May 2012

The Discipline of Going to Church

Going to church can become routine. I know it, because I grew up going too every Sunday, even when on vacation, and Wednesdays during Advent and Lent. (Disclaimer: My father was a pastor. But neither he or my mother went to church simply because he was a pastor.) My brother and I never had to ask, “Are we going to church today?” It was not a choice my parents gave me. It was something we did. It was of our regular routine even when we were on vacation!

Don’t get me wrong. I know fully well the dangers of making spirituality overly routine. I have experienced long stretches of dryness where I was “going through the motions”. This can be dangerous to spiritual health. Traditionalism can become legalism. We can be satisfied with doing what we are supposed to do and avoiding spiritual introspection and growth.

Perhaps you have heard it said, “you shouldn’t just go to church to go to church.” But I invite you to reconsider the discipline of merely going to church. The discipline of going to church every week is in itself an act of worship, of sacrifice. You’re saying to yourself and to the world that assembling with the people of God, that the story of Christianity, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus matters so much that you’re willing to build the pattern of your life around it.

I’m thankful that my father and mother made us go to church every week, and it didn’t end at confirmation. Faithfulness to Christ means faithfulness as a member of the local body of Christ – no “me and Jesus alone are just fine.” By going to church every week we present our bodies as a “living sacrifice” by getting up, dressing up, and going to church. When Christians practice weekly worship it is a witness to others -- we “vote” to make God a priority by committing ourselves to church.

Every week a pastor wonders who will show up. There are those who consider church a nice and viable option on Sunday and there are those who consider it a priority. I have doubts about those who say they “enjoy church once and a while.” I feel sorrow for those who boast that they can be Christians without going to church.

To be sure, faithful attendance is not all there is. We come to worship God “in spirit and in truth”. We come to be served by the Lord himself as we hear the Word of God and receive his gifts in the Lord’s Supper. We come to encourage and serve our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the very discipline of going to church that sets the stage for those things to happen, for God to work powerfully in our hearts.

You see, going to church is not about “obeying rules and regulations.” It is about “relationships” with the Lord and his people. Spiritual disciplines (such as attending church with fellow believers) bring us closer to Christ, whose power can change us.

Should you go to church when you don’t want to? Yes! Why? You will build into your life a habit, a discipline that puts you in the place where God works, in the midst of His church. On those days, who knows, but that you may hear a life-changing message you otherwise would have missed!

So, it’s a good idea to make a commitment to be in church every week. You'll be surprised at how this discipline will be a benefit to your life.

See you on Sunday,

Pastor John
Convention Report

It is challenging to come home from a three day convention and summarize all that took place with elections, presentations, resolutions. What follows is gleaned from the daily reports which were prepared. To read all the reports in their entirety, go online to the district website (or use the link on St. John’s website): http://mnndistrict.webplus.net

Highlights from resolutions adopted
(full list with more information is on the district website)

PROJECT 24 is a go! This is an international initiative that aims to build 24 orphanage rescue centers in Kenya, Africa. Disease and illness have left countless children without parents or close relatives. MN North and North Dakota Districts have pledged to build 3 centers together. The goal is to raise $100,000 to make this possible. Encouragement was also given to coordinate support programs which include: “1001 Orphans,” and “Children’s Bible Clubs in Kenya.”

To Support the Marriage Protection Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution

To Support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative -- Learn more about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative at www.lcms.org/lmi.

To Identify and Develop a Mission Framework to Specific Ethnic Groups

To Encourage Partnerships of Congregations with Campus Ministry

To Do All that We Can to Be an Effective Church Body in Rural Minnesota

To Encourage Church Workers and their Families to Participate in the Be Well Serve Well Program – develop and continue healthy lifestyles that benefit workers and the congregations they serve.

To Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Minnesota North District

To Thank the Lord for 60 Years of Blessings at Lutheran Island Camp and to Encourage Continued Prayers, Use and Support

To continue to Call Two Full-Time Mission and Ministry Facilitators

To Recognize and Thank Rev. Dr. Rick Hans for His Service to the District – He is retiring this year.

