

February 2010 Newsletter

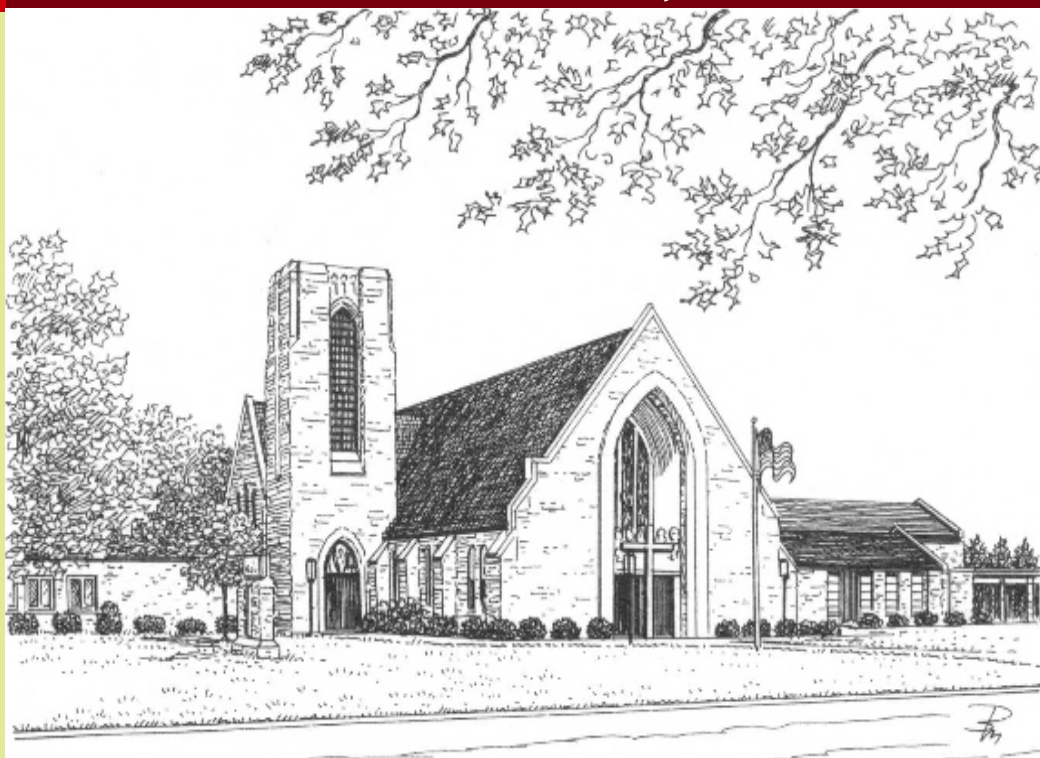


St. John's Lutheran Church & School

200 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938

Church (217)234-4932/School (217)234-4911/Fax (217)234-4925

www.stjohns-mattoon.org



Sunday Morning Services
8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m.



Pastor Countryman's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February is already upon us, and with the new month also comes the 40 days of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 17th. This year we will be following a midweek Lenten series based upon the "Sign of Jonah."

You might be thinking, "Jonah ... for Lent? Sounds fishy" However, it's a natural fit.



Remember when the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah," (see Matthew chapter 12 or Luke chapter 11). After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with news of God's awesome grace. This series of special services explores the meaning of "The Sign of Jonah" as we follow Jonah on his journey ... and Jesus on his way to the cross. This series was written by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, professor Dr. Reed Lessing, who is also the author of the Concordia Commentary on the book of Jonah.

Here is our Wednesday Worship Schedule for Lent and the assigned Scripture reading from Jonah for each week.

February 17 th – Ash Wednesday	God Is Calling (Jonah 1:1-3)
February 24 th - Lent 1	Saved in the Storm (Jonah 1:4-16)
March 3 rd – Lent 2	Our Providing God (Jonah 1:1-17)
March 10 th – Lent 3	Praying from the Belly of the Great Big Fish (Jonah 2:1-10)
March 17 th – Lent 4	The God of the Second Chance (Jonah 3:1-4)
March 24 th – Lent 5	About Face (Jonah 3:5-10)

I look forward to journeying through the Lenten season with you and hearing God's Word proclaimed through Jonah!

