



ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2010

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**“Securing Each Child’s Future -  
For a Life of Service”**

This month the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod recognizes National Lutheran Schools Week (March 7 - 12). We do this to remind ourselves and our communities of the importance of Christian Education. Since the founding of our Synod, education has been one of the major reasons for our existence. Congregations started schools for children of all ages because they understood that if the church was to remain faithful and true to the Word of God, their people would need to cultivate a good understanding of God's Word.

When the people saw the need for higher education, they organized multiple congregations together and started Lutheran High Schools. One of the reasons the Synod was formed was to start college and seminary education. Before this time most of the pastors and teachers in the church were coming from Germany. This was providing a very limited supply of professionally trained church workers. So the Synod began the training of local people for this task. The LCMS is second only to the Roman Catholic Church with regard to Christian Education in the United States of America.

We should be proud of this heritage and eager to instill it into the modern LCMS. But it seems that we are losing sight of its importance in our local congregations. We are experiencing more and more grade school closings due to lack of enrollment and financial support. It has never been an easy thing to support a Lutheran School. It has always taken sacrifice on the part of families and congregations. But it was always deemed worthy of its cost because our membership was knowledgeable and informed about the Word of God and its practice in Christian living. A well educated laity (people in the pews) was the bedrock of the LCMS. They kept the pastors and teachers accountable and true to the Word of God.

Today the LCMS is struggling to define itself because we don't have a clear understanding of how God's Word is to fit into our lives. We are not teaching the basics of the Bible in our Sunday Schools, grade schools, high schools, and colleges. We have grown lazy because we have given greater importance to the teachings of the

world. We have defined success by the size of income or positions of influence instead of service to God and neighbor. This is why this year's theme is so important. We should all want our children to have a "Secure Future" and that can only be found in a faith relationship with the True God. It begins with God working His gifts into each child at Baptism and then the Holy Spirit continuing to nurture those gifts through Christian Education based on the solid Word of God.

Parents and the church have been given the tools to teach. Let us not fail. For eternity depends upon what each person believes at the time of death. Every person will stand before Christ as the doorkeeper to heaven and the only thing that will count is whether or not there is evidence of true Christian faith. Christ says in Matthew 25:34ff, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...for what you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me...to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." Christians serve because they have been served first by a gracious God who sent His only Son to serve through the cross.

Don't allow the challenges of this modern time to mislead you and your children into thinking that they can always learn what they need at a later time. None of us knows how much time we have. Besides knowing the truth about life with God in heaven helps us to get the most out of life here on earth. Support all Christian education and especially here at St. John, Luverne.

Have a blessed Lenten Season.

Pastor Gary Klatt



*And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" <sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. **Matthew 13:10-11***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The other day I replaced the mailbox at the parsonage. The door was hanging on by only one bolt because it had rusted through on one side. It only took me about 5 minutes to replace it, a couple of minutes to remove the old screws and a couple minutes to drill in the new ones. However, before I could actually replace the mailbox, I spent several hours preparing. I had to run to town to buy a new mailbox. I had to procure the proper tools. I discovered after I brought the new box home that it didn't provide any screws, so I had to run to town again. I had to trim the board which supported the box, because the new box was not as long as the old box. The point is that often it takes longer to prepare for a task than to accomplish the task.

In January, I shared with you that we would take a look at the book of Revelation this year. However, we won't be jumping into the text just yet. Last time I shared with you that the over arching message of Revelation is Jesus' victory over sin, death and the devil. John gives us an apocalyptic view of Jesus' incarnation, birth, death, resurrection, ascension and return in glory. Revelation does not predict the future so much as assure us of Jesus' victory in the past.

There is one more important piece of preparation before we dive into the text: We must discuss the type of writing used by John in Revelation. The books of the Bible are unique pieces of literature. There are no other writings like them because they alone of all the writings ever composed were written under the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit. Yet being under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit did not remove the personalities of the writers themselves. They wrote their individual books in their own styles and manner. Some wrote straight histories, telling the facts and events as they occurred, with commentary on their spiritual significance. Others wrote poetry (the Psalms and Song Of Solomon for example). In the New Testament we have many letters, those of Paul, Peter and John for example. Some books (or portions of books) are proclamations of God's plan of salvation. We call this prophecy. Prophecy is often poetic, but may be straight history or one of the other two types of Scripture: parables and apocalyptic writings.

Parables and Apocalyptic writings are best understood as complimentary but opposite. They are complimentary in that they both proclaim the same truths about Jesus. They are opposite, however, because they look at these truths from two different directions. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The parable of the sower and the four types of dirt is not a lesson in agriculture, even though it would be good advice for a farmer to follow. It is about the dangers of temptation and the graciousness of our Lord. Many people like parables precisely because they are simple lessons of life about which we are familiar: money, seeds, brothers, and so forth.

Apocalyptic writings (Revelation for example), like parables, tells a story which speaks about the truth of God's grace and love. That is how they are similar to parables. They are the opposite, however, because they are a *heavenly* story with an *earthly* meaning. John was given a glimpse of the world as the angels and God Himself sees it. Heaven, which is not visible to us, was made visible to John. He was given a view of the events of Jesus' life as the Father witnessed them from heaven. Then John was given the task to explain it with earthly words. This is why Revelation is so bizarre. John had to explain this heavenly vision using mundane

earthly concepts. As we unpack the text over the next several months, hopefully the fantastic imagery of Revelation will strengthen our faith and preserve us in the true hope of Jesus.