To Provide Funeral Costs for Workers Who Experience a Child’s Death Before Birth – Requesting synod to direct Concordia Plan Services to provide a benefit.

To increase financial support of our synod and seminaries (two resolutions)

Some resolutions generated discussion which reflected differing ideas on how to handle situations such as:

- Harmony in the District’s worship practices
- Closed communion practices in congregations
- Lay Ministry and Specific Pastor Ministry Programs of synod

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Election Results

District President Rev. Donald J. Fondow

Vice Presidents

Arrowhead Rev. Paul Cloeter (1st)

Lake-Land Rev. Kirk Lee (2nd)

Park Region Rev. Dan Abrahams (3rd)

District Secretary Rev. Walter Brill

District Treasurer Mr. Orrin Rinke

Circuit Counselor Elections for 2012-2015

**Park Region Conference**

Crookston Circuit Rev. Timothy Winterstein

Bemidji Circuit Rev. Allan Wierschke

Park Rapids Circuit Rev. Chris Davis

Detroit Lakes Circuit Rev. Delbert Meyer

Wadena Circuit Rev. Blake Rickbeil

Brainerd Circuit Rev. David Becker

**Arrowhead Conference**

Iron Range Circuit Rev. Donald Staarty

Lake Superior Circuit Rev. Robert Franck

Kettle River Circuit Rev. Matthew Vrudny

Little Falls Circuit Rev. Brady Finnern

Rum River Circuit Rev. John Beck

St. Cloud Circuit Rev. David Milz

**Lake-Land Conference**

Alexandria Circuit Rev. Terry Finnern

Fergus Falls Circuit Rev. Roger Lange

Long Prairie Circuit Rev. Marty Porter

Wheaton Circuit Rev. Paul Warnier

Appleton Circuit Rev. Tim Renstrom

Montevideo Circuit Rev. Steve Bielenberg

{Election results continue on the next page}
The Rev. Dr. Don Fondow was installed for his 4th term as District President Tuesday afternoon by Synod Pres. Matthew Harrison.

In his presidential address, Fondow reminded the convention of God’s great care and love for us in Christ. Though history often seems against the Church, God, in His perfect time, provides for all needs of His people in all times. We are to confess and witness to what Christ has given us, namely forgiveness and grace. Then, we are to reach out to the world with heart, hands and voice. It is the only real hope. Christ reaches out to the world through us who are His in the world.

Pres. Fondow thanked the assembly for the trust placed in him as president, asked for forgiveness when he should fail in his duties and help to serve the people and pastors of the MNN District.

Convention Speakers

Dr. Glen Thomas, executive director of pastoral education for the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, was the devotion leader each day. He guided convention delegates and attendees through a consideration of “parables of grace.” Thomas spoke on a different parable of grace each day and explained how these parables of grace closely align with the convention theme of “Sent to Share Christ’s Healing Grace.” Thomas noted the ways of Christ’s Kingdom are 180 degrees apart from the ways of the world. While Christ’s Kingdom is one of grace, the worldly kingdom believes it can merit or earn favor with God. The parables considered were:

- The Vineyard Workers Matthew 20:1-16
- The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
- The Pearl of Great Price/The Hidden Treasure Matthew 13:44-46

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Rev. Greg Seltz, current speaker of The Lutheran Hour, served as the convention essayist. He strongly and passionately encouraged attendees to “revel in the grace” of the crucified and risen Christ as motivation for actively doing God’s ministry. We are “Sent to Share.”

‘Be a Deep Well of God’s Grace—drink deeply. You’re going to need it!’” — Using the backdrop of story of the “woman at the well” from John 4, where Jesus invited the woman to drink the “living water” that he was offering, Seltz employed many memorable lines. He implored the conventionees to “drink deeply” of God’s grace because, he added, “trust in the one who quenches your thirst.” He further made a distinction between living water and “false thirst-quenchers,” filled with “empty calories.” By contrast, Christians know what truly satisfies and heals “ parched hearts and lives.”

