
ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



JANUARY 2009

715-423-7788

stjohnslutheranchurch@charterinternet.com

www.lutheransonline.com/lo/stjohnkellner

REV. KEVIN K. ADER

Mission Statement

We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation

Notice of Annual Meeting

Thursday
January 29, 2009
6:30 PM
in the
Church Sanctuary

Thank You

The "Sweetest Event of the Year" took place on Saturday, December 13, 2008 at St. John Lutheran Church right here in Kellner!!! For the 14th year in a row, the Cooks, Bakers and Candy Makers of St. John produced the best tasting, most beautiful and the tastiest sweet items possible! The church basement was turned into the best "Cookie and Candy Shoppe" in the area! This special holiday event could not have taken place without the generosity of the parishioners of St. John sharing their talents! Everyone involved in the project is to be thanked for sharing his or her time and talents. A big sweet "thank you" to the Ladies Aid for making and frosting hundreds of cut-out cookies! The ladies also wish to extend a special thank you to our "auxiliary" members for the help to set-up and take down the tables, the signage and their help in Friday evening's preparations. Taylor Funeral Home, Ritchay Funeral Home and Higgins Funeral Home donated the print advertising. Country Tots Child Care Center, and Wood Trust Bank (2 locations), and Kellner Community Bank donated the marquee advertising. The profits from this "Sweet Event" will be used for church projects. The sharing of talent and fellowship gives everyone at St. John the spirit of the holiday—giving and sharing in love.

Sign Up Sheets Are On North Bulletin Board

Altar Flower Chart: If your flowers are for a special occasion and you would like the information published in the bulletin please make note of that by your name or call the church office.

Bulletin Sponsorship: If you would like to donate \$15 for the cost of printing the weekly bulletin select a week. More than one person can sign up for the same date. Donations can be made in honor of a birthday, anniversary or memorial. Please enclose payment in an envelope marked "Bulletin" and place in the offering plate or give to an elder. You may also mail or drop it off at the office. If you would like it published enclose your name and personal message.

Fellowship Sunday: is the 2nd Sunday of each month after the 9:30 AM service. Please bring bars or cookies and serve coffee.

Camp Luther



WINTER ACTIVITIES AT CAMP LUTHER:

Jr./Sr. High "Deep Freeze"

Feb. 6-8, 2009

This retreat is perfect for groups who want to bring both Jr. and Sr. High. The theme for 2009 will be "SUNDAY WORSHIP". What does it mean to come to church and worship our God? Why do we do the things we do at church? Two Bible study sessions (separated by age group) and two campfire devotions will be led by Camp Luther staff. Activities will include downhill tubing, broomball, x-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Group building through games and challenge course will also be a part of the weekend. 2 nights (4 meals) - \$105

Sr. High "Sub Zero" & Jr. High "Big Chill" Weekends

Jan. 9-11, 2009 – Sr. High Jan. 23-25, 2009 – Jr. High

These retreats are just for Jr. or Sr. High. These retreats will feature a unique Bible study format that will bring the youth together for 5 shorter sessions, with each session tying into the overall theme of "RELATIONSHIPS". Special emphasis will be placed on forgiveness of others, our relationship with God, and peer relationships. Activities will include downhill tubing, broomball, x-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Other special activities may include a bonfire ON the lake, movie night, etc. 2 nights (4 meals) - \$105

Family Flurry

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2009

Family Flurry is a great winter getaway for the whole family. Activities such as cross-country skiing, tubing, and broom hockey are scheduled to enjoy as a family. Grow through daily Bible studies and devotions for the whole family. This year's theme will focus on "The Family of God." From Jesus' earthly family to all believers who are His "children," we'll look into what the Bible has to say on this wonderful topic. Special events like a lakeside bonfire and game night will be a part of this special weekend. Join in all the fun or relax by the fire with family and friends.

Adult \$105 Age 13-18 \$90 Age 5-12 \$75 Age 0-4 FREE

Register online, use the form in our Retreat Booklet or contact Mutt at 1.877.264.CAMP for registration information.

ALSO FOR YOUTH GROUPS:

BOWL-A-RAMA @ Bowl-Winkle's in Eau Claire. Mark your calendar, March 7 is Bowl-a-Rama for the North Wisconsin District Youth. This event brings together youth groups from all around the district to enjoy an afternoon of bowling, food, prizes and fun. All are included in the cost. Directions will be provided upon registration. Call 1.877.264.CAMP. The cost is \$85/group of 4.

WINTER COTTAGE SPECIAL-40% OFF JANUARY-APRIL! Camp Luther has seven modern and fully furnished two and three-bedroom cottages available year-round. Four of the cottages have wood-burning fireplaces! Cottages are available for one or more nights, a whole week or longer. Enjoy snow tubing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing on wooded trails, peace and quiet or observe wild-life right on camp property. There are also hunting and snowmobiling trails available in the nearby Nicolet National Forest and surrounding area. Plus, local attractions including specialty shops, antiques, a winery (offering free tours and tasting), children's museum and more! Contact Mutt at 1-877-264-CAMP to reserve your Camp Luther cottage.