In Christ,

PASTOR SABAL

## Mark your Calendar

You are invited to the Vine & Branches Conference on the theme of *"Why Go To Church?"* This is becoming a real issue in all major churches today. Multiple speakers will share with us various reasons for this decline and hopefully encourage us on ways to stem this tide. It will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakefield, MN on Saturday, April 17 at 9:00 a.m. Free admission and free Lunch! All ages are invited because this issue affects all of us. A sign-up will be posted in the Atrium in late March.

## This is for You!

*"The Church and the Civil Realm"* is the topic to be discussed at the Lutheran Lecture Series-Midwest to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, Iowa on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual event where LCMS people gather to study current issues of our church. It is designed to help our members to better understand and then respond to these issues as they affect our congregations. There is no cost for admission or for the noon lunch. A sign-up will be posted in the Atrium in late March. Plan now to attend.

## VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Bible Class</u>	<u>H.S. Bible Class</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
January 30	74	<i>Saturday Evening Worship</i>			
January 31	158	\$4,590.50	--	--	48
February 6	44	<i>Saturday Evening Worship</i>			
February 7	155	\$4,873.50	10	5	46
February 13	50	<i>Saturday Evening Worship</i>			
February 14	127	\$5,424.50	8	6	33
February 17	28	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>			
February 17	131	\$2,030.00			
February 20	77	<i>Saturday Evening Worship</i>			
February 21	161	\$5,785.50	8	6	38

### 5-year Summary / Attendance

Average Attendance for February 2006:	271	Year to Date:	261
Average Attendance for February 2007:	206	Year to Date:	227
Average Attendance for February 2008:	210	Year to Date:	218
Average Attendance for February 2009:	240	Year to Date:	224
Average Attendance for February 2010:	205	Year to Date:	204 *1 <sup>st</sup> three weekends

## FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

### BIRTHS

A son to Natasha Ishmael on February 13, 2010

A son to Kyle & Chelsie Kreun on February 18, 2010

### RELEASED FROM MEMBERSHIP

Marion Halverson (to East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD)

## WORKSHOP ON LUTHERAN LITURGY FOR LAY-PEOPLE

**Saturday, March 27**

**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Glory of Christ Lutheran Church

4040 State Hwy. 101 N.

Plymouth, MN 55446

763-478-6031

[www.gloryofchrist.org](http://www.gloryofchrist.org)

Registration fee: \$25.00 Advance registration is recommended.

**Rev. David Adams**

In this series of lectures Dr. Adams will examine what we know about the worship life of the people of God in the Old Testament: what it was like, how it differed from Christian worship, what theology it teaches, and how its principles help to shape the worship life of the people of God today. Special emphasis is given to the way in which the saving work of the messiah is anticipated by the role of the Sabbath and the Old Testament theology of rest, and by the sacrificial system of the Old Testament.

## **A VIEW FROM THE PEW**

by Linda Brady

Living in a household of a two church family, on some Sundays I would have my sons or a son come to church with me.

One Sunday one of my sons came to church with me; being a very observant child he noticed that a lot of the men in our church wore suits to church on Sunday and he questioned me about why this was. I didn't have much more of an answer then that is what they choose to wear to church. This was a communion Sunday and the choir was also singing a special number, the choir was all decked out in their robes; when it came time to receive communion the choir members all came forward, male and female and my son leaned over and said to me "well none of the men in our church wear dresses!"

## **A VIEW FROM THE PEW**

by Evelyn Bremer

When I was able to attend Saturday evening worship services, I generally sat in the pew behind Ella Weber and her two lovely daughters, Carol and Dolores. Then I read in the Star Herald that Ella was with her Maker. I know she was smiling when she got home. I felt such a sense of loss, yet happy for her.

It's important to use your God-given talents when you are able. I've enjoyed every experience I've had working in the church—Sunday School Teacher, Bible School Teacher, Choir, Altar Guild, Stephen Ministry, etc. For some reason I was never asked to be an Elder, but my husband, Basil, served in that capacity for many years. When I taught Vacation Bible School, my five-year-old niece, Barbara, stayed with us so she could attend. At that time we had morning and afternoon classes and, in between I kept active by sewing a red velvet bridesmaid dress for Ruth Green, our parish worker at the time. Those were very busy years.

Over the decades I've collected many and varied pew memories. When I was a child, I lived in Ocheyedan, Iowa. One Sunday my brother, Glen, was ill and my mother stayed home from church to take care of him. I sat in the front pew with my sister Gladys. All the children had to sit in the first three pews so Pastor Kallsen could keep an eye on us during the sermon. If we got rambunctious, he would stop preaching and shout "KIDS!" Silence followed. That Sunday I was afraid because my mother wasn't there, so I hid my head behind Gladys' back. My father was the custodian and sat upstairs to ring the church bell. In the middle of the sermon I got up and wandered down the aisle, passing the pews, looking for him. My Aunt Marie rescued me and took me by the hand to find my dad.

One Sunday Pastor Kallsen's sermon was on Mary and Martha. I used to climb on a chair at home and preach that sermon over and over to imaginary people in imaginary pews. I wanted to be like Mary and not have to help with the dishes. Even now, at my advanced age, I still want to be like Mary and I still have to do the dishes.

