Upcoming Events

- October is Pastor Appreciation Month!
- **October 2**— Sunday, We are receiving donations and looking for volunteers for the Family Fall Festival on October 29th in the Ministry Center. Visit the table in the fellowship hall following morning worship services.
- **October 3**—Monday Night Prayer in Pastor Paul’s Office at Maranatha
- **October 4, 11, 18, & 25**— Tuesdays, CRU (College & Career) Ministry for Age 18—25, enrolled in college, join Don Stiver in the Soul Garage for fellowship and fun.
- **October 11**—Tuesday, Quarterly Business Meeting of Elders and Ministry Team Leaders at Maranatha.
- **October 5, 12, 19, 26**— AWANA Kid’s Club, Trek (Jr. High) & Journey (Sr. High) at Ministry Center at 6:30 PM.
- **Oct 5,12,19,26**—Wednesday, “Men’s Fraternity” Groups at 6:00 AM in the fellowship hall.
- **Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27**—Thursdays, Women’s Study, Beth Moore’s “The Beloved Disciple” in the fellowship hall. Mary Holmes’ group at 9:00-11:00 AM & Cindy McClain’s group at 6:45-8:45 PM in the fellowship hall. Men’s Sermon-Based Study in the Ministry Center at 6:45 PM.
- **October 19**—Wednesday, Young @ Heart (Age 55+) meal in fellowship hall at noon, with Pastor Dan giving a presentation of his trip to Israel. RSVP at the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- **October 29**—Saturday, Family Fall Festival in the Gathering Place at Maranatha from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Family fun, games, and snacks for everyone!

A Note from Pastor Dan

Justification By Faith Part II

Faith or Fear?

The force of the words echoed in Martin Luther’s mind. Growing louder with each repetition: “The righteous will live by faith!” “The righteous will live by faith!!”

But Luther was not living by faith. He was living by fear. The old superstitious doctrines and the new biblical theology wrestled within him.

“By fear,” said Luther.

“By faith!” said the Apostle Paul.

“By fear,” said the fathers of medieval Catholicism.

“By faith!” said the Scriptures.

“By fear,” said those who agonized beside him on the Holy Stairs in Rome.

“By faith!” said God the Father.

At last Luther rose from the steps up which he had been dragging himself and shuddered at his superstition. Now he realized that God had saved him by the righteousness of Christ, received by faith; he was to exercise that faith, receive that righteousness, and live by trusting God.

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses at Wittenberg University. Ninety-Five challenges to questionable church practices. Ninety-Five times Luther asked the question, “Defend your practice by the Holy Scripture, not by the word of a man.”

Luther knew that someday soon he would put his life on the line to defend his position before counsels, emperors, and popes.

Three and a half years later, Luther was summoned before something called the Diet of Worms by the newly elected emperor, Charles V. But it was really the Roman Church that had
summoned him, and the champions of Rome were present to condemn him.

Upon his arrival at the town hall assembly room at four o’clock on the afternoon of April 17, 1521, Luther was asked only two questions. First, he was asked to acknowledge as his writings a large stack of books that were before him. Luther acknowledged that yes, these were his writings. And second, he was asked to retract their contents, which called for reform of abuses rampant in the Roman Catholic Church, asserted the right of the individual Christian to be emancipated from priestly bondage, and reaffirmed the fundamental doctrine of justification by faith.

Luther responded, “Unless therefore I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture, or by the clearest reasoning—unless I am persuaded by means of these passages I have quoted—unless they thus render my conscience bound by the Word of God, I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience.”

Luther looked around at those who held his life in their hands, and said, “Here I stand. I can do no other. May God help me. Amen.”

A month later the Edict of Worms was issued by Emperor Charles V declaring, “For this reason we forbid anyone from this time forward to dare, either by words or by deeds, to receive, defend, sustain, or favor the said Martin Luther. On the contrary, we want him to be apprehended and punished as a notorious heretic... those who will help in his capture will be rewarded generously for their good work.”

