



Epistle



S T . J O H N L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

CALLED TO THE CROSS

What a crazy idea! It's spring and the whole world looks like it's coming back to life and we are going to talk about death! (Of course it's not just any death either, it is the death of the Son of God!)

Around the world there are many different religions and beliefs, all rivaling each other seeking followers and with all the followers they can get comes power. What are we going to do to gain all those followers and increase our power and influence? Where are we going to direct them? Is it great rallies and have them take to the streets? Demand this and threaten that? Hardly. We are going to tell them to follow a man on his way to a cross and a shameful death.

“Come follow the one who was rejected by his own people; who was condemned by man and by God as well. Come learn the way of the cross, and the way of service, and the way of humility. Come hear the teaching of the One who was silent before His accusers, who did not open His mouth.”

It goes against every bit of wisdom and common sense. But that is what we do and that is who we are. We are Christians. (Did you know that there are churches that have removed the cross from their buildings – because it might offend some visitors who might otherwise join? May it never happen among us! Doing that would deny everything we are.)

So we are going to call everyone we can to the cross. And this is how we are going to do it. Until Holy Week (April 17-24) we continue our midweek services on Wednesday evenings. We are looking at the miraculous happenings that took place on Good Friday. (April 6 7:00 pm the raising of the saints on Good Friday; and April 13 7:00 pm the “confession” of the Roman Soldiers)

On Palm Sunday we will invite our confirmands to join us in our walk as Disciples of Jesus. Is it more uncomfortable to recite those answers from memory in front of the congregation, or to answer this question, even with answer written out for you: “Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?” (Answer: “I do, by the grace of God.)

Pray for our confirmands:

As they prepare for **Palm Sunday (4/17)** they are going through the questions and answers and getting ready to say in front of everybody:

- That they belong to Jesus;
- That they will follow Him now and forever; and
- This is what we believe.

Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will confess him before My Father in heaven.

As they prepare for their **First Communion on Maundy Thursday (4/21)** they are:

- Learning what it is that they receive (Jesus' Body and Blood together with the bread and wine);
- Memorizing the words “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins;”
- Learning a lot about the time from the Lord's Supper to the Cross; and
- Digging deeply into what it means to follow Jesus.

They will join us as confirmed and communicant members of St. John. Pray for them and encourage them. Here are their names:

Joshua Bierman	Megan Brockmeyer	Lindsay Hammel	Deanna Hohgreffe
Theodore Knop	Tyler Knop	Madison Kueker	Sarah Liefer
Kara Mehrer	Nicholas Rinehart	Mallory Westerman	

Then we have Mid-day Services every day of Holy Week at 12:20

Our series this year is called “**The Road to the Cross**” and we follow the path Jesus walked from Garden to Golgotha. The schedule and outline is:

Monday 4/18 **He went to Gethsemane** (Matthew 26:36-44) *Rev. Herb Mueller*
Tuesday 4/19 **They Brought Him to Caiaphas** (Matthew 26:57-64) *Rev. Fred Campbell*
Wednesday 4/20 **They Brought Him before Pilate** (Matthew 27:1-2, 11-23) *Rev. Ralph Laufer*
Thursday 4/21 **Through the Streets of Jerusalem** (Luke 23:26-32) *Rev. James Leistico*
Friday 4/22 **They Led Him to Golgotha** (John 19:17-24) *Rev. John Taggatz*

These services have been a long-standing tradition in our community and focus our attention wonderfully during Holy Week. If you have not taken that midday break from the world to spend time with the Lord during Holy Week, consider setting aside the time this year.

Everything comes together on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, as we focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus. **We have a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday** (4/22) at 7:00 pm. It is “a service of gathering darkness” and completes the focus in on the cross of Jesus.

On Easter we celebrate. “Christ is Risen!” “He is risen indeed” “Alleluia!” Death is swallowed up in victory! The grave is broken! The devil is crushed! And we are set free! Easter is “the victory revealed.” That is a carefully chosen phrase, because it is on the cross that Jesus said, “It is finished.” As the powers of darkness celebrated, and as the disciples cowered in fear; neither one knew that the victory had been won by Jesus, and it remained only to be revealed. That Sabbath (Friday sundown to Saturday sundown) was a day of quiet, anticipation, and waiting for the risen Lord to sweep away His foes and share life and joy with His followers.

