

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2009

REV. KEVIN K. ADER

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www.stjohnkellner.org

Mission Statement: We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation.



Advent and Christmas Services

“Come, Lord Jesus!” will be the theme for this year’s mid-week Advent services. Each week we will explore the central themes of the Advent season: Jesus’ first coming, His coming again, and His ever present coming daily into our lives. This year’s mid-week services will have a more devotional tone, with less emphasis on the liturgy, as we look at the Advent message through the words of hymn writers who were moved by the Holy Scriptures to write these beautiful Advent devotional prayers.

Dec. 02—“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

Dec. 09—“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

Dec. 16—“Hark the Glad Sound” or “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Wednesday, Mid-week Services will be at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

The Children’s Christmas Service “Journey to the Christ Child” will be on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 PM.

Our Christmas Eve Service will be on Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM and our Christmas Day Communion Service will be on Friday, December 25 at 9:30 AM.



Advent Devotionals

Two Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries are now available in the narthex. In **Who Would Have Thought?** Author Chuck Strohacker uses anecdotal stories, real-life situations, and personal observations to share the truth of God’s love as shown in the birth of Jesus. His devotional style is somewhat non-traditional casting light on the unparalleled marvel of God’s love. Perfect for sharing the season with someone new to the faith.

From **Nazareth to Bethlehem** boldly declares God’s love and grace in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, in a style that’s familiar and time-honored. In these texts, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod International Center Chaplain Vern Gundermann takes the reader on a number of journeys.

Reflective devotions for taking a new look at well-known stories.

Practice for the Children’s Christmas Service will be on Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.

Christmas Families



This year the Human Care Board has received the names and wish lists of two Christmas families. It will be wonderful to spread the Christmas blessings to more people. These families need our help to purchase Christmas gifts and food for their Christmas dinner.

The tree in the Narthex is decorated with ornaments shaped like trees with a family member's name and suggested gift on the back. This is our family number 1. (Parents and 4 children) The bulb shaped ornaments are for family number 2 (Also parents and 4 children). There is a list on the back table with the list of names and gift of each person. Please check off the name and gift after choosing an ornament.

We did give each family a gift certificate to purchase the meat for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

Please place your gifts under the tree and your non-perishable food items in the collection box no later than December 6.

Thank you and God's Blessing as we share this Blessed Season with those less fortunate.

Holiday Cards and Napkins

Holiday cards and napkins are on display in the narthex. Cards are sold by the box. If you need assistance, ask one of the Evening Guild members.

Ladies Aid Christmas Party

The Ladies Aid will be having their Christmas Party Potluck on Thursday, December 3 at noon at the church. Please bring a dish to pass and a \$5 gift exchange. All ladies of the congregation are invited.

Evening Guild Christmas Party

The Ladies Evening Guild Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 8 at Conley's with Gathering and Fellowship at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00 PM. Secret Pals will be revealed. Guests are welcome.

Lutheran Laymen's League

We will be hosting Lutheran Laymen's League here at St. John on Friday, December 4 at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be turkey and dressing and the program will be Christmas music. Cost is \$7.50. For reservations call Duanne Steinke at 423-2716 by Tuesday, December 1.

Thank You



We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time or made office supply donations this past year. Your help and generosity is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank everyone who sponsored the weekly bulletins. Thank you Ron and Marcia Doescher for keeping our church and office clean and for picking up our paper recycling and thank you Doug and Karen Ross for being our after office hours UPS pick up. We wish everyone a "Blessed Christmas."

Poinsettia Orders

Please use the insert in the bulletin to place your poinsettia order. So that we can have the poinsettia's in time for the Children's Program all orders are **due in the office by Sunday, December 6.**

Immanuel Christmas Concert

You are cordially invited to attend the Christmas Choral Concert that will be held on Sunday, December 13 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wis. Rapids at 4:00 PM. The Celebration Ringers will present several handbell choir anthems for the Christmas season and the Celebration Singers will present a cantata titled "A Shepherd's Tale" with an orchestra accompaniment.

Bethesda Thrift Shop

We hope you all will include the Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall for your Christmas shopping. We have many items in the store for decorating and gifts at a very low cost. We will be open on Sundays from 11:00 to 4:00 until Christmas and closed on Christmas Eve day and Christmas Day. A special 50% off everything in the store sale will be on December 18 to 26. Thanks for supporting the mission of Bethesda and we wish you all a very Blessed Christmas.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

The Lutheran Witness is, written and provided especially for the lay people of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Inserted in every issue is The Messenger, news from the North Wisconsin District. By subscribing to The Lutheran Witness, members of the North Wisconsin District become aware of the mission and ministry of both District and Synod. Each subscription is \$17.97 per year. (11 issues-- June/July is a combined edition) Please make your check out to St. John Lutheran Church and on the memo line write "Lutheran Witness." Mail or drop your payment off at the church office by Monday, December 21. New subscriptions will begin in March 2010.

Bazaar Items are still for sale. Contact an Evening Guild member for help.

Door Collection

A door collection plan is in place and will be ongoing through out the winter to help defray the cost for repairs needed on the church foundation next spring. Please place your donations in the "Church" in the narthex. Thank you!

