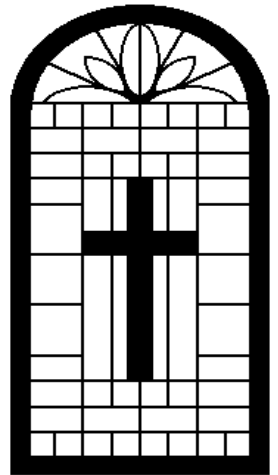


Thru the Windows



September 13th is RALLY SUNDAY!

Kingdom Quest Sunday School Resumes
9:30-10:45 a.m.

Please join us in the lower level for
registration and activities.

Come, learn how to
“Pedal with God”!



Bring your bikes,
scooters, trikes, or
wagons, and
helmets for a bike
parade.



**SEPTEMBER
2009**

Upcoming Events

Sept 9
Confirmation Resumes

Sept 20, 9:45
Worship Servant Training

Oct 4
World Communion Day

Oct 18
Stewardship Sunday with
Potluck

Oct 25
Reformation/Confirmation

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 13th

8:30am Traditional Worship with Communion

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

11:00am Contemporary Worship*

*First and Third Sunday Communion

Reverend Clay Skurdahl Shares

First, a big thanks to St. John's for celebrating my 40th Ordination. I very much enjoyed the morning brunch.

On August 2nd Psalm 78 jumped out at me as it spoke of mortals eating the food of the angels. What a description of Holy Communion. I hope you are enjoying the Bread of Heaven often. It comes with our Lord's promise that whoever eat this bread will live forever. In addition, it is available every single Sunday at the early service and twice a month at the second service.

After hearing Psalm 78, in church, I went back to it on Monday morning for my devotions. It is a beautiful summary of Israel's faith life, and a warning against losing the faith. Early words in the chapter emphasize teaching the faith to the next generation. Listen to these words from Psalms 78:4-7: "We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. {5} He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; {6} that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, {7} so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

A lawyer once teased a fellow lawyer who was about to become a Sunday School teacher, "*Why I'll bet you don't even know the Lord's Prayer!*" "Everybody knows that," said the other lawyer, "*it's Now I lay me down to sleep!*" "You win," said the friend, "*I didn't think you knew so much about the Bible*". Jesus once said, "*Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.*" Teaching the faith is important at St. John's. Please take seriously the request for teachers and helpers. We are on the right track with a strong emphasis on the teaching children the faith.

A few years ago a study of Sunday Schools entitled, "Effective Christian EDUCATION: A National Study of Protestant Congregations" surveyed 11,122 people (including members from the ELCA) concluded: "*Effective Christian EDUCATION is the most powerful, single influence congregations have on maturity of faith. Christian EDUCATION has the strongest tie to a person's growth in faith and to loyalty to one's congregation and denomination.*" *The more we know the better we live our faith.*

I see such an emphasis on sports in our world. I love physical training. In truth, spiritual training is more important. Our Lord's parents made a big effort to get him all the way to the temple when he was 12. That trip took several days at the time. They also established faithful weekly worship in their local synagogue. A couple of years ago Janice Gilmore noted in the Living section of the Omaha World Herald that Kids, bring values to school. She wrote that many parents have shopped over the last few weeks to ready their children for school. Families spend much money on book bags, clothes, tennis shoes and other items. While those things are necessary, we should pray that parents demonstrate to their children that an honorable value system is much more important than new school supplies.

May children be reminded that treating others with love and consideration is much more consequential than the kind of book bag they carry. When they go to class and start to empty their bags, may they remember to pull out kindness, acceptance, empathy and integrity. As they slip on their new tennis shoes, may they remember to use them to run with courage and respect. May they be compassionate toward those who are less fortunate and cannot afford the amenities they enjoy. As they wear their new clothes and receive admiring glances, may they remember that clothes don't make the person....As they sport new haircuts and hairstyles, may they remember that what's inside their heads is much more important. May they never forget the reason they are attending school. May they demonstrate their love for those who care for them the most. May they thank parents and guardians for all the love and support that has been bestowed upon them. A peck on the cheek, a hug and an "I love you" go a long way.

God's grace, Rev. Clay

Council Minutes Summary August 11, 2009

Open Forum prior to meeting to discuss financial situation regarding line of credit.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

Pastoral Call Committee: This committee also would like to bring one candidate in for an in person interview. The Executive Board needs to discuss salary/benefit compensation for the new pastor.

Wheels 4 Christ Protocol: A written draft needs to be taken to Wheels 4 Christ for final corrections.

Stewardship Update: October 18, 2009 is Stewardship Sunday. Heather and Chris have agreed to co-chair.