During the winter months my rocking chair in the family room has become my temporary church pew. One Sunday morning I tuned into Main Street Living just in time for the sermon. The television-pastor had an uncanny resemblance to Pastor Klatt. I thought perhaps Pastor might have a brother or cousin serving in the ministry. He even sounded like our Pastor Klatt. When the show was over, they announced: "Our guest pastor today was Reverend Gary Klatt from Luverne, Minnesota." I stood up and clapped my hands. Thank you, Pastor.

All of my memories and experiences as a Christian lead back to something my Aunt Esther taught me years ago: "Always keep that baby Jesus cradled in your heart."

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIATHALON OF FAITH

The Sunday School children will continue their Training for a Lifetime of Faith with a special event on Palm Sunday, March 28, during the Christian Education Hour. The children will be participating in a Triathlon of Faith! It will be a fun day of playing, singing and learning!



## PALM SUNDAY SINGING

The Sunday School children will be singing during the Palm Sunday church service on March 28. Please bring the children to the Fellowship Room at 8:45 a.m.



Anyone wishing to place an Easter Lily in the Chancel for Easter Sunday, please call Carol or Dolores Weber at 283-2997. Price: \$11.00. Please make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church. Payment may be given to Carol or Dolores or left at the church office. Deadline: Sunday, March 28.

## YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Pizza Ranch  
Monday, March 29  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who donated something to be sold at our silent auction. We would also like to thank everyone who placed bids. Without your support we would not have had such a successful silent auction. Thank you very much.

*- Youth Attending  
the National Youth Gathering*



## THANK YOU

Thank you to the following who volunteered to deliver "Meals on Wheels" in January: Pastor and Sharyn Klatt, John and Imogene Krogmann, Ruth Roemeling, LaVon Mohr, Karen Schadwinkel, Joann Strege, Jean Svendsen, Kay Vollmer, Marilyn Schmidt, Barb Weber, Doris Rockman, Erna Jessen, Carlene Boll, Esther Spease Frakes, Lorna Schoeneman, Kristin Suhr, Julie Hamann, and Joyce Hartz.

*- Fiddy Hamann, Coordinator*

**Mark your  
calendars!**

**VBS will be  
June 14-18.**



# WOMEN'S SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

St. John Women's Society met in the Assembly Hall at 2:00 p.m. President Erna Jessen called the meeting to order with 17 members present. Erna also thanked Gladys Mann and Barb Hinz, our hostesses for today.

The opening devotion, "Knee Deep In Slime" was given by Dorothea Hamann.

The program, Prayer Service, was presented by Pastor Klatt. It was very interesting and we enjoyed participating with the music.

The minutes were read and approved, also many thank you notes were read.

Financial report was given with a balance of \$396.76.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

Bethesda Fund - none

Birthday Fund - Yearly report given by Dorothy Petersen. We have a balance of \$89.54

Book Nook - We were encouraged to check out the Valentines for our special Valentine and friends.

Cards to ill St. John's Members - 11 cards sent in January and February.

Funeral Committee - Dorothy Petersen presented the yearly report with a balance of \$438.66. 74 were served at the Ella Weber funeral and 39 at Marion Van Steenwyk funeral.

LWML - The Spring Rally will be held April 15 at Zion Church in Hardwick. Sharyn Klatt presented a Mite Box devotion. An offering was taken followed by a prayer.

Lutheran Bible Translators - Meta Fick read correspondence. An offering was taken with a prayer following.

Sunshine Committee - Dolores Suhr and Kay Vollmer visited St. John members at the Veterans Home, Mary Jane Brown Home, Tuff Home, Park View Manor, and the hospital in December. No visits were made in January due to illness and the weather.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Erna read a letter from Patty Pierson encouraging our Society members to submit questions or comments to be discussed by the pastors at the Spring Rally to be held at Zion Church in Hardwick on April 15th.

We were reminded that it is time for spring cleaning in the kitchen. Will be discussed at our next meeting.

Evelyn Stueven reported we will be serving for the Birthday Party March 18th at Mary Jane Brown. She asked for ideas for the program and also gifts. More plans will be made at our March meeting.

Dolores Suhr reported on her nephew, Brent, in Africa. He has been in our prayers and is safe at this time.

The Birthday prayer was said for Dorothea Hamann, Dorothy Petersen and Olga Hellwinckel.

Hostesses for March will be Dolores Suhr and Dorothy Hocking.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

*Ruth Roemeling, Secretary*

# Financial Advice for Stewards

## God Blesses Us for our Giving

By faith, we understand that the best investment we can make with our money is investing or giving it to God. Throughout Scripture, when a command to give is stated, along with that command is a reference to the blessings that the giver will enjoy. These blessings come in many forms. For example in Proverbs 11:25, "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." In Proverbs 19:17 Solomon tells us: "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and [God] will reward him for what he has done." God has ordained that, when we give generously, we receive generously.

As Christians, we should give without expectation of receiving anything in return. However, our gracious God, Who loves us so much, thrills to bless us. He has put within us the joy of giving and finding reward in another's pleasure.

