

**-Vol.78 -
- St. JOHN'S -
-MESSENGER-**



AUGUST, 2010

*The Mission
Statement
of
St. John's Ev.
Lutheran Church*

Jesus told his disciples, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21); therefore, we the members of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church welcome his Gospel mission for us.

God created each of us and our congregation to make all people lifelong disciples of Christ. We will use the power of God's Word and Sacraments to nurture believers for spiritual growth and service, and to evangelize our community and world, believers for spiritual growth and service, and to evangelize our community and world, all to the glory of God.

From Pastor's Desk - "Enduring Mercy"

God said, "All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." (1 Peter 1:24-25) As I watch the Delphi plant being dismantled, I am reminded of these words. Its life span was really quite short for such a major industrial operation. Take a drive through the area of Oak Creek formerly known as Carrollville and see the remaining ruins of major industrial operations long ago closed. No matter how big and mighty things may be they can quickly pass from the scene.

God's blessings upon St. John's are awesome. This year we celebrate 160 years of ministry in the area of Oak Creek. We want to stop and give thanks to a gracious God. We can so easily take things for granted and assume that they will always be there. Aren't we reminded by many things around us that simply isn't true? The fact that St. John's is still here and active in proclaiming the gospel is totally by his grace.

We join with the Psalmist who exclaimed, "I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word." (Psalm 138:2)

On September 12, Sunday, we will celebrate God's grace upon us in the past as we anticipate his blessings upon our efforts in the future. We will have one service on Sunday at 9:30 (Saturday worship at 6:00 PM will be held). Our worship on Sunday will be an outdoor service with our church picnic to follow. We are planning some special arrangements for the day because this truly is special. In addition on that day you can sign up for Bible classes for all ages and ministry opportunities.

We are truly undeserving of these blessings for so long but God still showers them upon us. Join us that day and always in giving thanks to the Lord for he is good and his mercy endures forever. ***

St. John's Celebrates 160th Anniversary

As was mentioned in Pastor Kratz's devotional a special anniversary celebration will be held on September 12. Many of the details have not been laid out yet, but there is a plan to have period games for the kids put on by the FISH, part of the dessert will be a celebration cake, and there will be an update sheet listing the events since the 150th. People should look for more information to follow in upcoming weekend service notes and a signup sheet will also be out soon for those wishing to attend this special anniversary celebration and picnic.

New Sermon Series

This year we celebrate our 160 Anniversary of St. John's doing ministry in our community. A lot has changed in that span of time! God has chosen to keep St. John's active in Gospel proclamation. What grace!!

In the book of Revelation, Jesus addressed seven letters to seven churches located in present day Turkey. They also had been around for awhile (although not as long as we have). To each congregation he writes words of warning because of spiritual weakness or words of encouragement for the faithful in challenging circumstances.

Those seven letters will be the basis of seven sermons starting on August 1st. The final sermon will be on our Anniversary Sunday, September 12. Each letter will bring a special message to our congregation. Hear each one under the general theme of: "Words of Warning and Encouragement to Churches."

Service Time Change Starting in September

Take note that the summer schedule of Thursday evening services and the Living Praise service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday will change after Labor Day weekend, September 4-6. The Saturday evening service will begin on September 11 and the Sunday services (September 12) will be held at 8 a.m. and the Living Praise service at 10:30 a.m.

Seniors

The next luncheon for all our Seniors is set for Tuesday, August 10, at 11:30 a.m. at South Woods Restaurant, 5404 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

Call Dee Stefanik, 414-483-4418 for information or sign-up in the church lobby for your reservations in a few weeks.

Pastoral Acts

"Baptism"

Bennitis Alekzandr Medina, son of Bennitis Medina and Sheralys Currelo was baptized on June 27th, 2010 at St. John's after the 9:30 service.

We pray that he will continue in the Christian faith until life eternal.

"Funerals"

The funeral service of ***Shirley Grueneberg*** took place at Forest Hill Memorial Park on June 26, 2010.

Eugene Regalia's funeral was held at St. John's on July 1, 2010.

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord."

Jennifer Gaszak and Scott Wisnewski 6/26/2010

"Weddings"

Julie Baltutis and Seth Yust 7/18/2010

God bless these couples' life together in Christ.