Safety Plan: Church Doors – The staff feel comfortable with the 2 main East doors being unlocked at this time. All other doors will be opened and locked by the people using them. Jim noted that the expense to install the door sensors is \$75 for both doors. Debbie makes a motion that Heather finds a sponsor to purchase the door sensors for the 2 East doors. Motion was seconded by Jan. Motion carried.

Flags on the East Lawn: Men’s Ministry will fix pad in September 2009. A sponsor will purchase the flags.

Offertory Handler Protocol: Protocol Draft submitted. Emily has been acting in this capacity but we need to have the second person in place. Jim will update the safe with an electronic lock.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer’s Report: We need to ask our committees to be good stewards of their approved budgets. Each committee needs to start working on their proposed 2010 budgets.

Line of Credit: Motion passed: Use \$15,242.47 from the Property Improvement Fund and \$13,867.29 from the Memorial Fund to pay off the line of credit with no intent for repayment. Motion passed: Borrow against the \$10,000.00 stained glass money for use to meet current fund expenses, with intent to repay.

Tree Removal: Motion passed: Mert Opfer will remove the east side tree and shrubbery near brick sign.

Boy Scout Plaques: Motion passed: Resume displaying Boy Scout plaques at SJLC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Report: Simply Giving has one new member using this service.

Worship & Music Report: Each ministry coordinate worship servants for one month.

Christian Education Report: Shannon Lutter is the new pre-school teacher for Kid’s Kingdom Preschool.

Social Ministry: Back-2-School Teacher’s Breakfast will be hosted at SJLC on August 18.

Property Team: Toured exterior of building and built an inventory of items that need to be completed.

Giving At-A-Glance

August Budget:	27,870	August Giving thru 8/25/09	19,694
YTD Budget:	222,995	January thru August Giving:	177,793

2009 CHURCH COUNCIL

Scott Pierson	President
John McClelland	Vice President
Deb Almquist	Treasurer
Wayne Andersen	Financial Secretary
Di Loptin	Secretary
Jan Braden	Special Funds Treas.
Jim Pinegar	
Emily Laaker	
Dave Sandstedt, Jr.	
Mary Pat Schmidt	
Chris Tomjack	
Dana Tompkins	

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Reverend	Rev. Clay Skurdahl
Director of Ministry	Heather Goertz
Office Administrator	Debbie Misfeldt
Director of Youth Ministry	Sharee Maki
Organist	Michael Bauer
Accompanist	Jan Braden
Choir & Jr. Choir Director	Kerry Frey
Pre-school Director	Nicki Nutter
Bookkeeper	Gail Pfahl
Custodians	Tom & Cindy Koziol
Youth Intern	Nick Pinegar

BYG News

Director of Youth Ministry Shares

July provided us with an amazing experience at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! We were able to travel together, serve together, sight-see together, meet new friends together, worship together, play and pray together... Yes, with our small group of 6, we were certainly TOGETHER! What a great opportunity it was to bond and grow close, to each other and to Christ. Our service day was spent playing with children at a day camp in an impoverished area of the city. Our other days were spent putting on the miles on foot between the convention center, our hotel in the French Quarter, and the Superdome, Experiencing God's Word, Contemplating God's Word, Living God's Word. Amazing music, amazing speakers, amazing company, amazing God! Soon we will share our experiences with you on a Sunday morning—unfortunately without our pictures, since one of our cameras never left the superdome, one broke, and the main one has a memory card that is no longer readable. Sighhhh...alas, we have our memories! Thank you, St. John's, for supporting us and helping us experience this awesome event!

**Beginning September 16
BYG will meet in the LLYC on
Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00.**

5th QUARTER is back!
Please contact Sharee Maki if you would be able to help chaperone on Sept. 4 or 18, or Oct. 2 or 16. Donations of canned pop and bottled water are needed. 5th QUARTER is open to all youth in 7th – 12th grades following all BHS home football games until 11:00. Join us at the Lutheran Lighthouse Youth Center! Admission is free. Pizza, snacks and drinks are available to purchase.

**SEPTEMBER 9
CONFIRMATION & BYG TAILGATING!**
Confirmation families (grades 6-9) and BYG families are invited to tailgate in the South parking lot and youth center yard to kick-off our Fall ministries! Join us anytime between 5:45 and 6:30 for whatever you typically do when you tailgate! (Church-style tailgating, that is!) Hot dogs and tableware will be provided, bring your own drinks and potluck dish!
6/7 grade confirmation youth will have class at 6:30
6th graders will meet in the Lower Level
7th/8th graders will meet in the Fellowship Hall
9 grade confirmation youth will have class at 7:00
9th graders will meet in the Conference Room



*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2.3-4*

Giving Thanks

The Church Mouse scurries around St. John's and notices those who have put in an act of good works or service for our Lord. These servants of God may not always be noticed for they often work behind the scenes. Our church is full of wonderful members who help others and the church mouse likes to bring that to our attention so we can express a warm THANKS. Let us know who has helped you... Heather at ttweditor@gmail.com

People that we "caught" in the act this past month at St. John's

Thank you **Dawn and Kurt Farris** for hosting the end-of-the-year pool party for the Bennington Youth Group, and for providing a great meal!

