All to the Glory of God

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” - Luke 10:38-42

‘Tis the season to be distracted by much serving. Although holidays are meant to be a time of rest and celebration, especially over God’s gift of his Son, we know that holidays often bring many troubles and distractions. What is meant to be a time of rest and celebration possesses its own burdens: expenses for gifts to be enjoyed, the stress of preparing the home for hosting, the anxiety over family relationships—wondering if conflict can be avoided, or if political, religious, or personality differences will rise to the surface. Perhaps
most frustrating is the letdown we feel after a binge. Even if the celebrations go well, in retrospect we nevertheless add to our anxieties, wondering if we spent too much, ate too much, or didn’t care enough about those in need or those who were alone. Well-intentioned gifts have either added to the clutter or not served a true need, or both. And suddenly, it is time to go back to school and work and things don’t feel as though they were any different from before the holiday.

Satan has a talent at undermining good things. What could be more profound, more blessed, more joyful than celebrating the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus? What is more liberating than resting in God who took on flesh, so that we could be reconciled by His Spirit? And yet Satan finds a way to cast doubt into the midst of even this; of tempting you and distracting you to worry, to be anxious, to be stressed, to place the tasks of worldly life before His incarnate Word. One thing is needful—the Word, but this one needful thing is not separated from our daily life. Perhaps it is refreshing to realize that the Word is not pitted against the good works of cleaning and cooking and caring for children and busily getting back to work and responsibly paying our bills. The Word is not in opposition to gifts, nor is He opposed to extravagance. Jesus is generous. He is gracious. He is not inspecting your tasks; he is not criticizing your cooking; he is not telling you to settle down and get back to work. He is the Lord of grace! He is the center of the celebration. He desires you to enjoy all things: first, himself, and then all of the gifts of creation. God is the generous one. The one needful thing which spills over in gracious generosity into all of life, so that our eating, giving, spending, cleaning, working, and sleeping are done in the Lord’s name and in love toward one another. “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” All things are sanctified by the Word. That is why it

One thing is needful—the Word, but this one needful thing is not separated from our daily life.
the world from stress, worry, hopelessness, uselessness, and restores meaning to our lives, to our celebrations. Nothing is perfect this side of heaven. That isn’t the meaning of the Word made flesh. We will continue to muddle along, not always getting the house clean, not always serving our children or our employers the way we should, not always handling the finances perfectly. Yet the

He desires you to enjoy all things: first, himself, and then all the gifts of creation. God is the generous one.

Word tells us that we are more important than these things. That these things serve us, as we are also served and nourished by the Word. Our attention is on the Word. We give thanks for the Word. And as we do so, and go about our tasks, Our Lord grants us life and love. That is a gift that doesn’t fade, even after the holidays are over. Christ is the gift we continue to receive, week after week, day after day. Christ is the gift that lasts forever.

Dr. Gifford A. Grobien

Dr. Grobien joined the faculty in 2012 as Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology and D.Min. Program Supervisor. Prior to serving at CTS, he was Postdoctoral Teaching Scholar in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He earned his Ph.D. in Moral Theology from Notre Dame in 2011, defending the dissertation, “Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Minds: Christian Worship as the Root of Righteousness and Ethical Formation.” His research interests include the relationship between soteriology, worship and ethics, virtue, the natural law, the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, theological anthropology and some topics in sacramental and liturgical studies.

Dr. Grobien served as Assistant Pastor of Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana, from 2006-2012. He earned his M.Div. in Exegetical Theology from CTS in 2005. Prior to attending seminary, he was a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy (1995-2000). He earned his B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1995.

Dr. Grobien is from San Pedro, California. He and his wife, Regina, have seven children.

Gifford A. Grobien, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, Supervisor of the Doctor of Ministry Program
Some of you may remember Lora Horn, author of The Rebellious Pastor’s Wife Blog, who spoke with us at the 2011 SWA Retreat. At that time, her husband had been a pastor for 13 years and they were currently serving at his second call at Zion Lutheran Church in Garrett, Indiana. You may also remember the story she shared about how she told her husband during seminary, “I’ll follow you to the jungles of South Africa, but I will not live in L.A.”
Their first call just happened to be to Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Pasadena, California. The moral of the story: Be careful what you tell God you won’t do. Lora maintains to this day that Pasadena is not Los Angeles; but, I say be careful anyway.

An Unexpected Turn

Along the way, Lora also told her husband that she wouldn’t do missions until she finished her Master’s degree. This past February, as she was working on her last course requirement for her Master’s, her husband was contacted about the opportunity to serve in Papua New Guinea. Yes Virginia, God does have a sense of humor.

