



St. John's
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church &

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Spreading God's Word...With Truth and Love July
2010 2010



As we celebrate the 4th of July, a prayer for those serving our country in the Armed Forces:

Almighty Lord, the warfare and strife in our world remain constant reminders of our sinfulness. We yearn for peace, dear Savior, as we journey to heaven. Protect those who defend our nation and keep them safe in your care. Assure them that they are never alone, for you watch over them. Strengthen their families with your love as they await the safe return of loved ones. Bless our nation and keep it strong that we may always be free to worship you. Amen.

Work Program 2010-2011 Highlights

1. We are designating 10% of our first-fruits (our expected Work Program offerings) to the world-wide

ministry of our WELS. Through the WELS we reach around the world with the Word of Life and train our future pastors and teachers.

2. Following our Shoreland Lutheran High School support formula, we are designating \$15,000 to our Shoreland ministry.
3. Of our expected Work Program offerings, 35% is budgeted for costs of our school ministry.
4. We are including a school renovation program which will renovate our school facility over the next 6 years. This year our hallways and upper grade classroom will receive a make-over and our upper grade room will also receive a tech upgrade (smartboard?).
5. With faithful and generous offerings we anticipate that our next shortfall will be significantly smaller than this year. With your partnership in Christ we are headed in the right direction!

Mark your calendars! - Sunday, July 18, 10:30 a.m. for an Open Forum on the Ministry Plan of St John!

Spreading God's Word ... with Truth and Love

HIS Hands

"His Hands" is the publication for WELS Special Ministries. We haven't seen or heard from the Special Ministries Board for awhile because of the budget restraints. However, It has been decided to publish the paper twice a year - Spring and Fall. The following are excerpts, written by those involved.

Lutheran Fellowship in Bavaria

This is an excerpt from an article written by Stephen Naumann. He is a Fulbright scholar living in Poland for the year. His experience is with the WELS Easter Retreat in Bad Kissingen, Germany. The theme of the retreat was "Spiritual Rest: How to avoid becoming a weary Christian." A total of 80 people from Europe attended. Naumann says, "The worship and time spent with fellow members clearly showed how the Lord has richly blessed Pastor Martin's* work in southwestern Germany, Switzerland, and England. There were many ELFK** members who joined us as well, including nearly a dozen from a newer congregation in nearby Wurzburg. I remembered that we have missions and sister synods in 11 countries in Europe. This geographical encouragement stuck with me through the weekend: the Holy Spirit is at work all over Europe.

One of the things I had been looking forward to doing was singing in the choir. Yet there were moments even during the singing of the congregational hymns that I had the same kind of goose bumps I get when listening to Bach's St. John Passion."

He went on to describe the great German food that he ate and the fun they had hiking and relaxing in the mineral baths.

* Pastor Martin is our WELS Missionary to Europe and our military chaplain. He works on various military bases in the three countries mentioned. The retreats are held in Spring and Fall. They are open to military and civilians alike.

** The ELFK refers to the Evangelical Lutheran Free Kirche (church) of Germany. This church body is one of our sister synods and is thus in doctrinal agreement with us.

Understanding God's Grace by Doing Lay Ministry

This article was written by Mark Santelman who is a jail ministry training team member. He had heard Chris Driesbach* praising God on his six string guitar at both the dedication of the chapel at MLC in New Ulm, and at the state's penitentiary in Stillwater. He describes the reaction Chris had after his concert in the prison chapel.

"It is hard to describe the experience of going into a prison to finally connect with men that are inside. Stillwater was my third concert for prisoners, but it is still scary and dehumanizing to go through the security screening. It's so very humbling and thrilling to have something of the greatest value to share with these men and surprising and wonderful to know fellowship with them. God will accomplish every bit of His great work of salvation. What an honor it is to be allowed to play a small part - and that this badly cracked pot may hold such priceless treasure that is the gospel."

