

St. John Lutheran Church

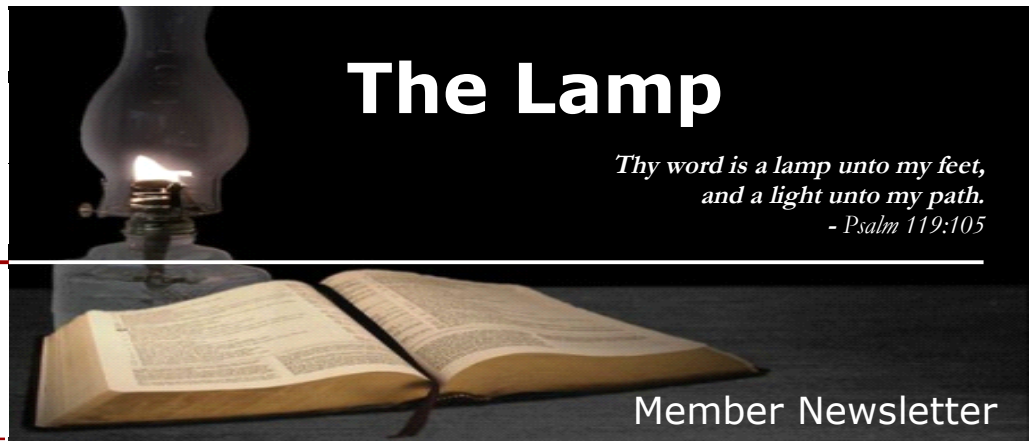
Random Lake, WI

November, 2009

Volume 2009 Issue 11

2009 Theme

"Every Soul A Treasure"



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout this month, most of you are thinking a lot about Thanksgiving. You may have special plans for that day that include gathering with the family, a great meal, some football viewing, and other things. We learn an important lesson about giving thanks from an event that took place in the life of Jesus. "On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:11-19 ESV)

I often wondered why the other nine failed to return to thank Jesus. Here are nine reasons that might have occurred to them that also keep us from thanking Christ for healing us and saving us from our sins. 1) He already knows that I appreciate what He did, so I don't need to actually say anything. 2) He has a lot to do and so do I, and perhaps I will thank Him when I am not so busy. 3) This healing may not last, so I'll thank Him when I am sure that the cure is for real. 4) I really don't want to leave my friends now because we are going to celebrate. 5) I have other things that He has not yet taken care of for me. 6) It is not politically correct to thank Him for healing or food or anything else in public. 7) I do thank Him occasionally, but do I really need to thank Him every time He does something for me? 8) I kind of miss all the attention I was getting from others when I was so needy. 9) I was getting better already on my own without His help.

Obviously, each of us has had other flimsy excuses for not thanking our Savior for His free gift of eternal life in His name. The one leper who returned had a clear perspective on how hopeless and helpless he had been without the invention of Jesus. A Lutheran pastor named Martin Rinckart understood that very well also. He was the faithful pastor of a church in Eilenberg in Saxony during the Thirty Years War from 1619 to 1649. His town became a walled refugee camp and during 1637, some 8000 of those refugees died from a plague.

(continued on next page)

The misery and persecution he suffered would give many a reason to never thank God. But in the middle of burying thousands of his neighbors, family and countrymen, Pastor Rinckart knew who was the very source of hope. In those awful times he penned the glorious lyrics to one of our favorite Thanksgiving hymns, "Now Thank We All Our God". His words could also have been the words of the one leper who returned to thank our Lord and should also be on our lips. "Now, thank we all our God; with hearts and hands and voices; who wondrous things hath done; in whom this world rejoices. Who from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way, with countless gifts of love and still is ours today."

In Service to Christ,

Pastor Laska

Reformation Service Broadcast Dates

The following are broadcast dates from this

year's Reformation Service

at the Stefanie H. Weill Center

in Sheboygan

Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 2:00 PM

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 12:00 PM

The inspirational service of praise and worship

will be broadcast on TV Channel 95 or 990

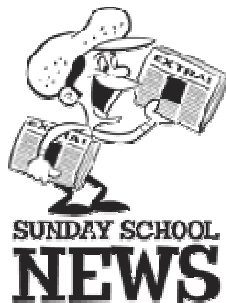
Stand Firm Men's Ministry

In the church bulletin you might have noticed a new group that has been started. It is called "Stand Firm Men's Ministry". It has started out with a few men getting together and talking about our life situations and how they relate to God's word.

This group is not just another Bible study just for men, but through activities and study the group's main goal is to help each other grow and stay firm in their faith in Christ our Saviour. As stated in Proverbs 27:17, "*as iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another*", Stand Firm is designed to have the men in the group help each other in their faith, especially when we feel our weakest, and to show the community we stand firm in Christ by living our lives to the glory of God.

