



WISCONSIN  
LUTHERAN  
INSTITUTIONAL  
MINISTRIES

# COMPASSION

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## RUST EVANGELISM

by Chaplain Ken Wenzel

When visiting from afar in Madison, the radiator in my car sprung a leak. I had my car towed to a repair shop where the repairman and I had a long and interesting discussion.

He was a Lutheran who had left his church. He neglected to care for his faith, although he still confessed the basics. We enjoyed talking about our common faith together with a good law and gospel review. He told me how to take care of my radiator so that it would not rust out again and I drove home.

### PRESERVING POWER OF GOD'S WORD

When I sent a check for the bill, I included a letter urging him to reconnect with God's Word. I explained that just as rust had eaten through my radiator and wrecked it, so sin corrodes and wrecks an unprotected faith. We can lose our faith and become stuck in God's eternal judgment. By reading and hearing God's Word the Holy Spirit acts like a radiator wash and flush with preserving power.

If I follow his instructions my radiator will be kept from corroding. If he follows God's instructions his faith will be kept from rusting out. God has to preserve our gift of faith to keep it from rusting out. My radiator break down had become an opportunity for evangelism.

Twenty years later I met the same man. This time he was in the hospital for physical repairs and had asked for a chaplain visit. It took me a second visit to realize this was the same man whom I had met many years ago. He remembered

EVANGELISM - CONTINUED ON PG 4



## MEET THE STAFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DON BORGWARDT



Don Borgwardt has served WLIM since 1993 when he was called to be the ministry's first executive director.

A graduate of the University of WI - Eau Claire in 1971, Executive Director Borgwardt had served in a variety of marketing, advertising and public relations management positions before accepting the Call to WLIM.

Don manages the day-to-day operations of the ministry and supervises staff. He works with the strategic plan for the ministry, provides direction to ministry resource development, makes personal visits to major donors, and maintains the ministry's computer technology.

Don recently completed WELS certification for non-parish staff ministry. He has served as chairman of the board of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School and secretary-treasurer of the WELS Conference of Staff Ministers. Don currently serves as treasurer of Beacon Center Ministries, a WELS campus ministry at the University of WI - Milwaukee.

Don and his wife, Carol, live in Cedarburg, WI and have one married daughter.

In his spare time, Don designs and creates stained glass art for churches and residences. He is also an avid woodworker.

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## CHANGE AT WLIM

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the verb "change" means, "to make different in some particular: to make radically different: to give a different position, course, or direction to: to replace with another: to make a shift from one to another: to exchange for an equivalent sum or comparable item: to undergo a modification of."

WLIM has gone through many changes in its 104 years of sharing the Gospel with the institutionalized. At one time, the ministry's main mission was to bring the Word to men and women in the Asylum for the Mentally Insane and the Tuberculosis Sanitarium. Those institutions no longer exist, so while the message didn't change, the direction of the ministry did change to share the Gospel with people institutionalized in prisons, jails, hospitals and nursing homes.

### WLIM MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Recently, WLIM embarked on an extensive evaluation process to determine where and how the ministry could best serve in the 21st century. We enlisted the help of a number of our association delegates, volunteers, staff and board members to brainstorm ideas which would be God-pleasing and lead the ministry to better serve our Lord and the people whom we serve.

After many meetings and the consideration of hundreds of ideas and thoughts, a WLIM Ministry Strategic Plan has been developed. We recently began implementing the Strategic Plan which will be updated and modified, if necessary, each year.

We know the LORD has plans for us, both for today and for the future. At WLIM we want to study the opportunities and resources that God has provided to us and plan for the future.

### WLIM'S STRATEGIC PLAN WILL:

- allow the ministry to effectively fulfill its mandated mission;
- help keep the wider vision in the fore and allow longer-term aims to be developed;
- ensure that appropriate resources are made available to ministry and mission initiatives;
- help ensure manageable and achievable objectives;
- allow for planning and decision-making processes which make best use of resources;
- offer the opportunity for the coordination of activities, programs and resources of the ministry; and,
- help the ministry respond to change and support people through change.

There's that word again - change. God's plans for each of us and the WLIM ministry will not change, but we will be changed by His plans. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer.29:11

Change can be good, especially when it is change that gives you, "hope and a future."