He touched upon the fact that as Christ comes to us day after day by means of Word and Sacrament, we are to be filled “again and again and again” and that is very good and needful thing. Christians need “Christ to fill us up that we may be of service to others.”

On Tuesday, Rev. Seltz continued his presentation on refreshment for brothers and sisters in the ministry: “Give Yourself Away – you will be refreshed.” He said the key to sharing Christ with the world is our sacramental understanding of His work: because Christ came in the flesh to die and rise again for us, because He comes to us in Word and Sacrament, we go out to the world. We, as called workers, must continually receive Christ’s mercy for ourselves so that we may share it with those around us. He emphasized that because God has done everything for us in Christ, we are free to tend to our neighbor’s needs, “unleashing” Christ’s mercy on them. This is how Christians flex their “faith muscles.”

Mercy ministry happens when people who need mercy come into contact with those who have received mercy. It requires being willing to get into people’s lives and meet them where they are with what they need. Mercy eventually leads to opportunities to share the Gospel with people, but the fruits of that sharing may not be immediate or what we would expect.

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District Board of Directors – Lay Members

Park Region Conference
Timothy Browning

Arrowhead Conference
David Mowrey

Lake-Land Conference
Virgil Gerber

Lutheran Island Camp Board of Directors -- Pastors
Park Region Conference
Rev. Matthew Wurm

Arrowhead Conference
Rev. Jeff Walther

Lake-Land Conference
Rev. Nathan Higgins

At-Large Member
Rev. Bruce Noennig

District Nominating Committee 2015

Park Region Conference – Pastor
Rev. Allan Wierschke

Park Region Conference – Lay Member
Marvin Kading

Arrowhead Conference – Pastor
Rev. John Beck

Arrowhead Conference – Lay Member
Ronald Eickhoff

Lake-Land Conference – Pastor
Rev. Donald Wagner

Lake-Land Conference – Lay Member
Randy LaVoie

At-Large Member
Barbara Hertling

2013 Synod Committee for Convention Nominations

Lay Member
Kari Anderson

Alternate
Mr. Lonn Kiel
Whatever the results may be, Christ has freed us to serve Him with excellence in our various vocations.

Seltz concluded by describing how we are “living sacrifices.” Sacrifices are typically dead, but because we are connected to and constantly refreshed by Christ we are not “burned up” as the sacrifices of old. Instead we are constantly restored by the reservoir of living water given to us in Christ, and this, by God’s grace, leads our neighbors to faith.

On Wednesday, Rev. Greg Seltz gave his final essay to the assembly. He developed the idea that “Our God is the God of the second wind.” Seltz, an avid runner, explained that a second wind occurs when a runner reaches “the end of his rope,” feeling that he cannot take another breath or another step. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the runner experiences renewed energy and feels as though he could run forever.

Seltz wove the notion of a second wind together with the 40th chapter of Isaiah. A well-known passage from this chapter reads as follows: “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youth grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Indeed, when God delivered these words through the prophet Isaiah, God’s people were in desperate need of “refreshing.” They needed their God of “a second wind.” And so it is today. God’s people often need a second wind when confronted by the challenges of taking God’s gifts to the world. This work can be discouraging. Yet, Seltz reminded the assembly that “no matter what we are dealing with today, it is temporary.”

He encouraged attendees to ask themselves “whose mission am I on?” Thinking in terms of being on the Lord’s mission, listeners were invited to set their hearts and minds on “what God is going to do” rather than the challenges each faces. It is through living by faith that we will receive God’s second wind which will equip us to deliver God’s grace and mercy to a world in desperate need of it.

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Rev. Matthew Harrison. President of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, led the convention in Bible Study on “Witness, Mercy, Life Together.” He asserted that if the Church rightly answers the question, “Who are we?” our work and life together will fall into place. He cited Galatians 2:9-10 as an excellent example of where witness, mercy, and life together comes together.

Harrison asserted “witnessing” is not in conflict with “confessing.” In fact, they are two sides of the same coin. He stated that “you can’t have a witness that does not have the creedal content of the faith and you can’t have a confession if you don’t take it to the community. You have to have both in tandem to have a healthy church.”

