

St. John Lutheran Church

Random Lake, WI

March, 2011

Volume 2011 Issue 3

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,

A TV news story late last year talked about people who could remember every day of their lives, even to the point of remembering what they ate that day. I mentioned this in one of my recent sermons. But I was thinking about how I remember certain days vividly because of the momentous nature of what happened on that day. Most of us can remember where we were when we first heard a particular life changing news story. We remember who was with us and perhaps, you may even remember what meals you ate on that day. Some of you remember where you were when the announcement came that the war against Germany ended and then the end of the war with Japan. Those who are my age or older can remember where you were when you heard the news about the Kennedy assassination. I remember how my teacher wept when the Principal told us that our President was dead. Those who are younger can recall where they were on September 11, 2001 as the twin towers fell in New York. The places of those memories are etched forever in our minds.

The passion suffering, death, and burial of Jesus are marked by some distinct locations in and around Jerusalem. Each place was like a stage that had been set by the Father in heaven and a scene unfolded that had been long prophesied and expected. Throughout the season of Lent, I will be preaching a Sermon Series entitled, "Scenes of the Passion" at each of the Wednesday night Lenten Services. Here is an overview of how that series will unfold:

March 9 Scene 1 Gethsemane

Jesus leads His disciples outside of the Jerusalem walls across the Kidron Valley to the foot of the Mount of Olives. He had begun His public ministry by fasting and praying in the desert for forty days and He begins His passion, suffering and death by praying in a garden of olive trees near an olive press. Can we pray with Him one hour?

March 16 Scene 2 High Priest's Courtyard

Jesus is taken by those who arrested Him to the home of the High Priest where false charges are issued against Jesus. While Jesus is mocked by the men who had been always harassing Him, the Apostle Peter vehemently denies knowing Jesus and Jesus hears the denial. What does Jesus hear us saying about Him?

March 23 Scene 3 Pilate's Court

Jesus is turned over to the Roman Governor who can not appreciate who Jesus is and the governor can't figure out what to do with Jesus. What have you done with this Jesus, who has come into your life?

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Missouri Synod

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March 30 Scene 4 Way of Sorrows

From Pilate’s Court to the place of His execution Jesus is seen by those who had been following Him, by those who had mocked Him and even by some who knew nothing about Him. A rough timbered cross is carried on His bare shoulders that have been scourged. What can His “Way of Sorrows” teach us about how to handle our adversities?

April 6 Scene 5 Golgotha

Arriving at the foreboding “Place of the Skull”, Jesus is crucified between two thieves and mocked by many. His work is finished on the cross even though the people present did not comprehend how this scene could change all people for all time. How has Christ crucified changed you?

April 13 Scene 6 Garden Tomb

Near the place where Jesus died was a garden and within that garden a new tomb that would hold the precious body of our Savior. How do the three days of His body lying in the tomb comfort us as we wait for the day when we emerge with glorified bodies?

Each Wednesday in Lent will begin at 5:30 P.M. with a Lenten Supper served by various volunteers in our School gymnasium. At 6:45 P.M. we gather in church for a hymn sing. Our service follows at 7:00 P.M. and there will be some special music to enhance our worship and reflection upon God’s Word. Please bring your friends and family and join us for this special opportunity to experience the person and work of our Savior, Jesus.

In Service to Christ,

Pastor Greg Laska

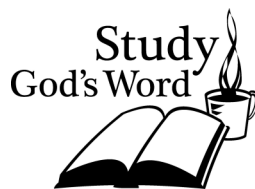


Attendance — January

Sunday 8:00 AM Worship	297
Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	438
Wednesday Evening	100
Contemporary	56

TOTAL for January **891**

March Adult Bible Study Opportunities



Sunday Morning

Pastor Laska is teaching a class entitled, “The Life of Jesus”. The class meets each Sunday from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 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.

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 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 Adell 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.

Women’s Bible Study

The Women’s Bible study will be held in the Friendship Room at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 3. 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 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.

