

St. John Lutheran Church

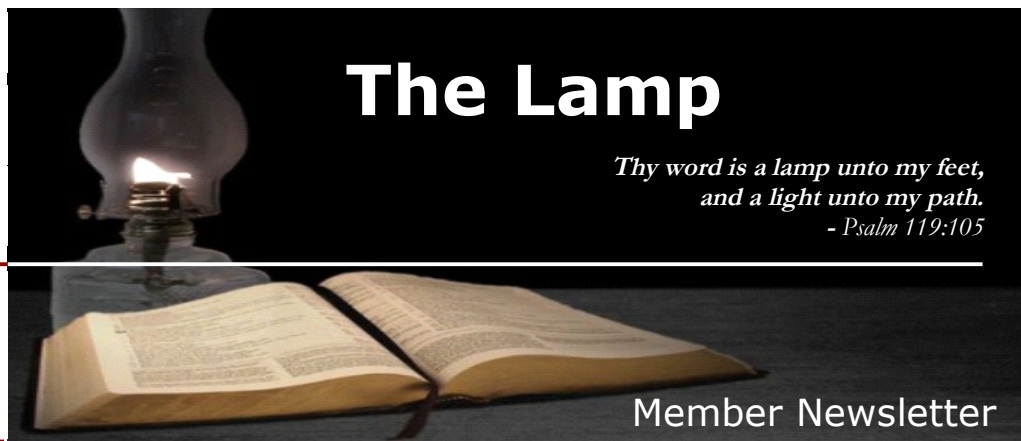
Random Lake, WI

October, 2009

Volume 2009 Issue 10

2009 Theme

"Every Soul A Treasure"



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently in the news, you perhaps have heard a headline that "Lutherans Approve Homosexual Ministers". This is in reference to convention action taken not by our denomination but by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In response to the firestorm of follow-up newspaper articles and commentary on this matter, I commend to your reading the official statement of our Synod President, Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, on this matter. I, therefore yield my usual space in the newsletter for the entire statement that he issued which is biblically based and according to the long standing doctrine of the church.

In service to Christ,

Pastor Laska

Statement of the president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in response to certain actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America August 24, 2009

The two largest Lutheran church bodies in the United States are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with 4.8 million members and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with 2.4 million members.

On Friday, Aug. 21, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to open the ministry of the ELCA to gay and lesbian pastors and other professional workers living in "committed relationships." In an earlier action, the assembly approved a resolution that commits the ELCA "to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has repeatedly affirmed as its own position the historical understanding of the Christian church that the Bible condemns homosexual behavior as "intrinsically sinful." It is therefore contrary to the will of the Creator and constitutes sin against the commandments of God (Lev. 18:22, 24,20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 1 Tim 1:9-10; and Rom. 1:26, 27).

Addressing the ELCA assembly on Saturday, Aug. 22, I responded to their aforementioned actions, stating: "The decisions by this assembly to grant non-celibate homosexual ministers the privilege of serving as rostered leaders in the

Member of -
 THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

ELCA and the affirmation of same-gender unions as pleasing to God will undoubtedly cause additional stress and disharmony within the ELCA. It will also negatively affect the relationships between our two church bodies. The current division between our churches threatens to become a chasm. This grieves my heart and the hearts of all in the ELCA, the LCMS, and other Christian church bodies throughout the world who do not see these decisions as compatible with the Word of God, or in agreement with the consensus of 2,000 years of Christian theological affirmation regarding what Scripture teaches about human sexuality. Simply stated, this matter is fundamentally related to significant differences in how we [our two church bodies] understand the authority of Holy Scripture and the interpretation of God's revealed and infallible Word."

Doctrinal decisions adopted already in 2001 led the LCMS, in sincere humility and love, to declare that we could no longer consider the ELCA "to be an orthodox Lutheran church body" (2001 Res 3-21A). Sadly, the decisions of this past week to ignore biblical teaching on human sexuality have reinforced that conclusion. We respect the desire to follow conscience in moral decision making, but conscience may not overrule the Word of God.