Everyone of us at one time or another have had situations where we didn't act in a Christian like manner as we should. We are all sinners and it is very hard sometimes to act in the appropriate ways. We slip up continually. But with God's grace he forgives us for our actions. In return for receiving the unconditional gift of God's grace to us shouldn't we try to return the favor by living our lives to the highest to the glory of God? Let me give you an example; if you knew you would be seeing God in a few hours, would you change your life style to prepare yourself in seeing God? If your answer is yes, why don't you make those changes now? No one knows the day or the hour when we meet God in heaven only the Lord knows. If your answer is no, I pray you would rethink your answer. All of us have a need for continued improvement.

If you are interested in meeting with other men to help grow in your faith and participate in spiritual enriching activities feel free to e-mail me at standfirm1@verizon.net or call Steve Foerster@ 564-6421 for more information. Review the church bulletin for the date of our next group gathering. If you have been coming to our meetings I encourage you to tell other men what we have done so far and to invite other men to our next gathering.



“In The Dog House”,

has been the theme for Sunday School during the past few weeks. The Bible reference for this series of lessons was John 13:34. Through the Bible stories of Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers, and the Prodigal Son; the children learned how anger, jealousy, dishonesty, and greed can affect our relationship with others.

They were reminded that showing God’s love to others means controlling anger, offering encouragement to others, honesty, and forgiveness for one another. The Memory Maker for this unit was a small stuffed dog.

The next unit will be “Storm Chasers”. The lessons will center around the Bible Verse, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1. Whether your child is able to attend every week or occasionally, he/she is always welcome to join us at Sunday School.

Please keep the Sunday School team and children in your prayers throughout the upcoming month.



Attendance — September

Sunday 8:00 or 9:30 AM Worship	589
Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	170
Wednesday Evening	84

TOTAL for September	843
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The “Invisible” Mission Field

In my years serving as Chaplain for the Sheboygan County area nursing homes, I have found this ministry to be one of the most rewarding areas of the mission field – and one of the most misunderstood and unnoticed in the Body of Christ, His Church. At times, it is almost *invisible* to a vast majority of our population. In fact, it is one of the most projected growth segments of our population in the next decade.

Many of our residents never planned to go to a nursing home, but something changed in their lives. How they face their health changes and issues of mortality is the Chaplaincy’s mission.

Some residents who have fallen away from the Church ask me as they face eternity, “I’ve forgotten about God, has He forgotten about me?” There is the mission of the Chaplain bringing the Word of a living Savior who did not forget about them nor treat them as *invisible*.

Jesus talks about those who saw Him and those who treated Him as *invisible* as they went through life dealing with His brothers and sisters. “The righteous will answer Him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me.’” [Matt. 25:37-40] Jesus goes on to say woe to those who treated Him and those in need around them as *“invisible.”*

The Chaplain’s bedside visits, Chapel services, Bible classes, family interaction, congregational preaching visits and community presence is the visible means by which His Church reaches those often “invisible” to others. Since 1972, the Chaplaincy Ministry has made visible Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament Ministry to the elderly, developmentally disabled and infirmed.

Pastor Tom Fleischmann



November Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning

On November 8, Pastor Laska will begin a new six part Sunday Bible study that is entitled: "Six Questions". The class will meet each Sunday from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. in the Friendship Room. This basic study of our Christian faith will explore the answers to these questions: "Who Is God and How Does He Relate to Us?"; "What Does God Expect Us to Do?"; "How Do I Communicate With God?"; "Why Does God Want Me to Be Part of His Family?"; "How Can I Be Sure That I Am Forgiven?"; and "What Has God Done for Us and Continue to Do For Us?" Those who are long time students of God's Word will appreciate how this study puts together most of our theology. Those who have never been in a Bible study will appreciate that this class will help to answer many questions that may have been on their minds. Bring a friend or spouse or neighbor and join us!

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Breakfast

This study and format enables men to feed on the Word of God while they are being fed breakfast. Men of all ages are invited to meet in the back dining room at Midway Restaurant on Highway 57 from 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 A.M. with Pastor Laska as the leader. After ordering breakfast off the menu we will have a 45 minute study while we eat. Our current study is "End Times". We will be looking at the various prophecies regarding Judgment Day and how we can be ready. Bring a friend and let's have a good time of fellowship as we study God's Word!

Thursday Morning Mid Week

Pastor Seifferlein is leading this ongoing joint study this month with members of St. John and Emmanuel. This month the class will meet in the Memorial Hall at Emmanuel on Thursdays from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. We will be studying the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. This is a refreshing way to prepare for worship. Men and women of all ages are welcome to attend.

Women's Bible Study

We will not meet during November but we are preparing for our Advent by Candlelight event that is scheduled for December 7.