In HIS love and service,

Pastor Countryman

Should I sign the 'Red Record of Fellowship' each week?

Yes! Please sign the 'Red Record of Fellowship' each Sunday. Regular worship in the life of a Christian is essential. Although I try to keep good mental notes, the Record of Fellowship is the most concrete way we have to take attendance each week. Additionally, we have a new attendance tracking program which notifies me more quickly if you have been unable to attend worship.

**Elder For This
Month:**

Morris Miller

Assisting Elder:

Doug ZuHone

Serving Christ This Month

USHERS

8:00 a.m. Lowell Miller
Laverne Schaal

9:15 a.m. Alan Zauner

10:30 a.m. Chip Eads
Randy Peadro
Roger Tice
Verna Tice

ALTAR GUILD

Carol Bomball
Shelia Winders

CAR DRIVERS

Feb. 7 Corinne Thomley 234-8748

Feb. 14 Roger Kearney 234-9810

Feb. 21 Barbara Degler 234-7552

Feb. 28 Corinne Thomley 234-8748

Interpreting

Kim Janssen

Video

Mike Salinas

ACOLYTES

FEBRUARY 7

8:00 a.m. Luke Miller
Hannah Prevo

9:15 a.m. Jessica Youngblood
Rhett Farmer

10:30 a.m. Caroline ZuHone
Matt Janosik

FEBRUARY 14

8:00 a.m. Gabriel Stoll
Wyatt Schaljo

9:15 a.m. Jordan Pierce
Emily Love

10:30 a.m. Jenny Reid
Chris Havlik

FEBRUARY 21

8:00 a.m. Hannah Prevo
Holly Wohltman

9:15 a.m. Kesia White
Dillon Reel

10:30 a.m. Alex Katz
Claire Kidwell

FEBRUARY 28

8:00 a.m. Zach Prevo
Luke Miller

9:15 a.m. Emma & Allie Diltz

10:30 a.m. John Mauck
Kaitlyn McDevitt

..... from your Parish Nurse

Shalom! As of this writing, the Walk to Jerusalem has been going for one week. I don't have any totals right now, but I'm hoping that our church members are starting to get into the swing of it. Information about the walk can be found in the church office and at the receptionist's desk. The mileage logs are in the church office or if you can't get there, you can call me at 234-8227. I'm trying to do this on a weekly basis – starting on Sunday and ending on Saturday.

There will be a world map in the Fellowship Hall showing our progress from Mattoon to Jerusalem. There will be some printed material on the various areas we will travel through, including the Atlantic Ocean. Feel free to pick up any of that information. There will also be a tri-fold poster with pictures of Israel and its people that Corinne Thomley has kindly offered to share with us.

With health reform and medical costs in people's minds now, we have an opportunity to get some blood screening done through the Coles County Health Department. One or more of their nurses will come to do blood work for blood sugar, total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL (good cholesterol), LDL (bad cholesterol), and a coronary risk number for \$15. We would need to have at least ten people, and we've set Friday, February 5th starting at 8:30 am. There will be a sign-up sheet outside the church office, so anyone interested in taking advantage of this, please sign up. Any questions, please call me.

Even though this is supposed to be a walk, any type of exercise will be included (if you spend 15 min. exercising, that will convert to one mile, etc.). If you would like to participate, but can't exercise, you can count reading your Bible or devotions (15 min. per mile). To make this a success, it's important to get as many people involved as possible, so please feel free to join in.

Something has come to my attention, that even as a nurse I sometimes forget about. Like any church, we have people with medical problems, particularly breathing problems or allergies. One of the things that most people like to do is to use perfumes or other scents before coming to church. Unfortunately, and I'm also guilty, we forget that this may cause some difficulty breathing for the people sitting around us. In order to give these people the same opportunity to enjoy and share in our worship service, we need to remember the problems they may be having with their breathing and be considerate of our neighbor.

