

2012

January



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle



Staff and Special Events	2
Pastor Lesemann	3
Council Minutes	4-5
2012 Proposed Budget	6-9
Thank You and Library News	10-11
Voters' Meeting Agenda/Offerings	12-14
Church Family/News and Notes	18-19
Worship Assistants and Flowers	20

Evangelism Events

Tuesday, Jan. 10th
1:30 p.m - Cards, Cookies,
and Conversation

Tuesday, Jan. 17th
1:30 pm - Movies and
Munchies

Please Join Us !

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 402 Lake Ave, Storm Lake, IA.

Phone: 712-732-2400

Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

PASTOR:
Rev. Bruce Lesemann
Home: 712-732-0161



MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Suzanne Winterhof

STAFF

SECRETARY:
Celeste Cummins

CUSTODIAN:
Renae Norwood

MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Services

6:00 p.m.

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Holy Communion

*1st and 3rd Weekend
of each month*

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m.

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Radio Broadcasts...

9:00 a.m. on 2nd Sunday
of each month
KAYL 101.7FM.

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Lutheran Hour Ministries

KAYL 8:00 a.m.

Every Sunday

FAITHBUILDERS & ADULT BIBLE CLASSES – 10:15 A.M.

FAITHBUILDERS - Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
3 year olds thru 8th Grade on 2nd Floor.
High School Bible Class on the 2nd Floor
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.



Be in the Word

In the Fireside Room,
Led by V. Winterhof

In the Library, Led by
Pastor Lesemann

Message from Pastor Lesemann

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

It's that time of year again. It's time to make those New Year's resolutions! Now I could mention the usual that people make...I am going to lose weight, get more exercise, stop that bad habit, get out of debt, stick to my budget and spend more time with my family...type of resolutions.

But what would a set of New Year's resolutions look like for you and your *church* and your role as a child of God? They could include some of the above, but they may look more like this: this year I plan to...pray more, share God's love more, spend more time in God's Word, be more forgiving, be more involved in the work of St. John, confront that sin that I keep falling into, in other words seek God's plan for my life.

Now, as your pastor, I want to say this. God has a plan for you, which also includes resolutions for you, this coming New Year. Is there someone He's been nudging you to invite to church? Are YOU the one who needs to come to church more often? Has He been urging you to fulfill a need at church that you're able to but neglecting to fulfill? He definitely wants to meet with you each day to spend time with you through His word and prayer! So, as your pastor, my question for you is: are you going to listen to His plans for you?

Case in point, I am sure that many of you who read the newsletter also read the bulletin. If so, you would see there how we have been looking for a few Sunday School teachers, as well as substitutes. If we had several people volunteer to teach, then classes could be shared and people could teach a month at a time or every other week. This has been in the bulletin since late this summer, yet only one person that I know of has come forward (only one has listened) to God's calling and plan to serve in that position (as a substitute).

Now, not everyone is called to be a Sunday school teacher. But God does have plans for each of us this year. And even though these are God's plans for us, because of our sinfulness we at times will fail.

Thankfully there is one plan that God has for all of us at which we can't fail, because that plan does not depend on us but on Jesus. Because of Jesus, God's plan for us is to one day take us to be with Him in heaven through faith in His Son.

In His grace,

Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann



Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was "Walking the Truth" (Ill John 3 &4).

The 2012 congregational **budget meeting** was held first. Several guests were in attendance. See attached budget for the recommendations to be presented at the January voters' meeting for approval.

Lay Ministers – Harlan Matasovsky

Megan, Jayne, and Jacquelyn Peters were removed from membership.
Teachers and subs for Faithbuilders are still needed.

Trustees – Dave Dose

Dan Bacon met with this board and presented information about Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Mark Redenbaugh will be asked to sand the parking lots when it gets icy. The trustees are concerned about safety there and may install a handrail at the west entrance.

One member of the board has resigned; a replacement – male or female – is being sought. Contact any trustee if interested.

Purchasing Agent – Bob Fletcher

His job – that of overseeing expenditures – is going very well.

(continued on page 5)

Stewardship Board – Karen Fletcher

The 2012 offering envelopes are available. The board thanks the generous support given to St. John in the past and encourages us members to continue doing so due to the expensive projects pending. The trustees have not spent their 2011 budgeted allowance, and these two boards wish to avoid accruing debt. They also urge us to become involved in serving in any way to maintain and support St. John.

