

**Book Club meets March 8, 10am-noon**  
**The Red Tent by Anita Diamant**



Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of Genesis that tell of her father, Jacob, and his twelve sons.

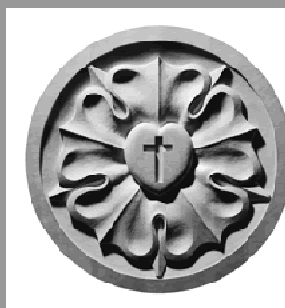
Told in Dinah's voice, Anita Diamant imagines the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent. It begins with the story of the mothers--Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah--the four wives of Jacob. They love Dinah and give her gifts that sustain her through childhood, a calling to midwifery, and a new home in a foreign land. Dinah's story reaches out from a remarkable period of early history and creates an intimate connection with the past.

Deeply affecting, "The Red Tent" combines rich storytelling with a valuable achievement in modern fiction: a new view of biblical women's lives.

- April *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt
- May *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld
- June *Loving God with all Your Mind* by Gene Edward Veith, Jr.
- July *Space* by James Michener
- August *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch
- September *A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity* by Bill O'Reilly
- October *Apples and Oranges* by Marie Brenner
- November *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
- December *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie

**SCHEDULE of DIVINE LITURGIES for MARCH**

03 March	Second Midweek Lenten Vespers, 7:00 PM	Office of Vespers
07 March	Third Sunday in Lent, 10:30 AM	Divine Service
10 March	Third Midweek Lenten Vespers, 7:00 PM	Office of Vespers
14 March	Fourth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 AM	Divine Service
17 March	Fourth Midweek Lenten Vespers, 7:00 PM	Office of Vespers
21 March	Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 AM	Divine Service
24 March	Fifth Midweek Lenten Vespers, 7:00 PM	Office of Vespers
28 March	Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, 10:30 AM	Divine Service



IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Esprit

Volume 37, Issue 3

March 2010

## DO WE UNDERSTAND "THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS"?

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church,  
 the communion of saints. . ." [Apostles' Creed]

"And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church . . ." [Nicene Creed]

The new *Lutheran Study Bible* has a recommendation for reading Ephesians. It begins with Baptism and the water streaming down people's heads and necks as they stepped away from the font. As they stepped away, the droplets from others baptized formed puddles. The individual droplets came together to form puddles. The idea is that Holy Baptism unites us not only with Christ, but also with each other into one body, Jews and Gentiles, male and female, young and old. The unity of the Church is one of the grand themes of this letter of Paul.

Our unity is centered in our faith in Christ. Christ unites us because he is the object of our faith. We are those individual droplets that are joined with other droplets to form this one great puddle. This is one of the ways Paul says it:

"And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:22-23, ESV)

There is *one* body in Christ, not a bunch of bodies. The Church is *the* body of Christ on earth.

However the Scriptures speak, we often act differently. We often tend to act as individuals. It is part of our American heritage to be independent of others, a kind of frontier mentality that we don't need other people and that it is a weakness to depend on others. But the Bible never speaks that way of Christians.

What do I mean? One says, "I can pray and do my devotions privately." True, and to a certain extent this is good. We encourage you to do that. But there is a sense which is higher, that of corporately. Corporate=bodily. Corporate comes from the Latin *corpus*, which means body. The various parts of the body never act for themselves. They can act only for the entire body. If your toe hurts, your whole body knows it. Each part serves the others. That's the argument Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 12. The body has diversity but all the parts are designed to function on behalf of the whole body.