We recognize that many brothers and sisters within the ELCA, both clergy and lay, are committed to remaining faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, are committed to the authority of Holy Scripture, and strongly oppose these actions. To them we offer our assurance of loving encouragement together with our willingness to provide appropriate support in their efforts to remain faithful to the Word of God and the historic teachings of the Lutheran church and all other Christian churches for the past 2,000 years.

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

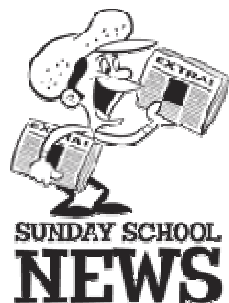
Youth Group Meeting National Youth Gathering

On Sunday, October 4, at 9:15 A.M. in the Church Youth Room, Pastor Laska will present the details of the next National Youth Gathering to be held in 2010 in New Orleans. All youth who are potentially interested are expected to attend this important meeting. We will be making plans for fundraisers and seeking to get a confirmed list of those high school age youth desiring to attend.

For over 30 years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has demonstrated its care and affirmation of young people by providing National LCMS Youth Gatherings. National LCMS Youth Gatherings provide opportunities for youth and adults to boldly come together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim, celebrate, and witness their salvation through Him, rejoice in the fellowship of their Church, and be affirmed and nurtured in their lives as God's people through Word and Sacrament. National LCMS Youth Gatherings proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ and God's saving grace to His people through Christ.

In this setting, youth grow in their personal relationship with God and in the fellowship of Word and Sacrament in Christ's Church. National LCMS Youth Gatherings are a vehicle by which the Church cares for, affirms, and reaches out to young people, both church and unchurched. National LCMS Youth Gatherings equip youth and adult leaders to recognize that youth ministry happens in a variety of settings in their parish, community, and world.

God Has
MY SPACE
Reserved in Heaven



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Has Begun

How wonderful it is to be gathering together as a group for Sunday School once again. We are excited that several new friends have joined us as we explore God's Word together. Whether your child is able to attend every week or occasionally, he/she is always welcome to join us at Sunday School. All age groups meet for a common opening. Afterward the Older children 6th -8th grade, leave for an age appropriate Bible study. They will at times be asked to stay with the group, to help teach the Bible story to the younger children by participating in dramas.

The first unit for children age 3 yrs.-5th grade, "Music Camp", centered around Psalm 103:1. Through song, interactive Bible stories and hands on activities the children discovered what it means to worship the Lord. The Bible Memory Maker which will be given out at the end of this unit is a tambourine. It contains the words, "I praise the Lord with my whole heart." The next unit will be "In The Dog House". The Bible reference for this series of lessons is John 13:34.

Please consider joining our Sunday School team. We are looking for individuals who will substitute teach for all age levels. Contact Kris Vojnovich for more information..

Please keep the Sunday School team and children in your prayers



Attendance — August

Sunday 9:30 AM Worship	760
Wednesday Evening	78

TOTAL for August **838**

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Is pleased to invite you to our NEW speaker series. . .

What Does This Mean?

Where Does the Bible Come From and how do we know?

Rev. Dr. Nathan R. Jastram,
the chair of the Department of Theology
and Philosophy at Concordia University
in Mequon speaks about the topic

Sunday, October 4
6:30 pm—8 pm

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church
462 Meadowbrook Dr.
West Bend, WI 53090
262-334-0375

www.pilgrimlutheran-westbend.org

Sponsored by a grant from
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

October Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Laska is leading a new study that goes with our Consecrated Stewards emphasis. There will be guest leaders on October 4 and October 18. These studies will give us insight as to why a Christian gives back to God and to others. The study will meet in the Friendship Room from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. each Sunday. Some who attend are happy that they are able to just sit and listen without being put on the spot. Others are also happy knowing that their input is welcomed.

