



2881 DIVISION ROAD
JACKSON, WI 53037
262-677-3176

e-mail: officestjohns@nconnect.net
website: www.stjohnsjackson.net

FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Co-Workers in the Gospel:

Even though "there is no longer Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free, for all are one in Christ Jesus", we witness and are part of too many great divides in our nation and world. I'm thinking that some of those divides grow because *we are not good at putting ourselves in someone else's shoes*. I'm asking you in 2012, to spend some time doing just that; to do your best to put yourselves in the shoes of someone very different from you and find out what their lives have to offer and what their hopes and struggles are. If you like to read, I'd recommend Nickle and Dimed to help understand the working poor. If you don't know anyone without health insurance, I'll be happy to introduce you to someone. If you don't know a person who is absolutely stuck in our broken immigration system, I know someone you can talk to. It is not easy for rich or poor, for believer or non-believer, for conservative or liberal, to fully understand each other's situation or worth. But the really intriguing thing about being a follower of Christ is that He has a way of bridging all gaps, and bringing down all defenses, and making us sisters and brothers with one another; sinners and saints who are equally dependent on God's amazing grace!

-Pastor Paul

Ash Wednesday is February 22

Lent worship will return at 11:00 and 7:00 with simple lunches and suppers. This year our Lenten offerings will be divided between St. John's Good Samaritan Fund (where special gifts are always welcome!), Lutheran Malaria Initiative, and our ELCA Hunger Appeal. Lent is that 40 day period that invites us to *draw nearer to God, trusting that God will draw nearer to us*. Our friends from All Peoples' will be here 2/29, bringing supper!



WE'RE COOKING AND WE NEED YOUR RECIPES!

To help celebrate our 150th anniversary, we are putting together a church cookbook. The cookbook will contain our church history, photos, and our best and favorite recipes. We are hoping to get most recipes electronically to save time and errors. You can submit your recipes online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/K7GFW25. Don't worry if you are not computer savvy, paper forms are available next to the submission box in the Gathering Space. **Deadline March 1!** Proceeds from the sale of completed cookbooks will be put into the new kitchen fund. We are planning to have the cookbooks available in early October—just in time for Christmas 2012!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 5TH GRADERS BEGINS FEB. 26

This class will meet during regular Christian Ed. time, 8:30-9:20, Feb. 26-Mar. 25. There will be a "1st Communion Fun Nite" on Friday, March 9, 6:30-9:00pm. *Do you know a 5th grader not involved in a church?*

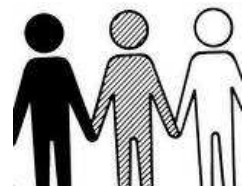


CELEBRATE FAMILIES!

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. 12 from 11-4:00. They'll have music, dance, rock climbing, bingo, hair beading, face painting & more! It's free! Go to <http://washginton.uwex.edu> for a complete calendar!

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

is being offered on Saturday morning, March 17 for our Northern Lakeshore Cluster congregations. As a synod, we made a strong commitment to tackling the issues of racism in our daily lives, and this is a chance to learn more, and indeed to grow in faith and understanding. Come along! Marilyn Miller, former director of Lutheran Human Relations, is our presenter. She's a gift!



SUMMER CAMP BROCHURES ARE HERE!

Great programs and great staff await all ages at Crossways. Confirmation Camp is the week of July 8-13. (*Confirmation families will receive registration forms this week*) St. John's will be going to Family weekend on July 20-22! There are week-long and half-week programs for kids grade 2 and up; as well as Parent/Kids and Grandparents/Kids weeks. That makes for a fun and rich faith journey, nearby, at a reasonable cost. *Did you know that Pine Lake has a near-hotel-quality retreat center? We can help with camp scholarships for kids who want to attend.* www.CrosswaysCamps.org

ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING A VOTING MEMBER AT OUR GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY?

The assembly takes place in Waukesha Thursday afternoon May 31-Saturday noon June 2. We are asked to send a male and a female voting member. Our Greater Milwaukee Synod is also looking for voting members to attend our ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August of 2013 in Pittsburgh. That's a rare and wonderful opportunity! Speak with Pastor if you'd like your name to be considered.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

Average weekly attendance was 207 in 2011 (220 in 2010). Giving was flat. General Fund was about \$5000 over 2011 expenses. We met our goals for ELCA Benevolence Support and Missionary Sponsorship but our ELCA Hunger support was about \$500 below our goal of \$4000. Our Building Fund giving was about \$12,000 below 2011 expenses. Thanks for being here every week you can. And thanks for considering "Simply Giving" as a way of electronically giving to the church!

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson

Enclosed are your 2011 Giving Statements. If you have any questions regarding this statement, please contact Wendy Heidtke in the church office at 262-677-3176 or officestjohns@nconnect.net.