I wonder if you see corporate worship in this light. I often wonder whether you come

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Private Confession & Absolution  
 Third Thursday 4:30-6:00 PM  
 Or by Appointment

**Inside this issue:**

Pastor's Article	1
Vicar's Article	3
Lutheran Confessions	4
Haiti Relief Continues	4
Table Talk	5
Daylight Saving Reminder	5
Council of Deacons	6
Board of Education	6
Board of OAF	7
Choir Rehearsals	7
Scrip Program	8
Work Days	8
Wednesday Bible Study	8
Lent Dinners/Easter Breakfast	8
Worship for Shut-ins	9
Smiles	9
Book Club	10
Schedule of Divine Liturgies	10

(Continued from page 1)

only because of what *you* get out of it personally, individually. I can't see into your hearts to know, but I suspect that I know my own heart well enough to think that underneath it all we tend to act in our own self interests. We are often not considerate of our brothers and sisters in Christ in our conduct before the Divine Service. Some find it necessary to carry on conversations while others are trying to focus on preparing for the Divine Service through prayer or meditation on the Scriptures. Others are habitually late, as though it didn't matter to others if one is late. Perhaps it shows up mostly at the opening of our Christian Education time on Sunday morning. A sizeable number never show up for the opening rites. Perhaps that is because they don't consider the prayers necessary. This kind of worship, perhaps, is seen as trivial and not necessary. Perhaps only the actual class material is considered important. Again, do you see the whole action as corporate or individual? Do you think that you might be discouraging others who indeed consider that praying before study is important and that by your absence you do discourage others? Quite frankly, it discourages me! It tells me that we do not fully understand the doctrine of the unity of the Church. It says that we don't understand our union as brothers and sisters in Christ. Corporate prayer is undermined.

Lent is a time to restore the corporate life of the congregation, but we have a hard time doing that because there are so many pressures and activities which distract us from it. We've become accustomed to "multi-tasking," doing too many things at once. I'm convinced that most multi-tasked things get done rather poorly because of a loss of focus. Texting and driving come to mind.

Here's a question for you: "What have you given up for Lent?" Think about how self-centered that is after all! That should never be the question a Christian should ask himself/herself. Don't you think a better question would be this one? "What are you doing for others?" That gets at the corporate nature of the Church and our neighbor. What are you doing for the body of Christ in this place? It takes you outside of yourself.

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:25-32, ESV)

How does our puddle look?

*Pastor Meyer*

**REMEMBER IMMANUEL IN YOUR WILL!**

Help keep the work of the Gospel going here after you are gone.

## Worship for Shut-Ins

March 2010

Airs each Sunday at 8:00AM on Channel 2, WTWO

### March 7, 2010 – Luke 13:1-9

"It's Not Fair!"

by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, IN

Life is filled with tragedies. We are tempted to say to God, "That is not fair!" The truth is that we are deserving of none of the good we experience. The ultimate in lack of fairness is Jesus on Calvary's cross. It was not fair, but it was merciful.

### March 14, 2010 – Luke 15:11-32

"You Can Always Go Home!"

by Rev. Phil Quardokus, Christ Lutheran Church, Stevensville, MI

It is because of our heavenly Father's rescue mission in Christ that you can always go home to be with Him at His side now in time through faith and for all eternity.

### March 21, 2010 – Luke 20:9-15

"Looking to Easter"

by Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace, Hudson, IN

Looking forward to Easter? Maybe it's the promise of nicer weather or new life. But those who follow Christ look forward to Easter through the cross of Christ.

### March 28, 2010 – John 12:32

"Wonderful Drawing Power"

By Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

We see this is the most wonderful drawing power when we consider:

- I. Who does the drawing;
- II. How this drawing power is put forth;
- III. Whom this power draws with what results.

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## SMILES

*Submitted by a member*

### Las Vegas Churches Accept Gambling Chips

THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO THOSE OF YOU NOT LIVING IN LAS VEGAS, BUT THERE ARE MORE CATHOLIC CHURCHES THAN CASINOS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SOME WORSHIPERS AT SUNDAY SERVICES WILL GIVE CASINO CHIPS RATHER THAN CASH WHEN THE BASKET IS PASSED. SINCE THEY GET CHIPS FROM MANY DIFFERENT CASINOS, THE CHURCHES HAVE DEvised A METHOD TO COLLECT THE OFFERINGS. THE CHURCHES SEND ALL THEIR COLLECTED CHIPS TO A NEARBY FRANCISCAN MONASTERY FOR SORTING AND THEN THE CHIPS ARE TAKEN TO THE CASINOS OF ORIGIN AND CASHED IN.