Random acts of kindness can make a BIG DIFFERENCE to someone. Try making a difference today!

Kid's Kingdom Christian Preschool News

It's September, and that means the children are back in preschool! Open House was held on August 27th and 28th to welcome the children and their families. More than forty families toured the classrooms, met the staff, and got acquainted with new classmates. Classes began on Sept. 1st, and with 42 preschoolers enrolled between five morning and afternoon classes. The additional use of the third larger classroom for four year olds will enable us to add classes next fall and eventually grow to a capacity of near 100 students. We welcome Shannon Lutter as our 3 year old teacher. We are well on the way, and continue to take calls, conduct tours and enroll new children every week. If you know of a family looking for a good Christian environment for their child, please have them call the preschool @ 290-5014. Although morning classes are full, a few spots are still open in the afternoons.

We are also accepting donations of gently used children's puzzles, books, craft supplies, paper, etc. We'd especially welcome Lil' Tykes or Step 2 baby doll beds, highchairs, and other playhouse equipment. If you are doing your fall cleaning and have some items you would like to donate, bring them by the preschool anytime, Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Your contribution is tax deductible!

As we go forward into another year of fun and learning, know that the preschool is grateful for your donations, your assistance, and your prayers! Thank you for allowing us to be a part of the St. John's family!

Blessings, Nicki Nutter



Meet the Preschool Staff...

Shannon Lutter, 3 year old teacher
Meghan Smith, 4 year old teacher
Nicki Nutter, Director, 5 year old teacher

Kingdom Quest Sunday School News

The God Pedal Story

How do you think of God? At first I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited Heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like the President. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know him. But later on when I recognized my God, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride... but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that God was in the back helping me pedal.

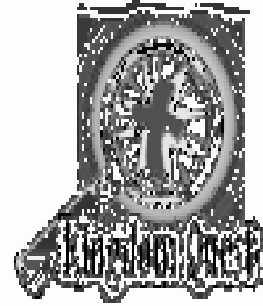
I don't know just when it was that he suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since... life with my God, that is. God makes life exciting. When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring – but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains and through rocky places – and at breakneck speeds; it was all I could to do hang on!! Even though it looked like madness, He said, “Pedal!” I was worried and was anxious and asked, “Where are you taking me?” He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, “I'm scared,” He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed... gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey – our journey – God's and mine. And we were off again! He said, “Give the gifts away, they're extra baggage – too much weight.” So I did – to the people we met – and I found that in giving, I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him at first – in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets – knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places... and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful, constant companion... my God. And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says... “Pedal.”

Come, Pedal with God this year at Kingdom Quest Sunday School.



We welcome all children 3 years old through 6th grade to join us for Kingdom Quest Sunday School every Sunday from 9:30-10:45 in the lower level. We encourage parents to bring their children between 9:20 -9:25 so that we can begin promptly at 9:30. We hope to see you on Sunday!

LOOKING AHEAD

September 20th: Kingdom Quest Volunteer Installation and Children Sing (11:00)

October 4th: Bible Dedication for 3rd & 6th graders (11:00)

December 13th: Kingdom Quest Christmas Program (11:00)

Kingdom Quest Sunday School News

Volunteers Needed

Have you ever wondered how you could help spread the Good News and share Jesus with someone? What about sharing your faith with children? Do you want to make a difference in a life? What about making a difference in the life of a child? Do you have an hour and a half to give to the Lord at least once a month? What about giving that time to God's children? Kingdom Quest is looking for volunteers for the Sunday School year.

- ♥ **Shepherds:** We are looking for shepherds to teach God's children this year. We usually have four to five shepherds per grade level who take turns teaching. That turns out to each shepherd only having to teach one or two Sundays a month from 9:30-10:45. Each group of shepherds determines amongst themselves which Sundays they will teach. An example of the 1st-4th grade schedule is: The schedule starts with everyone meeting at prayer circle for about 10 minutes, then going to the classroom for about 15 minutes, then to large group which is led by the large group presenter for about 30 minutes, and then back to the classroom to apply the lesson for about 20 minutes.

How much prep work does a shepherd do for the day he/she teaches? All we ask the shepherd to do is read the lesson prior to the day they teach. All supplies are prepared in advance by our supply team.

