

St. John Lutheran Church

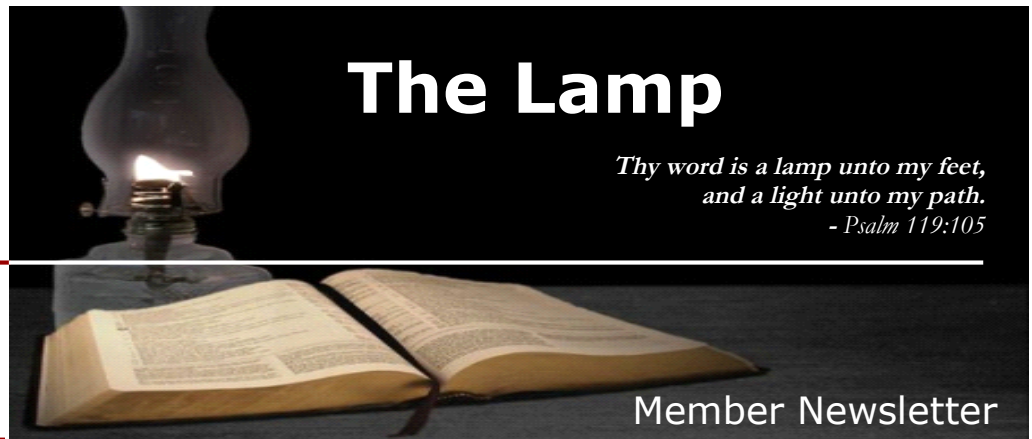
Random Lake, WI

March, 2010

Volume 2010 Issue 3

2010 Theme

"Every Soul A Treasure"



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been difficult to avoid the news coverage of the affairs of golfing star, Tiger Woods. Like you, I have often turned the channel because I do not care to hear the sordid details. Let me assure you that I have no intention of speaking about those details. However, I did catch the broadcast of his apology speech and heard about his rekindling of the faith of his youth. Here is exactly what Tiger said: "Part of following this path for me is Buddhism, which my mother taught me at a young age. People probably don't realize it, but I was raised a Buddhist, and I actively practiced my faith from childhood until I drifted away from it in recent years. Buddhism teaches that a craving for things outside ourselves causes an unhappy and pointless search for security. It teaches me to stop following every impulse and to learn restraint. Obviously, I lost track of what I was taught."

His statement is an accurate representation of the Buddhist point of view. Buddhists seek to live modest lives devoid of the cravings of the flesh. That corresponds exactly with our own Christian faith but it leaves us with no spiritual answers for making a change. But we can also say that there are many atheists who also aspire to live upright lives. The atheist and the Buddhist have no way to be relieved of their guilt and the eternal consequences of their sins.

Brit Hume, a national newsman and commentator, said a few weeks ago that Tiger and his wife, Elin, would find their best hope in the Christian faith. I concur with Mr. Hume for a number of reasons. Without Christ, Tiger Woods and all who sin will only be disappointed in themselves when their sinful behavior comes back. The people offended by their sins may not be willing to accept an apology no matter how sincerely it is given. Most important, is that God, who is perfect and holy, can not be in the presence for eternity with those who remain without forgiveness.

Because God knew that we would be hopeless without His help, He gave us the perfect remedy for our sin, namely His Son Jesus Christ. By believing in the atonement for our sins won by Christ on Calvary we are forgiven and are given the strength to forgive others.

King David, in the Old Testament, sinned much like Tiger Woods and even added the sin of murder to cover up his adultery. But after being confronted by the prophet, Nathan, King David went directly in prayer to the Lord for mercy. His words were not like Tiger's apology, but were a request for the undeserved mercy of God. We say them often in our Divine Service right after the sermon: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit." (Psalm 51:10-12)

There are times when we make the mistake that the answer to our sinful life is that I must try harder, be more dedicated, or watch the rules more closely. We dare not be deluded into thinking that what we need is a stronger dose of the law. Only the sweet and comforting Gospel, that Jesus paid the debt we owed, can bring us relief and renewal.

In service to Christ,

Pastor Greg Laska



Dear Friends at St. John—Sherman Center

Thank you so much for your kind generosity in designating my financial needs related to my medical condition for your month's mission offering. While it came as a total surprise, what does not surprise me are your thoughtful and gracious hearts.

I can tell you that your gift was received with a great deal of appreciation and thankfulness. On behalf of my family, as well as myself, I wish to heartily thank you for your expression of love and concern.

May God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Pastor Mark Eckert



Come Join the 2010 VBS Team

Snack Coordinator
Teacher or teacher helper
Taking photos of VBS activities
Prepare crafts by cutting, sorting, tracing, etc.

The planning has begun for the **"ALL MY SENSES"** VBS. The date will be July 26-30 and the time will be 8:30-11:30 a.m. Whether you are able to help before or during this week, we need you. Please consider sharing some of your time, talents, and ideas. Contact Kris Vojnovich at (920)838-2855 for more information. We hope that you will be able to join us as we plan for and host this memorable and fun event with the children.