*Executive Director Don Borgwardt*

# DRIVING OUT DEMONS

I was at the jail for Sunday services. The Gospel that day was from Mark 1, the story of how Jesus taught with authority and then proved his authority by casting out demons. As we discussed this story, we talked about modern day demons that afflict us - mental illness is an example. A young man approached and after listening for a few minutes said, "I'm tired of this anger. My family has let me down. They have hurt me in so many ways. They have never been there for me. I have lashed out at others. I have hurt others. I have hurt myself. My anger has gotten me into this jail. How do I get rid of this anger?"

## HOW TO GET RID OF THE ANGER

As I thought about this young man who probably had been physically and emotionally abused by a dysfunctional family, I thought this sounds like the man in the synagogue whose demons cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

It was quiet for a few moments. I pondered this young man's question and his obvious despair and frustration. I acknowledged how hard it had to be for him to experience such abuse. I pointed out how this kind of treatment creates feelings of outrage and anger. I noted that the anger doesn't hurt those who afflict us but rather it wounds our heart, colors our behavior and destroys our life. I asserted that the only way of getting rid of this kind of anger is to give it to Jesus. He has the authority to cast it away and give us a heart of peace.

Then the rest of the men in that group began to reach out to this young man. "Come on, man," one of them said. "I've seen you keeping to yourself on this pod. I've seen you struggling. I've seen you watching us as we have had our Bible studies. You need to join with us. We love you, man. We can help you." I saw others nodding their heads. One man touched the young man's



shoulder and tears appeared as he felt the compassion that was reaching out and wrapping around him.

## GIVE THE ANGER TO JESUS

We gathered in a circle and ended with a prayer. There were hugs all around. I was so blessed by what I had seen in that service. The Gospel lesson that day was the very Gospel that young man needed to hear. I was so privileged to be the one who could explain that what Jesus did so long ago still works today. What touched me the most was the opportunity to plant a powerful seed in this young man's heart. After I left, Jesus had a group of modern disciples who would water and tend that seed as they continued to minister to this young man, their Christian brother. Rejoice with me that we still have the authority to drive out demons. Join with me in using that power from Jesus on the demons we see all around us.

*Chaplain Steve Stern*

*Chaplain Steven Stern served congregations in Minnesota and Wisconsin before joining WLIM in 1986. His primary focus as an institutional chaplain is cancer and bone marrow transplant patients in Milwaukee area hospitals. He is also involved with county jail and nursing home ministries utilizing lay volunteers.*



**EVANGELISM – CONTINUED FROM PG 1**

my letter with the payment. We talked about his faith and life and while he never joined a church, he had visited a Lutheran church several times. A concerned WELS neighbor and I shared the gospel with him. Through the Word his faith was again flushed with the Holy Spirit's preserving and renewing work. The next time someone complains about the rust on their car, make it an opportunity to warn about the rust of sin and to share the preserving love of Jesus. That is rust evangelism!

*Chaplain Wenzel's primary ministry is conducted at the University Hospital and the Children's Hospital, as well as two other Madison, WI area hospitals. A 1973 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Chaplain Wenzel joined WLIM in 1997.*

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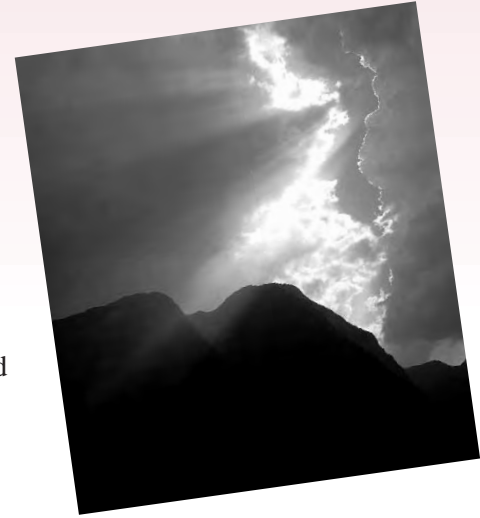
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Waldschmidt

# HOW DO YOU PICTURE JESUS?

Scripture is replete with pictures of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. Imagine with Isaiah what he saw in prophecy concerning the promised Messiah. "He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Is 9:6 "The spirit of the Lord rested on Jesus, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Is. 11:2

**WORDS THAT DESCRIBE JESUS**

Listen to the words of King David in the 18th Psalm "O Lord my strength and rock, my fortress, my deliver, my refuge, my shield, my horn of salvation, my strong hold."

The apostle John describes Jesus as the Word. Jesus tells us "I am living water; I am the bread of life; I am the truth, the way and the life."