- ♥ **Supply Team:** Do you have good organization skills? The supply team makes sure everything is put together and ready for the shepherds on Sunday. The Supply team meets for about two hours during the week to put together all the supplies needed by the shepherds for each Sunday's lesson. When there is more than one supply person, it is a fun time of team building and fellowship.
- ♥ **Sunday Helpers:** We are looking for volunteers who can help with counting offering, taking water to the PreK & Kindergarten classrooms during snack, making copies of the Biblepoint for children to take home, skit helpers, classroom helpers, birthday helpers, and various other activities. If you are a youth, you can earn service credits for volunteering with these tasks
- ♥ **Christmas Program Coordinators:** We are looking for a couple of people to help plan and coordinate the Kingdom Quest Christmas Program. Please let Sonya Tompkins know if you are interested or have questions. Her email is sonyat@cox.net or 292-8430.

Please prayerfully consider being a member of the Kingdom Quest Sunday School team. It takes many members of our congregation to make Sunday School a success. We would love to have you be a part of the team.

Kingdom Quest Task Force: Annette McClelland, Carol DiMauro, Kelly Witt, Mary Carol Junker, Michelle Pierson & Sonya Tompkins

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: RALLY SUNDAY is SEPTEMBER 13th

**Kingdom Quest Sunday School kicks off the year with Rally Sunday
on September 13 at 9:30.**

Bring your bikes, scooters, trikes, or wagons, and helmets for a bike parade



St. John's Women in Action

Coming Events

Fair Trade Sales

September 13th

in Narthex between services
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Hot
Chocolate, Nuts and Chocolate
Bars

Nebraska Synod Women's Organization Convention

September 25-27th
Kearney, NE

Winter Retreat

January 16th
Grand Island, NE

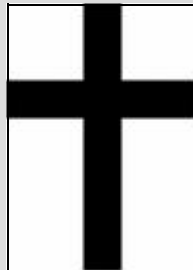
Young Women of the ELCA...

BE BOLD

*Check out this website:
www.boldcafe.org*

*Café is a free, monthly online
magazine for young women
offered by Women of the ELCA.
Women of all ages are reading it!*

*Café stands for
Community
Advocacy
Faith
Enlightenment*



Join us in Bible Study!

All Women are welcome!

Faith Circle Bible Study

September 8th, at 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Lesson Leader – Delores Thorell

Refreshments – Erma Trisler

Rejoice Circle Bible Study

September 14th, at 7:00 p.m.

Conference Room

Lesson/Refreshments –

Emily Laaker

Executive Board

September 1st

5:00pm

Nebraska Synod Women's Organization

September 25-27th

Support Lutheran World Relief!

Health Kit needs: toothbrushes and full-size bars of soap in original individual wrappers, towels, wash cloths, combs (large tooth, please) and fingernail clippers

School Kit needs: pad or notebook of 8 1/2X11" ruled paper (150-200 sheets), construction paper, blunt safety, scissors, 30 cm. or cm/inch ruler, pencil sharpener, 2 1/2" eraser and box of 8 or 16 crayons.

Special and tangible offering will go for LWR health kits and shipping costs.

Bring kit items to church and those attending convention will deliver them.

St. John's Women in Action

Katie's Fund

In tribute to Katherine von Bora, wife of Martin Luther, and to commemorate the organization's tenth anniversary, Women of the ELCA gave birth to the Katherine von Bora Luther Endowment — fondly called *Katie's Fund*. By naming the fund in her honor, Women of the ELCA pays tribute to Katie's work, her life of sound stewardship, and her service to others.

Katie's Fund is an endowment, which is an account that preserves the gift principal. This means only the interest income is used for the designated ministries. The principal in Katie's Fund is invested to provide a quarterly stream of income and to ensure the long-term stability of the fund.



As of January 2, 2008, your gifts to Katie's Fund totaled \$336,347. Thank you!

Therefore, Katie's Fund is like a gift that keeps on giving forever, just like Katherine von Bora's legacy of life. Proceeds from the fund will be available for programs, resources, and other opportunities in three areas:

- **Global Sharing** — Activities and projects that (1) spread the Gospel's salvation message globally; (2) heighten awareness of cultural differences that enrich relationships through a oneness in Christ; and (3) promote service to others in ways that encourage true spiritual growth.
- **Leadership Development** — Opportunities for women to learn skills that enhance their ability to become leaders in the arenas of their choice; and training for organizational participation with Women of the ELCA.
- **Living Theology, or Growth in Faith** — Nurturing faith through challenging Bible studies, inspiring worship experiences, educational theological forums, exciting styles of music, and intimate informal gatherings of praying women.

