



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

501 W. Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-4424 or (847) 367-1441
Fax (847) 367-9858
Website www.stjohnslib.com
Email stjohnslib@sbcglobal.net

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

March 2010

Let's Build the Church Together!

A Sunday school teacher had an experience she would not soon forget. During class the door opened and a new student was brought in. The little boy had one arm missing, and since the class was almost over, she had no opportunity to learn any of the details about the cause or his state of adjustment. She was very nervous and afraid that one of the other children would comment on his handicap and embarrass him. There was no opportunity to caution them, so she proceeded as carefully as possible.

As the class time came to a close, she began to relax. She asked the class to join her in their usual closing ceremony. "Let's make our churches," she said. "Here's the church and here's the steeple, open the doors and there's....." The awful truth of her own actions struck her. The very thing she had feared that the children would do, she had done. As she stood there speechless, the little girl sitting next to the boy reached over with her left hand and placed it up to his right hand and said, "Davey, let's build the church together."

LET'S BUILD THE CHURCH TOGETHER! What a great thought. Now we know that it is actually God who builds His church but the Lord uses each one of us as his tools and instruments in the process. To help lead us in the planning of future ministry and building needs at St. John, Jeff Davis of Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry (CSM) has been here gathering information with surveys and interviews. Now, through a series of workshops led by CSM and open to the entire congregation, we will begin to lay out the needs and the opportunities to fulfill those needs by writing out a plan for discussion, review and eventual approval by the congregation.

Workshop Planning Dates (all are invited):

Workshop #1 Sunday, March 14, 10:15 am — 1:00 (lunch included)

Workshop #2 Sunday, April 11, 10:30-??

Workshop #3 and Voters Meeting — TBD

As God's redeemed, forgiven, children we have been given an exciting and wonderful privilege and opportunity. We are able to be partners with our Lord Jesus Christ and with one another for the purpose of..... BUILDING THE CHURCH TOGETHER. Let's go to work!

Ministry Planning Task Force

St. John's In Action

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Mission News

Want a Pen Pal?

The Prison Ministry Committee has a pen pal program to reach prisoners with the Gospel. When an inmate asks for a pen pal, a letter is sent explaining the basic dos and don'ts of the program. The inmates are expected to sign their agreement and return it to the committee. Only with that signed agreement will an inmate be assigned a pen pal. Since there is limited knowledge of the inmate, no assurances can be given. There is no way of knowing whether an inmate will write back. Some write for a period of time and then stop. This is your opportunity to share the Gospel. We never know when the Holy Spirit will water it. Prisoners in the penal system have come to know Christ through the letters sent to them and have then reached out to other prisoners and led them to Jesus. Guidelines for writing pen pal letters are available at:

WELS Prison Ministry
P.O. Box 452
200 N Washington Street
New Ulm, MN 56073

For more info call 507-354-3130 or e-mail welspm@newlmtel.net. If being a pen pal is not for you, please keep this program and those who have been brought to Christ through it in your prayers.

Feeling Worthy Campaign

In November, Truth in Love Ministry embarked on an exciting adventure! Several years of planning, preparation and prayerful guidance finally came to a conclusion when "Feeling Worthy" billboards were posted throughout eastern Idaho. The intent behind the campaign is to reach out to the Mormon community with a compassionate message of hope and healing found in Christ. Though not sure of what the reaction might be, the campaign was confidently placed in the Lord's hands to see how He might use it. Many newspaper articles have been written about the billboards, both pro and con. Seminars have been held. Contact has been made by pastors of other churches in the area asking for information about how to witness to Mormons.

Now in January and February, 5000 postcards are being mailed out to Mormon women in eastern Idaho. TLM has also set aside several hundred postcards for a special purpose. That purpose involves you. Please send the address of a LDS (Mormon) woman that you know and they will follow through by mailing the hishealingnow.com postcard. The card is an invitation for LDS women to go to our web site and find out the true message of worthiness and forgiveness. Also, they will send you postcards that you can personally use for your witnessing. Either go to their web site or post office address and make your request known. "Together we can share the message of God's Word and bring as many Mormons as possible to heaven."

Truth in Love Ministry P.O. Box 763 Meridian, ID 83680
TruthInLoveMinistry.net or HisHealingNow.com, or TruthInLoveToMormons.com.

As with any mission endeavor, keep this project and its missionaries in prayer before the Lord. All people need to know that as we came into the world, we are not worthy. Yet, we have become worthy and forgiven because of Jesus suffering and death for us and not by anything we do for ourselves.