When speaking of “mercy,” Harrison cited many verses including 1 John 3:18, “Let us love not in words and speech but with actions and in truth.” He stated that Christ’s love is to be seen in us. Congregations that care for their own have been found to be the ones that are missionally attractive in the community.

Finally, Harrison touched upon the challenge of life together. He said that “the first thing that must be realized is that life together is God’s gift.” Indeed we are all baptized into one body. Harrison closed by challenging pastors and laity to look at their own church and find one thing to improve upon in the area of witness, mercy and life together.

On Tuesday, President Harrison began his report by showing a video highlighting acts of Witness, Mercy, and Life Together that have taken place around the globe in the past year. Included in the video were the continued mercies being shown to flood victims in Minot, ND, and the tsunami survivors in Japan. In addition, examples of global witness and life together in Siberia and the Dominican Republic were shown. National missions including youth servant events, school ministry, church planting and deaconess ministry were also featured. A time of Questions and Answers with the assembly followed.

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Concluding Comments on the Convention

The Monday evening convention worship at Zion Lutheran Church saw the sanctuary filled with people and overflowed into the welcome area where the service was on a closed circuit television.

The convention offering for “Project 24” from district congregations and worshipers was $17,145.30.

Make A World For Christ appeal – 40 district congregations completed campaigns and a total of 68 have contributed. To date, $557,660 has been pledged of which $381,277 has been received. $30,000 has been distributed to the three international projects – Luther Center, Wittenburg, Germany; Lutheran Seminary in Nagercoil, India; Health Care Centers in Africa. $178,677 has been given to Lutheran Island Camp for remodeling of the chapel/recreational hall and Retreat Center.

The final registration of voting delegates was 264 (125 pastors and 139 lay delegates). The total number of people registered for the convention was 386. The business of the convention was completed on time and no extension was needed.

The convention is over. Now the work begins. Many of the resolutions passed by the convention delegates “encourage congregations to…” take action. Our district and synod in convention do not “order” what congregations must do. Nevertheless, it is the delegates from the congregations of our church who have prayerfully considered the matters presented and approved projects and practices to help us all “walk together” in the work that the Lord has set before us. A number of times delegates at the microphones reminded one another that passing a resolution means a responsibility to return home and take action to carry out the work. This means that congregations, their delegates, and their leaders need to be familiar with the convention’s proceedings in order to put the resolutions into practice. Hopefully, this report is a beginning point in that process. May the Lord bless our work together.
WORDS OF APPRECIATION are expressed to:
… those who serve weekly in worship: pastor, organist, pianist, vocalists, lay readers, ushers, greeters, PA technicians, elders, acolytes, and altar guild.
… all who donated Easter flowers for the sanctuary.
…those who counted and posted the offerings.
… those who have brought refreshments on Sunday mornings in April.
... Arlen Peterson, Richard Friday, Diane Buehring, Pastor John & Judy Beck, Gary Wendorf, Kevin Garey, Mike Willert, Dwight Hahn, and LeRoy & LaVern Nelson who came to help clean the inside of the church on April 21.
… those who helped with prison ministry (Sue Haley and Brian Moreau) and the Golden Living Center services (Pastor, Sue Haley and Kay Christensen) in April.
… Kevin Garey and Pastor Beck who were St John’s delegates to the District Convention.
… East Central Sanitation, who provides free garbage service and recycling for St. John’s.
… those who helped to assemble this newsletter.
... our gracious God who makes all these things possible through the priceless gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory forever and ever.

MERCY IN ACTION—THANKS FOR CARING!

- Member of St John’s participated in the March MN FoodShare campaign contributing food shelf items and cash donations of $490. Gladys Enzenhauer brought the food items to the Food Shelf the following Tuesday when it was open.
- An entire paper carton filled with new socks and undies for the Orphan Grain Train was delivered to the MN North District Convention.
- $238 was given for the District Convention offering for Project 24 – the building of an orphanage in Kenya (the joint project of building three orphanages with the North Dakota District received final approval at the convention).
- “1001 Orphans” commitment – In January St John’s pledged to sponsor two orphans in Kenya (this program is associated with Project 24) for a total of $800. By designating “Coins for Christ” and Lenten supper offerings we have already fulfilled one sponsorship and are well on the way with the second.