THIS IS DONE BY THE CHIP MONKS. [Groan . . .!] **J**

**Bumper sticker: "Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you'd like to meet him." **J****

## "Shopping Cart" Fundraising

### Scrip Program Ongoing in 2010

The Scrip Program at Immanuel is ongoing in 2010! This program generates free money for the church, and we encourage everyone to find a way to be involved. Every single order helps – large or small!

**Scrip Tip of the Month:** Where will you get your ham and all the fixings for Easter dinner? Get your Scrip card to one of several discount stores now (including Wal-mart/Sam's Club)!

**Review of How It Works:** You purchase gift cards to participating retail stores, and those stores donate a portion of the value of each gift card back to Immanuel. FREE Money! You can pick up a complete list of participating retailers at the church office or you can view the list of participating retailers online at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com).

Who can I go to with questions? Our Scrip Program Coordinator is John Schulz. You may contact John at 812-299-1429 or [johnschulz2@yahoo.com](mailto:johnschulz2@yahoo.com).

### Important Scrip Dates

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Scrip orders placed from February 22, 2010 through March 7, 2010 to be processed (Available for pick-up March 13th).

March 21st, 2010

Scrip orders placed from March 8, 2010 through March 21, 2010 to be processed (Available for pick-up March 27th).

## MIDWEEK LENTEN DINNERS



Join the Board of OAF and their hosts each Wednesday during Lent for a dinner. Meals begin at 5:30 and finish up in time for the Vespers service at 7:00PM. This is a great opportunity to visit with or meet other members. Make reservations on the sign up sheets in the Sunday and Midweek bulletins.

## Easter Breakfast

Served 8am-10am

Please plan to join the YPI for breakfast between Sunrise Service and Divine Service. Make your reservations on the bulletin inserts.

### Altar Guild Work Day

Saturday, 20 March  
9:00AM

Please plan to attend to  
prepare the  
sanctuary for Easter.  
Contact Faith Fenner if  
you have questions.

### Property & Grounds Work Day

Saturday, 27 March  
8:00AM

Grounds clean up.  
Contact Roy Riedle if you  
have questions.

### Vicar's Wednesday Evening Bible

Study resumes on April 7th  
at 7:00pm. The class is cur-  
rently studying Jesus' sermons  
in Matthew.

## Why Campus Ministry?

When requesting a vicarage, I didn't ask for a church that involved any sort of campus ministry. That being said, I was delighted to get one. Providing a church home to students attending college is a wonderful blessing Immanuel has, and I've very much enjoyed the work I've been blessed to do with our college students.

College is a dangerous place. I mean that in two ways. The first way is the obvious one. Putting thousands of impressionable young people together, often for the first time away from their parent's watchful eye (and dare I say control?), is always going to lead to a certain amount of chaos. The typical college scene contains several dangers. Binge drinking, drugs, rape, theft, and dangerous hazing are near the top of the list.

Articles on this will appear in news outlets from time to time, and all colleges are required to report annually to the U.S. Department of Education about crimes on and near campus, including murder, assault, sexual offenses and robberies. Those of you looking into a college in the near future might want to request these reports. Now this isn't to say that all colleges are a war zone. Regarding crimes, they tend to be better off statistically than the general population. But we'd be foolish to ignore the real risks and dangers in the world around us.

But there's another danger prevalent upon college campuses - even worse than the dangers listed above. That is the threat to one's Christian faith upon going to college. Much more subtle, but deadly. One's faith in Christ is rarely strengthened in college, and instead is often attacked from all sides. You can look into the statistics of Christian identification and church attendance yourselves, but I'll provide some anecdotal evidence.

I graduated from a Lutheran High school, where the majority (80% at least) of the students were Lutheran, and probably 99% Christian. Most of my graduating class continued on to college. I've made it a point to keep in touch with many of them, and have discovered that about half have since abandoned the faith. Think about that statistic - a graduating class of all Christians, and half of them would no longer identify themselves as Christians. Of the half that still do, actually attending church services on anything resembling a routine basis makes the percentage even lower.

