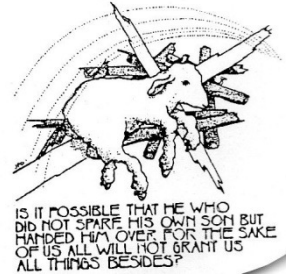


August 2010

St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church-WELS

Newsletter Devotion



God's Word says: **No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34**

If you are a dedicated baseball fan chances are you know about Fred Merkle. Fred was born in Watertown and got to play professional baseball. Fred was playing for the New York Giants against the Chicago Cubs. It was the bottom of the 9th. 2 out and 2 on. Fred gets a hit – a single. The next guy up hits a single – and the winning run scores! Fred's so excited – as the fans rush the field – he runs for the dug out! The only problem being – Fred didn't step on 2nd – completing the play. The Cubs 2nd baseman – Johnny Evers realizes this – and gets a baseball from somewhere – and tries to tag Fred out! To make a long story short – it was such a confusing mess – that they actually decided to do *an official do over!* They played a whole new game over – and the Giants lost – the Cubs won 4 to 2! The Cubs won the pennant – and the Cubs went on to win the World Series! And everyone – ever since – blamed Fred – bone head Fred they called him!

A do over! Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could have a do over – a Mulligan! In the movie Galaxy Quest – it's the Omega 13 – a goofy science fiction machine – that makes it possible to undo – to do over 13 seconds in history. You would want to wait – wouldn't you – before activating something that powerful – to undo a horrible act with the most painful consequences!

What a wondrous act of incredibly amazing grace – that Jesus died and rose again to take away all our sins. To wash away all our guilty stains. It was clear already to Old Testament believers that God loved them very very much. That he would make the ultimate sacrifice – his one and only Son – to forgive guilt and sin. To remember our sins no more! If God has forgiven all our sins – that how could we ever presume to remember and bring up and throw in anyone's face – their sins of the past. Forgive and forget! That's how God has been merciful to us. He remembers our sins no more. It is a sad fact that often times the last one to forgive us is our self! If God has forgiven me – then I need to forgive myself. Take the painful regrets of the past and drown them forever – in the sea of God's eternal forgetfulness!

Be reminded in Church again and again of God's amazing grace. Come to Lord's Supper again and again – to taste and see that the Lord is good. Read your Bible. Read your Meditations. Read your Forward in Christ! Encourage and build up your family and co-workers with Jesus' unconditional love!

To God alone all glory! *See you in Church!*



Rev. Anthony E. Schmitt