we have increased the potential for participation and decreased the distance that our music director must travel between the band and the choir, thereby decreasing distractions of unnecessary movement during worship.

However, these changes have occasioned an additional adjustment. As the band is centrally located, we had to decide how to maintain the focus on the Christ candle, and on Eucharistic Sundays, the bread and the cup, which sit upon the Communion Table. We could put the table against the wall, keeping the table centered and placing the band in front of the table. The problem with this option is that it relegates the table to a piece of furniture that needs to be shoved out of the way for the band to play. Plus, on Communion Sundays, servers would have to negotiate quite an obstacle course of cords and instruments to hand out the elements.

Another option would be to place the band behind the table. Unfortunately, this option creates more of a distraction as the table becomes an impediment for leading worship due to the table's irregular shape, enormous heft, and large dimensions. Band members would be hidden behind the table, and the table's placement would impede the band's ability to interact and play off each other.

A third option would be to remove the table entirely. Some of the most traditional and liturgical churches do not have a Communion Table. Instead, to highlight the Communion elements' importance and significance, servers carrying the elements process in and deliver them to the Celebrant for consecration at a time when all attention is focused on the elements themselves. We could do this. However, due to the table's significance to our church and its rich tradition, we have chosen not to.

We chose a fourth way, keeping the table on the platform unencumbered by extraneous musical components. The table remains prominent, accented by the wooden cross behind it; it's dark wood drawing attention to itself against the white-

walled backdrop. For those entering the sanctuary on the east side, the table takes on primary importance as it is the first thing one's eyes encounter.

This placement is not perfect. When we celebrated Communion off to the side in March, people appropriately recognized its awkwardness. So on Communion Sundays we may either deliver the elements to the center for consecration and distribution, or we may place the table on the main floor in the center for Communion Sundays only. This second alternative has its own difficulties as the table's size and weight make it very hard to move up and down the sanctuary steps.

Opinions about the table's position abound. With so many different considerations about where to put the table, there is no way to satisfy everyone. However, the table's purpose is more important than its placement. Our focus should be on Christ's sacrifice, the breaking of His Body and the shedding of His Blood, for our sins. Jesus invites us to eat the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of Him. Our remembrance of Christ's love is what is important. The table's placement in no way minimizes our celebration of what Christ has done for us. As 1 Corinthians 11:28 says, may we "examine ourselves [fully] before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup," ensuring that our celebration is centered on Christ and not ourselves.

In Communion with you and with Christ,  
Pastor Eric

## Harbor/Point Friends Dinner

Plan to celebrate the great things that God is doing at our camps on Saturday, April 18, at 5:00 PM at First Covenant Church. There will be a time to enjoy food, sing, listen to a concert by Lawrence Pointer and hear reports on both Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point. Call Wes & Sue Nelson, 815-877-7800 or Harbor Point Ministries, 262-248-3600 for more information and to make a reservation.

## New Adult Sunday School Class

You are welcome to join the adult Sunday school class at 9:00 a.m. in fellowship hall. Wayne Augenson will be leading a study entitled "In the Dust of the Rabbi".

## Missions Corner

Think spring!! As we anticipate warmer sunny weather think about Jim and Barb Mikrut who are missionaries in Mexico with their daughters Sarah and Erin. Jim and Barb are short-term missionaries who have been in Mexico since 2006. They work in community development, compassion ministries and mission trip facilitation. They are thrilled to be going into partnership with the Covenant Merge Ministries who help coordinate mission trips throughout the world. Their Wednesday night Bible study is going strong. They have 3 pastors and individuals representing 5 different churches. Please pray for them as they teach God's word and pray for all of the changes that are happening.

**Habitat for Humanity Lunches:** On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> we will be making lunches for those working on the houses. We will be providing 130 lunches. If anyone would like to donate bread, fruit, small bags of chips or cookies or if you would like to help that morning to prepare the lunches please let Sue Warren know at 397-3158.

**Peanut Butter Update:** We recently took 26 pounds of Peanut Butter to the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. Thank you for your contributions.

### **Prayer and Praise:**

Alaska Christian College

- Praise for the volunteer contractors, leaders & teams who will be coming this summer.
- Pray for the students and staff as they mourn the 3 young men who died after being lost in the frozen tundra
- Pray for their visit from the accreditation director as they continue to work on areas of deficiency.

