

St. John Lutheran Church

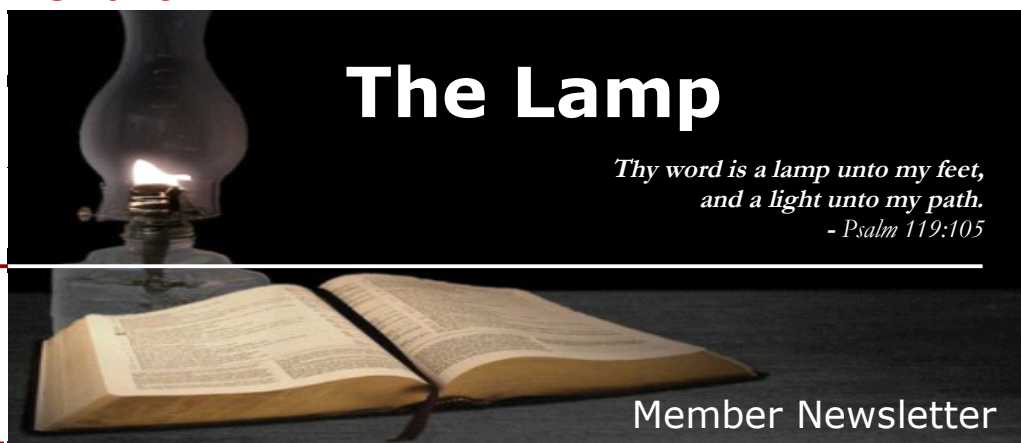
Random Lake, WI

December, 2009

Volume 2009 Issue 12

2009 Theme

“Every Soul A Treasure”



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a blessed time of the year is before us! Each Advent and Christmas season, we are privileged to walk through the joyous Scripture that tells how God's love was showered upon us through the gift of His Son. This year we are focusing upon the detailed account given to us by St. Luke the Evangelist and Physician. Luke wrote one of the four Gospels and also the book of Acts. Both books begin with him saying that he did all of this research for a person named Theophilus. Some think of Theophilus as being the name of a specific person that Luke knew. But the word literally means "lover of God". Luke's account was written specifically for each of you, lovers of God! Each year I have portrayed a character from the Christmas Gospel to tell the story in the Family Service on Christmas Eve at 4:00 P.M. This year I will play Doctor Luke as the narrator of the Good News. We have put this schedule of services, messages and special music into a tri-fold brochure which you will find in sufficient quantity on our Welcome Center counter. Please give it to a friend, neighbor or relative so that they may join with us and see why we have such reason for hope.

In Service to Christ,

Pastor Laska

Advent

First Sunday in Advent

November 29 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. With Communion.

Message: "Glorious Coming"

Text: Luke 19:38

Mid Week Advent

December 2 7:00 P.M.

Message: "Turning the Children"

Text: Luke 1:16

Special Music: School Choir – Grades 1-4

"Whisper A Prayer"

Christmas

Children's Program

Preschool through Grade 8

December 20 4:00 P.M.

"One Starry Night"

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24 4:00 PM N/C

Message: "Doctor Luke's Records"

Text: Luke 2:19

Special Music: Soloists

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Member of -
 THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Second Sunday in Advent

December 6 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Message: "What Shall We Do?"
Text: Luke 3:10

Mid Week Advent

December 9 7:00 P.M.
Message: "Horn of Salvation"
Text: Luke 1:69
Special Music: School Choir – Grades 5-8
"Love - 1 Corinthians 13:13"

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. With Communion
Message: "Least in the Kingdom"
Text: Luke 7:28

Mid Week Advent

December 16 7:00 P.M.
Hymn Sing and Readings

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20 9:30 A.M.
Message: "Let it Be"
Text: Luke 1:38

Christmas Candlelight

December 24 10:00 P.M. With Communion
Message: "A Sign For You"
Text: Luke 2:12
Special Music:
Senior Choir, Senior Handbells and Soloist

Christmas Day

December 25 9:30 A.M. With Communion
Message: "Peace on Earth"
Text: Luke 2:14
Special Music: Senior Choir and Soloist

First Sunday of Christmas

December 27 9:30 A.M. With Communion
Message: "My Eyes Have Seen"
Text: Luke 2:29-30

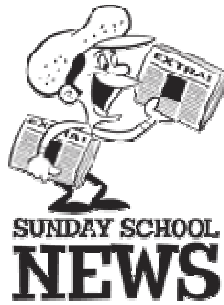
New Year's Eve

December 31 4:00 P.M. With Communion
Message: "He Saves"
Text: Luke 2:21

***A NOTE FROM THE
TREASURER***

The Treasurer's books will close on January 3, 2010. All 2009 offerings must be in following the late service on that day. Please discard any unused 2009 envelopes at the end of the year. If you did not receive 2010 envelopes, please contact Don Pfeifer (or any member of the Board of Stewardship and Missions.)