MAY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
1  LeRoy Larson, Dwight & Jan Hahn
2  Cindy Wendorf
3  Trish Williams, Amber Witte
6  Brandon Buehring, Wendy Fehrman, Abby Peterson
11  Florence Larson, Deb Scheele, Ted & Lyn Dahl
13  Billy Karth
15  Hayden Benjamin, Rick Friday
19  Jami Friday
20  Deb Shoemaker
21  Deb Guse
22  Butch & Marya Willert
24  George Reiser
25  Nathan & Rebekah Szczech
28  Gary Guse
30  LouAnn Larson, Pastor John & Judy Beck

News & Tidbits

RUSH CITY GARAGE SALE DAY—May 12th
As you are out looking for the “great deals” of the day, don’t forget to stop by SJLC. Even road construction can’t shut us down!

✓ ANNUAL PLANT SALE– 8:00 am
Great selection of plants are available for all with a green thumb (and for those who wish they had one!). The plant sale is located by the church garage.

✓ SOUP, SANDWICH, AND PIE LUNCHEON
The St. Johns’ LWML will be serving the Soup, Sandwich, and Pie Luncheon on Saturday, May 12, during the city wide garage sale. It will be served between 11:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. Three kitchen helpers as well as pie donations will be needed. Look for a sign-up sheet after Easter. For more information, the contact person is Cathy Gagnon at (320) 358-0843.

FREE CONCERT
Wednesday, May 2
5:30-7:00 pm
First Lutheran Church in Rush City
1000 Jay Street
(320)358-4076

AGAPE (Dave Scherer) has inspired youth from Brooklyn to Bosnia with his relational ministry “Hip Hop Outreach.” His energy is contagious and his stories of faith transcend differences. Even those who do not normally enjoy hip-hop find themselves dancing to his music and are captivated by his unique presentation of the Gospel.

All are welcome!
Lutheran Island Camp News

2012 LIC CAMPERSHIP INFORMATION FOR SJLC MEMBERS

St. John’s Lutheran Church wants to encourage you to take part in the summer camp programs at our Minnesota North District’s Lutheran Island Camp. St John’s will pay 50% of the registration fee for each camper from SJLC (up to one full week at camp). Families are asked to register for the camp of their choice and make the deposit for the camp.

The Lutheran Island Camp brochures for the 2012 camping season are available at the back of the church and the Fellowship Hall display rack. The theme for this year is “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”.

Please look especially at the Classic Camp (for our Rum River Circuit as well as others) during the week of June 17-22. Bus/van transportation will be available at a nominal cost.

There are SJLC Campership forms as well as LIC Summer Camp brochures on the display rack in the Fellowship Hall. These contain more information for you on a number of family weeks and specialty camps. Please consider this excellent opportunity for fun, fellowship and Christian nurturing.

Check the LIC website for additional programs which may have been added: www.islandcamp.org

LIC JAMBOREE

Studies show that a week at camp has a greater positive impact on children’s lives than just about any other event. It teaches them about important lessons in life, challenges them to grow while being away from home, and often develops life-long relationships. Lutheran Island Camp has been providing that opportunity for 60 years! During that time hundreds of young people have been led to go into full-time church work, others have met their future spouses, and many have grown into today’s church leaders.

The theme for the 60th summer of camping at LIC is “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” based on Psalm 139. Youth and families will learn more about their wonderful Creator who has created and sustains them and the universe that surrounds them. The creation-science camps, horse back riding camps, adventure camps and leadership programs will be utilizing Christ Serve Ranch this year in addition to LIC. It is a wonderful opportunity for your child and/or family to be a part of history and be able to look back years from now and say “I was at Christ Serve Ranch” the first year!

