

**AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2010**

1. **Opening devotion**, inside cover
2. **Minutes** of 2009 Annual Meeting. (page 3) *A motion would be in order to approve.*
4. **Treasurer's Report** (pages 8-11) *A motion would be in order to approve.*

BUSINESS

4. Report of President (page 1)
5. Report of Pastor (page 2)
6. Report of Nominating Committee:
Nominees for Council (3 to be elected, 3 years):

Nominees for Audit Committee (1 to be elected, 3 year term):

Nominees for Endowment Committee (2 to be elected, 3 year terms):

Nominees for Nominating Committee (3 to be elected, 1 year terms):

Further nominations can be made from the floor for any of these positions.

Elections

8. Report of Budget Committee *See proposed 2010 budget pages 5-7*

Vote on 2010 Budget. A motion will be made to approve the proposed budget. After the motion is seconded, discussion is in order.

9. Update from our "Sharing God's Blessings" team.

10. Any other business for the good of the church or community?
 - +A few words from Laura Bartelt, Director of Lay Ministries
 - +Appointing Synod Assembly Delegates, May 27-29 in Waukesha
 - +*Any other new or old business?*

11. Brief conversations:

- +*What's one way this congregation could be a blessing in a time of economic uncertainty?*
- +*What's the most interesting kind of ministry or fellowship you've heard of any church doing recently?*
- +*Who could you invite to St. John's who doesn't have a church "home"? (Help each other think of neighbors, relatives, co-workers, classmates, friends at the gym or soccer or?)*
- +*What's one thing we could do better or must do differently as a congregation?*

12. Thanks to outgoing elected leaders:

13. Motion to adjourn.

14. Close with hymn inside report cover

15. Stay for refreshments and fellowship!

16. Worship will start at 10:00.



**SHARING GOD'S
BLESSINGS**

FROM THE PRESIDENT..

Dear Friends and Fellow Members of St. John's,

It seems like yesterday that we worried about Y2K and the turn of the century. In fact, a decade has passed during which time St. John's built new worship space, helped a refugee family settle in the area, sent a delegation to Tanzania and added many new faces to our church family. As we look forward to 2010 and a new decade, I challenge each of us to focus on the opportunities that lie ahead to grow in faith as a community and as individuals.

Where is God leading you this year? As you look to grow spiritually, think about how you can contribute using your time and talents to accomplish the mission of the church, make weekly worship a priority and give with a generous heart. The opportunities to be involved are many: helping with Christian education, playing in the Bell Choir, serving coffee on a Sunday morning, volunteering for "Family Promise" are a few of the ways you can join in. Not only will you contribute to the effectiveness of St. John's, you will grow in your faith and build friendships that will last for years. We all need to work together to grow as a spiritual family to be the congregation God wants us to be.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."

- Proverbs 3:5,6

Stewardship in 2010

We will have a renewed focus on stewardship in 2010. Like many organizations, we face budgetary challenges, as giving decreased in 2009 and expenses continued to rise. You will see increased communications this year regarding gifts and commitments as we work to increase giving and effectively manage our expenses, through short-term budget cuts. In order to continue the ministries of the Lord and maintain our facilities, we each need to consider prayerfully what we are giving to God to continue His work.

New Vision Statement

Finally, you may have noticed our new vision statement in the bulletin: "Growing in Christ, we welcome, worship and witness." This statement is designed to guide us as a congregation as we take on God's call to be ministers inside and outside the church. I know that with continued prayers and faith God will guide our congregation to accept the opportunities that will allow us to grow in Christ, welcome new members, worship and witness together.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a member of St. John's council for the past six years. I have developed many friendships and have grown in faith as a result of this experience.

Dee Johnson

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LAY MINISTRIES...

The most basic definition of lay ministry is the work of people who are not professional clergy. That's us folks! As members of St. John's, it is our responsibility to serve in the faith community. As the people of God, it is our responsibility to minister in our everyday lives.

In the usual volunteer mindset, we are often fixed on the needs of the organization and finding the people to fill those needs. It seems easiest to lay out a list of things to be done and ask people to jump in and get those things done, regardless of whether those people have the gifts or talents to do those things. Our focus should begin with the skills and passions of our members and friends. Each of us can then be encouraged to serve where God had equipped us to serve and we can trust that there are people with the skills and passions to meet the needs of the church.