On those days, as we gather at the cross we find it is not only the place of suffering. What the world does not know, the secret we are doing all we can to tell is that: **This is the place of Life.** It is where God takes our death and carries it away and gives us eternal life in Jesus Christ. That’s why we gather at the cross. It’s the place of answers and where God meets us. It is not so crazy after all. **It’s unexpected and startling** to everybody who learns about it and believes it and receives salvation. And for us – it is wonderful and amazing forever.

To God be all the glory! *Pastor Mark*

Our HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE is:

Sunday 4/17	9:00	Confirmation Questions and Answers
	10:00	Service of Confirmation
Monday – Friday	12:20-12:45	Midday Services
Thursday 4/21	7:00	Maundy Thursday service & Service of First Communion.
		A reception and celebration follows in the Parish Hall.
Friday 4/22	7:00	Good Friday Service of Tenebrae
Sunday 4/24	6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
	7:45 & 10:00	Easter Morning Service
<i>(On Easter morning our Youth Group serves Easter Breakfast between services in the Parish Hall)</i>		
Monday 4/25	11:30	Golden Agers Easter Luncheon

AG IN THE CLASSROOM POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to 3rd grader Ryn Petrowske her poster placed 1st in her classroom and also 1st place in the county.

YOUNG AUTHOR'S STORIES



Congratulations to the students from St. John who attended Young Author's on Saturday, March 19th in Columbia. Students attending were 1st Grade - Kylie Fortner; 2nd Grade - Abe Lochhead; 3rd Grade - Emma Valleroy; 4th Grade - Carlee Weir; 5th Grade - Sydney Korando; 6th Grade - Trent Doiron; 7th Grade - Alyse Bollman; 8th Grade - Mallory Westerman.

RANDOLPH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONTEST

Congratulations to the winners for the Soil and Water Conservation Essay Contest. 1st Place - Ellen Blechle and 2nd Place to Trent Doiron.



W O R K P L A C E W I T N E S S I N G : S P I R I T U A L & P R A C T I C A L P E R S P E C T I V E

Have you ever described a boss as a "tyrant" or "dictator" when discussing work with your spouse? Perhaps you haven't been in as extreme a situation as that; but, many of you can identify with working under less than ideal conditions at some point - maybe even now.

When I tell others about my place of work, many Christians reply, "I'm so jealous! You have the opportunity to shine Christ's light at work! I just have a regular 9 to 5." I am incredibly blessed to serve in the position and environment God has placed me. Having worked in secular media previously, I may be more aware of this blessed environment than others. I had, shall we say, the "less than ideal" boss - one who teased me in jest and in anger for the moral beliefs accompanying my faith.

At Lutheran Hour Ministries, my bosses are Godly people, deeply rooted in their faith. In fact, they consistently encourage and uplift their staff - even family members of staff. This is rare blessing!

Do I believe, however, that I have more opportunities to shine Christ's light in the workplace than you? On that point, I venture to say, "No." (I hear you murmuring, "Did she really just say that?")

In John 12:46, Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." We as Christians have the light - Christ. In fact, Matthew 5:14 tells us that we are light - the light of the world.

Those I serve with at Lutheran Hour Ministries have Jesus - the light. Does this mean that I am exempt from shining Christ's light in my workplace? Absolutely not. In fact, 1 Timothy 6:2 says, "Those who have believing masters should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are devoted to the welfare of their slaves."

You, however, if you work in secular work environment, are likely in more regular and direct contact with those living in darkness. Here, there is a very great need for light to shine.

Next time you walk into work, take a look around you with new eyes. What better place and where is their greater need to shine Christ's light than right in the middle of darkness? Who around you is living in darkness? How can you share Christ's light in this relationship already formed? Ask God for fresh perspective to recognize the opportunities He has placed before you.