Co-Treasurers – Karen Fletcher and Betty Ploeger

All bills have been paid, and to date there is \$2,000 in the bank; however, our \$2,000 insurance is due in December. And heating costs will rise.

The 2012 health reimbursements of \$8,000 have already been funded.

Pastor Lesemann

Pastor is the vacancy pastor for Grace Lutheran. He conducts the Confirmation lessons there on Wednesdays from 4:00 until 5:30, schedules the guest pastors, attends their elders' meetings, and is Grace's emergency contact.

Two new members have been added: Nyadok and Elizabeth.

The Sudanese desire to hold a worship service in the sanctuary. They have been encouraged to worship with us and keep their children in Faithbuilders. It has been suggested to them that they conduct a Bible study in the Neur language. From that, in the future, they can then choose a leader who will become their pastor.

A representative is needed to accompany Pastor to the circuit forum to be held at St. John on January 29, 2012, at 2 p.m.

Executive Director – Henry Hardt

The next voters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 11:15 a.m. (after the Bible studies). A committee of six to nominate the directors of 2012 boards must be formed before that; St. John members may nominate others at this meeting.

Other nominations for Iowa District West offices must be solicited: lay persons for the Board of Directors and for its ordained and commissioned ministers and also for a district president and the first and second vice presidents.

Hardt adjourned the meeting at 7:17 and we closed by praying our Lord's Prayer.

BUDGET REVIEW from: Stewardship & Co-Treasurer, Karen Fletcher

What is a budget? Why do we need a budget? Do you have a computer? I was surprised (I shouldn't be) how many FREE websites (examples: youneedabudget, mint, buxfer, budgettracker) to help you with this process. Just type in budget and run with it. Have fun and give it a try.

St. John did a budget last year at this time AS THEY DO EVERY YEAR and asked you as members of its family to participate in reviewing, editing and VOTING on the numbers at the annual VOTER'S MEETING. **Did our church family reach its goals of January 2011?** A budget preview is included in this newsletter. How did we do???? **LET'S REVIEW TAKE A LOOK @ 2011 FIGURES**

1. We did not have the contributions we had planned on.
2. We did pay off debt. Treasurers encouraged. NO NEW DEBT.
3. We did not make any Capital Improvements.
4. We only did minor maintenance on our church building.

Take a look at the new **PROPOSED FIGURES FOR 2012**. Boards are telling you what they need to achieve in 2012. If you have concerns or questions about their needs, feel free to discuss their plans with those boards. I am hearing about the needs for new furnaces, roof repairs or replacements, unsafe carpet buckles and tuck-pointing concerns in several areas of our building. You will notice the new account for Capital Improvements to just get a good start on these NEEDS.

LET'S VOTE

Let's be an educated voter and participate: **ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2012 @ 11:15.**

St. John appreciates your time, talents and funds to support the mission of our Lord.

Budget 2012

ITEM	PROPOSED 2011	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL Jan to Dec 31	PROPOSED 2012	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2012
CHURCH PROPERTIES					
Custodian Salary	16,590.00	16,590.00	16,590.08	17,087.00	17,087.00
Capital Improvements - Furnace etc.				40,000.00	40,000.00
Employer FICA and Medicare	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,269.10	1,307.00	1,307.00
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	98.71	116.00	116.00
Building Permits/Elevator Inspection	500.00	500.00	525.00	525.00	525.00
Building Maintenance	7,500.00	7,500.00	1,367.94	7,500.00	7,500.00
Copier and Duplicator	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,620.61	2,200.00	2,200.00
Custodial Supplies	1,500.00	1,500.00	932.36	1,000.00	1,000.00
Electricity	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,951.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Employee Benefits	9,234.00	9,234.00	8,049.67	9,320.00	9,320.00
Garbage	500.00	500.00	424.28	500.00	500.00
Heat	15,000.00	15,000.00	13,673.13	15,000.00	15,000.00
Insurance	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,155.75	7,500.00	7,500.00
Organ Maintenance	500.00	500.00	428.92	1,000.00	1,000.00
Phone	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,942.75	1,700.00	1,700.00
Snow, Lawn etc.	200.00	200.00	241.31	200.00	200.00
Water-Sewer	1,100.00	1,100.00	900.23	1,100.00	1,100.00
Total Church Properties	70,074.00	70,074.00	61,170.84	111,055.00	111,055.00
CONGREGATION					
Congregation Assessment	0.00	0.00	0.00	135.00	135.00
Loan Payments	6,894.48	6,894.48	5,992.17	0.00	0.00
C.P.A. Audit Fee	600.00	600.00	97.10	200.00	200.00
Total Congregation	7,494.48	7,494.48	6,089.27	335.00	335.00
EDUCATION					
Christian Resource Center	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Sunday School and Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,672.21	2,000.00	2,000.00
Vacation Bible School	1,000.00	1,000.00	671.99	1,000.00	1,000.00
Youth Library	150.00	150.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Total Education	3,350.00	3,350.00	2,344.20	3,400.00	3,400.00