Our goal at St. John's is to not only help our members develop as lay ministers to meet the needs of the church but to grow as Christ-centered members of the larger community. We can do that together through worship, scripture, study and service. Hendrick Kraemer states in *A Theology of Laity*, "How people live is the real measure of effectiveness of a congregation."

Typically this would be the place to recognize and thank everyone for their service this year. In a congregation of our size where giving of time and talents should really be an expected responsibility of membership, "thank you" sort of reinforces distinctions between staff, member, or volunteer. It could almost imply that we did something we really didn't need to do. Maybe the service we do as members would be better celebrated as a collective "job well done." But since I was raised to say thank you (and my mom will be reading this), **THANK YOU** to all for sharing your gifts in all the ways you have, big and small. We really have done well in sharing our gifts this year and I'm confident we will continue to develop and use those gifts next year and beyond.

Blessings, Laura Bartelt

FROM PASTOR PAUL...

"It's about people!" That's an important thing to remember whether we're talking as church, or community, or nation. Whether we're talking about The Gospel, budgets, or policies, it's about people.. And, in our case, it's "about what we can do as God's people" to help move the church and the world closer to what God intended them to be.

The Church is about people. Our new vision statement goes like this: *Growing in Christ, we welcome, worship, and witness.* There are four verbs in that little sentence. Ponder them with me:

Growing! There is growth that can be measured and growth that isn't so easy to measure. Did we grow in numbers in 2009? No we didn't. We stayed pretty much the same. Did we grow in faith? Or in joy? Or in commitment? We hope so! But 2009 is past, and 2010 is the year we get to grow in. Will you grow in reading and loving the scriptures? Then we as a church will grow in that area. Will you grow in your stewardship of time, talents, and treasures? Then we as a church will grow in those ways. Will you grow in your willingness to serve? Then we as a church will be a stronger servant church. Growth is a good and necessary thing. (Notice, I didn't say it was "easy".) We ask God to bless our growing!

Welcome! Now here's something 99% of people want and need! People want to feel welcome, and they need to believe they really are welcomed both by God and by us. We get the privilege of extending Christ's welcome. (And remember, he was so good at welcoming that it actually caused quite a stir!) *Who* can we welcome who has not felt welcome in other churches or even in the community? St. Paul reminds us to "*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*" *Romans 15:7*

Worship! This remains our primary calling: to praise God, come to the Lord's Table, and enjoy the opportunity for worship and rest (what the Bible calls "sabbath".) We get to worship together as young and old. We get to worship in new ways and in traditional ways. We get to center our lives and our week on Word and Sacrament. This is what I tell our New Members at Orientation time: *If you can be here for worship, be here. Don't feel you have to apologize for those times you simply cannot make it, but be here as often as you can.*

Witness! We Lutherans pretend we don't know how to do this. But we might forget that everything we do or don't do offers some kind of witness. Bishop Mark Hanson asks "What shall our witness to the world be?" To witness to God's goodness is every Christian's duty. To witness to Christ's light and truth and love is every baptized person's privilege. To witness in simple, everyday ways, and to witness in more intentional ways that require real effort, is our calling.

Now, once more on the PEOPLE part: Our church council decided last fall to ask that we do two things in 2010 to be good partners with people. Both will provide opportunities for St. John's folks like yourself to be involved in hands-on ministry.

One is to step up to the plate with a new effort by Washington County churches known as *Family Promise*, which is about housing and feeding homeless families in our county. We need a good core of volunteers, who can attend a training session, and then provide supper and breakfast and overnight supervision for the families involved. In the process, we'll meet people of God for whom life is a struggle. We're a team with St. Luke's Lutheran/Slinger, to do this maybe 4 weeks out of 2010. *Ron Campopiano is willing to be our Team Leader. Talk to Ron, 677-4576.*

The other is to help strengthen a ministry resource very dear to us: *Crossways Camping Ministry*. So we propose 'adopting a chalet', where we'll provide labor and materials to maintain one of the chalets at Imago Dei Village, so that it's there for kids and adults to use for years to come. Crossways is facing tough financial times, and this is our camp! (This is also a ploy to mix work and play together. It will be fun!) We'll need some weekend or weekday work crews this spring and summer to do that. *Anyone good at building ramps? Anyone willing to coordinate this effort?*