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HEARTS FOR JESUS

The school would like to thank everyone for their support of the Hearts for Jesus campaign this year. Our goal was \$2500. Not only did we reach that goal, but thanks to your help, we surpassed it. Our final total was \$2844.66. Fourth grade was the winning class with an astounding \$32 per student. Second grade came in second with \$27.26 per student and eighth grade was third with \$27.18 per student. God's blessings to all of you.



Mr. Urquhart

TIPS FOR SHARING

We should learn to relate God's love to the needs of the person to whom we witness. That means we should not be so focused on what we want to say, that we fail to learn where the other person is, or what may trouble him or her.

How do you learn? Ask questions, like "How are things going in your life?" or "Do you have any plans for the future?" Then listen. Listen to see how you might best reply, from your own experience as a Christian or from what the Bible tells you.

And, of course, take time each day to pray for God's guidance, and for His help to make you a faithful witness. Yes, pray, before, and after you share your faith with someone else.

Tips provided by Reverend Carl Zahrt; February 2, 2011 edition, EquippingYou through Mission U Newsletter, Lutheran Hour Ministries.

DEVOTIONAL BOOK

"Jesus" is the name of a devotional book written by retired Pastor Ken Young. It is 40 Meditations based on the Name and Titles of Jesus. Copies are available in the rear of the church for you to look at or purchase for \$10.00

SEMINARY TO HOST 13th ANNUAL *VOCATIO* FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host a weeklong visitation event in June for high school youth. On June 18-23, the 13th annual *Vocatio* will be held on the Seminary campus. The event is designed to identify, inform, and encourage youth with respect to church work vocations.

Vocatio provides a unique opportunity for high school youth to participate in Bible study, worship, prayer, and discussion. Additionally, youth will be able to gain college and Seminary information pertaining to a variety of church work vocations.

Activities during *Vocatio* will focus on the Bible verse, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing, and perfect will." (Romans 12: 1-2) The high school participants will delve into this theme through the four disciplines of the formation of ministry: exegetical, systematic, historical, and practical. Seminary professors will lead Bible studies and discussions about vocation throughout the week.

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a Servant Event. Past events have included work at St. Louis area congregations and the Saxon Lutheran Memorial. They will also have the opportunity to attend an event in the St. Louis area such as a St. Louis Cardinals' game or the Munny outdoor musical theater.

A \$150 registration fee to attend *Vocatio* is the only charge for youth, in addition to travel costs. All activities, meals during the event, and on-campus lodging are provided at no cost to participants. Scholarships are available to ensure that travel costs do not prevent youth from attending. *Vocatio* registration is limited to high school youth entering 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade.

The registration deadline is June 1, 2011. For more information on *Vocatio*, or to request a registration form, contact the Admissions Office, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; admissions@csl.edu ; 1-800-822-9545. To register online, visit the Seminary's website at www.csl.edu.

Opinion Survey Results

The following survey was conducted last fall. As with all surveys only a small portion of the members responded. The results of those that responded are as follows:

From time to time, St. John receives gifts (not regular envelope offerings) from individuals or estates that are given to "St. John Lutheran Church" with no specific instructions. Some of these gifts are smaller while others are quite significant. The elected officials of the church would like some input as to how these gifts should be handled.

Please order the following options by numbering them with your first choice through your fourth choice. You may add choices that you would prefer and put a number on them as well.

Allow the elected officers and appropriate board members the option to use or invest these gifts to best serve the needs of the congregation at the time the gift is given.

40% chose as #1 - 27% chose as #2 - 27% chose as #3 - 6% chose as #4

Use all such gifts to reduce the church debt and/or current expenses.

29% chose as #1 - 53% chose as #2 - 18% chose as #3 - 0% chose as #4

Invest all monies from gifts into secured endowment investments (funds where the principle is tied up for a number of years) that return a dividend or interest payment on a regular basis to the church for general use.

0% chose as #1 - 14% chose as #2 - 0% chose as #3 - 86% chose as #4

Use these gifts for special needs/repairs that are not funded through the general budget.

41% chose as #1 - 12% chose as #2 - 47% chose as #3 - 0% chose as #4

There were several additional options offered with the one most often mentioned was to invest a percentage (there were several numbers offered) in secure investments and use the remainder for current or special needs.

