



# Epistle



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

**\*\* This months epistle was printed on the copy machine with white paper to see if it will help keep the printing cost down. \*\***

## “ T H E D E P T H S ”

*“Out of the depths, I call to you, O Lord!” –Psalm 130:1*

*“The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head...” Jonah 2:5*

Are you in over your head, or simply afraid of things that are over your head? Often we talk about being afraid of heights, but we don't often hear about being afraid of depths. Maybe we should be. The idea of water closing in over us is downright terrifying. That's the situation that Jonah was in. He knew the reality of that fear. Often, when we're overwhelmed or in the depths of something, it's more figurative than real. Then again, the idea of being in over your head isn't known just to Jonah – the Psalms testify to the same concern. It seems like being in over your head isn't an “if” but a “when.”

So what is overwhelming you? Is it a calendar that is moving at breakneck speed? Do you have a “to-do” list that is longer than your day? Are you concerned that you'll never get everything done? Or are your relationships overwhelming? Does it feel like the more you invest in others, the less you receive? Have you given up all of yourself, and feel drained, like you have nothing left to give? Perhaps uncertainty and anxiety have a place in your life right now. From the economic downturn to uncertainty about your health and to all sorts of other things, maybe you just don't know how things will turn out. Perhaps that lack of control is difficult for you. Or maybe you are struggling with guilt or shame. Perhaps you've considered, “Can God forgive this?” or “Would God still love me if He knew....?” When you're in over your head, it can be difficult to have any hope at all.

But there is hope! Following that Psalm verse about the depths, we pray “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.” (Psalm 130:5) Jonah went on to declare that he would bring a sacrifice to God because of all God's goodness. From the depths, there is only One who can help us. That is our God, who loves us and who promises to be with us and to comfort us. Jesus Himself has promised us, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27) Jesus gives us His peace because He know that we need help when we are in the depths. Even when we are in the depths, our God hasn't forgotten about us. He has sent us His Son, Jesus, to grant us comfort and peace, especially when things don't feel all that peaceful. Even from the depths, our Savior gives us His encouragement because He loves us. He has given us the promise of peace, and that's a promise we can hold our God to!

Living in the peace of Christ,

Pastor III

## Y O U T H   G R O U P   A D V E N T   S U P P E R S

The Youth Group will again be serving Suppers before the Advent services. We will be having soup, sandwiches and dessert with drinks. The dates are Nov 30, Dec 7, 14 & 21. We will start at 5pm. Free will donations. Look in Bulletin for menu. Hope to see you all again this year.

## LUTHERAN BRAILLE CENTER MOVES TO ST. JOHN

In late August, St. John Lutheran Church was contacted by Immanuel Lutheran Church at West Point to request that the Lutheran Braille Center be transferred to Chester. A spring storm had damaged the parsonage where the center was housed causing the need for more extensive repair than was financially practical.

It is with great excitement that the transition has been completed and work is back in progress. The new center is located in the brick building directly across from the entrance to Pechacek-McClure Funeral Home. Four pre-existing work groups have already resumed their work schedule, and St. John welcomes interest from the area to form other work groups.

More than 180 million people around the world are experiencing life with a visual impairment. Among these, 45 million are blind and 135 million have only partial sight. There are countries where less than 10% of blind persons are literate. In a number of countries, less than 15% of blind children receive an education.

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is one of the largest providers of Christian Braille and specialized Large Print in the world. All publications by LBW are offered free of charge and are made possible through the efforts of over five thousand faithful volunteers. These volunteers, located in 194 Work Centers throughout the United States and Canada, produced 16,945,152 pages of material in 2009. Their gifts of time and our generous donors make it possible to send Christian material in more than 30 languages to visually impaired people in more than 120 countries. The book currently being produced at Chester is *A Book of Favorite Hymns* for Grade 2.

St. John is very pleased to have this mission opportunity available to our community and invites any interested individuals to contact Paul and Mary Stallman at 618-774-2936 if they would like to volunteer time at the center. The Stallmans also welcome school classes, scout troops, or individuals to visit and observe the process of producing a Braille book. Please contact them to set up a time for your group to visit. Donations may be made to "St. John Lutheran Church" noted for "Lutheran Braille Workers" to help defray the cost of utilities and materials. The workspace has been donated rent-free by Ralph Kipp of our congregation.