ITEM	PROPOSED 2011	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL Jan to Dec 31	PROPOSED 2012	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2012
EVANGELISM					
KAYL Radio	0.00	0.00	330.00	360.00	
General Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	
Total Evangelism	0.00	0.00	330.00	660.00	
ITEM	PROPOSED 2011	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL Jan to Dec 31	PROPOSED 2012	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2012
JR LYC AND YOUTH					
Convention and Miscellaneous	3,675.00	3,675.00	432.90	3,675.00	
Total	3,675.00	3,675.00	432.90	3,675.00	
ITEM	PROPOSED 2011	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL Jan to Dec 31	PROPOSED 2012	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2012
Lay Ministers					
Pastor's Salary	40,500.00	40,500.00	35,500.20	35,300.00	
Pastor's Housing Allowance	12,000.00	12,000.00	17,000.04	20,000.00	
Secretary Salary	13,104.00	13,104.00	13,287.77	13,497.00	
Office Assistants	600.00	600.00	0.00	500.00	
Music Director	6,300.00	6,300.00	6,348.71	6,489.00	
Employer FICA and Medicare	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,503.47	1,550.00	
Altar Supplies	500.00	500.00	287.43	500.00	
Convention and Education	1,000.00	1,000.00	267.85	1,000.00	
Employee Benefits	33,592.00	33,592.00	33,495.91	34,056.00	
Guest Speakers	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,974.26	2,000.00	
Lutheran Witness	0.00	0.00	188.96	200.00	
Organ Substitutes and Music	700.00	700.00	505.00	500.00	
Office Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,235.13	2,000.00	
Pastor's Mileage	1,500.00	1,500.00	675.75	1,500.00	
Worship Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,201.95	1,000.00	
Total Lay Ministers	115,446.00	115,466.00	113,472.43	120,092.00	
ITEM	PROPOSED 2011	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL Jan to Dec 31	PROPOSED 2012	ACCEPTED BUDGET 2012
Missions					
Camp Okoboji	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Iowa District West	0.00	0.00	9,211.17	0.00	
Mission Central	0.00	0.00	1,003.31	0.00	
Lutheran Family Services	0.00	0.00	1,814.50	0.00	
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Seminary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Concordia Lutheran School	0.00	0.00	0.00	496.00	0.00
Lutheran Bible Translators	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.00	0.00
Total Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,648.98	0.00
POSTAGE					
ITEM	PROPOSED	ACCEPTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	ACCEPTED BUDGET
Postage	2011	2011	Jan to Dec 31	2012	2012
Postage and Delivery	250.00	250.00	46.20	250.00	250.00
Total Postage	250.00	250.00	46.20	250.00	250.00
STEWARDSHIP					
ITEM	PROPOSED	ACCEPTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	ACCEPTED BUDGET
Stewardship	2011	2011	Jan to Dec 31	2012	2012
Envelopes	700.00	700.00	627.38	500.00	500.00
Total Stewardship	700.00	700.00	627.38	500.00	500.00
TOTAL BUDGET					
	PROPOSED	ACCEPTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	ACCEPTED BUDGET
	2011	2011	Jan to Dec 31	2012	2012
Total Budget	194,297.48	201,889.48	197,162.20	239,967.00	239,967.00

NOTES: FOR YOUR INFORMATION REGARDING 2011 BALANCES

Undesignated Memorial Balance: \$7,684.94

Thrivent funds received in 2011: \$11,481.00 Current Balance is: \$8,136.00 (Some \$\$ received in 2010)

\$3500 of Thrivent funds were given to update Sound System - \$2156.70 spent - Balance \$1343.30

\$1000 of Thrivent Funds were given to General Home Fund to assist in Funding Health Care

\$1000 of Thrivent Funds were given to Organ Maintenance of which \$356 were used - Balance \$644

Current Balance in Roof/Furnace Fund (now being renamed Capital Improvement-Roof/Furnace, etc) \$3882.00

Treasurers recommend moving as many \$\$ as possible to the Cap. Improvement Account to avoid future debt.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH NEEDED AND APPRECIATED BY ST. JOHN. PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP WITH FUTURE EXPENSIVE MAINTENANCE ISSUES.