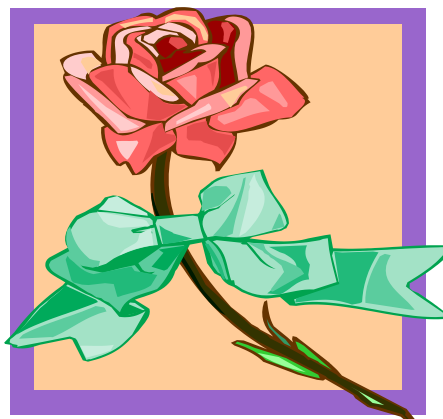
March 1 - Laura Cirra, Zachary Rost
March 3 - Heather Grosskoph, Bryce Kohler
March 5 - Jenae Girard, Laycie Ramirez
March 6 - Ken Guidinger
March 7 - Jeremy Mueller
March 9 - Trevor Horn
March 13 - Randy Jentsch, Ella Rusch
March 14 - Brady Fick
March 15 - Jean Vorpahl
March 16 - Paige Maas, Carter Warnock, Ashton Root, Kaylee Becker
March 17 - Austin Sveom, Becky Ninmann
March 18 - Isaac Veldboom

March 19 - Scott Titel, Braden Weiss
March 20 - Marion Heidemann, Chase Koepp, Haiden Mackey
March 22 - Richard Vorpahl
March 23 - Alexis Schipper
March 24 - Faith Laska, Jarod Treppish, Payton Vorpahl, Greta Vorpahl, Camden Sveom
March 25 - Dale Becker, Alycia Preder, Jessica Wilburn
March 26 - Kyle Yekenewicz
March 27 - Doug Hartmann, Abigail Depies
March 28 - Philip Melius
March 29 - Mandy Tischer, Dawson Beal, Paul Geib
March 31 - Kelsie Ernst, Kyle Pfeifer, David Yankunas



Anniversaries

March 2 - Stephen & Debbie Shelvik
March 20 - Jan & Donna Borgwardt



Stewardship and Missions March 2011

Mission of the Month - Our March mission is Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School. While we are no longer members of the Lutheran High association, there remains a strong commitment among our members to LHS. Please use your monthly mission envelope found in your 2011 offering box and place it in the offering plate.

Catch-Up Envelope - You will be receiving 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. 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. Our next meeting will be jointly with the Board of Stewardship on March 10th. 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 - Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19th for the 1st Annual Bean Bag Toss Tournament & Brat Fry. It runs from 9am to 5pm at Amore's in Plymouth. We are looking for 2 person teams to sign up and volunteers to work a shift for the day. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Come and watch the fun and have a brat or burger. Call Karen Borkenhagen at 920-889-0806 with questions.

Food Pantry - The March food emphasis is **potatoes**. 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 - You have until March 31st to designate your 2010 Thrivent Choice dollars to our church or school. Not sure how to do this? Call Don Pfeifer at 994-4983. In 2010 we received \$1293 and \$1336 so far in 2011. These are dollars paid by Thrivent, but you must direct them. It costs only your time.

**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 March, we would like to remind all parents, that **Sunday School will meet from 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, March 13.** We will return to our normal start time on Sunday, March 20.

The children are continuing to explore God's Word through Bible stories and hands on activities. On April 10th, they will have the opportunity to share the Easter Good News with the residents of Gables on the Pond. Afterward, the children will be sharing the same program with our congregation.

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

Centurion Marketplace

Mark your calendar for the first ever *Centurion Marketplace*, sponsored by the Youth Group. Saturday, June 25, 2011. Reserve your spot to sell your featured crafts or products. Reserve by March 15th for the early bird price of \$25 a table (additional tables \$15). The best part is you keep 100% of the proceeds from what you sell. The Youth will be selling brats and burgers, and baked goods. All proceeds to support Youth events. For further information, or to reserve your space, contact Chris Panier at 994-9764.

YOUTH GROUP MARCH EVENTS

March 12—Contemporary Service (be at church by 5:30 PM)

March 16– Lenten Dinner (meet in school kitchen at 4:00 PM)

March 20—Bible Study (Mr. Wegner's house at 9:15 AM)