

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2010



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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.

Important Questions for a New Year will be the theme for this year's Advent Mid-Week Services. Services will be held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

December 1 – Rev. Kevin Ader, St. John

“How Can This Be?”

December 8 – Rev. David Ficken, Beautiful Savior

“Where Is He to Be Born?”

December 15 – Vicar Andrew Weden, St. Paul

“How Is He to Be Named?”

God's Love At Christmas will be the theme for this year's Advent worship during our regular weekend services.

November 28 – “God's Love Covers Me with Christ” Jeremiah 23:5-8

December 5 – “God's Saving Love Stirs My Heart” Malachi 4:1-6

December 12 – “God's Saving Love Speaks Comfort and Joy” Isaiah 40:1-11

December 19 – “God's Love Is Our Greatest Gift” 1 John 4:9-11

Portraits of Christmas is a brief four-session Bible study that is ideal for the Advent season. Its purpose is to acquaint God's people with the people, politics, places, and prophecies that relate to the Christmas story. Certainly the Lord had everything ready and in place when that time had fully come. Our prayer is that the insights, comments, and discussions here will add to the love and appreciation that God's people feel toward the birth of our Savior. Come join us on Sunday mornings at 8:05 a.m. beginning November 28th.

Please Come Join Us

The Children's Christmas Service will be on December 12 at 4:00 PM in the church basement. We invite the congregation to attend the service of “The Christmas Gift” to learn about the wonderful story of the birth of Christ.

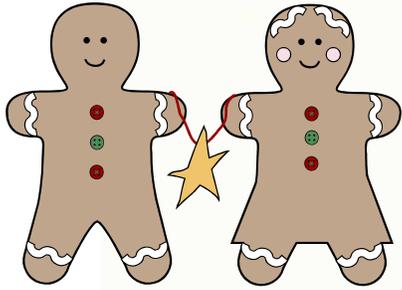
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services—December 24 at 4:00 & 6:00 PM

Christmas Day Communion Service—December 25 at 9:30 AM

No Saturday night service on December 25 and no evening service on Saturday, January 1.





16th Annual Cookie and Candy Walk

Saturday, December 11, 2010

It's time to take a look at your favorite cookie and candy recipes!

St. John Cooks, Bakers and Candy Makers always produce the best tasting, most beautiful sweet items in the area! This church-wide event has been a great success in previous years—thanks to donations from the entire congregation.

Members of the congregation are invited to prepare their favorite cookies and candies for sale by the pound. Shoppers are given a box and protective glove to choose their favorite holiday sweets. Their purchases are then weighed and the satisfied customer pays for their items. The price is \$6.50 per pound to purchase cookies, candies or a combination of the two. There will also be prepared plates and containers ready for gift giving.

Donations to the Cookie and Candy Walk are to be to the church on Friday, December 10th.

Doors will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 11th for the public as well as members to purchase cookies and candies by the pound.

The Cookie and Candy Walk is coordinated by the Ladies Evening Guild and the proceeds will be donated to a variety of church projects.

Christmas Families Giving Tree

We have had a wonderful response to our Christmas Families Giving Tree. All of the ornaments have been chosen and members of the congregation have been busy shopping, wrapping, and returning the gifts they have purchased for our families.

If you are still shopping please remember to return your gift no later than December 5. Also please use the ornaments from the tree for your gift tag.

We are also collecting non-perishable food items for our families. Please bring these items by December 5.

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



Ladies Aid Christmas Party

The Ladies Aid will be having their Christmas Party Potluck on Thursday, December 2 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 14 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 3 at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be roast beef and the program will be a Christmas DVD of Immanuel Wisconsin Rapids Choir. Cost is \$7.50. For reservations call Duane Steinke at 715-423-2716 by Tuesday, November 30.

Poinsettia Orders

Just a reminder so that we can have the poinsettia's in time for the Children's Christmas Service all orders are due in the office by Sunday, December 5.



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.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

The Lutheran Witness is your magazine, 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 \$20.83 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 20. New subscriptions will begin in March 2011.

Pillow Cases Needed

The Quilting Group is asking members of the congregation to bring in pillow cases for us to use to make "pillowcase dresses" to send to Haiti. Each pillow case will make a dress to fit girl's size 2-12. These will be sent by Lutheran World Relief.

Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2011 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 2011, please call the church office. **Do not use your new envelopes until January 1, 2011.**

Flower and Bulletin Charts

The 2011 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 your 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.

Annual Report Deadline

Annual reports from all boards and organizations need to be brought or e-mailed to the church office by Wednesday, December 29.

