

St. John Lutheran Church

Random Lake, WI

April, 2011

Volume 2011 Issue 4

2011 Theme

"Rooted in Christ"

The Lamp

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.
- Psalm 119:105*

Member Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of you are well aware that our new Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, has been boldly leading our church body to show our compassion for the people of other lands with our actions and our prayers. In the aftermath of the terrible earthquake, aftershocks, tsunami and nuclear power plant crises facing the nation of Japan, Dr. Harrison has opened the opportunities for us to directly support the work of Lutheran Pastors and their congregations in Japan.

According to Rev. Manabu Wakabayashi, "Our greatest concern is the nuclear power plant crisis in Fukushima." Wakabayashi is pastor of Shirone Lutheran Christ Church in Niigata, Japan, and a 2002 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Niigata is about 120 miles west of the devastating March 11 earthquake's epicenter and the nuclear power plant disabled by the disaster.

I encourage those who are able to become part of our synod wide effort to send support and resources. Yes, I know that we have financial challenges right here but on the other side of the world there are people who have no home, no job and other are without hope. The government of Japan has issued evacuation orders to residents within several kilometers of the nuclear crisis, though "many people in Fukushima began to evacuate to other places by their own judgment," Wakabayashi wrote. Some have traveled to Niigata, where Wakabayashi and his family live. While most are taking shelter in public buildings, members of Wakabayashi's church believe that they will soon be asked to take evacuees into their own homes until the nuclear problem is solved. Wakabayashi and his wife intend to remain in Niigata with his church and its members. "The crisis level is getting worse, but we still have hope. We have Jesus Christ, the Lord Almighty who says, 'Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me' (Psalm 50:15)."

But help from those countries is beginning to arrive. American rescue teams are now on the scene accompanied by rescue dogs. "We Japanese thank many countries, including the USA, for sending rescue teams to Japan," wrote Wakabayashi. "They are cooperating with the Japanese government in order to rescue survivors." He wrote of the rising numbers of deaths in Japan, as well as those in shelters and missing. As of March 18, news outlets reported 6,911 deaths, and that 380,000 people were in shelters, with another 10,316 missing. "Many survivors," Wakabayashi noted, "are searching for their missing family members."

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Member of -
THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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Despite the tenuous situation, he remains hopeful because we serve a savior who has already conquered the devil, the world and our sinful flesh. Indicating that no time has been wasted in repairing the Japanese infrastructure, he is heartened by the fact that "the rebuilding has started." To contribute toward the LCMS response to the Japan earthquake and tsunami: mail checks (noting "Japan Disaster Relief" in the memo line) to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. You can also call toll-free 888-930-4438. For those of you who are internet savvy you can make donations online at by going to our Synod website at www.lcms.org/help

In Service to Christ,



Pastor Greg Laska

Easter Breakfast

The Youth Group will be hosting a continental Easter Breakfast between and after services on Easter-Sunday, April 24th in the Friendship Room. Baked goods, fruit, coffee and juice will be served for a free will donation. All money raised will be used to offset expenses to attend the National Youth Gathering.

We are looking for donations of baked goods, and continental breakfast items to serve. If you are willing to donate any items, please bring to the Friendship Room on Saturday morning between 10 AM and noon, or on Sunday morning.

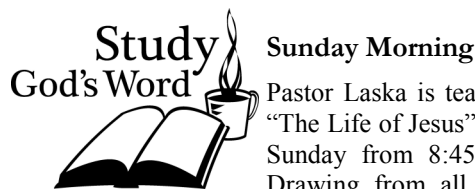
If you have any questions, please contact Chris Pannier at 920-994-9764 or Anne Rosso at 920-994-2614.