“Storm Chasers” has been the theme for our lessons during November. The Bible Verse for this unit was, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1. Through the Bible stories of Na-

man, King Josiah, Abigail, and the Roman Officer’s Servant, the children were given examples of humble obedience to God’s will, and reassured of His constant love, presence, and comfort in all situations. The Bible Memory Maker for this unit was a rain poncho.

During the month of December we will once again explore the Christmas Story. Whether your child is able to attend every week or occasionally, he/she is always welcome to join us at Sunday School.

Special Project

The Sunday School children will once again be sending care boxes to college students in mid February. Please start saving small boxes, (example Market Day , small shirt box). We will be collecting boxes from now through January. Boxes can be brought to the school cafeteria on Sunday mornings, or the preschool room during the week.

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

December Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning

Pastor Laska is in the middle of teaching a study that is entitled: “Six Questions”. The class meets 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 remaining questions: “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! This study will not meet on December 20 and 27.

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. on Thursdays 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 Laska is leading this ongoing joint study this month with members of St. John and Emmanuel. This month the class will meet in the Friendship Room 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. The class will not meet on December 24 and 31.

Women’s Bible Study

We will not meet during December 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 Monday New Life Group at the home of Bob and June Krueger at N1527 Trout Spring Road on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 P.M. or at the home of Don Goedde at the southwest corner of Cty. Rd. SS and Cty Rd. I on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 P.M.. Call them if you need directions. Pastor Laska will be leading each of these groups.

Attendance — October

Sunday 8:00 AM Worship	379
Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	328
Wednesday Evening	61
TOTAL for October	768

Birthdays

The members of St. John Lutheran Congregation pray that all those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the month of December 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 December enjoy your special day in good health and by giving honor and glory to God.

December 2 - James Geib, Linda Sveom, Ella Drewitz

December 4 - Hailey Reeder

December 5 - Willis Liepert

December 6 - Adam Warnock

December 7 - Norm Preder, Michelle Depies

December 9 - Carol Kelling

December 10 - Don Pfeifer, Jim Vorpahl, Toby Vorpahl

December 11 - Michael Lawrenz

December 12 - Martin Vorpahl

December 14 - Bailey Treppish, Wendy Weiss

December 16 - Karen Zimmer

December 17 - Beatrice Scholz, Helen Winter

December 18 - Leia Johnson, Angelina Champeau

December 19 - Gerald Bauer, Ashley Schroeder, Alan Vorpahl

December 20 - Robert Maas, Aaron Rathke

December 21 - Mark Mathe, Lindsey Rathke, Joshua Maxwell, Makenzie Hoogester

December 22 - Kenneth Becker, Whitney Rathke

December 23 - James Goetsch

December 25 - Ron Ernst, Nancy Ernst

December 26 - Ron Mueller

December 28 - Michelle Wollner

December 29 - Bernice Goedde, David Foerster, Caitlyn Grosskopf

December 30 - Sam Bohnhoff

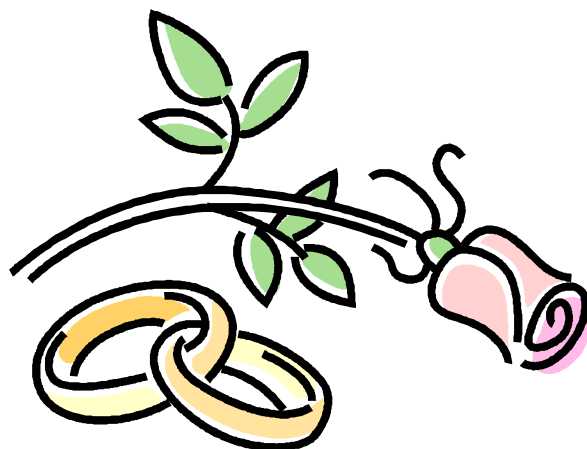
December 31 - Ruth Weinkoetz

Anniversaries

December 7 – Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Klumb

December 8 – Mr. & Mrs. James Schulz

December 22 – Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Schwab



Christmas Is Coming Let the Tearing of the Gift-Wrap Begin!



