

## *November 2009*

### **FROM THE PASTOR**    *“The New Jerusalem”*

On Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1, we will observe “All Saints’ Day” in our worship services. Our text will be Revelation 21:10-27 where it gives a physical description of the blessings in heaven. It begins with these words, “*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*” Take a moment to look up the entire section before coming to worship! You will be amazed at the beauty the Apostle John saw as he was able to look directly into heaven itself!

November 1 also is a special day in my memory bank... my father’s birthday. It was a few years ago that my father was called to his eternal home in heaven. The one thing I remember about my father was that wherever he went, he openly shared his faith in Jesus and the promise of eternal life with Jesus in heaven for those who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Even in the hospital earlier that day my father talked about Jesus to one of his nurses.

My father suffered many physical problems during his life on earth...back surgeries, heart attack, and many other health issues. But that Tuesday afternoon, as I saw my father take his last breath here on earth, I thanked and praised God that no longer did my father have to suffer. I knew that he was with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ enjoying all the blessings given in Revelation 21. I also remember thinking to myself that I can not wait for that day when Jesus will call me to my eternal home in heaven!

Until the Lord calls us home to heaven, may that love and grace of Jesus...His death on the cross for our sins and His triumphant resurrection from the dead...enable us to daily focus on those blessings of heaven and share them with others! See you in God’s House on All Saints Weekend!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Braun*

### **THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**

Get the long weekend off to a terrific start: Join in the joyous worship of our great God and Savior on "Thanksgiving Eve," November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Holiday decorations, special music and practical preaching from the Word of God combine to make a memorable and uplifting time of worship and praise.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT**

The First Sunday in Advent is just around the corner, on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Hearts and minds prepared for the coming King enable us to wait with joyous expectation. Advent looks ahead to our celebration of Christ's birth, yet also remembers the glad culmination of all history as we anticipate Christ's promised Second Coming in glory.

Our weekly Wednesday evening Advent Worship Services provide a focus for the season's celebrations. The first of three Wednesday evening services will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. A light supper will be served at 5:30. Regular evening ministries and programs will be adjusted accordingly, allowing full family participation in the night's events.

***Looking Ahead – Mark Your Calendar***

*Advent Evening Worship Services*  
-- December 2, 9, and 16 (7 p.m.)  
*Grades 4-8 Sunday School Christmas Program*  
-- December 16 (during Advent service-7 p.m.)  
*Christmas Eve Service with Pre-3<sup>rd</sup> grade Program*  
-- December 24 (5 p.m.)  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service \**  
-- December 24 (10 p.m.)  
*Christmas Day Festival Service \**  
-- December 25 (10 a.m.)  
*New Year's Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion* -- December  
31 (5 p.m.)

*\*Please note the time changes from years past for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



*and Christmas Day Service.*

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS**

*by Roxann Leckband*

**Mom's Group** will be held on Fridays November 6, 13 and 20. There will be no mom's group on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. All moms with pre-schooler or younger children are invited to come and join us for fun Christian fellowship and being in "the Word" with other moms. The Bible study we are currently discussing is entitled [A Mother's Legacy](#). This study focuses on well known mothers of the Bible such as Eve and Jochebed. Who remembers who Jochebed's son was? Come to our moms group and find out more about mothers in the Bible. A Bible story, craft, play and snack time is available for the children with excellent supervision for the children. Please come and join us from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on the dates listed above. If you have any questions give Roxie a call.

**Young Family Group** will not be held in November as we had our autumn event on October 25<sup>th</sup> and will be having the December group on December 6<sup>th</sup>. On December 6<sup>th</sup> the children will be participating in a new event here at St. Matthew Lutheran entitled [Journey to the Manager](#). More information about this program will be noted later in this newsletter.

**Sunday School News:** Attention parents/guardians - a **[NEW Dismissal Policy](#)** will begin for our Pre-k through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The procedure is as follows:

1. The child will need a parent/guardian to come in and sign out their child from the classroom at the time of dismissal.
2. Children in grades 4-8 (or older) who are getting picked up at the church, must be picked up at the EAST entrance. An area will be marked off for cars to pull up to the church so their child/children can be picked up.

This policy is put into place for the safety of your child/children. Please contact Roxie or Patty Traphagen with any questions you may have.

**Release Time** for 1st through 5<sup>th</sup> grades and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12th grade is going well. Please feel free to join us. You can enroll your child at anytime.



**"Strikes for Jesus"** will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't already guessed it, "Strikes for Jesus" is a bowling event for our elementary and middle school children and their parents/guardians. Please meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. we will then go to the bowling alley. Each person will be on a team. Depending on how many pins are left standing after your turn bowling, determines which commandment that individual needs to recite. Don't be concerned, we have *hints* if you don't know all the commandments. This event is a tool to help the children and adults memorize the 10 Commandments. Please bring \$3:00 and an excitement for bowling. This event takes about an hour. The "Strikes for Jesus" held in October was a success. I was a great learning experience and a fun time for all. I look forward to having you join us!