Bill Schultz, camp director at Lutheran Island Camp will be here at St. John’s on Sunday, April 29 to answer questions, share information and to sign up children for camp. This year your child will receive $20 off for any week long overnight event for $10 for any weekend event they sign up for at the Registration Jamboree that day!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Sundays at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO (830 AM)

May 6
"It's Time to Show Whose We Are!"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Connected to Jesus, the True Vine, in all seasons of life, we bear fruit that blesses the lives of others.
(John 15:1-8)

May 13
"Barrier-Breaking Love"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God’s love is no respecter of persons. His love comes to all by grace through faith in Jesus. That love breaks down barriers and builds bridges so that others might see that love in action for them.
(Acts 10:34-38)

May 20
"Now What?"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus died for our redemption, was raised again to life, and ascended into heaven. Now what? We get to tell anyone who will listen all that Jesus has done for them, that’s what!
(Acts 1:7-9)

May 27
"Remember, Don't Forget"
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
Memorial Day weekend is a time to remember the sacrifices made to preserve our freedom. Today is also the Lord's Day; we remember our Savior Who gave Himself to free us from sin.
(Ezekiel 37:3)

Dear Members of St. John’s Lutheran Church

Thank you for your gift! I am thankful that you have included LCMS World Relief & Human Care in your stewardship. Please pray for our staff as they carry out our Synod’s work of mercy throughout the world. You are a part of a great crowd of witnesses who on behalf of the people of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod share Christ’s mercy in our life together as we provide relief and care for body and soul. None of it would happen without you. Thank you!

In Christ,
Rev. Matthew Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

“Honor your mother, as the LORD has commanded you...”
Deuteronomy 5:16
MEMORIAL GIFT – Headset Microphone

St John’s received a memorial gift from the family of Harry Pauling for the purchase of a new headset microphone set. The microphone set has arrived and will be in use weekly in our worship. Thank you to Delores, the family and friends of Harry Pauling.

ST. JOHN’S LWML NEWS & NOTES

Alleluia - He is risen!! As we watch the earth come to life in this season of Spring we give thanks for the new life we have in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Soup, Sandwich & Pie Lunch

Our LWML will be offering a Soup, Sandwich, & Pie Lunch on Saturday, May 12, Rush City Garage Sale Day, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. We are requesting donations of sandwiches and pies from the congregation. You will find a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the worship area. Please join us for lunch.

MN North District Convention

We are preparing to “Arise and Shine” at our LWML MN North District Convention, Monday - Wednesday, June 25 - 27, at Breezy Point in Brainerd. The LWML Conventions are always inspiring, energizing, and filled with song and fellowship. The convention begins with servant events on Monday afternoon. We will be rolling bandages, making eye glass cases out of neckties, tying quilts and lap robes, and making Linus blankets.

Your help would be greatly appreciated in gathering items for our Ingatherings and Servant Events. Ingatherings will be given to Lakes Area Pregnancy Support Center/Brainerd, Bethany Good Samaritan Society/Brainerd, and the Green Sneaker Project. There is a complete list of items needed by the pregnancy center posted on the LWML bulletin board in the hallway to the fellowship hall. The Bethany Good Samaritan Society is in need of socks with grips on the bottom, adult bibs and lap robes, puzzles, large print word find books and appropriate reading material. And, if you missed our collection last summer of used tennis shoes, the Green Sneaker Project is on going at Lutheran Island Camp, and there will be a collection at the convention to go to LIC.

Donations are also need for our Servant Events. We need white cotton bed sheets for bandages and WIDE neckties in any color or pattern for making eyeglass cases. We are told there will be a prize for the wildest pattern, most colorful and the ugliest neckties. If you would like to help prepare for our bandage rolling, the sheets need to be washed and torn into strips 2, 3, or 3 1/2 inches wide and the length of the bed sheet. It was suggested to check with local hospitals and motels for linens they may want to recycle.

Also, remember our “Gifts from the Heart”. If you have Soup Labels for LIC, Stamps for Missions, telephone, gas and gift cards for seminary students, we can bring them along to the convention.