We encourage all members of the ELCA to give to Katie's Fund. Income from Katie's Fund will benefit current participants as well as their children and generations to come.

Gifts of any size are welcome. Make checks payable to Women of the ELCA; write "Katie's Fund" on the memo line and send checks to Women of the ELCA. Checks may be given to treasurer, Addie Backhuus.

Quilters in Action

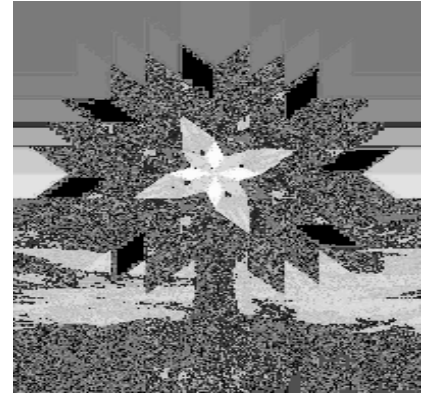
“I needed clothes, and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25:36 NIV

Prisoners who languished in the nineteenth century prisons lived in miserable squalor. The cells were unheated and dank. People seldom enjoyed even a thin smattering of dirty straw on the cold floors when they tried to sleep. Most didn't even possess any sort of covering for the cold nights. Most prisoners wore inadequate clothing. There was a Quaker quilt maker in England who had learned of the dreadful living conditions of the women prisoners and took it upon herself to try to encourage and provide piles of fabric scraps for the sewing classes she set up for the imprisoned women. She and her group of members from Society of Friends, worked together to teach the prisoners how to make quilts. They were taught sewing skills to make quilts not only for themselves but encouraged to help teach others in need.

On August 10 and 11th, the following 10 ladies met. Betty Deardoff, Norma Collins, Mary Weberg, Delores Thorell, Judy Barber, Doris Gottsch, Emily Laaker, Lorene Andersen, Addie Backhuus, and Karen Arp. We sewed, serged, and tied 9 full size quilts, 1 baby quilt, 2 lap robes, and 39 flannel/fleece & crocheted preemie pads. We would like to encourage and invite others to come and quilt with us. We also, appreciate all the fabric and thread donations. We would like to continue to ask for more donations. We can always use fabric, sheets, thread and other unused items good for sewing quilts. Please, come and join us for a fun filled time and share our time while we quilt.

The results of the quilt auction: Our purple/pink quilt-\$65.00, the Yo-Yo quilt-\$230.00, the cars-\$75.00, pink/white-\$40.00, Foot/hand-\$55.00, the 4 patch-\$45.00, Squares-\$45.00, and Baby-\$45.00, and Teddy -\$50, Squares-\$45.00. For a total of \$695.00. We will also have matching funds from Thrivent. With the economy, the buying power was not there. Total funds from the quilt auction reached \$95,000.



Quilter's Prayer

Quilter's prayer of Thankfulness
Thank You for blessing me with the ability to quilt. Thank You for the joy, peace and blessing it brings into my life. It is a gift that has brought me countless hours of pleasure and enjoyment. Father, I return this gift to You. Use this talent to serve Your purpose in the world. Bless each item I quilt so that it radiates Your love to the person who will receive it.

Churchwide Assembly: NE Synod Bishop Report

Bishop deFreese's Response to the Passage of Recommendations to Allow Individuals in Same-Gender Monogamous, Publicly Accountable Relationships to Serve as Pastors in the Church

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ! Scholars have counted 365 times that God says to His people in the Bible: "Do not be afraid." I think that is a fascinating number, which is most appropriate for the living of our days and years. I believe "Do not be afraid" is Christ's Word to His very own Body. As we enter into a new time, decisions made at the recent Churchwide Assembly have caused many to fear ... that the church has gone "soft on sin," that the Bible is not being honored, or that moral teaching has been lost. There are others who believe that the church has recognized Jesus' calling to live in love, that Christ's desire for justice for His people has been advanced, and that the Bible's teaching of commitment and covenant has been enacted. Many others find themselves somewhere between these two responses. Wherever you find yourself on this scale, I would invite you to see once again the wonder of Christ's power to hold people together even when they disagree.

To be raw in my honesty, this struggle to understand homosexuality has been exhausting and heart wrenching for me. I have listened to both sides of this argument with honesty and depth. I believe people who land at any place in this debate are genuine in their commitment to Christ, their desire to follow Biblical teachings, and their hope for deep moral fiber for our society. I have not gained clarity as to God's will. I have been offended by the self-righteousness of some, the anger of others, and the shallowness of many who have not seen the depth of this difficult challenge.

