

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have in recent months become a fan of the show *House*, about a brilliant but troubled and troubling Doctor. One of the ways in which he is both troubled and troubling is his ardent atheism. Anytime someone with faith comes into the show environment, he must challenge and belittle his faith.

One of the hard parts of watching this show is the way the contrast between Christianity and atheism is portrayed. While *House*'s position is sometimes challenged by other people and by the outcomes in the show itself, there is a consistent theme of reason vs. faith. *House* is certain that there is no God and that it is completely unreasonable to believe in one. Characters of faith are often depicted on the show with some degree of sympathy, there is never any real challenge to *House*'s basic assertion – belief in God is unreasonable and takes unreasonable faith to believe in God.

This is particularly frustrating because this seems to be the prevailing opinion of the world. Reason is the purview of science. People can believe anything they want, but it does not need to be reasonable, and if subject to a test of reason it will not pass. People believe because they want hope, not because it is truth.

This is balderdash. The position taken by *House*, by most modern atheists, and reflected in the general thinking of the intellectual elite of our country, is a position of faith, not reason. And worse it is a faith that is contradicted by our common reality. In other words, *House*'s position is irrational and not rational.

Atheism is not a statement of uncertainty. It says God does not exist. So the question becomes do atheists believe their own position? Do they really act and think as if God does not exist? Take for example, Christopher Hitchens, one of the major writers of the new atheist movement. Like the fictional character *Dr. House*, he claims that his atheism is based on pure rationalism. But his very arguments constantly belie his stated position. For example in a debate in 2009 against William Lane Craig Mr. Hitchens said the following “I don't need to give evidence for my view. I have seen no evidence for something beyond nature. God let thousands of year go where He did not intervene at all. Such as designer is cruel and incompetent.” Note the obvious contradiction in Mr. Hitchens' thinking. The very idea of “cruel” is beyond nature. Mr. Hitchens clearly claims to himself the ability to call something cruel. But to determine something is cruel there must first be a standard of behavior. Any standard of behavior is by definition beyond nature. In

another debate he refers to the teachings of Christianity as “immoral”. But again morality is a supernatural concept and one that a true atheist cannot have. The positive assertion that one does not believe in anything beyond nature definitionally leaves one without any framework by which to judge good and evil. In other words, the only people who should not complain about the sometimes evil behavior of supposed Christians are atheists.

Back to our fictional friend *Dr. House*. His rants against religion are fundamentally irrational. If he truly was an atheist who believed in nothing but the here and now, he would accept religion for what it is in his worldview. One more illusion of free will in a world full of illusory free will. If everything is bound by nature, our sense of free will is an illusion. So who cares if someone has an illusion and applies it to religion and someone else has an illusion and applies it to medicine. Everything is determined by natural cause and effect over which we have no control. Any belief that we have some control is “beyond nature” and therefore not true.

You can see the corner atheists are backed into. They neither believe such claptrap or act like it. In other words, if you punch an atheist in the nose and steal his wallet, he does not chalk it up to the inevitable bouncing of atoms, but believes (rightly) that you have done something wrong. So do not let the atheists or nonbelievers of the world convince you they have a more “intellectual” position. Those who claim to be atheists or secularists or materialists are inherently irrational. Jesus says in John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life”. He is the truth and no human way of thinking will ever make as much sense as that which comes from the divine. We do not claim to, nor are we able to, understand everything. But we should never back down one inch to those who claim we are irrational or unthinking. Our position is true and thus the only rational position. Praise be to God that by the power of the Holy Spirit we have come not only to know these truths intellectually, but to believe them spiritually and thus have been saved. Consequently, we do not punch the atheist in the nose, even if he deserves it, but pray for him and remember that he is in the same desperate situation we are in. Further, Christ died for him every bit as much as he died for us. One day all the atheists in the world will know this. Our prayer is that they know it for their salvation and not their damnation.

In Christ,
Pastor Joynt

Happy Birthday! BAPTISM



June

Bonnie Fischer	06/01	Apryl Brand -	
Elizabeth Ehrlich	06/03	Applehans	06/01
Pearl Gleichman	06/03	Bonnie Fischer	06/01
Lillian Keinath	06/07	Johnnie Altstatt	06/02
Adam Hildestad	06/12	Kristina Parker	06/06
Donna Spano	06/13	Florence Wagner	06/06
Martha Hill	06/14	Glen Wagner	06/06
Anna Joynt	06/23	Jacob Williams	06/09
Donna Elias	06/24	Carter Rutledge	06/11
Anna Vitolins	06/24	Elizabeth Ehrlich	06/25
Cera Ford	06/26		
Marion Maurer	06/26		