The following is a wish list submitted by various committees and individuals and approved by the council. If you wish to make a contribution or take care of one of these needs please contact the church office. (414-762-3950)

Worship

- Candles - \$250
- 160th Anniversary celebration - \$300

Outreach

E-mail service for devotions and E-Connect for a year - \$150

Maintenance


- Room divider repair in basement-\$700
- Furnace replacement - \$2,000

We are certainly appreciative of the contributions and gifts that have been made. This is just another way God makes it possible for us to exercise our love for what our Savior has done for us through proper stewardship. *Please speak with Pastor to insure an item hasn't already been donated.*

Tables and Chairs

Need tables and/or chairs for a special event. We have some older but very usable tables and folding chairs in the garage and a member of the congregation who is willing to transport the tables to your location. A free will offering is welcome. If you're interested, please call the church at 762-3950.

Brewer Baseball Game

a  Saturday night, August 28; plan to attend a congregational outing to Brewer baseball game. The event will include a bus ride and tailgating at Miller Park. 30 tickets will be available at a cost of \$21 each plus \$4.00 food before the game. Attendees should meet at the church parking lot at 3:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet and payment envelopes can be found in the church lobby (Enclose cash or check to St. John's and place in collection plate). Plan to attend for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

A Successful Bible Adventure Camp

A day of fun and learning took place on Saturday, July 17. The children had an exciting day learning about the wonderful world that our God gave us by using science as our devotional topic. The children observed many science demonstrations connected with Godly messages and they also played many games, made crafts, enjoyed lunch and snacks and did many other fun and interesting things. The children in attendance loved it and parents and grandparents were so glad they sent them. The children also met and got to know other children in attendance many of whom were not members of our church. Some of the children were from other congregations, yet others were in attendance because of the invitations handed out at the parade. This shows that our outreach efforts were blessed by our God. A very special thanks to

the following people for making this year's Bible Adventure Camp run so smoothly and giving us the opportunity to reach out to children to tell them about their Savior: Scott and Danielle Scriver, Jesse Fraker, Matthew and Kimberly Scriver, Cameron Hachtel, John and Carol Anderson, Pam Lloyd, Christine Kloss, Carol Grundy, Rose Foote, Sara Widenski, Karen and Hope Bollinger.

FISH Update



Our Faithful In Serving Him teen group was privileged to visit the Lighthouse Youth Center of Milwaukee earlier this summer. Three carloads of St. John's teens and adults served a Friday night meal for them, participated in a devotion and interacted with their teens. Lighthouse

Youth Center is a place for youth to congregate whose mission is to be a beacon for Christ to the youth of the community. It provides the community with a central location where youth can gather safely for recreational activities, receive assistance on their academic assignments, enjoy the positive influence of adult Christian mentors, and have opportunities to study and discuss the truths of Scripture. It gave our group the opportunity to see the Lighthouse Youth Center in action and get an understanding of how it serves teens in this part of the city as it reaches out to help them physically, emotionally and above all, spiritually.

At the writing of this *Messenger*, the teens are preparing to embark on a trip to Birmingham, AL where they will be able to do some work at their church, help members of the congregation, canvas parts of the community and have fun and recreational time. May God bless the teens and leaders on this trip and all the teens of our congregation as they start to wrap up their summer vacation.

Church Library News

This month we are featuring some donations to the library. On the rack in the hallway between the nursery and the library, you will find some items purchased with donations given to the Angel Tree drive. There is a list of items posted in the library.

While other libraries are eliminating or reducing their holdings of VHS tapes, we have decided to add some that were donated by a member from her mother's estate. We are not encouraging donations of VHS tapes, but we thought these fit the mission of the library. We hope you can still view the VHS format at home. See others recently donated in the 200 section of the VHS audio visual tapes.

Keep letting us know what you want to read by checking out books and other media. When we need more room on the library shelves, we would like to know particularly what has been of interest to you since we will be discarding some items.

Playgroup in the Park

The Playgroup in the Park committee has set some dates for gathering at the park for parents with children birth to age 8. The goal of Playgroup at the Park is to have parents (members and nonmembers) and their children to meet in the early evening at a local park for some time together. Children will be able to participate in games and activities, singing, hearing a Bible story, etc. It will also provide parents an opportunity to get to know other parents as they share their joys and challenges of raising children. We hope that all of you with children will take advantage of these times at the park. Two Tuesday nights in August have been chosen for our Playgroup in the Park nights. The dates are: August 3, and 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and lasting for about an hour. The site is: Oak Leaf Park, 104 W Centennial Dr., in Oak Creek. Oak Leaf Park can easily be found behind (west of) Target of Oak Creek. Parents are welcome to arrive earlier and stay later if they so desire.