Luther was in trouble. On a theological level, Luther had challenged the absolute authority of the Pope over the Church by maintaining that the doctrine of buying and selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sins as authorized and taught by the Pope, was wrong. Luther maintained that salvation was by faith alone (sola fide) without reference to good works, alms, penance, or the church’s sacraments. He had also challenged the authority of the Church by maintaining that all doctrines of the Church not found in Scripture should be discarded (sola scriptura).

But Luther escaped arrest and remained in seclusion at Wartburg Castle for several years where he continued to write and translate the Bible into German.

“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, ‘the righteous will live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)
Later in life, Luther wrote many things about the doctrine of justification by faith, which he had learned from Romans 1:17. He would call it: “the chief article from which all our other doctrines have flowed.” and “the master and prince, the lord, the ruler and the judge over all kinds of doctrines.”

Luther argued: “If the article of justification is lost, all Christian doctrine is lost at the same time.”

“It alone begets, nourishes, builds, preserves, and defends the church of God, and without it the church of God cannot exist for one hour.”

If justification by faith is the doctrine by which the church stands or falls, can it help us understand the declining American church? No doubt a church is weakened by her failure to understand, appreciate, and live by this doctrine.

I am hopeful that our study of Paul’s letter to the Romans will cause us to go deeper into this doctrine of Justification by Faith, and strengthen our corner of God’s magnificent church. The church will never be strong unless it is united around faithful men and women who firmly hold this conviction.

Only then can we say, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).

Pastor Dan

(Resources: Romans Volume 1, James Montgomery Boice, Baker Books)
Please include these people in your prayers:
Marv Oftedahl, Marilyn Longseth, Roxanne Raddenbach, Sonna Phillips, Claudia Franson, Stan Oftedahl, Darlene Strohmeyer, Millie Bjugstad, Pat Swanson, Richard & Violet Fossum, Lois Northey, Josh & Brittney Swan’s unborn twins, Brett & Melissa Oftedahl’s unborn twins, Loni Wold, Marjie Peterson’s husband Lynn, Lisa Almquist’s mother, Paul Green’s step-brother Tom, Jeanne Stricklen’s brother Tom, Kathy Johnson’s mother Irene Vaughn, Craig Severud’s dad Todd, Joan Neidermire’s dad Roland, Al Davidson’s mother Pearl, Fran Reich’s children, Pavick’s son Jeremiah, Kathy Fladten’s sister Vicky, Don & Bernadette Park’s son Bruce, Glen Wegner’s nephew James, Rose Benson’s 20-year-old granddaughter, Bill Schreiber’s sister Esther, Vicky Heldt’s friend Brenda Espeseth, Sharon Carlson’s sister Helen, Sandy Hodge’s sister Jo, Bill McClain’s half-sister Charmaine, Lillian Bjugstad’s son Mark, Andy Hillman’s mother Rita, Leah Margan’s niece, Yvonne Hansen’s friend Sue, Ben Fauske’s uncle, Flohr’s nephew Joshua & mother Bernice, Mark & Debby Butzler’s grandson son Cole and friend Sue, June Lihrman’s friend Denise Evans, Culver’s former son-in-law Rick, Fenton’s friend Jerry, Shirlee Lucken’s friend Marsha Williams, Mary Potter’s sister Dorothy, & Carol Montgomery’s brother Ronnie.

Serving in the military: Dave & Darlene Strohmeyer’s daughter Dawn has been deployed to Afghanistan. Herrick’s friend Joe Rampson & Don & Esther Swan’s grandson Dustin Hyland serving in the Navy.

Praises: Over 160 kids attended AWANA, Trek (Jr. High), and Journey (Sr. High) on our kick-off night at Maranatha. We are grateful for each volunteer and leader who helps make this a Christ-centered night.

