



# Epistle



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

C A N I G E T A N “ A M E N ” ?

“Amen” is a word that we have taken straight from God’s people’s worship in the Old Testament. When God met with His people and they agreed with His statements, they said, “Amen!” Amen is a word that gives a positive answer (like “yes”) or expresses certainty. This is why many Christians use the word “amen” so regularly. The *Small Catechism* says, “Amen, amen means ‘yes, yes, it shall be so.’” Our use of the word “amen” isn’t just a token way of participating in worship, but a bold confession of faith.

The first “amen” in our regular gatherings comes right after the Invocation. As the pastor says “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” we respond with an “Amen!” This is an agreement with the statement that all we do in worship, even all we do in life, is in this name that has been placed on us. In essence, we’re saying “I am baptized!” As the service continues, so do the amens. We testify to our forgiveness, to our mutual prayer, to the blessings before and after the sermon, the communion dismissal, and the benediction. These parts of the service aren’t reserved only for one or two people to say, rather, we all join together as the community of faith to say these things.

Through our amens, we confess our faith, we bring our prayers and petitions before God Himself, we receive His blessings, and we depart in His peace. Our use of “amen” shows that we are participants as we gather around God’s Word. We are not watching a show or dramatic event. God’s blessings come to us, and we respond simply, directly, and in faith by saying, “Yes! Yes! It shall be so!” Amen.

Wishing you the certainty (the amen) that God has promised,

Pastor Ill



## Lent 2011

Our Lenten Series this year is titled the **Miracles of Lent**. It has to do with the miraculous and surprising things that happened from Maundy Thursday through Easter.

### The Schedule is:

- |             |              |   |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 3/9         | 7:00         | <b>Ash Wednesday</b> – The Miraculous Darkness (Matthew 27:45)                      |
| <b>3/16</b> | 7:00         | Midweek 2 – The Miraculous Tearing of the Temple Curtain (Matthew 27:51a)           |
| <b>3/23</b> | 7:00         | Midweek 3 – The Miraculous Earthquake (Matthew 27:51b)                              |
| <b>3/30</b> | 7:00         | Midweek 4 – The Miraculous Splitting of the Rocks (Matthew 27:51c)                  |
| <b>4/6</b>  | 7:00         | Midweek 5 – The Miraculous Raising of the Saints from Death (Matthew 27:52-53)      |
| <b>4/13</b> | 7:00         | Midweek 6 – The Miraculous Confession of the Roman Soldiers (Matthew 27:54)         |
| 4/21        | 7:00         | <b>Maundy Thursday</b> – The Miraculous in Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)  |
| 4/22        | 7:00         | <b>Good Friday</b> – The Miracle of Good Friday (1 Peter 3:18-19)                   |
| 4/24        | 6 am         | <b>Easter Sunrise</b> – The Miracle of Christ’s Descent into Hell (1 Peter 3:18-19) |
| 4/24        | 7:45 & 10:00 | <b>Easter</b> – The Miracle of Easter (Matthew 28:1-10)                             |



Each service is set up to include a Children’s Sermon. The services from March 16 – April 13 include a reading of the Passion Account from the Gospel of Matthew.

**Before each Wednesday Service (5:00 – 6:30) the Young People of our Congregation will be providing a Soup Supper in the Parish Hall.**

## NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

The annual New Member Reception will be held on Sunday, March 13 at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. Individuals who joined St. John's church family in 2010 through baptism, transfer, and confirmation will be honored with gifts and refreshments. The entire congregation is urged to attend. Again this year will be a short program introducing all the programs and organizations within our church. Please help us welcome the following new members:

Abigail Lynn Carter	Nicholas Gross
Rhett Louis Creason	Pamela Johnston
Rinoa Raven Delay	Richard Johnston
Abigail Faith Dulaney	Jacob Lochhead
Kaden David Freytag	Sarah Lochhead
Matthew Glen Hecht	Joseph Marks
Cole Travis Johnson	Justin Marks
Nolan Michael Knop	Averi Mueller
Trayton Kai Mulholland	Natasha Pulliam
Braeden Michael Parrish	Austin Redeker
Jillian Grace Rubach	Lacey Reynolds
Gavin Ray Schroeder	Amber Watkins
Konner Joseph Schroeder	Kacy Westerman
Kale Joseph Sprengel	Jeffery Wingerter
Brandon Cain	Susan Hecht
Joshua Thomas Clark	Caroline III
Chasity Dawn Schroeder	Peter III
Heather Freytag	Chelsie Miller
Travis Lee Schroeder	Tracy Miller
Hunter Cushman	Ashley Wegener
Krista Downey	LuVerne Woody



## KNOWING GOD MY ADONAI

Many times we Christians are encouraged to focus on God and who He is rather than on our problems. King David exemplifies this focus on God: "I saw the Lord always before me, because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (Ps 16) To me it means learning to know God better, reading His Word, thinking about Him, and talking to him. The astonishing thing is that he answers us and continues to reveal Himself to me and to all his people who seek him.

Lately I've been considering the word "master" and how it relates to God. I usually think of the master-servant relationship which indicates God's rightful authority over me and my rightful place under him in reverent obedience. Consider Matt. 8:8 where a centurion says to Jesus, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go' and he goes; and that one, 'Come' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." That centurion, whose life could be summed up by the word "authority," immediately recognized Jesus' higher authority over his servant's illness, paralysis and pain. Our God is the supreme authority above all others. He is the one who gives authority to others under him while he maintains control over all his creation in heaven and earth.

A second definition of "master" reveals even more about God: "an artist, performer, or player extremely skilled and accomplished, proficient." Think of how the music moved you at the last really good concert you heard. Or how your tastebuds responded to a chef's signature entree. Kids also refer to their Tae Kwon Do instructor as master because of his knowledge, skill and expertise in his field. Students do not follow their instructor as though they were slaves with no choice, but rather choose to follow his direction because of the respect and admiration they have for him and his abilities. So it is with Adonai. He is a master wise and skilled in all areas of life. He is worthy of our respect and admiration, worthy of our choosing to follow him because of his goodness, forgiveness, trustworthiness, knowledge, compassion and wisdom to name only a few. Why would anyone want to forge his own way through life with his own limited knowledge and skill when we have such a great Master to teach us?

by Myrna Campbell

## Family News

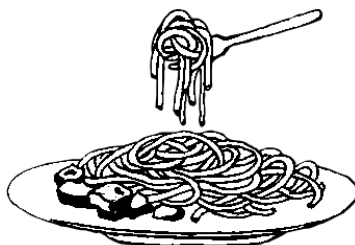
Congratulations to the B-team girl's volleyball players – the girls won 1st place in the PDR B-team volleyball tournament!

Zach Lochhead joined the 1,000 point club for Yellow Jacket basketball.

March 14 Birthday of Ruth Kruse

March 18 Birthday of Wib Eggemeyer

March 23 Birthday of Winifred Doty



2011 St. John Chester

PTL

Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

From 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

At the Parish Hall

Adults: \$ 8.00

Children ages: 4-12 \$ 4.00

Children under 4-Free (for dine in only)

Carry Outs Available



## FAMILY DEVOTIONS FROM CPH

Here are a few Family devotions available at Concordia Publishing House. To find more books and devotions visit [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

**Happy Times** — Bible-based stories, colorful activity pages, and special projects are the mainstays of this monthly magazine targeted for 3- to 5-year-olds. A "Grown-ups Page" offers helpful and fun ideas for parents to encourage family time and Bible learning.

**My Devotions** — Encourage 8- to 12-year olds to build a habit of daily Bible reading at home! My Devotions is an excellent resource that points children to the Word through stories and situations that they can connect to. Each devotion includes a Scripture reading, true-to-life story and short prayer. It's ideal for personal or family devotions!

**Portals of Prayer** — Each devotion features a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. *Portals of Prayer* is great for personal devotions, and these timeless devotions can be used to open meetings or launch Bible studies .