Through Malachi, the Lord offers a double blessing to those who will be obedient in bringing their tithes to the temple. He promises to reward them materially through plentiful harvests. He promises that, if they will honor Him with their tithes, He will prosper them beyond their dreams. Their crops will produce abundantly, and none of their fruit will spoil on the vine. The second part of the blessing is that surrounding nations will see this and realize the special protection that God gives them. "Test Me in this," God said. Are you willing to test God with your earnings? Are you willing to bring your tithes to your church before you pay your bills? Are you worried about the mortgage, the clothes, the groceries, and the transportation? Jesus said, ". . . do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear . . . your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:25, 32-33).



Test Him! "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6). Are you willing to sow generously? You are free to sow generously and then to receive God's promise that you will also reap generously. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). It is inevitable that, when you give, you will receive, for that is the way our giving heavenly Father has planned it.

"Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do . . . to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full" (Matthew 6:1-2). God pours out spiritual blessings on us when we least expect them. When you are giving out of a desire to obey God's command and to help others, you will find blessings heaped up and running over. These are blessings not understood by those outside the faith.

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Beloved in the Lord,

I thank God always for your support of my education toward the Holy Office of the Ministry. For you are supporting something much greater than me. The office of the ministry belongs to the Lord. It's His ministry. This ministry is the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all the nations. What we preach is the very power of God unto salvation.

Despite our many grievous sins and neglect of the good, the Lord has not yet abandoned us. We are graciously blessed that in these last days of great distress the Lord has not left us without the preaching of his mighty Word. Yet, we ever pray in the words that our Lord has taught us: "Deliver us from evil!" May the Lord defend us from the assaults of the devil who would have us to doubt so great a salvation. May the Lord's Word always be preached among us pure and undefiled so that, even in our last hours, the cross of Christ may be held before our closing eyes. Only by the power of the Lord's words may we rest in the peace of the assurance of our resurrection in Christ. Even so, we pray with the Psalmist, "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." God, grant it!

Much has transpired since last I wrote and now my vicarage is more than half way through. The Advent season meant more work for me, but that was actually a relief. I enjoy writing sermons, preaching, and teaching Bible class. Yet, I think it is important to get out of the study as much as possible and make visits and develop relationships. I have developed a number of good relationships with college age students, both graduate and undergraduate. Perhaps my favorite part of the week is getting together on Thursday evenings to cook a meal with a group of students. (I've begun to enjoy cooking. Yet, I know that in a few months I'll be back to eating cafeteria food.) After eating, we study the Gospel according to Luke. There is no joy like living together under God's Word!

Beyond the greatest of blessings, hearing the Lord's Word, I have been very blessed materially and physically to serve here in Bloomington. The congregation has provided me with a membership to the YMCA and I have had much occasion to use it. A couple of months ago I befriended one of the youth here that is into lifting weights and he has got me on a lifting program. We work out three mornings a week at 5:00 a.m. and afterwards I drive him to school. On the way to school I have him read aloud Luther's Morning Prayer and a part of Paul's letters. Soon we will have made it through all of Paul's letters! How I wish we had a whole car full of youth reading the Scriptures aloud to one another. When I look back on my years in High School I regret that I so neglected the reading of Scripture and the saying of my prayers. Oh, that we would cease to neglect reading the Scriptures to one another and especially in our families! How much might we profit from this! We might again begin to become Christians who put their trust in Christ alone! Oh, that we spent less time wishing for the next generation to be successful and spent more time praying that they would remain faithful!

You are in my prayers. I hope you get some warmer weather soon. Furthermore, it is my prayer for you that this coming Lententide the cross which is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved is the power of God – that this cross may be preached among you and driven home. Pray for all the saints. Pray especially for pastors and seminarians that they might be faithful to their task.

*We know how hard, O Lord, the task  
Your servant bade us undertake:  
To preach Your Word and never ask  
What prideful profit it may make.  
- Martin Franzmann (LSB 568)*

To God alone be all glory through Christ, our Lord,

  
Vicar Shawn Barnett



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February, 2010

Dear members of St. John's,

I pray that this letter finds you healthy and in good spirits during this time of Epiphany. I hope that the weather in Minnesota will be more agreeable soon. The German Seminary is very lucky to have such mild winter weather. In fact, they complain of the little snow that has fallen here as being "more than usual."

My experience in Germany has been very fruitful this year. My first semester is finally coming to a close in a week. This year I have only had one class that is not thematic but is based on a book of the Bible. This class is Amos. I also have two thematic classes: One on the Church, the Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit, and one on Angels in the Old and in the New Testament. I also have two classes dealing with the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. One is on the Augsburg Confession, and the other is on the Formula of Concord. I also am studying the history of the Reformation. At first classes were very difficult, especially since I was relatively new to the German language. But now classes have gotten easier as I can find the words to ask questions and participate in the discussion.

I have also been able to travel and see some of Germany's landscape. I have been to Cologne, Bonn, Hamburg, and other stops. I have also done some sight-seeing in cities that are important to Lutheranism: Wittenberg and Eisenach (where Luther was born and died). I hope to go to Marburg, Worms, and Torgau when the weather gets a bit nicer. During my break between semesters, I am planning to travel to Rome, Vienna, and Munich. Hopefully, I can also get tickets to the Oberammergau Passion Play. This play only occurs once every ten years, and these villagers have been putting it on for nearly 500 years. If you have time, take a look at my Facebook page for some photos of my travels.

