



LCMS HMONG YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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E a s t e r : S e c o n d H a l f o f t h e M o s t A m a z i n g G i f t

As Christians there are two days in the year that are most important to us: Christmas and Easter.

Christmas is the time where Christ came down as a humble baby. We give and receive gifts signifying how Christ is a gift for mankind. But what we forget is that we only receive half of our gift on Christmas. We receive the second, most important part of God's gift on Easter morning.

Picture these scenarios....

If Christ came down as a baby and grew into a man, did God's work but never died on the cross, what have we received?

If Christ came down as a baby and grew into a man, did God's work, died on the cross but did not rise from the dead, what gift have we received?

Though we sometimes see Jesus as one **BIG** gift, really He is two **BIG** gifts. He not only came down as a baby but He followed his Father's desire and went obediently to the cross to take our place (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Easter is a time for us to remember that without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our faith would be in vain. There is no point in believing in a Man who just died on the cross. But our faith is based alone on the fact that Jesus came to Earth, died on the cross for our sins and triumphantly rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:17).

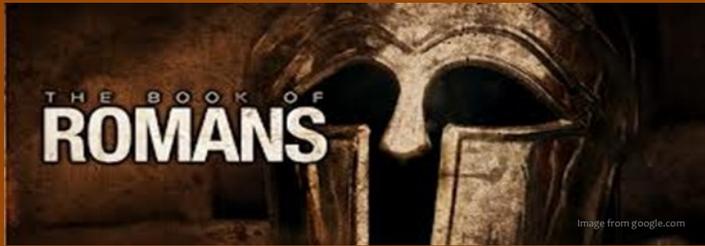
There is no greater love than that shown for us by God. He loved us so much He was willing to send his only Son to die for our sins (John 3:16). During one of the Oshkosh Youth Bible studies, our discussion was about sacrifices. The question asked was "What sacrifices have you made?" As we all shared and thought, we realized that no matter what sacrifice we made... we made those sacrifices to gained something else. When compared to the sacrifice that God made for us, it all seems so small. God gave up His obedient Son, for many of who do not even care to know who God is or the greatness of His Love. Many of us would give our life to save our family members without a second thought, but to give our life to a stranger would be questionable. So why would God do it? There is no reasonable answer except: **Love!**

Love for mankind is why Jesus came down from His heavenly throne. Love for you and me is what kept Jesus on the cross, not the nails. This love is the greatest gift you have or will ever receive; there is no love greater than that shown by Jesus Christ (John 10:15 -17).



ALL ABOUT CONFERENCE 2013

SAVE THE DATE!!!!



CONFERENCE 2013

Date: August 8 – 10, 2013
 Location: Robbinsdale, MN
 Theme: “Life of Believer”

Look forward to:

- A Youth Picnic on August 8th
 - Be prepared for Sports, Games and Praise and Worship
- Open-Mic
 - Nothing too serious...just an opportunity for us to share our testimonies and talents
- 4 Amazing sessions covering the Book of Romans
- Time to Fellowship
- Time to Learn about God and His plan for you...and GROW!!!!

For more Information feel free to contact any of the Youth Board Members or ask away on our Youth Page!!

Conference 2013 T-Shirts!!!

How cool would it be if we all had the same t-shirts for Conference 2013??

So we have a couple designs selected, but we want your opinion!!! The designs will all be posted on the Youth page on April 13th!!

You will have 1 week to cast your votes. The t-shirt design with the most likes will be picked as our t-shirt design!!

So get to likin' 👍 and let us know which t-shirt you want to rock for Conference 2013!!

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE T-SHIRTS!!!! VOTING BEGINS APRIL 13TH AND ENDS
 APRIL 20TH!!!!**

E n c o u r a g i n g W o r d s

When I was younger, I loved reading Esther. There were three main reasons why I loved reading it. First, it was about a girl, not a boy (sorry guys!). Second, it was like a Cinderella story where an unknown girl becomes a queen and somehow saves her people. Lastly, it was one of the shorter books of the Old Testament compared to Psalms. I continued to read Esther throughout my adolescence, but I always read it as a fairy tale. Then I went to college, joined InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and one of our staff workers shared with us her story about accepting the call to serve us in Whitewater. Her story clicked with Esther's and it comes to mind every time I face a difficult situation.

I'm not sure about you all, but I am always questioning where I am and what I am doing. Am I supposed to be here at this time? Or am I supposed to be there at that time? It ultimately leads to "why am I here?" and "what is my purpose?"

There are many times I start to doubt God's plan for me, what I am doing, or where I am going. Maybe I should just give up because all I see in front of me is my failure. But then the words of Mordecai remind me "who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). Esther's people, the Jews, faced extermination, but she had the opportunity to save them. God put Esther in this position at this specific time, so that she would be able to save her people. If Esther refused, maybe the Jews would perish. But still God would deliver them with or without Esther.

The book of Esther reminds us to look around and open our eyes. What is going on in our world? Why are we here, at this place and in this time? Will we let God use us to guide others to Him or will we sit on the sidelines? Whether we choose to step up to the plate or not, God will work in His ways and His will shall be done. The big question is "Do you want to miss out on the opportunity for something great?"

Find a way to get in the game. Maybe it's reaching out to a friend who does not know of God's love and great gift. Maybe it's choosing to serve at your church. Maybe it is making some kind of commitment to God whether it be time, treasure or monetary.

Who knows but that **YOU** have come to your position, no matter what it is, for such a time as now.

Abie Vang



"Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5 -6