**Family Faith Walks** — A collection of devotions and related activities for families. This book encourages parents and children to grow in faith together. Building on excursions in the neighborhood and community, games, projects and a variety of other active learning experiences, these devotions combine with Scripture verses, prayers, and discussion starters for a balanced approach to family devotional life. In addition, meditations for parents accompany the devotions to help equip them in their roles as faith mentors for their children.

**Icky Sticky, Hairy Scary, Bible Stories: 60 Poems for Kids** — Put on your apron and goggles! The stories in the Bible are not always nice and happy. Some are messy and dangerous. Some are about foolish, strange, or awful things. This collection of short, funny poems is sure to capture the attention of any reader. Each poem shows that God works in the ugly, icky, gross world we live in and helps us out of our messes. This resource intersperses poems with paraphrases of biblical wisdom. Fun illustrations and shockingly gross stories are just right for inquisitive children. The Bible is terrifically funny at times, and we should not be afraid to explore and enjoy it.

## CAMP WARTBURG

Why YOU should send your child or grandchild to Camp Wartburg...

Christ is at Camp Wartburg. Camp is all about creating an environment in which campers have a chance to learn about and build a relationship with their Savior in the midst of their Father's creation, by the power of the Spirit. All this under the protection and guidance of college-age counselors who have a passion for the Lord and a love for His children. 108 acres of woods, fields, waters, and trails serve as the backdrop for this exciting journey with Christ.

Located a few miles outside of Waterloo, the cabins are air conditioned and the food is good. Your child will experience an adventure that will last a lifetime - swimming, fishing, high ropes, canoeing, archery, sports, crafts, outdoor education, camp games and so much more. Programs are carefully managed and offer challenge and personal growth.

The camp schedule runs from May 30- Aug 12. There are camps for grades 1-12 that are 3 days, 5 days, and longer. They have an overnight experience for little kids accompanied by an adult. Check out the specialty adventures, like kitchen chemistry, forts, paintball, sports, and go-carts.

Registrations postmarked on or before May 1 receive a \$10 discount. Financial assistance is available to qualifying campers. Brochures will be arriving soon at the school office or you can learn more at [www.campwartburg.org](http://www.campwartburg.org) or by calling 618-939-6288.

## NEW FACILITY FUND

When the Hearts for Jesus project is over, why not keep in the habit of collecting money for Jesus' work? The New Facility Fund is up to \$362,652.65. If we all set aside a little each week, a new building will become a reality.



## St. John Lutheran School Celebrates National Lutheran Schools Week

St. John Lutheran School in Chester will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week March 6-12, 2011. The theme, *Securing Each Child's Future-Making Disciples*, is based on John 8:31b-32, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

St. John Lutheran School will begin the celebration of this special week on Friday, March 4 with a Created Creatures assembly. Created Creatures is a live animal educational program with emphasis on God and His creation.

On Monday, St. John students will form the shape of the St. John Hornet mascot for a group picture, which has become a traditional part of Lutheran schools week at St. John. Past pictures have included the cross and school initials, SJS. Students will also enjoy a special movie and snack in the afternoon.

Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will celebrate on Tuesday with an afternoon of bowling at the Knights of Columbus bowling alley in Perryville. Fourth through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will enjoy the day at the Perry Park Center. During the day, all students will be provided with a sack lunch prepared by the St. John cooks.

On Wednesday, St. John students will participate in a special servant project entitled "Making Disciples." Younger students will make Christian bookmarks for local nursing homes, and older students will create fans featuring Bible verses for St. John Church.

Invited grandparents, friends, and guests will experience St. John in a special way on Thursday. This day includes a special Chapel service, moments in the classroom, a delicious lunch, and an entertaining talent show. Adults and children may also get their picture taken by professional photographer Frank Barthol.

The celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week will conclude on Friday when kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School for a devotion, pep rally, and performance by Sheltered Reality. This group employs the power of music to engage and motivate audiences to make positive changes in themselves and in the world.

The faculty and staff are working very diligently to *Secure Each Child's Future* and to make National Lutheran Schools Week a fun and educational week for St. John students. For more information about St. John Lutheran School, please call the school office at 826-4345.