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BIKES AVAILABLE! Camp Luther is purchasing new bikes for summer 2009, so we have bikes to sell. They are Jamis mountain bikes in a variety of sizes. The cost is \$50. Call Quik at 715.546.3647 x.24 or email him at quik@campluther.com. These bikes are going fast, so if you are interested, please let us know.

SUMMER CAMP 2009 ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN JANUARY 1!! Mark your calendars, as we usher in the New Year, we can also register for Summer Camp 2009 at www.campluther.com. Ensure your first choice week and village at our secure website. If you have attended camp before, look for a brochure in your mailbox by mid December!

COLLEGE STUDENTS NEEDED... To fill 2009 Summer Staff positions at Camp Luther, such as counselors, lifeguards and first aid/arts and crafts coordinator. Detailed job descriptions/applications are available at www.campluther.com. Those who apply and are accepted will enjoy a fulfilling and active summer having fun and sharing their Christian faith with children of all ages. Please prayerfully consider this meaningful summer opportunity. In addition, **High School juniors and seniors** are eligible to apply for Junior Counselor positions; applications are currently being accepted. Find applications and more information at www.campluther.com and click on "Get Involved".

Scrip Updates

- Scrip is excited to announce the addition of **From the Ground Up** coffee house. We will carry **\$10 gift certificates** at a **20% profit**. Their hours are Mon. – Fri. from 6 am to 6 pm; Sat. from 7 am – 5 pm; and Sun. from 7 am – 2 pm. Stop in for their **morning special** from 6 am – 11 am of a cinnamon roll and coffee for \$2.00.
 - **Country Freckles** has moved to 240 7th Str. South (behind Cravings). They are open Monday – Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Sundays from 11 am – 3 pm. We have scrip on hand in **\$10 increments** at a **10% profit**. Stop in and see all of their great decorations and gifts.
 - **Bring's Cycling & Fitness** has added onto the scrip program at a **4% profit**. Please contact Dawn Wolf (423-0272) two business days before your purchase so the scrip can be ordered.
 - For those of you who have been asking if **Abercrombie, Hollister**, etc. are available with scrip, you can use the **Tanger Outlets** scrip cards to shop at these stores in Wisconsin Dells or at any Tanger Outlet mall. The Tanger Outlet gift cards come in \$25 denominations and have a 8% profit.
- Amazon.com** has increased to **6% profit** for a limited time. We will carry the **\$25 and \$100** denominations at Immanuel School.



Thank You

Thank you to all who served the Lord as readers during our worship services at St. John in 2008.

Susan Ader
 Bill Coley
 Mona Heindl
 Sharon Nieman
 Elaine Punzel
 Karen Ross
 Cindy Saeger
 John Sandberg
 Judy Shepard
 Sandy Sippl
 Jerry Strack
 Darleene Swen
 Craig Timm
 David Vukosich
 Jeff Zimmerman

If you would like to have your name added to the list of readers in 2009, contact Doug Ross or Pastor Ader.



Thank You

The congregation's response to our gift tree was tremendous and we want to thank everyone who donated gifts and food. We would also like to thank Thrivent for furnishing gift cards for each of our family's Christmas dinner—Human Care Board

Book Donations

The library will accept donations throughout the year. Besides books we will also take cds and videos in "good working order only." Please bring your items in a bag marked "Book Sale" and place them in the library area. Donations are appreciated!!!

Bethesda Thrift Shop

The Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall would like to thank all of you for your support. 2008 was a very successful and exciting year for us. We hope to do even better in 2009. From January 2 through 17 we will have a 50% off sale on all "WHITE TAG" clothing. We have lots of winter clothing, athletic wear, knick-knacks, and new household and fix-it items... come and check us out. Bethesda and all of its volunteers wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Prayer For The New Year

Lord, make the New year a happy one...

Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes.

Not by taking hardship from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet hardships.

Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making our lives always pleasant, but by showing us where others and your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there and to help...

God, make our year a happy one!

—Faith Lutheran Church, Portland, OR

Letter From Melanie Peterson

Hello St. Johns! Merry Christmas and Happy New year too!

First of all, we want to thank-you all so very much for the generous gifts of money! We haven't decided yet how the amount for the school supplies will be spent, but will let you know as soon as we do. The amount for us is being saved for our 8 days in the Philippines in January. (We will be sending pictures from both events so you can see what we did with your gifts.)

We've been watching WI. weather, and wonder how everyone is managing with the snow.

A couple weeks ago we had snowfall that melted within a couple hours. The last few days temps were in the 60's. For this and many other reasons, it really doesn't seem like Christmas is upon us. We've just this week spotted some Christmas lights on a few buildings, but none on, or in, homes. (I believe this to help deter homesickness.)

