

St. James News

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Rev. Michael Nirva – Rev. Martin Schenfeld, Pastors

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CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG

Web site: www.stjameshl.org

SCHOOL@STHAMESHL.ORG

320-543-2766

secretary@stjameshl.org

320-543-2630

Give Thanks to the Lord

The Word of the Lord Psalm 136:1, *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.*

On the fourth Thursday of this month our nation once again celebrates Thanksgiving. America has set aside this day to join our hearts and voices in remembering the beautiful and bountiful blessings showered upon us, acknowledging the One who has given them, to us; the Lord our God. God does much to provide for us every day. As Luther states in his explanation to the First Article, God "richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life." We should never belittle the many things God does for us every day that we are living in this world.

However, in order to put things in their proper perspective it is necessary that we also remember what God has already done for us before we ever came into this world, and what He will do for us after we leave this world. First, let us consider what the Lord has already done for us. The greatest event in the history of the world took place long before anyone in this congregation was even born. Yet it took place for our benefit. I am not writing about the signing of Magna Carta, or the victory of Wellington over Napoleon at Waterloo, or the death of Julius Caesar, even though these events are generally considered to be decisive events in world history. The greatest of all the events in the world was the world's own redemption. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16). That love and that sacrifice which He gave for the world are priceless.

God was not obligated to provide a way of salvation for humanity. No one forced the Almighty to send His Son into the world. God knew that unless He sent a Savior into the world every single one of us would be doomed to eternal condemnation. So the scriptures tell us He had compassion on us. Before we were ever born, God had mercy upon us. We remember how a few shepherds were the first to receive the good news, when an angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, "Fear

not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." (Luke 2:10).

Thus the redemption of the world had begun. However, it was to be 33 years before this work was completed. Our Lord grew up on this earth much like children grow up today. Jesus thirsted as we thirst. He hungered as we hunger. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are tempted. But He never once fell into sin, as we so often do. When our Lord was cursed, He did not curse back. When others made Him suffer, He did not threaten them. Even when Jesus was dying on the cross He asked forgiveness for His enemies.

God's plan of salvation did not end with the death of Christ. Three days when the women went to the tomb with ointments and spices for the body, their major worry was, "Who is going to roll the stone away?" (Mark 16:3). However, they soon found out that their worries were needless, just as so many of our worries are needless today, because Christ had risen.

It had been 33 years since the angels gave that first message to the shepherds in the field. Redemption was now no longer only a plan in the mind of God. It was an accomplished historical fact. Redemption had been won for all humanity, so that all who have faith could be free from the power of sin, Satan, and the fear of death. All who believe in what Jesus has accomplished are certain of their salvation. Right now, at this very moment, our Heavenly Father is preparing great things for us when we leave this world. Our life with God in heaven will be like nothing we have known before. The Apostle Paul writes, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him. (II Corinthians 2:9).

That is why on Thanksgiving, it is important that we not only remember our blessings, but that we also keep them in the proper perspective by putting Jesus Christ first. Because Jesus is the one who has won our salvation for us even before we came into this world.

And Jesus is the one who is in heaven waiting for us when we leave this world. ***Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.*** (Psalm 136:1).

Pastor Nirva

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Church Attendance

Wednesday, September 30	35
Sunday, October 4	191 & 167
Wednesday, October 7	40
Sunday, October 11	238 & 133
Wednesday, October 14	26
Sunday, October 18	170 & 191
Wednesday, October 21	32
Sunday, October 25	181 & 190

Communion Attendance

Sunday, October 4	146
Wednesday, October 7	32
Sunday, October 11	84
Sunday, October 18	131
Sunday, October 25	103

Baptisms

Isaah Henry Schug infant son of Derek Schug and Torie Heaver on October 3, 2009 by Pastor Schoenfeld.

Quinton Matthias Wernette infant son of Joseph and Alicia Wernette on October 4, 2009 by Pastor Nirva.