### " I N G R A T E F U L A P P R E C I A T I O N F O R R E M E M B R A N C E I N Y O U R W I L L "

The board that hung in the Parish Hall that says "In Grateful Appreciation for Remembrance in your Will" has had the name plates redone so that they are easier to read. If you would like have the old name plate of your family member please stop by the church office. Here is a list of the plates. The board now hangs in the entryway at church.

Arthur Buenger	Mr. & Mrs Herman Boeger	Emma Decker	Elsie Gilster
Ada Eggers	Paula Hogrefe	Alice Rebbe	Wayne Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Ohlau	William Buening	Albert Sr. & Marie Wehner	Albers A Wehner Jr.
Leona Hirte	Dale Seymour	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Thieret	Paul B. Mueller
Willard Rathert	Neal V Decker	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Welge	Frieda Wilson
Athur Fey	Margaretha Grimm	Elmer Sprengel	Minne Schroeder
Mr. Mrs. & William Aszman	Helen Eichenseer	Lucille Koeneman	Lydia Wiebusch
William H. Welge	Mr. & Mrs. Ray Stamm	Lillian Jostman	Corene Jostman
Ella Herschbach	Catherine Goff	Arthur Were Jr	

### A L T A R G U I L D

Since we are now blessed with two pastors, we are in need of an additional purple stole. The Altar Guild has researched this item and has found that the total cost will be \$375.00. The Altar Guild would also like to purchase 2 new Acolyte robes and the total cost will be \$215.00. Anyone who would like to contribute toward their purchase may drop a check noted "Pastors' Stoles" or "Acolyte robes " in the church office.

**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  
2 / 2 4 / 1 1**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$167,517.74	\$129,490.39	(\$38,027.35)
Expense	\$167,517.74	\$172,398.24	(\$4,880.50)
<b>2011 (Income - Expense)</b>		(\$42,907.85)	
<b>2010 (Income - Expense)</b>		<u>(\$20,146.34)</u>	
<b>2010/2011 Total (Income - Expense)</b>		(\$63,054.19)	
<b>Debt</b>	\$99,846.50	<b>Mortgage</b>	\$48,296.97

**Average 2011 Attendance per Week:** 296

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

**L E N T S U P P E R S**

The Youth group will again be serving suppers in Lent Starting Ash Wednesday March 9th.

The menu is as follows.

March 9- Italian Casserole, Slaw, garlic bread, dessert

March 16- Chicken Dressing, green beans, jello, dessert

March 23- PTL Spaghetti Dinner

March 30- Chicken Pot pie, jello, rolls, dessert

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.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.

We will also have Easter breakfast Sunday April 24 Starting at 6:30 am till 10am.



**C H U R C H L I B R A R Y**

If you are a parent of a young child, maybe you would like to help choose some purchases for the church library. If you are retired and are looking for some good reads, this is the place for you. If you fit in somewhere between, you would be perfect.



Helping with the church library is a commitment of about 30 minutes a month. There are over 600 items on the shelves that need promoted. Some of the VHS videos need replaced with DVD's. There haven't been any new purchases in a long time and your input is important.

Contact Jill Arbeiter at 826-2578 or Kelly in the office if you are interested in serving St. John in this area.

**N E W S L E T T E R**

The Church would like to make the Church's newsletter available to you by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of by mail please sign the list in the fellowship area with your name and email address or email the church office at [secretary@stjohnchester.com](mailto:secretary@stjohnchester.com). We will still mail out newsletters to those who prefer a printed copy.





