

St. John Lutheran Church

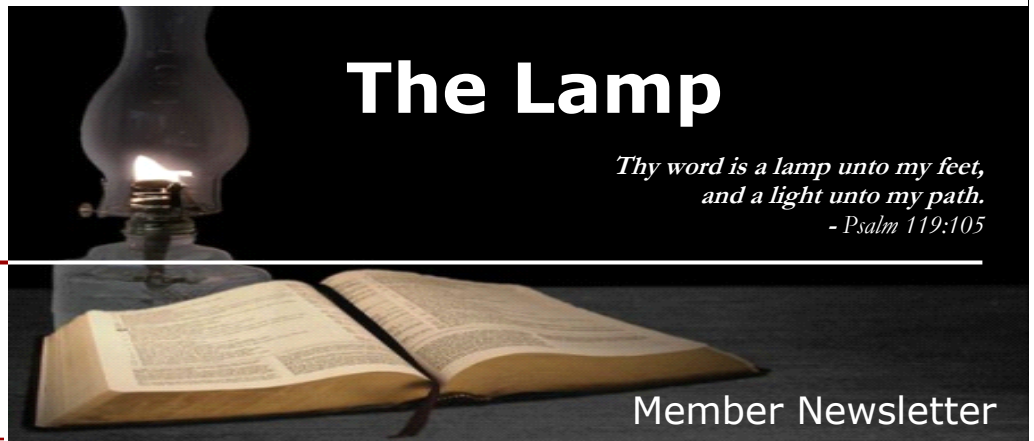
Random Lake, WI

May, 2011

Volume 2011 Issue 5

2011 Theme

"Rooted in Christ"



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the easiest things to do when we see that things are not going the way we want them to go, is to complain. That happened often when God's people were traveling and camping in the Sinai desert before they entered the land God had promised to give them. God often chastised them for their complaints and even caused them to wait an extra 38 years so that those who finally did enter the land would be in the center of His will. What they should have been doing instead was going before God's throne of grace and mercy in prayer.

Some 500 years later, King Solomon completed the building of a temple in Jerusalem to the honor and glory of God. As Solomon prayed he also received an important message from God regarding the importance of a nation coming together in prayer: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV) That verse sets the tone for us also here in 2011 as we come together as a nation for our National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5. It is not necessary that we all gather in the same location but it is important that we gather in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Praying together as a nation has been important in our country way before we were even a collection of colonies. We have always needed the help of the Lord for guidance, strength, wisdom and especially His grace. Our founding fathers called for prayer during the Constitutional Convention. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection, and that was through prayer.

Nearly a century later, President Abraham Lincoln demonstrated that he knew this well. It was his belief that, "it is the duty of nations as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God." When it came to the fate of the nation, he practiced what he preached. Before the battle of Gettysburg, he turned to God in prayer. "I went to my room one day and I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg." Won by the Union, Gettysburg was one of the turning points in the war that ended slavery and kept the states united. Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality, economic shortfalls, and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, we must again bow our heads in prayer. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If the Pilgrims, the founding fathers and Lincoln never underestimated the power of prayer, neither should we.

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Member of -
THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

(continued from page 1)

I encourage each of you along with your family and friends to participate in the National Day of Prayer. I pray that the event impacts your life, and that praying for our nation moves from a one day event to a lifetime endeavor. So join others on the first Thursday in May and pray with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

In service to Christ,



Pastor Greg Laska

BAPTISM

Morgan Julia Brody

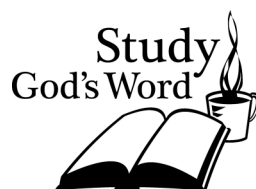
Born: February 14, 2011 Baptized: March 27, 2011

Celebration to Eternal Life

Colleen Daniels

May 4, 1954 March 22, 2011

May Adult Bible Study Opportunities



Sunday Morning

Pastor Laska is teaching an important new class entitled in May on the topic of "Personal Evangelism". If you have often struggled with how you might serve as a witness for Christ then this class can be very helpful. Pastor Laska will be giving abundant practical tips on sharing the basic elements of our Christian faith as well as emphasizing key Scripture that will help. This four part class meets each Sunday from 8:45 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. This class will involve some small group discussion and Pastor will demonstrate different conversational situations. 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. Because of Pastor Seifferlein being on vacation during the first week of May, the class on May 5 will be led by Pastor Laska and will meet in our Friendship Room.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study will be held in the Friendship Room at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, May 5. 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.