SCRIPTURE QUIZ

(answers below)

1. What did God make Adam do just before He created woman?
2. Who did the snake (serpent) tell Eve she would be like when she ate this forbidden fruit and her eyes were opened?
3. What did Jacob use for a pillow the night he had a dream of a ladder reaching to heaven?
4. Why did the Jews complain about Jesus' healing of a blind man?
5. Jesus said we could move mountains if our faith is even as big as a what?
6. Complete the following line of Jesus with one word: "For where your treasure is, there will your _____ be also."
7. Who wrote more books of the Bible than any other person?
8. How many angels are named in the Bible?

Answers: 1. Fall asleep (Genesis 3:24) 2. God (Genesis 3:5) 3. A rock (Genesis 28:10-11) 4. He did it on the Sabbath (John 9:14) 5. A mustard seed (Matthew 17:20) 6. Heart (Matthew 6:21) 7. Paul 8. Three (Gabriel, Michael, Lucifer)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Our October meeting featured a Bible study entitled "Balancing on the Rock" led by Pastor Nirva. A report was given on our fall dinner which was a big success due to many willing workers. We were reminded to bring our "ingathering gifts from the heart" items to the church office before the fall rally. A mini-retreat will be held on October 24th. Our November meeting will feature a guest speaker from the mission field. We hope to have many in attendance.

The sign-up sheet for our Christmas outing on December 2- "Away in the Basement" was available. This should be a very enjoyable evening.

Continue to pray for Nyla and her work in the South Pacific. Serve the Lord with gladness wherever you are.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors in November: Leona Mielke, (2), Bud Albrecht, Donna Vogelsang, Donovan Jensen (3), Evangeline Birkholz, Ruby Drusch, Evelyn Diers (10), Arvid Luhman (15), Omar Glessing, Shirley Cloose (16), Rachel Rolf (18), Donald Dangers (23), Gerald Vogelsang (27), and Holdrein Oelke (28).

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Sunday, November 22
at both 8:00 and 10:30 AM Services

Social Ministry is asking us to share our blessings with neighbors less fortunate this Thanksgiving.

Please bring gifts of non-perishable food items or cash (checks must be made payable to St. James Church) to be distributed to those in need this Holiday Season

Give Thanks in All Circumstances



Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18

It may be easy to give thanks when times are good, but what about when times are not so good? You may feel grateful and thankful when you have all your needs met, you are on top of life, and everything seems to be going well. But what about when resources are running short, or when you are stressed, worried, and overwhelmed? It may be easy to give thanks when you feel well, but what about when you are hurt or feeling sick? In I Thessalonians 5:18 we are told: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It is God's will that regardless of our present circumstance that we take time to give thanks.

But why is it that we can give thanks in all such circumstances? First of all we can give thanks to the Lord because we know that there awaits a place for us in heaven. Jesus has prepared such a place for us. He has lived a righteous life in our place. He has died upon the cross for our

sins. He has risen from the dead. Because of Jesus we know that as we believe in Him we will spend eternity in heaven. The fact that eternal life in paradise lies ahead of all who believe in Jesus can certainly give us a reason to give thanks regardless of our

present circumstance. We can give thanks even when things are not going so good because we know that through Jesus the best is yet to come. "Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)

Secondly, we can give thanks regardless of our circumstances because we know that God will use all things to work for our good. Romans 8:28 says this: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." God will use even the difficulties of our lives to work for the good of those who have been called to faith. We can give thanks in all circumstances even in our suffering because we know that "suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who he has given us." (Romans 5:3-5)

Thirdly, we can give thanks in all situations

because we know that no matter what our present circumstances are they cannot separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 tells us this: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Fourthly, we can give thanks in all circumstances because we know that the Lord God will always remain with us. He will not forsake us. He will always be there for us regardless of the circumstances we face. In Matthew 28:20, Jesus promised us: "...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

These are but a few of the reasons that we can give thanks in all circumstances, even in difficult ones. You may be tempted this Thanksgiving to think that you do not have as much to give thanks for as in other years. But today the Lord reminds us that our giving thanks is not dependent upon our present circumstances. Rather, our giving thanks is based upon the promises that our Lord gives to us; such promises as an eternal future in Christ and the Lord's grace for us even in the midst of difficulties. Therefore, each day and especially this Thanksgiving let us gather together and give thanks to the Lord even in our present circumstances for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Schoenfeld

Youth News

Welcome New Members

Tim and Bridey Boese are recent new members of St. James. They have lived in their new home that is located between Waverly and Howard Lake for two years. Their children are Collin, 5 and Caleb, 2 years old. Collin attends St. James pre-school.