## ACOLYTES

Sat March 5 6:30 p.m. Megan Brockmeyer & Christopher Lang  
 Sun March 6 7:45 a.m. Lindsay Hammel & Sydney Levan  
 10:00 a.m. Jessica Kattenbraker & Taylor Dunning  
 Wed March 9 7:00 p.m. Alyssa Hoops & Ashley Wagner  
 Sat March 12 6:30 p.m. Madison Kueker & Matthew Smith  
 Sun March 13 7:45 a.m. Kara Mehrer & Miranda Mueller  
 10:00 a.m. Teddy Knop & Tyler Knop  
 Wed March 16 7:00 p.m. Sarah Liefer & Kylie Liefer  
 Sat March 19 6:30 p.m. Nicholas Rinehart & Katelyn Rader  
 Sun March 20 7:45 a.m. Josh Bierman & Mallory Westerman  
 10:00 a.m. Derek Mott & Ashley Wagner  
 Wed March 23 7:00 p.m. Mason Westerman & Mallory Westerman  
 Sat March 26 6:30 p.m. Alyse Bollman & Emily Atchison  
 Sun March 27 7:45 a.m. Sarah Hecht & Taylor Dunning  
 10:00 a.m. Jaclyn Colvis & Christian Gray  
 Wed March 30 7:00 p.m. Christopher Lang & Alyse Bollman

## USHERS TEAMS

Sat March 5 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun March 6 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch  
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten  
 Wed March 9 7:00 p.m. Rick Casten  
 Sat March 12 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun March 13 7:45 a.m. Ron Rathert  
 10:00 a.m. Randy Campbell  
 Wed March 16 7:00 p.m. Randy Campbell  
 Sat March 19 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun March 20 7:45 a.m. Gary Duensing  
 10:00 a.m. Don Stallman  
 Wed March 23 7:00 p.m. Don Stallman  
 Sat March 26 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun March 27 7:45 a.m. Roger Kattenbraker  
 10:00 a.m. Gary Eggemeyer  
 Wed March 30 7:00 p.m. Gary Eggemeyer

## RADIO ANNOUNCER / TECHNICIANS



March 6 & 9 Tim Lochhead / Tony Young  
 March 13 & 16 Mike Welge / Charlie Bargman  
 March 20 & 23 Steve Egge / Lynn Rickenberg  
 March 27 & 30 Dallas Redeker / Bob Platt

## 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 March 5 6:30 p.m. Angie Welge  
 Sun March 6 7:45 a.m. Janet Bargman  
 10:00 a.m. Delores Hillerman  
 Sat March 12 6:30 p.m. Karen Miller  
 Sun March 13 7:45 a.m. Mary Loos  
 10:00 a.m. Rose Leaders  
 Sat March 19 6:30 p.m. Wilma Kothe  
 Sun March 20 7:45 a.m. Connie Gaertner  
 10:00 a.m. Judy Richey  
 Sat March 26 6:30 p.m. Marlene Seymour  
 Sun March 27 7:45 a.m. Dorothy Rinne  
 10:00 a.m. June Cash

## ALTAR GUILD

Dr. Allan & Louise Liefer  
 Ken & Virginia Rowold  
 Janet Bargman  
 Karen Hecht  
 Richard & Brenda Pautler  
 Betty Congleton  
 Nancy Urquhart

## ALUMINUM CANS

February 28- March 5 Ron Sheely  
 March 7- March 12 Larry McDonough  
 March 14-March 19 Steve Young  
 March 21- March 26 Gary Knop  
 March 28- April 2 Ron Sheely



## WEEKEND JANITORS

March 5/6 Duke Snider  
 March 9 Dennis Mott  
 March 12/13 Randy Campbell & Ron Rathert  
 March 16 Randy Campbell  
 March 19/20 Chris Urquhart  
 March 23 Chris Urquhart  
 March 26/27 Dennis Mott  
 March 30 Duke Snider

## 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

**BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:**

Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

Answer will be in next months Epistle.

TRROHFEEE NIGEB UTSJIIFED YB TIHFA, EW VHEA PEECA WTIH OGD UTROHHG URO ROLD USSJE TSRIHC



**ANSWER TO LAST MONTHS  
BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:**

*He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good. Proverbs 14:21-22*

**CAPPERS**

CAPPERS (Christian Adults Playing Pinochle Eating Refreshments on Sunday) tentatively plans to meet on the third Sunday of each month to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall as scheduling permits. The next one to be held on Sunday, March 20.



**2011 ALUMNI BRAGGIN' RIGHTS**



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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chester, Illinois 62233  
Permit #76  
Car. R. T. Presort

Return Service Requested

JESUS LOVES:



*March*