

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



## October 2011

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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.

## Bearing Fruit For Jesus

In the next couple of weeks, you will hear a lot about bearing fruit because our stewardship theme for this year is **Bearing Fruit for Jesus: His Grace and Power at Work Within You.**

Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God's creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is almost beyond our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a period of time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christians, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so we can bear fruit. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last"* (John 15:16). Jesus tells us *"I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine. The vine uses the branches to produce its fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the vine makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. When we stay firmly connected to Jesus, we are told that we *"will bear much fruit."* Christ has given us the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. As we stay connected to Him through His Word and Sacraments, we discover God's perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please Him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it

possible for us to do so.

*"Since we live by the Spirit,"* Paul exhorted, *"let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other"* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because His Spirit lives in us, not as a result of our own efforts. We do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, *"Conceited, provoking and envying each other."* We are to *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness"* (Ephesians 5:11a), but are to *"Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8b-10). Go and bear fruit!

## Harvest Home Event

Our Harvest Home Event will take place on October 9. Join us for our Sunday service at 9:30 AM followed by a catered meal and lots of fun festivities!

For catered meal reservations please RSVP by Monday, October 3rd. Return bottom portion of invitation with family name and number attending or call the church office at 715-423-7788.



## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the collection of school supplies for Grant School. As usual, the response was terrific. We delivered the school supplies on three separate occasions. The school staff was amazed by our generosity and was also very grateful. Thank you again, you are so generous....Human Care Board.

## Boys and Girls Club

During the month of October, the Human Care Board will be collecting the following items for the Boys and Girls Club:

Paper plates

Table napkins

Plastic forks & spoons

Antibacterial table cleaner

Dish soap

Bottled hand soap and sanitizer

Granola/fruit bars

Small cracker/cheese snacks

Fruit cups

New or gently used board games

Money was also donated by the Ladies Evening Guild. This money will be used to buy fresh fruit and other healthy snacks. Thank you Ladies Evening Guild for your support. There will be a collection site in the Narthex. Thank you.



## Community Days (Younkers) Coupon Booklets

The Human Care Board will be selling the coupon booklets after the church services starting with the weekend of October 1st and 2nd, through November 10th (sale dates are Nov 11 and 12). The price is still \$5.00 per booklet. This booklet contains a \$10.00 off coupon to be used for an item of \$10.00 or more, a 30% off early bird coupon, a 20% off shopping pass good for all day and various other coupons for specific items. The **entire \$5.00** from each coupon booklet sold, stays here for our church. In the past, we received bonuses that amounted to approximately 50% of our sales. This is a great fundraiser for our church, so let's buy them for ourselves and our families and friends. So far, the proceeds are planned for the Kester home loan.

PS: There is a pre-sell date Sunday, November 6, where you can select your purchases in advance and have them rung up with Community Day sale prices and your Shopping pass discount will be applied.

## Grant School Reading Program

The Grant School Reading Program will begin the first week of October. We have five volunteers ready and scheduled. The five approved are Mona Heindl, Judy Shepard, Garnet Tucker, Bonnie James and Sharon Dix. Two more are in the process of getting their paperwork in order and they are Sue Helmuth and Deanna Dhein. Anyone interested in this program, please call Sharon Dix at 715-424-2297. Thanks ladies...Human Care Board.



## Book Sale

The church library committee will be having its Annual Book Sale at the Fall Bazaar on October 22. Donations can be made by placing your items in a bag marked "Book Sale" and dropping them off in the library area of the narthex. Besides books we will also take CD, video, and DVD's (in good working order). The money from this sale allows us to make new purchases for the library. Thanks for your donations! **We are also in need of volunteers to help set up the books on Thursday, October 20 at 7 PM and/or to help for a few hours the day of the book sale.** If interested please call the church office.

## Church Library



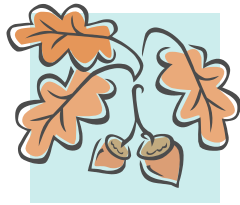
There are a number of delinquent library books that are out. Please check at home if you have past due books that need to be returned to the library. When returning library items place them in the Book/Video Return

Basket. When checking out library items sign and date card found in pocket and place card in small "check in" file box. Remember the church library is here for YOU. If there is something that you would like us to purchase for the library--a specific author (fiction or non-fiction) or a specific topic of interest please call the church office with your suggestions.

## Thank You

A thank you to all who remembered me with cards, thoughts, and prayers.