Sitting here tonight listening to the news about Haiti, my heart goes out to the people struggling with this horrendous situation. Aid is gradually getting to them, and I can't help but feel very proud of our troops and volunteers who are trying to help these people. These are the times that I wish I was younger and healthier and could do more, but there are always ways. We know that prayer is powerful, and by offering that to these people, the Lord will hear and help.

The prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi is a prayer I often say. It seems to fit here.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hate bring love; Where offense, may I bring pardon.

May I bring union in place of discord; Truth replacing error; Faith, where once there was doubt; Hope for despair; Light where there was darkness; Joy to replace sadness.

Make me not to so crave; To be loved as to love.

Help me to learn that in giving I may receive; In forgetting self, I may find eternal life. AMEN

God Bless,

Joyce Zschau

Parish Nurse

jzschau@stjohns-mattoon.org

Prayer Requests . . .

These brothers and sisters in Christ have requested your prayers.

Our members and friends serving in the military:

Cory Cunico, Joshua Golchert, Adam Deitz, Sloan Farrier, Travis Bartels, Justin Claypool, Joshua Layon, Justin Ownes, Jason Wetzel, Alex Kull, John Graber, Kati Janssen Utroska, Mark Graber, Diane Virgil, Jason Cobb, Bryon Edgecombe, Katherine E. Utroska, and Mark Anderson.



Home Bound Members:

Mona Durdel, Ted Alwardt, Frieda Noll, Boyd and Erna Bridges, Frank and Ruth Edwards, Dorothy Emily, Phyllis Freeman, Harvey and Jean Janssen, Dale King, Robert and Diane Pierce, Ruby Steinemann, Opal VonBehrens, and JoAnn Wright.



Members in assisted living:

Esther Gaskill, Betty Havlik, Helen Ewald, Alice Tomkins, Frannie Sanders, Lois Hitchen, Bill Kelly, Helen Smith, Retha Schwartz, Lorraine Seils, Marguerite Lepper, Leon Bareither, Josephine Arnholt, and Rex Smock.



Special prayers for:

Betty Havlik, John Hensley, Leonard Homann, Ciera Parrish, Ava Gass, Mike Hagen, Leon Bareither, Deborah Barnes, Kody Strieter, Sheryl Artmann Salinas, Helen Buesking, Lisa Campbell, Pam Fairchild, Pan Hensley, Robert Miller, Wayne Sparks, Phyllis Montgomery, Janet Woelber, Alana Thurmond, Michael Drake, Burma Anderson Jean Butler, Derald Doehring, Bernie Kapper, Kerwyn Stoll, Mike Huddleston, Delores Norviel, Kent & Sue Egner, and Les Wesolik.



My Prayer Notes



Birthdays

1 Amanda Kirk
Kaitlyn McClure
Constance Schaljo
Sandra Woelber

2 Brian Bradtke
Jason Vadakin

3 Jordon Hamilton
William Rasmussen
Tim Salsbury

4 Mitchell Fonner
Barbara Love
Eric Roth
Rick Campbell

5 Rodney Evans
Karlene Gossett
Kimberly Jones
Rachel Orris
Joshua Wrye
Marcie Alwardt

6 Laura Haskins
Kacie Richey
Michelle Saunders
Roger Haberer

7 Marilyn Hood
Jean Rasmussen
Steven Stewart
Eric Thomas

8 Brian Kepp
Keith Koester
Tracie Rankin
Shelia Winders

9 Rachel Boyer
Benetia Brady
Jesse Durdel
Nancy Gass
Kristen Nale

11 Jacalyn Ferree
Brian Jones
Steve Layton
Fredric Uphoff

12 Sherri Arnholt
Derald Doehring
Bernard Furry
Kiah White

13 Morris Ferree
Adam Funk

14 Julie Gass
Thursa Pointon
Sydney Radloff

15 Anna Bezler
Emillie Bezler
Adrian Phelps
Kaitlyn Smith
Tammy Sparrow
Nancy Smith
Piper Countryman

16 Viola Janssen
Michael Love
Imogene Tilford
Carol Welton

18 Ronald Curry
Burnita Bariether
Jeffrey Delinsky

19 James Arnholdt
Carolyn Phillips
Mason Phipps
Janet Dahnke

20 Nathanael Harper
Grant Roehrs
Larry Wagner

21 Jean Reid
Paul White

22 Korey Adkins
Angela Ernst
Lucy Inyart
Alexander Kull
Greg Mauck
Anastacia Peadro
Colin Richey
Callie Alvis
Justin Owens