THE CLAUSON FAMILY MUSIC SHOW

CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY BENEFIT CONCERT

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010—1:30 pm at the Weill Center

Sheboygan Theater - \$20.00 General Admission

(12—under \$10.00)

We have tickets available. Call Sandy at the

Church Office at 994-2228

Dear St. John Lutheran Church

Thank you for your most recent contribution in the amount of \$400.00 to A Place of Refuge Ministries. Your donation was received on January 6, 2010.

This ministry has been richly blessed by the Lord for over fifteen years. In fact, we have been able to help over 1,500 women choose life for their precious little ones. Our advocacy outreach continues to touch the greater number of women, letting them know that they are not alone. One of the great blessings of Refuge House is that we are able to help the moms get on their feet with parenting skills, employment preparation, and above all, in their relationship with the Lord. What a joy it is to see the baptisms of babies, and their mothers too. God is truly working through APOR in a very special way.

May almighty God richly bless you and your loved ones in every way.

In His exciting service,

Trish Kagerbauer, Development Director

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MUFFINS FOR MISSIONS

Due to the celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week on Sunday, March 7th, the LWML ladies will be having their "Muffins for Missions" on Sunday, March 14th at both services again. Watch for the goodies in the narthex. We received \$178.00 from our February "Muffins for Missions". Thank you so much for your continued support and to everyone for their baked goods.

Attendance — January

Sunday 8:00 AM Worship	345
Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	647
Wednesday Evening	58

TOTAL for January **1050**

March Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning

Pastor Laska is teaching a new study that is entitled: "The Big Picture". The class meets each Sunday from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. in the Friendship Room. This is a basic study of the major stories in the Old Testament. Those who are long time students of God's Word will appreciate how this study puts together the basic story line of Bible History. 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! Please note that on **March 7** our class will be from 8:45 to 9:45 A.M. because there will be only one service on that day as we celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week.

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 "Seven Letters". We will be studying the seven letters that were revealed to John that were addressed to seven churches in Asia. Many of the points in those seven letters can apply to our own times and our own ministry. 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 and Emmanuel Adell 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

The women of our congregation gather each fourth Thursday of the month for Bible study and support of missions in our LCMS. On March 25th we will have as our guests, Paul and Ali Federwitz. **Everyone** is welcome to hear how God works in their lives to carry out His mission to the people in Ghana, West Africa. Join us at 7:00 PM in the Friendship Room.

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 Ed and Bev Liermann, on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 P.M. or the at the home of Jason and Connie Vorpahl on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 P.M. Call them if you need directions. Pastor Laska will be leading each of these groups.

Birthdays

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

March 1 - Laura Cirra, Zachary Rost

March 3 - Heather Grosskoph, Bryce Kohler

March 5 - Jenae Girard, Laycie Ramirez

March 6 - Ken Guidinger

March 7 - Jeremy Mueller

March 9 - Trevor Horn, Wayne Sramek

March 13 - Randy Jentsch

March 14 - Brady Fick

March 15 - Jean Vorpahl

March 16 - Paige Maas, Carter Warnock,
Ashton Root, Kaylee Becker

March 17 - Arthur Suelflow, Austin Sveom

March 18 - Isaac Veldboom

March 19 - Scott Titel, Braden Weiss

March 20 - Marion Heidemann, Chase Koepf

March 22 - Richard Vorpahl

March 23 - Alexis Schipper

March 24 - Faith Laska, Jarod Treppish,
Payton Vorpahl, Greta Vorpahl

March 25 - Dale Becker, Alycia Preder, Jessica Wilburn

March 26 - Kyle Yekenewicz

March 27 - Doug Hartmann

March 28 - Philip Melius

March 29 - Mandy Tischer, Dawson Beal, Paul Geib

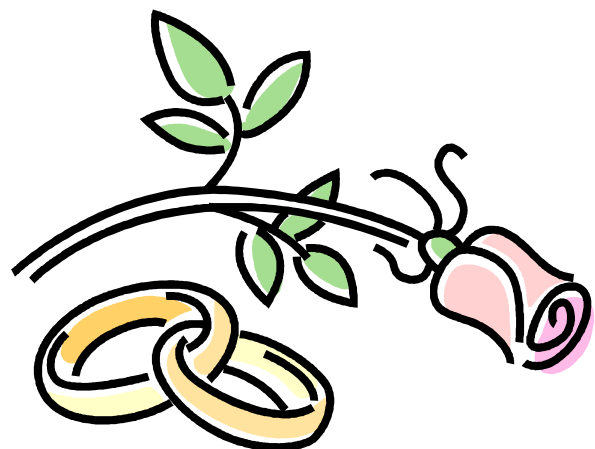
March 31 - Kelsie Ernst, Kyle Pfeifer, David Yankunas,
Tina Jones

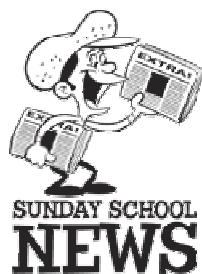


Anniversaries

March 2 - Stephen & Debbie Shelvik

March 20 - Jan & Donna Borgwardt





Come Join Us at Sunday School

Whether your child is able to attend every week or occasionally, he/she is always welcome to join us at Sunday School. Encourage a friend to come explore God’s Word through Bible Stories, object lessons, and hands on activities.