L E N T S U P P E R A N D E A S T E R B R E A K F A S T

The Youth Group is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Lent suppers. The menu will be:

April 6- Mostaccioli, slaw, garlic bread, dessert

April 13-Chicken Tetrizzini, green beans, jello, Dessert

All meals will have coffee, tea and punch. Free Will donation.



The Youth Group will also be serving breakfast between the services on Easter. Serving will be from 6:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. The menu will be Breakfast casserole, Biscuits and Gravy, Pancakes, Fruit, Coffee Cake, Muffins, Coffee, Juice, Milk. A free will offering will be accepted.

F a m i l y N e w s

March 7 68th Wedding Anniversary of Sam and Dorothy Korando

March 20 58th Wedding Anniversary of Fred and June Campbell

April 3 Birthday of Oneta Bueckman

April 18 Birthday of Ralph Kipp

April 27 Birthday of Wib Alms

March 12 Birthday of Donna Young

April 1 Birthday of Ed Powley

April 11 Birthday of Mildred Stipe

April 19 Birthday of Eunice Buening

April 30 Birthday of Claudie Schulte



No-Threat Christians

A story is told of General Douglas MacArthur visiting troops on the front lines in Korea. Though the general had been advised to skip a particular site because of the nearness of the enemy, he insisted that his troops needed to see their commander. Sure enough, as they moved along the line, shots rang out and bullets whizzed into the camp. The general slid into a bunker and ordered a sergeant to form a squad and find the sniper.

"Oh, sir," the sergeant responded. "That won't be necessary. We know exactly where he's located."

"Then why hasn't someone taken him out?" demanded the general.

"Well, sir, he's been sniping this hill for six weeks and hasn't hit anyone yet. We're afraid if we take him out the enemy might replace him with someone who can actually shoot!"

"Many Christians have been living their lives like that sniper. They have all the equipment (God's Word), know their job (witnessing), but have been frustratingly ineffective at the task of Christian witnessing. Satan needn't concern himself with these hidden lights lest they be replaced by another...one that might actually reflect the light of Christ more openly."

Every Christian has the potential to be a **powerful** witness. We are equipped with a powerful weapon against the forces of evil. The power to bring the lost to Christ is in His Word. God's mysterious and powerful Word can never be rendered ineffectual but goes forth with the power of His Spirit.

There is another good reason for Christians to live their faith more boldly before a nonbelieving world. No Christian witnesses alone. When Christians share Christ with those within their sphere of influence, the Holy Spirit goes to work. Faith shared is a powerful thing. Even faith the size of a mustard seed, when shared, can make an eternal difference in the lives of the lost and those who love them.

Paul requested, "Pray for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Eph 6:19-20) Let's embrace Paul's instructions and pray not only for missionaries but for ourselves that we also may "fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel!"

"Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:19) As Jesus' salt and light in the world let us boldly

dare to be different, not hiding our light!



Much of the information above is from the book Dare to Be Different, by Stephen D. Hower. Hower shares humorous and relevant stories as well as clear and practical suggestions for those who desire to be more faithful in their life of witness. This easy-to-read book is available from Concordia Publishing House for \$7.99. Kelly at St. John's church office will be glad to order a copy for you. Give her a call!

NEW FACILITY FUND

The new total for the New Facility Fund is \$365,877.01. If you have a child or grandchild in our school, a family member or neighbor who is thinking about sending children to St. John, or just committed to this project, help keep this fund growing. You can contribute your extra change, money you saved using coupons, tax refunds, or a percentage of your earnings. When you buy Script cards, a percentage of the PTL profit can go to the New Facility Fund.



O U R 2 0 1 1 Y E A R - T O - D A T E F I N A N C I A L S T A T U S A S O F
3 / 2 1 / 1 1

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$251,276.60	\$208,141.20	(\$43,135.40)
Expense	\$251,276.60	\$262,233.59	\$10,956.99
 2011 (Income - Expense)		(\$54,092.39)	
2010 (Income - Expense)		<u>(\$20,146.34)</u>	
2010/2011 Total (Income - Expense)		(\$74,238.73)	
 Debt	\$99,846.50	Mortgage	\$47,803.17

Average 2011 Attendance per Week: 300

Your church needs your help. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help this situation.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING SET AT ST. JOHN, CHESTER

Kindergarten screening for the children planning to attend St. John Lutheran School for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Tuesday, April 12, from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 13, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling the school office at 826-4345. Children planning on attending Kindergarten should reach the age of five on or before September 1, 2011.

