

HighLites



"Into the Light"

1 Peter 2: 9-10

A Monthly Newsletter

August 2009

The Real Lessons of Celebrity Passings



As I write this article, the news coverage continues around the clock on the sudden death of the "king of pop," Michael Jackson. So many questions still abound: Was he drugged? How thin and malnourished was

he? Should his doctors be sued for malpractice? What happens to his estate and children? How much was he in debt? What is the truth in regard to the many alleged child molestation charges and lawsuits? Perhaps we will never know (or even care) to find the answers to these questions.

A couple of things have really jumped out at me this summer, however, in regard to the many well-known celebrities that have passed away. For starters, we are reminded, once again, that wealth and the finest medical treatment around cannot save any of us from the reality of death. Michael Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, Ed McMahon, and Steve McNair (quarterback star for the Tennessee Titans) employed expert doctors and physicians at the top of their field, outstanding personal trainers and workout specialists, and well-acclaimed nutritionists to make them the healthiest specimens they could be. Yet all of these celebrities and stars still could not overcome physical death. This is the reality of living with a sinful flesh and in a sinful world.

The second thing that these celebrity deaths reminded me of is that any of us can die at anytime for any reason. Michael Jackson was 50 and died of a

heart attack/cardiac arrest. Farrah Fawcett, at 62, succumbed to a rare cancer. Ed McMahon, 86 years of age, confronted bone cancer, pneumonia, and many other ailments in his last months. And Steve McNair, at the age of 36, died of multiple gunshot wounds. So many people today think they will live a long, healthy life, but it just may not be so. Indeed, one of the aspects of the Michael Jackson saga that has been so astounding to observe is how reporters just cannot get over that someone as "energetic" and "full of vitality" as Michael Jackson could die "at such a young age." Really. Sadly death, even death at a young age, happens all the time. Lutheran High recently experienced the tragic death of Class of 2008 alum, Emily Hughes. No medical advancements or treatments will ever eliminate death, at any age, because we have a sinful, corrupted flesh and live in a sinful world.

News of these celebrities deaths has brought lots of attention to these individuals—at least for a little while. Michael Jackson's memorial service was so big they had to institute a lottery to auction off tickets. Farrah Fawcett and Ed McMahon's memorial services included a Hollywood A-list of celebrities who attended. And Steve McNair's funeral included an impressive who's who list of current and former NFL stars.

Of course, the one issue that the media has not reported on is the afterlife for each of these stars and celebrities. I do not know the faith lives of any of the four deceased celebrities I have mentioned. I can only hope they knew and proclaimed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

But their earthly passing begs a question: Would you rather have a week of buzz press coverage, a huge memorial service, and magazine cover story given in your honor (after your death), or would you want to make sure that you and your loved ones, basking in humble anonymity from the world's spotlight of fame, know Jesus Christ and the redemption that only He can bring and spend the rest of eternity with Him? Let's see...one week of round-the-clock coverage after I am dead versus eternity with Jesus...

Next summer, I doubt you will see any stories about Michael Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, Ed McMahon, or Steve McNair. They will be yesterday's news to everyone but their families and loved ones. But where will their souls be?

A final lesson we can reflect upon from these celebrity deaths is that fame, wealth, popularity, pleasure, notoriety—these are fleeting things of this world. Christ's love for each of us—the forgiveness of sins and the peace that surpasses all understanding—these are everlasting things that are divine, redemptive, and from a loving, merciful God.

We need to continuously remind our children that they (we) are special not because of what they do or how popular they are, but because of what Jesus Christ has done for them. Indeed, we teach this Good News everyday in our Lutheran schools. What can be more important to teach and impart to our children and grandchildren?

In His Service,
Jim Pingel
 Executive Director

TAPROOT Dinner Will Feature "Fish Sticks" Comedy Troupe



You are invited to join us on Saturday, September 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the Breaking Bread banquet facility in Sheboygan, for the annual Taproot Dinner event. We promise fantastic food, fellowship, great fun, and a reminder of the mission and ministry that God has blessed us with at Lutheran High.

The *Fish Sticks* are ready to give you a brand new comedy experience. It's improvisational, squeaky clean and high energy. The Fish Sticks Troupe is made up of Christian improv comedians who have comprehensively trained and played professionally at the popular ComedySportz comedy club in Milwaukee. In addition to being able to make people laugh, they have a different purpose behind what they are doing. Each of the *Sticks* is a Christian who wants to put God first in everything -- including their comedy. *Fish Sticks* members not only want to have a great time, but also to use their talents to support

churches, local ministries, and charitable organizations as they reach out to their communities, raise funds or simply have a great time together.

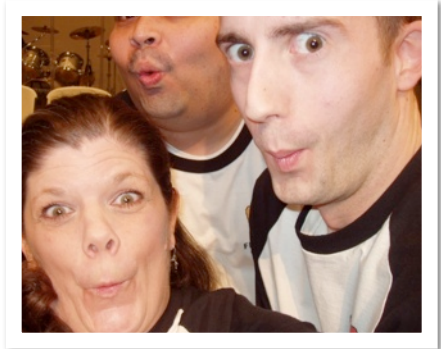
The night will also include the presenting of the *Christos Service Award*. This prestigious honor is awarded once every two years to someone who goes above and beyond in his or her service to Lutheran High. The *Christos Service Award* is given to an individual who does not currently have a son or daughter attending Lutheran High, but retains a sincere love and servant heart for the ministry and mission of Lutheran High.

Romans 11:16 states "...if the root is holy so are the branches." In the same way that the root of a tree supplies nourishment and foundation for that tree, Taproot members provide a foundation for the ministry of Lutheran High.

The Taproot Club provides over 1/3 of Lutheran High's annual fund. These funds are used to pay

teacher salaries and utility bills as well as other daily necessities at Lutheran High.

Invitations for this year's Taproot Club event will be mailed out soon. The minimum entry level is \$100 per person or \$200 per couple. By coming to the Taproot Club event or simply responding to the Taproot Club fund drive appeal at the Copper Leaf level, you can become a Taproot Club member. We hope to see your name listed on the Taproot Board at the main entrance to Lutheran High School.



The *Fish Sticks* are ready for some fun!

Plan Now For Harvestfest

Lutheran High will again "Celebrate His Harvest" on Saturday, October 3rd. Harvestfest will take place in the Lutheran High gym from 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Please start planning now to contribute and participate in this fun event. Each year it has been a very special evening for Lutheran High parents, friends and supporters - join us, have a great time, and support the ministry of Lutheran High!

You can help by donating:

Preserves (jams, jellies, applesauce, pickles, salsa, etc.)

Garden & orchard edibles (apples, pears, melons, etc.)

Garden Beauty (plants, bulbs and flowers)

Home Brews (Cider, root beer, beer, wine)

Artisan crafts (Quilts, embroidery, outdoor furniture, etc.)

Baked goods (pies, breads, cookies, cakes)

If you would like to be a part of the planning for this event, or if you have any questions, please call Jean Brauer at (920) 459-9835 or the Lutheran High office at (920) 452-3323.

Neat Repeats

Lutheran High Thrift Store

Have you been there yet? Stop in - show your support for Lutheran High, and find great bargains!

Special offers in August!

Aug. 3-8: College Stock-Up Sale

Cups, plates & bowls 50% off
Silverware & kitchen utensils 50% off
Kitchen appliances 50% off

Aug. 10-15:

Record Albums & Cassettes 25¢
Video Tapes 50¢

Aug. 17-22: Back-To-School Bargains

Children's books 25¢
Bicycles, furniture and lamps 50% off

Aug. 24-29

Purses, tote bags & backpacks 50% off