**CONFIRMATION:** Our Confirmation retreat was held at Camp Okoboji on October 14 and 15. It was fun even though it was a little damp. The theme was the 10 Commandments as this was one of the 6 Chief parts we completed. An exam was given on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and we will now begin on the Apostles' Creed.



The Confirmation class will be participating in a servant and fellowship event entitled **"Pirates of the Pantry"** on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The youth will be participating in a local food drive, going door to door collecting food for the food pantries. We will conclude the evening with great Fall foods and beverages. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. when the youth arrive at the church.



**"Journey to the Manager"** is a four-part dramatization which tells the timeless story of God's gift of His Son, Jesus. *"Journey to the Manager"* will be held on December 6, 2009 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. The children, along with their families, will share in the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. There will be crafts, fellowship, and food. Please bring a Christmas "goodie" to share.

**Senior Fellowship Dinner** will be held on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. Come enjoy an early Thanksgiving dinner with Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. Yes, Thanksgiving is the theme. Please come and if you can think of a Thanksgiving memory from the past be ready to share it. You may bring a dish to pass if you desire. If you are able please phone the church, 376-6168 if you are planning to attend. We look forward to seeing you! A BIG THANKS to Marlis & Steve Rohwer for being such marvelous hosts. We always look with anticipation to see how Marlis has the Fireside Room decorated.

**WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN**

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Iva Barber's home. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Audrey Stanton's home. The Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Notes from Pastor Braun on the November Bible Study will be available outside the church office door by November 10<sup>th</sup>.



### **ALTAR GUILD**

Serving in November will be: Velma Cortright and Iva Barber at the 8 a.m. services and Bonnie Habeck and Marge Ruesch at the 10:30 a.m. services. There will NOT be a regular meeting in November. However, please plan to help with the **FALL DECORATING at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**. *If anyone has any extra garden gourds or pumpkins that could enhance our decorations and you would like to donate them, please bring them to the church before November 7<sup>th</sup>*. On Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. we will meet to take down the Fall decorations. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Ilona Benson, 376-5069.

### **LWML NEWS**

The next LWML Meeting will be on Thursday, **November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** in the church basement. **ALL WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION are invited and encouraged to attend.** The Martha Circle will be your hostesses. The Mary Circle will host the November 15<sup>th</sup> coffee hour between services.

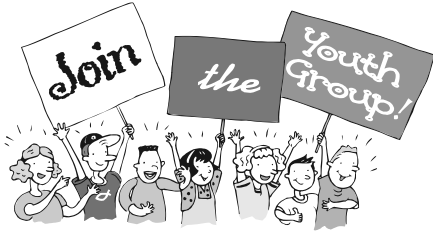
### **SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to benefit the various projects.

On the first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for those church committees/groups wishing to host a coffee hour. Please sign-up on the sheet in the church basement when you plan to host the coffee hour. ***Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.***

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour as a fundraiser to help support Seminary Students, Joel & Candy Brassfield. *On that Sunday there is also a door offering following the church services, which also goes to support Joel & Candy.*

The fourth Sunday of the month the youth sponsor the coffee hour. Proceeds go to support their various activities.



## YOUTH REPORT

*By Kim Rogers*

The YPOGS just finished the hoagie sales and we thank everyone for the great support given our youth. We made 165 dozen hoagies. WOW that's a lot of sandwiches!!

We have registered 21 youth for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. It's not too late, if you would like to attend please contact Kim Rogers.

The youth will be serving the first two Advent meals. The menu will be soup and sandwiches. **We will be selling frozen soups as a fundraiser for the gathering. You will be able to try these soups at the advent meals and then purchase your favorites for your holiday meals and gift giving.**

Begin your Christmas Holiday with a trip to Branson. A bus tour is being sponsored by the YPOGS. This tour takes place December 2-6 . The YPOGS earn money for each ticket purchased. Flyers are hanging in the north entryway with more details. If you have any questions about the trip please contact R & K Worldwide Travel at (712)753-2092.

**Please Note: the YPOGS will NOT be selling Christmas Greens this year.**

At the October youth fellowship event we helped carve pumpkins at young family night on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Then we headed to Spirit Lake to visit the haunted house and enjoyed some pizza.

The youth continue to be involved in our weekly worship services helping on the technical crew, reading the Epistle lesson on youth Sundays, serving as greeters, in special music, and other areas. We are currently practicing a black light hand play to perform in an Advent service.



