

To know and proclaim Jesus Christ and as disciples reach out in love.

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*Worship Times*

Saturdays

5:15 p.m.

Sundays

8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays in Lent

Noon & 7:30 p.m.

*Education Hour*

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

*Coffee Fellowship*

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

*Office Hours*

Monday—Thursday

8:30 a.m. to Noon  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 to 12:30 p.m.

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## St. John's Theme for Lent

### *The Seven Wonders of the Word*

#### **Lent is a forty-day period before Easter.**

It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. This year, Lent begins on March 9, 2011, and ends on April 23, 2011, which is the day before Easter.

In the Roman Catholic Church, Lent officially ends at sundown on 21 April (Holy Thursday), with the beginning of the mass of the Lord's Supper.

**Colors:** In most churches, the decorations are purple, the royal color, to prepare for the King.

**Scripture Readings:** The Revised Common Lectionary appoints Scripture readings for use in worship during the Season of Lent.

**Lent is a season** of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles. (See *The Apostolic Constitutions*, Book V, Section III.)

In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival

*Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

**FYI** The Eastern Church does not skip over Sundays when calculating the length of the Great Lent. Therefore, the Great Lent always begins on Clean Monday, the seventh Monday before Easter, and ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday—using of course the eastern date for Easter. The Lenten fast is relaxed on the weekends in honor of the Sabbath (Saturday) and the Resurrection (Sunday). The Great Lent is followed by Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, which are feast days, then the Lenten fast resumes on Monday of Holy Week. Technically, in the Eastern Church, Holy Week is a separate season from the Great Lent.

#### **Special Days**

The purpose of the liturgical calendar is to relive the major events in Jesus' life in real time, which is why Lent is forty days long. If Jesus were born on December 25, then His conception—thus also His incarnation—would have been nine months earlier, on about March 25. That is when the angel Gabriel would have announced Jesus' birth to Mary. Thus March 25 is known in the historic church as *The Annunciation*.

*Roughly speaking, the western Church consists of Protestants, Catholics, and Anglicans. The eastern Church consists of the Eastern Orthodox churches, the Oriental Orthodox churches, and the eastern-rite churches affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.*



## Congregation Council Meeting

February 8, 2011

**Pastor Sara Yotter** assistant to the bishop, spoke to the council about the interim pastor process and the call process. A Call Process Handbook is available for Council Members.

Hopefully, we could have an interim pastor in place by March 1.

The staff at the synod office will try to help us see who our congregation really is, and help get the right fit for the interim, as well as a successful call for a full-time pastor. St. John council is open to considering a first call pastor, which would be a person just out of seminary.

**Devotions** — Todd Erdman

**Minutes from January 11**— were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Operating fund reflects negative \$83,324.68

Dedicated accounts reflect positive \$189,112.09

January Income was \$40,143.17; 88.7% of budget

Expenses were \$41,768.61; 85.4% of the budget

Negative cash flow for January was \$1,625.44.

Attendance was down, probably due to weather. Average attendance for January was 280, compared to 320 in 2010, and 269 in 2009.

### **Pastor David's Report**

Lent—begins with Ash Wednesday, March 9. There will be two services on Wednesdays – one midday and the other at 7 p.m.

Monday night adult study group is going very well. We are discussing the book, *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*

Weddings – There are 12 planned between April and October.

Sweethearts' Dinner – it was a small crowd.

Chili fundraiser – small group, but lots of carry outs

New Members --36 in the class.

**Benevolence Focus**—The goal: \$15,000 is to be raised by committees and individuals. Money would be disbursed by thirds; local benevolence, national, and worldwide. A motion to adopt the benevolence proposal was passed.

**Council Member Resignation**—Ryan Hayes has resigned. A new council member will be appointed.

**Synod Assembly Delegates**—St. John needs three to attend with Pastor David. At least one should be a council member. May 14 & 15, Madison Marriott West, Middleton.

**Proposed Wedding Policy and Handbook**—Both documents have been reviewed by the Worship Board and Administration Board. Wording will be edited so that each document reflects the same statements. The wedding policy and handbook, *A Christian Wedding*, with wording corrections were approved.

**Christ's Cupboard**—Coordinator Gary Neumann has asked to be replaced.

**Council Planning Retreat** – Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Migs Percy, Council President

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## Lenten Season Schedule 2011

**Ash Wednesday is March 9<sup>th</sup>**—Worship Services with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be held at \*noon and 7 p.m. Plan to come at noon or 5:30 to enjoy Soup Bread and Pie prior to the service—a fund raiser for the youth summer mission trip.

**Lenten Services March 16, 23, 30, April 6, and 13** are at noon and 7 p.m. The 7 p.m. service will be based on *Hold-en Evening Prayer*. \*Come at noon and 5:30 to enjoy soup, bread, and pie.

**Maundy Thursday, April 21** will have two services with communion, one at noon and one at 7:00 p.m. (There will NOT be soup, bread and pie at either service)

**Good Friday, April 22** there will be one service at 7 p.m. at St. John. Watch for updates for the community service, usually held on Good Friday at noon.

**Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 23** there will be one service with communion at 7 p.m. (Note: there will not be a 5:15 service)

**Easter Sunday, April 24**, join us for the Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and Easter Services with Communion at 8 and 10:30 a.m. The youth are planning a scrumptious breakfast for Easter morning. Plan to attend!

