

Have you been ignoring the “check engine” light in your faith? I recently read an article where the author described the phone call she received from her college-aged son who was stranded and unable to get his car to run. After checking the obvious things – gas in the tank, battery didn’t need a jump-start, etc., they called a tow truck.



While waiting, the son revealed more of the story. It ends up he had been ignoring a “check engine” light for the past couple of weeks. Sometimes the light would disappear, so he decided that probably meant it wasn’t anything important. Besides, he was busy with schoolwork, his job and life in general, so he put off getting it checked out. Even though the car had sputtered and died in traffic twice in the past week, he was always able to get it going again, so he figured he’d wait until a “more convenient” time to get it checked.

In fact, since the tow truck hadn’t come after 30 minutes, the son, asked, “Mom, I’ve got a term paper due tomorrow. Could you just let me take your car so I can work on my paper, while you wait here for the tow truck?” The mom declined because she wanted her son to learn an important lesson about the priority of preventive maintenance, not only with his car, but with all aspects in his life.

That story got me thinking about numerous conversations and situations I have dealt with over the years where the same important truths apply to our relationship with God and life of faith. Often when a “break down” occurs in a marriage, or within a family; or things just become “too busy” or inconvenient to keep growing in our relationship with the Lord and His Church, the first thing that gets “put on hold” or worse entirely ignored, is the day to day; weekly “maintenance” that God has directed us to be about in His “owner’s manual” for living as a child of God in His Christian family.

In fact, just as we often do with our cars, when things are difficult in our life relationships; or perhaps in other areas of life like our health or job or maybe even at church, we are tempted to push the problem aside or put the fault/burden somewhere – anywhere else but with us. “If this is the way he/she is going to treat me, I’m done; I’m just going to quit my job or this relationship.” “If God’s not going to make things easier, than I don’t need Him or His church.” “Besides, I can do just fine on my own.” “Who needs advice from the pastor or that more experienced Christian, or anyone else?”

To stick with the car illustration, the idea that all a person needs is whatever takes the least amount of effort I can get away with in faith, is like someone thinking that it’s no problem to fix a radiator hose with a piece of duct tape or to patch a hole in a tire with superglue.

In the book of Hebrews God tells the people that they have been trying to just get by in their Christian faith with the bare minimum of spiritual knowledge. In fact He says that they have become so noncommittal in their faith that they, even though they have been Christians for years, are still like infants who are unable to handle the more substantial truths they need to address the problems they are facing. He says in Hebrews 5:12-13, “...though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, since he is a child.”



Growing in your *Faith*

Why is this so important? Because, if we are not growing in our faith and maintaining our relationship with our Lord by continuing to study His Word of truth, that’s when we can end up like the Christians Paul wrote to in Ephesians, chapter four. He said they were like “children, (being) tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (v.14). In today’s world we see that when we or others are bouncing around from one church to

another; staying in one place only as long as everything's going great. But as soon as something difficult arises; some challenge to our faith; or some inconvenience to our life – call it a spiritual “check engine” light – instead of engaging more deeply into the relationship with God's Word and addressing the real problem with our spiritual “engine”, we just take our “sputtering” faith somewhere that our “itching ears” will get scratched “to suit [our] own passions, and [then] turn way from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

That's why, Paul says again in Ephesians 4:11-15, God “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints...for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. ... we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.”

So, let's get more specific about what God's “preventative maintenance” plan is for you and me in our Christian faith. Remember, the temptation is to think about what's “most convenient, the bare minimum, and involves the least amount of effort”. But, do we honestly want our relationship with God – the most important of all relationships in life, to be defined by what is the least amount of effort we can “get away with”?



Here are the three most important points from God's Christian “owner's manual” – the Bible:

1st) “Abide in My Word...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (Jn. 8:31-32). To “abide” means to “live in” God's Word. That can't happen only every once in a while. Paul commends Timothy for living in Scripture since childhood because “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man (and woman) of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

2nd) “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together (for worship) as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” (Hebrews 10:25). It's when we gather weekly in Worship, “Remembering the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy” (3rd Commandment), that God pours out His gracious gifts upon us, forgiving us, feeding and strengthening us, and equipping us for the week ahead in our lives as His people.

3rd) One of those most precious gifts is when He feeds us His very own, true Body and Blood in Holy Communion. But the “manual” of God's Word is clear that this point of maintenance must not be done haphazardly or without His proper training. 1 Corinthians 11:28 both directs and warns, “Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” This is why we take the time we do in Confirmation Class (whatever the age of the person may be), for this is the last place we want someone to be harmed spiritually, just because of inconvenience or a minimalist approach.

So, dear Christians, God has gifted us all beyond measure, with His presence; His gifts of forgiveness and salvation; and all that we need for this life and the life to come. Let's love and support and encourage each other then, in keeping the spiritual “check engine” lights away.