Other traditions of baking, shopping, Christmas parties, etc. are non-existent this year. I miss my Mom's anise candy and coffee cake she makes every year for us. (so next year, maybe we'll get a double batch?)

The true meaning of Christmas has never been more obvious to me than this year. Without the commercialism and the busyness of working in retail, I appreciate the Korean simplicity, and Christian fellowship, so much more.

When we first arrived here we were invited to join the landlord (Mrs. Park) and her son to their Presbyterian church. As they speak very little English, Todd's co teacher Mi Kyeong, translates for us by phone to them when we need to communicate. Their church is very large. 3000 members. They even have parking attendants as most cars are parked in. Every car on Jeju has to have the drivers cell phone number visible on the dash board in case their car needs to be moved. Parking is a big issue here so to make the most of the church parking lot, cars are parked 3-4 deep, with little room left for getting out.

The Church offers 4 services per weekend but Mrs. Park always took me to the 11:00 (contemporary service) There choir consists of at least 75 members. The first 20 minutes as people gather in, 10-12 members stand up front, each w/ a microphone and sing praise until the service begins. Behind the altar, a huge floor to ceiling window exposes a view of a beautiful rock wall with waterfall, and green vines growing over it. Just before the service begins, huge remote controlled, sliding doors close over the window, and then reopen again at the end. Korea, being very advanced in electronic technology, is evident even at church. There are 4 huge flat screens on the front walls hanging at different angles so everyone can see from any seat. 2 ushers man the cameras, and scan over the congregation, choir, pastor, etc. depending on what's being said or sung. Todd and I were given transistor devices to wear during our first visit. A Korean Church member who translates what's being said, sits up in a enclosed balcony behind us. It's quite a production. As the entire service is in Korean, we can still sing/read along in English as they have Korean/English translation bible/hymnals.

The order of service isn't much different than ours. As I enjoy familiar hymns here though, I always feel like I'm singing the wrong verse as we are so out numbered by the "surround sound" of Korean language. At our first visit, they had us stand up to be introduced. This meant we were now on the big screens up front for all to see. (I felt like I was at a televised ball game and I had the urge to wave and yell "Hi Mom!" towards the camera) Everyone turned to us sang a welcoming hymn. It was very moving. We could feel the love around us without understanding a word of their song.

Offerings, at this church are drooped off in a box as you enter church, and brought up in a rolled up velvet cloth after the sermon. Communion is served once a month and lunch is always served downstairs afterward. Mrs. Park, her son, Todd, and I got into a routine after our first service together.

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Letter From Melanie Peterson (continued from page 5)

Todd joined a Catholic parish closer to our home with a 6:30am. service (he likes early service) so I continued to go w/ Mrs. Park until mid Nov. when my interpreter had a conflict in her schedule and asked if I could come to a different service. In the mean time I had been considering finding a church closer to home. I learned of Sunday night English services from my friend Young, Won (she speaks English well), but didn't know about going on my own, so I asked her about her church. Her husband is a Baptist minister at a church only 5 minutes away, and they live just across the street from it. There's no English spoken there, nor a translator but I wanted to go and Young, Won was happy to take me and introduce her to her church. I decided to continue going as I feel quite comfortable there. It's very small. 10 members. A few of them speak English well enough that they help me find my readings, or translate a bit of what's being preached. We always have lunch afterwards downstairs. Soup, fish, Kim-chi, rice, and tea with Apples and tangerines to follow is our usual meal. Young, Won does all the cooking and we help serve and clean up. There are 6-8 children that attend Sunday school. It's been mentioned that I might help teach them the bible in English. We're working on getting books for this.

Christmas Eve Service was a birthday celebration. Helium filled Red and Green balloons were taped to the pews. (all 18!) The service included the children singing and reading bible verses and 3 different families went up and each sung a Christmas hymn. Young, Won asked Todd & I if we would like to go up and we passed. (I didn't want their attendance to decline!) Santa made an appearance to deliver presents to the kids and then we all went downstairs to have birthday cake and sing happy birthday to Jesus!

Christmas day we opened gifts at home that had been placed under a homemade paper Christmas tree (one of Todd's 2nd graders made him on a card.)

Then we took the city bus into town with our neighbors Steve & Caley from Virginia to find one of our favorite Korean restaurants to have dinner. It seemed strange to see hair salons and other shops open doing regular business, but here, to most Koreans, it was just Thursday, the 25th as most Koreans are Buddhist.

As I look around me, I find myself smiling at so many blessings. I am still amazed that we are here, living this in this culture where most people we encounter don't speak English. They are not so different with what they want, need, believe or care about. They want their children to grow up in a safe, healthy, loving, peaceful world. They are friendly and seem genuinely happy we are here. Strangers are always giving us fruit, those that ask us where we're from say they "love U.S.A." even though they've never been there.

Thank-you St. John's for your prayers, and support in our adventure.

In his Grace,

Todd & Melanie Peterson

1599-23 #501

Sam Yang 1 dong

Jeju City

South Korea