23 Vallori Degler
Grace Lange
Joey Mellendorf
Jessica Youngblood

24 Canyn Borntreger
Phyllis Freeman
Paige Harlin
Julie Haskins
Fred Smith

25 Elizabeth Deters
Evadine Harrington
Luke Noble
Beverly Schnapp

26 Trpy Miller
Pennie Roehrs
Nichole Salsbury
Herman Taylor

27 Andrew Traum

28 William Havlik
Gunner Laughhunn
James Martin
Kaye Wagner
Thea Gillis
Brandi Cummins

Wedding Anniversaries

2/4 William & Jill Bell
Robert & Joy Koelling
Robert & Madonna Lughhunn

2/5 Michael & Sheryl
Artman Salinas

2/6 Larry & Wanda McClure

2/12 William & Sue Kroening

2/13 Mark & Becky Walker

2/14 John & Melissa
Merritt McCain

Sean & Payge Harlin
Stephen & Sandra Woelber

2/15 Brad & Crystal Kelley

2/19 Earl & Janet Alwardt

2/22 Blake & Raynette Camfield

Pastor Troy & Andrea
Countryman

2/23 Terry & Jennifer Cole

"...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."

(Psalms 138:6-8 ESV)

Church

The FIRE has 14 youth going to New Orleans this summer to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering. But since not everyone gets to go, the FIRE is bringing New Orleans to you!

Trivia Night, with a Mardi Gras flair, will be held at St. John's on **February 12th**. From 5:30 to 6:30 there will be a spaghetti supper (\$5 a person) in the fellowship hall. Promptly at 6:30 trivia night will begin in the gym.

You may purchase tickets separately for \$10 per person (price will increase to \$15 per person after Feb.7th) or you can purchase a table of 8 for \$75.

The FIRE has compiled 100 trivia questions from 10 different categories, and Pastor Countryman will serve as emcee. Each table will be a team and will agree upon 1 answer for each question. After every 10 questions, each team will turn in their answers and scores will be tallied and posted.

We have received donations from area businesses and will be drawing raffle tickets after each set of 10 questions.

There will be baked goods and other concessions to purchase during trivia time.

Babysitting will be provided. The National Junior Honor Society has volunteered to babysit during trivia night.

Tickets can be purchased outside the fellowship hall between Sunday church services, or in the church office on weekdays.

The FIRE is working hard to make this a great evening for everyone! Make it a date night, or a family affair, but make sure you don't miss this fun filled night!



Events

The bi-annual **Father-Daughter Dance** will be held Saturday, **March 20**; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now! Fathers and daughters of all ages from our church and school are invited to share a night celebrating their special relationship. With dancing and refreshments offered, a good time should be had by everyone. Ticket information will be available mid-February through the school, church office, and church bulletin.

REMINDER

March newsletter items are due to the church office no later than February 15.

Thanks!

We are on the web!

Visit us at:

www.stjohnsmattoon.org

Announcements. . .



. . . from the Concordia Seminary Food bank

To the Saints at St. John Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for supporting the Concordia Seminary Food Bank. This service helps us students enormously!

Money is tight, of course, when going to school, and the food bank helps us make ends meet. We get to shop twice a month, and they have everything from fresh produce and bakery items to canned and baking goods, cereals, pasta, meats, toiletries, school supplies, paper products, and household items! The food bank is truly a life saver. You literally help put food on our table and supplies in our cupboards! Isn't it amazing to know you make a difference? It is amazing to us to know that people like you are supporting us. Especially now, with the bad economy, it means so much that you continue to give to help others. Your generosity is such an encouragement to us, reminding us that we are not alone and that God will always provide! Your giving is truly the body of Christ at work; you are a mask of God to us.