September Bible Class Kickoff



It is important to mark your calendar for September 19 when the fall session of adult Bible classes, Youth Bible Study for children (preschool through 8th grade)

and teen Bible study will begin. Please attend these classes and if you have children it is important that they attend Bible study so that our lives can be molded, shaped and guided by God's Word.

Movie Night, Fish Fry and Fellowship

Another outdoor movie night is being planned for Friday night, July 30 on our church grounds starting at 6:30 p.m.. The evening will include: food and drink, fellowship, games and a wholesome movie to be shown outside. Food includes a fish fry (fish, fries, rye bread, coleslaw, and drink. For \$6.00 or a hot dog plate \$3.00. Popcorn and beverages will be available during the movie free of charge. The movie, "The Blind Side", will be shown at about 8:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a fun evening of delicious food and fellowship. Sign-up sheet can be found in the lobby.

Grass Cutting Thank You

A sincere thanks to the mowing crews that have been working so diligently to keep our church grounds looking so well kept this summer. These individuals include: **Ken Kramer, Ron Grundy, Tom Norman and Ron Scherr.**

College Students Addresses

Most of you already know where your college age child will be attending school this fall. Students or parents of college students please forward addresses to Pastor Kratz or Rod Bollinger as soon as you can so all mailing records can be updated. We do our best to keep in touch with these students during the year and need your help in keeping addresses current. Your help is appreciated. Call the church office at 762-3950.

4th of July Float

The St. John's Float in the Oak Creek parade was a success. The float was able to reach out to hundreds of people along the parade route by letting everyone know of our church, its location and our message of caring for others and the goal to proclaim Jesus Christ to all. Particular thanks go out to the all the walkers who handed out brochures for the church and another proclaiming our children's ministries. They were also able to give candy to the many children attending the parade. Besides the adult walkers, we especially thank the FROGS children who endured the heat and humidity and FROGS leader, TJ Norman (Mr. Hoppers), who somehow was able to walk the entire duration of the parade in the hot costume. Additional thanks go out to Dan Fleischman who helped to prepare the trailer for the our praise band, the Norman family for decorating the trailer, Ron Grundy (wagon master) and our praise band, "*Ananeosis*" (played and sang on the float). We also thank Danielle Scriver and Connie Fraker for helping Rod Bollinger transport people, Jesse Fraker and Arno Kleimenhagen for getting candy, Jesse and Connie Fraker for providing refreshments, and Lea Fleischman for creating and making the Playgroup sign. Thank you for a job well done!

Collect and drop off Aluminum Cans

Please collect and drop off all your aluminum cans (soda and beer) and put them in the containers behind the garage beside the dumpster. Please do not drop off card board, bottles, milk cartons or other like items - only aluminum cans. Thank you.

Pick'n Save Receipts

If you shop Pick 'n Save, remember to use your **Pick'n Save Advantage Plus Savers Club Card**. If you don't have a card all you have to do is: 1. Enroll in Pick'n Save's program at their customer service desk. 2. Use the number **771840** for your enrollment number. By using your card (a small convenient card for your key chain), St. John's will automatically receive a rebate each time the card is used. Simply use the card at any Pick 'n Save store at any location.

Join Us for "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Day at the Zoo!" - Sunday, August 29, 2010

Register anytime between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 - Lunch 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Presentation by Lutheran Community Foundation at 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.

Please contact Jamie Fischer at (262) 432-6278 or Jamie.fischer@thrivent.com for info. (No products will be sold at this event.)

- This event is an appreciation of our members who make our community outreach possible.
- Discounted tickets are \$11.50 for adults (13 or older) and \$9.50 for children (3-12 years); includes parking.
- Register a non-member, adult guest and receive a complimentary ticket good for one of the following: sea lion show, carousel, train or adventure dinosaur.
- For each ticket purchased, Thrivent Financial will donate \$2 to the MACC Fund (Midwest Athletes against Childhood Cancer).
- Please make checks payable to "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans" and send to 20800 Swenson Dr., Ste. 175, Waukesha, WI 53186 along with a self-addressed envelope no later than August 13th. Please indicate the # of adults and children in the memo line.