New Life Groups

We have two "New Life" Groups established that meet in the homes of our members so that not only can we study God's Word but also we can have opportunity for informal fellowship. Both groups are studying the same topic so that attending one of the sessions each month will keep you up with the overall study for the year. We are studying how prayer can change our lives and our daily walk with the Lord. Plan on joining in with the group at the home of Ed and Bev Liermann at W6803 County Rd. F, Cascade (528-1386) on Monday, November 16 at 7:00 P.M. or at the home of Jason and Connie Vorpahl at W6239 County Rd. SS (994-2013) on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00. Call them if you need directions. Pastor Laska will be leading each of these groups.



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

The 5th Annual ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT will be held on **Monday, December 7th at 7:00pm** in the school gymnasium. This is a special evening planned for all the ladies of the congregation. The purpose is to prepare our hearts and minds for celebrating the birth of our Savior before we get too wrapped up in other Christmas preparations.

You will be seated at a table decorated for Christmas by a few volunteer hostesses. Dessert and coffee will be served. There will be a brief program focused on the Christmas story, filled with wonderful music selections. A collection will be taken for a designated charity.

This is a great event to invite others from the community as well as (mothers, aunts, friends). Table hostesses are needed this year as we are blessed with a growing number of attendees. If interested in helping host a table, call Kate Schmitz at 920-980-4606 or state this on the sign-up sheet.

Sign up **deadline is Friday, December 4th**. Sign up sheets will be in bulletins and also in the wood tray beneath the bulletin board in the narthex.

Birthdays

The members of St. John Lutheran Congregation pray that all those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the month of November will continue to be blessed by the Lord in all ways. He is the source of all that we need and has richly supplied us with the gifts of family, friends and faith. May each of you celebrating in November enjoy your special day in good health and by giving honor and glory to God.

November 1 - Suzanne Habeck, Colleen Smith

November 2 - Marlene Broetzmann, Mardell Schulz, Lisa Reeder, Dominic Montella

November 3 - Betty Kohlwey

November 4 - Claudia Kling, Vicki Risse

November 5 - Clarence Broetzmann, Craig Broetzmann, Renee Winter, Brittany Maas, Raymond Scholz

November 6 - Amy Warnock

November 7 - Dian Diener, Paul Krueger, Gary Schallock

November 8 - James Schulz, Malorie Kappler

November 10- Joe Fick

November 11- Kim Zimmermann, Katie Ernst, Kristie Ernst, Wendell Smith, Dennis Schulz

November 12- Everett Arndt, Christopher Daniels, Dominick Fay

November 13- Katherine Daniels, Evan Rathke

November 14- Paul Kohn

November 15- Lisa Padron, Ariel Geidel

November 16- Don Goedde, Ashley Treppish

November 19- Justin Brooks

November 21- Brian Reeder, Dan Memmel, Gary Depies

November 22- Joy Pannier, Ryan Maas, Mandy Lisowe, Isabella Depies, Hailey Veldboom

November 23- Geraldine Bertram, Michael Kannenberg

November 24- Alexis Kohler

November 26- Justin Scholz, Jack Mitchell

November 27- Robert Schroeder

November 28- Tammy Robertson, Jeremiah Johnson, Anthony Hoffmann

November 30- Isabella Daniels

Anniversaries

November 2 – M/M Dean Fenske

November 3 – M/M Wendell Smith

November 5 – M/M Kevin Zimmermann

November 7 – M/M Emmett Huston

November 10 – M/M Timothy Maas

November 22 – M/M Everett Arndt

November 23 – M/M Willis Liepert

November 27 – M/M Scott Hoogester

November 29 – M/M John Bichler

Stewardship and Missions

Consecrated Stewards - Members who have not yet returned your pledge response card should have received one in your church mail box. Please try to return these in the offering plate over the next few weeks, so we can have a final report in the December newsletter. Extra pledge cards will be on the visitor center if you need them. To date 54 cards have been returned with over 19% indicating an increase in weekly offerings.

Mission of the Month - The October MoM will be the food pantry - either food items and/or monetary donations. This will be followed by the Giving Tree in November and the Federwitz families in December.

Mission Sunday - Sunday, Nov. 1st Rev. Tom Fleischmann will be the guest preacher for both services. Plan on also attending Bible study between services as Rev. Fleischmann will be presenting the newly completed DVD which highlights his ministry as Sheboygan County Chaplin. The Board will be serving refreshments.

Thrivent Giving Plus Program - ATTENTION! This program is ending in 2009 and being replaced in 2010. Full details are yet to be finalized, so Thrivent members should take full advantage of this program before year end. Thrivent will give \$1 for each \$2 we donate to the school up to \$300 for a \$600 gift.