\* Noon service times are not constant—people are invited to pick up their bowl of soup, and the service will begin as soon as everyone is seated. Soup and Worship both take place in Fellowship Hall.

## Quiz time!

Below are a few famous slogans; see if you can identify who or what they are attached to:

- Reach out and touch someone,
- The Real Thing,
- Let your fingers do the walking,
- Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is!,
- To know and proclaim Jesus Christ and as disciples reach out in love –

The answers; AT&T, Coke, Yellow Pages, Alka-Seltzer, and last but not least, St. John Lutheran Church of Reedsburg, WI.

Ok, maybe our mission statement is not as famous as those other statements, but if you hang around here long enough you definitely hear it. We incorporate our mission statement into the call to worship for most of our worship services. More importantly that mission statement encapsulates who we are at St. John and what it is that we do. The reason for this “refresher course” on our mission statement is that I want us to focus on the last part. “as disciples reach out in love.” On the whole we do a pretty fair job of this, with our Christ Cupboard ministry, Good Samaritan fund and the many well done activities that our Church in Society Board handles each year. We can feel good about how we “reach out in love.”

In the church this act of “reaching out in love” is most often referred to as benevolence. The dictionary defines benevolence in this way: 1) disposition to do good 2) and act of kindness or generous gift. As Christians our disposition, and our reason to act comes from the first part of our mission statement, as we come to know and proclaim Jesus Christ we are compelled to reach out in love.

One of the things I love about St. John is a question that always bubbles under the surface, that question comes in different forms but I think the phrase, “what more can we do? where can we grow? For Jesus’ sake.” encapsulates it pretty well.

At our last Annual Meeting, several people spoke to the need to grow our benevolence. Thankfully this is not the first time I have heard this concern and even in the midst of some of the financial difficulties we have had as a congregation, the message of the Gospel continues to give us hope that there is yet more we can do; we can grow financially and in service in Jesus name. After some time in conversation with some of the members of St. John the idea to challenge the congregation to grow in our benevolence giving started to hatch. The following is a challenge to the whole congregation, not just to the leadership, not just relegated to the boards, it is a challenge to every member, young and old, to get creative, to use your gifts to share the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The Council recently passed the following:

“Reaching Out In Love 2011”

“In 2011 St. John will through various means seek to raise \$15,000 to be spent on ministries outside the walls of St. John.

\$5,000 – is to be allocated to ministries within our community.

\$5,000 – is to be allocated to ministries within our nation.

\$5,000 – is to be allocated to global ministries.

The funds raised by this initiative will be determined by input from the congregation and boards, and final approval of organizations to receive these funds will be given by the Congregational Council of St. John after the close of the 2011 fiscal year.”

Where do you come in? I am glad you asked! It is the purpose of this initiative to involve each member of St. John. The focus is not to cut into our normal offerings to reach this goal, but rather to challenge us to grow in our giving of our time, talent and treasure.

How will we meet this goal? I don’t really know, but I hope you will be part of that solution! Get creative, color outside the lines and see what you can come up with, bake sales, concerts, parties, the horizon is pretty wide open. Spend some time in prayer to see how it is you can help St. John “Reach Out in Love!”

Where will the monies go? I am glad you asked that too! That will be part of your job as well. Look for ministries that fall into one of the categories above and bring it to the attention of the Council. The more information we have, the more ministries and needs we can identify, the better this initiative will work.

If you have any ideas, or questions about how you can help, I would love to talk with you. Call, stop by, or send me an e-mail.

May God bless us as we grow as disciples, as we reach out in love!

In His Name,

**Reach Out  
In Love  
2011**



## Christian Education News

*This logo represents Christians of mature faith holding the cross, inspiring the growth of others, while creating a shell of love and guidance.*



**Sunday school teacher meeting** Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. I realize that some attend worship before class, some after class – so I would like to have two meetings – attend the one that makes sense for you. We will talk about the year, class sizes, Holy Week and Easter schedules. I also want to begin work on next year’s teacher line-up! Thank you. – Beth Voigt – CED

**Family Fun night** – Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> – 4-6 p.m.—with pizza and games – plan to bring EVERYONE! See Ben’s page for more info.

**Camp Brochures are here!!!!** I will be placing the camp brochures in the Narthex and on the bulletin board next to Ben’s office upstairs. Summer camp is a truly unique way for young people and families to connect their faith outside the walls of the church building. And it is just plain fun! Look for a special camp focus during worship on Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Monday Night adult study group** – beginning Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will start a new program – a Lenten devotional entitled *Seven Wonders of the Word*. We will continue to meet at 6:30 p.m. A blurb from the front of the book describes the theme as a “play on the Seven Wonders of the World, attractions of great beauty and also great skill and design...Often when we read and reflect on the Scriptures, we think of ourselves as the subjects and the Scriptures as the object of our study and devotion. *Seven Wonders of the Word* reverses that familiar pattern, making the Word itself the active subject of our Lenten journey.” Anyone and everyone is welcome to participate. We would like to place our order no later than the first Wednesday in March. If you are interested, please call the office or indicate on your worship bulletin your wish to have a copy. Cost is \$10.00.