Thank you also to Pastor Ader for your visit, support, and prayers during my recent knee replacement surgery. God Bless you all!--Marion Oleson



## Evening Guild Meeting

Eight young ladies strolling, turning and modeling several of the pillowcase dresses stole the show at the August Evening Guild meeting. There was a nice group of about fifty people, Guild members and guests, who had gathered to hear Dr. Michael O'Leary, Orthodontist, from Wisconsin Rapids, share his adventures on his mission trip to Haiti. Dr. O'Leary is the chairman of the mission group at the Evangelical Free Church. He and several others from the area went to Haiti to teach a special study to the pastors. They arrived in Haiti the same day as the earthquake hit the island country. Dr. O'Leary and his wife Susan shared their slides and many stories about the country, culture and Haitian people. The country is beautiful, but the people are poor. They are hungry for the gospel and the Word of Jesus. Many of the people speak English and want to learn more. Dr. O'Leary said the mission had put out the word of a Vacation Bible School to start on a Monday...700 kids showed up making the small classroom a little crowded. He said the people have very few clothes and thought the girls would be very happy to receive the 220 dresses the congregation has made to be shipped to Haiti. These will be shipped within the next two weeks by Orphan Grain Train. A big thank you to our models: Maggie Weiland, Bailey Twinn, Cara Anderson, Elizabeth Weiland, Leah Weiland, Danica Rosenthal, Hannah Rosenthal, and Courtney Lila. Courtney made two of the dresses and helped her grandmother Shirley Getzloff make others. Thanks to all who took part in this pillowcase project.

## News From The Finance Board

Because we are using new computer software in entering our weekly offerings, we no longer use the number on your envelopes. **ALL ENTRIES ARE MADE BY NAME ONLY.** We would appreciate your help in making sure your **first** and **last** name is on **ALL** offering envelopes.

Our 2012 envelopes were already ordered with numbers when this change was made. Beginning in **2013** there will be no numbers on offering envelopes only a space for your name. We are asking for your help in making this a smooth transition. If you have questions or concerns please call either Bonnie James (715) 451-8924 or Jerry Swen (715) 423-9087.

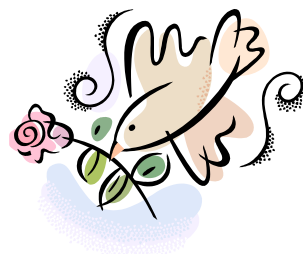
## Evangelism

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer—Psalm 19:14

*A careless word may kindle strife,  
A cruel word may wreck a life.  
A bitter word may hate instill,  
A brutal word may smite and kill.*

*A gracious word may smooth the way,  
A joyous word may light the day.  
A timely word may lessen stress,  
A loving word may heal and bless.*

--Author Unknown



## Bethesda Thrift Shop



The store is now completely stocked with fall and winter clothing. Now is the time for best selection. We will have some special sales in October on our fall and Halloween decorations. Stop in soon and thanks for supporting the mission of Bethesda.

## LLL Annual Convention

The North Wisconsin/Upper Michigan District of the Lutheran Laymen's League will be hosting their 66th Annual convention at the Plaza Hotel in Wausau. It will be held October 15 & 16. The theme this year, is Harvesting for Christ from Matthew 9:38. Registration forms with more information are available in the narthex. Any questions call Chuck Tesnow 715-424-2413. Registration deadline is October 10.

## LWR Semi Loading

Saturday, November 5, 2011  
8:30 AM to Noon  
Rapids Mall Parking Lot  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI



Donations needed: Blankets, Quilts, Personal hygiene items, Soap, Layette, School kits, Health kits (no toothpaste), Sewing kits  
**Sorry, No Clothing of any kind!**

For monetary donations, mail to: LWR, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832 or go online to [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) Donate.

## Recipes

As long as you are baking for the bazaar please note that the Ladies Aid will be collecting recipes starting January 1. Keep this in mind and when you find your favorite recipes jot them down.

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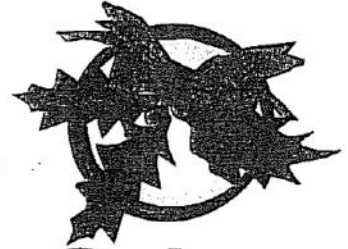
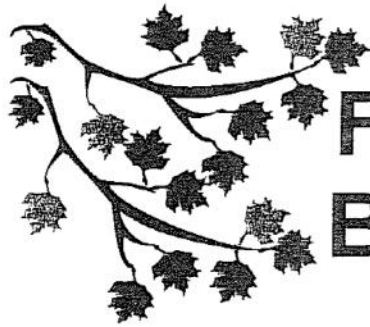
## The Legacy of Martin Luther

For years Martin Luther had labored seeking to earn God's favor. He had kept the law; he had prayed and meditated; he had preached and taught. He had fasted and done countless acts of devotion. He walked from Nuremburg to Rome where he climbed the same steps Christ had ascended to the palace of Pontius Pilate in order to free his loved ones from purgatory. Still peace in his soul eluded him.