Not only did I want to inform you on what I was busy with here in Germany, but I wanted to thank you all for your prayers, thoughts, and contributions. This year in Germany has been a great learning experience, not only for my own personal growth, but for my work as a pastor. It is refreshing to know that there are Lutherans in other parts of the world that share our faith but also are different from us. Some of these differences would be beneficial in the Missouri Synod, and some of these differences would not be so beneficial. More importantly, these differences in practice do not separate us from our German brothers and sisters. To be different in practice is not to be different in faith. So, thank you again for all of your prayers and support.

God's blessings,

Travis Berg

TRAVIS BERG  
2257 - 410TH STREET  
CLARKFIELD, MN 56223

Checking Account Report

January 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Balance brought forward 1-1-10	(5,475.33)	798.21
Receipts for January		
Budget	25,225.67	
Special Gifts	3,092.22	
Little Lambs	7,826.04	
Little Lambs Other	25.00	
Total Receipts for Month	36,168.93	32,387.25
Interest earned on checking account	20.64	3.34
<b>TOTAL WORKING FUND</b>	<b>30,714.24</b>	<b>33,188.80</b>
Disbursements	40,942.62	35,375.77
<b>BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>	<b>(10,228.38)</b>	<b>(2,186.97)</b>

5 YEAR SUMMARY/RECEIPTS

Receipts for	January	2006	25,332	( 5 )	5,066	Average
Receipts for	January	2007	23,161	( 4 )	5,790	Average
Receipts for	January	2008	22,455	( 4 )	5,614	Average
Receipts for	January	2009	22,413	( 4 )	5,603	Average
Receipts for	January	2010	25,226	( 5 )	5,045	Average

5 YEAR SUMMARY/ATTENDANCE

Average Attendance for January 2006	253	Year to Date:	253
Average Attendance for January 2007	249	Year to Date:	249
Average Attendance for January 2008	227	Year to Date:	227
Average Attendance for January 2009	208	Year to Date:	208
Average Attendance for January 2010	203	Year to Date:	203

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR January 2010

	<u>Month 2010</u>	<u>Month 2009</u>
<b>CONGREGATION -</b>		
Income	28,338.53	22,910.44
Expenses	33,244.12	27,903.63
Balance	(4,905.59)	(4,993.19)
<b>LITTLE LAMBS -</b>		
Income	7,826.04	9,628.50
Other Income	25.00	(148.35)
Expenses	7,698.50	7,472.14
Balance	152.54	2,008.01
<b>COMBINED -</b>		
Income	36,189.57	32,390.59
Expenses	40,942.62	35,375.77
Balance	(4,753.05)	(2,985.18)

# STATISTICAL REPORT

<b><u>Membership</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Baptized Membership	644	662
Confirmed Membership	511	519
Baptisms	8	11
Junior Confirmations	6	7
Adult Confirmations	6	6
Profession of Faith	4	13
Transfers In – LCMS	9	4
Funerals – Members	10	10
Funerals – Non-members	2	1
Transfers Out – LCMS	1	4
Released to other Lutheran Churches	4	1
Released to other Denominations	0	1
Removed from Membership	1	0

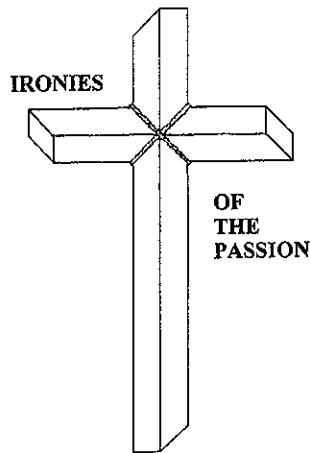
<b><u>Worship Statistics</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Weekend Services	102	103
Advent Services	3	3
Lenten Services	10	10
Other Special Services	6	7
Weddings	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	125	126

<b><u>Attendance Statistics</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Weekend Services – Members	11,899	11,709
Weekend Services – Visitors	612	578
Advent Services	340	259
Lenten Services	1,080	1,080
Other Special Services	<u>1,433</u>	<u>1,604</u>
Total	15,364	15,230

Weekend average – Members	(36%) 233	(28%) 233
Weekend average – Visitors	12	11

Number of Communion Services	28	28
Total served Holy Communion	4,068	3,991
Average Served per Service	145	143
Members – Communed at least once	(81%) 416	(78%) 403
Members – Not Communing at least once	(19%) 97	(22%) 116

Shut-in Communion Visits	291	382
Shut-in Visits (No Communion)	36	23
Hospital Calls	187	171
Home Visits	78	90



## 2010 Lenten Schedule

March 3 - 6:00 p.m. - "See To It Himself"

March 10 - 6:00 p.m. - "What Blood Buys"

March 17 - 6:00 p.m. - "Not Worth Believing"

March 24 - 6:00 p.m. - "Et tu?"

A meal will follow each Wednesday service.

April 1 - 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. - "That We Might Eat the Passover"

April 2 - 7:00 p.m. - "The Greatest Irony of All"  
Youth - "Reverse Advent"

April 3 - NO Saturday service

April 4 - 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.

- "The First Easter Sermon"
- 7:45 a.m. Breakfast served by Men's Club
- 10:15 a.m., Christian Education Hour

**Please join us for this exciting Lenten Journey with our Savior.  
Invite a friend or neighbor to join you.**

# LENTEN OFFERING

Lent is a time to think of what God has done for us. During this time we may want to give up something. Instead of giving up something, give something. The Board of Social Ministry will again sponsor a Lenten collection of things needed by groups in our congregation. Below is a list of those items. You may also wish to make a monetary donation for some of these items. Bring your items to church and place them in the Atrium. Monetary gifts may be brought to the church office.