Finally, we'll be talking more about dollars and cents and blessings and gifts in 2010. We simply have to. The dollars we give to support St. John's may pay utility bills or building loan or may feed the hungry. But each gift is about people. The dollars we give to ELCA Benevolence keep our work as the Greater Milwaukee Synod, and as the ELCA going. Those are for much more than offices and staff, those dollars are about people: the people touched by Lutheran Campus Ministry or Lutheran Social Services; the people touched by missionaries in 40 countries; and new congregations in growing areas; and old congregations in hurting areas. I value the partnership we have as the "people of God" called to grow, welcome, worship, and witness in this place. Asante Sana (thank you very much) for your partnership!

Pastor Paul

P.S. What about 2012? Is that the year the world is 'supposed' to end? In case it doesn't, we're going to be celebrating our 150th Anniversary in 2012, and it would be great to assemble a team now to start to imagine how to celebrate well! Speak up if you're willing to get involved.

**St. John's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2009**

Scott Reid called the meeting to order and Pastor Paul led devotions. Scott asked the congregation to review the minutes from the 2008 Annual Meeting and the August 3, 2008 special meeting. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written. Laura Bartelt highlighted the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Scott and Pastor each spoke briefly on the content of the President's and Pastor's reports included in the Annual Meeting materials.

Nominating Committee Constitution Change

Scott explained the proposal for changing the term of Nominating Committee members from 1 year to 3 years. The proposed amendment was unanimously approved at a special meeting of the congregation on August 3, 2008. A 2/3 majority vote at the next annual meeting is required to ratify the amendment. Scott called for a show of hands from those in favor of approving the amendment. The hand vote to ratify the constitutional amendment was unanimous and the amendment to section C13.02 of the St. John's constitution, as stated in the August 3, 2008 meeting minutes, was ratified and became effective immediately. The newly elected Nominating Committee members will determine who serves the staggered 1, 2, and 3 year terms.

Council and Committee Nominations

Sue Brodesser, from the Nominating Committee, announced the following nominations for 2009.

1. Council: Heather Anders, Pete Kutzora, Richard Boldt, and Keri Kraus
2. Audit Committee: Jamie Hamlin
3. Endowment Committee: Carol Cler and Ben Haddorff
4. Nominating Committee: Susan Brodesser, Kelly Luce, John Breest, and Debbie Orth

No further nominations were made from the floor and nominations were closed. Voting began by written ballot.

2009 Budget

Pete Kutzora, from the Budget Committee, reviewed the proposed budget for 2009. Discussion on the budget included Good Samaritan fund disbursement and staff salary increases including the need to move Pastor's salary closer to the mean payscale recommended by the Greater Milwaukee Synod. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the budget as written.

Sharing God's Blessing

Dick Uhlig gave an update on the current three year Sharing God's Blessing campaign which will end in April 2009. Our goal is to raise \$400,000 to support mortgage payments, principal reduction, and tithing support for our mission partners. The appeal has collected over \$306,000 through December 2008 with most of the over 100 pledge card commitments being met. The current mortgage balance is approximately \$885,000. Dick thanked the congregation for their generosity and requested their ongoing support in assembling a new team to plan our next building, mission, and stewardship appeal.

Council and Committee Election Results

The following persons were elected to church leadership positions:

1. Council: Heather Anders, Pete Kutzora, and Keri Kraus
2. Audit Committee: Jamie Hamlin
3. Endowment Committee: Carol Cler and Ben Haddorff
4. Nominating Committee: Susan Brodesser, Kelly Luce, and John Breest

Director of Lay Ministries

Laura Bartelt thanked the congregation for their support and ideas which have resulted in a number of new activities and groups forming this past year. Laura described her goal of having all church members involved in at least four one-time service events throughout the year (e.g. church clean-up day, serving at All Peoples Church, Lenten service supper/mentor, volunteering at food bank) As we continue to grow, the Director of Lay Ministries role will likely expand from the current 15 hrs/week.

Other Business

1. Katie Bartelt described Youth Group activities including Peer Ministry training and summer trip planning.
2. Dee Johnson described plans for developing a church vision / mission statement to improve the focus of our ministry.
3. Pastor provided an update on the planned Tanzania trip in June 2009.
4. Scott Reid asked for volunteers (one female and one male) to attend the Synod Assembly May 28-30.