Time and time again, I have returned to the scriptures to understand anew what God's calling is. One passage has continued to feed me, and that is Jesus' meeting the woman at the well as described in John 4:1-42. I marvel at Jesus' ability to overcome the taboos of society in order to recognize the human being that others have cast out. I am renewed in my understanding of His tenderness in caring for her and also His calling her to be a follower of Him. He graces her without judgment and that transforms her life. Regardless of the decision of the Assembly, I believe with my whole heart that God is still God, that Christ is still Lord, and that our Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has been called by the Holy Spirit through the gospel to serve in a world of need.

The Biblical narrative is insightful for our response. Very early in the church, Peter and Paul clashed on the issue of what Jewish practices a person must adopt in order to be a Christian. They both had Scripture and tradition behind them. Eventually, they agreed to disagree, and to be respectful of each other, deferring to the other's conscience as much as possible and not demanding one's own "rights." In recent history, we forgot that virtue. Many church bodies solved disputes by leaving each other and forming smaller and smaller churches in which agreement was the goal. Can we rediscover the example of Peter and Paul and recognize that disunity may be a greater sin than whatever we disagree about?

What is our choice? To be a church in which everyone agrees? Such a church would forever be shrinking and the Cross and forgiveness would seem unessential. Or, rather, can we be a church that God teaches to serve together even when we do not always agree. I am uncertain of the rightness of this current decision. But I trust that God's Holy Spirit will correct where we are wrong, encourage where we are right, and act if we are somewhere in between. I do believe wholeheartedly that the Church in this time must witness to the world that God calls us to live with those who are different than us in love and compassion. This decision frees local congregations to not call homosexuals in committed relationships as pastors, but also allows some congregations that would find that helpful for mission to do so.

In this hurting world that is filled with so much darkness and damage, you and I have been blessed to be called to be witnesses to Christ Jesus our Lord. It may be that the most important witness is not what we decide, but rather how we treat each other in the days ahead. Will we listen to each other; will we attend to our differences? Will we decide to walk together into God's future and to serve God's mission together? Jesus continues to call us His and for us to follow. We have discovered that our unity in the gospel of Jesus Christ does not require uniformity, but allows us to live together faithfully. I pray that is our response. Be not afraid! May God strengthen all of us, even in the diversity of our understandings and interpretation of God's Word. May God allow us to be His Body for the good of the world.

Blessings! David deFreese, Bishop

<http://fillspillthrill.org/2009/08/churchwide-assembly-2009-bishop/>

Joys and Concerns

On July 26, Braylon Robert Schmoldt was received into God's Holy Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism. Braylon was born on February 23, 2009 and is the son of Andy & Trish Schmoldt. His sponsors are Travis Bodlak and Tanya Hightree.

On August 2, altar flowers were given by Dave Greunke and Kerry Frey in loving memory of Dave's grandmother, Ellen Greunke who passed away on July 29.

On August 2, Samantha Jensen received her First Communion. Samantha is the daughter of Becky and Randy Jensen and granddaughter of Victor & Deb Sass.

On August 9, Altar flowers were given by Tony and Danielle (Dodson) Frost who were united in marriage at St. John's on August 8.

On August 16, Emma Delores O'Rourke was received into God's Holy Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism. Emma was born August 8, 2008 and is the daughter of Keenan and Danielle O'Rourke. Her sponsors are Benjamin Koley, Joleen Pringle and Angela Purdy.

The rose bouquet on the altar was given by Keenan and Danielle O'Rourke in honor of their daughter, Emma Delores O'Rourke's baptism.

On August 23, altar flowers were given by Jerry & Eileen Baker in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary and Jerry's 60th birthday on August 25.

On August 30, Jacob Paul Bower was received into God's Holy Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism. Jacob was born June 1, 2009 and is the son of Bob and Christi (Holtapp) Bower. His sponsors are Glen Bower, Jr. and Angie Coe.

Children Bulletins were given in honor of the baptism of Jacob Paul Bower by his grandparents Paul & Linda Holtapp and Glen & Joann Bower.

Altar flowers were given by David and Kerry (Frey) Greunke who were united in marriage at St. John's August 29.

Flowers near the pulpit were given in honor of Scott and Adrienne (Kuhl) Dutchuk who were united in marriage August 29 at the DC Centre in Omaha.

Bulletins were given by Paul Pooley and family in loving memory of Jerry Pooley who passed away August 24, 2008.

Flowers near the lectern were given by Duane and Helen Braesch and families in loving memory of Duane's mother, Jorgena Luschen who passed away on August 26. Funeral services were held at St. John's on August 27. Please keep the family in your prayers.

The flower on the altar were given in honor of the August 22 birth of Brody Paul Bartels, son of Ryan and Dawn Bartels by the Connie Smith family and in loving memory of the late Paul Bartels. Brody weighed 6 lbs. 15oz and was 17 inches long.