**Just a thought** – we would love to offer a childcare option for our week night study groups. This would allow parents/caregivers of young ones a chance to participate in topics of interest. We are seeking members who would be willing to make this happen – members who would be available one night a week to provide a safe environment for children to play while a caregiver explores new avenues of faith. If you feel called to this ministry, contact Beth Voigt – CED either by phone – 254-9763 or email – [beth@stjohnreedsburg.com](mailto:beth@stjohnreedsburg.com). Thank you!

**Ninth Grade LIFE students** – if you were unable to attend our meeting Sunday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, please call me at the church (254-9763) or send me an e-mail ([beth@stjohnreedsburg.com](mailto:beth@stjohnreedsburg.com)). I need to give you the materials to create your baptismal banner and some instructions on how to make the banner.

### Library check-out and return procedure

We have a new librarian, Elaine Borman. Many thanks to Elaine for her time and dedication. She has already spent hours organizing the wealth of books and resources found in the adult library. Let’s help Elaine. If you are returning a book, just place it in her in-box on the librarian’s desk. She will place the lending card back in its slot and shelve the book. If you are checking a book out, please write your name and the date on the lending card found inside the cover of the book. Place the card in the small plastic box on the library desk. Elaine will file that card. We sure appreciate your interest and assistance in keeping our church library in order!

### Book of the Month

*Abraham* by Bruce Feiler. He is the bestselling author of six books and a frequent contributor to National Public Radio as well as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Gourmet*. Feiler embarks on a one-of-a-kind adventure searching for the man at the heart of the world’s three monotheistic religions – and today’s deadliest conflicts. Traveling in war zones, climbing through caves and ancient shrines, the author sets out to better understand our common patriarch, Abraham. Shared ancestor of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Abraham holds the key to our deepest fears – and our possible reconciliation. I recommend this book as food for thought as we enter Lent.

Dear Seniors and Parents,

Higher education is not cheap these days! Most students are able to attend college only because there is financial aid available. At St. John, we have a \$500.00 scholarship available for any student enrolled in a full time certificate or degree program providing certification or a degree recognized by accredited agencies and associations. If you are interested in applying, please pick up the information and application at the church office during office hours. Please return the application by Friday April 1, 2011.

Feel free to email ([beth@stjohnreedsburg.com](mailto:beth@stjohnreedsburg.com)) or call me with any questions!

**Thanks to You!!!**

**Thanks to all the parents and individuals who graciously taught in the Sunday school in February as substitutes!**

Substitute teachers:

- Amy Brown
- Jennifer Hynek
- Erica Gronley
- Melissa Shelstad
- Cindy Voltz
- Lori Penkwitz
- Arlo Ketchpaw



Thanks to Lisa Hoff for filling in as a small group LIFE guide.

Thanks to Jeannine Mueller for providing delicious dessert for our Ninth grade/Mentor LIFE event Sunday, Feb. 13.

**Sunday school scripture focus of March:**

Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> – The Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-13

Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> – The First Sin – Genesis 3:1-24

Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> – Abram’s Call – Genesis 12:1-9

Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> – Woman at the Well – John 4:5-42

**Did you know...**

“In the late fall of 1936 the congregation installed a new heating plant in the church and the Ladies Aid had just decorated the church basement when on Sunday morning, January 10, 1937, a fire broke out in the church and destroyed the building. Only a few things were saved including the church bell, the stone name plate above the entrance to the church, and the Baptismal Font, which we still use.” – History section St. John website: [www.stjohnreedsburg.com](http://www.stjohnreedsburg.com).



**A Little St. John History Lesson about OUR Christ’s Cupboard Ministry**

The program has grown through the years. It started in 1991 with mention to a fellow chaperone when going to the Youth Triennial Convention in Dallas, Texas. I was concerned about the number of people who came to St. John and, if a pastor was not present, my option was to send them away empty handed. This chaperone said he was working with a ministry in Chicago where they gave out a bag of groceries designed to feed a family of four for two days. He donated \$1,200 (and asked to remain anonymous) and the “list.” St. John no longer had to turn people who were hungry away empty handed. It was a great day!

When the program began, we had volunteers who would shop for five bags at a time, and in 1992 we gave out 88 bags of groceries. That continued for a number of years until Wendell Watts and Tom Geimer put their heads together and started ordering food from Second Harvest. Their responsibilities included taking a monthly inventory and ordering the food from Second Harvest. At that time the delivery was made to Lands’ End, so a crew from St. John would meet at Lands’ End on delivery day once a month to bring the food to St. John. If Second Harvest inventory didn’t include some of the items to complete the shopping list, Wendell would go out and purchase the items from a local grocery store. Tom would make sure the bags were packed and ready to give away when needed.

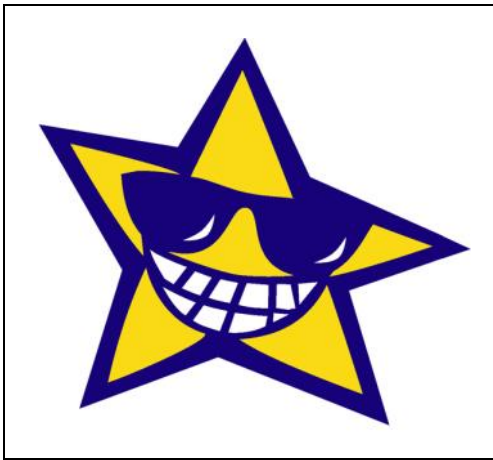
After a number of years and changes in Wendell’s and Tom’s lives, Gary Neumann took on the responsibility. After a time, Tom White or the High School Youth Group helped pack bags. More recently Dave Champeau has taken over packing the bags—always making sure we have some ready to go.