## Little Lambs

Craft Sticks – Large/Small / Plain & Colored  
Paper fasteners  
Glue Sticks  
Small Glue Bottles (1.25 ounce)  
White Velcro Dots  
Colored Napkins  
Holiday Seasonal Napkins  
Masking Tape  
½ inch, ¾ inch, 1 inch  
Double Stick Tape  
Stickers of any kind – leaves, pumpkins, turkeys, hearts, religious, Easter, Christmas, flowers, animals, birds, fish, etc.  
Easter Eggs  
9 X 12 Construction Paper  
Children's Fiskar Scissors - pointed  
Scotch Tape Refills  
44¢ Stamps  
Batteries (AA, AAA, C, 9 volt)  
200 Speed Film  
Printer Cartridge #HP41 Colored 75XL  
Printer Cartridge Black 74XL  
Printer Cartridge – Brother LC61M, LC61C, LC61B, LC61Y  
Various Sizes of Labels  
80 per page,  
badge size (15395),  
mailing labels (8160)

## Funds of Little Lambs:

Little Lamb Equipment Fund  
Little Lambs Sponsorship Fund  
Little Lambs General Fund  
Little Lambs Radio Ads

## Quilting Group

100% cotton flat sheets  
(new or "gently used")  
2 & 4 yard cuts 100% cotton fabric  
Ironing board cover & pad  
Lint brushes  
"Odds and Ends" of Thread  
Batting

## Office Supplies

Postage Stamps – 44¢ and 28¢  
3M Transparency Film PP2500  
Astrobright Paper – any color  
Avery Labels #5961  
Avery Postcards #5389  
8 ½ X 14 White Paper  
8 ½ X 11 White Paper  
Printer Cartridge HP Q3960A (Black)  
Printer Cartridge HP Q3972A (Yellow)  
Printer Cartridge HP Q3973A (Red)  
Printer Cartridge HP Q3971A (Blue)  
Printer Cartridge HPCE 505A  
White Out Wheels  
¾ inch Scotch Tape Refills  
½ inch Scotch Tape Refills  
Elmer's Brand Rubber Cement

## PLEASE, NO:

Post-it Notes  
Paper Clips  
Staples

## Sunday School / Midweek

Children's Fiskar Scissors  
Pencils  
Glue Dots – all sizes  
White Card Stock  
Velcro Dots / Poster Mounts  
Adult Size Scissors  
Small Glue Sticks  
White Poster Board  
Zip-lock Bags – all sizes  
(no sandwich bags)

## Youth Board

Address Labels  
Return Address Labels  
White or colored card stock paper  
Styrofoam plates  
8 oz. Styrofoam cups  
Plastic forks  
Plastic spoons  
Napkins  
Hang file tracks for file cabinet  
Box of hanging file folders

## Board of Parish Fellowship

Decaffeinated coffee  
Paper plates & cups  
Paper Napkins  
Plastic Silverware

## Vacation Bible School

Multi-colored tissue paper  
Plastic green tablecloths  
1 quart interior white latex paint

## Custodial

The Works Toilet Bowl Cleaner  
Ajax or Comet  
Dish Soap  
Windex Glass Cleaner  
Pine-Sol  
Furniture Polish  
Hilex Bleach  
Paper Towels  
Trash Bags – 39 gallon size  
Tall Kitchen Bags  
Soft Soap  
Dishcloths

## Church Supplies

Toilet Tissue  
Kleenex  
Batteries – 9 and AA volt  
Religious Books/Coloring Books  
for Quiet Bags  
Cash Donations for families in need

## Funds of Church:

Church Sign Fund  
Library Fund  
Padded Chair Fund  
Choir Music Fund  
Video Screen Fund (Sanctuary)

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the Parish Planning Council**  
**February 15, 2010**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Pastor Klatt, Vivian Holst, Linda Goehle, Bryce Oldre, Mike Wenninger, Terry Pronk, Jean Eglund, Glenda Bremer, Keith Aanenson, and Marge Knoll.

**Boards Not Represented:** Christian Education, Evangelism, Youth, Public Relations

In the absence of President-elect Joel Smith, Pastor Klatt called the meeting to order and opened with devotions and prayer.

**Secretary's Minutes:** Motion by Vivian Holst, second by Keith Aanenson, motion carried to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2010 meeting of the Parish Planning Council.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Linda Goehle, second by Terry Pronk, motion carried to accept the treasurer's report. Motion by Jean Eglund, second by Marge Knoll, motion carried to pay the bills.