They've scattered to all ends of the spectrum. A few are total atheists, some are now agnostic, one is a Mormon, and the list goes on. There was a time I worried that my friends would stay Lutheran at college, now I'm ecstatic just to learn they're still in the Christian faith. These are just my own observations, but from what I've read - I think they tend to line up pretty well with the college situation as a whole.

Attacks upon the Christian faith come very quickly at college. Secularist professors make it a point to destroy faith, and some will start out their classes on Philosophy or religious studies with such statements as "I want to show you how absurd it is to believe in God" or "My goal is to make those of you who are Christians decide not to be by the end of this course." Those are exact quotes that my college friends have shared with me by the way.

Usually, it's rarely that obvious. Instead it's a slow attack on Christian morals and teachings in ways that seem fine at first, but are actually dangerous lies. Teachings like postmodernism, cultural relativism, utilitarianism, secular humanism, nihilism, agnosticism, strict materialism, pantheism, neo-feminism, un-checked pluralism, and the list goes on. If you don't know what some of those terms mean, don't worry about it too much. But know that all of them can be found in varying degrees upon college campuses, and all of them pose a danger to one's faith.

And then there's the general danger of apathy that seems to follow students around when they're out from under their parents for the first time (and believe me, I was no different when I first arrived at college). Sleeping in on Sunday becomes a much preferable activity to going to church. Spending your nights partying, or playing one more video game, or cramming for one more test can easily win out over the need for structured devotions and prayer.

With all this in mind, I'm going to be having a one hour overview of the dangers that colleges pose to students on March 7<sup>th</sup>, after Divine Service. I strongly recommend that all students in High School

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

(and their parents, if they'd like) attend. It won't go more than an hour, and while I can't cover all the dangers you'll face and the problems which will inevitably arise, I hope to at least provide a basic foundation and some useful tips for remaining a Christian while at college- along with pointing you toward some useful resources you can use if you need them down the road.

I don't mean to sound like an alarmist in this article. Frankly, college isn't any more dangerous (to body or soul) than the world around us. With the attacks against true orthodox Christianity on all sides, it's a wonder any of us remain Christians. Such is the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. But all that being said, college still presents a unique set of problems. I've lost too many friends to the attacks and lies of Satan to not at least attempt to prepare you for what lies ahead. I hope you'll be able to make it.

## Vicar Dock

### FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Large Catechism, Creed, Article III, pars. 40-42

<sup>40</sup> Learn this article, then, as clearly as possible. If you are asked, What do you mean by the words, "I believe in the Holy Spirit"? you can answer, "I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as his name implies." <sup>41</sup> How does he do this? By what means? Answer: "Through the Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." <sup>42</sup> In the first place, he has a unique community in the world. It is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit reveals and preaches that Word, and by it he illumines and kindles hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Theodore G. Tappert, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 416 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 2000, c1959).

### HAITI RELIEF CONTINUES

Relief work in Haiti continues even if we have moved on to other things. You may still give your gifts through our Synod and the Board of Human Care. Check the table in the narthex or the bulletin boards in the Parish Center for more information. In addition, another avenue is open to you, "The Kurt Marquart Fund," a registered public charity under the Federal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)3. Contributions are tax-deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. This fund was established by students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, in honor of Professor Kurt Marquart. He was instrumental in establishing theological education for native pastors in Haiti. Gifts given through this fund will go directly to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. All fund staff is volunteer, so all funds go directly to ELCH. A copy of the appeal is posted in the Parish Center. If you are so inclined to help in this way, you may send your contributions to:

The Kurt Marquart Fund  
6142 St. Joe Center Rd.  
Box 208  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46835

Or you may make a contribution via credit card or Paypal at [www.MarquartFund.org](http://www.MarquartFund.org).  
Questions may be directed at [info@marquartfund.org](mailto:info@marquartfund.org)

## Board of Outreach, Assimilation & Fellowship

The Board of OAF is responsible for the many activities that happen here at Immanuel. Dinners, baby showers, game nights, to name a few, are ways members can become involved and enjoy fellowship or meet new people. We are always needing volunteers to help with these activities so please ask a board member how you can help. One way we can all help is to approach visitors on Sunday mornings and make them feel welcome.