Santelman says, "The men sang the songs with gusto and the boundaries and walls between them disappeared for this blessed time of refuge under Jesus' wings in His love and faithfulness.

He continued, " Your WELS brothers and sisters who volunteer to bring Jesus into nearby jails and prisons rarely meet the family members of the inmates they serve, but we do see the faces of those behind bars. Their faces look like those of your neighbors or loved ones." He reminds us to read the story of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15. The shepherd stopped everything to find 1% of his flock. Today God continues to look for that 1% among America's inmate population. He is opening jails and prisons around the country to us, so that we might carry out His Great Commission.

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Inside jails and prisons a few lay people tell about God's love to the unlovable. We do need more workers. Training is available. Please consider this to be your ministry for the Lord. Please also pray for this ministry and ask God to send more willing workers into this humbling but rewarding ministry.

*Chris Driesbach is the church musician for Crown of Life Lutheran Church in New Orleans which was flooded when Katrina hit in August 2005. But his story doesn't start there. "I was a drunk and an atheist. I got scared when I realized I was in trouble. After becoming a Christian in 1995, I wanted to play music in churches and not bars, but had no clue how to do it." After Katrina hit and with no money to rebuild the church Chris knew he had to do something. With the help of 1,300 volunteers, the church was rebuilt and rededicated in 2006 and Chris's singing career in churches was begun. He has visited 446 churches and given 750 concerts in 4 years. During his concert he shows a power point presentation of the rebuilding of the church.

Playground Project Approved by Voters

(As of June 9, 2010)

At a special meeting held on Sunday, June 6, the voters of St. John unanimously approved the construction of a new playground facility for our pre-school and kindergarten children. This new enclosed play area will be constructed on the north side of the school building and will comprise nearly 6,700 square feet of space.

The playground structure area will comprise 1,823 square feet to contain the safe, educational, and physically challenging play equipment for our youngsters. There is a 180 foot long tricycle track surrounding the play area, while a 345 square foot terrace area is on the east side of the track that will feature two picnic tables, a water fountain for both the children and the adults, and low voltage up cast lighting that will make the summer evenings all that much more pleasant.

The enclosed area will be thoroughly landscaped with trees and shrubs planted throughout, and 1,113 square feet of the total area will be devoted to lawn for aesthetics and to accommodate the wading pools in use during the summer months. The adults will be able to watch all of this activity from three strategically placed sitting benches.

The voters also approved the selection of Bluemel's Maintenance Service, Inc. of Greenfield, Wisconsin, as the general contractor to construct the new playground facility according to the drawings, specifications, and instructions we have provided. Bluemel's may start their work as soon as June 15 and are committed to concluding their work by July 30.

In a separate action, the voters of St. John also approved the selection of Vanderwerff Construction Company as the contractor to purchase and install new exterior doors for the southwest, northwest, and northeast entrances to the school building. These new doors will be similar in quality and appearance to the doors previously installed by Vanderwerff at the southeast entrance, the primary school entrance.

St. John Building Committee

Dick Leach, Herb Beres, Mark Hiron, Paul Knachel and Larry McCullough

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Blessings Are Piling Up in Our School!

A mother of an applicant for our kindergarten told friends in the community that she would be enrolling her son in our school. They answered that St. John is a great choice. Our reputation in the community is a blessing, a blessing that draws families to us.

Enrollment is climbing. We ended the year serving 75 children and 90 is a likely beginning enrollment in August. We are prepared to add a teacher's aide to help primarily in grades 1&2. Every child we get is a blessing, a blessing to serve.

The voters approved funds to subsidize greatly expanded after-school educational activities. Mrs. Bode will be coordinating this new program. These activities, which will emphasize the arts, should further enhance our reputation while benefitting those children we love to serve. Opportunities for our children are blessings, blessings to expand.

The voters approved funds to refurbish our school building over the next six years. This year, look for enhancement in Mr. Bode's room (technology, especially smart board) and our hallways. Our facility is a blessing, a blessing to maintain.