Tim's hometown is New Brighton. He is a self-employed insurance agent and enjoys hunting and woodworking. Bridey is a nurse practitioner, working at the Litchfield Hospital. She grew up in Waverly and when she finds time, likes to quilt and read.

We welcome them to St. James!

Thank you to all who came to our annual Reformation Breakfast. It is nice to see everyone after the busy summer come together for a time of fellowship. Thank you for your support.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Gifts

We will be collecting items from November 1st to the 20th for these Christmas gifts to be sent to those in need. Extra shoe boxes are needed for sending the collected items. A list of items needed can be picked up in the church office or choir room. Collection boxes will be placed in each place also for your contributions.

Bell Ringing

We will be ringing for the Salvation Army at the Buffalo Wal-mart on Saturday, November 28th from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Benevolence Fund

God has blessed our efforts through your support of our Action! Auction on Rally Day and the weekly donations! Thank you!

In September, our Benevolence Program helped ten more families from Howard Lake, Montrose, Winsted and Cokato with the following: two electric (disconnect) bills, six gas bills for medical miles and job interviews, two donated backpacks, school supplies and shoes, special premie car seat and premie diapers, car battery and brake repairs, apartment rent (eviction) for four families and four drug prescriptions.

Also, Social Ministry (Thrivent donation) gave two Food Gift Cards and a few bags of groceries from our food shelf. Feel free to call our Church Office with concerns for yourself or others. Confidential help will be provided.

**Give God what is right,
not what is left.**

The Lutheran Witness

Subscriptions Due

Members who wish to receive *The Lutheran Witness* magazine must pay the subscription price of \$17.20 to the church office before November 15, 2009. A box will be placed in the narthex for those who would like to make their payment when attending services.

New members receive the magazine free for a year. After that it is up to the member to pay the renewal price. Please complete the form below and bring it to the church office with your payment made out to **St. James** to receive or renew *The Lutheran Witness*.

-----detach here-----

Please complete form and include with payment.

Yes, please renew my subscription to *The Lutheran Witness*. Enclosed is my \$17.20 payment to St. James.

Please add my name to the list of members who subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness*. Enclosed is my \$17.20 payment to St. James.

Name: _____

Sunday School

Reformation Sunday was celebrated with a Bible Story Maze in the church office basement. We learned to search the Scriptures, walked through the story of creation, tried to launch the balls into the cups on the tree in the Garden of Eden and saw a horse drawn chariot of fire. The children enjoyed reviewing the stories this way and received treats on their walk through the maze.

All our St. James members ages 3 to high school are invited to attend Sunday School. Visitors are always welcome too!

Attendance awards have been given to the following students:

15 week certificate: Jordan Koch, Ashley Jones, Anastasia Cardinal, Kalyn Hatcher, Carsen Stillwell, TJ Kittock, Cole Stillwell, Kaitlyn Marschel and Brennan Monson.

25 week certificate: Nicholas Stueven, Mason Narum and Collin Boese

Book Awards: Casey Diers, Blake Peterson, Marisa Graham, Brody Hatcher, Joe Schendel, Leah Bobrowske, Morgan Niesen, Hannah Marschel and Ethan Hatcher.

From Our Parish Nurse

Here are 5 ways to boost your immune system and your defenses to NOT get the flu this season:

- 1) Good friction hand washing frequently.
- 2) Chicken soup will ease nasal congestion.
- 3) Vitamin C tablets taken as a preventative.
- 4) Drinking lots of water to keep hydrated and wash out germs from your gastrointestinal tract.
- 5) Getting the seasonal flu shot if your medical provider encourages it for you.