Our sympathy to David, Paula, Jared and Austin Mills. David's father, Russel passed away on August 14. A memorial service was held in South St. Paul, Minnesota on August 29.

Church Office

Hours, Due Dates & Such

Please help our office to be as efficient and helpful as possible by keeping the following in mind:

Monthly Publication: Thru the Windows
The due date for information for the monthly newsletter, "Thru the Windows," is the 15th of each month. Any articles or information after that date will go into the next month's newsletter. Please submit all articles to ttweditor@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday through Friday are 8:00am-4:00pm. The church staff meets at 9:30am on Tuesdays. Usually there are volunteers to answer the phones during that time. If not, the phone will go to voicemail. Occasionally, the staff will have lunch offsite on Tuesdays so please call before coming to make sure we are here. If you need access to the church at other times, please call and we will work with you to make other arrangements.

Voice Mail & E-mail

All voicemail & email messages will be answered as soon as possible. Messages left after 4:00pm on Friday will be returned on the next business day.

Service Schedule—September Servants

	Greeters	Ushers	Lector/Cantor	Acolytes
Sept. 6				
8:30	Curt & Jane Frost	TBD	Jane Frost	Madison Pooley
10:00	TBD	TBD	Chris Tomjack	Hayden Renter
Sept. 13				
8:30	Harry & Mary Carol Junker	TBD	Fred Barnhard	Drew Showers, Heather Showers
11:00	TBD	TBD	Julie Rothermund	Connor Eurek
Sept. 20				
8:30	Harry & Mary Carol Junker	TBD	Wade Junker	Katy Iltzsch, Griffen Japp
11:00	TBD	TBD	Chris Tomjack	Lizzie Noble
Sept. 27				
8:30	Kelly & Megan Witt	TBD	Mark Sukraw	Marisa Tomjack, Autumnn McDaniel
11:00	Carol, Michaela Alyssa DiMauro	Tompkins Family	Julie Rothermund	Amy Iltzsch

PLEASE STEP UP TO SERVE! We are always looking for Worship Servants. Please contact the church office to volunteer. Scheduling of ushers, greeters, and communion assistants will be done on a monthly basis by various ministry groups starting in September.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP FOR WORSHIP SERVANTS:

On September 20th from 9:45-10:45am, the Worship and Music Team is hosting a workshop for all current and new lectors, cantors, communion assistants, ushers and greeters. The workshop will include a large group meeting followed by break-out sessions. Our aim is to make everyone feel more comfortable and knowledgeable as we serve the people of God in public worship. Please plan to attend.

Serving Christ through Service Opportunities

All men of the Church:

Please mark your calendars now for men's ministry on Saturday September 12th." All You Can Eat Breakfast" @ 7:15 AM. On this day we will complete two (2) projects. Placing new semi-permanent sign posts on the west lawn and replacing the old concrete pad from around the front yard Flag Poles. If you have or know some one who has, a "gas powered post hole auger" please let one of us know ASAP. We will need one for that day.

Gods Blessings; Thanking you in advance for your dedication to St John's,
Wayne, Kevin, Dick



September Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Kathryn Gochanour
Larry Janecek
Aaron Schmidt | 16 Kellen Krivohlevel
17 Nathan Hickman
Dawn Blanchard
Nic Laue |
| 2 Mores Bergman | 18 Rhonda Logeman |
| 3 Kristin Sass | 19 Dallas Pagel |
| 4 Kathy Coe
Payge Ehrp | 21 Dylan Renter |
| 5 Sheila Kroeger
Shelby Sass | 22 Joyce Graybill
Vernon Kuhl |
| 6 Donald Mahoney
Leonard Meador | 23 Dale Eurek
Jodi Pooley
Lori Scott
Brayden Sass
Jacob Lage |
| 8 Ryan Gochanour
Roger Hadan
Adam Iltzsch
Amy Iltzsch
Zach Westfall
Daniel Witte | 24 Eileen Baker
Dale Christianson
Hunter Duffek |
| 9 Mary Kuhl
Tyler Mohr
Mark Sass
Cody Henrickson | 25 Jeremy Kruse
Sandra Showers
Louise Voss (81)
Angie Sukraw
Katie Iltzsch |
| 10 Lisa Hansen
Dale Smith
Robin Westfall | 26 Lil Smith
Miriam Sukraw |
| 11 Debbie Almquist
Paige Depperman
Shannon Eggink
Whitney Stichler | 27 Jane Frost
Betty Mohr
Matthew Mueller
Heather Goertz |
| 12 Katie Socha | 28 Samuel Giebelhausen
Colleen Crom
Virginia Willats (82)
Evan Gliwa |
| 13 Marilee Braesch
Marvin Heise
Tom Koziol
Avery Mohr
Diane Shurdahl | 29 Layne Laaker
Merle Nelson
Philip Olsen
Freddie Schroeder |
| 14 Wes Andersen | 30 Stephanie Lank
Josh Frost
Kaitlin Carl |
| 15 Phyllis Almquist | |
| 16 Dale Dorau | |