### **Tim & Andrea Johnson, Japan**

- Praise that the collaborative worship service with the Brazilian Church went great.
- Pray for future collaborations with the Brazilian Church.
- Pray for their continued work with Gunma Harvest.

Read their newsletters and other letters from our missionaries in the book by the Missions Board.

### **Missionaries Broadway Supports:**

Robert & Joyce Widman	Johnna Hayward
Leonid & Leanna Regheta	Peter & Ruth Dutton
Tim & Andrea Johnson	Jim & Barb Mikrut
Steve & Ellen Peterson	David & Judy Dolan
Byron & Sue Bruckner	

## Upcoming Events for 60 Plus

**April's Meeting** - 60 Plus will meet for lunch at 11:30 A.M. at Garrett's on Bell School Road on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please call Peggy Frint, 815-282-0640 to make your reservation.

**May's event will be on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

We will not meet on Tuesday or go out to lunch as normal. I have seven tickets left to attend the "Senior Follies", Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. at the Tebala Shrine Temple, on Newburg Road. Tickets are \$10. We have reserved 30 seats and 23 have been spoken and paid for. If you would like to attend I need the money no later than April 6<sup>th</sup>. I will cancel any tickets I have left on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We plan to have dinner together as a group at the Machine Shed. If you can't join us for the "Senior Follies" you can still join us for dinner, just give Peggy Frint a call 815-292-0640 to let her know.

**Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> we will take a trip to the Fireside, to hear the "Triumphant Quartet."**

This is for the Fish and Chicken Buffet and Matinee. The cost will be \$32.95 (plus tip) and we need a \$1 deposit by April 6<sup>th</sup>, payable to Karen Holmertz, if you want the spot reserved. We have reserved the Salvation Army Eden Express Van for transportation and the over flow will go in cars or vans. I will let you know when the rest of the money is due.

**60 Plus has agreed to host, once a year, the**

**Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center**

**Birthday Party** held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. The residents truly appreciate this party as it honors each one who has a birthday during the month. **The date we have is June 23, 2009.** Our

responsibilities include a short program to start promptly at 7:00 P.M. that should last 15-20 minutes. We need someone to plan and lead it. The leader would also read the list of "birthday people" and lead in the singing of "Happy Birthday."

We need 6 people to bring 2 dozen sandwiches (no crusts, open face are fine, any breads like banana or cranberry breads). Birthday cake, punch, coffee, sugar and cream are provided by Fairhaven. We also need 8 servers, the more we have the quicker it goes. All serving trays, coffee pots etc. are supplied by Fairhaven but we need to clean up. Please call Karen Holmertz, Darlene Pearson or Mary Gibson and let them know how you would be willing to help. Broadway has several residents at Fairhaven and they would love to see us serve in this way. We will have a great time working together.

## Birthdays

- 3 Pat Johnson  
7 Lillian Rabe  
13 Grace Hulstedt  
16 Alecia Jones  
19 Brian Beyerl  
20 Dawn Gowan  
Kristi Swanson  
21 Virginia Roen  
Neil Kasicki  
24 Doug Boettcher  
29 Dan Hitchcock  
Kari Whitney  
Jeff Irelan

## A Birthday Card Shower

Lillian Rabe is turning 90 on April 7<sup>th</sup>! She is not up to partying so I'm asking her friends and family to send her a card with a personal note to show her how much she is loved.

Thanks, Katy Swenson  
Lillian Rabe

Riverbluff Nursing Home Room 471  
4401 N. Main Street, Rfd, IL 61103



## Anniversaries

- 5 Pat & Patti Anderson  
11 Gene & Louise Peterson  
14 Orville & Virginia Roen  
Donald & Deanne Holmertz  
16 Roy & Janel Leidahl  
26 William & Kathryn Forsen  
27 Tim & Kerri Ramgren