These activities are coming up in March and April. Mark your calendar.

**Midweek Dinners continue**— Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 . Dinner is served at 5:30 and ends in time to attend Vespers. Make your reservation on the Sunday and Midweek bulletin inserts. Dinners are pitch-in style with a designated entrée. Come for a delicious meal and great fellowship before attending Vespers.

**Baby Showers**— Watch for shower announcements in the bulletins. We have a few coming up this year.

**Donations for Haiti**- Orphan Grain Train is actively involved with LCMS World Relief and Human Care in the acceptance of donations and shipping needed items to Haiti. We are collecting items through March 7, 2010 and will make a delivery to their collection location in the Columbus/Seymour, IN area. Please place your items in the Parish Center next to the nursery.

- Take a bath towel and a wash cloth, spread it out, add soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, comb, tissues, small shampoo and any other item thought appropriate. Roll it up and fasten with rubber bands. These can be passed out with everything needed and easy to handle.
- Take a 5 gallon bucket and add one gallon of bleach, a can of dry powder cleaner, one bottle of liquid cleaner, a bottle of glass cleaner, a sponge, a heavy-duty scrub brush, plastic or rubber gloves, towels and either or both a broom and/or mop.
- We also are requesting hospital beds (with mattresses) either crank or electric style.
- Walkers, crutches, canes, bedside commodes, shower seats and wheel chairs are needed.
- We also need blankets, quilts, sheets, and pillows.
- We also will ship food - canned, preferably meal in a can -like soups, stew, chick & noodles, spaghetti & meat balls - not a can of pumpkin, (no one will want to bake a pie.)
- Paper products - towels, tissues, diapers (adult & baby), women's sanitary products, toilet paper, etc.

**Family Game Night**— has been rescheduled for Friday, 16th April. A pitch-in dinner will be served at 6:00 and games will begin at 7:00pm. Don't miss out on the fun!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 7 April at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

### Attention High School Seniors

On Sunday, March 7th, Vicar Dock will be presenting the challenges (both moral and intellectual) to the Christian faith so prevalent on college campuses. This hour long presentation will cover what to be on guard against, and the practical steps to insure that your faith is nourished and strengthened while in college. Light refreshments will be served. Parents and siblings are welcome. Please let Vicar know if you are planning to attend.

### Choir Rehearsal Continues

The choir will continue to meet after Divine Service in the choir loft in preparation for Palm Sunday and Easter Services. The choir will still meet each Sunday at 10:00am through Easter to practice the Propers for the Divine Service. All voices are welcome, especially sopranos! Contact Colleen Davis if you have any questions.

## Council of Deacons Report for February 2010

The Council met on February 6<sup>th</sup> and continued its study of the Lutheran Confessions, completing Articles VII and VIII of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession.

Council is still seeking an individual to replace Flynn Snyder as Treasurer of the Congregational Assembly and hopes to have one in place soon. Once someone has expressed a willingness to serve, an announcement will be made in the bulletin 2 weeks prior to installation.

A generous bequest has been received from an Immanuel member, and Council agreed to investigate all options before making any investment decisions. Finance Chairman John Schulz will lead this effort with the assistance of Deacon David Robinson.

Board of Education Chairman Chuck Lux reported that efforts will be made to improve Sunday School attendance. JoAnn Beleslin will be helping Gay Meyer with Hoi Polloi, and Higher Things has been moved from Nashville to Vanderbilt.

Vicar reported that donations were up for the month of January, and that Vacation Bible School this year will take place in the evening, from June 28 to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Property and Grounds Chairman Roy Riedle reported that snow removal has cost us more than usual this year. \$600 was collected from the benefit run in Florida, with proceeds designated to go toward the eventual replacement of the carpeting in the Parish Center. The double entrance doors at the front of the Parish Center are beginning to rot in spots and light is coming through. No decision was made yet in this regard.

The matter of recognizing children for perfect Sunday School attendance was also discussed.