July

Carol Anne Parker	07/01	Adam Hildestad	07/01
Julie Harris	07/03	Donna Spano	07/01
Jan Hoerauf	07/04	Jan Hoerauf	07/04
Stanley Phillips	07/04	Jeanene Euhus	07/09
Karl Dennis	07/05	Martha Hill	07/10
Randy Williams	07/07	Elizabeth Joynt	07/14
Virginia Hildestad	07/08	Paula Backs	07/18
Michael Pray	07/09	Suzane Stuehm	07/23
Paula Backs	07/10	Albert Claude	07/28
Kyle Reinertson	07/10	Cera Ford	07/28
Michael Fairchild	07/11	Sarah Rutledge	07/29
Michele Hill	07/12	Donna Chambers	07/31
Craig Ehrlich	07/13		
Maren Green	07/15		
Mary Shoemaker	07/19		
Timothy Hanson	07/20		
Donna Chambers	07/21		
Sarah Rutledge	07/21		
Suzane Stuehm	07/23		
Albert Claude	07/27		
Elizabeth Joynt	07/27		
Jackson Joynt	07/29		
Bonnie Reinertson	07/29		
Harry Keinath	07/30		
Katherine McDaniel	07/30		

July

Tithes & Offerings

2010 BUDGET

Contributions & Expenses APRIL 2010

Contributions	\$11,333.00
Expenses	\$13,244.91
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 430.00
Building Principal Contrib.	\$ 1500.00
Building Fund Expense	\$
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$45,336.82
Expenses	\$64,907.80
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 2,825.00
Building Principal Contrib.	\$18,000.00
Building Fund Expense	\$ 2,177.00
OVERALL FUND BALANCES	
Building Fund	\$ 3,191.26
LWML	\$ 1,656.30

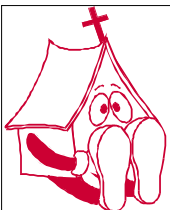
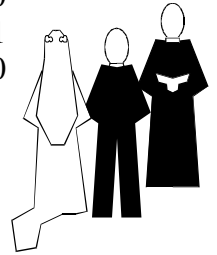
ANNIVERSARIES

June

Apryl Brand - Applehans & Allen	06/01
Jim & Jenny Rochester	06/10
Jerry & Jan Hoerauf	06/11
Dillon & Barbara Kline	06/20

July

Ed & Helen Hahn	07/02
Candy & Steve Murray	07/08
Lynn & Mary Shoemaker	07/09
Wilbert & Betty Stewart	07/09
Randy & Sherri Williams	07/13
Lawrence & Ragna Bezo	07/15
Pastor Michael & Beth Joynt	07/20



BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LOAN

LCEF Loan

Balance (05/31/2010)	\$109,706.91
Principle payment 5/31/10	\$ 550.00

Congratulations class of 2010 Graduates

From the office

STEWARDSHIP

“June—what a crazy month!” June used to be the most popular month for weddings so much so that “June brides” became a part of our vocabulary. Now there may be months when more weddings take place, but June is still a hectic, busy month. Not only are there weddings, but there are also graduations, vacations, plans for vacations and other summer activities. So much happens that it can get overwhelming and take the joy out of such a special month.

The same thing can be true of our lives as God’s stewards. When we starting thinking about stewardship as the managing of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes, we can also get overwhelmed. Stewardship is not just about time, talents and treasure [the well-known three T’s] but also about our stewardship of sharing the good news of Jesus, the building and maintaining of relationships, the care of our bodies, the care of God’s creation, and so much more. The challenge of being a good steward of all that God has entrusted to us can be so big that we might be tempted to simply give up! But, to do so would rob us of some of life’s greatest joys!

Stewardship is not meant to be an overwhelming thing but rather the best way to live in this world. People seek purpose and meaning in their lives. They want to make a difference! They want their lives to be bigger than themselves. Being God’s redeemed stewards is one of the best ways for bringing that real meaning and purpose to our lives. It helps us to identify who and whose we are. We are God’s redeemed stewards who have been chosen and equipped to manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Can anything be better than that??? Not for people who appreciate the great sacrifice that Jesus made to set us free from our sinful and selfish condition and help us to be the children of God in thoughts, words and actions.

St. Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote these words to Titus and us: ***“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘no’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.”***

How wonderful it is that by God’s grace we are called, gathered and enlightened to live in a way that gives due glory to God and blessings to our fellow stewards! As God’s children we are in this together so

we can encourage others and, in return, be encouraged by others!

“God’s redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes!” What a blessed life that is!

The Board of Stewardship

Thrivent Financial

FREE MONEY!!

Free Money!! is the topic on Sunday, June 20. Learn how a new giving program provides two ways to give away someone else’s money - at no cost to you. Immediately after worship service, the president of the Yuma County Chapter will explain Thrivent Financial for Lutheran’s new Thrivent Choice program. Every member of Thrivent Financial has at least one way to direct Thrivent’s donations and many have two ways. Geared towards members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, everyone is welcome to attend.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Youth going to Higher Things need your help. We have not as of yet raised the entire amount needed in order to go. We would like you to prayerfully consider making a small contribution to help us. So, on June 6th there will be a free will door offering after church to try and fund the rest of the trip. Alternatively, you can make a donation to the Higher Things trip by putting it in an offering envelop marked Higher Things. Thank you for any help you can give us.



LWML NEWS

The Pacific Southwest District LWML will hold its District Convention June 11-13, 2010 at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. The theme is "Sing to the Lord!" from Isaiah 42. Calvary's attendees include Apryl Brand-Applehans-delegate and Johnnie Altstatt-alternate delegate. An ingathering will take place for Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. Please pray for the success of the convention, the LWML's mission work, and safe travel for the attendees.

Thank you, Apryl