During the month of February the children explored the theme of giving to the next generation. Some of the discussions included: what it means to be the “salt of the earth”, have a happy heart, and how to be helping hands to others. They also took part of a special outreach project, by making Valentines for college students. In total 15 boxes were sent.

The next series of lessons will focus on the Easter Good News, with the key Bible verses being : “God demonstrates His own love for us in this-While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8; and “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9. On March 21st the children will be sharing the Easter message with the residents of Gables on the Pond. They will be performing “Jesus Little Lamb” through music and drama. The same program will be shared with the congregation on March 28th during the 10:30 AM service.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the parents and friends who helped us with our special outreach project. We had helpers collect names and addresses of college students. Thank you for donating boxes, and lots of cookies. We appreciate your help, and couldn’t have done it without your support.

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

Treasurer's Report as of 1/31/10

1/12 Current Budget	\$42,179.37
1 mo. Current Receipts	\$ 44,222.13
Bill Tree (included in numbers above)	\$0.00
Matching Funds (includes in numbers above)	\$0.00
1 mo. Disbursements	\$42,487.43
mission disbursements Haiti	\$1,100.00
Unpaid Bills as of 2/18/10	\$11,906.11
Line of Credit Balance as of 2/19/10	\$32,000.00
Mortgage Balance	\$177,023.90
Private Loans Balance	\$100,000.00
Budget through 6/10	\$253,076.22

While January looks good February is not going well. As you can see since the end of January we have had to borrow \$7000 from the LOC to make the Feb. 15th payroll and there are unpaid bills of almost \$12,000.00.

Stewardship and Missions

Financial Report

As you can see from the Treasurer's report in the newsletter, our finances are quickly deteriorating.

This can be seen in the decline in our weekly current weekly offerings below:

1/3	\$6,074.00	Our envelope offerings since the end of January have been down drastically.
1/10	\$9,525.00	Our unpaid bills amount was at \$5,000.00 at the end of January and has
1/17	\$6,475.00	quickly increased to \$11,906.11. With the funds needed to meet payroll,
1/24	\$3,841.00	we have had to borrow another \$7,000.00 on our line of credit. This brings
1/31	\$5,144.00	the outstanding balance on our line of credit to \$32,000.00. It is evident that
2/7	\$4,655.00	action needs to be taken before we max it out. See info below on the formation
2/14	\$2,770.00	of Finance and Fundraising Committees.

Finance Committee - We are looking for 7-9 members to serve on this standing committee under the board. You would be involved in all aspects of the congregation's finances including budgeting. This committee would work closely with the Treasurer. Contact Don Pfeifer at 994-4983.

Fundraising Committee - Regular giving makes up just 70% of our income. Even more striking, it made up only 57% of our expenses in 2009. We need to look at increasing our outside income, while we continue to do faith raising in our regular giving. We are looking at a core group of 8-10 members with many more willing to serve as needed. They will look at building on current fundraisers and developing new opportunities. Contact Don Pfeifer at 994-4983.

Mission of the Month - Our March MoM will be Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School. Our commitment to LHS is \$7,072.02 for this fiscal year of January - June, 2010. Please continue to use your monthly missions envelope for MoM. January - \$915 for Chaplaincy & \$1100 for Haiti.

Year-round Stewardship Programs

Food Drive - The March emphasis is **potatoes**. This can be any kind, including boxed. As always, any and all food donations are greatly appreciated.

Greene's Fundraiser - just a reminder to use your yellow St. John's card when getting a fish fry at Greene's Bar & Grill on Friday nights. John will donate \$1 from each dinner to our congregation.

**Christian Stewardship is the FREE and JOYOUS activity
of the child of God and God's family, the Church,
In managing all of life and life's resources
For God's purposes**



Evangelism Committee News

THANK YOU: We would like to thank all those who helped with the 2nd Annual Care and Share outreach project. As a result of many working together 25 boxes were delivered.

Fellowship Event: Mark your calendar for Saturday May 1, 2010



Time: 7pm

Location: School Gym

Cost: Advanced Tickets \$8 At the Door \$10

Looking for a night out? Love to laugh?
Want to do something fun with the whole family?

Invite your friends and neighbors

Fish Sticks is squeaky-clean, side-splittingly funny improv comedy. Each of the Sticks is a current or former player/comedian from Comedy Sportz in Milwaukee.

On site child care will be provided by the youth group for a monetary donation toward their youth gathering. Watch the bulletin for ticket purchasing information.

Please contact any member of the Evangelism Committee for more information.

Donna Borgwardt

Ron and Joan Vorpahl

Mardell Schulz

Kris Vojnovich

Elaine Veldboom