## N E W   D V D ' S   I N   T H E   C H R I S T I A N   L I B R A R Y



Many of the VHS movies have been converted to DVD format. For preschoolers, check out the Donut Man movies and you will be singing, "life without God's love, is like a donut, you have a hole in the middle of your heart." "Jay Jay the Jet Plane," "Hermie the Caterpillar," "Buzzy Bee, the Misbehaving Bee," are all around 30 minutes long- just right for quiet time, a reward for good behavior, or to give you time to get supper on the table. Familiar with the Veggie Tales series? We have at least a dozen of them.

"Adventures In Odyssey" films are cartoon adventures for the 8-12 year old. These fun-filled videos teach valuable lessons they will never forget. Each is 30-40 min long.

There are movies for older kids, too. "The Last Chance Detectives" are fast-paced adventures that teach integrity, courage, and personal faith in God. Each is around 50 minutes.

While you are browsing the shelves, check out the reading material. There are many story books to read to your little ones.

The library is located in the fellowship area of our church. To check out anything from the library, write your name and the date you are taking it on the signature card and place it in the file box. When you return it, just place it in the basket. Keep it as long as you need to.

Next month, we will highlight the Christmas books and movies available.

## L U T H E R A N   W I T N E S S

The 2012 renewal rate for the Lutheran Witness subscription will be \$15.75. If you would like to renew the Lutheran Witness, please bring your money to the Church Office by **November 4**.

## NEW FACILITY

The New Facility Fund was established in May 2007 with a kick off dinner in the Parish Hall. The goal is to raise \$2,000,000 in pledges and cash before beginning any building project. Currently, there is \$394,348.58 in the bank.



St. John Lutheran School provides a quality Christian education for children of the community. Many of the honor students at Chester High School and Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School are from St. John's. We have a history of competitive athletic programs as evidenced by the banners in the gym and the crowded trophy case. We graduate students who become homecoming queens, talented musicians, all-conference athletes, science award winners, valedictorians, student council officers, and members of the National Honor Society. Many of them go on to college and to graduate school.

Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation to The New Facility Fund.

This is a meaningful way to honor a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or as a memorial to a departed loved one. If your children went to school at St. John but now live away, your donation will help assure that present and future students can receive the same quality education that your children enjoyed.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

In an effort to encourage members of our congregation to become more involved and attend our services, I believe we can do this by personally reaching out to people and also getting the attention of the younger generation, as they are the future of St. John Lutheran Church and School. This is possible with our Sunday School program. I am trying to make progress in rebuilding this program so please consider helping by volunteering to teach. At the present time I need teachers for 3rd-4th grades and 5th-7th grades. If several teachers are involved I could create a rotation schedule that may only require each of them to teach once a month or possibly every other month. I plan on using creative and hands on activities to maintain interest, however, I need help in doing so this. You may contact me at 826-2176 or call the church office 826-3545.

Sincerely,

Jo Beth Petrowske

Sunday School Superintendant



## 8 - 12 GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to take part in our new Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Each week the topic (and the adult leader) changes and this is nothing like any Sunday School material you have ever been involved with! We are using the "Pulse" series which links a complete Bible study with a current song, video, movie, or other media. Computers and the Smart Board are being used, Bible verses are being looked up, and the discussion is on topics relevant to today's teens.

November 6 - "The Book of Jesus" led by Mrs. Melissa Gross. Based on the movie, "The Book of Eli," the main character travels westward carrying the world's last Bible. Students will learn how Eli considers several questions that are absolutely central to the Christian faith.

November 13 - "One Day" led by Mrs. Sandy Colvis. The song, "One Day" by Matisyahu will be viewed on YouTube during this lesson. Participants will find why we cannot neglect the purpose God gives us here and now.

November 20 - "Battered and Bullied" led by Mrs. Diane Hecht. The government anti-bullying campaign contains a number of short cartoon videos which will connect to the Bible stories of Joseph, David & Goliath, Saul & David, and more.

November 27 - "Count Down" led by Mr. Charlie Mattingly. Are you counting down the days till something great happens, or until something is over and done with? The music video "Live Like We're Dying" will be shared and the group bringing conversation of not throwing away any seconds of the day.

Each week there are a few more students, the goal being that we will need more chairs! Join us and bring a friend!

## C H I L D R E N ' S   D E V O T I O N S

Looking for some devotional material for kids this Christmas? CPH publishes "Happy Times" for 3-5 yr olds. Each monthly issue is filled with Christian stories, poems, colorful activity pages, and special projects.

