

St. John's Newsletter – Fall 2011

From His Word ...

Earthquake shakes D. C. Hurricane Irene kills 55 and floods the Northeast. Texan wildfire chars 45 square miles. Is the world out of control? What about the IHOP shooting, famine in Somalia, 9-11, Iraq? How troubling these natural and man-made disasters are!

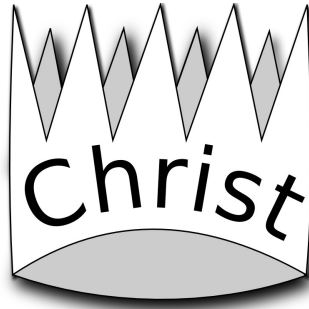
But now add in the attacks against God. They attempt to dethrone him as the Creator. We see claims that buried bones are a 100,000 years old or that a rock formation took a million years to form. Evolution fills our parks, museums, science books and programs.

They try to dethrone him as the God of the family. It's not enough that God's gift of marriage is broken by divorce and betrayed by premarital and extramarital sex. Now they want to further redefine marriage to include same-sex couples.

They try to dethrone him as the only Savior. "God" becomes a generic god who fits any religion; Jesus becomes just another teacher. They speak his name to advance their own agendas. Religion focuses on making this world a better place and not on preparing hearts for eternity. If heaven is mentioned, many believe you have to help yourself get there by inviting Jesus in, or doing good for others, or making yourself feel spiritual. All this robs Jesus of his saving glory.

And worst of all, how many of these things do we find in churches who claim to follow Jesus? How could God be in control when even churches stray so far?

Take heart, dear Christian. We may



wonder why nations conspire and people take their stand against the Lord and against Jesus Christ, the Anointed One. They think they can break their chains and live free.

The One enthroned in heaven laughs. He rebukes them and says, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill" (Psalm 2:6 NIV1984). That King is Jesus, the Son of the Father, your risen Savior. Rejected by this world, he saved you and me, nailing our sins to the cross in his body. He has risen from the dead and now rules over all as the King.

The world is not beyond his control. Jesus himself told us there would be wars, earthquakes, and famines (Matthew 24:6, 7). There would be false Christs, false prophets, false teachers – yes even in churches that claim to follow him (Matthew 24:5, 10-24). These are signs. This earth is crumbling, but Christ is coming. Be alert. Keep watch.

When he comes, he will dash to pieces like pottery those opposed to him. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 2:27; 19:15, 16). He will bring his faithful people into his heavenly kingdom, the inheritance prepared for them since creation (Matthew 25:34), purchased for them by his blood (1 Peter 1:3-9, 18-21).

So serve the Lord, dear Christians, for he has redeemed you to be his people. Serve him with that fear that holds his word in highest regard and abhors all that's evil (Proverbs 8:13). Tremble in the presence of his holiness. For here is your God, the Almighty, who humbled himself to save you and now reigns over all so that every knee will bow before him (Philippians 2:5-11).

Rejoice with trembling as you take refuge in him. For in him you are safe, no matter how badly this world rages. Read Psalm 2.

Fall Schedule

This Sunday, September 11, we return to our fall schedule.

Sundays:

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Group
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Class
- 10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Wednesdays:

- 7:00pm Bible Class (same as Sunday)

The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Bible Translations



Our Synod faces a decision. The NIV publisher has discontinued the Bible translation we have been using. Even though the Synod only decides what translation Northwestern Publishing House will use, no doubt that decision will also have a long term impact on our congregation.

The first few Bible classes this year open this discussion up for us. What are your thoughts or questions? What translations do you prefer? What makes a “good” translation? Come to share your ideas and ask your questions. The class is offered on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., starting September 11, and repeated on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., starting September 14.

Sunday School

Sunday school begins this Sunday, September 11. Our teachers this year are: Judy Lubenow, Mackensie Rohloff, and Leah Nelson. Leah Nelson will be doing music with the children. They plan to usually sing on the second Sunday of the month. This year we focus on Jesus' early life and ministry. We also plan to have a few activity Sundays throughout the year. The students this year are: Preston Banister, Kallista Banister, Kaitlyn Rohloff, Karleigh Rohloff, Lilly Zeltwanger (K), Gabi Joos (1), Paxton Rohloff (1), Bryn Brown (2), Preston Rohloff (3), Gideon Joos (4), Peyton Rohloff (5), Emma Nelson (6). May they grow to know our Savior better and trust him in all things.

Youth Group

Bridget Joos and Sam Roth are preparing to lead the youth group. They have a new format planned this year for Sunday mornings. Come see what's in store and give your input. Youth group members this year are: Cody Greiner (7), Collin Brown (8), Ryan Gray (8), Morgan Nelson (8), Abigail Bitter (9), Caleb Bitter (9), Rachel Gray (11), Courtney Greiner (11), Evan Nelson (11), Seth Nelson (11), Shae Brown (12), Tara Flaten (12), Bryce Wilson (12). We pray that as faith in Jesus grows in their hearts it shines out in their lives.

Update

As many of you may know, Lisa Johannes has been struggling with bone cancer. She's the wife of Pastor Johannes, who served St. John's from 1989-2000. They will be visiting the area later this month. Please keep them in your prayers. If you would like to send a card or help them with bills, their address is

331 Randolph St., PO Box 159, Mishicot, WI
54228.

Catechism Class

Catechism class begins Wednesday, October 21, at 4:00 p.m. The focus this year is on the Sacraments and Prayer. What parts of the Catechism does that take us to? The Sacrament of Baptism, the Ministry of the Keys and Confession, the Sacrament of the Holy Communion, and the Lord's Prayer. The students this year are Collin Brown, Ryan Gray, Morgan Nelson (8th Graders), Cody Greiner (7th Grade), Emma Nelson (6th Grade). May our Lord bless their study of his word as he strengthens them in the faith.

