

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2010



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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.

Bible Study Opportunity

Have you been wondering what Islam is about? Then plan to join us for the following Bible Study which incorporates video presentation, discussion, and is sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministry Men's Network.

This study group, which had been meeting at the Ross's will be held Tuesday Evenings beginning February 2 from 7:00-8:30 at church if need be in order to accommodate a larger number of people.

If you are interested in joining us please sign the registration sheet in the narthex.

Challenge of Islam (Part One): What is Islam?

By: [Sam Shamoun](#)

To the Western mind, the faith and practice of Islam are often a profound mystery. In recent years, this religion has emerged as a prominent -- yet misunderstood -- belief system. Listen as Sam Shamoun, an Arab-Christian, unveils some of the mystique surrounding this religion first preached by Muhammad and today practiced by more than one billion people worldwide.

In Part One of this two-part Men's NetWork Bible study, the teachings of Islam are brought into focus. In addition to learning about the "Five Pillars of Islam," participants will examine what the Quran says about the role of Abraham, the Trinity, angels and jinn (genies), the attributes of Jesus Christ, the character of Muhammad, Judgment Day, and paradise.

The Quran is the premier Muslim holy book. As such, its 114 chapters are the faith-guide for Muslims everywhere. For instance, did you know the Quran claims Jesus is not God, nor is He the Son of God? Were you aware Quranic teaching

says the religion of the patriarchs -- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as all the prophets -- is Islam? Shamoun asks, "Christians, do you see the challenge of Islam, and are you prepared to deal with this challenge?"

While Islam is a religious force to be reckoned with, it already has been dealt its deathblow through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Armed with love and an attitude that considers Muslims -- like everyone else -- those for whom Christ died, Christians can share the same Good News that gives them salvation. As Shamoun says, "The only thing that can defeat Islam is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

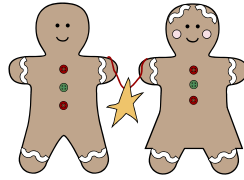
Sunday Morning Bible Class

A Brief Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions will be the subject of our Sunday morning Bible Class beginning January 10th. This Bible study was written by Robert J. Koester for Northwestern Publishing House as a response to a Christian layman's request that we spend some time with the Lutheran Confessions. He had been a Lutheran for many years, but was unfamiliar with the formal confessions of his church.

This study is a very basic course written for people who have little or no knowledge of the Lutheran Confessions. The goals of this course are: 1) To give the class an overview of how the confessions fit into the history of the Lutheran Reformation. 2) To give the class an idea of the topics covered in the Lutheran Confessions. 3) To give the class a taste of the Lutheran Confessions by having them read sample sections.

Thank You

St. John's "Cookie and Candy Shoppe" once again came to life on Saturday, December 12th! This was the 15th



year that the best Cooks, Bakers and Candy Makers produced the best tasting, most beautiful and the tastiest sweet items possible!

Everyone involved in the project is to be thanked for sharing of his or her time and talents! This yearly holiday event could not have taken place without the generosity of all the parishioners of St. John. It did not take too long before the tables were empty—another sign of the quality of the items donated! The profits from this "Sweet Event" will be used for church projects.

The Evening Guild ladies organize this-church wide event and would like to extend special thanks to the "Auxiliary" members for the help in set-up and take down of the tables and the signage, in addition to their help in Friday evening's preparations. The Ladies Aid is also to be included in special thanks for producing hundreds of cut-out cookies!

Taylor, Vollert, & Jennings Funeral Home, Ritchay Funeral Home and Higgins Funeral Home donated the print advertizing. Country Tots Child Care Center and Wood Trust Bank donated the marquee advertizing. Thank you for promoting the Cookie Walk!

Giving and sharing is in the hearts of St. John members throughout the year, and the spirit of Christmas is reflected even brighter during this holiday season. Thank you again, and we wish you a Christ-centered New Year!