For the school-aged child, "My Devotions" is a wonderful magazine that helps youth interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran viewpoint.

"Family Faith Walks" is a book filled with devotions and activities in which parents and children are encouraged to meditate on God's Word.

"Icky, Sticky, Hairy Scary Bible Stories: 60 Poems for Kids" is written for little ones. This collectin of silly poems based on Bible stories is sure to give families plenty to discuss.



Find these and more at [cph.org](http://cph.org).

## 2 0 1 1 - 2 0 1 2   B A S K E T B A L L   S E A S O N

### G I R L ' S   S C H E D U L E

November 1	6:00 p.m.	Red Bud Lutheran	Away
November 8	6:00 p.m.	St. Mark's	Home
November 7-11		Jacob Tournament	
November 15	6:00 p.m.	Steeleville Public	Away
November 22	6:00 p.m.	Red Bud Catholic	Away
November 29	6:00 p.m.	Nashville	Home
December 2-4		Edwardsville Tournament	
December 6	6:00 p.m.	Steeleville Public	Home
December 13	6:00 p.m.	Red Bud Lutheran	Home
December 16	6:00 p.m.	Red Bud Catholic	Home
December 19	6:00 p.m.	Jacob (A Team)	Away
January 9-?		Regional's	

### B O Y ' S   S C H E D U L E

November 3	6:00 p.m.	Steeleville Public	Away
November 7	6:00 p.m.	St. Mark's	Away
November 10	6:00 p.m.	Red Bud Catholic	Home
November 14	6:00 p.m.	Trinity Prairie	Away
November 17	6:00 p.m.	Evansville	Away
November 18-20		Collinsville Tournament	
November 21	6:00 p.m.	St. Mary's	Home
November 28	6:00 p.m.	Coulterville	Home
December 1	6:00 p.m.	Red Bud Lutheran	Home
December 2-3		Red Bud Catholic C Team Tournament	
December 15	6:00 p.m.	Prairie Du Rocher	Away
December 19	6:00 p.m.	Jacob (A & B Team)	Away
January 4-6		Steeleville C Team Tournament	
January 7		5th grade Tournament	
January 9-?		OVC Tournament	
January 17	6:00 p.m.	Nashville	Away



## S C H O O L   M A L L

### Help the school by shopping on-line

If you shop on-line, you can easily help St. John School earn charitable dollars from over 200 merchants. The merchants donate a portion of your purchase to the school. Follow the directions below to give St. John "credit" for your on-line shopping. If you have questions, call the school. Thanks for your support.

- 1) Visit [www.SchoolMall.com](http://www.SchoolMall.com)
- 2) Select our school (Search by city and state and choose St. John Lutheran School from the list.)
- 3) Shop



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  
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	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$917,723.37	\$755,445.81	(\$162,277.56)
Expense	\$917,723.37	\$888,380.11	\$29,343.26
2011 (Income - Expense)		(\$132,934.30)	
2010 (Income - Expense)		(\$20,146.34)	
2010/2011 Total (Income - Expense)		(\$153,080.64)	
Debt	\$154,846.49	<b>Mortgage</b>	\$44,242.44

Average 2011 Attendance per Week: 284

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

**S E R V I C E T O C E L E B R A T E T H E 4 0 0 <sup>T H</sup>  
A N N I V E R S A R Y O F T H E K I N G J A M E S B I B L E**

"Translation Opens the Window: A Service Praising God on the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible" will be held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on **Sunday, November 6, at 3:00 p.m.** on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The service will include readings, reflections on the historical significance and contemporary impact of this translation, and psalms, hymnody, and choral music reflective of the tradition of the King James Translation. Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, associate professor of exegetical theology, will preach. This service is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, please call 314-505-7009 or email [brewerm@csl.edu](mailto:brewerm@csl.edu).

**A D V E N T & C H R I S T M A S S C H E D U L E**

DEAR ST. JOHN'S FAMILIES,

We invite you and your loved ones to join in celebrating the birth of our Savior this Christmas at St. John Lutheran Church.