Offering Envelopes - The decision was made to keep the same system for 2010

Lutheran Witness - The subscription rate remains at \$15/yr. This informative magazine from the Synod will keep you updated on events in the Synod. We would again ask each family receiving Lutheran Witness to make an offering to cover the cost to the congregation. If you would like to be added to the subscription list contact Don Pfeifer at 994-4983.

Year-round Stewardship Programs

Food Drive - Many thanks for the increase in donations this past month!! We delivered everything to the food pantry on October 20th. We were told to keep up the good work as the need remains great for this service provided by the Interfaith Food Pantry. They are now located in an expanded facility at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Adell. Note our Mission of the Month above. All donations remain greatly appreciated.

Adopt-a-Highway - Fall litter pickup has been moved to Saturday, Oct. 31. Meet at church at 9:00am. This project only takes about an hour of your time and the more volunteers the easier for all.

Aluminum Drive - Has raised \$136 YTD. Continue to drop of your cans behind the Friendship room.

Lifeline Health Screening - We are awaiting information and possibly holding this clinic in Spring 2010.

Stewards of the Gospel and All the Lord Provides

Dear Members of St. John's Church:

Greetings in the wonderful name of Christ Jesus! It is with joy and great delight that I am able to write to you once again. God is so good and His love truly endures today and always. Thank you for each and every form of prayer, encouragement, letter, gift, phone call, and sacrifice you have made on my behalf and for the Lord and His church. We recognize the Lord's hand working through you. I am greatly encouraged, enriched, and blessed by your rich love and support. Margaret and I feel overwhelmed by your love and support, and by the love of our Lord Jesus. We truly appreciate everything. All thanks be to God!

As the seasons roll on, so do the classes at the Seminary. I am currently taking Homiletics (preaching), a class on the Synoptic Gospels, a class on Missions and Christian outreach, and a class that studies the nature and attributes of God, called Systems I. I have been enjoying each class. I learn something new each day, and appreciate learning how God chooses to reveal Himself to us in various ways. As President Meyer frequently tells my Homiletics class, "We are not just goldfish swimming around in a bowl, with no idea of what is going on around us." I am so blessed and fortunate to receive the type of theological training that the Seminary is providing me, that I may be able to one day (Lord willing) leave the classroom and engage in the lives of people with the truth and love of God in Christ Jesus. I like to see myself as an acorn that has been planted through baptism, and has taken root through my Christian parents and a strong Christian education in the Lutheran school system. I am so thankful and blessed my parents chose to send me and my siblings to St. John's Sherman Center. I am still being nurtured and cared for by the faithful pastors and educators of Concordia Seminary. Their direction and guidance only helps to strengthen the roots of this tree, as it will have to withstand the winds of many misguided and misdirected teachings of this world. Please continue to pray for our seminaries, and remember their work as they continue to train and equip men for pastoral ministry. Concordia Seminary is grateful for your ongoing support.

I went to Guatemala this past May with 6 other seminarians as a part of our cross cultural immersion trip. It was such a blessing to work down there for nine days, and to see how ministry is conducted among people of varying economic classes, backgrounds, and life situations. The Lord is working through His church in Guatemala, and I hold a special place in my heart for those people after having been there. I encourage anyone with the opportunity to go there to do so. The Lord will change you through an experience like the one I had serving people that I couldn't even understand, but loved. I left truly knowing that they were my Christian brothers and sisters.

My wife, Margaret, continues to let her light shine for Jesus. I am truly grateful for her. We help co-lead our SundayzCool program at our fieldwork church. She is currently working full time in Chesterfield, MO at a telecommunications company. In her spare time she is the vice president of the Seminary Women's Association group on the seminary campus and likes to read.

With vicarage placement right around the corner (April 27th), our time in St. Louis is almost half over. It is incredible to think that what seemed to be like an eternal process is finally drawing to a close as we look forward in great anticipation to our first call. Each day is a gift from God and an opportunity to serve one another and the God who is Creator of all. Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes in his book *Life Together*: "At the threshold of the new day stands the Lord who made it." I really like that thought. It can become all too easy to let the cares of the day, and of life in general, weigh us down immensely. Knowing that God, who holds all things in his hands—the depths of the earth and even the vast parts of the universe, is standing at the beginning and end of each of our days, with the loving outstretched arms of Jesus holding and comforting us in each sad moment and in each moment of joy, provides me with the peace nothing in this world could ever give me. And so I encourage you as well, if you have struggles with giants that seem to taunt you and the God you serve, be reminded that death did not keep Jesus dead, He triumphs, and because of that we do as well. Praise be to God for victory in Jesus! Until our paths cross again, God's peace and blessings to you.

Sincerely,

Josh Baumann baumannj@csl.edu