In addition, staying home if you are not feeling well is highly encouraged, this year more than ever- especially as the younger population is prone to the H1N1. Men as well as women are encouraged to use tissues for blowing their noses, throwing them away, and then washing hands well. If we are all diligent, we can help prevent the flu viruses from spreading!

Organics, Organics, that seems to be the hot topic these days. But, is organic food really better for you? Yes, Organics may not deliver more nutrients, but they contain far fewer pesticides and additives. We are fortunate to live in this area where a lot of our foods are raised locally and our congregation has been generous in sharing their

produce. If you buy produce, be sure to wash them really well to remove chemicals (scrub under clean running water with your hands or a brush)

MEN'S HEALTH

“Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!”

1 Samuel 25:6

Men can live healthier, longer lives just by knowing their health threats and how to work through those risks. Statistics show that heart disease is the number one threat with cancer, injuries, stroke, COPD (respiratory disease), diabetes, flu, suicide, kidney disease, and Alzheimer's making up the top ten. By listening to your body and adopting good lifestyle habits, you can decrease your risk for life-threatening health issues.

A healthy, balanced diet will greatly reduce the risk for five of the top ten threats: heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and kidney disease. Fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are heart healthy selections and can fight some cancers as well. They also help maintain a healthy weight which is necessary for the prevention of diabetes and kidney failure which is a complication of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Risky behavior can cut a man's life short and is easily preventable. Accidents from automobiles, falls, and the use of chemicals can be fatal or seriously debilitating so wear seat belts, drive safely, use chemicals in a well-ventilated area, and use ladders carefully. Also lose the smoking habit as it increases your risk of heart disease, cancer, and complications with respiratory disease and diabetes.

The three remaining health threats—flu, suicide, and Alzheimers—can be decreased by being proactive, eating right, and avoiding risky behavior. Exercise, get an annual flu shot, don't smoke, and eat a healthy diet to prevent illness and stimulate your brain. Avoid falls which have an apparent link to Alzheimers and avoid addictions to prevent suicides and self-harm.

Know your body, listen to its needs, and see your medical provider when things do not seem right. Your families want a future with you so look at your life and see what can be changed. A few simple adjustments can give you better health and longer life.

(Source: National Library of Medicine

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/menshealth.html)

Watch for upcoming date for refresher training on CPR and AED. We have much to be Thankful for, everyday,

Blessings to you!

Your Parish Nurse,
Darlene Lind

Stewardship

On November 1st, Christians around the world join in celebrating *All Saints Day*. Among the saints in heaven are our loved ones who have died in the faith and now share in the joys of heaven. The recommended Epistle reading for All Saints Day comes from Revelation 7 and includes these words: *“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* (Revelation 7:14-17 NIV)

This beautiful picture of the saints before the throne brings us comfort as we remember our loved ones who have passed before us and strengthens our hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. On the last Thursday of November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day which provides us with the opportunity to pause and thank our God for his mercy which endures forever and his providing of so many spiritual and physical blessings day after day.

How fitting it is to remember the example, instruction and encouragement of those saints who have been special blessings to us. Many of us learned about the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Savior at the knees of Christian parents. Many of us have also learned from them what it is like to live as God's children who receive his gifts with thanksgiving. We thank God for those who have been teachers and examples of good stewardship. It is so true that only the Holy Spirit can change us from selfish, self-centered sinners into faithful stewards of all that God has given to us. But the example of good stewardship that we learned from our parents and other important people in our lives is a great blessing.

One day we will join the saints in heaven but until then God empowers us to be teachers, models and examples of good stewardship for our children and other people who are special to us. *“Christian stewardship really is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for his purposes.”*

One of our common table prayers contains these words: *“Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest and may these gifts to us be blessed.”* The godly ladies who are part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) have added these great stewardship thoughts to this prayer: *“And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere and may we help to put it there.”*

May God bless us as his stewards so that our management of all of life and life's resources (money, time, talents, relationships, etc.) honors him, blesses our neighbors and serves as an example and encouragement to those around us.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear Reverend Ken Klaus on The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions. Acknowledgments of these sponsors are given before and after each broadcast. **The cost for one program is \$89 in 2009.** Please contact Charles Jensen at 320-864-3579 to sign up for a date to sponsor the broadcast.