Brief Conversation led by Pastor

Congregation was asked to consider: "What's the boldest thing that you and our congregation have ever done?" Members responded with recent examples such as the building addition, inviting Pastor Elias as associate pastor, and hosting an immigrant Muslim family. We learned that we are a little braver/bolder than we otherwise think and there is room for more boldness in our lives.

Outgoing Council and committee leaders were thanked for their service. Pastor thanked Scott for his leadership as President. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pete Kutzora, Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2009 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP <i>(adjusted annually to reflect active members)</i>	594	610	612
CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP	465	478	473
AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (includes Saturdays)	226	234	223
AVERAGE WEEKDAY/HOLIDAY ATTENDANCE	190	159	198
<i>(includes Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Program, Christmas-set a new Christmas Eve record!)</i>			
MEMBERS TRANSFERRED/RELEASED (Baptized/Confirmed)	3/2	0/0	16/11
MEMBERS RECEIVED BY TRANSFER (Baptized/Confirmed)	5/4	26/20	13/8
MEMBERS RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	19	24	10
MEMBERS REMOVED BY DEATH	3	0	4
CHRISTIAN ED. STUDENTS 4 yr. old-high school (Possible/Attending)	183/120	175/110	180/115

Notes on attendance: We are blessed to have about 30 friends, who are not officially 'members', who worship with us regularly. We continue to have too many members slip into inactivity.

We've had a number of people who have become homebound in the last 1-2 years.

And, as often happens when the last child is confirmed, too many families quietly get out of the habit of worship.

Each one of us is to gladly come to worship whenever we can.

We can also encourage each other, and care for each other (without embarrassing them!) when we see them 'missing'.

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS	19	18	18
CONFIRMATIONS (Youth)	17	17	12
MARRIAGES	6	5	9
FUNERALS - MEMBERS/NON-MEMBERS	3/7	0/4	4/2

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Bill & Larene Hardy by Affirmation of Faith

Matt & Kerry Cefalu, Nick & Amber from Lake Park Lutheran ELCA/Milwaukee, WI

Mike & Kate Price, Jonas, Grayson & Adelaide from Holy Communion ELCA/Racine, WI

Jeffrey & Laurie Matthews from our Saviors ELCA/West Bend, WI

Laura Petrovic & Matt by Affirmation of Faith

Susan Smith by Affirmation of Faith

Jodi Baumann, Jessica & Sara by Affirmation of Faith

Larry & Barb Hillyer from Trinity ELCA/West Bend, WI

Patti Mueller by Affirmation of Faith

Pat Seftar by Affirmation of Faith

MEMBERS RELEASED

Del & Ruth Beaver to American Lutheran ELCA/Grand Junction, CO

Dave & Janean Brudvig and family at their request

Jessi Paczesny and Annalise to St. John's LCMS/West Bend

Kory & Sarah Dogs and family to St. John's LCMS/West Bend

Bernie and Laurretta Goecks at their request

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

Helen Louise Coe

Sharon Ann Matenaer

Lillian Keske

Lorelei Jeanne Dierauer

"Growing in Christ, we welcome, worship and witness."

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

There are currently two women's groups that meet regularly at St. John's: Naomi Circle (1:00 pm the 3rd Monday of each month) and Ruth Circle (7:00 pm the 2nd Tuesday of each month). During 2009 these two circles along with other women of St. John's have participated in the following projects: making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, a Thankoffering Service with offerings going to women's ministries of the ELCA, selling fair-trade chocolate bars to help the cocoa farmers in Ghana (coming again in Feb. 2010!), making Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief, organizing the "Giving Tree" (which enables the congregation to purchase Christmas presents for families through Lutheran Social Services), collecting winter wear for All Peoples' Church, organizing bake sales, providing food and service for various potlucks, funeral and wedding luncheons, and study and fellowship within each circle. In 2009, we had our first "Women's Tea" for fellowship & highlights of what the women of St. John's are doing. Watch for another one in 2010! We look forward to continuing our various ministries here at St. John's and welcoming other women into opportunities for fellowship and service. All women are welcome to attend either of these two groups! If the time doesn't work for you, how about creating a third women's group? We'll help you advertise and get organized. Talk to Laura Bartelt.