The program has only changed a little over the years. We can now order online, and deliveries are made directly to St. John. We still need people to order, receive the shipments and keep the inventory in good order, and of course keep a stock of bags ready to be given away.

It is an amazing ministry. Since 1992 we have given out 4,359 bags of groceries, at a cost of \$69,481.50. Our shoppers have kept the average cost of a bag of groceries at about \$16. In addition a local dairy has provided certificates for a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs for each time a bag of groceries is given.

As you can see, we need to thank many people who have worked over the years to keep this ministry a vital part of what St. John does. I have only mentioned a few names, but there are many who have worked behind the scenes, and many people who give offerings to make sure this ministry is ongoing. With Thanks & Blessings to all of you,

Carol



## Calendar of Events

**King's Kids** March 2 & 16

**Son Seekers** March 9 & 23

MSYG

Game Night March 20th 5:30—8

YG

Wednesday nights at 7:00 in Youth Room!

## Calling All Cooks and Bakers

We need your help! The youth are going on a mission trip/Sonshine Music Festival in Minneapolis/St. Paul Mn. We will be serving Soup, Bread, and Pie before the Lenten services as a fundraiser for our trip, but we need your help. So if you can bake bread, pie, or make a good soup, sign up in the Narthex. This not only a great fundraiser for the youth, but it is also a great fellowship event for everyone.



## Hey All You Crafty People

We need your help! The youth are going on a mission trip/Sonshine Music Festival in Minneapolis/St. Paul Mn. We need your help with our silent auction. This has been a great fundraiser for the youth. In the past we have had quilts, table runners, wood carvings, bird feeders, and much more. If you would like to donate something to this year's silent action please let me know by March 21st. Thanks for everything you do to help out the youth of this congregation. Ben



When: Sunday, March 6th

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: Parents of Sunday School Kids

Why: Fellowship while your kids are in Sunday School.

Menu: French toast, sausage, coffee, and juice

## Family Fun Night

When: Sunday, March 6th

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Free Will Offering for Pizza

Join us for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and fellowship. We will be playing games from the popular T.V. show *Minute to Win It*. We will end the night with pizza and prizes.

# MARCH 2011

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27	8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Volunteer Appreciation 10:30 AM Worship w/HC 4:00 PM Open Table	28	6:30 PM Making Sense of the Christian Faith 7:00 PM Church in Society Bd	1	9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 2:00 PM Hannah Circle 5:30 PM Cong Life Bd 5:30 PM Yoga 6:00 PM Education Bd 7:00 PM AA	2	3:30 PM King's Kids 6:00 PM LIFE 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir	3	9:00 AM AA 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Admin Bd 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM ChristCare	4	7:30 AM Men's Break-fast	5	5:15 PM HC Worship
6	8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM SS Parents' Breakfast 10:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Family Fun Night	7	4:00 PM Sheeper than Therapy 6:30 PM Making Sense of the Christian Faith	8	9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Council	9	Ash Wednesday Noon Soup, Bread, Pie & Worship Service 3:30 PM Son Seekers 5:00 PM Parish Support 5:30 PM Soup, Bread & Pie 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Sr Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:00 PM Worship Service	10	9:00 AM AA 1:30 PM Sunshine Circle 5:30 PM Yoga 6:30 PM United Fund Meeting 7:00 PM AA	11		12	5:15 PM HC Worship
13	8:00 AM HC Worship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM HC Worship	14	4:00 PM Sheeper than Therapy 9:00 AM Card Ministry 6:30 PM Seven Wonders of the Word	15	Evangel Articles DUE 9:00 AM AA 10:30 AM Park St Study 11:00 AM Staff meets 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Worship Bd	16	9:30 AM Dorcas Circle Noon Soup, Bread, Pie & Worship Service 3:30 PM King's Kids 5:30 PM Soup, Bread & Pie 7:00 PM HSYG 7:30 PM Sr Choir	17	9:00 AM AA 1:00 PM Sarah Circle 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM ChristCare	18	7:30 AM Men's Break-fast 9:00 AM Quilting	19	5:15 PM HC Worship
20	8:00 AM HC Worship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Youth & Family Bd 10:30 AM HC Worship 5:30 PM MSYG	21	4:00 PM Sheeper than Therapy 6:30 PM Seven Wonders of the Word 6:30 PM Open Table Core Group	22	9:00 AM AA 11:00 AM Staff meets 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	23	Noon Soup, Bread, Pie & Worship Service 3:30 PM Son Seekers 5:30 PM Soup, Bread & Pie 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:00 PM Worship Service 7:30 PM Sr Choir	24	9:00 AM AA 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	25		26	5:15 PM HC Worship
27	8:00 AM HC Worship 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:15 AM Coffee Fellowship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM HC Worship 8 & 10:30 AM Teacher's Mtgs 4:00 PM Open Table	28	4:00 PM Sheeper than Therapy 6:30 PM Seven Wonders of the Word 7:00 PM Church in Society Bd	29	11:00 AM Staff Meets 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	30	Noon Soup, Bread, Pie & Worship Service 5:30 PM Soup, Bread & Pie 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM HSYG 7:00 PM Worship Service 7:30 PM Sr Choir	31	9:00 AM AA 5:30 PM Yoga 7:00 PM AA	1		2	5:15 PM HC Worship