Our Advent Series this Year is titled "**Children of Promise**"

- Wed. 11/30 7:00 p.m. ....Advent Service 1 ("*The Promise - Too Soon*")
- Sat. 12/3 9:30-1:30 .....Christmas Bazaar "*Peace on Earth*"
- Wed. 12/7 7:00 p.m. ....Advent Service 2 ("*The Promise - Unexpected*")
- Wed. 12/14 7:00 p.m. ....Adult Choir Cantata  
♪ "**Christmas Seekers**" ♪
- Sun. 12/18 5:30 p.m. ....Early Childhood Christmas Program  
 6:30 p.m. ....Lower Grades Christmas Program  
 7:30 p.m. ....Upper Grades Christmas Program
- Wed. 12/21 6:30 p.m. ....German Hymn Sing  
 7:00 p.m. ....Advent Service 3 ("*The Promise - Announced*")
- Sat. 12/24 6:30 p.m. ....Family Christmas Eve Service  
 11:00 p.m. ....Candlelight Service
- Sun. 12/25 (Note: There will be no 7:45 a.m. service on Christmas Sunday.)  
 8:30 a.m. ....Services at Nursing Homes  
 10:00 a.m. ....Holy Communion Celebration
- Sat. 12/31 6:30 p.m. ....New Years Eve Services
- Sun. 1/1 7:45 a.m. ....New Year's Day Communion  
 10:00 a.m. ....New Year's Day Communion



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

## A H E A R T F O R S T E W A R D S H I P

“ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on any occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. The service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11-12



May we always give thanks to God-for the gift of His people. For it is in giving to others...that we truly receive.

### A C O L Y T E S



Sat November 5 6:30 p.m. Gunner Dickerson & Drake Bollman  
 Sun November 6 7:45 a.m. Rachel Walker & Austin Welge  
 10:00 a.m. Randy Kueker & Alyssa Hoops  
 Sat November 12 6:30 p.m. Mason Westerman & Vanessa Prest  
 Sun November 13 7:45 a.m. Kaylee James & Tyler Redeker  
 10:00 a.m. Matthew Smith & Lauren Welge  
 Sat November 19 6:30 p.m. Christopher Lang & Calvin Clendenin  
 Sun November 20 7:45 a.m. Sarah Hecht & Kaylee James  
 10:00 a.m. Clayton Richelman & Christian Gray  
 Thanksgiving Nov 24 10:00 a.m. Taylor Dunning & Alyssa Hoops  
 Sat November 26 6:30 p.m. Miranda Mueller & Gunner Dickerson  
 Sun November 27 7:45 a.m. Autumn Rowold & Derek Mott  
 10:00 a.m. Tyler Redeker & Austin Welge

### G R E E T E R S

Sat November 5 6:30 p.m. Barb Tindall  
 Sun November 6 7:45 a.m. Mary Lee Gross  
 10:00 a.m. Pam Johnson  
 Sat November 12 6:30 p.m. Tammy Crawford  
 Sun November 13 7:45 a.m. Sandra Colvis  
 10:00 a.m. Nancy Urquhart  
 Sat November 19 6:30 p.m. Karen Miller  
 Sun November 20 7:45 a.m. Nancy Guebert  
 10:00 a.m. Amber Cushman  
 Thanksgiving Nov 24 10:00 a.m. Mary Webster  
 Sat November 26 6:30 p.m. Wilma Kothe  
 Sun November 27 7:45 a.m. Linda Sympson  
 10:00 a.m. Beverly Bollman

### U S H E R S T E A M S

Sat November 5 6:30 a.m. Volunteer  
 Sun November 6 7:45 a.m. Roger Kattenbraker  
 10:00 a.m. Gary Eggemeyer  
 Sat November 12 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun November 13 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch  
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten  
 Sat November 19 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun November 20 7:45 a.m. Ron Rathert  
 10:00 a.m. Randy Campbell  
 Thanksgiving Nov 24 10:00 a.m. Gary Eggemeyer  
 Sat November 26 6:30 p.m. Volunteer  
 Sun November 27 7:45 a.m. Gary Duensing  
 10:00 a.m. Don Stallman  
 Wed November 30 7:00 p.m. Don Stallman

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

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

### W E E K E N D J A N I T O R S

November 5/6 Chris Urquhart  
 November 12/13 Duke Snider  
 November 19/20 Randy Campbell / Ron Rathert  
 Thanksgiving November 24 Ron Rathert  
 November 26/27 Ryan Petrowske  
 November 30 Ryan Petrowske

### A L U M I N U M C A N S

October 31- November 5 Larry McDonough  
 November 7- 12 Steven Egge  
 November 14 - 19 Steve Young  
 November 21 - 26 Gary Knop  
 November 28 - December 3 Fred Fricke