New Website Address

Our church has a new website address! It is www.stjohnkellner.org. Although the old address still works at this time we would like to encourage everyone to make the change over by the first of the year. Thank you.

Rural Christian Women's Conference

On January 23, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM the RCWC will have their annual conference at Wautoma at the Parkside Middle School Gym with Lisa Harper as guest speaker and Kim Hill as music worship leader. Based on a liberating look of the Psalms the topic will be "A Perfect Mess: Why you don't have to worry about being good enough for God." Doors open at 8:00 AM with coffee and muffins available. Conference price (\$30) includes lunch catered by Christiano's Restaurant. More information and registration forms are available in the narthex. **Registration deadline is January 16, 2010.**

Changing Chapter Affiliations

As you may know, there is a Wood County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans as well as a Portage Chapter and you are automatically placed in one or the other depending on your address. This may not suit you as you may be more closely related to one chapter than the other and you may request placement in another chapter by simply phoning Thrivent Financial at 1-800-847-4836 and asking for "Fraternal" and making your request to be part of the Wood County Chapter.



Offering Envelopes



Please pick up your 2010 offering envelopes in the narthex. Envelopes are on the table in numerical order and may not always be in alphabetical order. Your number will remain the same every year. If you didn't get envelopes last year and would like envelopes for 2010, please call the church office. **Do not use your new envelopes until January 1, 2010.**

Flower and Bulletin Charts

The 2010 Flower and Bulletin Charts are both ready for sign ups on the north bulletin board.

If your altar flowers are for a special occasion please indicate that after your name or call the church office the Wednesday before the weekend you have chosen. Your special occasion can then be published in the bulletin.

To sponsor a weekly bulletin choose a weekend and sign your name. A donation of \$15.00 will help pay for the cost of printing. You may make you donation in honor of a birthday, anniversary or memorial. More than one person can be signed up for the same date. Please enclose payment in an envelope marked "Bulletin" and place in the offering plate. You may also mail or drop it off at the office. If you would like it published in the bulletin enclose your name and personal message.

Thank You

Thanks for your support of the Younker Community Day Coupon Book Sale. We sold 40 coupon books for a total profit of \$200 which has been applied to the Kester property debt fund principle. Thanks also to all who helped sell coupon books—The Human Care Board.

Thank You

The Fall and Holiday Bazaar Committee would like to extend a very large thank you to everyone who donated to the Bazaar and Bake Sale. The congregation contributed very generously to the event. Members (and non-members) showed their talents in many ways, including very attractive homemade decorations, beautiful handwork, canned goods, and so much more! As usual, the many fine cooks and bakers showed their talents in the Bakery! Items were sold out early in the day!

The committee would also like to thank the "auxiliary" members for the help they provided. A special "thank you" to the Hess family and the Cook family for their generous donations of delicious homegrown apples.

Taylor Funeral Home, Higgins Funeral Home, Ritchay Funeral Home and Country Tots are thanked for their part in promoting the event.

Profits from the Bazaar and Bake Sale are shared between the Ladies Evening Guild and the Ladies Aid, which in turn will donate the monies for several church projects. Items remaining are on display and are for sale in the lower level.

Again THANK YOU for supporting this event! The sharing and giving of our talents in love, along with fellowship is what we as Christians should do!

Annual Report Deadline



Annual reports from all boards and organizations need to be brought or e-mailed to the church office by Wednesday, December 30.

St. John Lutheran Church
15th Annual
Cookie/Candy Walk
Saturday, December 12, 2009
Doors open at 9 a.m.

Can you believe it?
St. John congregation has been
preparing and selling
Cookies & Candies by the pound
for 15 years!

Over the past 14 years the **Cookie/Candy Walk** has always been a huge success! Everyone who visited the "Sweet Treat Event" in previous years is eager to purchase cookies and candy again. A good turn out of the finest cookies and candies in the area is expected from all the fine cooks, candy makers and chefs in our congregation!

It's time to look over your favorite **HOLIDAY COOKIE & CANDY** recipes, make a few dozen extra to help make this the "Sweetest" event of the year! Share your baking and candy making talents!

All families of St. John Lutheran Congregation are asked to bring 2 to 4 dozen (or more if you would like), of your favorite **HOLIDAY COOKIES OR CANDY** to the church by Friday, December 11. On Saturday morning the **Holiday Cookies & Candy** will be sold "By-the-Pound". **Holiday Cookies and Candies** can be purchased individually, by two's or three's or whatever... by the 1/2 dozen, whole dozen or an assortment! Cookies and Candies will also be sold in attractively packaged **Holiday Gift Boxes and Trays**, ideal for your Holiday Parties and as Gifts! The sale will be open to the Congregation as well as to the surrounding community.

Remember to have you **HOLIDAY COOKIES & CANDY** to the church by Friday, December 11th.
The **SALE** will be on **Saturday, December 12**, doors opening at **9 a.m.**

For more information contact Deb Sandberg 424-2432; Bonnie James at 335-6731; Jean Zeman 421-5243; Fran Kostyn, 424-0797; Sharon Nieman, 424-1504; Barb Lundquist, 424-2107; Marianne Timm, 423-1651; Toni Hamann, 325-3033; or Judy Shepard, 423-2071.
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