## Worship Assistants

### 8:00 a.m.

March 6

**Greeters:** Al & Barb Exner  
**Acolytes:** Jared Davis, Lexi Hayes  
**Lector:** Migs Percy  
**Ushers:** Jennifer & Katie Kitson  
 Dave Julius, JR Colvin

March 13

**Greeters:** Gary & C.J. Neumann  
**Acolytes:** Hannah Erdman, Aly Pfaff  
**Lector:** Julie Adelman  
**Ushers:** Glen Weirauch, Maggie Andres  
 Jerry Zuhlke, Mary Zuhlke  
**Communion Assistants:** Deb Adams, Todd Erdman  
 Jeannine Mueller

March 20

**Greeters:** Todd & Jean Polk  
**Acolytes:** Kate Gesteland, Kaylie Polk  
**Lector:** Virginia Erickson  
**Ushers:** Migs Percy, Louise Voltz  
 Tom Reeder, Linda Reeder  
**Communion Assistants:** Shirley West, Deb Adams

March 27

**Greeters:** Jerry & Mary Zuhlke  
**Acolytes:** Tyler Hongisto, Callie Senzig  
**Lector:** Arlo Ketchpaw  
**Ushers:** Rich Sorom, Ron Snyder  
 Dan Biermeier, Deb Vanthournout  
**Communion Assistants:** Deb Adams, please volunteer

### 10:30 a.m.

March 6

Andy & Kristen Gesteland & family  
 Jacob Erbs, Dylan Peterson  
 Bunny Frank  
 Bill Klang, Barb Klang,  
 Norma Peters, Patrick Boyd

March 13

Paula & Allison Steinhorst  
 Brent Firari, Matthew Pfaff  
 Donna Hahn  
 Warren Frank, Bunny Frank  
 Kristi Roth, Kasi Roth  
 Ryan Hayes, Bill Henke

March 20

Dan & Nichol Meinhardt & Family  
 Tasha Haase, Sarah Ratajczyk  
 Lynn Horkan  
 Derek Horkan, Lynn Horkan  
 Judy Willis, Bob Willis  
 Norma Peters, Lisa Hoff, Chris McGee

March 27

Charles & Naomi Mwakisunga &  
 Isaac  
 Tarek Horkan, Cassie Stone  
 Judy Willis  
 Norma Peters, Diane Thieding  
 Gary Zobel, Lorraine Kaun  
 Bill Henke, please volunteer

**Note to ushers:** If you can, make your own arrangements when you need a substitute. It saves the staff an unbelievable amount of time!

Also, head ushers are responsible for: turning on lights; checking the hymn board and making necessary changes; attendance count and recording; and offering follow-up.

Acolytes are also asked to find their own substitutes and notify the office of any changes.

#### Radio Monitor

Rich Sorom

#### Videographers

Todd Gardner  
 Fred Farber

#### March Money

##### Counters

Linda White/  
 Audrey Throndsen  
 Ardell Albers  
 Rosemary Fosland

#### Communion Bread

9—LaVera Craker  
 12 & 13 —Diana McGlynn  
 19 & 20 —Sheri Weldy  
 26 & 27— Yvonne Brekke

# Lenten Service Schedule



## March 9

**12:00 p.m.**

**Ushers:** Please volunteer  
**Communion Assistants:** Judy Bransted

**7:00 p.m.**

**Ushers:** Please volunteer  
**Communion Assistants:** Deb Adams,  
 Todd Erdman, Ryan Hayes

The Wednesday Lenten Services will be held at noon, following lunch, and at 7:00 p.m. following supper on March 16, 23, 30; April 6, and 13. Please let the office know if you are willing to usher for Wednesday evening services.

All Wednesday services will be preceded by our traditional Soup, Bread, and Pie meals in Fellowship Hall. The meals will be served at noon and at 5:30 p.m. Sign-up for cooks and bakers will be in the Narthex.