He also has a way of preparing us for the changes to come, Lora says. Prior to this call, they had been at Zion in Garrett for nine years and they were beginning to feel that something was about to change. With the support and encouragement of their congregation, they officially accepted the call in June.

The Horns will spend the year visiting New Guinea, getting their Visas in order, receiving immunizations, and being trained to serve there. During this year, from June when they accepted the call until May 2013 when they plan to leave, they will spend much of their time visiting congregations, sharing information about the mission needs and raising funds for support. Pastor Horn is officially an employee of the Synod, so he does receive a salary and benefits. The family is also guaranteed to have some necessities provided; like electricity and a cooking stove, as well as internet access and a cell phone. So, even though they are moving to a third world country, they will still have access to some first world amenities.

Who, Me?

If you have ever thought “I’m not really Pastor’s wife material,” then you might find encouragement and wisdom in the words of Lora’s blog. She openly shares her own weaknesses and struggles as the woman who, just is who she is, and does not always conform to the expectations of a stereotypical Pastor’s wife. Check out her blog at www.rebelliouspastorswife.blogspot.com.

As Lora enters the next stage of her life, she is starting a new blog. You can follow her new adventures at www.antipodeanpng.blogspot.com.
Anything for a Year

While most of us will follow our husbands to a call somewhere in the United States, Lora shares much in common with us this year. In the same way that we uprooted our families to follow our husbands to Seminary, the Horns left their parsonage with 9 years worth of possessions to sort, organize and purge. In the same way that many of us are counting down the days in a rental home, consoling ourselves with the fact that it’s just 9 more months until we have a place to call home; the Horns are living in a rented home and maneuvering around boxes, all the while smiling and saying “It’s only a year. We can do anything for a year.”

This attitude is passed on to their oldest son, Chris, who, at 15, is leaving his friends, his life and his plans behind. The Horns will continue to homeschool their children while overseas and when they return to the United States on furlough after 2 years, Chris will have graduated and be ready to go off to college. He says, “I can do anything for 2 years.” It seems to be the common mantra for the ever-changing life of the ministry.

Pastor Horn will be serving as the Theological Educator at Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Birip. Much of the waiting and anticipation that we all experience throughout the Seminary years, is the same for Lora now. The main difference is that she knows where she’s going and she’s done this all before. There is a constant feeling that “everything is up in the air.” I know we can all relate to that feeling.

Steering the Course

I wanted to interview Lora about her experience because her words encouraged me even before I arrived at the Seminary. I stumbled upon her blog during the days that I was emotionally preparing for that first transition to the Seminary; uprooting my children, packing up and purging

Supporting the Horn Family

If you would like to support the Horns in their mission to Papua, New Guinea, they are asking for prayer support first and foremost. If you have contacts within congregations in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois or California, you can also encourage those groups to invite the Horns to visit their individual congregation and discuss their mission needs. You can also sponsor the family independently; view their prayer card and get more information online at www.lcms.org/horn.
our possessions and moving to Fort Wayne. As her family goes through this time of transition, I asked her to share some words of wisdom. Your “primary vocation” is wife, she said. Don’t let other things get in the way of that. We may feel that we have to carry the weight of worry and fears and concerns on our shoulders, along with the weight of our children’s fears and concerns. We don’t want to burden our husbands with all our stresses, but Lora says, “Do be honest about what you’re going through.” Other wives can be a great support system for sharing those concerns, but you and your husband have to make this journey together. When it comes to problems in the parish, let your husband be the Head of the Household and trust him to make the right decision about how to handle it.

We won’t all go to somewhere as foreign as New Guinea, but we are all headed to a destination that is foreign to us, so I think the best advice Lora gave me, is to “be an anthropologist.” Take your first year and just study the culture of the congregation. As you learn who they are and how they work, you’ll find out how you fit in. As Professor Pulse told us at the placement meeting “Every congregation is different.” Don’t be in a rush to jump right in with your talents and ideas; give them a chance to show you who they are.
Wi*SH LiST

When it comes to moving to a new home, what really matters to you?

Of course, we all pray that the Lord finds us an earthly home where we can be a true blessing in service to some congregation/community, where our husband’s talents are needed and called, and a home where our future family may flourish. But what else is on your minds...