Parade Float

"Hat's off to our heroes' Hero" read the words on our parade float. What a float they made! We received first place in our category. Thank you to all who helped, including Shane, Bridget, Gideon, and Gabi Joos, Sandy and Emma Nelson, Phyllis Joos, Mackensie, Peyton, Preston, Paxton, Kaitlyn, and Karleigh Rohloff, and Bryn Brown. You all did a great job.

WELS Youth Rally "Means of Grace"



Sam Roth, Lauren Nelson, Seth Nelson and Evan Nelson, along with Doug and Leah Nelson attended the youth rally held at the Kalahari Resort at the Wisconsin Dells July 21-23, 2011. Sessions focused on the means of grace and that we cannot be saved by our own works, but only through the gift of God's grace! Our service project was assisting residents at the Golden Living Nursing Home with a bowling

exercise and also weeding a flower bed. We enjoyed singing contemporary Christian music with Crosswalk. Free time consisted of going on the Duck Tours, many waterpark activities, roller coasters, and having a great meal at Famous Dave's. The rally wrapped up by meeting in our own congregational groups to discuss ways we can share Christ with others and become more active in our church.

– Leah Nelson.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. The theme was "One-of-a-Kind Zoo," and it ran from July 11-15, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Our Lord blessed us with about eighteen children attending to learn about our one-of-a-kind Savior.



Thank you to Bridget Joos for helping with the over all planning and for organizing the projects and snacks. Thank you to Sandy Nelson for helping with the projects. Thank you to Sam Roth and Seth Nelson for doing the skit and helping out as needed. Thank you to Shae Brown and Phyllis Joos for doing the music. Thank you to Caleb Bitter, Collin Brown, and Ryan Gray for organizing recess. Thank you to Polly Smith, Emma Nelson, Abi Bitter, and Rachel Gray for helping out as needed. Hopefully I haven't left anyone out, but if so, thank you as well.

Fair Booth

Once again we shared a fair booth with

St. Paul's of Morris for the Stevens' County Fair. Thanks to all who helped out. Many volunteers help shorten the time spent sitting at the booth.

A note from your organist!....



On the hottest day of the summer we (Phyllis Joos and Jane Theilke) arrived at The National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts. This conference was held July 19-22, 2011, at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.

2011 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the conference. In 1996 the Commission on Worship held its first worship conference and since 1996, conferences have been held every three years. The WELS Conference on Worship is the largest worship conference in the Western Hemisphere. A significant percentage of WELS pastors and church musicians attend the conference. This was my fourth conference and I am never disappointed. I come away marveling at the many gifts and talents that God has given to people in our synod. These gifts are on display in the inspiring worship services, and in the many workshops that are held. The beauty of the music and messages often leaves very few dry eyes. The worship conference is designed to celebrate and encourage our Lutheran liturgical worship heritage. That doesn't mean it will be stale and stodgy, but new and fresh ideas to take back to our own congregations for worship, music and yes even art. The theme of this year's conference was "To pass the torch to the next generation." Passing that sacred music on to a new generation was so evident

in watching the high school honors choir and a new grade school choir made up of 48 children which performed at every church service under the direction of Joshua Peddle. Joshua was my choir director the past two conferences and is just amazing.

We are kept very busy during the conference. A typical day is breakfast, church, workshops, lunch, workshops, dinner, church and then ending the night with the good German tradition of *Gemütlichkeit*—which is fellowship, chips and beer. Also squeezed in here are choir rehearsals, an art show, concerts, and shopping at the exhibitors (this is mainly music—oh what fun).

I take part in the art show and have gotten to know other WELS artists. I also always sing in a choir. My choir this year was the Maundy Thursday choir. Each choir typically prepares and performs about 3 pieces for the service so the choir rehearsals are quite intense. Each church services focuses on a season in the church year to give us ideas to take back home and incorporate. Maundy Thursday service was the hottest night and the choir sat in the balcony which was unbelievably warm---but Wow, what an impressive service and all worth it.

Most of the workshops I take part in are equally split between art, choir music, piano music, organ music, and worship ideas. Meeting in my workshops a couple of the composers that I regularly buy music from was very fun.

One day was spent at Martin Luther College and our church services that day were at the Chapel of the Christ. It is very beautiful. Pastor and Mary Lopahs were there that day and it was so fun visiting with

them. Pastor Tom Bauer always plays his trumpet in the orchestra for all the services and I always enjoy visiting with him. He always asks about many members and I catch him up on things.

There are no words which can adequately describe the experience of attending the WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts. Many people attending this conference have said, "It's like a little foretaste of heaven!", and yes I would also have to say that is true. Worshiping and hearing your voice, one among a thousand WELS members singing, and also including a full orchestra, a children's choir, a teen honors choir, and a regular choir all made up of WELS people is indeed a thrill.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and I hope to help to enrich our services with my new knowledge. By the way, the conference is not just for pastors, organist, and musicians. Any member can attend, just as Jane Thielke did this year.

– Phyllis Joos.

Email

One way to get out updates and reminders in our modern age is through email. If you have an email address and don't mind sharing it with the church, we would appreciate it. The easiest way to get your email address to us is to send the church an email at hancocklutheran@gmail.com

You can also keep up by following the churches Twitter account @HancockLutheran or by going to www.hancocklutheran.org

Recipes

The Ladies Society is still looking for

recipes for a cookbook. Please place them in the box in the narthex or email them to Gloria: kgzeltwanger@mchsi.com

Annual Cleaning

If you haven't had an opportunity to clean your area yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Website

Keep updated with what's happening at St. John's by visiting:

www.hancocklutheran.org