## Welcome to our New Members

**February 13, 2011**

**Linda Behn**

S5097 Golf Course Rd  
Rock Springs, WI 53961- 9735  
608-393-1764

**Dakota Berg & Jolan Greenwood**

3101 Stratton Way Apt 310  
Madison, WI 53719-2583  
608-963-9559

**Scott Crawford & Lynette Bradley**

E4828 County Road F  
La Valle, WI 53941-9618  
608-732-4717

**David Dorow & Debra Bloor**

2430 Ernstmeyer Rd  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-524-8725

**Kathy Greenwood**

1808 Badger Ln  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-434-5574

**James Hineman Jr. & Maigen Morris**

**Jaxson Morris**

215 Washington St  
Cazenovia, WI 53924  
608-415-1535

**Jeffrey & Jayne Hongisto**

**Tyler**

24 Harrison Ln  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-415-5377

**Ashley Courtnage**

507 Myrtle St  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-415-8613

**Harvey & Anita Raasch**

2045 Huntington Park Dr  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-524-2066

**Norbert Schleicher** (Associate)

150 Kellie Marie Ct  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
715-942-2157

**Jason & Tiffany Schulte**

945 22nd St  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-495-2316

**Phil & Kristen Tietz**

**Erika**

543 N Willow St  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-768-5038

**Rosemary Tyler**

1048 Seymour St  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-524-6947

**Elizabeth Voigt** (Associate)

**Tess, Abby, Zoe**

2118 Amanda Dr  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-768-9095

**Betty Wagner**

**Ryan Rott, Alyssa Rott,  
Emmi Wagner, Ella Wagner**

E4075 Finnegan Rd  
La Valle, WI 53941  
608-985-8910

**Cindy Wilson**

**Mackenzie**

2210 Mabel Ct  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-524-0818



Welcome New Members

## **Parochial Report**

### **Baptisms**

February 4—Lydia Elizabeth Berg, daughter of Benjamin & Maria Berg

**Marriages**—None in January

### **Funerals**

Elsie Young died February 4, 2011; the funeral service was held February 9, here at St. John.

Neah Lohr died February 15, 2011; the funeral service was held February 28, here at St. John.

### **Gifts & Memorials were received in memory of:**

Melvin Richert by Jerry & Jane Dorow

Marvin “Foxy” Fisher by Myron & Rosemary LaRowe

Wilbert Harms by Alice Adams

## **Sponsorship Calendar—**

### **March & April**

#### **Altar Flowers (\$30)**

**March & April**—March 6 and April 3 are sponsored—  
all other weeks are available

#### **Bulletins (\$25)**

**March & April** —March 6 is sponsored—all other  
weeks are available

#### **Radio Broadcast (\$30, \$60, and \$95) —**

**March & April** —all weeks available

TV Cable Broadcast (\$40) —all weeks are available.

**Coffee Fellowship** —Check out the three ring binder in the coffee serving area to sign up for a Sunday to reserve the Sunday you wish to serve.

## **Meetings & Greetings**

**Dorcas Circle** - 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 16

**Hannah Circle** - 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1—at Sylvia’s

**Sarah Circle** - 1:00 p.m., Thursday, March 17

**Sunshine Circle** - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10

**St. John Quilters** - 9 a.m., Thursday, March 3

- 9 a.m., Friday, March 18

**Card Ministry** - 9 a.m., Monday, March 14

**Men’s Breakfast**—7:30 a.m. the 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month at Marty’s

**Park Street Study**— 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 15, Park Street Apts.

**Sheep than Therapy** - 4—6:30 p.m., weekly on Mondays in the Fireside Room.

## **Thank You:**

To Gary Neumann for his years serving as coordinator for Christ’s Cupboard. See page 5 for a brief history of this ministry. There are many people who deserve thanks for giving of their time, energy and resources to keep this ministry up and running.

Again, a big thank you to Zobel & Sons—seems this has been a year with lots of snow to remove and they have been up to the task every time!

To the Congregational Life Board for organizing and serving the Chili Souper Sunday lunch and carryout. Information about the Congregation’s boards was a nice bonus.

To the Membership Committee for serving for the New Member Reception on February 13. St. John welcomed 36 new members!

To our Parish Support Committee—for taking the time to meet with staff members and anyone else—to be a listening post and someone to discuss new ideas with.

To the St. John Cemetery Board, who works hard to maintain the St. John Cemetery.

To the Administration Board and to Pastor David for their recent work revising and updating our Wedding Policy and the St. John wedding guide/booklet, *A Christian Wedding*.

To our Worship Board, for their work to provide meaningful worship services and a beautiful space to worship.

To our Church in Society Board for their efforts to keep us mindful of gifts we can give to others.

To our Quilters for showing up twice a month in order to make quilts that provide so much more than warmth around the world.

And this is such a small sampling of what happens around here—there are so many thanks that should be expressed, but the routines are so ingrained and the serving often taken for granted. One example is our “Attendance Ladies.” Every Monday they look through all those attendance registration forms and tabulate every comment and volunteer activity. Or our “Money Counters” who work very hard to make sure every offering is credited to the right person and directed to the right designation. Think about those who serve on the council, who teach, who call on people, and those who enable our services to run smoothly—ushers, greeters, lectors, communion assistants, radio monitors, video recorders, and our musicians - and what about those who knit or crochet the prayer shawls and make baby blankets!

St. John has much to be thankful for—next to Jesus and salvation, mostly it is all of you! **Thanks for Poppin’ in to Help. We couldn’t do it without you!**

## A New Day for Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries ([www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com)), an organization dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality food to those in need, is offering relief and joy to families in 45 states.

In response to current economic conditions and lengthy unemployment lines, there is a greater need for Angel Food's services nationwide, and expansion of these services is one example of the amplified need for quality, affordable food, which is at the core of Angel Food's mission. Angel Food provides individuals and families with fresh, brand name food for a fraction of the retail price. By purchasing food in bulk, directly from some of the top suppliers in the country, food is discounted by up to 50 percent of retail. Angel Food Ministries is now offering a new selection of prepackaged boxes with more protein items. They contain top quality food staples from every food group, including chicken or beef, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruits. Each of the regular boxes of food feeds a family of four for about one week or a single individual for almost a month. The menu selections vary each month, and consist of both fresh and frozen items, saving Americans money with no sacrifice to quality. There is even a box geared towards the nutritional needs of people on the go.

