



# ST. JOHN-ST. PETER NEWS

## MARCH 2008

### ***Sola Scriptura defines Spirit-filled Worship***

Maybe you've seen the ads on TV. The ones that offer a set of CDs or tapes of "Spirit-filled" praise songs. What Christian wouldn't want to order this set, so the Spirit could fill his or her life at the touch of a button, delivered through speakers or headphones, straight to the soul? Let's examine this offer.

What's meant by this phrase "Spirit-filled praise songs"? It appears that for most this phrase means: a song that fills the listener with the sense that the Spirit of God is at work within. A sense of joy, peace and love seem to be the main sensations that are considered to be hallmarks of the Spirit's presence. If a song fills people with some combination of these, it is concluded that it must be "Spirit-filled".

While it is true that the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) includes love, joy and peace, Jesus tells us that the Spirit comes to convict us of our sin (John 16:8ff). He also produces patience, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are actions and attitudes, not just sensations. Jesus told Nicodemus, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going." (John 3:8) Our senses are not a reliable way to identify where the Spirit is at work.

Does this mean we don't know what is truly Spirit-filled? Not at all! Scripture teaches us not to rely on our senses, but on God's promises. Paul calls the word of God the sword of the Spirit in Ephesians 6:17. That's why Hebrews tells us, "the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Heb 4:12). The Law is Spirit-filled to open our eyes to expose and convict us of our sin. The Gospel is Spirit-filled to make us God's new creations in Christ Jesus, transformed and empowered live to live lives that worship and service him, not sin.

Spirit-filled worship is worship filled with God's word from beginning to end. God's word delivered—in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, words of mutual encouragement and affirmation, readings, Biblical exposition and sacramental celebration—is Spirit-filled. God promises the Spirit is there, whether you sense him or not. When Lutherans confess *Sola Scriptura* (by Scripture alone), we confess that Scripture teaches us to trust the Scripture alone as the place to go to be filled with the Spirit. All other sources or standards of "Spirit-filled" are drifting sand, wind tossed waves, mere vapors.

Scripture exhorts us to teach, admonish and encourage one another, delivering God's Spirit-filled word in various forms (Col 3:16). Pursue and participate in this Spirit-filled worship with the conviction that the Spirit is working in you through his word. Involve yourself in the word, so

as not to frustrate the Spirit's work in the words you speak, sing or hear. Participate in worship in your congregation, with the conviction and confidence that your worship is truly Spirit-filled only because it is filled with God's Spirit-filled word from opening hymn to closing blessing.

by Pastor Roger Huffman, North Atlantic District Worship Coordinator

*from October 2003 issue of North Atlantic District News*

*Pastor Endorf*

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**LENTEN SUPPER & SERVICE** Come join us at 6:00pm each Wednesday during Lent for supper in the church basement, then join us for worship at 7:00pm! Please take this opportunity to join other members of the congregation for supper and a time to visit before our worship service. Members voted and agreed to use \$600 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for matching the first \$600 in donations received at the suppers.

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Palm Sunday - March 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00am  
Maundy Thursday - March 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Good Friday - March 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00pm

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at all three services.

Come join us on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** for our Easter Fellowship Breakfast from 7:30-8:30am, followed by our Easter Festival Communion Service from 8:30-10:00am.

**EASTER BREAKFAST** We need help with Easter Breakfast. Look for a sign up sheet in the back of church for food item donations – such as bakery, and helpers for Saturday and Sunday. Any questions, please contact Grace Jaeger or Allen Kracht.

**EASTER LILIES** If you want to donate an Easter lily to decorate our church for Easter, the cost is \$12.50 payable to Earl Stoltenberg. Please sign up on the sheet on the back table.

**BIBLE CLASS** We will start a new series Sunday **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 8:45am, about "What they didn't teach you in Sunday School". We will take a look at those Bible stories that have a good lesson to teach us, but generally aren't taught to children.

**EASTER FOR KIDS** We have a special day planned for all kids ages four to fifth grade on Sat. **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please join us for a morning full of fun, crafts, songs, lunch, and most important, the Easter story! This special event will be from 9:15am to noon. To register your child please call Pastor Endorf (693-8612) or go to our website: [www.stjohnstpeter.com](http://www.stjohnstpeter.com).

**SCRIP** The Scrip Program has been doing very good. We have quite a few new families starting to use the program. We thank you for your interest. Please stop before or after church service any Sunday and take a look at what is available for cash and carry. Anything special you would like us to stock up on, please let us know.

**PIONEERS** **Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30-7:00pm the Pioneers will be working on art projects.

**LADIES AID** Craft Day is scheduled for **April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** starting at 9:00am. We will also have a potluck lunch.

If anyone has any old used greeting cards for Craft Day and blue jeans for the quilting projects, please drop them off in the box that will be in the entry of church.

Because Easter is early this year, the church cleaning will be in April. Watch the bulletin for more information.

**MLHS SUNDAY SHOWCASE IS ALMOST HERE!** Sunday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 11am-5pm. Dinner menu of barbeque pork or hot turkey sandwich, potato salad, and coleslaw from 11-2. Pies and tortes from 1-4. Entertainment includes Garth Neustadter Trio, Jazz Kidz, Artesian WELS, etc... Live auction throughout the afternoon, silent auction, and kid's games from 1-4pm. Advanced tickets: Adult \$5 – 4yr to 8<sup>th</sup> grader \$4 At the door: Adult \$6 – 4yr to 8<sup>th</sup> grader \$4. Lunch is included in the cost of the ticket. Tickets available at MLHS and area WELS churches.

**WORKSHOP** The Northeast Wisconsin District Workshop for WELS Congregations will take place **Sat. March 8<sup>th</sup>** from 8am – 4pm at Fox Valley Lutheran HS in Appleton. This workshop is for all members. Please see the poster on the entry bulletin board and a complete detailed listing of workshops being offered. If you plan on attending, please talk with Pastor Endorf. *Registration deadline is February 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN TODAY RETREAT** sponsored by Christ the Lord in Brookfield, will be held **April 4-6** at the Olympia Spa and Resort in Oconomowoc, WI. Retreat brochures are available on the CTL website at <http://ChristTheLordBrookfield.org>. **The registration deadline is Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.** If you have questions or would like more information please contact Maureen Sertich at 262-784-0412. Please see the brochure in the entry bulletin board.