Your fellow Christian and “spiritual mechanic”,

Pastor Keith Beed



Add: Clint Tweden, 1106 N 5th St., Johnstown, CO 80534,
Clint (C) 303-243-4912, twedenc176@yahoo.com

Change address: Cheryl (&Terry) Hollingsworth
15940 Atlas Loop, Peyton, CO 80831

Arlene McCracken
10907 E. Wesley Pl., Aurora, CO 80014 (same Phone #)

Sandy McCracken's apartment number should be **#104**





CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

**It's easy for us to find
things to gripe about, but
God's blessings abound!**

- ✦ Warm weather to enjoy outdoor activities.
- ✦ All the wonderful help with the funeral luncheon!
- ✦ The loving members we have!
- ✦ The new life in spring that reminds us of our new life in Christ.
- ✦ The variety of talents God has given our members.
- ✦ Family and friends.
- ✦ God's perfect truth revealed in His Word.
- ✦ Doctors and other medical workers and their ability to help us.
- ✦ Eyes to see, ears to hear and mouths to taste.

Count Your Blessings



Take me out to the ballgame...

Rockies Faith Day at Coors Field is at **1:10pm, Sunday, August 3rd** when the Rockies will host the Pittsburgh Pirates.

We have 40 tickets reserved in the **shade** in the upper most deck behind home plate—Section U332, rows 11-14. The **FREE** concert afterward will feature Jeremy Camp. Tickets are just \$22 each. Please sign-up if you are interested and so we can get a count. Final payments are **not** due until July 11th. Questions? See Tracy T.



How to Pray

- P Praise** for who He is.
For what He has done.
- R Repent** of sins I have committed.
Of commands I have neglected.
- A Ask** for the needs of others.
For my needs
- Y Yield** my will to God's will.
My agenda to God's agenda for me.

Spring Plant & Bake Sale Saturday, May 10th, from 9am-2pm.

We need YOUR help to make this happen!! Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. The proceeds will help pay for our youth to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Let's support our Youth and show the importance of attending the Youth Gathering. **Spread the word among neighbors and friends!**

Strong people needed:

- ✦ Set up ladders and heavy, wooden tables in the parking lot from the conex storage before the plants arrive.
- ✦ Take down tables and return them to the conex after the sale.

Helpers and Youth needed:

- ✦ Arrive by **8:30** to arrange plants on the tables.
- ✦ Arrive at **2:00** to bring in any unsold plants into the "Fellowship Hall".
- ✦ Help customers shop and load plants to their car.

Cashiers needed:

- ✦ Morning and afternoon shifts

Bake Sale:

- ✦ The bake sale proceeds will also be put toward the Youth attending the National Youth Gathering.
- ✦ Bring baked goods—**whole and individually wrapped**.
- ✦ Bakers, please put a **price** on your item in **whole numbers**... \$1, \$2, \$3...

Spring Plant
& Bake Sale
May 10th
9am-2pm



Thank you for your Time & Talent! - The Board of Stewardship & Plant Sale Committee



Remember –
Confirmants this includes YOU!
Please remember that we cannot be a
Youth Group without YOU!
All school age kids are welcome:



"**May** God bestow on us His grace, With blessings rich provide us; And **may** the brightness of His face to life eternal guide us, That we His saving health **may** know, His gracious will and pleasure, And also to the nations show Christ's riches without measure and unto God convert them."¹

"May God Bestow on Us His Grace", LSB 823 v. 1

Here we are, already into the month of May. I thought this verse from Martin Luther's hymn was very appropriate to start this missel.



Natalie's play, "Shrek Jr. The Musical" was very successful and entertaining. We are looking forward to Owen's performance in "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" May 1st and May 2nd at 7:00 PM and May 3rd at 2:00 PM.

Outside of Church


Thanks to all who participated in filling the eggs for the Fort Lupton Community Egg Hunt on April 5th. We filled 1700 plastic eggs with candy in a record time of 1 hour! Also, thanks for helping set up the fellowship hall for the Easter breakfast and assisting with the egg hunt after the Easter breakfast.

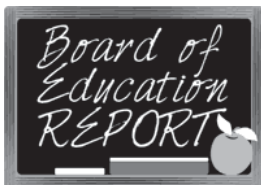
At 9:15 AM on Saturday, May 3rd the Trustees have scheduled a clean-up day for the Church. Everyone is invited to attend! Bring gloves, wear work clothes, willing hands, and a smile!

The Plant and Bake Sale, the main fundraiser for the Youth Group will take place Saturday, May 10th from 9:00-2:00. Please spread the word and participate. Sign-up sheets are posted.

The LCMS National Youth Gathering group will have a kick-off meeting preparing for New Orleans, **Sunday, May 18th from 12:00-2:00**. Please have your T-shirt designs at this meeting so that we can get our T-shirts ordered for this important event. The NYG website has some ideas depicting the theme, "Endure" based on Hebrews 12:1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." You can visit the website www.lcms.org/NYG for ideas.

