

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." -Romans 8:28 NIV

In the frantic and busy lives we lead, it can often be hard to try and make time for God during the week. Oftentimes we are looking for ways to remind ourselves that worshipping God is important every day, not just Sundays. With that thought in mind, Lamb of God LCMS in Flower Mound has spent the last year and a half putting together "What's the Message", a 5-10 minute audio bible study designed to help the listener start of their week with the message of God. This quick weekly study is designed to work through the major themes of the Bible and show us that the word of God is just as relevant today as it was when it was written.

Lamb of God is blessed to have the special talents of Mr. D.A. Senter, and Mr. Dale Gaus. But for their respective writing and voiceover abilities, this ambitious project would never have gotten off the ground! "The multimedia department at Lamb of God was looking at creating an online bible study geared towards Lutherans which would help the listener start off the week hearing the word of God," said Tony Corson, the sound engineer for WTM. He continued, "The congregation is blessed to have several members who are very experienced when it comes to writing and doing voiceover work. When we approached Al (Senter) and Dale (Gaus) they were both very excited about the prospect of putting together a study which could reach listeners around the world. From there, things began to fall into place very quickly."

The result is "What's the Message", an online bible study which has been posted weekly on Lamb of God's website, www.log.org, since January of 2008. Starting last summer, "WTM" has been posted as a free podcast available on the iTunes store, as well. "We wanted this project to be as accessible as possible to a wide variety of people," says Corson. "And by posting WTM as a podcast, our listeners can have the week's lesson uploaded to their iPod where they can listen at their convenience. You can listen to it in the car, at work, or while exercising.

Author/Teacher D.A. Senter describes the project in this way; "I think the thing that is special about WTM is its focus, it's short duration each week, and how the subject event applies to our lives today. We focus on the major themes to be found in the Bible, and we narrow what is to be covered to take only about 7 or 8 minutes. Anyone can find 8 minutes a week to listen to a professionally produced lesson that helps one to see how the OT and NT fit together, and how these ancient stories relate to our day and time.

And if they are motivated to do more, we provide study aids to help them think about various factors of the events covered, and even offer reading suggestions for further study. So it is a pretty complete package, but in easy to digest bite-size amounts."

Mr. Senter has overcome many challenges during the writing of this study. Since 1994 he has suffered from idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (IDC), a disease that weakens the heart muscles over time and limits their ability to pump blood. By the spring of 2008, in the middle of production for "What's the Message", Mr. Senter's heart was at the late stage of congestive heart failure. By the grace of God, a new artificial device – technically an LVAD, but commonly referred to as a mechanical heart- was approved by the FDA just in time to keep him going. Mr. Senter was given the okay to undergo surgery, and the new device has helped give him enough strength to continue writing and producing WTM. "I feel as though God as given me this time to continue writing 'What's the Message'; this is his purpose for me" says Senter.

Narrator Dale Gaus comes from an impressive background of voiceover and broadcasting work. Starting in the 60s, Mr. Gaus has worked for radio stations and companies from Texas to the East Coast and even could be heard for a time on BBC2 in England! His voice could be heard on everything from travelogues to the narrations for museum displays. One of his favorite memories of voice over work came from a reading of "A Christmas Carol" which used to be broadcast by a local radio station. "We have been blessed to have such a talented and experienced voiceover artist actually in the congregation! Dale has been great to work with on all of our recording projects." says Corson.

Update- Currently, we have reached a milestone, and that is the completion of our study of the Old Testament! There is still so much more work to be done, and the crew of WTM is working hard to prepare lessons on the time in between the testaments and ultimately the lessons of the Gospels and New Testament. Keep an eye out for our lessons entitled "In the Fullness of Time", in which we begin to bridge the gap between the time of the prophets and the coming of The Christ. We will look at how Jesus came down to earth to fulfill God's covenant with His people, and that the Old Testament helped to prepare the way for His coming. You don't want to miss these exciting lessons!

"What's the Message" is updated weekly, and can be heard at Lamb of God's website www.log.org in the "Listen" section of the website. There, of course, is no cost to the listeners for accessing the site. It can also be

uploaded as a podcast via the iTunes store. For more information, please contact Tony Corson (tcorson@log.org) or Chris Winston (cwinston@log.org). Place "What's the Message" as the subject of your message.