What changed? What transformed Luther, the pious monk, into Luther, the Reformer? The same thing that transforms us; the Word of God. How important is this treasure that God has given us! How we cheat ourselves when we neglect this great gift! The weight of the Law is lifted from us, as it was for Luther, when we read Ephesians 2:8-9: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Somehow many miss this truth. Although they have been brought up in the church, have read and studied their Bibles almost daily, the Gospel has eluded them. They strive, as did Luther, to appease God, our judge; they work to earn the favor of the One Who sits enthroned above. They live by the Law, burdened with the guilt of sin they can never rid themselves of. Let us pray for those who labor under this load that they may hear the freeing words. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith."*

Then having been freed from the constraints of the Law, we can view ourselves as God's *"workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). We are saved by grace, and we are empowered by grace to give ourselves *"fully to the work of the Lord, because [we] know that [our] labor is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).



# Fall & Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

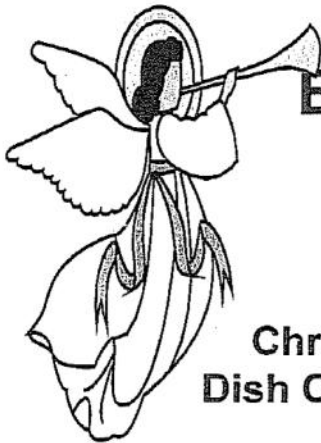
**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**St. John Lutheran Church  
Kellner**

Corner of 80th Street South and South Park Road  
(The Stone Church on the corner by Wood County Park)

## **Luncheon Served**



### **Bazaar Items Include:**

**Crafts, Quality Farm Produce  
Fall & Holiday Decorations  
Used Book Sale  
Christmas Items, Wreaths, Baby Items,  
Dish Cloths, Greeting Cards, Kitchen Knives  
Our famous Baked Goods  
and much, much more!!!**



*Annual Fall & Holiday  
Bazaar & Bake Sale*

*Saturday, October 22, 2011  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

All members of the congregation are encouraged to share their talents for this **CHURCH-WIDE** event.

Bazaar items that sell well and are asked for include: handcrafts of all kinds, toys, quilts, holiday and fall decorations and ornaments, fresh garden produce, canned fruits and vegetables, paintings, sculptures, drawings, woodcrafts, birdhouses, bird feeders and of course our famous baked goods!

The Bazaar and Bake Sale is coordinated by the Ladies Evening Guild and Ladies Aid organizations, but is for the benefit of the **entire** congregation. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and all proceeds will be used to the glory of God and His work in the Kingdom.

If you would like to donate any of the suggested items (or any others you may choose) please bring them to the church by Thursday evening, October 20. (Baked goods on Saturday morning).

A Bar-B-Que Luncheon will be served, complete with homemade pie.  
A Used Book Sale will also be held.

Questions or suggestions---contact one of the Bazaar Committee members:  
Judy Shepard, 423-2071; Susan Ader, 424-5920; Darleene Swen, 423-9087;  
Marianne Timm, 423-1651; Mona Heindl, 423-3962; Diane Peotter, 421-4012;  
Marion Oleson, 421-0741 or Kelley Steinke, 423-3123.

September 13, 2011

Dear Community Partners,

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of substandard housing. The Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity is building its thirteenth home on the corner of 14th Street North and Wisconsin Street. All of the recipient families were low income, several were single parent families, two Hmong families, two Hispanic families, one family with a disabled parent. The homes have provided 41 children, previously living in substandard housing a safe, comfortable place to call home.

The Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat affiliate is organized with a volunteer Board of Directors and does not have any paid staff. The homes have been built with volunteer labor and many donated supplies. However, each home also requires a substantial capital outlay.

In October, the Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity will be hosting our primary fundraising event to raise capital for future home projects. ***Please help us spread the news of this event through your church's monthly newsletters and Sunday service bulletins.***

We would like to invite your youth and adult groups to join us for an evening of lively music. Make this evening a memorable congregational outing and support the Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity. You will enjoy 2 hours of harmony and see a slide show of the homes built in South Wood County.

Tickets will be on sale by September 20th. Please help us advertise this concert!

*Build a Home Through Music III*

**Featuring**  
**Southbound**

**October 20, 2011 7:00 PM**  
**Performing Arts Center, Wisconsin Rapids**

Lincoln High School Mariachi Band  
Will perform in the lobby prior to the concert 6:00 - 7:00

Tickets \$10.00 **Bring your friend!**  
General admission seating  
Doors open at 6:00 PM

Tickets will be available at the door and:  
All three Paper City Savings Locations      Solarus  
First English Lutheran Church                      First Congregational Church

This event will receive matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.