### R A D I O A N N O U N C E R / T E C H N I C I A N S

November 6 Chris Colvis / Bob Platt  
 November 13 Tim Lochhead / Tony Young  
 November 20 Mike Welge / Charlie Bargman  
 Thanksgiving November 24 Dallas Redeker / Lynn Rickenberg  
 November 27 Amanda Middendorf / Bob Platt  
 November 30 Amanda Middendorf / Bob Platt



### W O R S H I P S E R V I C E S

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 98.0 AM

### C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

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

### C H U R C H E - M A I L

Pastor Willig— pastorwillig@stjohnchester.com  
 Pastor III—pastorIII@stjohnchester.com  
 Kelly Walls— secretary@stjohnchester.com





## It's time for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction! Have you purchased your tickets?

If you have not, here is what you are going to miss.....

- A wonderful dinner- that includes hors d'oeuvres, salad, main course, dessert and drinks!
- A chance to bid on a fabulous weekend in the Branson, Missouri area-“A luxury palatial patio home that overlooks Table Rock Lake has been reserved for February 17 – 20, 2012. This elegant and spacious two level home features FIVE bedrooms and sleeps a maximum of 13 people! It has a full kitchen, a pool table, screened patios, a state-of-the-art media room with a high definition DLP projector and a 92” screen and much more!”
- An opportunity to win an item from the “Lucky Ticket Table” – maybe a COACH purse, twelve dozen homemade Christmas cookies or one of the other fabulous items.
- Parents of St. John students in attendance can win \$500 towards tuition on the Parent’s Raffle or \$250 if not present.
- A chance to transform your table into the V.I.P. table.
- A lot of fun and fellowship while making a difference!



General Raffle tickets are still available at the Church Office. Stop by today and pick up some to sell to your friends, family and co-workers. They will have a chance to win a 47” Flat Screen television, a quilt or four dinner tickets to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual dinner auction. The winner does not have to be present to win.

Some of the fabulous items for this year’s auction include: An autographed Albert Pujols jersey, a completely prepared Thanksgiving dinner, a beautiful set of three oak bookcases, a one-of-a-kind drift wood fountain, a dessert a month for 12 months, a Southern Illinois Winery Tour on “The Refuge” for eight people with dinner after the tour, an antique washstand, beautiful quilts, an outdoor patio heater, a weekend for two at Sam’s Town in Tunica, a dinner/mystery drama for 8-10 people, supplies for a steak dinner for 10, and many other unique items that would make great gifts including over 200 items in the silent auction!

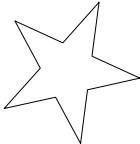

The Auction Committee would like to thank all who have purchased tickets, given monetary gifts and donated items. Your generosity is making a difference!

Friday, Nov. 11, 2011 — 9:00pm

  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011 — 7:00am


 S.I.D.  
DISTRICT-WIDE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
LOCK-IN 

\$20 per youth  
Grades 9-12

- . Games
- . Roller skating
- . Rock climbing
- . Basketball 
- . Gymnastics
- . Bible Study 

**Held at:**  
**Meyer Center YMCA**  
**7348 Goshen Road**  
**Edwardsville, IL**



  
Call Gary 618-534-1828 or Marilyn 618-534-1591  
if interested by November 4.

Adult drivers needed.

**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. YVREE YWA FO A NMA SI TRIHG NI SIH WON YSEE: UTB EHT ROLD TRPON-HEED EHT TSRHEA. OT OD UTSJIEC NDA UTMJGED SI ROME TPLEECCBAA OT EHT ROLD TNHA SRIIFECCA.

**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 :**

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. I Corinthians 1:18*

**C A P P E R S**

CAPPERS (Christian Adults Playing Pinochle Eating Refreshments on Sunday) will meet on Sunday, November 20 at 2:00 p.m. to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall.



**E X P L O R I N G T H E H I G H L I G H T S O F I T A L Y**

An eleven day tour of Italy (October 31 to November 10, 2012) will be led by Pastor and Stephani Meyer of Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, Illinois. On our journey through Italy (including visits to Venice, Florence, the Amalfi coastline, Pompeii, and Rome), we will see its hilltop villages, magnificent ruins and timeless art and architecture. In Rome we will tour the Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel and see Trevi Fountain. Roundtrip airfare from St. Louis, first class hotels, daily continental breakfast plus seven dinners, private coach, guides and admission fees are all included, For information and a tour brochure, you may contact the Meyers at (618) 377-9815 or zionmeyer@charter.net.



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

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JESUS LOVES:



*November*