



WELS Nursing Today

The Holiday that Hurts

Written by Rev. Paul C. Ziemer, *National Civilian Chaplain to the Military, Armed Forces Liaison of WELS*

Veterans Day hurts. It doesn't cause a sharp pain. It's more like a series of dull aches that remind one of earlier injuries. Veterans Day makes us think of war, and the pain that war brings. It tells us that a generation of our forefathers was greatly mistaken.

America did not so much jump into World War One as it was pushed in. But once engaged, the country responded with great enthusiasm. Posters were made, songs were written, and laws were passed in support of the war. This is when many Lutheran churches

stopped using the German language in worship services and schools.

They said it would be, "*The war to end all wars.*" So, when the armistice was signed at the 11th hour of the 11th month of 1918, there were those who believed they were seeing the last generation of military veterans. There would be no more war veterans after this, they thought, because there would be no more wars.

It pains us to think how naïve they were. The sons of these same troops would march off to fight over some of the same ground their fathers had once fought for. Sons of World War Two veterans would fly off to battle in some rice paddies in Southeast Asia. Sons and daughters of those veterans would head off to combat in two wars in the Middle East. And, it is not over yet.

One Veterans Day ache makes us recall that thousands upon thousands of young Americans have gone to distant and dangerous places to keep death and danger from our shores. Veterans serve as a reminder of the failure of mankind to end war. It's a sign of our weakness. This ache comes from disappointment.

Another ache is felt. This one prompts us to realize how rarely many of us think about the sacrifices that others have made to defend our country. It hurts to think that some of our fellow citizens have invested years of their lives; some have sacrificed limbs; some have sacrificed lives—and we seldom appreciate it. We seldom thank those veterans who live among us. This ache comes from regret.



The deepest ache is caused by shame. Beyond everything else, and everyone else, we have neglected to give adequate credit to the One who shields our country from above and beyond. It is he who provided America with the necessary arms and Armed Forces. It is he who gave us the victories (those battles could have so easily been lost). It is he who blessed the efforts of the defenders of freedom. It is shameful for us to boast of our strength.

In the end, the Lord of the Nations is the only source of peace. His armistice was announced over the fields of Bethlehem when he sent the Prince of Peace into the world. The warfare between God and mankind is over. That peace stands forever.

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The Veterans Day hurt is a good hurt, however. It prompts us to appreciate those that have served in the Armed Forces of America—and to thank the Lord our God for providing them.

This hurt makes us ache for peace.

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Parish Nursing in our Congregation

By Cindy Johnston, RN, *St. John's Lutheran Church, Antigua, West Indies*

A few months ago I received an e-mail about Wisconsin Lutheran College's parish nursing class. I was instantly interested. I am a nurse who is interested in continuing education. I am a Lutheran who loves to help my brothers and sisters in Christ as a nurse. I live on a small island in the Caribbean so the fact that the course is offered online made it accessible.



So I spoke to a fellow nurse from our congregation, Kendra Titus, and we decided to sign up. This class will be a blessing to us, to our church here in Antigua (St. John's Lutheran), and to our entire island community.

St. John's Lutheran Church was started in the early 1970's with the opening of a two-room school and worship facility. It has since grown to over 600 members in the church and over 260 students in the school. Ministry is booming with many active groups in the congregation like steel pan bands, choir, youth group, fellowship committee, evangelism team, Dorcas society, and more. Hopefully, one more ministry can be added to that list—parish nursing.

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For the past eight years our church has hosted an annual community health day. Doctors, nurses, nutritionists, dieticians, optometrists, and other medical professionals come together to provide free

screening and education to people of the community. We have pastors and volunteers from church on hand to help run the event and provide spiritual support for those who come.

This event has proven very successful. Last year we were able to see over 200 people. This year's health day will be held on October 3. Our goal is to screen 250-275 people. With our health day we hope to reach people with both medical advice and the gospel message.

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Using what we learn in this parish nursing class Kendra and I would like to expand what we are able to do as nurses at St. John's Lutheran Church. There is definitely



a need for healthcare and health education among our members, but we would like to learn how to effectively aid the church leaders in their spiritual care as well.



May We Pray for You?

*By Debbie Miller, RN, Corvallis, Oregon,
Trinity Lutheran Church – Eugene, OR*

The WELSNA website has a wonderful prayer request feature. You may ask...what is that? We are a team of nurses who are willing to assist people with their prayers at home. This is all done by e-mail – simply send a request through the website, www.welsnurses.net under the **Contact Us** feature found on the home page and the prayer team goes to work, keeping all things confidential, of course. That's it!

I am reminded of a prayer acronym that I recently learned to assist me in my own prayer life. ACTS.

A stands for adoration (basically, tell God how awesome he is)

C stands for confession. The Bible tells us we need to confess our sins to our Lord and Savior and ask for forgiveness on a daily basis.

T stands for thanksgiving – we need to daily thank God for all of our many blessings.

S stands for supplication (a fancy word for petition, which means to ask God for anything you may want or need.

Mark 11:24 tells us "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." God may answer our prayers with a yes, no, or not now, but he hears all of our prayers and has a perfect plan already in place!

Please visit the prayer section of the website and let our prayer team go to work for you. We all have struggles in life that can use a little extra prayer and your friends in Christ are ready and willing to be there for you.



• News & Notes •

- We are pleased to announce that **Bethany Lutheran College** of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in Mankato, Minn., is developing a proposed BSN program! Sara Traylor, PhD(c), MA, RN, CNE is the Director of Nursing for the proposed BSN program and is developing the program in conjunction with the Minnesota Board of Nursing. The proposed nursing program is projected to start August 2017. Current freshmen and sophomore students who declare an interest in the nursing program are set-up to take current college courses that will be required as pre-requisites or support courses for the proposed BSN program. Bethany has outstanding internal and external support for the development of the proposed program. Prayers of thanksgiving and asking for the Lord's blessing as the work continues are appreciated. Sara's e-mail is straylor@blc.edu should you have any questions for her.
- **Jan Zimmerman** has accepted a new position as Director of Dementia Outreach and Education, a new ministry of The Lutheran Homes Association (TLHA). This new position will give her the opportunity to help communities become dementia aware, create cohesive standards of care and programing goals throughout TLHA, provide education to family members, community members and staff, and be a stronger advocate for those living with dementia. This has long been a passion of hers and she feels blessed to be able to do this. Congratulations Jan! Barbara Butler, RN is the new administrator/DON at Heritage Homes, Watertown, Wis. and they are very excited to have her join Heritage Homes outstanding team.
- The WLC online continuing education Parish Nurse course not only has started, but we have been blessed with a dozen well qualified RNs from across the U.S. and two from the Caribbean Island of Antigua. It is a long time coming and many highs and lows, but finally we are in session. Thanks to people like Pastor Behringer, Sue, and Becky who believed in the idea!
- **2016 Spring Conference Planning Committee:** The WELSNA Council could use your help! We will meet on September 23 at 3 p.m. at the Center for Mission & Ministry to begin planning the April 1 and 2 Spring Conference. Won't you please consider joining us in person or by teleconference? We've already reserved the beautiful Center for Mission and Ministry as our conference site. Call Sue at 262-677-3485 for more information.
- **2016 WELSNA Council Elections** to be held at the Spring Conference. Three positions on the WELSNA Council are up for re-election. Available offices include the council coordinator-elect position, the secretary position, and the communications coordinator-elect position. Anne Mackey has agreed to place her name on the ballot for a second term of office as our secretary. Job descriptions are posted at www.welsnurses.net under "Volunteer Opportunities." Prayerfully consider serving on the council and ask for the Lord's guidance as we continue to grow.



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