

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Dear Friends and Fellow Members of St. John's:

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. I've spent much time in the past year walking with folks through that dark valley. Many of those walks took place at The Kathy Hospice nearby. If you're unfamiliar with what *hospice care* is about, it's about helping people live out their lives as fully and as comfortably as possible, once we realize a medical cure is no longer likely. The care of staff and volunteers is for the patient and the family, and brings surprising blessings. (Hospice care can also be received at home, or in a nursing home, too!) Consider this an invitation to talk with your Pastor, your loved ones, your doctor, and your Lord, about making important end-of-life decisions, including thinking about funeral services, Living Wills, Power of Attorney for Health Care, and how to be good stewards at the end of life with the wealth God has entrusted to us. I'm always grateful for these necessary, faithful conversations, that need not be depressing or difficult since *the Lord really is our Shepherd!* -Pastor Paul

WE'VE BEEN "SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS" this past year with our 1-year Capital Campaign. Thank you for the pledges and gifts that have supplied about \$87,000 during this time to pay for this building and to be in ministry with Crossways Camps, All Peoples' Church, Ulong'a Parish and Missionaries Steve & Bethany Friberg in Tanzania. We're gearing up for a new two-year campaign, which Heather Anders and Tom Spencer will chair. Watch for information in the mail SOON!



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND WELCOME

We are blessed to have you new folks in our midst, and would like to invite you to an *Orientation for New Members* on Tuesday, May 25 from 7:00-8:15 (childcare will be provided). Then we'd like to officially welcome new folks at worship on June 5/6. Anyone interested in more information about St. John's, please contact Pastor Paul.

CONFIRMATION DAY BUILDS ON THE PROMISES OF BAPTISM!

On May 23, Abby Adams, Kayla Belongia, DJ Brodesser, Donald Christianson, Tyler Hamlin, Justin Kannenberg, Emily Kraus, Ashton Kusch, Ashley Liebner, Brett Liesenfelder, Hannah Mozdzen, Tyler Schommer, Leah Wagner, & Kelsey Weigend will affirm their faith in Christ. *Wednesday May 19 at 7:00 is when we need youth and adults to engage them in conversation about their involvement in the life and mission of the church. Come and be part of this important time together!*



SUPPER AND EVENING WITH "NEW VISION" MUSIC TEAM SUNDAY MAY 2, 5:00pm

We had a last minute chance to host the Youth Encounter team of young adults some of us met last fall. They'll spend Sunday evening, May 2 (5:00pm) with us, and will be a special treat for families with kids. We'll provide supper and they'll provide the music and activities. (We need host homes for them Sunday-Monday nights as well.) Come! Invite a friend!

MOMS' GROUP READY TO START!

We are connecting with Moms or Dads with little ones who would like to gather with their little ones on a semi-regular basis for friendship and playtime. Talk with Laura Bartelt (volcoordstjohns@nconnect.net).



PLANT CERTIFICATES ARE BACK!

You can purchase \$10 certificates for Groth's Country Gardens (2 1/2 miles east on Pioneer from Division). Get your Prom flowers at Groths! These also make great gifts for birthdays, teacher gifts, Mother's Day...or treat yourself! A portion of the sales go to our Youth Group!

'GO ON A "HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION", AUGUST 8-12!

That's our theme for Vacation Bible School this summer. We start on Sunday evening with activities for the whole family. Then we'll continue Monday-Thursday, 9:00-12:00 for kids ages 4 - 6th grade! Older kids can be assistants and co-teachers! We're looking for volunteers! Give Staci Bohling (677-0437) a call or talk to Laura Bartelt!. Use the enclosed VBS Registration Form to register your kids today! Please start collecting these items: empty gallon vinegar bottles, metal twist-off bottle caps, empty paper towel tubes. Bring items to church anytime!



SUMMER CAMP!

Great programs and great staff await all ages at Crossways. Confirmation Camp is the week of July 11-16. 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

UPDATES

+Our **Lenten Offerings** totalled about \$5319. These were divided between The ELCA International Disaster Relief-Haiti; Family Promise of Washington County & our ELCA Hunger Appeal. Thank you for making a difference with your offerings!
+**Attendance** this Easter was 498 (2009=495). YTD Weekly: 262; (2009=232)
+**General Fund** giving for March was \$12,768. Expenses were \$17,634. (We're just about even for the year.)
Building Fund: \$7893; Expenses: \$7382. YTD **ELCA Benevolence:** \$3055; Goal: 13,000. YTD **ELCA Hunger:** \$599; Goal: \$4000. YTD **Missionary** Sponsorship: \$1135; Goal: \$6000.
+The **Inchaureggi Family** in the parsonage is hopeful about getting their own apartment soon, and are grateful for all the help and encouragement received. We'll need a moving crew to help them get into their new place. Watch for details.