“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)

If you would like to experience an LWML convention there will be more information coming regarding costs and accommodations. All women of St. John’s are welcome to attend the convention and witness our MN North women ‘Serving the Lord with Gladness’.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, May 14, 6:30 pm. All women are invited to join us!

“Serve the Lord with Gladness!”

(Psalm 100:2)

THE 14:40 PRAYER

for World Malaria Day – April 25

One child in Africa dies every 60 seconds from malaria. In a single 24-hour period—one day—1,440 people in Africa will succumb to this disease. World Malaria Day offers an opportunity to raise awareness of the devastating effects of this disease and encourage people to join in the worldwide effort to end malaria deaths in Africa by 2015.

Wednesday, April 25—World Malaria Day—If you missed day, you can still join in a moment of prayer at 2:40 p.m. (14:40 on a 24-hour clock) as we consider the 1,440 Africans who die each day from malaria and remember in prayer all who suffer from malaria or will lose a child or other family member to the disease.

Lord God, our most merciful Father, in this fallen and sinful world death is the constant and impartial enemy of all. We humbly ask You to show mercy on all those who are suffering from malaria today. If it be Your will, restore the afflicted to full health. Surround them in their time of illness with Your love, especially the children who are weak and afraid, through the family and friends who minister to them. Comfort those who have already lost a loved one to malaria or will, especially the parents of young children, who in the minds of mothers and fathers are taken from this life too soon. We plead You to perform the miracle of ending this disease, in part through the education and relief efforts of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Grant that LMI’s educators, physicians, health-care providers and missionaries are powerfully and fully equipped to bring an end to the human suffering and death in Africa caused by malaria. And Lord, through the Gospel of Your Son Jesus, proclaimed through Word and Sacrament, strengthen our faith and lead others to see that a life in His grace leads only to an eternal existence in Your loving presence. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Learn more about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative at www.lcms.org/lmi.
RUSH CITY FOOD SHELF

Proud to serve people in need

The Rush City Food Shelf appreciates your organization’s contributions and food donations. We are able to serve the many in need in our community with your continued support.

To enable us to offer fresh foods, many area farmers donate extra produce from their summer gardens and fields. If your organization is interested in creating a community garden or donating your own home grown fruits and vegetables to the Rush City Food Shelf, please let us know. With some conversation we could make it easy for you to contribute fresh produce. For instance, suggestions on what to plant, how to contact us, and other questions you may have.

As our storage and refrigeration space is very limited we would appreciate fruit and vegetable contributions on or near the time we are open. The Food Shelf is open at the Rush City Community Center, located at 720 West 14th Street every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-5:00 pm.

Please contact the Food Shelf at (320)358-4428 or call me at (651)674-0084 if you have any questions about donating your fruits and vegetables to the Food Shelf.

Sincerely,
Rita Heine
Volunteer, Rush City Food Shelf

ST JOHN’S CEMETERY – ONLINE

A project in Minnesota has been underway for several years to provide online information on cemeteries. St John’s cemetery is now available online. The website provides general information about the history of the cemetery and provides information on the grave sites, often with pictures of the grave stones and markers. Note that this website of the cemetery is not owned or operated by our congregation.

We have provided a a link on St. John’s website to this (Go to the “links” page at www.stjohnsrushcity.org)

A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Worship Attendance</th>
<th>Communed</th>
<th>Offering</th>
<th>Family Bible Hour</th>
<th>Monday Bible Class</th>
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<td>69</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>$3,356.29</td>
<td>9+5+5+13=32</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5-2012</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Worship</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>$1,192.63</td>
<td>9+5+5+13=32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6-2012</td>
<td>Good Friday Worship</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>53+40=93</td>
<td>$791.00</td>
<td>9+5+5+13=32</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-8-2012</td>
<td>Both Easter Services</td>
<td>64+55=119</td>
<td>53+40=93</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-15-2012</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>$1,954.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-22-2012</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>$1,269.87</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A question for each of us:
Is my example of discipleship strengthening and encouraging others in our life together in Christ?