“But God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!”
Psalm 66:19–20
Mover of Men and Mountains

One of the most unusual events in Scripture is recorded in Matthew 21:18-22 and Mark 11:12-14, 20-26. Jesus was approaching Jerusalem from Bethany during the final days before His crucifixion. He approached a fig tree bearing leaves but no fruit. He said to the tree, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered.” (Matthew 21:19 NIV) To some his actions appear hot-headed and impulsive. Actually, He was setting up a visual illustration to teach His disciples.

The lesson contains a stunning promise that appears so unbelievable that many dismiss it as pure hyperbole. The disciples marveled that the tree was so quickly withered. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” (Matthew 21:21-22)

The life of R. G. LeTourneau (1888-1969) reveals the truth of this remarkable promise. He told his life story in a book, Mover of Men and Mountains. At the age of 16, he gave his life to the Lord. “He took me out of spiritual bankruptcy and I promised him I would do anything from that moment on. But how can I know what he wants me to do? I know a layman cannot serve the Lord like a preacher can, but tell me, does he want me to serve as a missionary?” he said to the preacher. The two men went to prayer. The preacher counseled, “God needs businessmen as much as he needs missionaries.” (Mover, p. 109)

R.G.’s course was set. As a lover of machines, he became one of our nation’s most productive inventors and his name became synonymous with earthmoving equipment. His companies supplied earth moving equipment for the Boulder Dam project and nearly 70% of the heavy earth moving equipment used in World War II. R.G. obtained nearly 300 patents for equipment ranging from road graders to mobile off-shore drilling platforms.

R.G. was a man of faith and prayer. He sold all of his holdings and went deeply in debt to develop an electric wheel to drive heavy equipment. His lawyer and accountant advised him to declare bankruptcy. His response was, “Okay, boys, I’ll call you if I need you.” He admitted being a bit worried, but prayed and went to work solving the bugs in his electric wheel design. In two years his company moved from red ink to black. (Stuart James, “The Man Who Can Move Mountains”, Popular Mechanics, June 1966, p. 176)

He truly became a mover of mountains in answer to prayer.

R.G. was very active in his church and Christian ministries. He developed projects in Liberia and Peru and served as the president of both the Christian Business Men’s Association and the International Gideon Society. He hired three full time chaplains for his manufacturing plants. After purchasing an abandoned World War II military hospital in Longview, Texas, he founded an educational institute, now LeTourneau University and my alma mater. Countless lives have been directly and indirectly enriched through the faith and work of this man.

R.G. LeTourneau lived out Christian answers to four crucial questions of life.

1. Where did I come from? R.G. said, “No one has ever measured the inventiveness that Christ awakens in a man’s soul because it is beyond measurement.” R.G. realized he was created by God, and that his gifts of ingenuity and his wealth came from the Lord’s creative hand. (Psalm 50:8-12)

2. What’s wrong with the world? R.G. recognized the problem with the world was his own problem—moral bankruptcy. (Romans 3:10-12)

3. Is there a solution? For R.G., the solution was Christ. He said, “When you know Him, you’ll love Him, and when you love Him, you’ll serve Him, and find the greatest happiness in doing so that you’ll ever know.” (Matthew 10:37-39)

4. What is my purpose? R.G. lived his life as a steward of God’s providence in goods, talents, and grace. He said, “[It’s] not how much of my money I give to God, but how much of His money I keep for myself.” He used about 90% of his earthly assets to directly further the Kingdom of God. He also said, “By accepting God as a partner, no limit can be placed on what can be achieved.” He saw himself as a junior partner with God, Who was the true owner of the business, quoting II Corinthians 6:1. “As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.” (NIV)

Are we setting a limit upon what can be achieved because we do not consider ourselves junior partners with God? R.G. LeTourneau’s life was noticeably significant. Ours will also be eternally significant as we surrender our lives completely to Christ as His fellow workers.

By Lawrence D. Anderson
**UPDATE ON PASTORAL SEARCH**

The search for a Pastor of Youth and Children is well underway. Several resumes were submitted and there are currently a handful of applicants we are interested in learning more about and are following up with written questionnaires. We have not closed the application process though, so if you know of someone who may be a good fit for this newly created pastor position, let us know. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for our search team. If you have any questions feel free to contact Jane Farm at jcimf@charter.net or 736-1426.