**Missions, Memorials & Special Gifts:** Motion by Keith Aanenson, second by Mike Wenninger, motion carried to accept the missions report.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Lent begins on February 17 with Ash Wednesday Services at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00p.m. The theme is "The Ironies of the Passion."
- The Circuit Forum Meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd in Marshall. The financial assessment to attend the National Convention will be discussed. The cost for each delegate to attend will be \$2,900.00 plus \$1,800.00 for transportation, food, and housing.
- March 7-12 is National Lutheran Schools Week. The theme is "Securing Each Child's Future for a Life of Service."
- The Zone LLL Rally is March 14 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John with supper at 6:00 p.m. Speakers will be discussing mission work in Haiti, Zambia and with the Orphan Grain Train. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Two seminars have been scheduled for lay people in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, including a free lunch. 1) The Vine & Branches seminar is April 17 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lakefield, MN. The theme is "Why Go to Church?" 2) The Lutheran Lecture Series-Midwest is at Trinity Lutheran in Marcus, IA. The theme for this seminar is "The Church and the Civil Realm."
- The new member brunch is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>

**Board Reports**

**Parish Fellowship:** Lenten suppers are filled. Volunteers for serving Sunday morning coffee and cookies are needed.

**Trustees:** A new (used) copy machine has been selected and delivered from Elite Business on a lease basis. The copier prints 55 copies per minute. The maintenance contract cost is .0075 per copy (¾ of one cent.) A faucet has been replaced in the Parsonage. It was suggested the Youth meeting room should be moved to the old Sunday School music room to make the group more visible to the younger students.

**Little Lambs:** The LL Board elected Esther Spease-Frakes as president, Renee Sudenga as Vice-President and Doris Rockman as Secretary. Little Lambs will serve supper for Ash Wednesday Service. All morning classes are full for 2010-2011. March 12 is the Early Childhood Education conference.

**Youth:** Parents' Night Out is Saturday, February 20. The youth provide babysitting service from 5-11 p.m. to give parents an opportunity to have an evening out together. Supper (hotdogs and mac'n'cheese) will be provided for the children. High School Bible Study will be held February 24 at 7:00 p.m. Snow tubing is scheduled for Sunday, March 7 with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The Youth will be serving for Lenten Service on March 10 and for the LLL Rally on March 14. The Pizza Ranch fundraiser is March 29 at 5:00 p.m.

**Elders:** The Board of Elders elected Bill Weber as President and Kurt Haugen as Secretary. Keith Aanenson and Paul Kitchenmaster will be working with the Trustees on preparing an informational presentation on the projection system project. Bill Weber and Ron Fick are working with the Evangelism Board in planning a celebratory event to observe Pastor's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the ministry. The theme for the Circuit Elders' Retreat is "Contemporary Worship." The Elders are reviewing the attendance report from 2009.

**Social Ministry:** The Lenten collection baskets will be ready for Ash Wednesday to collect items for the church. A list of needs will be printed. A gas card will be issued this month to a family in need. Everyone should try to be aware of individuals who need help—members and non-members.

**Stewardship:** Jodi Fick is president of the Stewardship Board for 2010. A committee will be established for the purpose of gathering ideas for funds received from the Larry Brinkman estate. Anyone who would like to serve on this committee should contact the Stewardship Board. A brokerage account has been established to receive donations of stocks and bonds. Information on this opportunity will be available in April.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** The Backpack Food Project inquired about the possibility of using the Assembly Hall and the kitchen facilities to prepare and serve a hot meal at noon for needy children. They provide the cook, the food, and the volunteers. They would also pay a fee for custodial requirements. The noon lunch would be provided Monday through Friday in June, July and August. Pastor suggested that it would be an excellent opportunity to provide a Bible story hour for the kids after lunch. It was also suggested that other churches might be interested in the project by sharing in the hosting responsibilities. St. John funerals would take precedent over the Backpack program.

**Announcements:**

- 1) Parish Planning Council will meet in the Assembly Hall in March.
- 2) It was suggested that a policy be established on patronizing businesses where St. John members work versus businesses without members.
- 3) "A Crisis in the Church" meeting will be held at the Blue Mound Banquet Center on Saturday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m. St. John members received an invitation and Pastor encourages us to attend.
- 4) It was suggested that a policy is needed to address paid holidays for the church staff. Pastor will bring it up with the Wage and Benefit Committee.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Marge Knoll, second by Bryce Oldre, motion carried to adjourn the meeting of the Parish Planning Council at 8:45 p.m. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Glenda Bremer  
Congregational Secretary

# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ken Busse Dan Hamann Bev McGuire Mike Stoltenberg ♥ Bill & Flo Kannenberg	2 Austin Van Santen	3 Gavyn Boll	4 Fiddy Hamann John Olson	5 Trygve Gangestad ♥ Rodney & Glenda Kuehl	6 Shirley Akkerman Allen Fick
7 Scott Baker	8 Scott Baker	9 Allison Kruger Sarah Schoeneman	10 Nora Ketterling Pastor Klatt	11 Logan Herman Okie Honken	12 Logan Herman Okie Honken	13 Amber Deutsch Lori Fick
14 Bob Meester Holden Overgaard	15 Corey Aanenson Joe Erwin Bailey Herman	16 Martha Fick	17 Patty Hinz	18 Marilyn Blattner Otis Halverson Ryker Johnson	19 Marilyn Blattner Otis Halverson Ryker Johnson	20 Tricia Kraayenhof ♥ Jerry & Kathy Hansen ♥ Jerry & Sheila Schneekloth
21 Cleone Honken	22 Wyatt Cote Gracie Zewiske	23 Carol Goehle Jacqueline Johnson Eugene Marshall	24 Deborah Hellwinckel Heath Wallenberg ♥ Vernon & Joyce Fick	25 Rufus Garnmeister Zayda Holmgren ♥ Scott & Anita Overgaard	26 Caitlin Altman Lucas Hansen Nicholas Hansen Amy Lee Shirley Weber	27 Doris Rockman
28 Gregg Oehlerts Pat Stoltenberg Carrie Van Santen	29 Wyatt Cote Gracie Zewiske	30 Todd Mann	31 Christina McClain Kris Oehlerts Kristin Suhr ♥ Ron & Elaine Fick			