November 1-Comforted Mourners-In this message for All Saints Day, Pastor Ken Klaus speaks to those whose lives have been touched by the death of someone they loved. Christ is our risen Savior who comforts mourners. (Matthew 5:4)

November 8-A Hotter Hell-Justice demands that God give sinners exactly what they deserve. Where does that leave us? Thankfully, God's justice is only half of the story. (Mark 12:38-40)

November 15-Christ Is Coming-War, disaster, and persecution are signs that the world is coming to an end, but no one knows exactly when. (Mark 13:13)

November 22-Thankful for What You Don't Have-We can also thank God for the pains and illnesses we don't have, the disasters that were averted, the punishment for sin that Christ took upon Himself. (Luke 17:11-19)

November 29-Behold, the Days Are Coming!-Guest Speaker: Rev. Peter Cage-On this First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new church year, our Lord Jesus Who came once to redeem the world, comes to us in His Word and prepares us for when He will come again on the Last Day. Our guest speaker is the Rev. Peter Cage of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. (Luke 21:25-36)

You can also listen to “The Lutheran Hour” on the Web at www.lutheranhour.org. Hear the broadcast available to our military at: www.lutheranhour.org/AFN/listen.htm. “The Lutheran Hour” is also on XM's Family Talk Radio 170 every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (EST).

School News

Verse of the month: ***May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*** Galatians 6:14.

This verse fits with our yearly theme from I Corinthians 13,

Love is not boastful or proud.

Upcoming Events:

- November 6 First Quarter ends
- 7 Girls' Volleyball Tournament at Mayer
- 9..... No School
- 10-11 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 14 Scrapbooking Day
- 15 Bowling Day 12-6:00 PM
- 17 Project Night
- 26-27..... Thanksgiving Break
- 24 Board of Education

St. James Day at the Maple Lake Bowling Alley on Sunday, November 15th from noon until 6:00 PM. Proceeds will go to the school. Come early and enjoy a special Chicken Dinner from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

The volleyball season is winding down. The girls' last regular season game was October 27. The 7/8 grade girls' season ending tournament at Mayer LHS will be Saturday, November 7. Times are yet to be determined. During the season the 5/6 grade team finished 2nd at a tournament in Hamburg. The 7/8 grade team placed 7th at an invitational Tournament at NYA and won the Consolation Trophy at the Chaska Tournament.

In this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving...We thank God for His love and care for the school and church. We are thankful for the support of our congregation and members. We are thankful for the students and parents in our school. We are thankful that we have the opportunity to learn and share God's Word.

Remember to pick up the weekly School Newsletter at church for complete news and information.

Highlights from the Voters' Meeting

Regular Board reports were given with each Board completing their duties as usual.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to remove pews to make more room for the Praise Band and some choirs in the balcony even though some of these pews are used every Sunday by worshipers. The Trustees are looking into this matter.

Sharing God's Love

There is a prayer that begins: ***Thank you, Lord, for waking us this morning and allowing us to see a new day. Thank you for giving us the breath of life.***

When I first heard this prayer, I tried to recall my morning thoughts. I don't wake up thankful for daily breath or any other thing God has given us. We seldom give God credit for the natural things He bestows upon us.

One day, I woke up thinking of things I desired but did not have. My first impulse was to complain; then I decided to write down all the things for which I have to be thankful. It was not long until I had a list that filled several pages.

When I think of the many blessings God has given me through Christ, joy enters my heart. I no longer feel sorry for myself. The temptation to complain about my life vanishes. Tears of gratitude fill my eyes as I reflect on all the wonderful things God has given me.

I am grateful that God desires a relationship with me and calls me His child. Through reading God's Word, I find many reasons to be thankful. That is when I focus on all the great and good things in my life. God's great love for me becomes real. Now when I am tempted to complain, I get out my list and review all things I have to be thankful for.

What are some of the things you are thankful for? Do you take things for granted? Start a list and see what you come up with.

Thank you, Lord, for helping me see all the goodness You have given us. May we remind others of your goodness and love. Amen.