Anniversary Celebrations

- | |
|---|
| 1 Dale & Tonya Eurek |
| 2 Duane & Karma Ellermeier
Gerald & Maxine McMurphy
(53 years!)
John & Joan Pierson
(53 years!)
Vic & Deb Sass
Kyle & Lisa Kramer
Jacob & Tracy Lage |
| 3 Leonard & Glorie Meador
Mick & Myrna Nelson
(54 years!) |
| 4 Jason & Amy Japp
Jim & Leola Bonge |
| 10 Bruce & Adrienne Larsen |
| 11 David & Joan Havekost |
| 12 Alvin & Lorene Andersen
(64 years!) |
| 20 Wally & Karen Boever |
| 22 Harvey & Mary Jensen
(64 years!) |
| 23 Lonny & Cindy Japp |
| 24 Brent & Kristin Sass |
| 26 Bob & Donna Schmidt |
| 30 Cody & Mandy Henrickson |

Thank you Vic and Deb Sass
Card Ministry Sponsors in honor
of your Sept. 2 Anniversary!

The Social Ministry's Card

Ministry Team believes that relationships are key to the outreach ministries and wants you to know that we are here for you. On your birthday, and special occasions, you should receive a personalized note from us! Would you consider being a Card Ministry Sponsor? Sponsors are asked to give a donation to fund the expenses of the card supplies and postage for the month of their birthday or ann. We will then recognize the sponsor on the back of each card that is sent out.

SEPT 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 1st day of Preschool 9:00-3 year olds 12:15 -5 year olds 7:00 Women's Executive Mtg	2 9:00 Over 60 1st day of Preschool 9:00-4 year olds	3 10:30 New Beginnings	4 9:00-11:00 5th Quarter	5
6 8:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee /Rolls 10:00 Contemporary Worship 11:00 Worship/Music Mtg	7 Labor Day (Office Closed)	8 7:00 Council Mtg	9 9:00 Over 60 First night of Confirmation 5:45 Confirmation /BYG family tailgate party 6:30 6-8 Confirmation class 7:00 9 Confirmation class 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 Exultation	10 9:30 Premiere Club	11	12 7:15 Men's Ministry Breakfast
13 RALLY SUNDAY 8:30 Worship 9:30 Kingdom Quest Resumes 9:30 Coffee/Rolls 11:00 Contemporary Worship TBD CFC Cook-out	14 9:00 Quilters (all day)	15 9:00 Quilters (half day) 1:30 Faith Circle 7:00 Endowment	16 9:00 Over 60 5:00 Jr. Choir Resumes 6:30 6-8 Confirmation class 7:00 9 Confirmation class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 BYGs 8:00 Exultation	17 10:30 New Beginnings 7:00 Women's Club-FH	18 9:00-11:00 5th Quarter	19
20 8:30 Worship 9:30 Kingdom Quest 9:30 Coffee/Rolls 9:45 Thrivent 9:45 Servant Training 11:00 Contemporary	21 12:00 Keenagers 7pm Rejoice Circle	22	23 9:00 Over 60 5:00 Jr. Choir 6:30 6-8 Confirmation class 7:00 9 Confirmation class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 BYGs 8:00 Exultation	24 1:30 Lutheran Club	25 3:30-5:00 Girls Scouts- LL	26 8:30-11 Lion's- Club-LL
27 8:30am Worship 9:30 Kingdom Quest 9:30 Coffee/Rolls 11:00 Contemporary TBA-Baby shower-LL	28	29	30 9:00 Over 60 5:00 Jr. Choir 6:30 6-8 Confirmation class 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 BYGs 8:00 Exultation			

St. John's Lutheran Church

322 North Molley Street

Bennington, NE 68007

Reverend Clay Skurdahl, Interim

Dr. Heather Goertz, Director of Ministry

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402-238-3398 (fax)

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St. John's Lutheran Church **"The Place to Be"**

St. John's Coat Drive

Starting in September bring gently used coats you no longer wear or your children have out grown to the church. We will distribute them in our own community and out lying areas. Sizes will be available if you would prefer to purchase a coat for a child or an adult. Volunteers are needed to help with this out reach project. Call Jodi 238-2109

2 Corinthians 9:12: *This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*