# **SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS**

**March 2010**  
**9:00 a.m. Service**

## **Greeters**



March 7

Scott & Anitra Overgaard

March 14

Vernon & Joyce Fick

Harold & Marlene Fick

March 21

Gary & Jean Staeffler

David & Shirley Huiskes

March 28

Tim & Tami Gangestad

Darin & Becky DeBoer

Marlin Fick

## **Acolytes**



March 3

Jacob Van Santen – Lent III

March 7

Justice Boll

March 10

Derek Fick – Lent IV

March 14

Sabrina Hewitt

March 17

Ethan Marshall – Lent V

March 21

Autumn Norman

March 24

Mitchell Oehlerts – Lent VI

March 28

Kynzie Smedsrud

## **Youth Ushers**



March 7

Rhett McClain, Mackenzie Miller

March 14

Tommy Norman, Dalton Schoeneman

March 21

Tanner Wiese, Samantha Ykema

March 28

Brody DeBates, Sara Ernst

## **Ushers**

Allen Fick, Greg Fick, Harlan Stueven,  
Ken Ahrendt, Tom Walker, Dan Hamann

## **Counters**



Elden Reyelts, Dave Gehrke, Freddie  
Oltmans, Marv & Bev Hoogland

## **Book Nook**

Evelyn Stueven

## **Elders**

Bill Weber, Allen Fick

# March 2010

**Sun**                      **Mon**                      **Tue**                      **Wed**                      **Thu**                      **Fri**                      **Sat**

<p>1 Circuit Pastors' /Trinity Jasper 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 3:15 Elders' Meeting 7:30</p>	<p>2 Communion at: Hills 9:30 Ellsworth 10:30 Brandon 1:15 Garretson 3:00 Quilting 7:00 <b>Worship on Cable 4:00 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>3 Bible Study 9:30 <b>Worship 6:00</b> Light Supper 6:30 Kids for Christ 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 LYF Board Meeting 7:00 Kingdom Builders 8:00</p>	<p>4 Women's Society 2:00</p>	<p>5 Pastor's Family Day</p>	<p>6 LWML Delegate Board Meeting at Holland 9:30 <b>Worship 5:30</b></p>	
<p>7 3rd Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 Worship</b> 10:15 Christian Education Hour 12:40 Youth Snow Tubing/Hills <i>March 7-13</i> <i>National Lutheran Schools Week</i></p>	<p>8 Staff Meeting 3:15 Men's Club 7:30 <b>Worship on Cable 4:00 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>9 Bible Study 9:30 <b>Worship 6:00</b> (LL Sing) Light Supper 6:30 Kids for Christ 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Sr. High Bible Class 7:00</p>	<p>10 Quilting 1:30</p>	<p>11 Pastor's Family Day</p>	<p>12 Pastor's Family Day</p>	
<p>14 4th Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 Worship-Holy Communion</b> 10:15 Christian Education Hour 3:00 Zone LLL Spring Rally/here <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i></p>	<p>15 Staff Meeting 3:15 Parish Planning Council 7:30 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 15th &amp; 16th LL Dads' Night "Olympic Fun"</p>	<p>16 Bible Study 9:30 <b>Worship 6:00</b> Light Supper 6:30 Kids for Christ 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00</p>	<p>17 Communion at: MJBH 1:30 Poplar Creek 2:15 Veterans Home 3:30 Women's Society Birth- day Party at MJBH 2:00</p>	<p>18 Pastor's Family Day</p>	<p>19 Pastor's Family Day</p>	
<p>21 5th Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 Worship</b> 10:15 Christian Education Hour 11:15 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting</p>	<p>22 Staff Meeting 3:15 <b>Worship on Cable 4:00 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>23 Bible Study 9:30 <b>Worship 6:00</b> Light Supper 6:30 Kids for Christ 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Sr. High Bible Class 7:00</p>	<p>24 Ministerial 9:45 24th &amp; 25th Little Lambs Devotions 9:00 &amp; 1:00 Quilting 1:30 Chancel Guild 6:30</p>	<p>25 Pastor's Family Day Wedding Rehearsal 6:00</p>	<p>26 Pastor's Family Day Wedding Rehearsal 6:00</p>	
<p>28 Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion <b>9:00 Worship-Holy Communion</b> 10:15 Christian Education Hour</p>	<p>29 Staff Meeting 3:15 Pizza Ranch Fundraiser for Youth 5:00-8:00 <b>Worship on Cable 4:00 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p>30 Women's Society 2:00 No Bible Study No Kids for Christ No Junior Choir Senior Choir 7:00</p>	<p>31 Women's Society 2:00 No Bible Study No Kids for Christ No Junior Choir Senior Choir 7:00</p>	<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. John Lutheran Church</b> 803 North Cedar Street, Luverne, Minnesota 56156 Office Phone: 507-283-2316    Office E-mail: stjoh@iw.net Rev. Gary Klatt, Pastor    Home Phone: 507-449-5951 Pastor's E-mail: gklatt@iw.net</p> </div>		