Attendance — March

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship	718
Wednesday Evening	314
Contemporary	63

TOTAL for March **1095**

Birthdays

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

May 3 - Lindsay Scholz, Kevin Zimmermann

May 4 - Jonathan Robertson

May 6 - Melissa Sommer, Connie Mallmann

May 8 - Brian Maas, Carmen Schallock

May 10 - Karen Pfeifer, Rebecca Boehlke

May 12 - James Goetsch, Dennis Hartmann, Beverly Liermann,
Aislin Fitzgerald

May 13 - Joe Peters, Anika Preder, Crystal Schroeder

May 14 - Joshua Vorpahl, Karen Vorpahl,
Maxwell Broetzmann

May 15 - Katelynn Villarreal

May 17 - Allen Zimmer, Savanna Brooks

May 20 - Barbara Schallock

May 21 - Vicki Blecher

May 22 - Pamela Staaben

May 23 - Cody Preder, Samantha Rosso, Dave Mielke

May 24 - Catherine Port

May 25 - David Guidinger, Oliver Trice, Cassandra Sveom

May 26 - Rosalie Klug

May 27 - Aspen Boehlke, Braxton Boehlke, Colton Boehlke

May 28 - Elroy Herms

May 30 - Jeremy Horn

May 31 - Julie Ney, Kim Johnson



Anniversaries

May 1 - M/M Rocky Risse

May 4 - M/M Joe Peters, M/M Barry Boehlke

May 5 - M/M Jerod Wollner

May 11 - M/M Jason Vorpahl

May 17 - M/M David Horn

May 18 - M/M Dowaine Koepf

May 21 - M/M Eddie Krause, M/M John Richter,
M/M Michael Czynsb

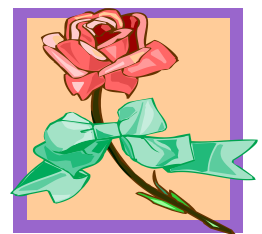
May 22 - M/M Eugene Raess

May 26 - M/M Don Pfeifer

May 27 - M/M Ryan Noll

May 28 - M/M Gary Jentsch

May 30 - M/M Raymond Habeck



Stewardship and Missions May 2011

Mission of the Month - Our May mission of the month is “A Place of Refuge” district ministry. This ministry gives needed support to women who are pregnant and on their own. See a brochure on our visitor center for more information. Please continue to support this important mission work by using your monthly mission envelope.

SWD Mission Advocate - Bob Mason, our South Wisconsin District mission advocate attended our April Board meeting. He updated us on new mission projects that are happening in our district. We will be considering these, along with continuing district missions, for future Missions of the Month. Watch for more info on the new missions in the June newsletter.

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 - The results are in! Over \$2000 was generated by this first time fundraiser. \$1500 was given to the church operating fund and \$542 to the Youth Group toward the next National Youth Gathering and other activities. Great job Karen Borkenhagen & Nancy Ernst and crew!

Food Pantry - The May food emphasis is **breakfast cereals**. 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**

Announcing VBS 2011 Miracle Scene Investigation (MSI)

Mark Your Calendar!
July 25-29

During this fun packed week of crafts, games, music, and snacks, all children ages 3- 11 years, will take on the role of a “MSI” investigator. Each day the children will actively participate in reconstructing one of five miracle scenes, which are found in the Bible. They will discover how facts, witnesses, God’s love and faith come together.

The planning for this week of events has begun, but I need your help. There is a need for four head investigators (teachers); many helpers, possibly people willing to act as Bible Characters; Someone to take photos (camera will be provided); helpers to prepare crafts ahead of time,; decorating helper; snack helpers; etc. **Please contact Kris Goedde at: 920-838-2855 for more information.**

Evangelism Committee News

The Evangelism Committee is starting a number of small group ministries. The first one is the Diner’s Club which met on April 30th and will meet again in May. Watch the bulletins for date and time. More small group ministries will be developed in the next few months.