MOTORHEAD MINISTRIES

Word is getting around that this church does something with cars and transportation. What we do is a very hands-on ministry that makes a difference in peoples' lives. We are able to receive donated cars (and provide proper IRS paperwork for a potential tax deductible contribution). We fix vehicles for those who can't afford a repair bill. Sometimes they pay for the parts. Most of the time, we do. We did repairs that would have totaled \$8,000-10,000 without using a dime out of your church offerings

We received just two donated vehicles in 2009. ("Cash For Clunkers" didn't help us, or people really needing transportation!) We got a nice, old, 1992 minivan that was perfect for Crossways Camps to use in their summer daycamp ministry (where staff travel to a congregation to put on a Vacation Bible School/Day Camp program for a week.) This saved our financially strapped camp \$1500 that would have gone to renting a van for the summer. They'll get it back for this summer, too. We received a high mileage 2001 mid-sized car, needing a bit of work. We did the repair and got it into the hands of someone who had been laid off and who needed a car in his new job.

Both of these donations came from folks *outside* of St. John's. That's great! *But we're guessing that some of you could do this too!* We also purchased a low-priced car and gave it to a church member whose car had died, and was beyond resurrection. That allowed her to return to work and to worship, which was not possible without a car.

We had fun partnering with the Family Center on a "Car Care 101" night for those interested in learning how to make their vehicles last longer and keep repair costs down. And, we're providing our Interim Bishop (who flies in from Connecticut each week), with a car that he can use, saving our Greater Milwaukee Synod a considerable amount in rental car costs. Bishop David Olson has no problems driving an old Taurus and parking it in the \$5/day spot at the airport when he travels.

If you know someone who is replacing a vehicle, giving up driving, or reducing the number of cars they own, invite them to consider donating their vehicle to St. John's. We also welcome monetary donations. This year, we're expecting heightened demand for our services.

Talk to one of us if you'd like to participate in some way. We meet on Monday or Tuesday nights, most weeks. You can come and help. Or you can come and learn. (Teens are welcome!) Call us if you need a second opinion on a car repair or vehicle purchase. *Test our knowledge!* We might be able to help you save money and keep your vehicle up to snuff.

And remember, *everyone auto know Jesus!* (Believe it or not, these vehicles and repairs might be one way others do discover that Jesus is real!)

Gary Kielisch, Chad Dhein, Jim Wiedmeyer, Pastor Paul

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The purpose of this fund is to advance the mission and ministry of St. John's Lutheran church beyond the general operation of the church. Monetary and investment gifts are invested. The interest and/or dividends earned are used for local mission projects selected by the committee. The principal amounts donated are retained in the fund to continue earning interest, thus providing continued funding for future mission projects. Please consider donating appreciated assets to the Endowment Fund when doing your estate planning! By transferring the assets into the church's B.C. Ziegler account, you can use the value of the asset transferred on the transfer date without paying tax on capital gains. (Please check with your tax advisor for clarification and to answer additional questions.)

The members of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee are: Carol Cler, Lee Duchow, Christine Miller, Ken Keel, Erma Meyerpeter & Ben Haddorff along with the church president, treasurer, and Pastor.

SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Highlights of 2009:

+February 2009 was a busy time with volunteers sharing their time and talents with our kids during Blessing Month. Rather than holding Blessings Month in 2010, we are having class as a group on the 4th Sunday of each month. Kids are pairing up with buddies from a different grade to do crafts, service projects, woodworking, etc.

+Our 5th graders received First Communion instruction from Joel Heidtke in March, followed by individual talks with Pastor.

+Confirmation was on May 17th with twelve 8th graders affirming their faith.

+We had a fantastic VBS program in August..."Crocodile Dock." We had several high school, middle school & young adults involved and the kids had a great week! Mark your calendars for August 8-12, 2010.

+Rally Day was Sept. 13 with about 100 students attending! We have about 90 students in regular attendance which is terrific! Keep coming, we love seeing all of you! We have a terrific staff teaching this year, some seasoned teachers and some new teachers, and we are SO grateful and appreciate everything they do!

+Our Food Drive in November was a competition between the classes and between the Sunday School and Congregation. Third Grade won a donut party, and the entire Sunday School won an ice cream party. Thank you to everyone who donated food and keep the food coming! We can keep our pantry filled for the less fortunate.