WITH
Gratitude 

Dear family in Christ at St. John,

Thank you so very much for all the beautiful Christmas cards, the delicious goodies and generous gifts. It was so thoughtful of you to think of us. You are all a blessing to us.

We'd like to extend a special thanks to all the volunteers at St. John who devote, without any special recognition or payment, so many hours to making St. John "run." We thank God for you! A special thanks to all the Faith Builders and midweek teachers, and especially Jerry, for putting in all the time and effort to teach as well as make our Christmas Eve program so special.

Thank you also for all your love and prayers offered after our miscarriage. You have been the arms of Jesus to us.

In His grace,
Pastor & Amy



I would like to thank all for the gifts that I received for my birthday and Christmas. God has truly blessed me with good friends and extended family. It makes my work here worth it. May God bless you all in the New Year. Your sister in Christ, Renae Norwood.



Thank you for all the cards, gifts, food, and other "goodies" that my kids and I received during the Christmas season from all my friends at St. John. You bring happiness to my life and joy to my heart each day through your love and care. May God bless you all with a happy and healthy New Year! -- Celeste Cummins ☺



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

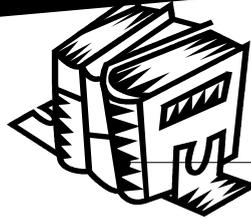
Thank you for your support for Concordia School during 2011. Your donations have been used to pay down our debt. We are confident that, because of friends like you, we will be able to continue to meet our obligations. Thankfully, our balance at LCEF has now been reduced to just under \$50,000.

Again, thank you so much for including the School in your mission giving. May God, who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, grant you a year filled with His joy, peace, and love.



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

**ST. JOHN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
RESOURCE CENTER**



A Blessed 2012 to You

A NEW LOOK

Changes has been made recently in the main floor library. And more changes will be coming to make your library more user friendly.

BIBLE STUDY DESK ON THE NORTH WALL

An individual Bible Study desk has been designed for your personal time with the Lord. You will find on the top of the desk Bibles of various versions along with many Bible Study helps.

THE MOST POPULAR FICTION AUTHORS

You will find a bookshelf as you enter the library on the south wall filled with your favorite fictional authors. These include Christian historical novels as well.

..Main floor library for adults is next to the Pastor's office
...The Faithbuilders library for children is located upstairs.

We
welcome
you

Special points of interest:

- Videos
- Books
- Publications
- Cassettes
- Health
- Parenting
- Bible Study on the computer

New Year's Resolution

**Daily devotions
fill your heart
with His love.**

**His Love
Endures
forever.**

Librarians:

**Adult library—Joanne
Lussman**

Children's library—Dianne Johnson

AGENDA

2012 St. John Annual Meeting
DATE: Sunday, January 22, 2012
TIME: 11:15 a.m., Storm Lake Time
LOCATION: St. John Sanctuary

Voting Membership Eligibility: “Any Communicant Member of this [St. John] congregation 18 years of age or older, both male and female...”
(1983 St. John Constitution, p. 10).

Order of Business

1. Scripture Reading and/or Prayer
2. Roll Call of Voting Members
3. Reception of New Voting Members
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s), including Special Meetings
5. Unfinished Business
6. Treasurers’ Reports
 - a) How should Thrivent Dollars be spent? Who decides?
 - b) How to spend “Undesignated Memorial Gifts”? Who decides?
7. Adoption of 2012 St. John Budget (please see pages 7-9 for the “Proposed 2012 Budget”)
 - a) Questions, Answers, and Explanations concerning Proposed 2012 Budget
 - b) Time for Motions and Modifications of “Proposed 2012 Budget”
 - c) Designated Offerings for 2012 (please see p.14)
8. Reports from Committees of the Voting Membership
 - a) Purchasing Agent
 - b) Board of Lay Ministers (Elders)
 - c) Board of Church Properties (Trustees)
 - d) Board of Evangelism
 - e) Board of Stewardship (Financial Secretary)
 - f) Board of Christian Education
 - g) Board of Young People’s Work
 - h) Board of Parish Relations
9. Reports of Administrative Boards
 - a) Endowment Committee
 - b) Update on Jim Schroeder and Long Range Congregation Financial Planning
 - c) Other
10. State of the Parish Report – Pastor Lesemann