The Kindergarten program at St. John Lutheran School strives to educate the whole child. To enhance cognitive growth, our program includes math readiness, graphing, charting, phonics and reading readiness activities, songs, finger-plays, body movement songs, as well as fine motor growth which includes cutting, painting, writing, gluing, printing, and drawing. To foster emotional growth and character development, we teach about Jesus and the love He holds for His children. Our curriculum and schedule is built from the foundation of Jesus' love for young children.

St. John admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origins and does not discriminate on the same basis.

Please call the school office (826-4345) for further information.

R E M I N D E R

Please remember to let the church office know when you will be away from home for an extended period of time so the church does not mail out your newsletter and then have them returned to us. The Post office does charge us to receive your newsletter back. Thank you.

M U N Y

Warm weather is headed our way, so it's time to start thinking about The Munny in beautiful Forest Park. Get out your waders and your umbrellas, because we're headed to see *Singin' in the Rain* on **Monday, July 18**, leaving St. John parking lot at approximately 4:00 P.M. Group ticket prices for groups of 20 or more participants will be **\$23.20** each. This will give us the good seats that we enjoy every year. If no one objects, we'll stop at Sweet Tomatoes for supper on the way. The cost of supper will be in addition to the ticket price, but should run between \$10 and \$12 with our usual group discount. A late night ice cream snack attack will be satisfied at Steak 'n' Shake after the show. In order to get the best seats, I will need your money (checks made payable to "St. John Lutheran Church") dropped off at the church office no later than **Tuesday, April 26**. As always, if you are unable to attend after the order is placed, it will be your responsibility to find a replacement or your ticket will be given away. Sorry, they won't give us any refunds. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call 774-2936.



Mary Stallman



ACOLYTES

Sat April 2 6:30 p.m. Alyssa Hoops & Sydney Korando
 Sun April 3 7:45 a.m. Miranda Mueller & Kylie Liefer
 10:00 a.m. Katelyn Rader & Calvin Clendenin
 Wed April 6 7:00 p.m. Ellen Blechle & Anastasia Valleroy
 Sat April 9 6:30 p.m. Autumn Rowold & Clayton Richelman
 Sun April 10 7:45 a.m. Anastasia Valleroy & Christopher Lang
 10:00 a.m. Tyler Redeker & Jessica Kattenbraker
 Wed April 13 7:00 p.m. Sarah Liefer & Kylie Liefer
 Sat April 16 6:30 p.m. Stormie Zweigart & Autumn Rowold
 Sun April 17 7:45 a.m. Austin Welge & Mason Westerman
 10:00 a.m. Rachel Walker & Gwendolyn Sterrett
 Mon April 18 12:20 p.m. Megan Brockmeyer & Brett Bunselmeyer
 Tue April 19 12:20 p.m. Liam Candy & Lindsay Hammel
 Wed April 20 12:20 p.m. Deanna Hohgreffe & Teddy Knop
 Thur April 21 12:20 p.m. Tyler Knop & Madison Kueker
 7:00 p.m. Kylie Liefer & Mason Westerman
 Fri April 22 7:00 p.m. Gwendolyn Sterrett & Rachel Walker
 Sun April 24 6:00 a.m. Taylor Dunning & Kara Mehrer
 7:45 a.m. Emily Atchison & Derek Mott
 10:00 a.m. Matthew Smith & Austin Welge
 Sat April 30 6:30 p.m. Alyse Bollman & Nicholas Rinehart
 Sun May 1 7:45 a.m. Jaclyn Colvis & Josh Bierman
 10:00 a.m. Sarah Hecht & Christian Gray