Meet Lauri

Lauri Pobanz and her husband, Don, and family are CTSFW Alumni; they have six kids, five of which joined them during seminary (their oldest daughter is married). Lauri and Don are from Hastings, Nebraska and began seminary in the summer of 2008. At the time, their kids were 18, 15, 11, 7 and 4. Ruth started college at Concordia Ann Arbor that fall, Charlie was at Concordia Lutheran High School, James and Timothy were at Holy Cross Lutheran grade school. Don was an electrical engineer before going to seminary. Don went alternate route, so spent 2 years at Ft. Wayne and 1 year at Mahomet, Illinois as a vicar, and is now the pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sac City, IA.
My name is Kirstin Hopkins. I am the youngest of four girls and a pastor’s kid, who is now becoming a pastor’s wife! My experience as a PK is fairly untraditional. I say that because my dad did not always have a parish, so I didn’t constantly live in the fish bowl or deal with as much pressure. I was a pastor’s kid—not the pastor’s kid.

I was born in Kansas City, Kansas and when I was one year old we moved to North Tonawanda, New York. At the end of my father’s term, he took a call to be pastor in Elma, New York. By the time I was seven years old, we moved to Littleton, Colorado where my dad took his third call as Rocky Mountain Regional Chaplain for Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West.

During my sophomore year of high school we moved to California. My dad became the Corporate Chaplain of Good Shepherd Lutheran Home. I was devastated that we were moving and begged my parents to let me stay in Colorado with my oldest sister. Not only were we moving to a new state, I was also leaving behind my two older sisters who were like my best friends.

My sister, Heidi and I were the only two that went to California. Heidi has Down syndrome and when we moved to California, we had been trying to get her into a group home. There was an opening at the Good Shepherd group home located in Visalia, California but it was about 30 miles away from...
"Not only were we moving to a new state, I was also leaving behind my two older sisters who were like my best friends."

Porterville. So within a matter of a few months, I went from having two sisters to being an only child!

The transition to Colorado was more difficult because I was very shy. It wasn’t until my senior year that I finally felt like I fit in and had some great friends in California. During my junior year I met my first boyfriend. We dated for a year and a half when I got pregnant. Yes, even pastor’s kids sin and are not perfect! I had Kaeli when I was 18; luckily I had already graduated from high school. I married her dad the following January and we were divorced before she turned two.

I was a working, single mom, who was also going to school. I got my associates degree and was immediately forced to start working full-time. My first job was at CIGNA HealthCare as a Customer Service Representative. I never thought I would ever be a customer service rep, but I grew to love my job.

The following year, my dad took a call to be the head pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hemet, California. At the time, I decided not to move to Hemet with my parents. I felt the need to prove to myself that I could “make it on my own.” I quickly realized that even though I can do things on my own, family support is very important when you are a single parent.

So Kaeli and I eventually moved to Hemet. I really enjoyed having my dad as my pastor during that time. I probably appreciated it more as an adult, than I ever did as a child.

In Hemet, I worked for seven and a half years as the Administrative Assistant at Sylvan Learning Center. I enjoyed working there but really needed a change, so I took a job at the local community college. At Mt. San Jacinto College, I started out as the Clerical Assistant in the Instruction Office, but within a year, I was offered a promotion to be the Administrative Associate for the program director of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Grant. I loved working at MSJC. It was not easy leaving that job.

"I really enjoyed having my dad as my pastor. I probably appreciated it more as an adult, than I ever did as a child."
"I met my husband, Robert, in October 2006 on—believe it or not—Match.com. We dated for a year and got married a year later. Robert was born in California but grew up in Mississippi. After Katrina hit, he moved back to California. Robert is a first year student and he loves to hunt and fish. He is thrilled that we live in an area where he will be able to enjoy those hobbies again.

My daughter, Kaeli, is 15 years old, and a sophomore in high school. She is now being “home schooled” through an online school program called Hoosiers Academy. She also loves to draw and is very good at it, but she’s just as shy as I was at her age. As many of you already know, she has had quite a challenge with this move. Even though I had to move when I was her age, she doesn’t seem to want to hear that it does get better.

I currently work part-time at the McMillen Library at Indiana Tech. I have also recently obtained a full-time, temp-to-hire position in customer service at Core Benefits, Inc., a small third-party administrator of group health plans. In my free time, I love to cross-stitch, scrapbook and hope to learn how to knit and/or crochet. I do not like to cook, but I was hoping that I would be cooking for my husband now that he is in school full-time. However, I still haven’t really gotten the knack of it. Plus, while working two jobs, I’m hardly ever home to be able to do that!"
Take a Chocolate Tour!  
DeBrand Fine Chocolates is known for their luxurious and beautiful chocolates, first class packaging, and gorgeous chocolate shops. Take a tour through our chocolate making kitchens, taste samples and see the artisan process involved in making our coveted chocolates. Cost is just $5; or free if you make a $10 purchase. See details and schedule a tour at www.debrand.com

See a Show at the Embassy! The Historic Embassy Theatre is Indiana’s largest historic theatre and home to the magnificent Grande Page Pipe Organ. Performances feature national productions from the Broadway stage, concerts of all musical formats, cinema, educational programming and a continued commitment to young people. See their calendar of events at www.fwembassytheatre.org/events.htm