John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God. The 23rd Psalm of David pictures Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The Passover Lamb with out spot or blemish is a picture of Jesus "who was led like a lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before her shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth." Is 53:7 Paul speaks of "Christ as our Passover Lamb who has been sacrificed." 1 Cor 5:11 Peter writes, "We were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb with out sport or blemish." 1 Pet. 1:19

In Revelation, "thousand upon thousands of angels sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise." Rev. 5:12

"The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want." Ps 23:1 "He will watch over His flock like a shepherd." Jn. 31:10 Jesus assures us, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Jn 10:11 Peter writes, "and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away." 1 Peter 5:4

With all of these illustrations, what a story we have to tell! What beautiful pictures we have in our hearts and our minds. We can't help but share what we have seen and heard.

*Lay Ministry Coordinator Franklin Gauger*

*Franklin Gauger recruits, trains, and communicates with lay ministry volunteers and leads Bible classes in area retirement and assisted living centers.*



# SOVEREIGN LORD

The word sovereign has been on my mind. I've been encountering it in my Bible readings and have even looked it up to get its exact meaning. According to Webster, two of the definitions of sovereign are: 1. Having supreme rank or power, and, 2. self-governing, independent.

I have known, since I can remember, that, "He's got the whole world in His hands." But, in my daily life, God puts situations in front of me that help me put that into practice. Shaun, as well as so many others in Juvenile Detention, had this experience.

## IT CAN BE A TOUGH LIFE

Shaun was sixteen years old with two children, a boy and a girl. While his father did not give him much advice or direction, he did tell Shaun not to follow his path and have children at sixteen as he and Shaun's mother did. Shaun instead had his first child at thirteen.

Some told Shaun and his girlfriend to have an abortion. They tried to convince Shaun that this baby does not belong in this world and that the best thing to do would be to end the pregnancy. Then, he and his girlfriend could continue with their lives.

Shaun was young, but his gut told him killing his baby would not be the answer. His girlfriend's mother was on drugs and her father had never been in her life. They were obviously unable to give support and help. Shaun's mother said she would do the best she could to help, although she had her own children to take care of.

Now at sixteen, Shaun beams when talking about his children. He admits his son is a handful at three years old and his eyes fill with tears when he thinks of his three month old baby girl and how beautiful she is. He knew that God was their maker.

## GOD IS THERE TO PROVIDE

We talked about how God knew what He was doing when He designed marriage and waiting until you are married to be together with a girl. Shaun said he has had this girlfriend for over three years and wants to marry her some day. We also talked about sin and God's grace.

My suspicion was that he felt pressure to get money to take care of his children. He said that he had an interview date set for a new job, but couldn't make it now that he's incarcerated. So, how does a sixteen year-old legally support two children? Thinking about it overwhelms me.



Then I remember that sovereign God I believe in, the one who has all power. I remember the story about the young boy who brought five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus so He could feed the multitudes. What a small, yet important contribution!

I told Shaun about that story, about how Jesus can help us even in ways that we couldn't imagine. I told him that this same God loves him and his small family. He can find a way to take care of them.

I gave Shaun our office's phone number. If he became desperate to care for his family and was tempted to become independent from God and do things his own way, he could call me. If he were looking for a church home, I would help him find one.

## THE HELPING HAND OF GOD

There are plenty of those who are hurting and hungry right now. Maybe some have asked for their situation and some who haven't. Either way, I may have an extra fish or loaf.

I can't imagine that loaf doing much for the great multitude of hurting and hungry people. And yet, in the hands of the sovereign God, my loaf could feed many.

So, I can only give God the loaf I have and let Him take care of the details. Then, in giving them food for their stomachs, we can also feed them with the spiritual food of our Lord.

*Deaconess Sarah Owens*

*Deaconess Owens works with children and teens in the Milwaukee County Children's Court Center, in the Behavioral Health Treatment Center and various other institutions throughout the state.*



## SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Your memorial or special gifts to the WLIM operating fund or any WLIM special fund (youth ministry, Grace Oasis, nursing home ministry, etc.) are most appreciated.

### IN MEMORY OF      GIVEN BY

Otto Nimmer	Mr/Mrs. Donald Nimmer
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### IN HONOR OF      GIVEN BY

Martin Hilgendorf's 90th Birthday	Mr/Mrs. Roger Ehke
Pastor Victor Headrick's 25 Years in Ministry	Mr/Mrs. Gerald Lueck

## LOTS OF EMOTIONS

As a chaplain working in both hospitals and prisons, I've observed that prisoners and hospital patients feel the same needs.

Prisoners, after their arrest, after months of sadness and agony, often express anger, regrets, fear and depression. But there is also the need for laughter and light-hearted moments.

