

B Name of Jesus 12/31/11 & 1/1/12

There is power in the Google name!

Did you know that it was reported that the City of Topeka KS decided to change their name to “Google KS”?

Well actually for just one month.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TECH/03/02/google.kansas.topeka/index.html>

(CNN) -- At 79, Mayor Bill Bunten believes so firmly that younger residents of Kansas' capital city will benefit from faster Internet connections that he wants Topeka -- - to change its name for a month.

In a formal proclamation, Bunten announced his city will be known as "Google" -- Google, Kansas.

"It's just fun. We're having a good time of it," he said of the unofficial name change, which will last through the end of March.

"There are a lot of good things that are going on in our city."

The unusual move comes as several U.S. cities elbow for a spot in Google's new "[Fiber for Communities](#)" program.

Cities had until March 26, 2010 to tell Google they're interested in the venture.

He hopes Topeka's young people will explore the world like he did. But he wants them to come back. And he hopes Google will be their magnet. I did a little research and it appears that they were close but didn't win. KC metro area will be first metro area.

Google has become one of the most recognizable names in the world. In Sweden, a little baby was named [Oliver Google Kai](#).

The 6 year old even has a website.

Clearly there is power in the Google name!

The point is names are important. Anyone here named after someone. Hear a few stories.... Or tell my story

My parents named me Catherine Ann A-n-n Knowles. They picked it because they like the name.

A couple of weeks after I was brought home from the hospital, my mom discovered that my birth certificate had my name spelled wrong. It had spelled my name as Catherine Anne A-n-n-e. When my mom called the hospital to tell them about the mistake they explained that they assumed I was being named after the head nun of the catholic hospital. So, I am named after some nun I never met but the question might be asked, Did knowing that I was named after a nun have any influence in my becoming a pastor?!

Today is the “Name of Jesus” day.

The name “Jesus” means (God saves).

Jesus has other names too. Like Emmanuel (God with us) and Christ the anointed One)

Phil 2:9-11 ⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

(Rev. 2:13), “. . . you hold fast to My name.”

In (Rev. 3:7), Jesus commends the church for keeping “*both his word and his name.*”

So, it’s clear in the NT that God wants to be known by name because his name tells us who God is in this world.”

Now, in the Old Testament, sometimes called the Hebrew Bible, God’s name was not known or spoken.

When Moses asked about God’s name, God said *I am who I am.*

In place of his name, The Hebrew letters *YHWH* were used to refer to God but were not his name.

YHWH was pronounced *Yahweh* or *Jehovah.*

However, in the New Testament, Jesus was sent to us as God’s own son and God wants us to use his name, to say it out loud, to call upon him personally when we are in need and to use it often in prayer and worship.

It is around Jesus’ name that we are gathered here today.

When our forbearers needed to choose a name for our congregation, they very wisely chose “Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.” In that name we are saying that all that we have and all that we do here and in the world is not our ministry or even our worship, it all belongs to Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

There is power in God’s name. Not magical power but power non-the-less.

When we use God’s name we are declaring to the world and to ourselves that we have a personal relationship with the Supreme Being.

Our God is not some far off deity but is our loving father, our friend our savior, our redeemer.

We know our God by name and God knows us by name and we are forever connected.

God knows us personally and knows our joys, our hopes and our dreams and also knows our fears, our pains, and our sorrows.

We are never alone or abandoned.

Knowing this can make all the difference, especially in the midst of crisis.

Many of you know Ken and Doris Schmidt. Ken served as construction supervisor for our building committee and Doris has been coordinator of our quilting and mission group for years.

Last fall their 10 year old granddaughter Samantha developed a rare form of cancer. We've been praying for her ever since. Samantha was allowed to return home from the hospital at Christmas but on the 29th the family heard the news they feared the most and I received an e-mail from Doris.

The family had three options. The first two might add only months to her life but would certainly add to her pain and suffering. The family chose the third option, i.e. to bring her home and, with the help of Hospice, provide comfort and quality to her final days.

They know they have made the right choice.

I have permission to read the following excerpts from the Schmidt's e-mail:

None of us want this. So, do we love her enough to let her go from this life to a life of no pain and no illness with her Heavenly Father? This would be very sad for us because we would miss her but when she gets to heaven, what a blessing, what a joy it will be for her.

I wrote back that I was certainly moved by their faith and the faith of their family.

This kind of faith doesn't appear out of thin air magically but is the result of their lifetime of faith in a loving savior.

Years of worship, bible study, confirmation, prayer, Bible reading, devotions—all of their faith practices down through the years have prepared them to bear this moment.

All of them are in deep grief and yet all of them, including Samantha are leaning on the everlasting arms of God.

Ken wrote in another e-mail,

Some time ago, at one of my parents' funeral, the pastor told me that we can spread happiness, like at a wedding, but there is no way to share sadness and lighten the burden of grief and so we go it alone. Then Ken wrote: Well not really. The Lord (Our Savior) is with us. One set of footprints in the sand!

There is power in God's name!

A power that grows out of our lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ!

Ultimately, only our loving Savior has the power to carry us through times like this.

Samantha and the family and friends who love her have a very rough road ahead, but they are not alone.

Some of us have been through something similar, others of us can only imagine, but we all care.

God intends to use us at times like this.

Many, many people like you in our congregation and in the congregations of their families will walk with them and at times even carry them with prayers and hot-dishes, and cards and letters and many acts of kindness.

God intends for us to be a blessing to one another until the day when we ourselves are carried home.

There is power in Jesus' name because it is in Jesus name that we find the strength to face each new day and whatever it may bring.

There is power in Jesus' name because it is in Jesus name that we find a supportive and caring community that can give us comfort in the midst of any crisis, including death.

There is power in Jesus' name because it is in Jesus' name that we have been given the promise of life eternal.

There is power in Jesus' name.

This is the good news of the gospel.

FYI The name 'Google' is a play on the word 'googol,' coined by Milton Sirota, nephew of American mathematician Edward Kasner. A 'googol' refers to the number represented by a 1 followed by 100 zeros. It's a very large number. In fact, there isn't a googol of anything in the universe — not stars, not dust particles, not atoms. Google's use of the term reflects our mission to organize the world's immense (seemingly infinite) amount of information and make it universally accessible and useful.