11. Parish Planning Council and Executive Director Report

- a) Nominating Committee for July 2012 Voters' Meeting
- b) Voters' Submission of Names for Office for July 2012 Voters' Meeting
- c) Executive Director Appointment of an Auditing Committee – Volunteers? or is the CPA audit sufficient?
- d) Yearly and Long Range Plans for St. John
- e) Operation Barnabas?
- f) St. John election of “official circuit forum representative.”
- g) St. John election of lay delegate to 2012 Iowa District West Convention
- h) St. John election of alternate lay delegate to 2012 Iowa District West Convention
- i) Designation of Pastor Lesemann to serve as St. John's official Pastor Representative at the upcoming Circuit Forum.
- j) Nomination of Pastor(s) for the office of Circuit Counselor
- k) St. John needs to determine “mission and ministry emphasis (areas in which the Synod should concentrate its efforts during the next triennium)”
- l) St. John nomination(s) for Iowa District West President
- m) St. John nomination(s) for Iowa District West Vice-President
- n) St. John suggested names for Nominees for Iowa District West Board of Directors
- o) St. John suggested names for Nominees for the Iowa District West Nominating Committee
- p) Health Insurance Update
- q) Iowa District West \$5,000 Grant Application for Sharing the Gospel to “unreached or uncommitted of their communities.”
- r) Poll Voters: Email delivery of Newsletters & other computer information and concerns

12. New Business

- a)
- b)

13. Adjournment with Lord's Prayer

2012 DESIGNATED OFFERINGS

INITIAL	HOME
BIRTHDAY (Your Choice-no suggested amount)	MISSION FAMILY
ASH WEDNESDAY	FRIENDSHIP FUND
LENT	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
HOLY WEEK	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
EASTER	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
ASCENSION	COMMUNITY CARE –Needy School Children
PENTECOST	CAMP OKOBOJI
REFORMATION	CONCORDIA
THANKSGIVING	FRIENDSHIP FUND
ADVENT	MISSION FAMILY
CHRISTMAS EVE	LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE
CHRISTMAS DAY	HOME FUND
NEW YEAR’S EVE	HOME FUND

You may designate your offering wishes on your regular envelopes during the year in any way you choose. The treasurers will distribute these funds at the end of each month according to your wishes. The stewardship group develops the above list to encourage extra giving to special groups. Your offerings for current expenses are needed to pay for general operating expenses, salaries, heat, electricity, etc. ***The greatest lesson a soul needs to learn is that God, and God alone, is enough for all it needs.***

LWML CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HELD DECEMBER 3

The Annual Christmas Luncheon sponsored by the Ladies' Aid for all members of the church was held at noon on Saturday, December 3. The tables were beautifully decorated with royal blue tablecloths and white placemats, and each table was uniquely decorated by a lady who shared some of her Christmas decorations with the group. Mother Nature provided a white carpet outdoors to give a wintry effect. Lois Lytle was in charge of the luncheon arrangements.

Hot cider welcomed 15 members and approximately 30 guests who attended. A delicious pot-luck meal was enjoyed by those present.

Jan Magnussen opened the program with the reading of the Christmas story from Luke. Suzanne Winterhof was in charge of the program which consisted of various games challenging our knowledge of Christmas trivia and team skills. A playlet, "Christmas Spirit," was presented by Phyllis Southwick, Ladene Ponsor, and Audrey Gutz.

The next Ladies' Aid meeting will be February 1; there is no meeting in January.

Christian Fellowship Society

Sunday evening, December 11, was the date for the Christian Fellowship Society's annual Christmas dinner. Harlan and Deb Matasovsky had decorated the Fireside Room to give a Holiday atmosphere. Each member brought a designated dish to complete the meal.

Devotions were led by Vernon and Suzanne Winterhof. A large gift bag was labeled "To You, From God." The gifts in the bag were opened by various people and reminded us of the many gifts God has given His children. The singing of many Christmas carols was interspersed with the readings.

The next meeting is January 22. Pastor Lesemann will have the topic; Harlan and Deb Matasovsky have devotions, and Dave and Londa Stille and Jim and Linda Zabloudil are scheduled to serve.