Attendance — February

Sunday 8:00 AM Worship	245
Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	328
Wednesday Evening	47
Contemporary	53

TOTAL for February **673**

April Adult Bible Study Opportunities



Pastor Laska is teaching a class entitled, "The Life of Jesus". The class meets each Sunday from 8:45 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. Drawing from all four of the Gospels, Pastor covers key events in the life of Jesus that lead up to the cross and empty tomb. This class will involve some small group discussion and it will feature many of the pictures and personal experiences that Pastor Laska had with his wife, Roberta, this past summer during their mission trip to Israel. Pastor is also teaching a parallel curriculum in our Lutheran elementary school throughout the year so this will be an excellent opportunity for parents of our students to be studying these topics at the same time. There will be coffee ready and a friendly group of other adults for fellowship. The class will not meet on Palm Sunday, April 17 due to Confirmation that Sunday and the class will also not meet on Easter Sunday, April 24.

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 on the Gospel of Luke. His account focuses upon the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus, upon the role of the Holy Spirit, and upon seeking and saving the lost. 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 are in a new study on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. The early church went through some of the same problems that we experience today, so this will be a very helpful study and will last at least several months. Men and women of all ages are welcome to attend. The class will not meet on Maundy Thursday, April 21.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study will be held in the Music Room in the School at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 7. The women of our congregation gather each first Thursday of the month for Bible Study and for support of missions through the LWML. Mrs. Roberta Laska is leading this study.

Birthdays

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

April 1 Joshua Treppish, Mary Smith

April 2 Marian Eschrich

*April 3 Ryan Sommer, Dylan Sveom, Tom
Maxwell, Morgan Veldboom*

April 4 Julie Depies

April 5 Jeremy Sauter, Abriel Habeck, Ron Depies

April 7 Jolene Kohlwey, Jemma Schwab

*April 8 Deborah Burmesch, Ross Spieker,
Elaine Veldboom, Patty Bichler,
Kathy Mielke, Samuel Rusch*

*April 9 Delores Sramek, Janice Koepp,
Jared Parker*

April 10 Magdalene Lochman

April 11 Michelle Rusch

*April 12 Jennifer Rortvedt, Tim Winter,
Abigal Drewitz, Stephanie West*

April 13 Hunter Parker

April 14 Allen Muench, Jacqueline Rathke

April 15 Jerome Veldboom, Sandy Maxwell

*April 16 Jennifer Backhaus, Lisa Voigt,
Julie Kappler, Sam Kopplin*

April 17 Zachary Koepp, Ella Winter

April 20 Brenda Goedde, Dick Horn

April 21 Jessica Treppish, Daniel Peters

April 22 Wendye Girard

*April 23 Dan Stolper, Makaila Daggett,
Serena Smith*

April 24 Linda Maas, Lorelai Haase, Susan Kopplin

April 25 Eric Backhaus, Janis Liepert,

April 26 John Richter, Rocky Risse, Dale Rosso

April 27 Ron Vorpahl, Scott Hoogester

April 28 Miranda Drewitz, Garret Depies

April 29 Janet Jentsch, Ryan Klumb



Anniversaries

April 2 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Krueger

April 13 Mr. & Mrs. Craig Broetzmann

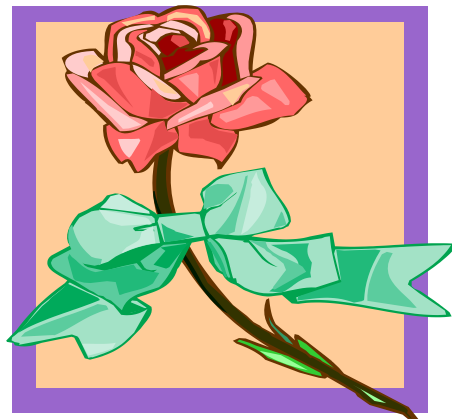
April 13 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Burmesch

April 15 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Lochman

April 18 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Winter

April 26 Mr. & Mrs. Philip Melius

April 30 Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Horn



Stewardship and Missions April 2011

Mission of the Month - Our April mission of the month is the Sheboygan County Chaplaincy ministry. This local ministry led by Rev. Tom Fleischmann receives no monetary support from the District or Synod. It thus relies on local support from congregations and individuals. Please continue to support this important mission work by using your monthly mission envelope.