+Our Christmas Program, "A Heartfelt Christmas", was led by Keri Kraus & Carey Cameron. The kids did an awesome job. We followed the program with a refreshment time. The program will be held the 2nd Sunday of December at 2:00pm each year. Mark your calendars for December 12, 2010!

Things to look forward to in 2010:

First Communion instruction in Feb., Confirmation on May 23, VBS in summer, Rally Day, Sept. 12, another great Food Drive & another great Christmas Program! Teachers, assistants, helpers, and volunteers of all kinds are needed and appreciated for all our programs!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education committee is responsible for supervising the Sunday morning Christian Education program along with the Christian Education Coordinator(s), planning the adult education program along with Pastor, and other educational programs for the congregation.

+Our Sunday morning Christian Ed. is moving along very smoothly. We once again have a wonderful group of faithful volunteers on our staff.

+We don't have a Sunday Morning Christian Education Coordinator(s). If you'd like to know more, talk to Laura Bartelt!

+Confirmation class has a good group of 24 7th & 8th graders and dedicated guides.

+Confirmation for 8th graders will be Sunday, May 23, at the 9:45 service.

+Our youth group has been blessed with some fantastic leaders. The youth meet in the parsonage Sunday mornings at 8:30. We also have a group of youth leaders working with our youth on new and exciting ideas.

The Education Committee meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:10am. The members are asked to serve a 2-year term and can serve a second term. We ask that you search your hearts and pray for guidance to consider serving on this committee. Current members: Eileen Mack, Mary Novotny, Scott Abel, Heidi Hellesen, and Laura Bartelt.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

This year has been a relatively quiet year around the church as compared to years past. There have been some good things that have occurred and some not so good, like the break in and theft. The overall economy has slowed down a few projects, but certain items must be completed from a maintenance standpoint to protect our investment in the church and grounds. I would like to thank council for their input and support through these constricted times. Finally, on a very positive note, we had a huge turnout for fall cleanup day and for this, your committee is truly in debt to all who found a way to say "yes" when asked to help clean up GOD'S house.

Les Steffen, Ron Hauser, Keith Heidtke, Jim Ziemer, Scott Adams, Skip Bartelt, Todd Seatz

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP ROCKS!

Well, we at least 'rocked' when we backpacked in the Rocky Mountains last July! Youth Group "Breakfast Club" meets on Sunday mornings in the parsonage, for discussion, and fellowship. Youth group gathers on other occasions for activities, service, and fund raisers. We helped make the New Year's Eve Party and Worship happen for the whole church a few weeks ago. Thirty-plus folks came!

We're grateful to our advisors: Dan Johnson, Scott Reid, Jenny & Mike Starzman, Pastor Paul, and Joel Wolf (one of our backpacking trip leaders) for their time and attention. We're inviting 9th-12th graders and friends to get involved in *Peer Ministry Training* starting Feb. 14. And we're planning one or more summer trips, possibly another trip to Crossways Camps for a week of work and fun.

We're always looking for more student and parent and adult involvement. Thanks for remembering that "youth are the church of the present as well as the church of the future!"

2009 MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Gifts were given as memorials for the following persons:

Joel Wolf's mother, Helen Coe, Karen Kraemer's mother, Lillian Keske,
Skip Bartelt's mother, Sharon Matenaer, Jean Gardipee's mother

These memorials were directed at the families' or donors' request to the Building Fund, Kitchen Fund,
Good Samaritan Fund, Bell Choir and the Memorial Fund.

In addition: +Gifts were given in varying amounts to our Good Samaritan Fund, our Prayer Shawl Ministry, our Motorhead Ministry, All Peoples' Church, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Social Services, ELCA Disaster Relief, Lutheran World Relief, Crossways Camps, Tanzania Hunger Relief and animals for Ulong'a parish in Tanzania.

If you would like to give a gift to a special ministry, you can use your regular offering envelopes and indicate your gift and the ministry in the 'Special' box. Please make all checks payable to St. John's.

