

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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February



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

Halfway through this month, the 40 days of Lent will invite us again to take a closer look at what God does to bring healing, forgiveness, and life through Jesus Christ. A couple of highlights in Lent this year will be a visit from All People's Church members, and the Ascension Lutheran Mime Troupe presenting "The Passion" (March 21...mark your calendars!). We'll also challenge each other to spend these 40 days reading scripture and hearing God speak to us through the written Word. You won't "see" Lent in the stores, and probably not on TV. But to fully appreciate what Christ's life, death, and resurrection mean for us, and to fully celebrate Easter, we'll slow down, ponder, reflect, remember, and rejoice. I'm looking forward to Lent! -Pastor Paul

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Each Saturday and Sunday is an opportunity to worship and come together as the people of God! Come, whenever you can, and invite a friend or neighbor too! The season of LENT begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17, with services at 11:00 and 7:00 throughout Lent. Join us for supper each Wednesday at 6:00pm

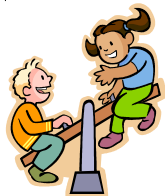


HAITI RELIEF

Special gifts are needed now and later to help the people of Haiti recover. Gifts to our ELCA International Disaster Response will be used 100% for Haiti Relief. "Food for the Poor", which has been serving in Haiti for decades, puts 97 cents on the dollar to work in Haiti. If you wish to give through your church offering, we'll forward those gifts. If you wish to give directly, visit: www.elca.org or www.foodforthe poor.org or www.lwr.org (Lutheran World Relief).

FAMILY PROMISE GETS US WORKING WITH FAMILIES IN NEED

Patterned on a nationwide program to house homeless families in houses of worship, churches are teaming up to provide temporary shelter to homeless families in Washington County. We're partnering with St. Luke's/Slinger, as we learn the ropes! Churches will take in families for a week at a time for overnight lodging, breakfast and supper. Volunteers are needed for meals, and for overnight supervision. Talk to Ron Campopiano 677-4576, Pastor, or Laura if you'd like to know more. There are to be training events on Feb. 25-26.



ATTENTION MOMS!

Feeling the need to get out of the house with your little ones this winter? St. John's is looking to start up a Mom's Group. This group can be as formal or informal as you would like it to be and will be a great way to make new friends and feel more connected at St. John's. My 17 year old daughter's best friends today are the same girls she played with here at playgroup 15 years ago. Wendy Heidtke or Laura Bartelt can give you ideas of what our group did back in the day. We can start by meeting here at St. John's and see where it leads. Talk to Laura B.!

DIVINE CHOCOLATE IS HERE!

On Feb. 6/7 & 13/14 Ruth Circle again is offering fair-trade chocolate candy bars! The cocoa farmers in Ghana unite to form Kuapa Kokoo for better prices and to empower small farmers. Milk chocolate & dark chocolate bars will be available for \$1.50 each. Large bars will be \$3.00 each. You'll also be able to attach a valentine greeting if you wish! These make great gifts for friends, teachers, neighbors & yourself! All proceeds go to the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative through Lutheran World Relief.



SUMMER CAMP BROCHURES ARE HERE!

Great programs and great staff await all ages at Crossways. Confirmation Camp is the week of July 11-16. (*Confirmation families will receive registration forms by mail soon!*) There are week-long and half-week programs for kids grade 2 and up; as well as Parent/Kids and Grandparents/Kids weeks. Consider attending Family Camp week or weekend! That makes for a fun and rich faith journey, nearby, at a reasonable cost. *Did you know that Pine Lake has a hotel-quality retreat center? College students, can you think of a better summer job?*
www.CrosswaysCamps.org

CELEBRATE FAMILIES!

February is Celebrate Families Month with events all month long throughout Washington County. There'll be a kickoff event at the Fair Park on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 11-4:00. They'll have music, dance, rock climbing, bingo, hair beading, face painting & more! It's free! Go to <http://washington.uwex.edu> for a complete calendar!



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We knew that 2009 would be a challenging year in many ways. It was. Our average attendance was just about the same as 2008. Our giving to the general fund was down about \$8500. We finished the year in the red by about \$10,000. Thankfully, giving to the building fund was up slightly. "Benevolence"-gifts for the work of our ELCA-were lower. We have made some temporary budget cuts while we spend this year giving thanks for all of God's gifts, and talking faithfully with one another about stewardship. We'll keep you well informed! Thanks for your faithful, every-week giving!

Enclosed are your 2009 Giving Statements. If you have any questions regarding this statement, please contact Wendy Heidtke in the church office at 677-3176 or officestjohns@nconnect.net. You can designate St. John's as your choice for Pick 'n Save's "We Care" program. Our Number is 773520.