Visit One of 14 Local Libraries.  
Allen County Public Library consists of the main library downtown and thirteen branches in the city and outlying communities. Activities include free movies, classes and even free music downloads. In addition, most branches have a play area for young children and educational activities for older children. For more information, or a calendar of events, visit www.acpl.lib.in.us

Lace up Your Skates!  
Reminisce in childhood splendor with outdoor ice skating at Headwaters Park near downtown. Admission is $3 for kids and $5 for teens/adults. Rent skates for $2 and warm up with hot chocolate and snacks available for purchase at the pavilion. Hours of operation are available online at www.visitfortwayne.com

Explore the Depths of Your Palate! The Olive Twist is a culinary boutique on Jefferson Boulevard with an olive oil and vinegar tasting bar. Guests are invited to taste some of the finest quality first-pressed extra virgin olive oil and flavor infused balsamic vinegar from around the world. For more information, visit www.theolivetwist.com

For more winter activities, or to share your own, visit the document titled “Winter Fun” on the SWA Facebook page.
Meet Bethany

My name is Bethany Haugen, and I shouldn’t be here. My father is a pastor. My father-in-law is a pastor. My husband was not going to be a pastor. It was part of the “pre-nup.” We shook on it! Yet, here we are.

My husband Peter and I grew up in a small Scandinavian Lutheran denomination in Minnesota and North Dakota. Our dads went to seminary together. Our four children were baptized into the Lutheran faith. It was when my husband was accepted to the Ph. D. program at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, that God started messing with us. Due to the dearth of Scandinavian Lutheran churches in Waco, we joined a confessional LCMS church. Within six months we were in the clutches of seminary recruiters and my husband was flying across the country to visit campuses. We both agreed to walk through every door God opened for us, secretly hoping the doors would be locked so we could get on with our regularly scheduled programming. No such luck. Door after door opened, until I found myself sitting with our children in Kramer Chapel during Opening Service, thinking, “Wait a minute. What just happened?” Pretty sure I heard God chuckling.

So here we are in our last year of preparation for the unknown, and we can’t wait to get started. Or maybe we can’t wait to get all our stuff out of storage. It’s hard to say.

Grab-and-Go French Toast Sticks

By Grace Verage

1 loaf of bread (slightly stale)
8-10 eggs
1 cup milk
1 tbsp vanilla
2 tsp cinnamon

Whisk egg, milk, vanilla and cinnamon until combined. Slice bread, dip in egg mixture, and cook in electric skillet or fry pan on medium high. Cool slightly and flash freeze on a cookie sheet so they don’t stick together in the freezer bag.

This is a great co-op recipe because slightly stale bread works best for french toast! Make an entire loaf and store leftovers in the freezer. To reheat, just pop in the toaster for two rounds (until heated through). They’re also great for nursing because you can cut them into sticks and eat one handed! For more co-op inspired recipes, visit www.bringinghomethebrakebush.wordpress.com.
My name is Stephanie Loeslie and I am married to Travis Loeslie, who is working toward his STM degree this year. I was born and raised in Mankato, MN and was the fifth of six kids. I lived a fairly sheltered life going to a Lutheran grade school, high school, and college. Travis swept me right off my feet, and we got engaged during his first year at the seminary. We were married in August 2008, before his second year, and then we made the big move to Fort Wayne. I then transferred to IPFW to complete my degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Life picked up quickly and our first child, Benjamin, was born the following July! Travis got the opportunity to study in Oberursel, Germany for the next year, and feeling pretty adventurous, we took our three-month-old baby to the foreign land for a year. Some might have called us crazy, probably even a bit naïve (we were both), but it was one of the greatest experiences we ever had! I think every seminary wife has a little bit of an adventurous side to be by her husband’s side throughout these years.

From Germany, we went to Waco, TX for vicarage (2010-11). It was a year full of challenges and wonderful experiences. As Native Minnesotans, we experienced the south for the first time and welcomed our second baby Marta at Easter! During Travis’ fourth year, I graduated and am now a stay-at-home-mom. Now in our final year, I feel comfortable in Fort Wayne. It has been our home and a place where I feel safe. It is a place where my family is nourished every week with the pure doctrine of Jesus Christ. My husband will receive a divine call in April, and we’re expecting our third child in July. This makes me both nervous and excited, but I trust that God is, and always will be, in control because His Word never changes, and His promise to dwell with we who are sinners is always sure.

"Travis got the opportunity to study in Oberursel, Germany, and feeling pretty adventurous, we took our three-month-old baby to the foreign land for a year."