The same is true of those in the hospital. Often patients need to cry. There is fear and sadness when a patient hears they have a serious illness. There are tears, days of fear, anguish and depression. Maybe in the hospital there is hope. Questions are answered and prayers for physical deliverance are heard.

### THE STRENGTHENING OF FAITH

Of course my responsibility as a WLIM chaplain is not to wear a big smiley button or to carry a crying towel. I wear a chaplain's cross. I believe for a prisoner or hospital patient alike the most comfort comes from a reaffirmed or a strengthening of faith, being assured that their life is in the loving arms of Jesus. How often at that moment comes the shedding of tears or, sometimes, the feeling of lightheartedness.

Those serving as WLIM volunteers know that the visit to those in an institution need not be a burden. Some may be light hearted and feel the need for laughter. Some may need to cry. But all need to hear the love of Jesus. Words of comfort centered in Jesus are always in need.

The message of the Savior may be shared at a time of grief or at a time of joy and lighthearted feels. Whatever the situation, the Savior and his love are shared. God bless the work of WLIM chaplains and volunteers alike to serve whatever the prisoners or patients are feeling!

Chaplain Kenneth Lenz

Chaplain Kenneth Lenz serves part-time as a hospital and jail chaplain for WLIM, serving numerous institutions in the Milwaukee area. Before joining WLIM in 1971 as a full-time chaplain, he served congregations in Montana for 13 years.



# GOD COULD NEVER LOVE ME!

Worship was over and the female inmates were being escorted back to their cells. I turned to pick up my worship materials and I saw her sitting in the back of the room with her head down. I sat by her and she was crying. “Can I help” I asked? After a long pause she replied, “God could NEVER love me!” When I inquired, I learned that she was a drug addict and was doing time for a misdemeanor possession conviction and that this was not her first.

## “GOD WILL NEVER FORGIVE MY SINS”

We went back to the worship service which had focused on the Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14) and she was convinced that she would never be invited. I learned that while in jail she would clean herself up with the dependency on drugs but a short time after her release she would start up again. “God will never forgive me for my sins,” she said and I looked at her and told her that He already had. Her puzzled look invited me to continue and I explained that Jesus took all her sins, and mine, to the cross and paid for them on that first Good Friday. I continued with the proof that this had happened on Easter Sunday and the tomb was empty. Proof positive that her sins, my sins, all the world’s sin had been forgiven. Not just up to that time in history, but all the sins we will commit during our lifetime – forgiven!

## JESUS TOOK ALL OF OUR SINS AWAY

There was a look of disbelief and I continued explaining that there was nothing we have to do for this wonderful gift. I encouraged her to get reconnected to her church so she can spend time in worship and praise for this wonderful gift. I urged her to seek counseling and to stay away from the drug crowd she associated with.



## LET GOD COME IN... TO FORGIVE

Our conversation was cut short by the jailer as she had to be returned to her cell, but I asked her to attend the worship next week and we would talk again. Next week came and she was not there. I asked the deputy to let me talk to her and she would not come out, saying only, “God could never love me!” Sadly I had to walk away, but I encouraged her to contact me.

A few weeks later I conducted worship in the jail and she had been released. I have not been contacted. I’m saddened that she is in such despair over her condition and I pray that she will find the help she needs to rid herself of this demon.

*Staff Minister Larry Clark*

*Larry serves at Mt. Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church in LaCrosse, WI. He conducts regular ministry at the LaCrosse County Jail.*





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## OUR MISSION

*“To Share God's Law And  
The Saving Gospel of  
Jesus Christ With People  
Who Are Institutionalized.”*

## TWO RECENT BEQUESTS

WLIM acknowledges with great thanks the receipt of two bequests in the first quarter of 2006. What a blessing when fellow Christians who love and support our ministry also remember the Lord's work carried out by WLIM after they leave this earth. In one of the recent bequests, a total of 15 charitable organizations were named including WLIM. Consider that possibility. Many will want to remember their church, the synod, maybe an area Lutheran high school, but also maybe WLIM. A WLIM representative would be pleased to meet with you at your home to discuss the possibility and the best way to include institutional work in your estate plan. Call 414-259-8122 or 888-214-6490.

Pastor Bob Pasbrig,  
Director of Ministry Advancement

## DO YOU KNOW?

There are 17 pastor's conferences in the WLIM service area? Most of these conferences meet three times a year. WLIM attempts to provide a written update to each conference and when possible, sends a representative to give the report.