Please continue to support the Seminary as much as you can. Every little bit helps, and it is needed so much. Without your help, this Seminary cannot continue to function in forming new pastors for the ministry. What a vital function!

We pray God's blessing to you for your generosity and kindness. We'd love to get to know you more: please visit our blog at <http://stefanicsatsem.blogspot.com>

God's peace,

JJ & Sarah Stefanie



. . . regarding a grant for our school

Giving Plus Challenge 2010!

St. John's Lutheran School & Preschool is eligible for a one-time Giving Plus Phaseout Challenge Grant. The amount of this grant is \$1040.00. To receive the grant, we need to raise twice the amount of the grant through 2010 personal contributions from donors (contributions are not limited to Thrivent Financial members). Donations need to be received no later than June 15, 2010. The gifts received will be applied to the Tuition Grant Fund (formerly known as the Scholarship Fund). Your check needs to be made out to St. John's Lutheran School.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is launching a new giving program later this year called Thrivent Choice. We will be receiving more information regarding this program in a few weeks.

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00 AM Worship / Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship / Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	1 8:00 AM Tennis-Gym 8:00 AM LOL 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 4:30 PM Girl's Basketball practice 5:00 PM FIRE 7:00 PM Elder's Meeting 7:00 PM Friendship Guild Meeting	2 6:30 AM Men's Bible at Pagliacci's 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:00 AM LFL 9:00 AM Quilters	3 4:30 PM Girl's Basketball practice 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Wed Worship	4 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 12:30 PM Over 50 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	5 8:00 AM Coronary Risk Factor Blood Work F-H 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H	6 4:00 PM Girls VolleyBall practice
7 8:00 AM Worship / Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship / Sunday School 10:30 AM FIRE	8 8:00 AM Tennis-Gym 8:00 AM LOL 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 PM Trustees 5:30 PM Activity Center 7:00 PM Missions 7:00 PM Finance	9 6:30 AM Men's Bible at Pagliacci's 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM Thrivent Meeting	10 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Wed Worship	11 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	12 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H	13 3:00 PM Elizabeth Jordan 259-1744
14 8:00 AM Worship / Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship / Sunday School 10:30 AM FIRE	15 8:00 AM Tennis-Gym 8:00 AM LOL 8:00 AM Carpet Cleaning Sanctuary 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 4:30 PM Market Day 5:00 PM FIRE 6:00 PM Stewardship	16 6:30 AM Men's Bible at Pagliacci's 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:00 AM Quilters	17 12:00 PM Lent Service 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Lent Worship	18 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 1:30 PM Ladies Aid 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	19 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H	20 4:00 PM Girls Volley Ball practice
21 8:00 AM Worship / Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship / Sunday School 10:30 AM FIRE 12:00 PM Imogene Tilford 80th F-H 5:00 PM FIRE 5:30 PM Over 50	22 8:00 AM Tennis-Gym 8:00 AM LOL 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 5:30 PM Bd. of Christian Ed.	23 6:30 AM Men's Bible at Pagliacci's 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM FIRE & Rebels at the Food Center	24 12:00 PM Lent Service 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Lent Worship	25 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	26 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 6:30 PM N J H S Movie Night Gym-F-H	27
28 8:00 AM Worship / Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship / Sunday School 10:30 AM FIRE	1 8:00 AM LOL 8:00 AM Tennis-Gym 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 5:00 PM FIRE 7:00 PM Friendship Guild Meeting 7:00 PM Elder's Meeting	2 6:30 AM Men's Bible at Pagliacci's 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:00 AM Quilters 9:00 AM LFL	3 12:00 PM Lent Service 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Lent Worship	4 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 8:30 AM Exercise Classes 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 12:30 PM Over 50 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	5 8:15 AM Confirmation F-H 12:30 PM PIGOUT - F-H	6