Kindergarten through grade six will have new language books this fall because voters approved our budget. During the year, the faculty will develop a new curriculum in science, then request funds for new books and materials next year. Academic growth is a blessing, a blessing to be grown.

The Lord is pouring out blessings on our school. Blessings bring responsibilities. We are responsible to speak well of our school, serve the children God gives us, seek always to expand their opportunities, maintain the facilities God has allowed us to use, and provide the best education possible. These responsibilities are also our great privilege!

Paul Kaiser, Principal

Former Students in the News!

Victoria Blacik has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship beginning in September 2010. This is a grant from the U.S. State Department that will allow her to live in Madrid, Spain next year to do historical research for her PhD dissertation on 20th century Spanish public health. Victoria graduated from Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers, WI in 2000. She then attended Tulane University in New Orleans, graduating in 2004 magna cum laude with a BA in history. After graduation, she worked at Project Vote Smart in Montana for two years. While in Montana, she met her husband, Clinton Adams. They were married on August 3, 2009, and currently live in Irvine, California, where Victoria attends the University of California, Irvine for graduate studies in history.

Congratulations to Rob Beres, who won the SLHS 1600 meter relay with his team members Zak Krause, Andy Thusius, and Chris Pierce in 3:30.49!

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Women's Guild of St. John's Treasurer's Report

June 12, 2009 to June 15, 2010

This year we have new pink Birthday envelopes for you to use. If you put money in them, it will still go directly to the Women's Guild to be used for our activities and mission contributions. If you wish to designate money for LWMS, it will go only for missions. As of January 2010, we will begin reporting those amounts to be included in your offering statement from St. John. This is so you will have a record to claim a deduction on your Income Tax forms. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Women's Guild in our activities this past year. This report shows the details of that financial support. Sharon Blacik, Women's Guild Treasurer.

There are some notes of explanation for certain lines below. The savings account is money set aside for future kitchen renovation. It was added to this year from a memorial that was specified for that use. The House Walk was entirely funded by the hosts and helpers, so the collections went directly to Christian Life Resources to be used for the New Beginnings Home for Unwed Mothers. Women's Guild expenses include speaker fees, babysitting, and LWMS membership fee. The other mission money collected went to LWMS.

Savings Account

Balance 6/12/2009	\$2136.18
Interest	5.75
In memory of Judy Knuth	1955.00
Balance 6/15/2010	\$4096.93

Checking Account

Balance 6/12/2009 \$423.73

Deposits:

Birthday Envelopes,	
Coffee Money, Memorials	1081.10
LWMS Mission Box	311.10
2009 House Walk	475.00
Advent & Lent Dinners	402.75

Total Deposits: \$2269.95

Expenses:

Women's Guild Expenses	202.00
Christian Life Resources	475.00
LWMS Mission Box	311.10
Dinners	167.98

Total Expenses: \$1156.08

Balance on 6/15/10 \$1537.60

Designated money for
Preschool classroom 200.00**Available Balance 6/15/10** \$1337.60*Spreading God's Word ... with Truth and Love***Financial Report - Our Gifts and Works for God**

	Actual	Budget
Offerings YTD (o)	\$277,603.49	\$299,068
Tuition / Fees YTD (t/f)	\$274,198.00	\$300,240
Total (o+t/f)	\$551,801.49	\$599,308
Expenses YTD	\$631,500.22	\$674,537.34

YTD = year to date = from July 1 through May 31

Offerings and expenses reported above are for our Work Program and do not include gifts or expenses for special projects / associated ministries funded through our Gift Account.

What Do the Numbers Say?

With our offerings, we are ~\$21,500 below what we said we would do as a congregation.

With our school income, we are ~\$26,000 below what we planned.

With our expenses, we are ~\$43,000 below what we planned.

Between expenses and income - ~\$80,000 gap. (See above: Expenses YTD - Total (o+t/f).)