Catch-Up Envelope - You have received an envelope in your church mailbox to use for an extra offering to help us catch up on or current deficit. The following numbers are for the first six months of fiscal 2010-2011 (July 1st - January 31st). Income = \$234,062 Expenses = \$282,322 Deficit = \$48,260. Your catch-up offering should be over and above your regular weekly offering and may be placed in the offering plate at any service. Be creative, consider your tax refund or a dividend check as an example. Anything you can offer is greatly needed and greatly appreciated. Extra envelopes will be available in the narthex. Thank you!

Elections - The Board is looking to fill three positions at the upcoming Voters' Meeting on May 23rd. Board terms are for three years. If you might be interested in finding out more about serving on the Board of Stewardship & Missions, contact Don Pfeifer at 994-4983.

Finance Committee - The committee has received projected needs from the Boards for the 2011-12 fiscal budget. Please keep the committee in your prayers as they work with the Boards and Council to complete this task to present for Voter approval.

Fundraising Committee - Thanks to all who attended or participated in our 1st annual Bean Bag Toss Tournament. Fun was had by all. Also thanks to all the congregation members who bought the leftovers after church on Sunday. We sold out all the brats and hamburgers. We should have the final results in soon. Proceeds will go toward the church budget.

Food Pantry - The April food emphasis is **peanut butter and jelly**. Non-food items are also still needed. Things such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant,...etc. We will continue to feature a different food product each month of 2011. You can place your items in the bin marked "food pantry" in the narthex or drop them off at any alternate site: Random Lake - Tripar, the library, Harris Bank, or The Sounder. Adell - Adell Mini Mart. Cedar Grove - Piggly Wiggly. For more information call Deb Naumann, Food Pantry Director, at 994-4186.

Thrivent Members - to date the church and school have received over \$2000 from the Thrivent Choice program. Did you know you can designate to have your dollars automatically go to our church or school? Call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice".

**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**



As we look forward to the month of April, our thoughts turn toward Spring and the celebration of our Lord's victory over sin, death and the devil for us. The Sunday School lessons for this month will help the children explore and experience the events surrounding the Good News of God's great love and promise fulfilled. Unfortunately, the children will not be sharing this Good News with the residents of Gables on the Pond or with the congregation. We are thankful for the opportunity to share God's Word with the small number of children who attend Sunday School, but many have not returned since the Christmas Break. This is an event that the Children and Sunday School Team enjoy, along with those whom we share the Good News, and we are deeply saddened. We are planning to try it again next year.

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

Evangelism Committee News

THANK YOU! We would like to thank all those who have filled out the Small Group Ministry survey. The small groups that most people were interested in include: Christian Book Club, Diners Club, Historical Group, Home Bible Study, Movie Night, Open Gym, Photography, Recreation Night, Senior Citizen Group, and Young Adult Group. Groups will be started with the help of those who have shown an interest in each ministry area, but all are welcome to join. It will take time to form these groups however. We have a goal of starting one group per month. Please watch future newsletters for start dates and times. If you have not turned in your survey card yet, you may still do so..

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for the many cards and visits to our Mother while she lived at Meadowview Manor Nursing Home. Thank you also for the many food donations, flowers and memorial gifts donated at her funeral. Thank you to Rev. Greg Laska for all the visits to her and for the beautiful service he gave. Also, thank you to Mrs. Marlene Broetzmann for the beautiful music at her funeral. The family of Beatrice Scholz.

Eileen and Gus Jentsch & family
 Roger and Sherry Scholz & family
 Rodney Scholz & family

YOUTH GROUP APRIL EVENTS

April 9—Contemporary Service (be at church by 5:30 PM)

April 16— Highway Clean Up (meet in east church parking lot by 9:00 AM)

April 24—Easter Breakfast in Friendship Room