## Remember in Prayer

**Cheryl Ecklund** recovering from back surgery.  
**The family of Rowena Dahlgren** who passed away.

**Cari, Eric, Cal, Teddy, Mimi & Lina Filkin** in the death of Cari's father, Ken Kort.

**David Smith and his family** in the passing of his wife Judy.

**Jim Schwalm**, pastor of Evergreen Covenant Church, at St. Anne's rehab center.

**Kathi Engstrom** home from the hospital.

**Jack Sowl** home recovering from surgery.

**Eleanor Anderson** home from Nelson Debes.

**Joyce Cosman** recovering from surgery.

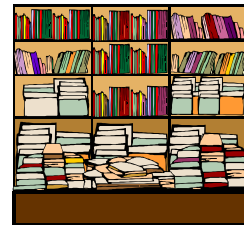
## Thank You

Dear Broadway Friends,  
I want to say thanks and appreciation for all the cards and prayers sent and said for me. A special thank you to Pastor Eric, Pastor Dick, Doug and Mary Gibson and Gene and Louise Peterson for their visits. Each day I feel a little stronger.  
Sincerely, Jack Sowl

Thank you Broadway family for all your prayers, cards and love shown me and my family during Tate's illness and journey home. Thanks to everyone who was part of his service and thanks choir for singing his favorite song at his last church attendance. Love in Christ, Betty Lockett, P.J., Deb and families

## Address Changes

Jean Unzicker  
Valley View Apartments  
3303 E. State Street Apt. 5120  
Rockford, IL 61108



## New Books In The Library

"Healing Stones" by Nancy Rue & Stephen Arterburn. A fictional story of a family on the verge of divorce. By trusting God and seeking wise counsel healing begins.

"The Bait of Satan" by John Bevere. An interesting book that cautions us not to take Satan's bait. What is that bait? Taking offense at other's actions is really falling into Satan's trap. This book is filled with insights how we can turn these offenses into victories for Christ. A good book recommended by Covenant Pastor Ed Hallsten.

## Changes in the Library

Our faithful librarians, Ginny Roen and Joan Boettcher have retired so beginning in April the library will not be open during its regular scheduled times. Be looking for more information about the library and its future in coming editions of the Messenger.



### Carol Circle Reunion . . .

All former Carol Circle members are invited to a Reunion Brunch on Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of Carol Circle and we want to celebrate our friendships over the years. Cost is \$5 (that's '80s prices). Please RSVP by April 13 to Arlene Schweiger at 815-874-7792 or [arschweiger@yahoo.com](mailto:arschweiger@yahoo.com). We are also compiling everyone's information into a booklet and we would need your input for that by April 3. Former Caroler's (Circle and non-Circle members) are considering singing on April 19 during the worship service. If you are interested and available, we will practice on Saturday afternoon April 18, time TBD.



### Support CHIC 2009

#### Mother's Day Hanging Baskets New Guinea Impatiens \$16.00

Place your orders now! Deadline for orders will be April 26<sup>th</sup> and delivery will be Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in the lower level Senior High room from 3-6 p.m. We are unable to take orders for specific colors. Flowers are provided by Village Green.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Payment required at time of order. Make checks payable to Broadway Covenant. Orders may be turned into the church office, Derek Melin, Kristi Swanson or anyone attending CHIC '09.

### Maundy Thursday

Fellowship dinner will be served on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Notice day and time change.) Sign up on the bulletin registration form on Palm Sunday or call the church office. Plan to enjoy a meal together followed at 7:00 p.m. by a Communion Service of Worship centering on Jesus' last supper with His disciples with a surprising activity.

### Good Friday

The Good Friday Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. Come experience Jesus' suffering through Mel Gibson's acclaimed film, The Passion of the Christ.

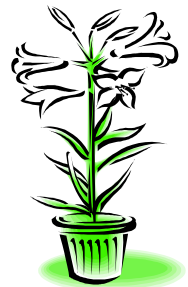


### Easter Breakfast

Men's Ministry will be serving breakfast from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on Easter morning. A minimum contribution of \$3 for children under 12 and \$4 per adults with a family cost of \$12 is suggested. All your donations are appreciated as the money will be used for maintenance of women's vehicles on "Make a Difference Day." Please call the church office by Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to make a reservation.

### Easter Plants

Order your Easter plants...we will have another glorious display of spring flowers and lilies. Fill out the form below or call the church office to reserve your plant. The cost is \$15. If you are writing a check, please make it out to Broadway Covenant Church and note on the check "Easter Plant."



Name/Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



Broadway Covenant Church  
3525 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61108

**Return Service Requested**