Angel Food Ministries' service is available to anyone wanting to stretch his or her food dollars. There are no income requirements or program qualifications, we accept SNAP. There are no limits to the quantity of boxes per individual, nor are there any applications or qualifications for eligibility.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about how to utilize Angel Food's services can call 1.608.393.2438 or visit [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com).

### About Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries ([www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com)) is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing financial support in the form of food relief to communities throughout the United States. Established in 1994 to provide relief for struggling families in the Monroe, GA area, Angel Food Ministries today serves hundreds of thousands of families across 45 states, recently welcoming Idaho to the roster where Angel Food's benefits can be realized. Since inception, Angel Food Ministries has fed more than 22 million Americans. In 2008, AFM provided \$120 million in direct food assistance to American families.

With that being said, I would like to share with you that we have more than doubled our monthly orders since our opening of this adventure in September 2010.

We look forward to serving you !!

~Stevie

*If you order by March 20, at 10:59 p.m. CST, it will be available Saturday, March 26, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. here at St. John.*



Sample Box for February ↙

(March sample box was not available at the time of printing, but will be similar.)



### Scripture Readings for March

Mar. 5&6—Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9  
 Mar. 9—Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
 Mar. 12&13—Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11  
 Mar. 19&20—Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17  
 Mar. 26&27 —Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

# THE EVANGEL

Non-Profit Org.  
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March 2011

A Publication of  
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Volume 51, No. 2

307 6th Street  
Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959

This newsletter was especially prepared for:



## Congregation Council

Migs Percy, President <i>Administration</i>	524-5150	Patty Sauey <i>Worship</i>	524-6150
Rich Sorom, Vice President <i>Education, Cemetery Board</i>	524-2720	Lorraine Traeder <i>Education</i>	524-3821
Deb Adams, Secretary <i>Worship</i>	524-8004	Bill Henke <i>Congregational Life</i>	524-8606
Blaine Hedberg, Treasurer <i>Budget Task Force, Foundation</i>	524-2896	Shirley West <i>Congregational Life</i>	524-2942
Jim Wheeler <i>Youth &amp; Family</i>	985-7067	Todd Erdman <i>Church in Society</i>	524-9888
Don Ondersma <i>Administration</i>	415-5259		

*Italics indicates board or committee which the council member serves as liaison*

## St. John Foundation

Eleanor Luehrsen, <i>Pres.</i>	524-2634
Diane Thieding, <i>Vice-pres.</i>	727-2591
Jane Zuehlke, <i>Sec. Treas.</i>	524-4676
Tom White	985-8076
Blaine Hedberg	524-2896
Terry Penkwitz	524-8638
Bill Weis	524-9875

## St. John Cemetery Board

Jake Steinhorst	524-2874
Rich Hahn	524-6609
Barb Demaske	524-3379
Dan Biermeier	547-3435
Rich Sorom	524-2720

## St. John Staff

Ministers	Members of St. John	Financial Secretary	Shirley Buss
Pastor	David J. Glesne	Saturday Music Coord.	Leta Palmer
Visitation Pastor	Jake Jacobson	Custodian	Tim Brown
Youth & Family Director	Ben Berg	Head Organist	Diana McGlynn
Christian Ed Director	Beth Voigt	Sr. Choir Director	David Knoble
Secretary	Carol Julius	Bell Choir Director	Les Sandberg
Assistant Secretary	Leta Palmer		
	Arlo Ketchpaw		

## Chairs of St. John Boards

Administration	LeRoy Petersen
Church in Society	Andrea Holcomb
Congregational Life	Julie Ratajczyk
Education	Kristi Glesne
Worship	Jolene Westerman
Youth & Family	Position open



## Spiritual Reflection for March 2011

### The Watchful Eye of God

Could there be anything more inspiring than being on the top of a mountain at 20 degrees below zero (actual temperature, brrr) with skis on your feet and witnessing the *Watchful Eye of God*? If there is, I cannot imagine it. Let me share with you the message I received on that particularly frigid morning.

There had been heavy snowfalls, gusting winds and extremely cold temperatures in our first week of being in the mountains of Colorado. As I thought about it, the weather had been representative of the great burdens in life. These weather extremes could easily describe the feelings in our hearts when we are experiencing stress, grief or fear, when we bare heavy burdens, and the visual God was providing helped me make the connection. Nature was mirroring the feelings of my heart.

I could not help but notice that the majestic pines seemed to be extending their branches, willingly taking on the burden of the heavy snowfall and demonstrating to me the strength they have most likely gained through other experiences. Even the branches of the smaller trees, which drooped slightly lower than those of the mature trees and were seemingly taking their cues from the mature trees to hang in there and support the load, were courageous in their efforts. The branches held their burden upward as if they were offering it up. Even when the bows drooped in the middle the ends were slightly curved upward waiting for the Watchful Eye of God to shine warmth upon their burden, trusting that the heaviness would soon be melted away. Then with the release of their burden the branches would be able to spring back to life extending upward even more in praise of God's faithfulness (and I witnessed this springing action later in our stay).