***St. Matthew Lutheran Church***

***HARVEST DINNER***

***Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>***

***11:30 - 1:00 p.m.***

Come and enjoy delicious pork loin, potatoes & gravy, dressing, green beans, and pie.

Adults are \$7.50, children under 10 are \$3.50,

and children under 3 are FREE.

*Take-out orders are available, please call 376-6168.*



### **HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES**

St. Matthew now has hearing assisted devices to enhance your worship experience.  
Please contact an usher at either entrance to the sanctuary before the services to pick up a unit. It is very simple to operate and can be used with your current hearing aids. You will be able to hear everything that is sent to the sound system and recording devices. See Ed Henning, Lyle Meyer or Wally Van Waus if you have any questions.

## HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

A special **Thank-you** to Daryl Doeden, Myron Meyer, John & Marlene Moberg, Gerald & Susan Polley, and Dan Roos for providing a special service to one of our members who went to Windom for a class. Your time and transportation was greatly appreciated!!!!

Thank-you to Bill Knigge (September) and Rita Shirkey (October) for driving the church van for the 10:30 service. At times, this service enables 10 people to attend church. If you would like to help with this special task, please call Rita Shirkey (376-9833) or the church office.

Our Human Care Committee is planning to take part in the Community Christmas Basket project and providing the Congregational Caring Tree. If you know of someone who could benefit by receiving a gift from one of these activities, please contact Rita Shirkey, 376-9833 or the church office, 376-6168 with names and necessary information. More details to follow in the weekly bulletins.

The Human Care Committee will provide receipts/and or statements for the contributions received for soldier care packages. We are in the process of coordinating this with the church's mailing of the giving statements at the end of the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rita Shirkey, or the church office.



We encourage ALL veterans to come and be a part of our services (example: greeters, help serve coffee, etc.) and coffee hour on **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. The coffee hour is being held in honor of ALL veterans. Proceeds from the coffee hour will be used to send care packages to our overseas military personnel. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Brunk, 360-7116. Also - remember a veteran on Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/12/09 COUNCIL MEETING**

Treasurer's Report: (See your printed newsletter.)

Board of Elders: Karen Obermoller is helping design a new website for the church. There will be no Saturday evening worship on December 26 or January 2.

Board of Trustees: We will be checking the pews for anchoring. New carpet for the Chapel has been ordered and Fred Knigge will install it. New information signs have been ordered. New

thermostats for the east Sanctuary and basement are being considered. The vent for the boiler, in north entrance has to be replaced.

Board of Education: There will now be a sign-out procedure put in place for the smaller children being dismissed from Sunday School. "Strikes for Jesus" was a success. "Journey to the Cross" will be held on December 6th at 4:30 p.m. The trustees have approved that 2 stalls to the east side of the church be marked on Sunday morning for Sunday School drop off and pick up.

Board of Youth: 165 dozen hoagies were sold. Youth are doing a Branson Fundraiser, information is posted by the elevator, and the youth receive \$40 for every participant. A hand play will be performed during an Advent service. The youth will serve the first 2 Advent suppers. The youth will NOT be selling Christmas greens this year.

Human Care: We need van drivers for the 10:30 service.

Missions: We still need help. The after school program will begin soon.

Stewardship: The 2010 offering envelopes have been ordered. We are designing a talent survey.

Misc. Business: The LCMS Synodical Convention is set for July 10-17 in Houston, TX. Rev. Gerald Gauthier of Trinity, Sioux Valley will be the voting delegate; lay delegate is Dave Post from St. Paul's, Rost; alternate pastoral delegate is Rev. Barb Mueller and Dave Hansen is the alternate lay delegate. A presentation on the need for upgrading the sound system was made. A "Sound System Committee" has been formed, consisting of Larry Voehl, Traci Feit, Ed Henning, Colleen Braun and Ken Meyer. This committee will give their findings at the January Quarterly Voters' Meeting.



## **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** – if you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a specific Sunday please sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Iva Barber, 727-4381 or Bev in the church office, 376-6168.

### **December & January Newsletters**

Due to the busy Christmas season, we will be doing a combined newsletter next month. We will be combining the December and January newsletters into one and it should be mailed out at the end of November. Therefore, you will NOT receive a separate newsletter for January. Committee Chairmen please keep this in mind when submitting your articles, which will be due by 4 p.m. on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and should include both December and January news.

**Our St. Matthew Lutheran Church cookbook, "A Taste of Heaven" is once again available** for you to purchase. Due to many requests, we placed another order and now have more of these wonderful books. They are just \$25 each and make wonderful Christmas, birthday and bridal shower gifts. You may purchase these Monday thru Friday during regular office hours.