ST. JOHN'S DESIGNATED GIFT LIST

From time to time, people want to give a special gift for a special purpose. Maybe the Spirit has moved you to joyful generosity. Maybe you received an inheritance that you want to share. Maybe you've counted your blessings and realized how blessed you are. Maybe you want to give a gift in someone's memory or in someone's honor. Here are just a few possibilities to consider:

+Monetary gifts, or planned gifts from your estate to:

Good Samaritan Fund (to assist needy persons/families); Lutheran Social Services (which we are temporarily taking out of the budget); Crossways Camping Ministry; St. John's Motorhead Ministries; Marquette/UWM Lutheran Campus Ministries; ELCA Hunger Appeal, Disaster Relief, Fund for Leaders; St. John's Building Fund (especially to help retire our building loan); New Kitchen Fund (as we start to design and build our new kitchen); 150th Anniversary Fund, so we can invite guests and celebrate appropriately; Seminarian Scholarship Fund, to help train future pastors

+New office computers for Laura and Pastor (ours are ancient!)

+Blinds for the upper clear windows in our worship space (helpful many Sunday mornings)

+Gifts of used cars or minivans for our Motorhead Ministries.

+Gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds to our Endowment Fund. (We have a brokerage account at Ziegler to receive such gifts. It's usually wise to transfer stocks, bonds, IRA withdrawals directly into our church account, rather than cashing them in. If you itemize on your taxes, you can usually deduct the full value of your gift and you pay no capital gains taxes.)

+Gifts for additional landscaping needs (we have trees that need removal/replacement.)

+A new outdoor nativity scene

+Security system or camera(s) for the building

+Ten more persons who will designate a portion of their estate to St. John's or the ELCA in your will.

CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRY LIST

Some of these items might be available at rummage or garage sales. They don't all have to be new! Sometimes Menards has items that are "free after rebate", which you might not need-but which camp could use, such as: paintbrushes, entrance mats, LED nightlights, etc.

+Canoe paddles, especially the aluminum shaft with plastic blade/handle variety, but wood is OK.

+Heavy rubber entrance mats

+Compact Fluorescent Bulbs, LED nightlights

+\$ to buy stain for chalets and decks

+\$ to buy paint for interior repainting projects.

+Boxes of deck screws to replace rusting ones.

+Gallon and Quart Ziplock bags.

+Quality long-handled tongs for campout meals (for flipping foil dinners on the fire, for example)

+Quality corn brooms.

+Bar towels for cleaning.

+Roll of screen material and rubber gasket for repairing screens.

+New windows for the camp director's house (to replace the original 1959 worn out, leaky windows)

+4 to 8 hours of volunteer labor for cleaning, raking, general maintenance, etc.

+decent life vests for canoeing

+A good, used minivan

+Bike helmets (teenager size) in good shape

+Batteries for an electric golf cart Jesse Seltrecht and Scott Anders are rehabbing for camp to use.

You can contact mike@crosswayscamps.org or dara@crosswayscamps.org

They are the Site Director and Program Director at Crossways Imago Dei Village Camp, and can answer any questions!

You may have noticed in Pastor's Report and the Youth Group Report that we plan to adopt a chalet at camp this year, and do the maintenance and upkeep on it, including adding a wood ramp for accessibility. That could happen as part of a Youth Work Project/Family Camp Weekend.

ALSO, SINCE YOU'LL NEVER SEE A HEARSE PULLING A U-HAUL, WE RECOMMEND A GREAT RESOURCE PERSON TO YOU...

Pastor Larry Westfield has the job of Lutheran Planned Giving Coordinator for Wisconsin. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience to help anyone with estate planning ideas. He doesn't sell any investments. He doesn't charge any fees. He doesn't tell you what to do with your money and property. As a person of faith, he helps you as a person of faith consider how you want to support the work of the church, or a church camp, or a church college or seminary, or some other ministry. And then he helps show you ways to accomplish that. He's a great believer in the notion that we are called to be faithful stewards and joyful givers, in life and in death. *You will be blessed and impressed as you talk with him!*

You can contact Pastor Larry at anytime.

email: larry.westfield@elca.org

phone: 608-270-0201

Greetings from Tanzania!

I had the privileged of traveling to Tanzania in June with my family, Pastor Paul, Sarah & Adam, Hans Frey, & 2 girls from Immanuel/Cedarburg, Lindsey & Marie. June was an exciting month.