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How WELS Witnesses In Haiti

We don't. Because the government buildings have been destroyed, identities have been lost. This includes the WELS identity to have permission to enter Haiti. We do have two seminary students in the Dominican Republic that are Haitians, however. They can go into Haiti and they do. They go to back help their own families and to contact those that were interested in knowing more about Jesus before the quake. These people are brought to a Dominican Republic (DR) border town, so our missionaries in the DR can continue to serve them with the word of God and financial support from our WELS Committee on Relief. Continue to keep these people and their efforts in your prayers.

Women of St John

Thanks to you who provided the wonderful supper on Ash Wednesday! Our next scheduled event for the Women of St. John is Sunday, March 21. Watch for more details!

Come and join with fellow WELS women to learn about our missions.

The Spring Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Lake Shore District Rally will be at Friedens Lutheran Church in Kenosha, on Saturday morning, April 24. The rally starts with registration at 8:30 and ends with lunch at noon. The speaker will be Cari Larsen, International Outreach Coordinator for Campus Ministries.

"Show me Your Ways, O Lord" (Psalm 25:4) is the theme of the National LWMS Convention to be in St. Louis, on June 24-27, 2010. It will be at the Millennium Hotel downtown on the banks of the Mississippi River with breathtaking views of the Gateway Arch and close to other attractions. Registration forms with detailed information are available in the LWMS mailbox in the church office.

Reverse Trade-Out

We now have 57 new hymnals for our renovated church.

That means we'll be picking and choosing, cleaning and re-using 159 of the best of our old hymnals. Here's a way to help us use only the best of the best of the used hymnals - buy one or more of our used hymnals (for the new hymnal price of \$21) and we'll buy more new hymnals.

Our present hymnal was first published in 1993 with a 30 year expected publication lifespan. Since we are now only half way to our next new hymnal, it can be a good investment for us to replace as many of our beaten-up hymnals as possible now so that they are good and beaten up when it is time to replace them with the next generation of hymnal.

To Trade-Out a used hymnal or buy new hymnals for church, use one of our special offering envelopes (they can be found on the fellowship hall piano).

St. Peter's, Milwaukee, (home of Rev and Jan Schoell) will be celebrating its 150th anniversary on Sunday, April 25, with a special bilingual service at 10:30am with Rev. Mark Schroeder as the guest preacher. The church is located at 1205 S. 8th St. A dinner will follow at 12:30pm at the American Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee. The cost for the dinner is \$20.00 per person, with no charge for children 5 years and under. Please make your reservations now with Jay Carter (414) 383-7594.

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

The Five Generation Rule

In 1874, the state of New York commissioned a study of its prison population. They hired a man named Richard Dugdale to do the study. He learned something interesting. Many of the convicts were descended from one man who lived 150 years earlier. Dugdale gave the man the made up name "Max Jukes."

Five generations of Jukes' descendants included 300 convicts, 27 murderers, 190 prostitutes, and 509 alcoholics and drug addicts. About the same time, Jonathan Edwards lived. He was a missionary to Indians, preacher and writer, and president of Princeton University. The next five generations of the Edwards family tree included 430 ministers of the Gospel, 130 judges and lawyers, 99 college professors, 60 doctors, and 11 congressmen and governors.

From this, Dugdale developed his five generation rule. Parents influence their own children and the next four generations.

Our St. John parents are doing important, far reaching work as they send their children to school and help them with their homework, as they bring them to church and Sunday school, and as they teach them to pray and set an example of devotion and Bible reading. Our parents are influencing the spiritual lives of children who will be born in the 22nd century. These children may never know the names of their great, great, great grand parents, but they will feel their spiritual influence.

The rest of us have the privilege of supporting and guiding parents in this vital work. We do this through our school, our youth ministries, and the entire Gospel ministry at St. John.

Shoreland Luther High School Recommended!

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." God has showered the Shoreland ministry with amazing blessings. This was validated by the WELSSA (accreditation) visiting team. The team led by Fox Valley Lutheran High School principal Paul Hartwig completed their work and has recommended Shoreland for provisional accreditation status pending the completion of several planning documents. If we complete those documents by June and make a few minor adjustments, Shoreland has a very good chance of receiving the EXEMPLARY accreditation status!!! In order to obtain the exemplary status a school must score a total of 206 points. Shoreland's score was 202.2. Completing the planning documents will move us to 203.7. Three more minor changes get us to the 206 mark. I am completely confident that we will obtain the EXEMPLARY status.

Paul Hartwig has been a part of the WELSSA process from the beginning and has been part of many visiting teams. He said it is rare for a school to have the chance to receive EXEMPLARY status the first time through the process. Thanks be to God for the amazing gifts that he has given to the Shoreland ministry. What a blessing it is that our parents have such a wonderful option for their children's high school education! Thanks for your continued prayers and support. Look for more details from the report in the future.