YOUTH GROUP MAY EVENTS

May 7—Plant Sale (meet in gym lobby by 9:00 AM)

May 14—Contemporary Service (be at church by 5:30 PM)

LWML News

The 34th Biennial Convention of the LWML is just around the corner. It will be held in Peoria, IL on June 23rd-26th. I will be attending as a representative from our group. The convention involves many servant activities. One such event I will participate in is "Mission in Motion". It is a Pledge Walk/Exercise held on Sat. June 25th starting at 6:30 am. Anyone wanting to pledge is welcome. This money supports the missions of the LWML.

There will also be an "in-gathering" for all churches to participate. Below you will find the information on "The Gifts from the Heart". Anyone wanting to donate to this cause may do so as I will take them with me. You may bring them to my classroom anytime the childcare is open, or give them to me on Sunday mornings. I am grateful to our LWML group for the scholarship granted me for this event. I know this will be a heart moving event and I plan to bring stories back to share.

Visit www.lwml.org for more details.

In His service, Barb Schallock

Gifts from the Heart

Your Gifts from the Heart will be given to agencies in the Peoria area and to the Orphan Grain Train. Convention participants may bring these items in unlimited quantities. **NO MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED** for Gifts from the Heart at the convention.

Quilts—any size for Orphan Grain Train (pack in heavy duty plastic bag)

New Bath Towel/Hand Towel/Washcloth (pack in a clear plastic zip lock bag)

1 Bath Towel, 1 Hand Towel, 1 Washcloth, 1 Christian Tract or Bible Verse (inside the bag)

Men's, Women's, and Children's Underwear in the Original Packaging (label correctly) 1 Christian Tract or Bible Verse (securely taped onto package)

New Children's Picture Bibles (English) or Arch Books

Kits—Men, Women, or Children (mark which one) All items are to be NEW and regular size—not travel size (pack in a clear plastic zip lock bag)

MEN: men's socks, stick deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrush, bar of soap, 1 Christian Tract or Bible Verse (inside the bag)

WOMEN: women's socks, stick deodorant, hand or body cream, toothbrush, bar of soap, 1 Christian Tract or Bible Verse (inside the bag)

CHILDREN: children's socks, box of 8 crayons, safety scissors, Christian coloring Book, Christian story book, toothbrush (inside the bag)

“Just As He Said”



“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” Matthew 28:1, 5-6

The dawn of a new day brings many thoughts to mind. What shall I wear? What will I fix for breakfast? I have to get ready for...and the mental list goes on. For the two Marys, the dawn of a new day after seeing the agony, brutal death, and lifeless body of Jesus being placed in a tomb, was one they would rather not face. Sorrow and fear filled their hearts as they walked to the tomb to anoint

Jesus’ body with oils and spices. The peace and joy in their hearts from hearing the Master speak forgiveness and love was replaced with the memories of wailing and sobbing at Jesus’ crucifixion. Now the dawn brought the dreaded reminder that Jesus was dead...

In the moment the women may have forgot what the Master spoke: And [Jesus] said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." [Luke 9:22] Now on the dawn of this new day they would see the empty tomb of the risen Jesus and hear the Angel’s words: “He has risen, JUST AS HE SAID!” Astonishment, wonder and joy replaced grief and despair.

Many times I have spoken to residents who wonder what the dawn of a new day will bring them. Some rejoice with the miracle of another day of life granted by the Lord. Others wonder why and often complain that they woke up to face a new day with worries, problems and self-pity. But one thing is for sure – Jesus is with us on both those dawns. He rose from the dead **just as he had said**. We face the dawn of every day knowing Jesus is our LIVING Savior. The two Marys that first Easter dawn found comfort and peace in that Jesus does what He says He will do. Jesus also said: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” [John 14:1-3] – it will be JUST AS HE SAID!

Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Rev. Tom Fleischmann
Chaplain, Chaplaincy Ministry for Health Care Centers
www.wheniwasinneed.org