The next Council meeting was set for Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

*Ron Dunbar, Chairman, Council of Deacons*

## Board of Education

Our Board of Education meeting for February 09, 2010, was cancelled.

We are finished updating the Board of Education guidelines. Anyone wanting a copy may contact the office or a Board of Education member.

“Project Wittenberg” remains our mission project.

Plans are being formulated for Vacation Bible School this summer. The previous sentence was difficult to write as there is a foot of snow outside my window.

The “Higher Things” gathering will be held in Memphis July 6-9 with three young of our congregation signed to attend. The LCMS Youth Convention will be in New Orleans July 17-21, 2010. Several have tentatively committed to the

LCMS convention, but no firm number yet. Parents, youth and the entire congregation please support the young of these groups prayerfully and financially.

JoAnn Beleslin has graciously accepted the invitation to fill Flynn Snyder’s vacancy with Gay Meyer in her work with Hoi Polloi. Thank you and God’s blessings to you JoAnn.

Upcoming dates:

- v Next BofE meeting March 09
- v Lenten services and meals each Wednesday
- v Daylight saving time March 14
- v Palm Sunday March 28

God’s blessings  
Chuck Lux, Deacon Board of Education

## TABLE TALK

Martin Luther used to sit around the dinner table and talk for hours with his friends about all kinds of topics, some of them merely reflections on what was happening in their society. In Luther’s Works, American Edition, this is called “Table Talk,” from the German *Tischreden*, which can be translated as “after dinner talk.” In that spirit we include this monthly column.

Recently the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, set aside space for pagans to worship. These pagans are better known as earth worshipers and include wiccans. It is called “earth-centered worship.” Because the Academy sets aside space for Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists, it said it is compelled to provide a place for the earth worshipers. A spokesman provided a definition of a religion:

“. . . the definition of religion as defined in the United States Air Force Instruction 36-2706: ‘a personal set or institutional system of attitudes, moral or ethical beliefs and practices held with the strength of traditional religious views, characterized by ardor and faith and generally evidenced through specific religious observances.’”

The pagan worship site is outdoors, of course, and consists of rocks set in a circle. Recently, an anonymous protest was made by putting a cross made of railroad ties at the site. The Academy is investigating. The person doing this may be charged with a hate crime. Another person said that there are some 16,000 active duty and retired earth worshipers. The Apostle Paul labeled such persons as being enslaved to “the elemental spirits” of the universe [Colossians 2.8, 20].

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Scientists have recently discovered that many patients in a persistent vegetative state exhibit awareness and have communicated to a certain extent. This applies only to those who have had traumatic brain injuries. The news was published in the New England Journal of Medicine in February. What this tells us is something that pastors have long maintained, that such persons do indeed hear what is said to them. For that reason we have continued to read Holy Scripture to them and to pray with them. Faith can be nourished even if the patient is unable to respond in a normal way. Not long ago, one such patient awoke and recounted the things that had happened while in this vegetative state.

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The hit movie “The Blind Side” has many experts confused. For those who haven’t seen it, it is the story of a white Southern family which adopts a homeless African American boy, Michael Oher. It’s a movie that some reviewers have said “has something for everyone.” Leigh Anne Tuohy is a white interior decorator from Memphis, TN, whose path crossed that of Michael. There is a subtle Christian theme here, that of taking care of one’s neighbor. Because of the overt Christian theme, certain persons steered away from the film. They were afraid of it. The first choice to star as Leigh Anne was Julia Roberts, but she turned it down. The producers wanted to change it to a white male who adopts this boy, but somehow the real story continued with Sandra Bullock being offered the part. She took it and is now nominated for an Academy Award. What makes this so interesting is that here is a movie where real Christians and real Christian values are portrayed. We would say that Leigh Anne’s Christian vocation is shown by taking care of Michael [Tuohy]. The Touhys educated Michael, give him a real home, sent him to college where he became a star football player for the University of Mississippi. Michael is now a starting tackle for the NFL’s Baltimore Ravens. It’s a movie worth your time and money. It’s the kind of movie that we need more of.



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00am on Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!