Grief, fear and stress were some of the emotions being experienced during our trip. You see, we had recently lost a dear friend and for many of you reading this letter I imagine you can relate to the kind of heaviness I am describing. On this particular morning though it seemed as though God wanted to remind me through nature of his constant, loving, watchful eye and that he would not allow my soul to break under the burden. I believe God wanted me to know that he would always be there to provide support and encourage my strength in managing the heaviness of my heart.

So, what about this watchful eye *witnessing*? What am I talking about anyway? Believe me, it was amazing. I will try with all my heart to use words to describe what I saw, what we saw, not once but twice! A few days before this frigid morning we were out skiing and the sky was totally gray, sort of a solid soft gray (no billowy clouds). As we arrived at the top of the mountain the sun was trying to burn through the gray. Soon there was an easy outline

of the sun behind the veil of grayness. It was striking. As we looked further away from the sun we could see a complete thin line of light creating a complete ring around the sun, yet very distant from the center. This ring reflected light in an outward direction away from the center. The sign in the sky looked like an eye complete with a pupil, an iris and the white sclera. Never before had either of us seen anything like it. I remarked to my husband that God was watching over us. We did not try to capture it on film. It would have been impossible. Rather, we allowed it to be imprinted on our mind. Amazing! (Words really do not describe it).

Now on this frigid morning, only days later, we were standing on top of a different mountain and we looked to the sky to witness another *sky sign*. This time the sky was crystal blue. The sun burned brightly and at 3, 6, 9 and 12, as if on a clock, there were stripes of color, rainbow sections. They were curved reaching out and being connected with a rim of light, making a perfect circle in the sky with these rainbow highlights strategically placed. Once again looking just like an eye, a watchful eye!

The message God honed in on with amazing clarity, the message I was grateful to receive, was this, whether our world is dark and gray or bright blue and filled with sunshine we must remember that God sees our burdens. God cares about our heaviness. God strengthens us and in the right time melts away our pain, our suffering, our burden. And then having lifted our burdens up to him we will graciously allow our lightened arms to be lifted even higher, like the branches of the trees, in praise toward the *Watchful Eye of God*.

May God Bless you,

Tammy Koenecke, RN, BSN, MASL

Spiritual Care Coordinator, RAMC



## God's Instrument

Not many sermons which we hear in childhood are clearly remembered in later life. One which I heard as a boy, however, made such a deep impression upon me that I have never forgotten it. It centered upon an interpretation of Psalm 92:3, an exhortation to praise God "upon an instrument of ten strings." Upon becoming a theological student I discovered that my pastor had been guilty of "forced exegesis." Nor could he lay any claim to originality, for I have encountered the same line of thought in various other settings. Yet this quaint interpretation which was evidently quite popular a half-century ago carries a stewardship message which is permanently valid.

"What is this instrument of ten strings?" asked the preacher. And he answered, "It is you. You have two eyes to see what God has done. You have two ears to hear God's Word. You have two hands to do God's work. You have two feet to walk God's way. You have one tongue to speak God's truth. You have one heart to give God. Add them up and you see that you are an instrument of ten strings to be used to praise God."

This is doubtless faulty exegesis of the psalm but it comes close to what Paul had in mind when he said, "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God" (Romans 12:1). And it is the secret of the liberal giving by the Macedonians who "first gave themselves to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5).

A Christian is God's instrument and his whole life is a psalm of thanksgiving to God.

(T. A. Kantonen)

## Church Signs

PRAYER IS THE KEY OF THE DAY  
AND THE LOCK OF THE NIGHT.

JESUS—DON'T LEAVE EARTH WITHOUT HIM.

EXERCISE DAILY—WALK WITH THE LORD.

GOD'S WAY IS THE HIGH WAY

## Address Updates

Dwayne White, Meadow Lane Assisted Living, 1414 Jefferson St. , Baraboo, WI 53913

Ben Kalin, Oak Park Place, 800 Waldo St. Apt 1317, Baraboo, WI 53913.

- Cards, letters and visits are much appreciated.

## Reaching Out In Love.

A concern was raised at one of the pre-annual meeting gatherings that our benevolence giving is not what it could be. Although the budget numbers do not reflect all the benevolence work that St. John does, recent trends do reflect a decrease overall in our benevolence support.

Our mission statement "To know and proclaim Jesus Christ and as disciples reach out in love," inspired Pastor David's Benevolence Challenge: St. John will, through various means, seek to raise \$15,000 to be spent on various external ministries: \$5,000 within our community— Safe Harbor, Habitat for Humanity, Touched Twice, Good Samaritan, etc.; \$5,000 nationally—Bible Camps, domestic missions, prison ministries, campus, ministries, LSS, etc.; \$5,000 to global ministries such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Relief, missions /work trips to Haiti, etc. This appeal is for funds over and above normal weekly offerings. This proposal was passed by St. John Congregation Council on February 8.

## Sheeper than Therapy

Have needles will travel? Join us Monday evenings 4-6:30 p.m. as we knit, crochet, (tat?), and enjoy fellowship. All ages and skill levels welcome. This is not a prayer shawl ministry, but if that's what you are working on, by all means bring it. Hopefully we can help each other, share patterns, teach those less experienced, and just have a great time working on projects. Beginning on March 7 in the Fireside Room.