It's that time of the year parents. The time where your children are giving you subtle reminders what they are wishing for Christmas. Some of the items you might be hearing are; I saw this neat video game that the whole family could play (especially me), or I was looking at the new Christmas toy catalog and I found a few things that I might ask Santa to get me. And it seems the older the children, the more expensive the gift. Or maybe your children have left the nest and you are giving your spouse hints like some new fishing equipment you saw or did you know that there is a jewelry sale at ...

As a parent or spouse you can get somewhat over whelm by all the hints, but in the end you feel a sense of joy seeing someone ripping off the wrapping paper, opening the present and hearing "how did you know I wanted this", "thank you for the thoughtful gift". But as a parent or spouse does the true meaning of Christmas get over shadowed by the gift giving?

The true meaning is not the great presents we get or hand out but the greatest gift we have ever received. It is the gift of salvation through the birth of Christ. Since we are all sinners, no amount of good deeds can overcome our sins. Romans 3:23 states "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*". It is only through our loving God that he sent his only Son to die on the cross for us. Romans 6:23, *For The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* The gifts we give to each other are minuscule to Christ's gift to all believers.

It is ok to hand out presents to your family but the challenge I give to the men of this congregation is to share with their families why we celebrate the birth of Christ and the wonderful gift he gave all believers later in his life. Also consider helping the families in our area who have been misfortunate because of economic reasons. By helping this season you can show your family the meaning of giving. This can be a good habit for your children to learn from you. And after the holidays consider helping people in need through out the year. Their needs don't end at the end of the Christmas season. Better yet, invite the people you know who don't come to church to one of our services and pray the Holy Spirit would fill their lives. Share the good news with them, show that as a Christian you love and show concern for them. Just as Christ showed His love for us.

To the men of this congregation consider joining us next year to one of our meetings. Mark your calendar for our next meeting will be January 26th (Tuesday) @6:30.

Merry Christmas from the Stand Firm Men's Group

The Chaplain's Corner

December 2009



Gifts That Last

Every year at Christmas some retailers give the pitch, "Give the gift that keeps on giving". Most of the time the gift is received with mixed emotions. After all, a gift of membership to the "Jelly of the Month Club" for example, wears off its taste and enthusiasm after a while. Closets store those gifts, only to have them end up in a thrift store or at a rummage sale with no real lasting sentiment or value.

"For God so loved the world that He gave – The Lasting Gift – His One and Only Son that whoever – the recipient of that gift – believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"– the lasting promise that the gift will keep on giving through eternity. No material gift could ever match or replace God's gift to us. That is the reason we celebrate Jesus' birth.

The Chaplaincy Ministry has been bringing that message of the Father's Free gift of eternal life found in His Son, Jesus, to the nursing home communities for 37 years. The comfort found in Our Savior has changed resident's lives that have fallen away from the church or not know Jesus at all. When they hear of that Gift That Lasts in Christ, their lives finally know true peace.

Over the years the Chaplaincy Ministry has been in Sheboygan County, there has never been a shortage of residents to minister to. Neither will there be in the years to come. Our seniors will be the fastest growing segment of our population in the next 8 to 10 years, with many living 10 to 30 years into retirement. The vision of the Chaplaincy is to meet the spiritual needs of the elderly in the years to come and keep giving the gift of God's Word to them.

The reality is in this economy funds are running out at an alarming rate. Gifts have dwindled down to the point that early in 2010 the Chaplaincy Ministry may cease. Our gifts through Churches, individuals and the Chaplaincy Picnic have decreased or have become non-existent. I need your help. I know individuals and churches have taken financial hits as well as the Chaplaincy. But, if many give a little, this Ministry can continue.

The Chaplaincy is challenging God's People who support this ministry, who have loved ones in our health care centers to a **1000/100 campaign**. If 1,000 Churches, groups or individuals give \$100.00 as a Christmas Gift to the Chaplaincy, we will meet our financial goals in 2010. A \$100.00 gift for the entire year is a little more than 27 cents per day for the year, about 1/5th the cost of a cup of coffee. Please help us with your generous Christmas Gift for the Chaplaincy Ministry. You may send your gift to:

Chaplaincy Ministry P.O. Box 351, Plymouth, WI 53073.

THANK YOU and have a joyous Christmas celebrating God's Gift!

Rev. Tom Fleischmann, Chaplain