Yours In Christ's Service,
Nona Schaefer, Chairperson Board of Youth


Our next Meeting is:
June 8th
After Sunday School



Thank you to all the children who participated in the Church Easter Egg hunt! A special thank you to the youth who helped hide the eggs and tell the Resurrection story! Anna B. received her Bible last month. Another reminder to mark your calendars for VBS. We will be having evening **VBS for all ages on June 26, 27 and 28th with a wrap up on Sunday, June 29th** in conjunction with the

5th Sunday potluck. More information to come in the June newsletter. We are also trying to plan a **day of fishing** for the kids and adults. We are asking for input on who would be interested in joining in the fun and possibly helping with tackle etc. We were considering this for an August activity. Please speak to Nona, Jessica, Landon, Tracy T, or me about it. – Corinne Gabel



Thoughts on Holy Baptism from your Elder



In Luther's Small Catechism, we read in the first two sections on The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

"First: What is Baptism? - Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God? - Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."** (Matt. 28:19)

Second: What benefits does Baptism give? - It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? - Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: **"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."** (Mark 16:16)"

Baptized
IN THE NAME
OF THE
FATHER
AND THE
SON
AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT

So far from the Small Catechism. The highlighted Bible verses are the ones where Jesus institutes Holy Baptism as a sacrament. The answer to the first question explains that Baptism was instituted by Jesus Himself within the Great Commission and is very much connected with Jesus' promises in these verses. The answer to the third question explains the benefits of Baptism to the one receiving it, whether a small baby or an old man, especially the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation.

On October 12, 1537 (a Friday), Luther preached in the Castle Church in Wittenberg a sermon centered on **Titus 3:5, "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."** Stenographical notes of Luther's student Georg Röer were written out by Johannes Aurifaber in a manuscript that is now kept in the University Library in Heidelberg, Germany. In the "Luther Says" collection is a part of this sermon, in which Luther illustrates what Baptism is not and what it is.

"By the Word God Works in What Seems an External Rite

It is not that, as our adversaries like to say, Baptism is merely an outward token, like a distinguishing color...a symbol, indicating that Christians hold together, are pious, and love one another. This is a Turkish doctrine. It is a trampling on the Christian doctrine and Sacrament. Baptism is not merely a coat of arms and a token. God did not give it to be the color of His court. He Himself is there through His kindness and His love for men, because He desires to dwell in me. It is not an empty token; but the power of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost is there and does not merely mark me externally before men, but makes a different person of me before God so that just as a person is born of a woman in sin, so he is born of Baptism to righteousness and life eternal." ("Luther says", no.126, p.46, from the Weimar Edition of Luther's Works, vol.45, p.174)

Michael Kraemer, Elder

He that
believes
and is
baptized
shall be
saved.
Mark 16:16



Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #5 is the Board of Spiritual Outreach



Our Target: **Our church members care for the needs of the Community.**

Goal #1: Launch 2 new community events activities by end of 2025

Task #1 We are looking into setting up a booth for the 4th of July event in Ft. Lupton.

Task #2 We are looking to pursue a new event in a different community.

Goal #2: Finding ways to reach out to visitors and the community

Task #1 We are gathering materials to put together a Welcome folder to hand out.

Goal #3: Continue to Support Butler Elementary School and other local entities.

Task #1 We are collecting Longmont Dairy Milk caps and donating them to Butler Elementary School.

Task #2 We are collecting medicine bottle caps for Miracle House.

Completed Tasks for 2025

- ✦ Worked with the City of Ft. Lupton at the Easter Egg Hunt by providing 10 Easter Baskets.
- ✦ We also worked with the Youth Group as well as some volunteers in filling Easter Eggs for the Hunt.

Opportunities for the congregation to help.

- ✦ Volunteer at the Food Pantry.
- ✦ Save your medicine bottle caps as well as your Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.

The Board of Spiritual Outreach members volunteered at the Ft. Lupton Easter Egg Hunt on April 12th. We provided 10 Easter Baskets that were given away.

We are gathering materials to put into a Welcome Folder to give to guests and visitors. We are also looking for a few volunteers to act as greeters before and after church services. **If you are interested in becoming a greeter**, please talk to a member of the Board of Spiritual Outreach.

We are still collecting **medicine bottle caps** for Miracle House who redeems them to support the ministry of providing shelter for people who are transitioning from homeless and jobless into a more stable environment. They will take caps that have Dales Pharmacy on them or just generic/plain caps. There is a container on the table by the restrooms to put the caps in.

We also collect **milk bottle caps** from the Longmont Dairy for Butler Elementary. There is a box on the table by the restroom to place the caps in. A big thank you to all those who have been donating!
- Judy Kimball (See also Judy's submission, "How to Pray", on page 3)