Music Notes

The Christmas season is over, and the beautiful music of the season will be put away for another year. The St. John congregation is extremely grateful to those who shared their talents during this blessed time in the music ministry. The choir prepared a special service for December 4, but also shared the message of the Savior's birth through the entire Advent/Christmas season. We are extremely blessed to have some of the finest instrumentalists in the area as members of the church who are willing to share their talents.

The music ministry does not stop at Christmas...and if you enjoy singing or playing an instrument, please join us. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. Singing the wonderful message of God's love only makes the message more personal for the singer.

What's in a Name?

by: Celeste Cummins

What's in a name depends on who is doing the naming. Did you choose your children's names for a reason? Were they named after someone or did their names just "come" to you? In past generations, kids were generally named after relatives, often grandparents, sponsors, or the child's father.

In each of my kids' birth announcements, I included the story of how their name was chosen and why it was significant. There is another far more famous birth announcement that included the reason why His name was chosen and why it was significant, too. Of course, *this* Baby was named Jesus by the angel Gabriel (see Luke 1:26-38).

If you have been listening to Pastor's sermons lately, you have heard that Jesus was a common name. **Jesus** is a Greek word that means "Savior" for that is indeed what this little Baby was. In Greek, Jesus is written with the capital letters IHCOUC. But, you may be more familiar with the abbreviation, IHC, because that is often used as a symbol within the church on altar paraments, crosses, stoles, banners, even Christmas tree ornaments. When the Romans were persecuting early Christians, the new believers had to be careful about identifying themselves as followers of Christ, so they came up with symbols (called Christograms) to identify themselves as Christians. One such symbol was the fish (or *ihcthus* in Greek). When people would meet, one would draw a fish in the dirt. If the other was a Christian, he would recognize it and draw a fish, as well, expressing their shared Christian beliefs. The whole story of the drawing would mean this:

Ihc = first letters in the Greek spelling of Jesus Christ

Thu = stands for Theos (God's) Son

S = stands for Savior

So we have Jesus Christ God's Son, Savior (*all with one little fish*)!!

Yet, that is only one of many names for Jesus.

We hear of one early prophesy in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**." This prophesy is fulfilled in Matthew 1:23. Immanuel is a Hebrew word which means "God with us" (*el* means "God" and *Immanu* means "with us").

In Luke 2:11 the angel tells the shepherds, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is **Christ** the Lord." Peter also confesses Jesus as the Christ in Matthew 16:16. Christ means the "Anointed One."

In Greek, the first two letters in Christ are the Chi (Ch) and Rho (r), which in English look like an “x” and a “p.” Imagine writing a capital P on a piece of paper. Now, draw an “x” over the stem of the “P”. That stands for Christ. This is another example of a Christogram, like I mentioned above. I noticed some of these hanging on the Christmas trees in the chancel of the church. Next to that Christogram you have just written, write the letters “mas.” Keeping in mind that the Chi Rho means Christ, you have just written an abbreviation for “Christmas.” However, like all things, throughout the years, the secular world had to commercialize it, so the “P” was dropped, leaving just the “X” – and it became “X-mas.” And, now you know the meaning of “x-mas.” ☺

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the **Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world’” (John 1:29 and John 1:36). *Agnus Dei* is a term you see in the Communion liturgy. It is Latin for Lamb of God. Jesus had to be the perfect Sacrifice for us. He was the Lamb of God on our behalf to fulfill what we were unable to do.

Jesus says of Himself, “I am the **Alpha and the Omega**” (Revelation 1:8). Here, Jesus is referring to Himself as the beginning and the end. He is the first and the last. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

Of course, there are many more names for Jesus. See the following references below for even more names – and qualities – about the amazing Man named Jesus!!

Good Shepherd – John 10:11 & 14

Light of the World – John 8:12 and John 9:5

Only Begotten Son – John 3:16 & 18; 1 John 4:9; Hebrews 11:17 (all KJV)

Resurrection and the Life – John 11:25

Savior – Luke 2:11, John 4:42, Acts 13:23

Second Adam – 1 Corinthians 15:22; see Romans 5:18-21

Son of God – Matthew 14:33, 16:15-16, 27:54 and Mark 15:39

Son of Man – John 1:51, 5:27, and 6:53

The Way, the Truth, and the Life – John 14:6

Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6



KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

RON AND JERENE NEIR have been members of St. John since the fall of 1970. They live at 812 Highview Drive in Storm Lake and have two daughters, Tina and Jennifer who grew up in this church home. They are both married and each has 3 children. They are blessed to have such wonderful families.