USHERS TEAMS

Sat April 3 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun April 4 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten
 Wed April 6 7:00 p.m. Don Gentsch
 Sat April 9 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun April 10 7:45 a.m. Ron Rathert
 10:00 a.m. Randy Campbell
 Wed April 13 7:00 p.m. Ron Rathert
 Sat April 16 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun April 17 7:45 a.m. Gary Duensing
 10:00 a.m. Don Stallman
 Thur April 21 7:00 p.m. Gary Duensing
 Fri April 22 7:00 p.m. Roger Kattenbraker
 Sun April 24 6:00 a.m. Rick Casten
 7:45 a.m. Roger Kattenbraker
 10:00 a.m. Gary Eggemeyer
 Sat April 30 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun May 1 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 6:30 p.m., Sunday 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship Broadcast on KBDZ 93.1 FM and KSGM 980 AM

GREETERS

Sat April 2 6:30 p.m. Karen Surman
 Sun April 3 7:45 a.m. Geninne Westerman
 10:00 a.m. Norma Viergge
 Sat April 9 6:30 p.m. Ruby Schirmer
 Sun April 10 7:45 a.m. Sarah Schenk
 10:00 a.m. Pam Johnston
 Sat April 16 6:30 p.m. Jane Kipp
 Sun April 17 7:45 a.m. Mary Alice Welge
 10:00 a.m. Nancy Urquhart
 Sun April 24 6:00 a.m. Collette Powley
 7:45 a.m. Marie Hoops
 10:00 a.m. Henrietta Stallman
 Sat April 30 6:30 p.m. Barb Tindall
 Sun May 1 7:45 a.m. Mary Lee Gross
 10:00 a.m. Myra Rubach

ALUMINUM CANS

March 28- April 2 Ron Sheely
 April 4- April 9 Larry McDonough
 April 11- April 16 Steve Egge
 April 18- April 23 Steve Young
 April 25- April 30 Gray Knop



WEEKEND JANITORS

April 2/3 Ryan Petrowske
 April 6 Ryan Petrowske
 April 9/10 Randy Campbell & Ron Rathert
 April 13 Ron Rathert
 April 16/17 Larry McDonough
 April 21 Larry McDonough
 April 22 Larry McDonough
 April 24 Dennis Mott
 April 30/ May 1 Chris Urquhart

ALTAR GUILD

Larry & Sharon Congelton
 Marlene Seymour
 Fred & Barb Fricke
 Dr. Stephen & Diane Platt
 Ron & Anne Rathert
 Mike & Barb Welge
 Wanda Dethrow

RADIO ANNOUNCER / TECHNICIANS



April 3 & 6 Chris Colvis / Tony Young
 April 10 & 13 Amanda Middendorf / Charlie Bargman
 April 17 & 21 Richard Janssen & Lynn Rickenberg
 April 24 Chris Urquhart / Bob Platt

CHURCH E-MAIL

Pastor Willig— pastorwillig@stjohnchester.com
 Pastor Ill—pastorill@stjohnchester.com
 Kelly Walls— secretary@stjohnchester.com



CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office, 302 W. Holmes, Chester, IL 62233
 Phone 618-826-3545 Phone Meditation 618-826-2135
 Internet Address www.stjohnchester.com

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When I was in secular media, I was often so afraid I would get sucked into this darkness that I kept a distance. Fear overcame me in many instances. However, we have no need to fear. If Jesus - the light - is in you, He is with you even where there is darkness. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Do not allow fear of darkness to cause you to shut down when you walk into your office. Recognize that Jesus is with you while you are sitting at your desk - even if you are being unfairly judged by a peer or boss. Do not give up. Trust in Him. He will be with you as you shine His light - through words and actions - on your co-workers and even your boss.

Take-aways:

1. Be transparent - the same person at work as you are at church and at home.

Do not disguise your faith, fearing how you will be perceived. Being a Christian does not make you a weakling. In fact, God has all power and dominion, which He gives us through His Holy Spirit! 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God has not given you a Spirit of fear; but a Spirit of power, love and a sound-mind."

Care more about what God thinks of you than man. Everything in heaven and on earth is His. He is able to open any door to you! Ask for His help.

Remember Psalm 118:9, "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes."

Need further convincing? It is illegal to be fired for believing Christ!