Paul Scriver, SLHS Principal (report abbreviated for SJIA)

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Where Dreams Come True

Plan to attend Shoreland's annual dinner/auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 17, 4:00-8:00 PM. The theme this year is **Where Dreams Come True**. Come and enjoy silent and live auctions, door prizes, delicious food and great fellowship! Pre-sale tickets will be available in February for \$25. Hope to see you there. Proceeds go toward tuition assistance. For more information or to donate, contact the school office at 262-859-2595, ext. 219. Hope to see you there!

Easter Caroling

Singing glories to our God is not limited just to Christmas! On **Saturday, March 27**, we will meet at St. John at 9:30 a.m. and then go caroling and share some Easter cheer with some of our members and shut-ins. We hope you can find time to spend with us as we rejoice in and share with others the wonderful story of Easter. Please contact Shawn Wietbrock (847-356-3616) with any questions.

Financial Report - Our Gifts and Works for God

	Actual	Budget
Offerings YTD	\$181,141.31	\$190,637
Tuition / Fees YTD	\$175,869.00	\$195,340
Total	\$357,010.31	\$385,977
Expenses YTD	\$397,507.15	\$427,707.34

YTD = year to date = from July 1 through January 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 ~\$9,500 below what we said we would do as a congregation. Wouldn't it be great if looking at our 2009 offering statements and comparing them with how God is blessing us ... wouldn't it be great if missed offerings were made up? Offerings aren't the price of attending worship, they are the response of a heart thankful and fired up to be included in the ministry of Christ! If the blanks were filled in, not only would that \$9500 shortfall be wiped out, we would be working with Christ for even greater growth and blessing in his St John ministry!

With our **school income**, we are ~\$19,500 below what we planned.

With our **expenses**, we are ~\$30,000 below what we planned.

Between expenses and income - a ~\$40,000 gap.

Concert at Faith

Jan Sobieski String Quartet - Saturday, March 6, 7:30pm. The concert at Faith Lutheran in Antioch will include Brahms' A Minor String Quartet as well as works by Haydn and Shostakovich.

Coffee and desserts will be served after the concert. Admission is free. For more info call 847-293-6101 or go to www.faithantioch.org.

March Birthdays

1- *Olivia Kveton	11- Shannon Couffer	24- *Tyler Schmidt
1- Michael Schlosser	12- Jose Irizarry	24- Cal Kveton
2- Neil Giarratana	14- Kevin Raddatz	24- Kimberly Wiler
3- Jamie McCormick	14- Linda Rechtenwald	26- Alyssa Rogne
4- *Madilyn Garwal	14- *Noah Schmidt	28- Deanna Dean
4- *Christabel Jayaseelan	15- *Mason Coleman	28- Kendal Dean
4- Joe Lofsness	15- Anthony Everett	28- *Adrian Robinson
7- Stacey Stoehr	16- Roland Maki	29- Christine Coleman
8- Amber Bode	19- Danielle Crumb	29- Daniel Coleman
8- Mary Diaz	20- *Jake Coleman	30- Simon Bortz
9- Karen Boys	21- Dawn Betancourt	30- Grace O'Driscoll
9- Nicole Gras	21- *Nicholas Economos	31- *Allison Robinson
9- Lyle Reiter	21- Heather Nowosel	
10- Kent Dean	22- *Ethan McGruder	*Children not yet confirmed.

Ministry Council

President - Art Rasmussen arazz2@comcast.net 847-223-0101

Secretary - Dale Villiard dwvvanderwerffconstruction.com 847-247-0913

Outreach Ministry Elder - Steve Lemerand lemerand@comcast.net 847-970-7985

Youth Ministry Elder - Ray Linnemann ray@stjohnslib.com 847-752-5948

Worship Ministry Elder - Vacant

Adult Ministry Elder - Phil Garberding philg@stjohnslib.com 847-223-2433

Pastor - Kevin Raddatz kevraddatz@hotmail.com 847-223-1526

Treasurer - Tim Knoebel timothy.knoebel@fmglobal.com 847-548-0164

Principal - Paul Kaiser paulkaiser@stjohnslib.com 847-573-0775

School Board

President - Joe Lofsness jlofsness@wheelingparkdistrict.com 224-627-0864

Finance - Darin Martell darinmartell@msn.com 847-274-4438

Recruitment - Neil Giarratana giarratana@yahoo.com 847-949-5079

Parent Relations - Jon Kruse krusejon@hotmail.com 920-450-3478