Thank You

Thank you so much for all the wonderful school supplies you donated to our school. You are all so very generous! Thank you again for thinking of us!—Grant Elementary



Evangelism

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be
on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Isaiah 9:6 NIV

Rural Christian Women's Conference

All women of our congregation are invited to spend an inspiring day praising and worshiping Our Lord in song with as many as 800+ Sisters in Christ at the Rural Christian Women's Conference at Parkside Middle School in Wautoma, WI. on January 22, 2011. You will be moved by the experience.

Registration begins at 8:00 AM. The conference is from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The cost is \$30 and checks should be made payable to Rural Christian Women's Conference. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Your registration fee can be put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate marked: Attention: Darleene Swen. **See page 5 of this newsletter for more information on the theme, speaker, and music.**

No Walk-ins will be accepted this year! Must register by January 14, 2011 in order to attend!

Also, due to allergy considerations, please refrain from wearing perfume the day of the conference.

Any questions contact: Darleene Swen
Stewardship Board

Bethesda Thrift Shop

The Volunteers at the Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall want to thank all of you for your support and donations. We appreciate your shopping at the store – we had a great year! The store is still loaded with many Christmas items and decorations. We will have several clearance sales during December – watch your bulletin for more information. We will be open on Sundays through Dec. 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thanks to all of you and have a very blessed Christmas season.

Thank You

Thanks for your support of the Younker Community Day Coupon Book Sale. We sold 41 coupon books for a total profit of \$205. Thanks also to all who helped sell coupon books—The Human Care Board

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their help in the office this past year. Donating your time, bringing in paper, or sponsoring the weekly bulletin has all made a big difference and we truly appreciated it.

Thank you Ron and Marcia Doescher for keeping our church clean and for picking up our paper recycling.

Thank you Doug and Karen Ross for being our after office hours UPS pick up.

We wish everyone a “Blessed Christmas.”

From National LCEF

Total dollars invested in LCEF at the end of September reflect a new all-time record high in investment support (\$1,589 million) surpassing the previous record established in March of 2010 by \$4.4 million. The decline in the total loan portfolio reflects loan payoff activity and a slight slowing in loan demand.

The number of investors (57,945) is down 407 fiscal year-to-date, with an average decline of 136 per month. This is more than our goal of a loss of 115 investors, but an improvement over historical trends. (Based on history, in a typical month, we lose 230 investors.)

Both the StewardAccount and the Family Emergency account continue to grow in account numbers and dollars, combining for account growth of 339 accounts and \$21 million-accounting for the total growth in the entire portfolio. There is over \$420 million invested in these two accounts, with 12,067 investor accounts.

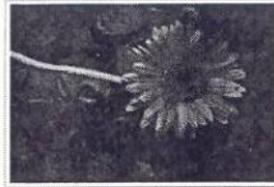




RCWC Presents!

"By This We Know Love"

*Join us on January 22nd
at Parkside Middle
School in Wautoma, WI.
Gracia Burnham will
speak and Amy Perry*



will lead us in song!

Registration - 8:00 a.m.

Conference: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline: January 14, 2011

ABSOLUTELY NO LATE REGISTRATIONS
OR WALK-INS

*(DUE TO ALLERGY CONSIDERATIONS,
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM WEARING PERFUME)*



Gracia Burnham

Gracia Burnham is the widow of Martin Burnham and the mother of Jeff, Mindy and Zach.

For 17 years she and Martin served with New Tribes Mission in the Philippines where Martin was a jungle pilot delivering mail, supplies and encouragement to other missionaries and transporting sick and injured patients to medical facilities. Gracia served in various roles supporting the aviation program and also home-schooled their children—all of which were born in the Philippines.

While celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at Dos Palmas Resort off Palawan Island, the Burnhams were kidnapped on May 27, 2001, by the Abu Sayyaf Group, a militant group of Muslims. They seized several more guests and took them to Basilan Island, an ASG stronghold.

In the ensuing months some of the hostages were killed, but most were set free. From November 2001, only the Burnhams and one other hostage remained in captivity.

During their 376 days of captivity, they faced near starvation, constant exhaustion, frequent gun battles, coldhearted murder and intense soul-searching about a God who sometimes seemed to have forgotten them.

On June 7, 2002, in a firefight between the Philippine military and the Abu Sayyaf Group, Martin was killed. Gracia was wounded, but was freed.

Since that time Gracia has authored two books, *In The Presence Of My Enemies*, and *To Fly Again*. Her oldest son, Jeff, and his wife, Sarah, have accepted an assignment with Flying Mission Services in Botswana, Africa. Mindy is now married to Andy Hedvall, a "missionary kid" from South America. Mindy has completed her course of study at New Tribes Bible Institute in Waukesha, WI and Andy continues in his training there. Zachary is attending Butler County Community College on a voice scholarship. Gracia resides in Rose Hill, Kansas. Because of her unique story, Gracia is a popular speaker for churches, conferences and schools.



**Amy Perry
of Selah**