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. We are currently studying the Confessional Psalms. After ordering breakfast off the menu we will have a 45 minute study while we eat. 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.

New Life

We have begun a new offering of home Bible studies called "New Life Groups". Each is designed to be a once per month group. The initial meetings will be held in the Friendship Room so that we can be better organized. You should choose a group that fits with your schedule. They will all meet at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served and we will have a time for fellowship. The group times are as follows: third Monday of the month; second Tuesday of the month; and first Tuesday of the month. As enrollment increases, other times will be offered. All ages of adults are welcome to attend. Initially we are not set up to offer child care but that can certainly be an option for the future if there is an interest. Watch the bulletin for details on the location of the host home for subsequent months. Pastor Laska is launching these study groups. We will begin with an uplifting study on prayer. Some of the topics in the upcoming months will be: What is Prayer? What is an Acceptable Prayer? What Attitude Should I Have in Prayer? Will God Answer Me? When and Where Should I Pray? Where Can I Find Help in My Prayer Life? For What Should I Pray? What Does it Mean to Intercede in Prayer? What Will My Prayers look like and sound like?

Women's Bible Study

The women of our congregation will gather on October 22 for Bible study on prayer. Roberta Laska is the leader and the class will meet in the Friendship Room at 7:00 P.M. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend.

Special Ladies Bible Study for the Month of October

Grab a quick bite at home or bring a bag lunch and we will feast on our sandwiches and God's Word on Wednesday nights throughout October. This unique study opportunity will involve listening to a musical sound track with original music and narration, followed by a brief time of discussion. The group will meet at 6 p.m. in the Friendship Room, and will be finished by 7 p.m.

THE WITNESSES is the musical story of Peter and Paul and the birth of the church. A mix of original acoustic music and storytelling, this is a quilt of music including contemporary, traditional gospel, a little Caribbean and Latin, and even a spike of jazz. You will find the music reverent, exciting, and inspirational. We realize that this might be a sacrifice for your families to not have you at home during this time period. Perhaps it can be a paper plate night, or Dad can pitch in to make this special Bible study time workable. Roberta Laska will lead this group.

Consecrated Stewards

As part of the Consecrated Stewards stewardship emphasis, we will be having Consecration Sunday on October 11th at 10:00 AM. Our guest preacher will be Rev. John Leider. As a culmination of the program, we will be having a Celebration Luncheon on that day at 12 noon in the gym. Ham and rolls, potato salad, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Watch your mailbox for the reservation card. Please return to mailbox #121 or contact Chris Pannier at 994-9764 by October 6th so that we have an accurate count for the luncheon.