2. Recognize your workplace as a field in need of harvest.

In John 4:35, Jesus said, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

If you work in a secular environment, you have been placed in a field in need of greater harvesting! You directly interact with seekers on a regular basis while many church workers must intentionally seek out relationships away from work and church for opportunities to share.

Provided by Sarah Guldalian; February 2, 2011 edition, EquippingYou through Mission U Newsletter, Lutheran Hour Ministries.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY TO HOST FOURTH ANNUAL PSALM FEST

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host the fourth annual PsalmFest on Sunday, April 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. The festival will explore some of the themes involved in Psalm 46 through spoken and sung word. The public is invited to attend.

A variety of settings of Psalm 46 will be sung. Additionally, the congregation will sing hymns related to the themes of Psalm 46. Meditations and reflections on the psalm will be presented by Dr. Timothy Saleska, associate professor of exegetical theology. Dr. Kent Bureson, dean of the chapel and assistant professor of systematic theology, will lead the congregation in the prayers. Guest organist for the service is Rev. Dr. Arthur Eichhorn, pastor of Saint Salvator Lutheran Church, Venedy, Ill.

Participating in the festival will be the Concordia Seminary Chorus, Pro Musica Sacra, Laudamus, the Brass Ensemble, and the Bell Ensemble.

For more information, contact creative services, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7379; communications@csl.edu.



Please join the St. John Family for a retirement celebration to honor

Christopher Urquhart

For 41 years of service to St. John Lutheran School

An open house will be held on

Saturday, April 30, 2011

From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Program at 2:00)

At St. John Parish Hall in Chester, Illinois

Mr. Urquhart will also be honored at the 7:45 and 10:00 church services

On Sunday, May 1st at St. John Lutheran Church in Chester

If you are unable to attend, letters and cards may be sent to St. John Lutheran

School, 302 West Holmes Street, Chester, Illinois 62233

***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not
depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6***

Please RSVP to Kelly in the church office at 826-3545.

Annual Easter Egg Sale

St. John Lutheran Women's League

Decorated Easter Eggs

\$3.50 Per Dozen

To Order Call:

Mildred Amschler 826-3687

June James 826-5334

Church Office 826-3545

Pick-up St. John Parish Hall

Wednesday April 20 3:00 -4:00 p.m.

Thursday April 21 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.



Trivia Night

Sponsored by
St. John Lutheran School
Eighth Grade Class

Saturday, April 9

Doors Open At 6, Contest Begins At 7

Tables of 8 or less, \$10 per person



Reserve Your Table Now 826 - 4345

Proceeds go to 8th Grade Class Trip

B I B L E T R E A S U R E H U N T :

Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

Answer will be in next months Epistle.

TSIH I RLLECA OT YM NMID, TRROHFEE VHEA I POHE. TI SI FO EHT SROLD' SRMIEEC TTHA EW REA TON USONMEDC, USEECBA SIH SSSPOONMICA LIFA TON. YTHE REA WNE YVREE RONNMIG: TRGEA SI YTH UTSSNLHFFEA. EHT ROLD SI YM TRPOONI, TSIHA YM USOL; TRROHFEE WLLI I POHE NI MIH.



**A N S W E R T O L A S T M O N T H S
B I B L E T R E A S U R E H U N T :**

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Romans 5:1

C A P P E R S

CAPPERS (Christian Adults Playing Pinochle Eating Refreshments on Sunday) will meet on Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall.



2 0 1 1 A L U M N I B R A G G I N ' R I G H T S



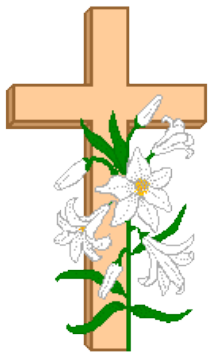
The date is set for the 2011 Alumni Braggin' Rights game between St. John Lutheran and St. Mary's Catholic. Basketball returns this year and the game will be played April 2nd at Colbert Gym. Game time is 6:00 p.m. All SJS alumni through 2005 are invited to play. Please contact Chris Blechle at 795-1183 if you are interested in playing or helping with this event. Ticket Price will be a Free Will Donation at the door.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
302 W. Holmes Street
Chester, Illinois 62233

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JESUS LOVES:



April