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**Second Annual Maranatha Men’s Ministries**

**Multi-Species Fishing Tournament**

**Saturday, October 15th**

**6:00 AM-Noon, Rice Lake**

We will take off from Veteran’s Park Landing (South end of the lake)

Prizes for 1st place in each category: Bass, Walleye, Northern, Panfish, Muskie

A cookout/grill out will follow the weigh-in of your fish

*Bring a dish to pass & table service (plate, silverware, etc.).*  
Open to boaters and non-boaters!  
No Entry Fee—Donations accepted to offset costs.

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**Family Fall Festival**

at  
**Maranatha's Gathering Place**

**Saturday, October 29th**

**10:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Family-oriented fun and carnival style games with a Biblical theme.

Join us for the fun, snacks and games!!
October 2011

Maranatha Evangelical Free Church
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Rice Lake, WI 54868
Phone: 715-234-8313
me@chibardun.net

We’re on the Web!
www.maranathafree.com

October Announcements

Saturday Night Worship — Saturday Night Worship meets in our Sanctuary instead of the Soul Garage. Join us for Saturday Nights which look pretty similar to our Sunday morning Services. Same live preaching and message as Sunday mornings…similar worship style as Sunday mornings…same starting time as before…7:00 PM on Saturday Nights.

Awakening Services Sundays, in the Soul Garage at 10:30 AM. Additional parking is available in the parking lot at Thomas Precision Engineering, just north of the Soul Garage.

Monday Night Prayer in the Church Library on Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM. If you have a prayer request, please join us or contact an elder, pastor, or the Church Office so your request can be included. We pray for our missionaries, national leaders, state leaders, local leadership, church family and any concerns that are brought to the prayer meeting.

“Men’s Fraternity” meets every Wednesday morning, 6:00 AM in Maranatha’s Fellowship Hall. All men welcome to join us for seasons of a man’s life, uncovering a man’s wounds, defining manhood, deepening the marriage relationship, raising sons & daughters, and developing a manhood plan. This is guaranteed to help men explore the Biblical concept of manhood. Each man will need to purchase his own Men’s Fraternity Workbook. Contact Pastor Paul for additional information.

Young at Heart (Age 55+) will meet at noon on Wednesday, October 19th for a meal in the fellowship hall. Please sign up at the bulletin board inside the fellowship hall so we know how many to expect. Join us after lunch for Pastor Dan’s presentation of his trip to Israel earlier this year. For more information contact Lee or Shelby Wohlk at 715-458-2925.

Remember our missionaries...visit our website: www.maranathafree.com and click on the link for Ministries which will take you to where you can click on "missions." Monthly updated prayer requests will be posted there. If you do not have access to the internet, please pick up a copy of the missionary prayer sheet from the Connecting Point (desk) in the Welcome Center Lobby each month as we update it.

Children’s Hide & Seek Sunday School — Children ages 2 years-6th grade are invited to come to the ministry center every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM-11:30 AM for craft, songs, games, and Bible stories. Parents, we want to provide a safe environment for your children and you can help us by personally dropping off and picking up your children. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Kids’ + Youth Programs—Awana, Sparks, Cubbies, Puggles, T-T, Trek (JR. High), and Journey (SR. High) meets on Wednesdays, 6:30 PM at the ministry center. Come check out all the great things for your children this year. Contact Ginny Proffitt (715-799-0678) to pre-register or for further information.

Small groups are forming. Check out opportunities at the connecting point on Sunday mornings. Sign-ups available. For more information, contact Pastor Paul at 715-234-8313.

Family Fall Festival on October 29th in the gathering place of the ministry center—this is something for the family, a wonderful atmosphere of a carnival with a Bible theme. Games, snacks and fun for everyone. Sunday’s October 2 & 9 will have a table in the fellowship hall between and following services for donations and volunteers.