Birthdays

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

October 2 - Stephen Rathke

October 3 - Harriet Jentsch, Stephen Nytes

October 4 - Anne Rosso, Lynn Haase

October 5 - Ashley Horn, Harlow Reseburg II, Cole Guttman

October 6 - Paul Shelvik, Alyssa Winter

October 7 - Tera Vorpahl,

October 8 - Annette Spieker

October 10 - Wendy Treppish, Adam Drenitz, Kevin Tischer, Kyle Sanders

October 11 - Randy Heidemann, Jeff Kreuzinger

October 13 - Willis Stolper, Sharon Czysh, Steven Koepf

October 14 - Russ Warnock, Mary Lou Westerbeke

October 15 - Mark Schmitz, Amy Smith

October 16 - Jacqueline Ney, Nicole Muench

October 17 - Raymond Habeck, Sara Daggett

October 18 - Tessah Wright, Angela Guttman

October 20 - Doris Winter, Kathlyn Herms, Olivia Kappler

October 21 - Amy Voigt

October 22 - Tim Maas, Laura Koepf

October 23 - Doug Sveom, Isabella Broetzmann

October 24 - Sage Vorpahl

October 25 - Elinor Pannier, Tim Preder, Douaine Koepf, Valerie Root

October 27 - Tyler Spieker, Ben Zuengler, Anita Florencio

October 28 - Joel Goetsch, Debra Goedde, Brent Smith, Daniel Weiss

October 29 - Gloria Raess, Dolores Schroeder

October 31 - Gerald Johnson, Shawn Winter

Anniversaries

October 4 – M/M Brent Smith

October 5 –M/M Peter Mueller

October 7 - M/M Jack Schigur, M/M Isaac Ramirez,

M/M Matthew Becker

October 11 – M/M Norman Winter

October 12 – M/M Martin Vorpahl

October 15 – M/M Brian Reeder

October 16 – M/M Todd Robertson,

October 22 – M/M Steve Koepf, M/M Dan Memmel,

M/M Jonathan Veldboom

Stewardship and Missions

Consecrated Stewards - Please mark Sunday, Oct. 11th on your calendar as Consecration Sunday. There will be one worship service that Sunday at 10:00am. This will be followed by a celebration luncheon in the gym. The main dishes will be provided, but we would ask each family to provide a salad or dessert. Until then, our Consecrated Stewards Bible studies and sermon series continues. Plan on attending as many of these Sundays as possible.

Mission of the Month - We received a letter from Rev. Tom Fleischmann thanking us for the \$1290 from our August MoM. Our September MoM was for Rev. Mark Eckert and his family as he continues his fight against cancer. 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 - 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 will be on Saturday, Oct. 3rd, with rain date on the 10th. 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 —

7th Annual St. John Sherman Center Golf Outing

Businesses throughout the community donated \$100.00 or more to be a hole sponsor which advertised their company's name at a specific hole during the golf outing. A very **BIG** thank you goes out to the following businesses:

Boehlke Bottled Gas	\$100.00
Donna's Draperies	\$100.00
Hartmann Sand & Gravel	\$100.00
Burmesch Variety Store	\$100.00
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	\$250.00
Vorpahl Farms	\$100.00
Vorpahl Trucking	\$100.00
Sheboygan Chevrolet	\$100.00
Commerce State Bank	\$100.00
Village Barber Shop	\$100.00
St. John Lutheran School	\$100.00

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Members of the Church, local businesses, and sports teams throughout the state donated items to be used for prizes or for the silent auction. Another very **BIG** thank you goes out to the following people, organizations, and businesses for donating items:

Jodi Broetzmann -- One free oil change to Mueller's Sales & Service, Inc.

Don & Karen Pfeifer--Golf Balls, Golf Umbrella, Cooler, Coffee Mug

Brent Smith --Two framed NASCAR photos

One of Richard Petty with his autograph

One of Jeff Gordon

Greg Kohler--Caps, watches, club head covers

97.3 The Brew---CD's

FM 106.1--CD's

92.5 WBWI--CD's

St. John Lutheran School--Two \$25.00 Gift Certificates to Fleet & Farm, & four sweatshirts.

Trackside Auto--Two free oil changes

Matt Kenseth--Autographed picture

Pillars Bar, West Bend—TWO \$15.00 gift certificate

AUCTION ITEMS

-Margarita Gift Basket donated and made by Elaine Mueller

-Milwaukee Bucks---Two Tickets each worth \$96.00 and two V.I.P seats for the pre-game

-Wisconsin Timber Rattlers---Four Tickets to a 2010 game

-Green Bay Packers—One football autographed by the entire 2008 team

-Milwaukee Admirals---Four Tickets each worth \$16.00 to a 2009 game prior to Dec. 31.

-Car wash items: a 10" Polisher/Buffer, bucket, air freshener, ARMORALL, spray, etc. donated by

Connie Vorpahl

Forty-four golfers of all skill levels played in this year's event, and a good time was had by all. This year's outing generated \$1400.00. The money will go to support St. John Lutheran Church & School. Thanks again to all those who donated items for this year's event. Next year's outing is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, at West Bend Lakes Golf Course. Hope to see you out there next year. It really is a fun time!

In HIS name,

Mr. Kohler