You are invited to experience *The Promise of Salvation Revealed, A Live Nativity, planned for Saturday, November 28 and Sunday, November 29, 2009 at the Sioux Valley Lutheran High School* in rural Lakefield, MN from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Throughout this indoor-outdoor, narrated tour, the Promise of Salvation is revealed. The tour lasts about 20 minutes. Costumed characters and live animals bring the story to life. Those who attend are asked to dress warmly, as part of the tour takes them outside. Those who attend also enjoy hot soups and cider, live musical ensembles, sing-a-longs, fellowship and a bake sale in the gymnasium. A free-will offering will

be received to support the ministry of SVLHS. The school is located southwest of Lakefield, MN (and north of Lake Park, Iowa) at the intersection of Jackson County MN roads 4 & 9.

## ***Worship Service Helpers***

### **ACOLYTES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Nov. 1	Morgan S.	Tyree M.
Nov. 8	Alexandra S.	Savannah J.
Nov. 15	Joshua VanW.	Torey R.
Nov. 22	Brigid H.	Shelby F.
Nov. 25	7 p.m. – Mason K.	
Nov. 29	Amber P.	Caleb K.
Dec. 2	7 p.m. – Michael P.	
Dec. 6	Brendan S.	Austin S.

### **NURSERY**

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Nov. 1	Amber P.	Torey R.
Nov. 8	Brendan S.	Shelby F.
Nov. 15	Michael P.	Caleb K.
Nov. 22	Jessica A.	Austin S.
Nov. 25	7 p.m. – Morgan S.	
Nov. 29	Eric F.	Savannah J.
Dec. 2	7 p.m. – Tyree M.	
Dec. 6	Summer R.	Stephen D.

***\* Please be sure to mark your calendars. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change.***

**\*PARENTS** – Thank you for supervising in the nursery while your student is scheduled for that service. If you cannot be with your student, please contact the church office, we have a list of substitute adults willing to fill-in for supervising. THANK YOU

### **GREETER SCHEDULE**

***If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change. THANK YOU FOR SERVING!***

#### **DATE**

Nov. 1 (8:00) Daryl & Karen D.; Rita P.

- (10:30) Edgar & Anna S.  
LaDean & Lori F.
- Nov. 8 (8:00) Voris & Sandie S.; Sandy C.;  
and any Veterans
- (10:30) Paul & Barb H.; Alice W.;  
and any Veterans
- Nov. 15 (8:00) Karen M.; Henry & LaVonne P.
- (10:30) Helen S.; Carol C.
- Nov. 22 (both services) YOUTH
- Nov. 25 (7 P.M.) William & Phyllis H.; Bob P.
- Nov. 29 (8:00) Deloris Lohr; Donna L.
- (10:30) Chris & Stacy H.; Arlene B.
- Dec. 2 (7 P.M.) Doug & Rhona K.; Lucille H.
- Dec. 6 (8:00) Jan & Daryl Q.; JoAnne G.
- (10:30) Marvin & Corky S.;  
Marlene J.

### **Stewardship Thought for the Month**

#### **It Began With Three Mason Jars....**

When I was just 4 years old, my father came into my room with three old mason jars. “Son,” he said, “I think you’re old enough to begin getting an allowance for the chores you do around the house. I’m going to give you a dollar per week. Here’s your first dollar.” And my father handed me 10 dimes.

“Now here’s what I want you to do with your money,” he continued, as he placed the three jars on my dresser. “The first jar has ‘church’ on it. Put one dime in there.” I did it.

“Now the second jar has ‘savings’ on it. Put another dime in there.” I dropped a second dime into the second jar.

“Now the third jar has your name on it. Put the other eight dimes in there.” I happily dropped the remaining dimes in the third jar.

“Now son, here’s what I want you to do. Every dollar you get, I want you to turn it into 10 dimes. And I want you to put one dime in the first jar – that’s for God. I want you to put one

dime into the second jar – that’s for savings. And I want you to put the rest of the dimes – eight of them – into the third jar – that’s for you.”

So I began that very day doing what my father suggested. As I grew older, I was always delighted that my jar filled up so much faster than the others. Compared to the other two, there was always more than enough for me. It was not until later in my life that I realized what a valuable lesson my father had taught me about managing my finances. And it was still later that I learned that all along, I had been tithing to the Lord – a habit I never outgrew.

*Anonymous Author*

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund Bulletin Board:**

We are so thankful to have a place in which to worship! Help other CLAMS churches build or remodel by investing with KID’S. Stamps. Visit our table across from the church offices, following the 8 a.m. service to learn more.

## **St. Matthew Lutheran Church** **Contact Information**

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Administrative Assistant, Bev Spittle

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*We wish you a happy*

and Blessed Thanksgiving.