P. S. The "Cookie and Candy Shoppe" is planning on re-opening for the 16th season on Saturday, December 11, 2010.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 PM in the church sanctuary. Copies of the annual report will be available in the narthex for review the weekend of January 9 & 10 and January 16 & 17. If you come to the meeting please bring your copy along with you.

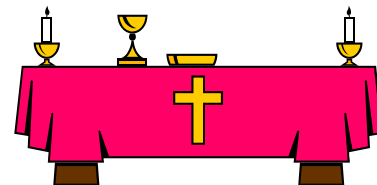
Thank You Everyone!

The Christmas spirit and generosity of St. John's congregation has once again helped make this Holy season much nicer for two needy families. The Human Care Board obtained names for two families from The Resource Center for our annual Giving Tree. Each family consisted of six members, two parents and four children. THANK YOU for taking an ornament with a family name and wishes from the tree and granting that wish! We were able to deliver 5 gifts for each family member. We also purchased \$50 gift certificates for each family to purchase food for their Thanksgiving meal and Christmas meals. Also, Thank You to Thrivent for the generous donation of \$25 toward each family's Christmas meal.

—The Human Care Board.

Thank You

Many thanks to people involved with the church Christmas decorating: Two altar trees plus outdoor boughs donated by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hess; Jim Eberhardt for setting up the two trees; Mona & Les Heindl for outdoor decorating; Jon Sandberg for creating nativity scenes and to all our interior decorators: Marcia & Ron Doescher, Marion Oleson, Rose & Jerry Schimke, Nathalie Reinke, and Donna & Jerry Strack.



Christmas Altar Paraments

Christmas Altar Paraments were given to the Glory of God by Kelley Steinke in memory of Melvin and Greg Steinke. Dedication took place on November 28 & 29 during our weekend services.

Worship Service Lectors

If you would like to serve as a reader in our worship service, please let the church office or Doug Ross know that you are interested. To read God's word is a great way to serve the Lord.



Door Collection

A door collection plan is in place and will be ongoing through out the winter to help defray the cost for repairs

needed on the church foundation next spring. Please place your donations in the "Church" in the narthex. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes

If you have not picked up your offering envelopes for 2010 please pick them up in your mailbox downstairs. If you have several people in your family please check the top of the mailboxes for any boxes that may not have fit in your mailbox. If you didn't get envelopes last year and would like them for 2010, please call the church office. Thank you.

Flower and Bulletin Charts

The 2010 Flower and Bulletin Charts are both ready for sign ups on the north bulletin board.

Cancellation Notices

In the event that a service would need to be cancelled due to severe weather, cancellation notices will appear on River Cities Community Access (Solarus Channel 3, Charter Channel 96), WAOW Channel 9 Wausau, WFHR AM 1320 and WGNV FM 88.5.



Rural Christian Women's Conference

On January 23, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM the RCWC will have their annual conference at Wautoma at the Parkside Middle School Gym with Lisa Harper as guest speaker and Kim Hill as music worship leader. Based on a liberating look of the Psalms the topic will be "A Perfect Mess: Why you don't have to worry about being good enough for God." Doors open at 8:00 AM with coffee and muffins available. Conference price (\$30) includes lunch catered by Christiano's Restaurant. More information and registration forms are available in the narthex. **Registration deadline is January 16, 2010.**

Bethesda Thrift Shop



The 90+ volunteers at the Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall wish you all a very blessed New Year. The shop was blessed this past year with your help, your donations, and your patronage. We ask that you continue to promote our store and shop for the many items we have - clothing for men, boys, ladies, girls and infants, toys, books, kitchen and bath items, blankets and quilts, wedding dresses, lighting, hardware, electronics, greeting cards, pictures, purses and shoes, work clothes for under \$2.00, athletic wear, shorts, hats, gloves, belts, knick-knacks, craft items, jewelry, and the list goes on. We ask for your donations especially for good furniture and we are in need of cashiers once or twice a month - we will train you. The store hours for January and February will be changed to 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. All proceeds go to help enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the Good News of Jesus Christ.