



# Open Arms

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## *From the Desk of Pastor Paul*

From Pastor Paul:

Dear Friends,

In my daily devotions this morning I read Psalm 30. In verse 5, I read: "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." I was reminded of the love of God that is willing to be there for me, and for you, for us all.

I know that some of you have experienced those no-sleep, no-rest, no-peace nights. There are a lot of things that can take us to the brink of madness-in-the-night but there is One who can, and will, bring us back to a promised land of life. In verse 11: "... you have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my crying-suit and clothed me with joy"

Why is God willing to forgive me? Why is God willing to love me? Why does God want to restore me? Those questions haunt the hearts of people of

faith who know the promises and blessings of God, while knowing the inner darkness of their own hearts. They know that they are not worthy of God's life washing forgiveness, yet, hope against hope, they believe that God will renew their lives.

Well now, you might be wondering "why is Pastor Paul going on about this stuff?" Good question. Day in and day out I meet people who are struggling with real life issues of meaning, suffering and shame. Those people seek a way to unburden their hearts. On the other hand, there are those people who feel no shame or burden that might be described as guilt. There are those who have no sense of responsibility about the evil of this world, thinking anything wrong is somebody else's fault. Yet many of them feel a shadow of darkness or a sense of emptiness. Truly I think that the Church serves best when it

offers comfort to those who are uncomfortable and bring discomfort to those who are too comfortable. We trust that by God's grace there is the hope of renewal and forgiveness and restoration of peace in the hearts and lives of all God's people. At least that is what I was thinking this morning during my devotions. What are you thinking?

I hope that you have discovered the life enhancing joy of taking a few minutes a day to read some scripture and say a prayer. It is amazing how you will feel more centered and more gleeful. (Living God does provide the 'Christ in our Home' booklets -on the entranceway rack - for those who need a starting point. May God bless your daily worship.

Your Interim Pastor,

Paul D. Townsend

## Bible Quiz

Ephesians 6:2 mentions one of the Ten Commandments as being “the first commandment with a promise.” The commandment is the fifth which reads: “Honor your father and mother.”

Which of the statements below is the promise?

A. “So that it may be well with you and you

may live long on the earth.”

B. “So that you will have a happy home life.”

C. “So that they may be proud of you. Always.”

D. “So that you may learn and grow from their wisdom.”

Hint: The answer is in Ephesians 6:3. (and on page 3)



## Great father ... appreciative son

An Arizona man named Ruff wrote to a newspaper to tell about his father. Ruff said his dad's first priority was to be a good father. He supported his children in their various activities: football or baseball games, scouting, school activities, etc.

Ruff said his dad, a heavy-equipment operator, was physically big but was also big-hearted. Ruff saw him help a dog that was hurt, and go out

of his way to help the poor. He saw his father's eyes moisten when he held his baby granddaughter for the first time.

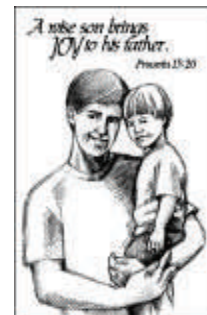
His father had taught him to drive, to use tools correctly, not to be greedy, and to be respectful of others. The good father had taught his son how to be a good man.

Ruff ended his letter to the paper with these words: “I

guess ... I thought I'd reach a point in my life where I could be self-sufficient and not need him. That was a young man's thinking. Now that I'm over 40 and he is gone, I think about him every day and miss him. And I need him.

“So for all the times I didn't say it: Dad, I love you.”

— Adapted from a letter in *The Arizona Republic*



### Side Note

From Carol Schmidt

I'd like to share a story from Merv Petersheim, the youth minister. One of the young men who was having problems met with Merv. Merv asked him what he planned to do with his life. The young man said he'd like to be a carpenter. Merv asked if his father was a carpenter—the young man said he didn't know who his father was, and so he had no idea. Merv told him that he did have a Father and talked to him about looking to God for direction. Later, as they were leaving, the young man commented, “I guess my father was a carpenter after all.”

## Did You Know About the Youth Center?

Submitted by Carol Schmidt

Steeple to People operates a youth center in the building that was once Mac's tavern! It makes a great meeting place for the youth to socialize, do Bible Study, and eat. Upstairs is an apartment for

the Youth Minister and his family, and another apartment that is rented to two young women who also help out with the youth.

There are all kinds of activities—mountain week-

ends, canoeing, and hiking trips. In addition, there is a discipleship program, older guys' retreat (16-25), youth quake (one-day retreat at Camp Andrew), and day camps in the summer.

## A little praise can have great results

A college professor once told a student, "Paul, you are an honest man." The student pondered that compliment and years

later told a friend about the professor's comment. He said, "Ever since then I have found that I am incapable of being dis-

honest." When put into practice, honesty can become a very healthy habit.

## Donations Welcome for 3-Day Walk

It's hard to believe, but this coming August marks my 6th Anniversary of surviving breast cancer. My family and friends have supported me in the past by participating in the Annual Mother's Day **Race for the Cure**. Paul and I have found a new and challenging way to help fight breast cancer by joining the **3 Day Walk** in Philadelphia this September.

We are not only committed to walking the 60 miles (20 miles each day for 3 days) but also to raising money to help find a cure for breast cancer. Our goal is to raise \$4,200. We are asking you to make this commitment with us by making a donation for finding a cure for this terrible disease that affects so many of us in some way. Research shows that 1 in 7

women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

It's easy to donate. Just go to [www.the3day.org](http://www.the3day.org) and click on Philadelphia. This will take you to a screen where you can click on "donate" and type in the Pastor's name (**Paul Townsend**) and/or my name (**Carol Townsend**). You can

then donate using your debit or credit card. If you prefer to write a check, there will be forms for this available in the church office. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Carol Townsend

## Announcements

On Wednesday, June 8th, from noon until 4:00 PM, Susan Pursch from Lutheran Charities will be speaking at the Good Shepherd Church in Coatesville. The topic is Mission Opportunities within the Chester Conference.

If you are interested in at-

tending the meeting, please let me know so that I can notify Good Shepherd with a total count. Thank you, Donna.

Our Nursery Room Attendant, Michaela Herre, will be on vacation 6/12, 7/3, and 7/10. Substitute volunteers are needed

for the nursery room to cover these dates. If you are interested, please contact Donna in the church office. Thank you.

Sign up to help for the Chicken BBQ. Tickets are available at church for individuals to buy and sell. Half of a chicken is \$3.50. The dinner is \$6.50.



Bible Quiz Answer: A

## Living God Lutheran Church

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*We're on the Web!*

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**"A CHURCH FOR PEOPLE WHO  
HAVE NO CHURCH?"**

**Living God**

Extending Open Arms



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Wed., June 8th @ Noon until 4:00 PM	Susan Pursch at Good Shepherd Church
June 24th and 25th, 12:00 PM to 12:00 PM	Relay for Life
Sat., June 25th from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	LGLC Chicken BBQ
Sunday, June 26th @ 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM	Supply Pastor will be Pastor Larry Hand
Tuesday, June 28th @ 7:30 PM	Building and Grounds Meeting



**Men, Golf Sign-Up Sheet is on the church's bulletin board. Reserve your spot to play best ball on July 16th. Ask your friends. So far, 9 have signed up. We have 24 spots reserved. Cost is \$45.00; this includes game, cart, and lunch at Flying Hills Golf Course.**