We were all a little unsure of what we had gotten ourselves into, but it was a WONDERFUL trip! We spent the first full day visiting an orphanage & hospital in the Meru Diocese (which is the sister synod with the Greater Milwaukee Synod). We spent the first 2 nights in a nice lodge on the side of Mt. Meru. Beautiful, lush country!

We then headed out to stay with our missionary family for about 9 days in the Maasai region in northern Tanzania. We stayed with Dr. Steve, Bethany & Shalai (7 years old-she speaks 3 languages fluently!) Friberg in their simple home near a small village called Ketumbeine. (The Fribergs also have twin 13 year olds who were away at school in Kenya). While there, we painted an old clinic building that they were restoring. Steve & Bethany were great teachers & encouraged us to meet many people. We met Samwel, a young man who wished to go college to study teaching (we are supporting him in this effort). We met Paulo, an amazing Maasai man. We met Witness, a young high school age girl, living in the village with relatives so that she can attend school. We met Filippo who worked tirelessly with us on the clinic building. He also amazed us with his work ethic, endurance & knowledge of the Bible.

We went to a Maasai boma, which is their village (mud huts, etc) & were privileged to see part of a wedding ceremony (ate roasted goat & danced with the Maasai women!) We visited Bethany's bead project where Maasai women gather to produce different items that Bethany sends to the U.S. to sell. We brought back many items that we have been selling at church. All proceeds go back to these Maasai women. We also went to market day in the Ketumbeine and attended a wonderful church service with 3 choirs (everything in Swahili or Maasai). Pastor Paul was able to preach a brief sermon to the congregation...it was translated into the 2 languages. The highlight of our time with the Fribergs was spending time with them & the family next door. Dr. Lorri is an assistant to Dr. Steve & Mama Lorri is a teacher. The Lorri family has 6 kids, age 1-13. They were around us constantly & were adorable! They loved piggy-back rides, singing songs, playing games, learning frisbee & practicing their English.

We sadly left there and went on a 2-day safari. We saw all kinds of animals! The highlight of the safari was staying in a very nice lodge with a swimming pool, real beds (staying at the Fribergs was kind-of like camping), & great food. We felt very guilty staying there, however, after seeing all the poor people everywhere in Tanzania. The country is suffering from a terrible drought that has killed off thousands of livestock. Congregations throughout our Greater Milw. Synod have been sending money to help in the relief effort, and many people at St. John's have supported this effort.

Our last 2 days were spent high up on the side of Mt. Meru with our sister church, Ulong'a Parish. They really rolled out the red carpet for us! We had the finest of everything they had to offer. We didn't spend enough time with them to get to know them as well as the people in Ketumbeine, but we had some good discussions about our partnership, and they gave us a tour of the Meru Diocese area. A number of St. John's members have given money so that Ulong'a can purchase animals for their poor people.

We were truly blessed during this trip. We thank God that everything went smoothly...flights, connections, travel within Tanzania, etc. We thank God that everyone stayed basically healthy. We THANK God for all the wonderful people we met in Tanzania. We think about them every day. They have so little and struggle every day, but they are joyful. We have so much and complain every day. We can learn a lot from them.

Right now, Donna Lamberg & Bonnie Puestow are traveling in Tanzania. They have spent time with Pastor Elias & Ellie Kitoi, will go on a safari, and will spend a few days at Ulong'a. We pray for their safe return. I'm sure they will bring back great stories & memories to share with us. If you'd be willing to be part of our Tanzania Partnership Committee, we need you!

Wendy Heidtke

Here is a note from Dr. Steve:

Salaam Pastor Paul,

We thank God that we have had five good rains in the last month and that our world is green again. The government distributed maize to our area three times, so people did have food during the drought. We were given several thousand dollars to buy milk powder and high protein flour for malnourished women and children by supporting churches. This made it much easier for us personally to keep working during one of the worst droughts on record. We were treating as much protein and vitamin deficiency as all the other usual illnesses combined. Thanks to St John's we had a good supply of vitamin C and multivits. This was the year we really needed them. Thanks for coming with these supplies.

The building and nurses apartment you helped us renovate are both in use now. The district medical officer thanked us and you our donors for making this possible. Christine loves having her own apartment, patio and kitchen area. Christine's salary is now being paid by the government (as is Dr Lorri's) so we are financially stable for the long haul. Thanks for being connected to our work.

Thank you for bringing us Christmas with your visit to Ketumbeine.
Steve