Ron has worked at Schuelke Auto for 41 years and Jerene has been with the law office of Stern, Diehl, Cornish, and Jensen for 26 years.

They enjoy traveling to see their families as much as possible. Jerene enjoys baking and cooking goodies for the families and Ron is their handyman. Both daughters and grandkids think their Dad and Papa can fix anything.

Ron enjoys gardening, yard work, and woodworking when time permits.

They are thankful they have God in their lives and to have a wonderful church home. They usually attend on Saturday nights. Ron ushers and Jerene serves in the altar guild and for many years taught Sunday School when their daughters were growing up.



NEWS AND NOTES - It's a new year, so we have a new section in the newsletter! Well, not really, it's just going by a different name. "News and Notes" has replaced the section previously titled "This 'n' That." (Who says Lutherans can't change? ☺)

VOTERS' MEETING - Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

NO PARISH PLANNING MEETING IN JANUARY. The next Parish Planning Meeting will be Sunday, February 19th at 11:15 a.m.

EVANGELISM SPONSORED SOCIALS: Tuesday, January 10th - Card games will be played - all members are invited and we hope you bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy 500, Bridge, or your choice. Cookies and coffee will be provided. Winter gets long! Plan on enjoying an afternoon of Christian fellowship! Time: 1:30 in the Fireside area. Call 732-5614 if you need a ride. On Tuesday the 17th plan on more fellowship with a MOVIE being shown. Popcorn, soft drinks, and coffee will be provided. Evangelism will be sponsoring these socials on the second and third Tuesdays in January, February, and March.

WE THANK GOD for you and your gift of \$177.00 to support Rev. Carl & Chen-Hsi Hanson and \$67.00 to support Rev. Jon and Julie Muhly. — LCMS World Mission



LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS consist of 11 issues (the June/July issue is a combined copy). The cost is \$21.65 and checks can be made out to St. John Lutheran Church. For those who are interested in a new subscription, or in renewing their current one, these will be due in the office on Monday, February 13th, 2012. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office with your payment on or before Monday, February 13th, 2012.

I would like a new subscription to the Lutheran Witness.

I would like to renew my subscription to the Lutheran Witness.

I no longer want to receive the Lutheran Witness.

Name _____

Address _____

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**The cost for a 1 year subscription is \$21.65.
Please make your check out to St. John Lutheran Church.**



Coming Soon to Mission Central

On **April 18, 2012**, Michelle Cagnin will be presenting in the barn at Mission Central at 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM. She will be telling of her work throughout all of Asia, as she works with human care projects with the poorest of poor people. It will touch your heart and you **MUST** see this!

Missionaries Bruce and Sarah Wall and family will share their story at Mission Central on Tuesday, **May 8, 2012**. Presentations will take place at 1 PM and 7 PM. Bruce and Sarah are working in the poor villages of Lima, Peru. They will share stories of how God is “at the right place, at just the right time” to establish the first Lutheran Church in Peru!

Matt and DeeDee Wasmund & their children Lily and Olivia will be at Mission Central on **June 23, 2012**, to present at 1:00 PM and again at 7:00 PM. They will tell of their work in Korea and all parts of Asia, as they tell many about Jesus our Savior.



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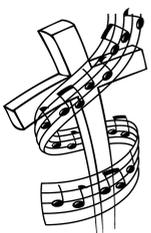
To God be all the Glory.

We're on the Web! Http:
//www.stjohnstormlake.org

Special Music

You are invited to share
your musical talents in our
worship services here at St.
John.

The choir re-
hearses every
Wednesday
evenings at 8:00
pm. Please join
us!



January Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Denise Ballou and Gladys Johnson

Greeters: **Saturday**
Renae Norwood

Sunday
Jay and Ladene Ponsor

Bell Ringers: **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**

Renae Norwood

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Dave Dose

Acolytes: **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**

Nate Jesse

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Abigail Lesemann

The KAYL Broadcast for this month is
given to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers

Jan 1 - In memory of Alvin & Frieda
Meyer by family.

Jan 8 - still available.

Jan 15 - Hardts.

Jan 22 - still available.

Jan 29 - In memory of Marvin Goldsmith
by Florence Goldsmith.

WE WELCOME YOU TO
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!