Q and A

With our income ~\$80,000 less than our expenses, how can we be covering our ministry expenses? Near the beginning of our fiscal year we transferred \$55,000, and in June we have transferred another \$25,000, for a total of \$80,000 from our investment funds to our General Work Program account to finance this year's expected shortfall.

With our income being about \$48,000 less than expected, and having a Work Program with a planned ~\$106,000 deficit, how can we be only ~\$80,000 short after 11 months? Part of the answer is the \$80,000 from investment funds; another part of the answer is that we have spent about \$43,000 less than planned.

Will we need to use more investment funds to cover this year's ministry expenses? It depends. Since we expect very little school income during June, strong offerings throughout June will set us up to end the year on a very positive note! God help us to excel in the grace of giving!

Short-Circuited!

Our Wisconsin Synod is divided into 12 districts. Our Southeast Wisconsin district is divided into conferences. Our Chicago Conference (extending from Zion to Kentucky) has now been re-divided from 3 into 4 circuits. Our circuit gave up Morton Grove, Niles, and Elgin and now consists of Zion, Waukegan, Lindenhurst, Round Lake, Lake Zurich, Crystal Lake, Palatine, and Libertyville. This re-sizing of circuits should allow a closer relationship with our circuit pastor. At our district convention we again called Pastor Steve Radunzel of Waukegan to serve us as circuit pastor. The circuit pastor serves as pastor's pastor, a liaison between congregation and district and synod, and a resource in times of trouble and blessing.

Calvary Academy Ministries

Golf Marathon 2010

Ok, "Gimme" the Details Art

The Calvary Academy Golf Marathon was played on June 14, 2010 at the South Hills Country Club (www.southhillsc.com) just west of Franksville, WI.

A summary of the day was something like this....

- Coffee & doughnuts at 7:30 a.m.
- Started golfing at 8:05 a.m.
- It was a two-man scramble even
- We played 50 holes and finished by noon
- After the 50 holes we had a cookout.....**RAIN CAME TO THE COURSE**
- Smiled a lot - and had a great time raising funds for Calvary!

Now it is your turn, if you can donate to this cause, send a tax deductible donation to

Construction Progress Update

Church Renovation

The newly refinished pews are in place.

The new electrical system and lighting is completed.

The porcelain tile for the nave and chancel is completed.

Carpeting is down in the narthex, cry room and stairwells of the church.

The plastering of the walls and ceiling along with their painting is completed.

Stained glass exterior protection is being done.

The balcony seating and New Pew Cushions are on order.

The Sound / AV desk is onsite and in position.

Along with many other small projects.

Playground Construction

The paperwork with the village has started.

Final permits are on the way.

Groundwork on the drainage has begun.

The area will be cordoned off shortly.

Parking Lot Lighting

It is in the final design phase before submitting to the village for any variances and or approvals.

July Birthdays

2- Daniel McCormick
 2- Jeanette Pruss
 3- Dale Villiard
 6- Veronica Zielke
 7- Carin Kveton
 7- Brandon Schwandt
 8- Charles Bell
 8- Roy Cox
 8- William Hallan
 8- Katherine Mays
 9- Ronald Echtenacher
 9- Gail Knachel
 12- Cynthia Peart

13- Annie Samuel
 13- Sarah Schlosser
 14- *Abbigail Robinson
 14- *Andrew Robinson
 18- Les Knuth
 18- Christopher Rossmann
 19- *Abigail Echtenacher
 19- *Colin Reich
 22- Will Hays
 23- Tonya Fatschel
 23- Mardell Hansen
 26- Hannah Zimmerman
 28- Eric Liesener

28- Denise Rajkovich
 29- Ernie Boys
 30- *Lauren Swanson
 30- Allyson Zimdars

*Children not yet confirmed.

Ministry Council		
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Parent Relations - John Kruse	krusejon@hotmail.com	920-450-3478

